

the sponge), and then I confidently called on the friends to permit its immediate removal, to which they reluctantly consented. I made an incision over the course of the movable piece of bone, and easily drew it out, when, to my surprise, I found it was at least two-thirds of the whole clavicle. It seems to have died in mass. Near the sternal articulation, there was a well marked pit of the spotted ulceration of scrofula. The opening healed up almost immediately; every effort was made to keep the arm immovable, but without much benefit. The final result is now, that the child has perfect use of the arm, and the distance between the point of the shoulder and the middle of the sternum is only one-half inch less than that of the sound side. There is a ridge of bony matter forming along the site of the former clavicle. I congratulated myself on the successful issue of the case; but I fear that another centre of mischief is now forming in the lower third of the femur of the same side.

CASE OF SPASMODIC CONVULSIONS RESEMBLING TETANUS, OCCURRING PERIODICALLY.*

By S. SPRATLY, M.D., Rock Ferry;
Associate of King's College, London.

I AM induced to bring this case before the Medical Section of this Association; first, because it is one that is very rare; secondly, in order to obtain an expression of opinion from the members present, who from their large experience may be able to throw some light upon it, as hitherto it has resisted all treatment. I shall endeavour to relate the case to you in as few words as possible.

In the early part of April last year, I was sent for to see a young lady about 23 to 24 years of age, who was suffering from cough and general debility. On inquiring into the family history, I found that the mother had died of phthisis about fourteen years previously. On examination of the chest, there were puerile breathing at the apices of both lungs, a very short irritable cough, and slight expectoration. After being under careful treatment for three months, the cough subsided; the breathing became perfectly natural; she could walk without distress, gained flesh, and expressed herself as feeling much stronger and better.

Early in September, a feeling came on of soreness in the stomach, accompanied by a thorough loathing for food. Twelve hours after this, a violent spasm occurred, accompanied with great pain and extreme muscular rigidity; the feeling being, as she expressed it, as if all her inside were being drawn up and tied in a knot in the middle. This lasted two to three minutes, then gradually subsided, to be followed in a quarter of an hour by another, and so on for eight or ten in succession. I was from home at the time, and did not arrive at the house until all was over. After the spasms had ceased, she fell asleep, and awoke early in the morning much exhausted, but perfectly free from pain; she became cheerful, was able to run about the house, go into society, and appeared as if nothing ailed her.

At the end of four weeks from the first attack, another came on, with the same warning—soreness at the pit of the stomach, a loathing for food, and great depression of spirits. At eight o'clock in the evening, the same time as before, the spasms commenced. I was then present. The first appearance was muscular rigidity of the hands and arms; the fingers were stretched out perfectly rigid, and separated from each other; the hands were thrown back, with the palms upwards; the elbows drawn down to the sides; the body writhed to and fro; the face assumed a sardonic appearance; the muscles were thrown into rigid contractions, especially the depressors of the angles of the mouth; the jaws were firmly set; the colour of the skin was slightly livid; the eyelids partly closed; the eyeballs depressed, so that only the sclerotic could be seen. Then opisthotonos came on; the head was thrown completely back; the body was perfectly arched, the feet and the back of the head touching the bed only, the back being raised about six to eight inches from it; the other muscles of the body were in a state of rigid contraction; the abdomen was hard and tense. These symptoms lasted for two or three minutes, then gradually subsided, to come on again in a quarter of an hour, and to be repeated ten or twelve times in succession, and in precisely the same manner. During the paroxysms, the breathing was little if at all affected; the pulse was not increased in frequency, and remained steadily at 74; the temperature was not increased or diminished. These attacks have continued from that time to the present; but the interval has become less and less, and for the last three months they have come on regularly every Wednesday, and always

at 8 P.M., lasting generally until one in the morning; the patient generally having twelve or thirteen convulsions during the attack. They have been latterly much more severe; and more so if the spine be touched, however lightly, during the attack, at the junction of the eleventh and twelfth dorsal vertebrae. This part of the spine, within the last two months, has become very tender, and rather prominent and angular, as if the bodies of the two vertebrae in question were diseased: this feature has only shown itself lately. The patient always has the usual premonitory symptoms, and can predict the time of the paroxysms to a minute.

Such is a short history of the case during the paroxysms. All treatment hitherto used to arrest them has been of no avail. Antispasmodics of all kinds at the time of the attack, and tonics and antiperiodics during the intervals, have been perseveringly tried. The only thing that seemed in any way to moderate the intensity of the symptoms was the subcutaneous injection of the extract of Calabar bean along the spine where the tenderness exists, which slightly modified the intensity of the spasms; and since its use only during the last two attacks, the interval has increased from seven to eleven days. Chloroform, while she is under its influence, relieves all symptoms, but the moment sensibility returns the symptoms are as bad as ever. Menstruation is quite normal; and there is no hysterical history.

CLINICAL MEMORANDA.

SPONTANEOUS DISLOCATION OF THE JAW THROUGH "TONGUE-SUCKING".

ON Thursday, August 15th, at midnight, a young lady aged 15, a patient of mine, while on a visit at a friend's house, was awakened from her sleep with pain under the ears and inability to close the jaws, or to articulate plainly. She aroused her friends, who, feeling alarmed, sent for their medical attendant, who arrived about three in the morning, when he at once declared the jaw to be dislocated, and quickly reduced it. I went to see her on the Saturday following, and found her well, but much alarmed at going to bed, fearing that the accident would again occur during sleep.

I am anxious to place on record this remarkable case, inasmuch as I am persuaded that the habit of tongue-sucking, which the young lady has always done from her infancy, and so audibly during sleep as to be heard in any part of the sleeping-room, was the true cause of this distressing accident. The action of the pterygoid muscles (which are inserted, the one "into the inner surface of the angle and ramus of the jaw as high as the dental foramen," the other "into the neck of the lower jaw and into the interarticular fibro-cartilage") together brings the jaw downwards and forwards, projecting the lower teeth beyond the upper. The continued action of the above muscles during sleep, I have no doubt, had so preternaturally loosened the ligaments and muscular structures supporting the joint, as to render them unable to resist the violent action of them during sleep.

EDWIN MORRIS, M.D., F.R.C.S., Spalding.

SELECTIONS FROM JOURNALS.

SURGERY.

FOREIGN BODIES IN STRICTURED OESOPHAGUS.—Dr. Menzel relates, in the *Archiv für Klin. Chirurgie* (Band xiii, p. 678), two cases of stricture of the oesophagus complicated with the presence of foreign bodies. Both were children, and were under Dr. Billroth's care in the Vienna General Hospital. The first was a boy aged 6, who was reported to have drunk some strong alkaline lye by mistake about a year previously. Narrowing of the oesophagus followed, which was treated by bougies; none, however, larger than a quill could be introduced. Three days before admission, he swallowed a breeches-button. When he was admitted, a bougie could not be made to reach the stomach, but was arrested opposite the upper part of the sternum. All attempts to remove the foreign body by instruments and by emetics were fruitless. Accordingly, on the next day, Dr. Billroth performed oesophagotomy, and removed the button by means of forceps. The progress of the case was favourable; the incision in the oesophagus was healed on the sixteenth day and the external wound on the twenty-fifth day. The child was fed throughout by the mouth; slight pressure on the oesophagus being sufficient (after the removal of the sutures on the third day) to prevent the escape of food. The second case was that of a female child, who, at the age of a year and a half, had swallowed some nitric acid. On her admission, an oesophageal tube of the size

* Read before the Medical Section at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association in Birmingham, August 1872.

of a quill could be introduced, through which milk was poured into the stomach. For ten days previously, she had been unable to swallow, and had been nourished by enemata. While she was in hospital, it was noted that sometimes she could swallow with tolerable ease, at other times not at all; and that, while sometimes a tube could be readily introduced, at other times this was impossible. The instrument gave no indication of the presence of a foreign body. Febrile symptoms appeared, and the child died on the forty-eighth day after admission. At the necropsy, there was found in the upper third of the oesophagus a semilunar pouch, in which lay a furrowed glass bead of the size of a pea. From the pouch, a fistulous opening led to an abscess in the mediastinum; and there was empyema in the right pleura.

