

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

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; A. D. MACKAY, M.B., President. Luncheon at 1 P.M. previously, kindly provided by Dr. Mackay at his house.

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

J. M. BRYAN, M.D. } *Honorary Secretaries.*
WM. 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, } *Honorary Secretaries.*
ALFRED SHEEN, M.D., }

September 25th, 1872.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of the above Branch will be held at Workington, on Wednesday, October 30th; T. S. CLOUSTON, M.D., President, in the Chair.

Gentlemen intending to read papers or cases, or be present at the dinner, are requested to give notice to the Secretary as early as possible.

HENRY BARNES, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*
Carlisle, October 9th, 1872.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST SUSSEX DISTRICT MEDICAL MEETINGS.

THE autumn meeting of the above district will take place at Arundel, about the 30th instant: Dr. TYACKE, of Chichester, in the Chair.

Members who are willing to read papers, or bring forward cases, are

requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary *at once*, in order that notice of the same may be inserted in the circular convening the meeting.

WM. J. HARRIS, *Honorary Secretary.*
13, Marine Parade, Worthing, October 7th, 1872.

NORTHERN BRANCH: AUTUMNAL MEETING.

THE autumnal meeting of this Branch was held in Bishop Cosin's Library, Durham, on Thursday, September 26th; CHARLES TROTTER, Esq., President, in the Chair. There were also present thirty-two members.

New Members.—The following were elected. Charles Carr, Esq., Newcastle; Smart Fothergill, Esq., South Hetton; James H. W. Ridley, Esq., Gateshead; Adam Robson, Esq., South Shields; and Hugh Russell, Esq., Trindon.

Papers.—The following papers were read. 1. The Medical Profession in relation to Public Health. By J. EASTWOOD, M.D. Dr. Eastwood noticed briefly how prominent and extensive a subject that of public health had become, and said that it required the serious illness of the Prince of Wales to make the public believe in what had been thought to be the "crotchets" of medical men. It was only by constant "pegging away," on their part, that anything useful could be done, and too often their good efforts were not appreciated. On the subject of intemperance, also, some action had been taken in the direction of greater impediments to excessive drinking. The Public Health Act of 1872 is, however, the most important now to be considered, and Dr. Eastwood described how that Act had become law between two opposing forces. The battle had been fought, and the Association had not gained its object, which was to have larger areas for inspection on the part of medical inspectors, who were to act in concert with the Poor-law medical officers. Instead of this, the present divisions into unions and local government districts and boroughs were continued, and the inspectorship consisted of a number of non-medical men, whom the Poor-law medical officers in many instances appeared to prefer to their professional brethren. Inspectors of public health were thus appointed who had their duties to learn, and the medical profession was ignored.—After some discussion, in which the President, Mr. Leonard Armstrong, and Dr. Denham took part, Dr. EASTWOOD proposed, and Mr. LEONARD ARMSTRONG seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:—"That this meeting is of opinion that every endeavour should be made to carry out the Public Health Act in its integrity, and deeply regrets the appointment of non-medical inspectors."

2. Paracentesis Thoracis. By W. A. L'ANSON, Esq. Mr. L'Anson related the particulars of a case of acute pleurisy with effusion in a boy, in which he performed the operation of paracentesis thoracis with a successful result. Mr. L'Anson advocated the early performance of the operation in such cases.

3. Thermometric Observations in Typhoid Fever. By G. H. PHILIPSON, M.D. Dr. Philipson exhibited several thermometric charts of cases of typhoid fever, and specially directed the attention of the members to a case of typhoid fever in a boy, complicated with acute general bronchitis. The chief interest of the case was that the thermometric record agreed with the normal type until the middle of the sixth week, when a sudden elevation of temperature occurred, which, appearing as it did during the proper convalescence from the specific febrile condition, was regarded at the time of its occurrence either as a sign of a relapse, or the onset of a new disease; the subsequent appearance of the characteristic signs of general bronchitis as a complication proving the correctness of the latter conjecture. It was also of interest that, during the progress of the complication, when the evening temperature was as high as at the time of the fastigium of the fever, there was not more than 0.4 deg. Fahr., or 0.6 deg. Fahr. difference between the evening and the morning temperatures; while at the time of the fastigium, there was a difference of 2.0 deg. Fahr. between the evening and the morning temperatures.

