

eminent among the nations of the earth. The North American Indian and the Maori, who dissolve before his footsteps, like snow before the sun, are surely not so far behind him in physical advantages. In the last wonderful continental war, it was not the superior fighting qualities of her soldiers which enabled Germany to vanquish her foe and prostrate her rival headlong in the dust. Bismarck and Moltke, with their iron intellects, were the spiders which spun the web to envelope France, like a fly caught in the toils. The Spartans and the Romans, to whom Dr. Wilks alludes, were not saved from decay by the means which they adopted for preventing the physical deterioration of their people.

Physical improvement, indeed, counts for much, but it is by intellectual growth that man must continue to rise. One scientific discovery will do more for human advancement than fifty thousand fighting men. Intellect is the great lever which moves the world. But intellect is not always combined with physical strength. One could easily mention a score of names prominent in the history of human progress, whose owners would inevitably have succumbed in a struggle for existence under purely physical conditions. It is, then, by no means certainly true "that, if we were able to preserve all those miserable creatures the lives of whom their parents would give a fortune to save, we should be instrumental in causing a deterioration of the race." Under the guise of a puny, delicate child, we may be saving a benefactor to his kind. The law of the survival of the fittest still holds good; but the fittest is not he who is physically strong, but he who is plenteously endowed with intellectual gifts; for wisdom is better than strength in promoting human progress.

It is with great diffidence that I would even appear to question anything which has the stamp of Dr. Wilks's authority; but, with your permission, I venture to lay these stray thoughts before your readers. In doing so, it will be seen that I have regarded the question from a purely Darwinian point of view, and have abstained from considering it in its relation to religion. I am, etc.,

WILLIAM DATE.

Crewkerne, August 13th, 1872.

OBITUARY.

SIR ANDREW SMITH, M.D., K.C.B.,

LATE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR ANDREW SMITH died on August 11th, at his residence in Alexander Square, Brompton. He was born in Roxburghshire in 1797, and having received his medical education at Edinburgh, entered the army as assistant-surgeon in 1815. He served with distinction for short periods in various parts of the world, and proceeded to the Cape in 1821, returning to England in 1838. Shortly afterwards, he was sent to Fort Pitt, Chatham, and appointed principal medical officer there. He was transferred to London by Director-General Sir James M'Grigor as his professional assistant in 1845; and on the retirement of Sir James in 1851, he was appointed by the Duke of Wellington to the vacant post of Director-General, which he filled till 1858. He then retired from the service in consequence of impaired health, and received the distinction of Knight Commander of the Bath. At the time of the Crimean disasters, grave imputations were made upon the department over which Sir Andrew presided; but the evidence and documents laid before the Sebastopol and other Committees vindicated his reputation as an administrator of a large and highly important department of the public service. In addition to his unceasing and zealous exertions in the interests of the public service, Sir Andrew superintended an expedition for exploring Central Africa from the Cape of Good Hope in 1834; and his scientific researches resulted in the publication of many valuable papers on the Origin and History of Bushmen, and his work, *Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa*. His copious and valuable notes regarding the aborigines of South Africa, as well as of the different tribes of the Kaffirs, have never unfortunately been laid before the public. His complete and accurate knowledge of the various tribes of Southern Africa rendered his opinion of great value to successive governments, and it was upon his representation and advice that the prosperous district of Natal was constituted a colony. Sir Andrew was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in 1855; of the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1856; of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Aberdeen in 1855; and M.D. of Trinity College, Dublin, in 1856.

JAMES RENTON, M.D., DALKEITH.

DR. JAMES RENTON died at his residence in Dalkeith, on August 5th. He was the fourth son of the late Dr. Robert Renton, of Penicuik, who left a family of six sons, four of whom followed the profes-

sion of their father, viz., Dr. John Renton, formerly of Penicuik, and latterly of Edinburgh; Dr. Alexander Renton, of Peebles; Dr. Robert Renton, of Edinburgh; and the subject of the present notice. Dr. James Renton graduated at Edinburgh in 1818; and, on the death of Dr. Walter Graham, in April, 1827, he commenced practice in Dalkeith, and for forty-five years successfully prosecuted his profession there. In 1840 he was elected one of the Parliamentary Trustees of Dalkeith. It is said that he has bequeathed to the Rev. Dr. Wright the sum of £400 for the poor of Dalkeith, and a like amount to the Rev. James Lamont, for the same purpose in the East Parish.