PARTIAL ABLATION OF PROSTATE.—The *Gazette des Hôpitaux* (August 17th) contains a very curious case, in which Messrs. Ricord and Demarquay performed partial ablation of the antero-inferior part of the intestine and of the corresponding part of the prostate for the cure of a fungoid ulceration with indurated borders, which was the source of a debilitating muco-purulent discharge and general distress to the patient. The case, and the nature of this singular operation, are detailed with care.

ASPIRATION IN STRANGULATED HERNIA.—The treatment of strangulated hernia by puncture with the fine cannula of a suction-syringe, and exhaustion of its fluid contents, has recently been tried anew by MM. Dolbeau and Demarquay, and by others, with satisfactory results; and this method of reducing the volume of hernial protrusions is attracting attention in London hospitals, where Mr. Bryant and Mr. Hulke have had recourse to it with advantage. At the Société de Chirurgie lately, M. Fleury of Clermont related some failures, which indicate the possibility that such punctures may excite inflammation of the intestine and peritoneum. M. Verneuil and M. Panas related facts of a similar character.

SIMULTANEOUS AMPUTATION OF BOTH FEET.—Dr. H. Thompson of Tyrone relates, in the *Dublin Journal of Medical Science* for August, the case of W. T., a railway guard, aged 35, who had both feet crushed by a railway train passing over them. Dr. Thompson performed amputation of both feet at the tarso-metatarsal joints by Hey's operation, the projecting ends of the internal cuneiform bones being cut through. The wounds were dressed with carbolic acid. Some sloughing of the flaps took place, and convalescence was tedious; but, nine months after the operation, the man was able to balance his body without a stick, and to walk and run with the aid of a slight one. His gait somewhat resembled that of a man with club-feet; but he was able to perform duty in connexion with the railway, not requiring quite so much activity as his former employment.

A BLANKET SPLINT.—Dr. D. T. Gilliam describes in the *Ohio Clinic* the following ingenious temporary treatment of fracture. He was summoned to a patient who was said to have received some injuries by the falling of trundle-work on the railroad. Upon examination, it was ascertained that the patient had sustained fracture of the thigh, together with other minor injuries. In the locality, there were neither boards, sand, nor tools. Dr. Pullen, who was present, doubled a blanket upon itself until in breadth it corresponded to the length of the limb. He then rolled each end towards the centre, just leaving space enough between the rolls to admit the limb. In this the limb was placed; extension was made, and the bones placed in apposition; strips of muslin were tied around the blanket, and the fracture-box was complete.

BILATERAL ANKYLOSIS OF THE LOWER JAW: OPERATION.—In the *JOURNAL* for June 1 (p. 585) was a notice of a case of bilateral ankylosis of the lower jaw, remedied by the removal of a wedge-shaped piece of bone on each side. A somewhat similar instance is quoted by the *Wiener Medizin. Wochenschr.* of July 6th, from the proceedings of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Bologna. It occurred in the practice of Dr. Bottini. The patient was a lad aged 17, who, at the age of seven, had fallen on the jaw, and had gradually lost the power of opening his mouth, so that at last for some months he was unable to separate the jaws to any extent. Dr. Bottini introduced wedges; but these were very irksome to the patient, and were removed. Resection of the articular head of the bone was then performed on one side; this had no noticeable result, but, on the operation being repeated on the other side, the jaw could be moved freely. At the end of six weeks, the wound had healed, and the motion of the jaw was normal. The only morbid change that could be discovered was absence of the inter-articular fibro-cartilage.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1872.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Association for 1872 became due on January 1st. Members of Branches are requested to pay the same to their respective Secretaries. Members of the Association not belonging to Branches are requested to forward their remittances to Mr. FRANCIS FOWKE, General Secretary, 37, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST, 1872.

THE CHEMISTRY OF THE SECRETIONS.

UNDER the title of "The Chemical Modifications which the Secretions undergo under the Influence of some Agents which modify the Blood-Globule," M. Ritter has written a thesis for the Doctorate of Sciences of Paris, which is abstracted in the *Revue des Cours Scientifiques*, and which furnishes an important contribution to the history of the secretions. He has sought to determine the influence exercised on the composition of the secretions, and especially of the urine, by various agents—oxygen, protoxide of nitrogen, oxide of carbon, antimonials, arsenical salts, phosphorus, and the sodic salts of the acids of the bile. Omitting the details of his experiments, the following are his principal results.

Inhalations of oxygen ought evidently to accelerate organic combustion, and consequently to augment the quantity of the products of advanced combustion contained in the urine. The experiments of M. Ritter accordingly demonstrate that in these cases the urine is more acid; it contains more ammoniacal salts; the proportion of urea to uric acid augments; but, on the other hand, the quantity of urea, as well as the total quantity of nitrogen, eliminated by the urine, diminishes. There is here a contradiction—apparent, at least—between facts and theory. But may not the urea itself be burnt also? May it not be transformed into water, carbonic acid, and nitrogen, which are eliminated by the respiratory organs? And, in fact, Allen and Pepys, Regnault and Reiset, have ascertained an increase of nitrogen in the gases expired by an animal which breathes pure oxygen. The greater acidity of the urine is due to the presence of an organic acid in more than the normal quantity. M. Ritter believes this to be lactic acid, which is known to be a product of the oxidation of nitrogenous substances.

Muscular activity acts nearly in the same way as the inhalation of oxygen. Byasson had already determined that it augmented the urea, uric acid, and chlorides; whilst brain-work augmented the urea in a more marked degree, as well as the sulphates and phosphates. M. Ritter is not completely in accordance with that author. His researches have borne upon the influencing of walking exercise, the brain-work remaining the same. Oxidation is increased, but in a mode differing according to circumstances. A moderate walk by an individual rising from complete rest is followed by an increase of the quantity of nitrogen eliminated by the urine; the proportion of urea to uric acid increases by nearly one-half. If the individual be already leading an active life, the products of oxidation are slightly increased, but in an almost identical proportion. If the individual make a forced march, the total quantity of azote diminishes; but the relation of the urea to the uric acid increases, as after the inhalation of pure oxygen.

He believed the fact was sufficiently established for a treatment to be based upon it.—Dr. DE WEAVER repeated in French the substance of the communication.—Dr. GALEZOWSKI's experience had led him to a different conclusion, and he thought the operation of incising the sheath unjustifiable.

Dr. GREEN (St. Louis) made a statement on the improvement of Test-types. He recommended that all letters should be inscribed exactly within a square. He further recommended that various sizes of Snellen's types should be constructed in an exact mathematical ratio to each other.—The PRESIDENT was sure that the adoption of Dr. Green's proposals would be of great service.

Next Meeting.—The Congress then proceeded to decide on the next place of meeting. After hearing Drs. Williams (Boston), Williams (Cincinnati), Noyes (New York), Cervera (Madrid), Delgado Jugo, Warlomont, and others, the meeting resolved by a majority to hold the Congress of 1876 at New York.

