

generally established, so as to relieve the district medical officers from the expense and labour of supplying medicines, and enable them by such means to check more promptly the first outbreaks of disease, and thereby diminish the principal cause of our enormous expenditure on pauperism."

Mr. YOUNG (of Aldershot) moved, and Mr. JOHN VANCE seconded, the next resolution: "That, for the moral support and protection of district medical officers in the discharge of the difficult and often invidious duties which they will be required to perform under the Public Health Act, it is considered by the Association to be highly desirable that chief medical officers of health, debarred from private practice, should be appointed by county authorities, and by the authorities in towns containing a population of more than 200,000, to whom the district officers might make their returns and reports, and on whom would devolve the responsibility (so damaging to gentlemen in private practice) of initiating proceedings under the new Act."

To this Mr. BARNES, the Secretary of the Association, moved as an amendment that this clause of the Act should not be opposed until it was seen how it worked. Dr. WALTER SMITH seconded the amendment, both gentlemen expressing their opinion that Mr. Stansfeld was in earnest in what he was doing for improving the position of Poor-law medical officers. The amendment, however, was lost, and the original motion was carried.

Dr. LUSH, M.P., moved the next resolution, which, he thought, expressed the feeling of country medical officers, and Dr. JOYCE seconded it, as follows: "That such appointments appear to this Association to be the more urgently needed to give the medical officers' reports weight with the local authorities, seeing that the most recent appointments of inspectors by Mr. Stansfeld for carrying into effect the provisions of the public health have been such as to give the public no confidence whatever in the administration of the Act, those appointments having been filled by gentlemen wanting even the rudimentary qualifications for such an office; and that this Association views with dismay that which appears to be a return to the old system of a lay and unskilled inspectorate, in spite of the promises of those under whose auspices the present Act has become law."

A vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Lush for his presence and aid to the Association, and the proceedings then terminated with the usual compliment to the Chairman.

PUBLIC HEALTH: PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE NEW ACT.

THE Commissioners of Improvement of the parish of Chiswick, who have the election in their hands, have decided that the salary for the medical officer shall "be for the present £80 per annum, and that he be required to reside in the district."

"That such salary be paid by the Commissioners, as it does not appear to the Commissioners desirable that the medical officer should be under the control of the Local Government Board."

"The Commissioners deem it expedient to defer the consideration of the duties of the Sanitary Inspector until after the appointment of the Medical Officer of Health."

"The appointment of Medical Officer takes place in about a fortnight, and at present there are in the field—Mr. F. C. Dodsworth, jun., Turnham Green; Mr. William Leigh, Chiswick; Dr. D. A. Moxey, Turnham Green."

THE NEW ADULTERATION ACT.

AT the usual weekly meeting of the Liverpool Health Committee, held on Thursday last, the Chairman, referring to the question of appointing a public analyst, explained that under the recent Act he would be an executive officer, and the initiative would be taken by him, and proceedings instituted, independent of the Health Committee. Dr. Taylor moved the following resolution:—"That, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, it be recommended to the Council that James Campbell Brown, doctor of science, be appointed analyst to the borough of Liverpool, pursuant to the statute entitled an Act to Amend the Law for the Prevention and Adulteration of Food, and Drink, and Drugs; and that he also make an analysis of water every quarter, and such other analyses as may be required by the Council—the engagement to be determinable by three months' notice, which may be given at any time, and may expire on the first day of any month, and that a salary of £200 a year be paid to him. That the fee to be paid by any purchaser requiring an analysis under Section 9 shall not be less than 2s. 6d., and not more than 10s. 6d." The resolution was carried unanimously.

* * * We shall be glad to receive notice of any further instances in which this excellent example is followed.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

SHROPSHIRE ETHICAL BRANCH.

THE annual general meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury, on Monday, October 7th, at 1 P.M.; J. W. PROCTER, Esq., in the Chair.

Dinner will be served punctually at 3.30 P.M., for the convenience of the country members.

Members have the privilege of introducing friends, on transmitting their names to the President.

Chamber concert music by a select band of musicians, under the leadership of Mr. T. Hulley, will be provided as usual.

Papers have been promised by the President, J. R. Humphreys, Esq., A. Mathias, Esq., Dr. Styrap, and R. Wilding, Esq.