DAVID WRIGHT, J.P., M.D., DUBLIN.

DR. WRIGHT died on July 25, at Vergemount, co. Dubiin. During the Peninsular War he was surgeon to the 48th regiment, when that regiment highly distinguished itself at Albuera, Talavera, etc. He received a medal and clasps. After some years' service in India Dr. Wright went to Ireland, and was appointed surgeon to the Wicklow Militia. He resided at Arklow for upwards of thirty years, and, on leaving, was presented with a handsome salver and service of plate.

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, August 15th, 1872.

Harnett, Alfred, Bittern, Southampton

Little, Robert, Dublin

Wagstaff, Thomas Henry, Camberwell

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their primary professional examination.

Bond, George Weddall, Guy's Hospital

Coates, William Harrison, St. Thomas's Hospital

Cole, Henry Cornelius, University College

Hales, Robert Turner, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.—List of candidates for Her Majesty's Indian Medical Service, who were successful at the competitive examinations held at London in February, and at Netley in August 1872, after having passed through a course at the Army Medical School, Netley. [Maximum number of marks, 6,900.]

Order of merit and names.	Studied at	No. of marks.
1.* Crombie, A.	Edinburgh	6215
2.† Murphy, W. R.	Dublin	5825
3. Joubert, C. H.	London	5540
4. Russell, E. G.	London	5360
5. Scully, J.	London	5325
6. Branfoot, A. M.	London	5190
7. Hall, G. C.	London	4985
8. Roy, G. Ch.	Glasgow and Calcutta	4790
9. Reid, A. S.	Edinburgh	4670
10. Watson, G.	Edinburgh	4595
11. Fasken, W. A. D.	London	4394
12. Lawrie, E.	Edinburgh and Paris	4260
13. Wilson, J.	Cork	4250
14. McNally, C. J.	Dublin	4222
15. Lang, J. A. T.	London	4196
16. Mulvany, E.	Dublin	4195
17. Zorab, J. M.	Calcutta & Edinburgh	4167
18. Dutt, R. L.	Calcutta, Lond., & Ab.	4145
19. Daphtary, G. R.	Bombay and Glasgow	4075
20. Bookey, J. T. B.	Dublin	4036
21. Butler, W. J.	London	4016
22. McGregor, A.	London	4015
23. Young, J.	Edinburgh	3955
24. Duke, J.	London	3912
25. Gupta, B.	Calcutta and Glasgow	3877
26. McConaghey, J.	Galway, Belfast, & Dub.	3856
27. Palmer, E.	Galway and Dublin	3840
28. Williams, A. H.	Aberdeen and London	3715
29. Holmes, R. A. K.	Dublin and Belfast	3650
30. Ferris, J. E. C.	London	3613
31. Lombard, D. E. T.	Dublin and Cork	3555
32. Johnson, W. E.	Dublin and Belfast	3522
33. Ayley, T. V.	London	3494
34. Dobie, S. L.	London	3451
35. Bevan, G. F.	Dublin	3372
36. Lloyd, C.	Cork	3350
37. Dobson, A. F.	Dublin	3345
38. Little, C.	Belfast and Dublin	3221
39. Mayne, T.	London	2939
40. Lawrenson, D. E. T.	Dublin	2935

* Awarded the Herbert Prize, August 1871.

† Awarded the Herbert Prize, August 1872.

APOTHECARIES' HALL, DUBLIN.—At the professional examinations, held in July 1872, the following gentlemen obtained the licence to practise.

Francis Joseph Butler, William Robertson Evans, Peter John McQuaid, Edward Murphy, George Unthank Macnamara, Roger Macaulay, James Walsh Murtagh, and Richard Dancer Purefoy.

The following passed the examination in arts.

Albert Edward O'Connell, Patrick Joseph Carmody, and Thomas Taylor Reynolds.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:—