The Congress met again at 2 P.M., the President in the Chair.

Mr. POWER read a paper on Transplantation of Cornea. The idea had arisen in Germany as far back as 1823. He had satisfied himself by experiments on animals that there could be complete union between the transplanted tissue and that surrounding it. He showed microscopic preparations of the united parts. He presented a case where the operation had been done. There was at present some opacity, a few days after the operation, but it was stated by some observers that the opacity disappears in the course of two or three weeks.

Dr. WILLIAMS (Boston) described the kind of Corneal Suture employed by him in the operation for Cataract.

Mr. BOWMAN described (1) an operation that he had performed for enlarging a linear pupil that had followed in a case of Conical Cornea. He had practised a similar operation in cases of nuclear cataract. 2. New methods of excising Structures in the Papillary Region. 3. Operations for Conical Cornea. 4. Some uses of Eye Trephines.—M. MEYER (Paris) commented on some details.

M. QUAGLINO (Milan) read a paper advocating the operation of Sclerotomy in Glaucoma.

Dr. DONDERS made some remarks on Förster's Theory of Accommodation, pointing out a fallacy which, he thought, might prove mischievous. He read, also, a short paper on Traumatic Keratitis, criticising the views of Stricker and others as to the nature of corneal inflammation.

This concluded the scientific business of the meeting.

On the motion of Dr. DE WEAVER, an enthusiastic vote of thanks was passed to the English Committee for the very admirable arrangements they had made, and for the cordial reception they had ensured for the foreign members of the Congress.

The PRESIDENT proposed a vote of thanks to the College of Physicians for placing their spacious rooms at the disposal of the Congress.

THE ROYAL ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL: MR. W. ADAMS AND MR. BRODHURST.

At a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Counties Branch held on August 21st, the following report from the Committee appointed to investigate the charges of unprofessional conduct made by Mr. William Adams against Mr. Brodhurst, was presented.

The Committee appointed by the Council of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association to investigate certain charges made by Mr. William Adams against Mr. Brodhurst in connection with recent occurrences at the Royal Orthopædic Hospital, beg to report as follows.

Mr. Adams charges Mr. Brodhurst with unprofessional conduct—

1. In having been privy to the purchase and fabrication of a number of votes on the day prior to the meeting of the governors of the Royal Orthopædic Hospital on the 13th March, which votes were used at that meeting to injure Mr. Tamplin and Mr. Adams.

2. In having been privy to the use of the same votes, and of others similarly purchased at a subsequent date, for the rejection of a proposition brought forward and supported by Lord Abinger, Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Ebury, and other of the Vice-Presidents, at the meeting of the 8th April, for the reparation of that injury.

To these charges Mr. Brodhurst gives an explicit and unqualified denial. He asserts that the names and subscriptions of new governors were sent to him prior to the meeting of the governors of the Royal Orthopædic Hospital on March 13th, for the support of a resolution which would place him in the position of full surgeon. He states positively that he had no cognisance of, nor did he directly or indirectly

seek to influence, the vote of any governor, new or old, respecting the adoption of the report of the Committee which has ended in the resignation of Mr. Adams and Mr. Tamplin; and he further states that he had no knowledge of the contents of the report, or that it contained anything which, if accepted by the meeting, would necessitate the resignation of his colleagues. He also denies that he was cognisant of or privy to the creation of new governors prior to the meeting of governors on April 8th, for the purpose of supporting the report or of opposing Lord Abinger's motion; and states that he did not in any way or at any time attempt to influence the vote of any one of the governors who were present at that meeting.

While the Committee consider that, under the circumstances of the case, Mr. Adams was justified in asking for an investigation of Mr. Brodhurst's conduct, they cannot refuse to accept Mr. Brodhurst's positive and emphatic denial, as they have failed to obtain sufficient evidence to establish the charges made against him.

August 16th, 1872.

WM. FERGUSSON.

It was unanimously resolved by the Council—

"That the report of the Committee be accepted, and that copies be sent to Mr. Adams and Mr. Brodhurst, to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, and to the other medical journals."

The members of this Committee were: Dr. Russell Reynolds, F.R.S.; Sir W. Fergusson, Bart., F.R.S.; T. Heckstall Smith, Esq.; R. Dunn, Esq.; Dr. A. P. Stewart; Campbell De Morgan, Esq., F.R.S.; John Marshall, Esq., F.R.S.; Dr. Sieveking; John Wood, Esq., F.R.S.; and Dr. Henry, *Secretary*.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT MEDICAL MEETINGS.

THE next meeting of the members of the above district will be held at the Saracen's Head Hotel, Ashford, on Thursday, September 19th, at 3 o'clock; Mr. THURSTON in the Chair.

Dinner will be provided at 5 o'clock precisely. Charge 5s., exclusive of wine.

All members of the South Eastern Branch are entitled to attend, and to introduce friends.

Gentlemen who wish to make communications to the meeting are requested to inform me *at once*, in order that a notice thereof may be included in the circular convening the meeting.

CHARLES PARSONS, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.

2, St. James's Street, Dover, August 28th, 1872.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.

At the Annual Meeting of this Branch on July 17th (see BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, August 3rd, p. 137), the following papers were read and cases exhibited.

1. T. D. Griffiths, M.B. (Swansea). On Displacements of the Ovaries consequent on acquired Malposition of the Uterus: illustrated by six cases.

2. J. Russell, Esq. (Neath). On the Various Modes of Amputation of the Leg.

3. J. Williams, M.D. (Pontypool). On two Sudden Deaths, presenting peculiarities in their medico-legal aspects.

4. Mr. E. Crockett (Merthyr) related a case (and exhibited a preparation) in which the Scrotum and Testicles were amputated by an Iron Ring, worn in the expectation of relief thereby from attacks of epilepsy, to which the patient had been subject.

5. Mr. Cresswell (Dowlais) exhibited a case of successful Amputation at the Hip-joint in a lad aged 14.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE fifth annual general meeting of this Branch was held at the County Hotel, Carlisle, on Wednesday, July 10th, 1872. Previously to the commencement of the ordinary business, several members visited the County Asylum at Garlands, on the invitation of Dr. Clouston, the medical superintendent. The proceedings at the meeting commenced at one o'clock. R. ELLIOT, M.D., of Carlisle, the retiring President, was called to the Chair.

Report of Council.—The SECRETARY read the report of the Council, as follows.

The Council of the Cumberland and Westmorland Branch, in presenting their fourth annual report, are again able to congratulate the members on the prosperous condition of the Branch. The number of members at the commencement of the year was seventy. Two new members have been elected; one has withdrawn from the Association, and one has been removed by death, thus leaving our list precisely the same in point of numbers as last year, and still including more than half the number of medical men residing in Cumberland and Westmorland. Considering that the Branch has only completed the fourth year of its existence, and that previously to its formation the number of members of the Association in these two counties only amounted to about a dozen, this result is very satisfactory. The Council feel, however, that much may yet be done by individual effort in still further extending the Association, and would earnestly urge members to impress on their medical neighbours who have not yet joined, the important advantages of membership of the British Medical Association, and the great influence for good which the profession acquire by organisation.

The Council have to lament the death of that highly accomplished and much respected physician, Dr. Barnes, who being one of the oldest members of the Association and the patriarch of the profession in the northern counties, was unanimously elected as the first President of the Branch, and afterwards as Vice-President. He was warmly interested in our success, and the Council feel that the influence of his name attracted many to our ranks, and did much to overcome the early struggles of the Branch.