Gentlemen intending to read cases, etc., or to be present at the dinner, will oblige by notifying their intention, at their earliest convenience, to

JUKES STYRAP.

Shrewsbury, September 16th, 1872.

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.

THE sixteenth autumnal meeting of this Branch will be held at the Cottage Hospital, Stony Stratford, Bucks, at 2.30 P.M., on Tuesday, October 15th. Luncheon at 1 P.M. previously, kindly provided by Dr. Mackay at his house. A. D. Mackay, M.B., President.

Gentlemen who intend to read papers are requested to forward their titles forthwith to Dr. Bryan, Northampton.

J. M. BRYAN, M.D. } Honorary Secretaries.
W.M. MOXON.

Northampton, September 11th, 1872.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of the above Branch will be held at Yeovil, on Thursday, October 17th. The following question has been settled by the Council as the one on which each member should be asked his opinion at the said meeting:—"What is your opinion as to the desirability of establishing the Provident System in connection with our Hospitals and Dispensaries, and as to the part which the profession should take in reference to this question."

The meeting, under the presidency of Dr. GARLAND, will open at the Hospital at Four o'clock, when papers and cases will be heard.

The dinner will take place at The Choughs Hotel at Six o'clock; after which, the question above-stated will be taken and discussed.

W. M. KELLY, M.D., Honorary Secretary.

Taunton, September 14th, 1872.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT MEDICAL MEETINGS.

THE next meeting of the above Branch will be held at the White Hart Inn, Reigate, on Thursday, October 17th. The Chair will be taken at 4 P.M. by Mr. HALLOWES, of Redhill.

Papers, etc., are promised by Mr. Hallowes, Dr. Phillips, etc.

All members of the South Eastern Branch are entitled to attend.

The dinner will take place at 6 P.M.

HENRY T. LANCHESTER, M.D., Honorary Secretary.
Croydon, October 1st, 1872.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of this Branch will be held at Scarborough, on Tuesday, October 22nd.

Gentlemen who purpose attending the meeting, or bringing forward communications, are requested at once to communicate with the Local Secretary.

W. PROCTER, M.D., Honorary Secretary.
York, October 2nd, 1872.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.

THE autumn meeting of this Branch will be held at Pontypool, on Friday, October 25th; T. J. DYKE, Esq., F.R.C.S., President, in the Chair.

Members who are desirous of reading papers, etc., are requested to communicate their intention to one of the Secretaries, without delay.

ANDREW DAVIES,
ALFRED SHEEN, M.D., Honorary Secretaries.

September 25th, 1872.

SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE first meeting of the sixteenth session 1872-73, was held at Rochester, on September 17th, ARTHUR W. NANKIVELL, Esq., F.R.C.S., in the chair.

New Member.—Walter Buchanan, Esq., of Chatham, was elected a member of the Association.

Next Meeting.—George Sankey, Esq., was chosen Chairman for the next meeting, to be held at the General Hospital at Maidstone, on Tuesday, November 12th.

Communications.—The following communications were made.

1. Case of Foreign Body in the Ear, causing Brain-symptoms: Recovery. By J. H. Hutchins, Esq., F.R.C.S.—C. H., aged 9 years, passed a lotus bean into his right ear on May 23rd, 1872. That day and next attempts were made to remove the bean; chloroform was administered. Suppuration of the meatus took place, and serious brain-symptoms supervened—such as vomiting, double vision, sluggish pupils, and convulsions; and there was progressive emaciation. A third attempt at removal was made on July 3rd, and the exterior of the bean was broken. Chicken-pox attacked the boy a few days afterwards, and the brain-symptoms abated in severity. The bean was extracted easily on July 23rd, having become softened. There is a small piece of necrosed bone at present in the wall of the meatus, but no brain-symptoms. This case would probably have ended fatally if the cortex of the bean had not been broken, thus allowing softening to occur.

2. Case of Calculus Vesicae in a Woman, causing Vesico-Vaginal Fistula. By J. H. Lyddon, Esq.—A woman, aged 53 years, was admitted into hospital on July 24th, having suffered for one year from symptoms of calculus. The stone was removed *per vaginam*, through an ulcerated cruciform aperture of long standing. The stone was phosphatic, and weighed 172 grains. The patient was discharged on August 7th, without any attempt at the cure of the fistula, which appeared to be of a hopeless nature.—This case, and a similar one in a girl, show the necessity of *early removal* of stone from the female bladder, seeing that, in so short a period as twelve months, an incurable fistula may be produced.