ANDERSON'S UNIVERSITY, Glasgow—Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence.
BASINGSTOKE UNION—Medical Officer for the Basingstoke or No. 1 District: £85 per annum, and extra fees.
BRIDGWATER UNION, Somersetshire—Medical Officer for the North Petherton or No. 9 District: £84 per annum.
BRIGHTON AND HOVE DISPENSARY—Resident House-Surgeon: £100 per annum, furnished apartments, coal, gas, and attendance.
CASTLECONNELL and ANNACOTTY, co. Limerick—Medical Attendant to the Royal Irish Constabulary.
CASTLE EDEN COLLIERY—Surgeon.
CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL—Assistant-Surgeon.
CLOGHAN, co. Donegal—Medical Attendant to the Royal Irish Constabulary.
GLOUCESTER COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM, near Gloucester—Junior Assistant Medical Officer: £80 per annum, board, lodging, and washing.
GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL, Caledonian Road—House-Surgeon.—Junior Resident Medical Officer.
HUDDERSFIELD INFIRMARY—Assistant House-Surgeon: £40 per annum, board, lodging, and washing.
LIMERICK UNION, co. Limerick—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Annacotty Dispensary District: £100 per annum, and fees.
LISKEARD UNION, Cornwall—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Callington District: £65 per annum, and extra fees.
MARTLEY UNION, Worcestershire—Medical Officer for the Leigh or No. 4 District: £85 per annum.
METROPOLITAN DISPENSARY and CHARITABLE FUND, Fore Street, Cripplegate—Physician.
MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE—Two Entrance Scholarships: £25 and £20 per annum, for two years.
MILBANK FORGE WORKS, Castle Eden—Surgeon.
NORTHAMPTON GENERAL INFIRMARY—Dispenser: £100 per annum.
PROVIDENT MEDICAL INSTITUTION and LYING-IN CHARITY, Pimlico Road—Consulting Physician.—Attending Medical Officer.
ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road—Resident Medical Officer.
ROYAL INFIRMARY, Glasgow—Extra Physician.
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL—Scholarship: £40 per annum for three years.—Exhibition: £20 for one year.
ST. MARYLEBONE, Parish of—Medical Officer for the St. Mary District.
SCULCOATES UNION, Yorkshire—Medical Officer for the Sutton District: £60 per annum.
STANLEY HOSPITAL, Liverpool—Physician; Surgeon.
STRANORLAR UNION, co. Donegal—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Cloghan Dispensary District: £100 per annum, and fees.
SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon: £80 a year, with £10 a year from each resident pupil, board, and residence.
TRINITY COLLEGE, Dublin—Professor of Anatomy and Surgery: £200 per annum, and fees.
UTTOXETER UNION, Staffordshire—Medical Officer for the Rocester District: £32 per annum, and extra fees.
WARNEFORD LUNATIC ASYLUM, Oxford—Resident Medical Superintendent: £260 per annum, with board, furnished apartments, etc.
WATERFORD DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM—Resident Physician Superintendent.
WEST LONDON DISTRICT SCHOOL, Ashford, near Staines—Medical Officer: £120 per annum.
WESTMINSTER GENERAL DISPENSARY, Gerrard Street—Physician.—Resident Medical Officer: £100 per annum, furnished apartments, attendance, coal, and gas.
WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL—Resident Obstetric Assistant.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Names marked with an asterisk are those of Members of the Association.

*LUSH, W. V., M.D., of Weymouth, appointed Physician to the Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, is 3s. 6d., which should be forwarded in stamps with the communication.

BIRTHS.

ARGLES.—On August 14th, at 8, Radnor Place, Hyde Park, the wife of *Robert Argles, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
LONG.—On August 20th, at Richmond Road, Dalston, the wife of *Mark Long, M.D., of a son.
MILLER.—On August 10th, at Shandwick Place, Edinburgh, the wife of *A. G. Miller, M.D., of a daughter.
WOOKEY.—On August 17th, at Potter's Bar, Barnet, the wife of *James Wookey, Esq., of a son.

DEATHS.

BOYD.—On August 16th, at Rye Hill, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sarah, wife of *James Boyd, L.R.C.P. Ed.
*SKEV, Frederick C., Esq., at Mount Street, aged 73, on August 15th.
TURNER, E. Fulham, M.B., at Lower Sydenham, aged 30, on August 15th.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.
TUESDAY Guy's, 1.30 P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.—National Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Free, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—West London, 3 P.M.
WEDNESDAY... St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Mary's, 1.30 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 11 A.M.—London, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, 2.30 P.M.—Cancer Hospital, Brompton, 3 P.M.—King's College, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.
THURSDAY St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.
FRIDAY Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Royal South London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.
SATURDAY St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Lock (Clinical Demonstrations and Operations), 1 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Free, 2 P.M.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.—Hospital for Women, 9.30 A.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 9.30 A.M.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered, are requested to look to the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

CORRESPONDENTS, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course, not necessarily for publication.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor; those concerning business matters, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the General Manager, at the Office, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C.