During the past year three general meetings have taken place, the inaugural meeting of the session having been held at Carlisle, the autumnal meeting at Wigton, and the spring meeting at Penrith. On each occasion papers of a high standard of merit were read, and good discussions followed. Indeed, owing to the shortness of time allowed for the meeting, papers already provided had to be held over, and the discussions closed. The attendance at the meetings, also, has been in excess of last year; and at two of the meetings was above the average of the last four years.

The Public Health Bill, now before Parliament, was considered at a special meeting of the Council, and a petition to Parliament was adopted praying for certain amendments insisted upon by a General Committee of the Parent Association, the most important of which bore reference to the necessity for a consolidation of existing sanitary laws. The Council regret that, although the Bill has passed its second reading, the present period of the session has arrived before it has got into Committee, and that it has been found necessary to deprive it of its most important clauses. It had far better share in the general slaughter of the innocents usual at this time of year.

The balance in hand at the commencement of the year was £4:11:2; arrears of subscriptions paid, £2:2:6; subscriptions for year paid, £5:12:6; total, £12:6:2. The expenditure for the year was £3:7:1, leaving a balance in hand on June 1st, 1872, of £8:19:1.

The adoption of the report was moved by Dr. HENRY (Whitehaven), and seconded by Dr. CARLYLE (Carlisle), and after some remarks from Dr. Head, Dr. Reeves, and Dr. Barnes, was unanimously agreed to.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were elected members of the Association and Branch: J. Dixon, L.R.C.P.Ed., Whitehaven; J. H. Nicholson, L.R.C.P.Ed., Cleator; P. Divorty, M.A., M.B., Sillith; J. S. Leland, L.R.C.P., Kirkby Stephen.

Votes of Thanks.—Votes of thanks were accorded to the office-bearers of the past year, and acknowledged by Dr. Elliot.

The President of the year, T. S. CLOUSTON, M.D., was then introduced by Dr. Elliot, and took the Chair.

Election of Office-bearers.—Dr. TIFFEN (Wigton) moved, and Mr. GREAVES (Penrith) seconded, the election of Dr. Elliot as permanent Vice-President. The motion was carried unanimously.

The following office-bearers of the Branch were elected for the year 1872-73. *President-elect*: R. Tiffen, M.D., Wigton. *Members of Council*: M. W. Taylor, M.D.; W. Reeves, M.D.; H. Dodgson, M.D.; T. F. I'Anson, M.D.; W. T. Greaves, Esq.; and E. W. Henry, M.D. *Secretary and Treasurer*: Henry Barnes, M.D., re-elected. *Representatives in General Council*: R. Elliot, M.D.; W. T. Greaves, Esq.; and W. Reeves, M.D. *Representative on Parliamentary Bills Committee*: W. Reeves, M.D.

President's Address.—The President, Dr. CLOUSTON, delivered his inaugural address. The subject of the address was "Lunacy in its Modern, Medical, and Social Aspects." After referring to the modern definitions of lunacy, he gave an historical sketch of the progress of medical opinion in regard to the nature of insanity, and glanced at the various systems of classification propounded at different times. Dr. Skae's system of classification is in process of universal adoption be-

cause it is founded on bodily causes and symptoms. "We have seen the last of the mental classifications of insanity, and now wait on the progress of brain-pathology for the pathological—which will be the true and final—classification of the future." The labours of Griesinger, Morel, and Moreau were sketched, and the later works of Laycock and Maudsley in this country described. Maudsley was shown to have done for the science of medico-psychology what Carpenter had done for physiology in this country, taking up the various threads of speculation and research, and weaving them into as complete a texture as was possible. The relationship of insanity to other nervous and bodily diseases, its connection with criminality and drunkenness, with electricity and certain kinds of mental power, its interchangeability in individuals and in different generations with epilepsy, chorea, consumption, neuralgia, etc., were all gone into. Hereditary transmission was shown to be the most powerful of all the predisposing causes of insanity, being present in 70 per cent. of the cases, if those diseases now recognised to be so closely allied to insanity be taken into account. The perils and pitfalls of the life of a hereditarily neurotic person were described as fearfully numerous. A table was shown that exhibited side by side the prevalence of crime and insanity in the different counties of England. Lunier's most able and striking researches just published on the connection between the increase of the consumption of wines and alcohol and the increase of alcoholic insanity and suicides in the different departments of France between 1849 and 1869 were referred to. Dr. Clouston concluded that drunkenness was the most common of all the exciting causes of insanity in this country, accounting for 30 per cent. of the cases where any cause could be clearly ascertained. The local distribution of insanity and the extraordinary difference that exists in the different counties and districts in England as to the prevalence of insanity itself, and of many particular kinds of insanity, were mentioned, and their causes discussed. Dr. Clouston showed, from statistics derived from the reports of the Registrar-General, the Commissioners in Lunacy, and lunatic asylums, the existence of centres and foci of epileptic insanity, congenital insanity, general paralytic insanity, and puerperal insanity in different parts of the country. Insanity was shown to cause nearly one-half per 1,000 out of the 23 per 1,000 deaths in the general population, and to cost at present in England two millions sterling annually, three-fourths of which was derived from public rates. The question whether insanity is increasing was gone into very fully, Dr. Clouston's opinions and his facts going strongly against the common notion that there has been a great increase of this disease in recent years. Lastly, the prevention of insanity was discussed, the conclusion being that on this most important point theories and opinions were plentiful enough, but facts and knowledge rare indeed. "But, though all the evidence goes to prove that insanity may be considered the type and representative of all nervous diseases—being the most widely diffused, the most Protean, the most marked, the most hereditary, the most persistent, and the most hurtful to mankind of them all—yet, if any true conclusion can be reached as to its prevention from the facts we have been considering as to its local distribution, it would be that if the mass of the people are well fed, have plenty of work, some excitement and change in life, and if they intermarry with new stocks every generation, then we shall have insanity reduced to a *minimum*."

On the motion of Dr. J. I'ANSON, seconded by Dr. ELLIOT, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the President for his valuable and interesting address.

Dinner.—In addition to the gentlemen present at the meeting, the following gentlemen were present at the dinner as guests; viz., The Rev. B. A. Marshall, Vicar of St. Cuthbert's; The Rev. H. Whitmore, Minor Canon of Carlisle Cathedral; The Rev. R. S. Adams, Rector of Sebergham; Mr. Robert Ferguson, Mr. Herbert Page, and Mr. John Manson, Town Clerk of Carlisle.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

MANCHESTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Injury of the Eye: Enucleation.—Dr. LITTLE related the case of a mechanic whose left eye had been injured by a piece of iron three or four months previously. The eye was lost after repeated attacks of irido-choroiditis, and was enucleated, on account of sympathetic irritation in the sound one. The specimen showed a splinter of iron impacted in the sheath of the optic nerves.

Lead-Opacity of the Cornea.—Dr. LITTLE also exhibited a well-marked case of lead-opacity of the cornea, on a deep ulcer, arising from the injudicious use of a lead lotion.

Prolapsus Ani with Ovarian Cyst.—Mr. STOCKS exhibited an ovarian

OBITUARY.

GEORGE JEPSON, ESQ., GAINSBOROUGH.