3. A paper was read and demonstrations given by A. W. Nankivell, Esq., F.R.C.S., entitled, Illustrations of the Use of Antiseptic Gauze: also Remarks on the Security and Advantages of the Carbolised Catgut Ligature.—The success of antiseptic gauze dressings is greater than that of the former method by copal plaster. Antiseptic treatment is pre-eminently successful in the removal of the mammae and of tumours, whilst it is least so in amputations. It is decidedly valuable in compound fractures, although it appears to retard the consolidation of bone. Under its use, stimulants are less needed, and the stay of the patients in hospital is shorter than under ordinary dressings. No patient undergoing antiseptic treatment in this hospital has ever been attacked by erysipelas. Large abscesses are also successfully managed by the gauze. In respect of the carbolised catgut ligature, perfect security is claimed for it—a case being narrated of highly degenerated arteries and sloughing of the flap recovering without secondary haemorrhage. In the course of three years, only one case of secondary haemorrhage occurred; but it is doubtful whether the bleeding took place from the deligated vessels, for Chopart's operation had been performed for intractable ulceration of a stump, the result of frost-bite and amputation of the toes several years since; and it is likely that there was a recurrence of ulcerative action affecting the smaller vessels. No operative procedure was needed. The advantages of this ligature are, briefly: security from secondary hemorrhage, owing to the non-sloughing of the external coat of the artery; immediate closure of the wound, leading to adhesion of the deep structures; absence of sinuous tracts; diminished risk of pyæmia; and safety from accidental tearing away of the ligature during subsequent dressings of the stump. No other ligature is now used in St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and the author of this paper is enthusiastic in his recommendation of the carbolised catgut.

After a vote of thanks for the use of the board-room, the members and visitors adjourned to dinner at the Bull Hotel.

SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE forty-fifth meeting of the above Branch was held at Ashford, on Thursday, September 19th. The following papers were read.

1. Mr. Nason: Strangulated Scrotal Hernia, with Complications. [*Vide p. 381.*]

2. Dr. Parsons: Case of Strangulated Femoral Hernia, which healed without forming pus the third day after operation. The only dressing was a pad of dry lint and three silver sutures.

3. Dr. Wilks, of Ashford, related the particulars of several cases of Varicose Veins in which he had employed Skey's method of treatment by means of Vienna paste, with very marked success.

The members afterwards dined together.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SUSSEX DISTRICT MEETINGS.

A MEETING of the above district was held at the Royal Sussex Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, on Friday, September 20th, 1872, B. MARSACK, Esq., in the Chair. Sixteen members and two visitors were present. The loss this district has sustained in the recent death of Mr. Trustram was feelingly alluded to by the Chairman, and a vote of condolence was passed with Dr. Wardell on his recent sad bereavements, which prevented him taking the chair on the present occasion.

Dr. J. MILNER BARRY, of Tunbridge Wells, read a paper on three Cases of Sudden Death which had recently occurred in his practice. (See page 379.)

Mr. WALLIS, of Hartfield, related an interesting case of Imperforate Rectum in an infant in which he operated successfully after the prevention of serious symptoms of obstruction.—The CHAIRMAN mentioned that he had lately a case of twins, both the children presenting this abnormality, and in one of which he operated with success.

Mr. HODGSON, of Brighton, exhibited several new instruments, including Dr. Aveling's apparatus for Transfusion, with the simple effectiveness of which the members were much struck; also a new Rectum Speculum by Ferris, Townsend, and Co., Bristol, and some new Clinical Thermometers by Casella.

Mr. Stamford and Mr. B. Rix, both of Tunbridge Wells, were nominated as members of the Association and of the Branch.

Dinner took place subsequently at the Sussex, seventeen members and visitors sitting down under the presidency of Mr. Marsack.

The next meeting will be held at Brighton in November, Dr. W. WITHERS MOORE in the Chair. An early notice of intended communications is requested by the Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

DR. WILKS'S ADDRESS IN MEDICINE.