Votes of Thanks.—A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the readers of the papers.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, and carried by acclamation, it was resolved—"That the best thanks of the meeting be given to the trustees of Bishop Cosin's Library, for their kindness in granting the use of the Library for the purposes of the meeting."

Dinner.—The members, to the number of twenty-eight, afterwards dined together at the County Hotel, the President in the Chair.

This was the first intermediate meeting of the Branch, and was more successful than had been anticipated. The spring meeting will be held at Sunderland in April 1873.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

AND

SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

VACCINATION RETURN.

MR. WYATT, the Vaccination-Officer of the Clifton Union, reports that of the 1,661 children whose births were registered between the 21st of August 1871 and 21st December 1871, 1,440 have been certified as successfully vaccinated, one has been certified as insusceptible of vaccination, and 159 have died unvaccinated. In eleven cases, vaccination has been postponed under certificate, one was removed to another district, and notice has been given to the Vaccination-Officer; thirty-six have removed to places unknown. The return leaves thirteen cases unaccounted for.

LUNATIC PAUPERS.

THE guardians of the St. George's Union have unanimously passed the following resolution:—"That the practice of handing over poor persons suffering from temporary insanity to the parish medical officer, with the understanding that he is to be paid if he fail and not to be paid if he succeed in restoring them, is opposed to common prudence, common sense, and common humanity." If the guardians intend it to be implied that medical officers may be induced to abstain from taking such measures as may be necessary for the proper treatment of insane persons in order that it may become requisite that they should be removed to an asylum, and the fee for certifying as to the lunacy may be secured, the imputation is a very grave one, and such as ought not to be lightly made, nor without good grounds for substantiating it. If, on the other hand, the guardians merely mean that they consider that the payment of a medical man for his services in examining and certifying as to the lunacy of a person is objectionable, their opinion on the subject might have been expressed in a less roundabout way.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

SIR,—The Public Health Act will cause many medical men to direct their attention to the duties expected to be performed by the medical officer of health, and to ask themselves whether they are sufficiently "well up" in the subjects or duties to "go in" for one of the appointments? I think, therefore, a few hints from you, but especially upon the following points, would be considered of great assistance (at this period) by those who wish to be officers of health.

1. Where can a medical officer of health receive his instructions how to test gas, food, milk, water, air, etc.?
2. At whose cost is this special knowledge to be obtained?
3. Will the Board of Health provide a laboratory and the necessary testing apparatus?
4. What are the duties generally? and what is it necessary for the medical officer of health to be specially and thoroughly acquainted with?

Professor Longmore's and Dr. Parkes' books can be read with advantage; but it seems to me that the greatest difficulty will be in gaining a thorough *practical* knowledge of the details of the duties. Visiting the houses, closets, inspecting the general sanitary arrangements of the town, any well educated medical man will be able to do in a satisfactory manner. Indeed, the outdoor work, and making up his returns, and compiling his reports, will be got over easily enough; but it is the laboratory work in which the medical officer of health of the large provincial towns will feel himself at first a little green. Therefore I am of opinion that a few hints from competent sources on this subject will be received thankfully by your readers.

I am, etc., S. CARTWRIGHT REED, M.D.

Watford, Herts, September 9th, 1872.

OBITUARY.

ISAAC JOHN GILLAM, M.D.

DR. GILLAM died on September 21st, at South Lodge, Ham, from exhaustion, having suffered for six years after the rupture of a blood-vessel. He was parochial medical officer to the Crondale District of the Hartley Wintney Union for some years, but for the last two years of his life had relinquished the arduous duties of his profession on account of his failing health. His death is universally regretted. He leaves a widow and an adopted daughter. He was the second son

of the late Rev. Isaac Gillam, Vicar of Northleigh, and Incumbent of St. Michael's, Liverpool. He was M.D. of Marischal College, Aberdeen, a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries.