"LARYNGOSCOPE."—Dr. Mackenzie's Lectures on the Use of the Laryngoscope shall be commenced in an early number. We have been compelled to postpone these lectures and several other valuable papers, from unprecedented pressure on our space.

M.D., ABERDEENSHIRE.—We think that, in the circumstances, the parochial board had the legal power to act as they did. If the medical officer led them officially to understand that he had finally left the district, his doing so was tantamount to resignation.

THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH" AND LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

SIR,—Allow me to make a few comments on a sensational leader on the subject of lunatic asylums which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* of Saturday last. It contains statements at once unjust and untrue, and calculated to mislead the public. It is easy enough to make loose assertions, such as—"Nor is it possible to doubt that there are tens—aye, and hundreds—of lunatics, so called, immured in private asylums, who have every right to be in perfect possession of their liberty." It is, however, a very different matter to verify them; and it is but fair to ask for proofs. Can the writer of the article adduce a single instance, at the present time, of a patient being unjustly confined in an asylum? He must have been thinking of the darkest period of the Middle Ages, when he speaks of patients being confined in *obliettes*. Is he aware that the medical certificates authorising the reception of a lunatic into an asylum undergo the most rigid scrutiny at the office of the Commissioners in Lunacy, and that the Commissioners make a point of minutely inquiring into the mental state of every fresh patient after his admission into an asylum? One of the writer's accusations is very amusing. Speaking of the so-called hardships to which a patient in a lunatic asylum is subjected, he says: "He is shaved, and cropped, and tubbed. He has to get up and go to bed at a certain hour." I thought we moderns prided ourselves on the valuable institution of tubbing. If the writer had seen much of asylum life, and had witnessed the sad plight in which the patients are often brought, he would have known what a blessing it is to the poor creatures to have a shave and a good wash. As to retiring to rest and rising at stated hours, I cannot imagine how this can be objected to. It is the practice in all well regulated sanitary institutions.

31, Harley Street, W., August 20th, 1872. I am, etc., J. M. WINN, M.D.

SPASMODIC ASTHMA FOLLOWING USE OF LINSEED-MEAL POULTICES.—DR. W. SMITH (Preston) asks:—Can any of your readers inform me if, in their practice, they have ever seen linseed-meal, applied in the form of a poultice, produce all the symptoms of hay- or ipsecacuanha-asthma? I have a patient in whom this effect is produced, whether the linseed-meal be used for herself or for her children.

MR. A. F. MCGILL, resident Medical Officer to the Leeds Infirmary, writes to us that there is no vacancy in the post which he holds, nor is there likely to be one at present.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.—The name of Dr. A. Samelson of Manchester was accidentally omitted from the list of members present.

MR. SIMON'S REPORTS.

SIR,—I want to get together a complete series of the Reports presented by the Medical Officer formerly to the General Board of Health, and latterly to the Medical Department of the Privy Council. All these, prior to 1866, are out of print. If any members of our Association are able to help me, I shall be glad to hear from them, stating the volumes they can dispose of, and the price of them.

I am, etc., FRED. ED. MANBY, F.R.C.S. Eng.

10, King Street, Wolverhampton, August 15th, 1872.

BALMFORTH V. BUCKLEY AND FLETCHER.

SIR.—In the issue of the JOURNAL for Saturday, August 10th, there is a notice of an action for malpraxis, tried at the Manchester Summer Assizes, which is so incorrect and unfair towards the defendants, Dr. Ogden Fletcher and Mr. Buckley, that, as the first surgeon who saw the case, I must request you to insert the following history of the case.