SIR,—I observe in your JOURNAL for August 31st a letter signed "Laudator Temporis Acti". Any writer who considered it necessary to assume such a title, after reading my address, would feel himself at the same time bound to put himself in antagonism with every doctrine and opinion which had fallen from my lips. Having put on this captious spirit, he would snap at everything I had said, feeling, as he candidly states, inimical to the whole tone of the lecture. Your readers, of course, can judge for themselves, without being prompted either by me or by him. I should, therefore, have made no reply, had not your correspondent referred to a statement of mine which facts can verify or not. I had said that it was a rare thing to find disease in those who had died of fever and other specific affections, and that it was the healthy who were attacked by epidemic disorders. He expresses astonishment how any intelligent physician could make such a statement, and asks whether those exposed to bad air, food, etc., do not suffer most. This is an example of the writer's method of reply. My proposition was a clear and distinct one: that persons suffering from tangible and known diseases did not suffer, whereas those who in common parlance are called healthy were attacked. In every community there is a certain proportion of persons suffering from well known diseases; and there are a number of others who, although occupied with the ordinary affairs of life, yet are the subjects of incipient phthisis, liver or kidney disease. Are such persons selected for the attacks of epidemic disease, or the healthy? I have asserted the latter; and, as this has greatly astonished your correspondent, I presume he holds the contrary opinion. I beg leave to maintain my proposition, and shall hold it until I have reason to discard it, from the evidence of those who have had charge of fever and cholera hospitals, or had much practice during epidemics of scarlet fever or small-pox.

I am, etc., SAMUEL WILKS.
Grosvenor Street, September 23rd, 1872.

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, September 26th, 1872.

Clark, Frederick Cheesman, Croydon
Shaw, Josephus, Lees, near Manchester
Martin, John, West Bromwich
Whitaker, James Sealy, Hampstead Road

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

Barnard, Charles Edward, Guy's Hospital
Churchward, Albert, Guy's Hospital
Medcalf, Ernest Sexton, Guy's Hospital
Robinson, Richard Edward, Leeds Hospital

At the Preliminary Examination in Arts, held at the Hall of the Society, on the 27th and 28th of September, 1872, 88 candidates presented themselves; of whom 34 were rejected, and the following 54 passed, and received certificates of proficiency in general education. In the First Class, in the order of merit.

x. Alfred Chawner. 2. Thomas Arthur Richardson and C. L. M. Taylor.
4. George Thornton Cape, William J. Cobbins, William Wood Cuthbert, and F. M. Sandwith. 8. W. S. Andrews, W. T. Jackman, Lawrence Mahony, Herbert J. K. Moberly, Frank Newcombe, and Sidney Skerman. 14. Owen Bowen, Richard Lyddon, Philip Stocks, and Frank John Wells.

In the Second Class, in alphabetical order.

Robert Aldous, John Battams, Robert C. Benington, Louis F. H. Birt, Sholto S. Bowles, James Brett, Robert Clapp, George Walker Collier, Thomas Archer Colt, Charles Percy Dean, Arthur Baird Douglas, Alexander W. W. Dowding, James Hay Dunlop, Samuel Henry Edgerton, Frederick Alexander Fletcher, John Chubb Ford, Frank Samuel Goulder, Edward M. Greensill, John Grimwood, William C. Hains, Frederick Mortimer Hawkins, John Hollingworth, Robert Charles Hope, Samuel V. Instone, James James, Vincent Alexander Jones, Charles William Lacey, Walter Pye, Jesse W. Robey, Eugenius A. Roche, Charles Schön, Walter Sheppard, Joseph W. Sugden, John E. G. Sykes, William Henry Webb, John Cooper Wilkinson, and Benjamin F. Zimmerman.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

BATH UNION—Medical Officer for the Batheaston District: £40 per annum.
BEDWELLY, Monmouthshire—Medical Officer of Health: £125 for six months.
BELFORD HOSPITAL, Fort William, Inverness-shire—Resident Surgeon: £150 per annum, board and lodging.

BETHLEH HOSPITAL—Two Resident Medical Students.

BIRMINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY—Resident Surgeon: salary £130 increasing to £150 per annum, residence, coals, gas, and attendance.

BLACKWATER UNION, Lancashire—Medical Officer for the Billington District: £150 per annum.
BOURNEMOUTH—Medical Officer to the Loyal Bourne Lodge of Odd Fellows. £15 per annum.

BRIDGWATER INFIRMARY—Dispenser: £40 per annum, board, lodging, and washing.