MEDICAL NEWS.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

- BELFORD HOSPITAL, Fort William, Inverness-shire—Resident Surgeon: £150 per annum, board and lodging.
 BETHLEM HOSPITAL—Two Resident Medical Students.
 BIRMINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY—Resident Surgeon: salary £130 increasing to £150 per annum, residence, coals, gas, and attendance.
 BIRMINGHAM HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN—Dispenser: £20 a year to commence.
 BLACKBURN UNION, Lancashire—Medical Officer for the Billington District: £15 per annum.
 CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL—Assistant-Surgeon.
 CHELSEA, BROMPTON, and BELGRAVE DISPENSARY—Physician.
 CLITHEROE UNION, Lancashire—Medical Officer for the Whalley District: £16 per annum.
 CLIFDEN UNION, co. Galway—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Rinivyle Dispensary District: £100 per ann., and fees.
 DOWNPATRICK DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM—Assistant Medical Officer.
 GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY—Extra Physician to the Dispensary.
 HAVANT UNION—Medical Officer for District No. 3.
 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.
 MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY—Two Assistant-Physicians.—Two Assistant-Surgeons.—Ophthalmic Surgeon.—Obstetric Surgeon.—Dental Surgeon.
 MANORHAMILTON UNION, co. Leitrim—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Manorhamilton Dispensary District: £100 per annum, and fees.
 METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL, Devonshire Square—Surgeon.
 MIDDLESEX COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM, Hanwell—Apothecary: £120 per annum, furnished apartments, board, and washing.
 NORFOLK AND NORWICH HOSPITAL—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.
 SALOP INFIRMARY, Shrewsbury—Two Physicians in Ordinary.
 SUNDERLAND HOSPITAL for SICK CHILDREN—Three Medical Officers.
 UCKFIELD UNION—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Maresfield District: £85 per annum, and extra fees.
 UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL—Assistant-Physician.—Assistant Surgeon.—Assistant Medical Officer in the Skin Department.
 WARNEFORD, LEAMINGTON, and SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon: £80 per annum, board, lodging, and washing.
 WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Hammersmith Road—Two Junior Physicians.
 WEST SUSSEX PRISON, Petworth—Medical Officer: £100 per annum.
 WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon.
 WESTON-SUPER-MARE HOSPITAL and DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon: £60 per annum, board, lodging, and washing.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

- *JORDISON, Christopher, Esq., appointed Surgeon to the Whitchurch and Tattenhall Branch of the London and North-Western Railway.
 *KENYON, J. Kilshaw, Esq., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Billingham District of the Bourne Union, *vice* Benjamin L. Powne, Esq., resigned; also, Acting Assistant Surgeon to the 18th Lincoln Rifle Volunteers.
 *WILLIAMS, Evan, Esq., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Llangefti District of the Anglesea Union.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

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

BIRTH.

FOSTER. On October 7th, at Birmingham, the wife of *Balthazar Foster, M.D., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

- *HINDS, James, M.D., of Halstead, Essex, to Lucy, second daughter of Thomas BUSBY, Esq., of Balsall Heath, Birmingham, at Edgbaston Old Parish Church, on October 2nd.—No cards.
 *NICHOLSON, Emilius Rowley, M.D., of Oldham, to Cecilia, second daughter of Charles SIMPSON, Esq., Town Clerk of Lichfield, at St. Mary's, Lichfield, on September 19th.
 SNOW, William V., M.D., of Bournemouth, to Charlotte Ivy, second daughter of the late James Whitelaw STRONGE, M.D., of Dublin, on August 8th.
 YOUNG, Edward, Esq., of the Hall House, Hawkhurst, to Elizabeth, only daughter of *William HOAR, Esq., Surgeon, of Maidstone, at St. Peter's, Maidstone, on October 1st.

DEATHS.

- Dry, Thomas, M.D., late of Walworth, at sea, aged 32, supposed in February 1872.
 MACRAE, John, Esq., Surgeon, at Lewes, aged 60, on September 27th.
 ROBERTSON, Wm. Campbell, Esq., Surgeon, at Strathmiglo, Fife, aged 63 years, on September 6th.
 ROBINSON, John Craven, Esq., Surgeon, of Torquay, at Coxwold, aged 34, on September 1st.

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.