MR. GEORGE JEPSON was the son of the Rev. George Jepson, a prebendary in Lincoln Cathedral, in which city he was born in 1788. He was apprenticed to the late Mr. G. Parnell of Ganiston; and at the expiration of his apprenticeship he went to Guy's Hospital, where he studied under Sir Astley Cooper, for whom he dressed. He became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1810, and in the following year entered into partnership with his former master, who retired from practice in 1827. Mr. Jepson continued in active practice to within a short period of his death, which took place on August 17th, in the eighty-fifth year of his age.

MEDICAL NEWS.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—First M.B. Examination, 1872. Examination for Honours.—Anatomy.

First Class.

Houghton, Walter Benoni (Exhibition and Gold Medal), University College
Duncan, Peter Thomas (Gold Medal), University College

Second Class.

Gould, Alfred Pearce, University College

Physiology, Histology, and Comparative Anatomy.

Second Class.

Houghton, Walter Benoni, University College
Gould, Alfred Pearce, University College
Crocker, Henry Radcliffe, University College
Duncan, Peter Thomas, University College
Herman, George Ernest, London Hospital

Organic Chemistry and Materia Medica and Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

First Class.

Houghton, Walter Benoni (Exhibition and Gold Medal), University College
Crocker, Henry Radcliffe (Gold Medal), University College
Duncan, Peter Thomas, University College

Second Class.

Gould, Alfred Pearce, University College
Herman, George Ernest, London Hospital

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN.—During the past year, the following candidates, after the usual examinations, received degrees in Medicine and Surgery.

Degree of M.D.—Harcourt M'Leod Busfield, Lonmay; Thomas Edward Clark, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., Clifton; Thomas Robert Pearson, M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P.Ed., Shotley Bridge, Durham.

The following candidates received promotion to the degree of M.D.

Alexander Thomas Anderson, M.B., C.M., Wigan; George Watson Beattie, M.B., C.M., Ballater; Arthur Woolsey Blacklock, M.B., C.M., Brighton; Edward Thomas Blake, M.B., Reigate; Robert Catto, M.B., C.M., Portsoy; John Gillies, M.B., Melksham, Wilts; George Wright Hutchison, M.B., C.M., Belford Hospital, Fort William; Alexander Lawrence, M.B., C.M., County Asylum, Chester; Alexander Edward M' Rae, M.B., C.M., Fettercairn; George Archibald Maconachie, M.B., C.M., Grant Medical College, Bombay; David Manson, M.B., C.M., Amoy, China; Thomas Milne, M.B., C.M., New Deer; George Morison, M.B., C.M., Huntly; Alexander Begg Munro, M.B., C.M., St. Helen's, Melrose; Alfred Henry Newth, M.B., Hayward's Heath, Sussex; Walter Rosser, M.B., Trinity College, Glenalmond; George Thomson, M.B., C.M., Oldham, Lancashire; John William Thomson, M.B., C.M., Brechin; John A. J. Timmins, M.B., C.M., Wellington; Edward Allan Waterworth, M.B., Newport, Isle of Wight; Albert Williams, M.B., C.M., Sydenham, Surrey; Richmond Cotts Willock, M.B., C.M., Aberdeen; William Yeats, M.B., C.M., Stafford.

The following candidates received degrees in Medicine and Surgery.

Charles Aldridge, L.R.C.S.Lond., West Riding Asylum, Wakefield (M.B. and C.M.); Alexander Burrell, Fort William (M.B. and C.M.); Harcourt M'Leod, Busfield (C.M.); William Campbell, Kinnellar (M.B. and C.M.); William Carless, Stroud, Gloucestershire (M.B. and C.M.); Thomas Edward Clarke (C.M.); William Alexander Cusny, M.A., Fochabers (M.B. and C.M.); Frederick William Elliot, M.R.C.S.Lond., London (M.B.); Patrick Davidson Farquharson, New Deer (M.B. and C.M.); Edward Footner, M.R.C.S.Lond., 1st Highlanders (M.B.); Alexander Forsyth, Aberdeen (M.B. and C.M.); George William Fowler, Chalmers' Hospital, Banff (M.B. and C.M.); Robert John Garden, Aberdeen (M.B. and C.M.); Robert Shirra Gibb, Culter, Aberdeen (M.B. and C.M.); Cuthbert Chapman Gibbes, Plymouth (M.B. and C.M.); John Stephen Gibbons, Swallowvale, Lincolnshire (M.B. and C.M.); Clement Godson, M.R.C.S.Eng., London (M.B. and C.M.); Charles Gosse, M.R.C.S.Lond., South Australia (M.B. and C.M.); James Inglis, Aberdeen (M.B. and C.M.); William Bisset Knowles, Aberdeenshire (M.B. and C.M.); James Law, Aberdeen (M.B. and C.M.); Alfred Edward Aust Lawrence, Bristol (M.B. and C.M.); David Low, Skene (M.B. and C.M.); John Lyon, Peterculter (M.B. and C.M.); John Davidson Macdonald, M.A., Glass, Aberdeenshire (M.B. and C.M.); Duncan John MacKenzie, Ross-shire (M.B. and C.M.); William M'Gregor, L.R.C.P. and L.F.P.S.G., Lunatic Asylum, Aberdeen (M.B.); George Mickle, M.A., Ripon (M.B. and C.M.); Andrew Mitchell, New Deer, Aberdeenshire (M.B. and C.M.); John Taylor Parkinson,

M.R.C.S.Ed., Yorkshire (M.B. and C.M.); Thomas Robert Pearson (C.M.); John Pringle, Torwoodlee (M.B. and C.M.); James Reid, M.A., Ellon (M.B. and C.M.); James Alexander Reid, Kildrummy, Aberdeenshire (M.B. and C.M.); Robert William Reid, Auchindoir (M.B. and C.M.); Thomas Rennie, Inverurie (M.B. and C.M.); John Rigby-Hughes, M.R.C.S.Eng., Runcorn, Cheshire (M.B. and C.M.); George James Robertson, Daviot (M.B. and C.M.); George Washington Smith, Methlic (M.B. and C.M.); James Stephen, M.A., St. Cyrus, Kincardineshire (M.B. and C.M.); Frederick Robert Swaine, Bengal (M.B. and C.M.); Peter Tytler, Midmar (M.B. and C.M.); Francis James Wright, L.S.A., Preston, Lancashire (M.B. and C.M.); James Davidson Wyness, Aberdeen (M.B. and C.M.); George Edward Welford, Sunderland (M.B. and C.M.).

Of the above-mentioned Candidates—Alexander Forsyth, Robert John Garden, David Low, James Reid, Thomas Rennie, John Rigby-Hughes, and Peter Tytler, received their Degrees in Medicine and Surgery, with Highest Academic Honours; Charles Aldridge and George James Robertson their Degrees in Medicine, with Academic Honours; George William Fowler and Robert William Reid their Degrees in Surgery, with Academic Honours; and "A series of Illustrations of Pathological Histology", by William M'Gregor, was considered deserving of high commendation.

At the same time, Walter Gawen King, Francis Ogston, David Aikman Patterson, and Alex. Reid Urquhart, were certified as having passed all the Examinations, but did not Graduate.