CLITHEROE UNION, Lancashire—Medical Officer for the Whalley District: £16 per annum.

DEVON AND EXETER HOSPITAL—Dispenser: £100 per annum.

DOWNPATRICK DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM—Assistant Medical Officer.

GLANFORD BRIGG UNION, Lincolnshire—Medical Officer for the Burton Stather District: £38 per annum.

GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY—Extra Physician to the Dispensary.

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

HENDON UNION, Middlesex—Medical Officer for the Harrow District: £90 per annum.

HENLEY UNION—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Nettlebed District: £80 per annum, and extra fees.

HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE THROAT—Assistant-Surgeon.

HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, Soho Square—House-Physician.

HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, Vincent Square—Consulting-Physician.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL, Devonshire Square—Hon. Surgeon.

ST. AUSTELL UNION, Cornwall—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for District No. 2: £25 per annum and fees.—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for District No. 7: £30 per annum and fees.

ST. GEORGE, Hanover Square—Medical Officer of Health: £350 per annum.

TENTERDEN UNION, Kent—Medical Officer for the Biddenden District: £40 per annum.—Medical Officer for the Halden District: £15:15 per annum.

TIVERTON INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY—Four Medical Officers.

TRINITY COLLEGE, Dublin—Professor of Anatomy and Chirurgery: £200 per annum, and fees.

TULLAMORE UNION, King's County—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Clara Dispensary District: £100 per annum, and fees.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL—Assistant-Physician.—Assistant Surgeon.—Assistant Medical Officer in the Skin Department.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon.

WHALLEY, Lancashire—Certifying Factory Surgeon.

PENNY BATHS.—A good movement has been, says the *London Mirror*, begun by the Westminster Commissioners of Baths and Wash-houses. It has been decided to issue penny tickets, in quantities of not less than fifty, to charitable persons for distribution to such poor persons who may be disposed to avail themselves of these tickets.

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.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

TUESDAY.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Mr. W. B. Dalby, "On Non-purulent Catarrh of the Middle Ear;" Dr. Tracy (of Melbourne), "On Ovarian Drosy, operated on during an Attack of Acute Peritonitis."

FRIDAY.—Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Southey, "A Case of Acute Rheumatism with moderately high Temperature and Cerebral Symptoms, treated successfully by Cold Affusions;" and other papers.

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.

The abstracts of Charing Cross Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, and several provincial school addresses, arrived too late for insertion this week.

Dr. Littleton's letter shall appear next week.

Dr. MacLean (Applecross).—Thanks. Duly received; and shall be used, if possible.

Dr. Ransome (Bowden), Dr. Bryan (Northampton), Mr. Whitehead (Manchester), and Dr. Wiltshire (London).—Very early.

At the close of the course of Three Lectures on the Connection between the Chemical Properties and the Physiological Action of Active Substances, by Dr. Thomas R. Fraser, of Edinburgh, the publication of which we commence this week, will be published the Lumleian Lectures on Diseases of the Walls of the Heart, by Dr. Quain, F.R.S.

GROANS FROM A PUBLIC VACCINATOR.

SIR.—Can you inform the public vaccinators of this country how it is that the intentions and enactments of Parliament are not carried out towards those hardly used public servants, as regards the distribution of the gratuity for successful vaccination? Is it due to the Liberal Government? or has red tapeism fast bound Mr. Simon and Dr. Seaton? The whole matter appears to be in a most unsettled condition. Whatever as yet appears to have been done, is very unsatisfactory, fitful and irregular in character, without system or any regard to results. I think I am not going beyond the mark, when I say that I do not believe a single public vaccinator in England has had his just due. Either the Minute in Council and the Parliamentary Statute meant the public vaccinator to be paid for all good successful cases, or it meant nothing. I am, etc.

September 1872.

A PUBLIC VACCINATOR.

** We doubt the advantage of this exaggerated form of complaint; but it appears very desirable that the codified rules under which vaccinators can earn gratuities, should be printed and published.

DEGREES BY EXAMINATION WITHOUT RESIDENCE.

SIR.—Now that the Editors of the *Medical Directory* have consented to allow foreign degrees, obtained honourably, to appear in their next issue, I feel sure that many very deserving medical practitioners in England would wish to avail themselves of the privilege. They would be conferring a great favour on me and others if they would kindly inform us where such degrees can be obtained after good examinations, but without residence. I am, etc.