DR. MACKINDER (Gainsborough) has omitted to observe an abstract of the report on page 391 of our last issue.

WE have received from Wrexham a note on the action of ergot, unsigned and unfinished.

DR. A. MACKINTOSH's wish shall be attended to.

X.—A candidate for the Fellowship of the College of Surgeons can take the examination in two parts: viz., the Anatomy and Physiology in May, and the other portion in November.

WE again call the attention of the President of the Royal College of Surgeons to the pamphlet entitled *The Antiseptic Treatment*, by George Washington Evans, M.R.C.S.E., Fair View House, Reading, Berkshire, with its list of testimonials' puffing letters, etc.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.

SIR,—Allow me a few words in reply to Mr. Armstrong, whose letter appears in the JOURNAL of September 21st. In a small union, like that of Great Ouseburn, with a population only of 11,851, but little practical benefit will result from the deduction, and there are other sources of fallacy, that I have pointed out. The deaths from phthisis, however, are for the most part so uniform, as to number, that I do not anticipate, when the returns of the next decennial period are published, that there will be, generally, any material difference. Mr. Armstrong commits a slight error in his figures: instead of 43, it should be nearly 47½. There is one important deduction from my statistics that I take credit to myself, for being the first to promulgate: viz., that phthisis, contrary to the general belief before entertained, is much more prevalent on the western coast of England and Wales than on the eastern seaboard. I am, etc.,

29, Beaufort Street, Chelsea, September 24th, 1872.

EDWARDS CRISP.

DEATH OF A LADY FROM THE STING OF A BEE.—A sad occurrence recently took place at Haltonshields, near Matfen, resulting in the death of Mrs. John Beattie, of that place. Mrs. Beattie was in her garden, between three and four o'clock in the afternoon, and, whilst adjusting a cloth which had been laid over a hive of bees, one of them stung her on the arm a little above the wrist. She returned to her house, but immediately complained of being unwell. A swelling of the bowels and throat set in with great severity, and in the course of half an hour from the occurrence she expired.

ACTION OF ERGOT ON THE MUSCULAR TISSUE OF THE HEART.

SIR,—In Dr. Thompson's paper on the above subject, published in the JOURNAL of September 21st, after describing a case where he believes death depended on the forcible contraction of the muscular tissue of the heart and large arteries, caused by the cumulative action of the ergot, he goes on to speculate as to the reason for such action; and, in doing so, seems to me to rest his case on a false basis, viz., the similarity of the muscular tissue of the uterus and heart. He says: "No doubt exists that ergot acts on unstripped muscular tissue in the uterus. Why should it not act on the same muscular fibres in the heart?" And, "It may be presumed that when the necessity for the use of contractile power in the uterus ceased, that the action was transferred to the same unstripped muscular tissue in the heart" (italics are mine). Now, if I understand Dr. Thompson aright, he means that the muscular tissue of the heart is of the unstripped variety, and therefore I must conclude that either Dr. Thompson is wrong, or that every observer and writer on the subject with whom I am acquainted are stating what is not a fact, when they say that the heart is composed of striped muscular fibre. I am, etc.,

GEO. GRAY, M.D.

Castlewellan, September 24th, 1872.

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.

MIDWIFERY ENGAGEMENTS.

B. B. B. *Answer to Question 1.*—It is a specific contract entered into deliberately by the party. If the woman applied personally and made the contract, and a proper record of the fact entered by the doctor in his book in her presence at the time, and the woman afterwards breaks the contract and employs another doctor to attend her (without just cause), the doctor with whom she made her contract can recover.

Answer to Question 2.—There may be some just cause which made the County Court Judge set aside the contract, and decide that the doctor could not recover.

Answer to Question 3.—The answer to Question 1 applies in the same way to Question 3. No matter what warning a doctor may give, these warnings are not laws, and will not make the debt any more a recoverable one.