On the 11th December, 1871, Alfred Balmforth, a commercial traveller, while attempting to get on to the guard's van of a goods train in motion, missed his hold, and fell between the platform and permanent way of the railway at Mexborough. He was much injured, and immediately carried to a hotel, where I saw him within half an hour after the accident took place. He was placed under the influence of chloroform, and carefully examined. The limbs were accurately measured, and every means taken with a view to detect if any dislocation or fracture existed. The conclusion I at once came to was, that neither dislocation nor fracture had occurred. He was removed home to Manchester the same evening, and seen by Mr. Buckley, one of the defendants, who used the same means for determining the presence of dislocation or fracture, and failed to do so. A few days afterwards, Dr. Ogden Fletcher, on behalf of the "Accidental Insurance Company," examined the plaintiff, and came to the same conclusion. Eleven weeks after the accident occurred, he was seen by the late Mr. Beever, who found a dislocation on the dorsum ilii, but recommended that it should not then be reduced. I again saw the plaintiff on July 10th, along with Mr. Wheelhouse of Leeds, and Mr. Favell of Sheffield, together with the other witnesses for the defence, and on that occasion found a decided dislocation on the dorsum ilii, slightly above the sciatic notch. It was, during the trial, proved without contradiction, that no dislocation existed at the time of the accident, and for eleven weeks afterwards; and the simple issue submitted to the jury was whether or not the defendants had been guilty of negligence in not reducing the dislocation at the time when first discovered—a point obviously of purely medical opinion. The evidence of the surgeons of the Manchester Infirmary, who were examined for the plaintiff, only went to prove that a dislocation *now* existed—a fact conceded by the defendants. The very valuable evidence of Mr. Wheelhouse of Leeds, and of Mr. Favell of Sheffield, and that of the other surgeons for the defence, of the defendants themselves, and of my own, was based entirely on the supposition or belief that the diagnosis made in the first place by myself, and subsequently by the defendants, was correct. Trusting in this supposition, it is impossible that any of the witnesses for the defence could come to any other conclusion than that the dislocation was the secondary result of a fracture of the upper and outer rim of the acetabulum—an effect probably produced by the plaintiff's efforts to walk, and by the muscles surrounding the hip-joint having recovered, from the great contusions received, their natural contractile power. Had it been proved that dislocation existed at the time of the accident, I should have been the responsible party, not the defendants. It is a most unfortunate thing that the whole case was not reported fully and fairly in the JOURNAL; still more unfortunate that a case of purely medical opinion should be submitted to a jury of twelve men, however intelligent, but totally unconnected with, and ignorant of, professional matters.

I am, etc., J. M. MACLAGAN, M.D. Edin.

Mexborough, Rotherham, Yorkshire, August 12th, 1872.

SIR.—We have had our attention called to your notice in your impression of the 10th instant, of the actions by Mr. Balmforth against Dr. Fletcher and Mr. Buckley. With the exception of an offer by Mr. Southam, before action commenced, to refer Mr. Buckley's case to arbitration, no offer of reference was ever made. As soon as the action was commenced, and the plaintiff showed signs of asserting his claim, the attorney of Dr. Fletcher, and the writer, as the attorney of Mr. Buckley, proposed a reference; but the plaintiff's attorney declined, stating that he had just seen Mr. Southam, but that that gentleman did not advise a reference unless the defendants would, as a preliminary, admit their negligence, which, of course, was declined. No offer of reference was ever made to Dr. Fletcher; and, to the best of our belief and opinion, no reference was ever desired by the plaintiff or his advisers. We are, etc., J. & E. WHITWORTH.

2, St. James's Square, Manchester, August 14th, 1872.

SIR.—My attention has been called to a paragraph under the heading of action for malpraxis, in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for the 10th instant, which states that Mr. Southam strongly advised that the case should be submitted to arbitration, but that this was refused by the defendants. It is only right that you should allow me to say, through the medium of your JOURNAL, that, so far at all events as regards my client Dr. Ogden Fletcher, such statement is incorrect. When first instructed in the matter by my client, I put myself in communication with Mr. Whitworth, the solicitor of the other defendant, Mr. Buckley. He informed me that, although no offer had been made to him, he understood that there had been some suggestion by the surgeons who had examined the plaintiff that the matter should be referred to arbitration, and expressed his own desire that it should be. My own views were totally opposed to such a course; but, in deference to Mr. Whitworth, I consented to wait with him upon the solicitors of the plaintiff, to ascertain whether they were willing to go to arbitration. This we accordingly did; but upon our jointly stating our willingness to refer, we were told that, as arbitration had been refused when offered, it could not now take place. Mr. Whitworth thereupon stated that no official offer of arbitration had been made to him, and that, although there had been some suggestion of it, such suggestion had been of a nature that did not warrant him in taking any notice of it. I then stated that, so far as my client Dr. Fletcher was concerned, no offer or suggestion of arbitration had been made, and that I had not heard any mention of it until Mr. Whitworth had mentioned it that day. In the end, the plaintiff's solicitors promised to see their client, and ascertain if he would refer the matter, and to let Mr. Whitworth and myself know his decision. As I did not hear from them at the time promised, I wrote them, asking for their client's decision, but did not receive any answer from them. Mr. Whitworth and myself then waited upon them again to ascertain if their client would consent to refer, and were told that he objected to an arbitration, but that Mr. Southam had suggested that there might be arbitration upon the principle that the defendants should admit their liability, and leave it to the arbitrators simply to say to what extent they were liable. Mr. Whitworth and I replied that the suggestion was too absurd to merit any notice; and from that moment, arbitration was never again mentioned. Under these circumstances, I think you will admit that the assertion that Dr. Fletcher refused to go to arbitration is incorrect.