Twyns, September 30th, 1872.

MEMO.

LIFE ASSURANCE.—Would any of your numerous correspondents inform me whether it is usual for Life Assurance Companies to charge an extra rate for medical students generally?

LEX.

NOTICES of Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Appointments, intended for insertion in the JOURNAL, should arrive at the Office not later than 10 A.M. on Thursday.

MR. WORTH's letter arrived too late for this week; but shall appear next week.

MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

SIR.—As one of the "individuals" mentioned by Mr. Parker in his letter, which appeared in the JOURNAL of September 28th, I beg to contradict the statement made by him, that Mr. Fothergill, in putting up the fracture, did not make extension, or offer to adjust the fractured pieces. Mr. Fothergill made "extension" while I made "counter-extension". I have further to say that Mrs. Dodds and Mrs. Shanks both deny having asked Mr. Parker to take the case, as stated by him in his letter.

I beg to corroborate the statement made by Mr. E. E. Campbell in his letter, which appeared in the JOURNAL of September 21st.

I am, etc.,

SAMUEL F. McLACHLAN.

South Hetton, September 30th, 1872.

SIR.—When I read Mr. A. J. E. Parker's letter in answer to Dr. Edward E. Campbell's of the preceding week, entitled "Medical Etiquette in the County of Durham", I can say that I was truly appalled by the flagrant perversion of facts and gross misstatements by which Mr. Parker, of Easington Lane, has therein endeavoured to vindicate his professional character. As I am the person mostly aggrieved by the unprofessional conduct of Mr. Parker, and as correctly set forth by Dr. Edward E. Campbell in his letter in your JOURNAL of the 21st September, allow me to add my quota of information in the case.

When I arrived at the patient's house, I already found Mr. Campbell and Mr. McLachlan (both the latter gentlemanly assistants to Mr. Broadbent, of South Hetton) doing all I considered skilful and proper in attending to the lacerated wounds of the face. I then advanced to the bedside, and made myself known to Mr. Campbell; and he, knowing that I was sent for as Mr. Broadbent's representative, courteously made way for me to conduct an examination of the nature of the injuries sustained by the poor fellow. At this juncture, a person whom I had rapidly noticed as having been rather fussy in his demeanour at the bottom of the bed on which the patient lay, stepped forward, and ushered himself to our notice by the observation that he was the "family doctor" (and it was explained to me that he was "Dr. Parker" of Easington Lane), and at the same time offered some remarks about the degree of fracture of the nasal, maxillary, and other bones of the face. I then took a full-sized silver probe, and not a "fine steel-wire probe", as misstated by Mr. Parker, to examine the nasal cavities for the extent of injury to the osseous portions. I simply deny that I said, as again misstated by Mr. Parker, that it was "impossible to say what bones were injured"; as I presume a mere tyro in anatomy would be acquainted with this part of the osseous system, and a very slight knowledge of surgery indeed would suffice to diagnose fracture. I certainly did observe it was impossible as yet to tell whether the fractures would implicate the ethmoid. These injuries were caused by an explosion of steam driving a piston-rod, with considerable force, directly on the man; and you may imagine that the injured bones were of a comminuted character. And again, with regard to another misstatement of the author of this untruthful defence of himself, he would impress the readers of your estimable JOURNAL that he rectified the position of the nasal bones, by means of a director, with remarkable celerity and dexterity, and that he alone of the four medical men present accomplished this feat of surgery. Now, Mr. Editor, allow me to remark that the nasal bones were so much comminuted, and there was such a degree of tumefaction of the soft parts, that it was a *physical impossibility* to place even a few of the many fragments in juxtaposition with the back of a director, that he only introduced for the purpose of exploration; and I emphatically deny that he used sufficient manipulation to rectify the position of the broken nasal bones, and, as he would imply, "elevating the nasal bones so as to keep the symmetry of the face." And keep this in remembrance: the whole face was a mass of lacerated wounds and contusions, with comminuted fracture of the nasal bones, vomer, and upper maxilla. Before concluding the explanation of this part of the subject, I may mention that, in the exploration of the nasal cavities that I made, that I, as far as practical, with the assistance of Dr. Campbell, endeavoured to restore the symmetry of the nasal organ, but, of course, without a very satisfactory result, as the bones entering into its formation were little better than *pulp*. So much for Mr. Parker's version of the easy reduction by himself of comminuted nasal bones.