SIR,—In answer to B. B. B., I beg to inform him that I consider his right to recover his fee is undoubted. Exactly a similar case occurred to me in 1856, when in practice at Thorne in Yorkshire. The usual midwifery fee for attending women in the labouring class was then 10s. 6d. in the town, and it was also the custom to charge the journey extra in the country, as well as the confinement as all visits afterwards. In September 1856, I was engaged to attend a woman by the name of Fox. In the course of my rounds, I called and saw her. I ordered castor oil; and ordered her, when she required my attendance, to send for me. Some two or three months passed, and I heard nothing more. I then accidentally heard that she had been confined, and was attended by a surgeon residing at Snarth, to whom they had paid the fee. Snarth was two miles from their house. Thorne, my residence, was five miles distant. I applied for my fee, which they refused to pay; they had not even the civility to send to inform me that she was confined. So in February 1857, I summoned the husband to the Goole County Court for 10s. 6d., the amount of my fee, contending before the judge (W. Walker, Esq.) that I was retained; my fee was then due as a retainer from that moment; that I had held myself in readiness to attend; that I did not attend was no fault of mine. A lawyer was employed for the man. I conducted my own case. Judgment was given for me. On referring to my ledger of that date, I see the particulars of the order were: fee, 10s. 6d.; costs, 2s. 10d.; allowance for my attendance, 8s.; in all, £1 1s. 4d. The case was reported at the time in the Doncaster papers, and, I think, in the *Medical Times and Gazette*. I contested the case on principle, thinking that it was a most unfair thing to engage a medical man, and then not send for him. It was establishing a bad precedent; and I was determined to put a stop to it if possible. In this I succeeded. I thought it only right to give B. B. B. the particulars of my case, and the result of the action. 60, Clapham Road, S.W., September 21st, 1872. I am, etc., R. GILLARD.

P.S.—I can refer B. B. B. to another case, somewhat different, yet establishing the point that the fee was due as a *retainer*, not necessarily requiring attendance if the non-attendance was not the fault of the medical man. A woman resided two miles distant from me, at Slingsby in Yorkshire (I resided at Hovingham). Another medical man was engaged. He was absent at the time. I was sent for. My horse was put in my carriage, and I went about half a mile, and then met a messenger, saying that I was not wanted, as some one else had come. I demanded my fee; payment was refused. I took proceedings in the Malton County Court. The judge ordered payment of my fee, with costs. R. G.

A SUGGESTION.—In making a contract with a woman to attend her in her confinement, it is best to enter the full particulars in her presence.

First. Name, Mrs. Charles Brown (do not enter Mrs. Sarah Brown).

Secondly. Address in full.

Thirdly. Date of expected confinement.

Fourthly. Fee to be paid.

Then let the woman sign her name at the foot of this entry, and you hand her your card. This can be used as evidence of the contract, which a County Court Judge would find very difficult to set aside. It is best to call upon your patient about the time the confinement was expected to take place; the patient will consider it a mark of attention; but you make a record of it in your book, and it is a reminder to the woman of her contract.

QUARANTINE.

DR. SHRIMPTON writes:—I beg leave to correct that part of the report of my observations at Plymouth on Quarantine, in which you make me say, "Fear making cholera contagious, when it was not, in his opinion, really so." I said that though cholera is not a contagious disease, the fear of cholera is frightfully contagious; that quarantine legitimises fear, and produces cholera in time of epidemics. I said, moreover, that quarantines are foci of contagious diseases; that, instead of preventing they develop these diseases, and prevent us from looking for their true causes and origin, which are always to be found in the country in which these diseases are contagious. Diseases can be contagious in those places only, and under those circumstances in which the disease itself finds the elements of its origin. This is true in regard to the plague, typhus, yellow fever, small-pox, scarlet fever, etc.; the cattle-plague, foot-and-mouth disease, as well as all other contagious diseases. Quarantines should then be totally abolished, as an institution producing exactly the opposite effect to that intended, as thoroughly unworthy of the age in which we live, and contrary to the progress of science and humanity.

SURGICAL QUERIES.

A METROPOLITAN SURGEON asks:—1. Can any reader state, from his own personal knowledge, the circumstances of a case or cases of inguinal or femoral hernia (congenital or from other causes) cured permanently by the use of trusses? If cured, then in what manner: by closure of the "rings" or by obliteration of the canals in consequence of the pressure of the truss-pads?—2. Has any Demonstrator of Anatomy in the dissecting-room had the opportunity of dissecting the subject of a radical cure of hernia—radically cured by truss-pad pressure or by operation? I shall be very glad of any replies to these queries.