At the late Graduation Term, the following were declared to have passed part of their Examinations:—James Adams, John Alexander, Alfred Baldock, Percy Hugh Benson, Anthony Butler, George B. Councell, John S. Craig, Alexander Craigmile, John Craven, Meldon J. Dempsey, Arthur H. Downes, James M'Call Fehrsen, John Ed. Ferguson, Alex. D. Fraser, John Roubel Gray, Charles C. Greig, Frederick S. Hardwicke, Philip N. Hart, Francis Hay, Lucius Holland, George A. Imlay, John C. Innes, Francis E. Jackson, James Laing, Ralph W. Leftwich, Edward J. Lloyd, Colin M. Macandrew, George R. MacGregor, John M'Combie, Finlay A. M'Ewen, Irvine K. Milne, John Hay Moir, Robert James Morice, Alex. D. L. Napier, Henry A. A. Nicholls, Malcolm Poignaud, Andrew Richardson, William Roberts, Henry John Robbins, John Scott, William T. Sheppard, Wm. Japp Sinclair, Chas. G. L. Skinner, Robert Gordon Smith, Francis H. Spencer, Henry G. T. Strickland, James W. H. Trail, John B. B. Triggs, Albert John Venn, Wm. Edward Webb, Patrick A. Weir, Robert Wharry, Henry Wilcox, Wm. H. Williamson, Robert M. Yule.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, August 22nd, 1872.

Atkins, Francis Thomas, Plumstead, Kent
James, Arthur Culver, Kennington Park Road

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

Davey, Charles James, Guy's Hospital
Harsant, William Henry, Guy's Hospital

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.—List of successful candidates at the competitive examination held at Burlington House, on August 12th, for fifteen appointments as Assistant-Surgeons. [Maximum number of marks, 3700.]

| Order of merit. | Names. | No. of marks. | Order of merit. | Names. | No. of marks. |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. | Brereton, S. | 2429 | 9. | Ahmed, Z. A. | 1870 |
| 2. | Bovill, E. | 2255 | 10. | Gilligan, W. A. | 1860 |
| 3. | Price, G. | 2233 | 11. | Hill, H. W. | 1795 |
| 4. | Moriarty, M. B. | 2215 | 12. | Beech, L. | 1785 |
| 5. | Dundas, G. A. | 2097 | 13. | Callumore, D. H. | 1785 |
| 6. | O'Brien, B. | 2035 | 14. | Griffiths, W. F. | 1775 |
| 7. | Levinge, E. | 1985 | 15. | Esmonde-White, H. B. | 1750 |
| 8. | Rogers-Harrison, A. W. | 1893 | | | |

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

ALVERSTOKE UNION—Medical Officer for the Town District: £90 per annum.

ANGLESEY UNION—Medical Officer for the Llangefni District: £50 per ann.

BASINGSTOKE UNION—Medical Officer for the Basingstoke or No. 1 District: £85 per annum, and extra fees.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE DISPENSARY—Resident House-Surgeon: £100 per annum, furnished apartments, coal, gas, and attendance.

CASTLE EDEN COLLIERY—Surgeon.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL—Assistant-Surgeon.

DAVENTRY UNION, Northamptonshire—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for District No. 5: £30 per annum, and extra fees.

GENERAL HOSPITAL, Birmingham—Assistant Dispenser.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM, near Gloucester—Junior Assistant Medical Officer: £80 per annum, board, lodging, and washing.

GUY'S HOSPITAL—Surgeon.

LIMERICK UNION, co. Limerick—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Annacotty Dispensary District: £100 per annum, and fees.

LISTOWEL UNION, co. Kerry—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Ballylongford Dispensary District: £100 per annum, and fees.

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.

PLYMOUTH, Pride of Devon Lodge of Odd Fellows—Surgeon.

PROVIDENT MEDICAL INSTITUTION AND LYING-IN CHARITY, Pimlico Road—Consulting Physician.—Attending Medical Officer.

ROYAL INFIRMARY, Glasgow.—Extra Physician.
 ROYAL PORTSMOUTH, PORTSEA, and GOSPORT HOSPITAL.—Medical Officer for the Gosport Dispensary.
 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.
 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.
 WARNEFORD LUNATIC ASYLUM, Oxford.—Resident Medical Superintendent: £260 per annum, with board, furnished apartments, etc.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

DICKINSON, Edward H., M.A. Oxon., M.B., M.R.C.P., Physician to the Liverpool Northern Hospital, appointed Lecturer on Comparative Anatomy and Zoology at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary School of Medicine.
 HUNTER, George Yeates, Esq., appointed Surgeon to Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy's Hospital at Bombay, Professor of Anatomy in the Grant Medical College, and Curator of the Museum.
 SHARPE, Alfred, M.D., appointed Assistant Visiting Surgeon for Woolwich, under the Contagious Diseases Act, *vice* J. B. Ryley, Esq., resigned.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

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

MARRIAGES.

*EADR. Peter, M.D., of Norwich, to Ellen, widow of the late Henry LING, Esq., and only daughter of Hugh RUMP, Esq., of Wells-next-the-Sea, at Norwich, on August 22nd.
 MORRIS, Joseph, Esq., Surgeon, of Leamington, to Gertrude Hannah, youngest daughter of the Rev. J. W. WATSON, M.A., Vicar of Christchurch, Folkestone, at the Parish Church of Stand, Manchester, by the father of the bride, on Tuesday, August 20th.

DEATHS.

CRAMER, F. A., L.R.C.P. Ed., at Lower Sandlin, near Malvern, on August 6th.
 WINSTANLEY, Robert, Esq., Surgeon, at Wigan, aged 58, on August 17th.

EXTRAORDINARY FECUNDITY.—Dr. E. Mason, of Alabama, recently reported a case of a lady who bore seventeen children in nineteen years—twice twins, and once four at a birth. The latter died, but the other thirteen survived.

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

Dr. C. Handfield Jones, London; The Rev. Dr. Haughton, Dublin; Dr. Braxton Hicks, London; Dr. Morell Mackenzie, London; Dr. A. Edis, London; Dr. J. Thompson Dickson, London; Mr. C. W. Thorpe, Todmorden; Dr. McConville, Glasgow; Dr. T. R. Fraser, Edinburgh; Dr. Newman, Stamford; Mr. Martin, Evesham; J. S.; Mr. F. E. Pearce, Wellington; Mr. Freer, Stourbridge; Dr. T. E. Clark, Clifton; Dr. E. H. Dickinson, Liverpool; Mr. Wanklyn, London; The Registrar-General of England; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; The Registrar of the Medical Society of London; Dr. H. Barnes, Carlisle; Dr. G. M. Humphry, Cambridge; Dr. Thorowgood, London; Mr. T. Robinson, London; The Military Secretary, India Office; Mr. S. M. Bradley, Manchester; Mr. G. M. Harrison and Mr. Ledward, Manchester; Mr. C. L. Kemp, London; Mr. Nettleship, London; Mr. Edmund Parker, London; Mr. W. Cobbett, Manchester; Dr. Jepson, Stone, Dartford; Rev. W. G. Procter, Lower Darwen; Mr. W. S. Britton, London; Dr. Stanley Haynes, Malvern; Mr. G. E. Rundle, Gosport; Dr. Drury, Pulham St. Mary; Dr. Dobell, London; Dr. Diver, Coterham; Dr. Wiltshire, London; Dr. Alexander Ogston, Aberdeen; Dr. Steele, Portobello; Our Dublin Correspondent; Prophylaxis; Dr. Parsons, Dover; Mr. Skrimshire, Brynmawr; Mr. J. W. Langmore; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the Chinese Hospital at Shanghai. Under the care of Dr. James Johnson. Shanghai: 1872.
 Report of the Sanitary State of the Hackney District for the year 1871. By John W. Tripe, M.D. London: 1872.
 The Abuse of Alcohol in the Treatment of Acute Diseases. By T. P. Heslop, M.D. London: 1872.
 Statistics of Mortality among Prisoners. By D. Nicolson, M.B. London: 1872.
 On the Preservation of Health. By Thomas Inman, M.D. Third Edition. London: 1872.
 On the Restoration of Health. By Thomas Inman, M.D. London: 1872.
 The Heart and its Diseases: with their Treatment. By J. Milner Fothergill, M.D. London: 1872.
 The Abuse of Alcohol in the Treatment of Acute Diseases: a Review. By T. P. Heslop, M.D. London: 1872.
 Observations in Myology. By G. M. Humphry, M.D., F.R.S. Cambridge and London: 1871.