After ascertaining that Mr. Parker was a surgeon, I asked Dr. Campbell and he to meet me in consultation outside the house, that appearing to me to be the only convenient place for this purpose—at this time, Mr. McLachlan had gone to Mr. Broadbent's surgery for splints. After holding this consultation, I fully expected that Mr. Parker would now conduct himself with propriety. But, anon, after discussing the case in an apparently amicable manner, we all returned to the patient's house, and I commenced operations for the reduction of the fractured humerus. Mr. Parker, in his epistle, says that "he got this *young man* Campbell"—who, by the way, is a very tall, manly, and gentlemanly looking member of the profession, and also qualified—to save time to bandage the arm, whilst I was preparing the necessary splints; and he further proceeds to misstate that, in the reduction of the fractured arm, I never used the "least extension, or offered to adjust the fractured bones." This, sir, is simply *libelous*; and a greater untruth told by one surgeon to the detriment of another it was never my previous misfortune to hear of. For Dr. Campbell held the scapula, clavicle, and upper fragment in a skilful and surgical manner; he also assisted myself, with Mr. McLachlan, in using the necessary counterextension, whilst I manipulated the fragments into proper position. And, again, Mr. Parker states a most palpable falsehood when he would like the readers of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL to believe that the distortion was so great as to resemble half of the "letter S"; whereas there was little distortion, and the fracture was reduced with the greatest ease, much to the comfort of the patient, although, no doubt, the latter's feelings would not be soothed by the conduct and observations of Mr. Parker, the "family doctor".

And now with reference to the bandaging. Whilst adjusting well padded splints to the arm, I was much astonished by Mr. Parker, in the presence of a roomful of people, persisting in exclaiming that I was acting like a "bone-setter", and that I should carry the bandage from the bend of the elbow *under* the splints to the shoulder. I was so much horror-stricken with the unbecoming behaviour of Mr. Parker, that I was to a great extent dumbfounded, and could only answer him that I had treated numerous fractures with great success in that manner only; and that, as a M.R.C.S. of England, I ought to be able to understand the simple operation of reducing a fracture of the arm. At this, he became more declamatory furious than before; and I did really at that moment think that Mr. Parker had lost command of his reason. He still persisted in having the bandage underneath

the splints, and gesticulating and shouting to the numerous spectators around the bed that I knew nothing of putting up bones, and that I was acting no better than a bone-setter. These are the true facts of the case; and they can be verified by Mr. Campbell, Mr. McLachlan, myself, and others worthy of credence that were present at this extraordinary scene. I was so thoroughly disgusted with Dr. Parker, that I intended to treat this unexampled conduct with the silent contempt it deserves; but Dr. Campbell was determined to make the matter public, and therefore indited his letter which appeared in your JOURNAL of the 21st September, and which is perfectly correct and truthful in all its details.

I forgot to mention that both Messrs. Campbell and McLachlan remonstrated with Mr. Parker whilst acting in this unprofessional and ungentlemanly manner; but this did not have the effect of calming the excitement that Mr. Parker was displaying, but, on the contrary, appeared to me to produce the very opposite effect.

After seeing to the safety and comfort of the patient, I left, leaving the case for Mr. Broadbent, who shortly after (in the course of an hour) arrived home, and undertook the care of the patient. I need not say that Mr. Broadbent was as much astonished as myself, although he intimated that Mr. Parker's ideas of medical ethics were unsound. And in this vindication of my surgical treatment of the case, I beg to suggest that the mode I adopted appeared to be the most suitable and the most adapted to the circumstances. In the first place, I expected that a good deal of swelling would take place in the contused and broken limb; and, in the next place, I deemed it expedient to get the swelling down by cooling lotions, before permanently putting up the fracture in tighter bandages and splints. I hinted to Mr. Parker that osseous union would not begin to take place for ten or twelve days, and really I thought he required this hint; for, from his declamatory observations addressed to the patient's friends, he led me to suppose that they might expect to see the fractured bone "knit" and become consolidated there and then by magic. This is the explanation respecting putting the fracture up temporarily, etc., as untruthfully stated in Mr. Parker's wonderful epistolary defence of his extraordinary behaviour. If Mr. Parker had apologised to me, instead of answering Dr. Campbell's letter in the manner he has thought fit to adopt, I would have remained quiescent in the matter; but after the offensive manner in which he wishes to defame my character as a surgeon, and the wilful and flagrant abuse of his pen in perverting the facts of the case as truthfully depicted in the first instance by Dr. Campbell in his letter of the 21st September, and by myself now, I hope and trust you will give publicity to this letter.