While writing, there is one other point in your paragraph which I think I ought to set right. I have a copy of Mr. Beever's report before me, and it contains no such assertion as that the dislocation could have been reduced at the time of the accident.

I am, etc., Wm. H. HEWITT.

8, Marsden Street, Manchester, August 12th, 1872.

CORRESPONDENTS are particularly requested by the Editor to observe that communications relating to Advertisements, changes of address, and other business matters, should be addressed to Mr. Francis Fowke, General Secretary and Manager, at the Journal Office, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C., and not to the Editor.

J. E. B.—The authorities of the University ought to forward the pass list; but, in the present case, they have failed to do so.

AN ASSOCIATE.—We understand that these appointments are generally made on the recommendation of the Lieutenant-Colonel.

THE MEDICAL DIRECTORY.

SIR.—As the circular in connection with the *Medical Directory* is now issued, may I suggest that every member of the British Medical Association should, with his qualifications, register his being a member? In consequence of the continual occurrence of unprofessional and unseemly behaviour of medical men one to another, it becomes absolutely necessary to show that we belong to some society by which the high respectability and honourable conduct of its associates is guaranteed by its laws.

I am, etc.,

E. W. S. DAVIS, Mem. Brit. Assoc.; Med. Off. Health; etc.

Mountain Ash, Aberdare, August 14th, 1872.

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS.

SIR.—I notice some serious charges against the opponents of the Contagious Diseases Acts, in the JOURNAL of July 13th, by Mr. Holland; to which, as an opponent of these measures, and a constant reader of your admirably conducted JOURNAL, I trust you will allow me to reply. Mr. Holland stigmatises the opposition to the Acts as a fanatical crusade, preached chiefly among the least educated classes by unscrupulous arts of agitation. He then says, "that those of the agitators not ignorant themselves have relied upon the ignorance of others," in order to mislead them; that, although it is impossible to stamp out disease, it is right to carry out the Acts. He then goes on to say that the opponents of the Act attack it, not for what it did, but for what it did not contain. Having done thus, he proceeds to give an altogether incorrect description of the law, alleging that the Act is only applied to prostitutes who are disorderly characters, and supposed to be diseased; that the Act does not license, but forbids certificates. He declares that such fallacies are repeated by those who knew they are untrue to those who know nothing about it.

Mr. Holland and many others like him would experiment on the body politic and violate the constitution, which is the pride, boast, and safeguard of the people of this country, with as little compunction as some medical men would cut open live animals in the supposed interest of science. To examine any woman against her will with the speculum, is, in my opinion, simply an indefensible atrocity; and, under these Acts, this operation is performed periodically upon women who have committed no crime, are not even suspected of any legal offence whatever, and are quite healthy. Of 100,000 women examined, 86,000 are reported as free from disease. The Acts allow prostitutes to carry on their trade, providing they submit to examination; and it is an insult to common sense to pretend that this is not practically licensing their profession. The Act does not forbid the giving of certificates; in fact, the withdrawal of equivalent papers has been done in contravention of the Acts by the promoters in consequence of the agitation against them, and is at the present moment positively illegal. It is evident that Mr. Holland knows very little of the subject of which he speaks so confidently; and I should wish him to understand that I and other scientific gentlemen protest against these measures: first, because they violate the fundamental laws of this country and the guaranteed rights of British subjects; secondly, because they are altogether unnecessary and uncalled for; thirdly, because, so far from mitigating, they aggravate every evil, both physical and moral; and, lastly, because other measures entirely unobjectionable, and in full accord with the free spirit of all English institutions, would not only suffice but accomplish infinitely more good than vain and aggravating efforts of police control.

I am, etc.,

THOS. WORTH, M.R.C.S.L.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Liverpool Weekly Albion, August 17th; The North British Advertiser, August 17th; The Tewkesbury Record, August 17th; The Manchester Guardian, August 21st; Saunders's News-Letter and Daily Advertiser, August 20th; etc.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, ETC., have been received from:—

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