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, 1.30 P.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.

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.

DR. ALEXANDER OGSTON (Aberdeen).—Thanks. It shall receive early insertion.

J. S.—A member joining the Association at the present time pays a subscription of ten shillings and sixpence for the half year commencing July 1st. This has been a rule of the Association for some years.

SPASMODIC ASTHMA FOLLOWING USE OF LINSEED-MEAL POULTICES.

In reply to Dr. W. Smith's question on this subject, Dr. T. E. CLARK writes:—Some time ago (in 1858), I had under my care an old lady, aged 83, who not only suffered as if under the influence of asthma, when the linseed-meal was applied to her person, but would even say "that there was linseed-meal in the house, and that she knew it by the irritation in her nose and chest." Having lodged in her house, I can testify to the truth of her statement; for, unknown to her or any of the household, I had some linseed-meal in my room. Shortly afterwards, she began to get all the symptoms of catarrh. When I saw her, she asked if linseed-meal was in the house; and then told me that for years she could not bear linseed-meal near her.

DR. THOROWGOOD writes:—In reply to Dr. W. Smith's query, I cannot call to mind any instance of asthma caused by a poultice of linseed-meal; but I remember a few years ago being consulted by a grocer, who told me that the opening of a drawer, a packet, of linseed-meal in his presence, invariably brought on a severe attack of spasmodic asthma.

DR. DIVER (Caterham Valley) writes:—I recommended a man who consulted me a year or two ago to use a linseed-meal poultice, and he told me he dared not use it; nor, indeed, could he sit in his room if any linseed-meal were in the cupboard, for he got an attack of asthma under such circumstances. Three years since, I was administering some medicine which contained spirit of nitrous ether to a child. An old lady was sitting near; and all at once I heard asthmatic breathing, and found her in distress and breathing with difficulty. The trouble lasted for about a minute, when all was right again. She then told me that the smell of the medicine named always produced the same effect upon her.

ANOTHER correspondent says:—I have two nephews, for whom (after many trials) linseed-meal poultices are never prescribed. Their application is invariably attended with irritation and œdema of the face. In one instance, where one was placed on the leg, the same result followed. One of them, on sleeping in the same bed with a school-fellow who had on a linseed-meal poultice, was affected in a like manner. I have not had any experience with regard to spasmodic asthma as a sequence. The effects to which I refer were first observed on an attack of severe cold with bronchitic symptoms.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF DISEASE.—We regret to hear from Mr. Haviland that the maps which he sent to the Temporary Museum at the Birmingham Meeting have been lost *in transitu*. Much disappointment and actual pecuniary loss have been thus occasioned, as the author was desirous of exhibiting his works not only for the sake of contributing to the museum, but with the view of increasing his subscription list, which the great expense of publication has rendered preposterous. The same untoward circumstance also prevented Mr. Haviland from reading a paper at Brighton at the late meeting of the British Association.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements should be forwarded direct to the Printing-Office, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C., addressed to Mr. FOWKE, not later than *Thursday*, twelve o'clock.

IRON BUILDINGS.—Mr. J. H. Gornall (Warrington) asks for information about iron buildings used as surgeries; where they may be obtained, etc.

BALMFORTH v. BUCKLEY AND FLETCHER.

SIR,—Having read the two letters signed "J. and E. Whitworth" and "William H. Hewitt," published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* of the 24th inst., may I ask you to insert the following reply?

Mr. Hewitt states his object to be to contradict a previous statement—namely, "that Mr. Southam strongly advised that the case should be submitted to arbitration, but that this was refused by the defendants." Mr. Whitworth writes with the same object, though he does not very clearly state it. The previous statement was quite true, as will be seen by the following facts.

On the 24th June last, the plaintiff called upon me and stated that he had seen Mr. Southam, to whom, after Mr. Beever's death, he applied; that Mr. Southam positively refused to examine him and give evidence, or have anything to do with the case, upon the ground that the professional reputation of brother surgeons was likely to be affected, unless he were first allowed to offer a reference to both defendants. By the plaintiff's instructions, I then wrote the following letter to Mr. Southam.

"61, Brown Street, Manchester, June 24th, 1872.

"*Balmforth v. Buckley and Fletcher.*

"Dear Sir,—Mr Balmforth informs us that, before examining him, you have expressed a wish to suggest an arbitration to Messrs. Buckley and Fletcher. Mr. Balmforth instructs us to say that there is no objection to that step.

Yours truly,

COBBETT, WHEELER, and COBBETT.

"G. A. Southam, Esq., Surgeon."

Upon receipt of this letter, Mr. Southam showed it to both the defendants, and strongly urged upon them the advisability of a reference; but that course was at once declined by Dr. Ogden Fletcher, and, after consideration, by Mr. Buckley, in the following letter.

"Ardwick Villa, 6, Hyde Road, June 27th, 1872.

"My dear Sir,—After leaving your rooms, I saw my solicitor, who advises me to decline the offer for an arbitration in Mr. Balmforth's affair.

"I remain, with thanks, yours very respectfully,

"To G. Southam, Esq."

"J. BUCKLEY.

After the receipt of this letter the writ was issued, and Mr. Southam and the other surgeons who were subsequently witnesses for the plaintiff, first examined him. Shortly prior to the first examination of the plaintiff by the surgeons who were afterwards witnesses for the defendants, Mr. Whitworth and Mr. Hewitt called upon me for the purpose of obtaining my consent to that examination. That was the only object of their visit, and the main subject of the conversation. The subject of reference was, however, incidentally referred to, by my expressing my surprise that the overtures made had been refused. Both solicitors intimated that they were not authorised to accept a reference, Mr. Hewitt expressing strong disapprobation of such a course; and the subject dropped. A day or two before the examination just mentioned took place, Mr. Southam left a memorandum at my office inviting my attendance at the examination, as he hoped to be able to arrange a reference even then. I accordingly communicated to Messrs. Whitworth and Mr. Hewitt my intention to attend, and received from Mr. Hewitt, in reply, the following letter.

"8, Marsden Street, July 19th, 1872.

"*Fletcher ats. Balmforth.*

"Dear Sir,—I understood that it was arranged between us that we should not attend upon these examinations. It will not be possible for me to be in attendance, as I shall be engaged upon a reference (in which, by the way, your office is concerned). My client will, I am quite sure, protest against your presence; and I do not think it at all likely that the medical gentlemen will consent to your being present. You must take it, also, that I decidedly object under the circumstances.

Yours truly,

WM. H. HEWITT.

"Messrs. Cobbett, Wheeler, and Cobbett, Brown Street." From Mr. Whitworth, I believe, I did not hear. I then wrote to Mr. Southam the following letter, enclosing a copy of the letter from Mr. Hewitt.

"61, Brown Street, Manchester, July 19th, 1872.