In conclusion, I have only to assert that the whole of Mr. Parker's letter in your JOURNAL of last week is a tissue of fabrications and falsehoods from beginning to end, and a perversion of the whole facts of the case. I understand from Mr. Broadbent the patient has done well, and is convalescent; and that the arm that was fractured is a credit to surgical skill.

I must apologise for this lengthened letter; but I think, sir, you will agree with me that Mr. Parker's communication to the JOURNAL of last week required some explanation on my part.

I am, etc.,

SMART A. FOTHERGILL, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Edin., Surgeon to the Haswell, Shotton, and Easington Coal and Coke Company.

Haswell, September 30th, 1872.

STUDENS desires to suggest the following as subjects for the next Hastings Prize Essay, on the ground that their further elucidation is much to be desired. 1. Medical Ophthalmoscopy; 2. Injuries and Surgical Diseases of the Spine and Cord; 3. Scrofula.

WE are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Liverpool Weekly Albion, S. 8th; The Manchester Guardian, Oct. 2nd; The Bath Express, Sept. 28th; The North British Advertiser, Sept. 28th; Saunders's News-Letter and Daily Advertiser, Oct. 1st; The Jersey Express, Sept. 26th; The Homeward Mail, Sept. 25th; The Tewkesbury Record, Sept. 28th; The Aberdeen Daily Free Press, Sept. 27th; The Cambridge Express, Sept. 28th; The Elgin Courier, Sept. 26th; The Yorkshire Post, Oct. 2nd; etc.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, &c., have been received from:—

Dr. Fraser, Edinburgh; Mr. A. Haviland, London; Dr. C. Maclean, Applecross; Dr. Wilks, London; Dr. F. J. Brown, Rochester; Mr. Lydell, London; Dr. Wiltshire, London; Mr. Smith, Coxwold; Mr. F. Greenwood, Leeds; Mr. Robinson, Leeds; Dr. Handyside, Edinburgh; Dr. Arthur Sansom, London; Dr. Coughtrey, Liverpool; Mr. Jessop, Leeds; Mr. Curnow, London; Mr. Walter Rivington, London; Dr. H. Thompson, London; Dr. Parsons, Dover; Mr. J. H. Clarke, Sheffield; Dr. Morris, Spalding; Mr. Clark, Glasgow; Mr. W. H. Bennett, London; Dr. Bryan, Northampton; Messrs. Evans and Son; 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. R. H. Wickham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. Edmund Owen, London; Dr. Joubert; M.R.C.S.; Dr. Ransome, Manchester; Mr. G. C. Searle, Tewkesbury; Mr. McLachlan, South Hetton; Dr. Webb, Wirksworth; Dr. Shrimpton, London; Mr. Fothergill, Haswell; Mr. R. W. Edginton, Birmingham; Mr. Stevens, Plymouth; Mr. Whitwell, Shrewsbury; Mr. Kenyon, Billingsbrough; Studens; Dr. J. Crichton Browne, Wakefield; Sir John Rose Cormack, Paris; Dr. Littleton, Plymouth; Dr. Griffiths, Dublin; Mr. Metcalfe Johnson, Lancaster; Dr. G. M. Humphry, Cambridge; Mr. Edwin Force, Exeter; Mr. J. W. Langmore, London; An Associate; Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, London; Dr. Robert Lee, London; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. Richard Davy, London; Mr. S. Messenger Bradley, Manchester; Mr. E. Lund, Manchester; Dr. J. W. Black, London; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. Evan Williams, Llangeini; Dr. Lancaster, Croydon; Mr. J. Bassett, Birmingham; Dr. Thomas Jones, London; Mr. J. S. Turner, London; Mr. H. R. Reeves, London; Dr. Stewart, Belfast; Mr. Croft, London; Dr. Heaton, Leeds; Mr. Morton, Sheffield; Mr. Groves, London; Mr. Bracey, Birmingham; Mr. Worth, Nottingham; Dr. Young, Malton; etc.