"*Balmforth v. Buckley.—Same v. Fletcher.*

"Dear Sir,—We are sure your brother practitioners will appreciate the efforts you have made to end this matter peaceably and privately, but you will see by the enclosed letter that such a result appears to be impracticable. We, therefore, do not attend; and should Mr. Whitworth appear, you will perhaps kindly intimate to him he had better withdraw.

Yours truly,

COBBETT, WHEELER, and COBBETT.

"G. Southam, Esq."

A few days before the Assizes, Messrs. Hewitt and Whitworth met me accidentally in the street, and proposed to refer. To this I replied, that they had hitherto declined to listen to any such proposition, and had put the plaintiff to every possible expense; that to refer now would be to their client's advantage, and to my client's disadvantage, without any equivalent to him. Alluding to the strong pressure put upon me by Mr. Southam to refer, I added that even he would hardly now expect the plaintiff to do so, without an admission of liability or some other equivalent. There the matter ended.

Your readers will observe that Mr. Whitworth omits to state what answer Mr. Buckley (his client) returned to the offer which he made before action, and that he states that no offer of reference was ever made to Dr. Fletcher (?), and that Mr. Hewitt says that no offer of arbitration had been made, and that the suggestion made was of a nature which Mr. Whitworth thought did not warrant him in taking any notice of it.

The terms imposed by Mr. Southam upon the plaintiff before examining him were considered by him and by me to be somewhat peremptory; but they were submitted to, because upon no other terms could his assistance, and that of his colleagues at the Manchester Infirmary, be obtained.

All the above circumstances were perfectly well known to the defendants and their solicitors; and I can only express my regret that the painful duty of stating the facts should have fallen upon me.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WM. COBBETT.

for Cobbett, Wheeler, and Cobbett, Plaintiff's Solicitors,

61, Brown Street, Manchester.

P.S. As Mr. Hewitt has thought proper to raise a question as to what Mr. Beever's report really was, I send you a copy of it.

"Gentlemen.—The injury Mr. Balmforth has sustained is a dislocation of the head of the thigh-bone upwards, and has been caused by violence. The symptoms of this dislocation are so well marked by shortening and inversion of the limb that no degree of swelling about the joint, following the accident soon after its occurrence, ought to prevent easy detection of the displacement. It must, therefore, be a want of practical skill on the part of the surgical attendant which would cause such an injury to be overlooked.

"I am, gentlemen, yours faithfully,

"Messrs. Cobbett, Wheeler, and Cobbett."

"W. W. BEEVER.

POST PARTUM EXPLOITS.

SIR,—In the *JOURNAL* of August 10th, I see a case of "Post Partum Exploits". The following being more extraordinary, I beg to send it for your information.

A young woman, a small farmer's daughter, came into Exeter by one of the branch lines to see some friends off to London, and also, I expect, to make arrangements for her confinement, unknown to her parents. Just as her friends were leaving, she felt rather poorly, and went upon Northernhay, and thence to the Castle Yard, where she was confined between ten and eleven A.M., on a seat in a retired part. No one was near, and she appears to have been unconscious for about an hour; when she recovered, she tied the umbilical cord with a piece of tape she had in her pocket, and leaving it behind, took off her jacket, wrapped the child in that, and started off to try to get lodgings. Not having brought much money with her, she was unsuccessful; and although she managed to get some food, no one would take her in; she therefore, about 9 P.M., went to the Guildhall, and the police at once sent her in a cab to the workhouse, where she arrived a little before ten P.M., and was at once placed in the Lying-in Ward, and properly attended to.

Although this woman had walked about for nine or ten hours without any attention to herself or child, no bad consequences ensued, except bad colds to both.

Exeter, August 10th, 1872.

I am, etc., JOHN WOODMAN, F.R.C.S.,

Medical Officer, City Workhouse.

THE HARVEY MEMORIAL.—Dr. Dobell writes that his name was omitted from the list of the Committee published in last week's *JOURNAL*. It was not, however, in the copy furnished to us.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT: MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

SIR,—As a large number of Medical Officers of Health will have to be appointed shortly by the Town Councils of Boroughs, forming "Urban Sanitary Districts", it is of great importance to members of the profession to know what salary they should ask and receive as remuneration for the duties of the office. Perhaps those gentlemen who already hold the appointment of Officers of Health would not object to state the amount of the salary which they are receiving. The sum must necessarily vary in accordance with the size of each town.

August 27th, 1872.

I am, etc., B. B. Z.

MR. PEMBERTON ON LITHOTOMY.

SIR,—Mr. Pemberton, in his address to the British Medical Association, published in your *JOURNAL* of August 10th, at page 156, states, in reference to the so-called dilatation of the prostate: "Now, I know that many believe that this dilatation means laceration. It has, indeed, not very long since been described as 'complete rupture and laceration' (Mr. Teevan, *Lancet*, vol. ii, page 237, 1870), and as 'unsurgical and dangerous.'" I answer this statement by a positive contradiction as to facts.

Mr. Pemberton's reference is inaccurate, for the words are not to be found at page 237, as stated by him; but they can be seen at page 891, where they appear in a very short abstract of a paper on lithotomy, which I read before the Medical Society in December 1870, and which was afterwards published in full in the *Lancet* for December 23rd, page 882, 1871.

Now Mr. Pemberton either has not read my paper. If he has not read it, he was not justified in characterising my statements as he has done, without troubling to make himself acquainted with the facts upon which they were founded. But if Mr. Pemberton has read my paper, he was in honour bound to refer your readers not to the abstract, as he has done, but to the paper itself, where they could have obtained a knowledge of the facts upon which my statements were based, and have judged for themselves which was the more entitled to be called "eminently reckless"—Mr. Pemberton's assertion of what he does in the dark in lithotomy, unsupported as it is by one single lot of evidence, or my enunciation of facts which, so far as I know, admit of no contradiction.

I am, etc.,

W. F. TEEVAN.

10, Portman Square, August 17th.

MR. LAWSON TAIT'S CASE OF VENTRAL PREGNANCY

SIR,—I had the pleasure of being present at the meeting of the Midwifery Section of our Association when Mr. Lawson Tait related his very interesting case of ventral pregnancy, and which was called in the agenda "A Case of Retro-uterine Pregnancy diagnosed and operated on during Life." Now, sir, from the title of the paper, and also from Mr. Tait having stated that he had not, in his reading (but which, he admitted, was not on this head very extensive) found any record of a similar case, I infer that he considers his case to be unique. But, if he will refer to Dr. Tyler Smith's *Manual of Midwifery* (1st ed., p. 181), he will find the following.

"In the rare cases in which, in ventral pregnancy, the cyst presents low down in the pelvis, and the parts of the child, such as the head, hands, or feet, can be felt through the vagina, an incision through the vaginal walls into the cyst is a more favourable operation than simple gastrotomy. Dr. Campbell states that, of nine cases in which incision of the vagina was performed, in three both mothers and infants were saved; in two, the mother only recovered; in one, the child alone was preserved; while in three," as in Mr. Tait's case, "both mothers and children perished."

From this extract, it would appear that there are numerous instances of retro-uterine pregnancy which have been not only diagnosed and operated on during life, but even, in some cases, with success.

Tring, August 12th, 1872.

I am, etc., EDWARD POPE, M.R.C.S.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Liverpool Weekly Albion, August 24th; The Manchester Guardian, August 28th; The Tewkesbury Record, August 24th; The North British Advertiser, August 24th; Saunders's News-Letter and Daily Advertiser, August 27th; The Bath Express, August 24th; The Jersey Express, August 22nd; The Homeward Mail, August 21st; etc.