REIGATE AND REDHILL COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

MR. HEAD, HONORARY TREASURER, writes:—On referring to the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, I observe in your allusion to this hospital, that the cost of treatment of seventy-seven cases during the past year was £600. Without explanation, this statement may mislead. The expenditure of £600 includes the cost of removal from the old to the new hospital; the payment of certain old outstanding bills of previous years; altogether reducing the amount expended during the past year to £450.

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.

SHEFFIELD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

SIR,—Your correspondent, in reporting my speech at the dinner of the lecturers of the Sheffield School of Medicine, has—I am sure unwittingly—fallen into one or two errors, which I wish to correct. I never said that the sale of the present school would supply us with funds to build a handsome school near the Infirmary. The land on which our present school stands is leasehold, and we shall only receive the value of the building. We can only build a new school if we get liberal help from the public. Then, again, I never alluded to the number of students attending either the Manchester, Leeds, or Sheffield Schools of Medicine; nor did I attempt to explain the difference in those numbers.

I am, etc.,
ARTHUR JACKSON,
Secretary to the Sheffield School of Medicine.

Sheffield, October 6th, 1872.

SUGAR-COATED PILLS.

SIR,—I should be very glad to hear the opinion of some of your readers upon the Sugar-Coated Pill, now so much used by our Profession. My own experience has, on the whole, been satisfactory, especially in the results obtained from the use of the Cathartic Pills. I cannot, however, speak with equal satisfaction of the Calomel and Opium Pills, containing two grains of the former to half a grain of the latter, as I do not think the soporific effects have been so well marked as the amount of narcotic would justify. I had lately under my care a case of acute peritonitis, in which I gave a pill containing the above proportions every four hours till twelve had been taken, but without any very decided results, when to my chagrin my patient vomited up seven of the pills in one vomit, still enveloped in their pearly coating. The first of the pills had been in the stomach twenty-eight hours. It is only fair to state that the stomach had been all the time to a high degree irritable, and no doubt the mucus from its surface had protected the pills more or less from the corroding properties of the gastric juice, but I cannot think that the ordinary pill would have proved itself so invulnerable. I shall be glad to have my faith in these elegant little vehicles for unpleasant drugs revived and strengthened, which I hope it may be by those who have had more experience of them.

I am, etc., HARVEY J. PHILPOT.

East Dulwich, October 2nd, 1872.

*. In a paper recently read before the New York Academy of medicine, Dr. Squibb denounces the Sugar-Coated pills as uncertain and insoluble. He says that they are frequently found after death undissolved in the intestines.

THE LITERATURE OF PUERPERAL SEPTICÆMIA.

SIR,—Can you direct me to anything in English medical literature describing Puerperal Septicæmia.

I am, etc., C. W.

Warrington, September 28th, 1872.

*. The term Puerperal Septicæmia has been used in a generic sense to cover all blood poisoning occurring in the Puerperal state. Metria is used by some in a like sense, and so by the most are the words Puerperal Fever. The following are some references to the literature of the subject; a good British monograph is a desideratum. Papers by Dr. Braxton Hicks in *Obstetric Transactions*, vol. xii. (See also other vols. of the *Transactions*.) Dr. Matthews Duncan on *Fecundity, Fertility, and Sterility, and Allied Topics* (Second Edition); also his work on *Mortality of Childbed*. Dr. Evory Kennedy's *Hospitalism and Zymotic Diseases*. Sir James Simpson's *Obstetric Works*. McClintock and Hardy's work on *Midwifery and Puerperal Diseases*. *Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science* for August, 1869. Dr. Churchill's *Midwifery* (Historical Account). Lecture xxvi of Billroth's *Surgical Pathology*, translated by Dr. Hackley. Dr. Bedford's *Principles and Practice of Obstetrics* (Fourth Edition). Dr. Ramsbottom's *Obstetric Medicine and Surgery* (Fifth Edition). Dr. Uvedale West's *Illustration of Puerperal Diseases*; and most works on Obstetrics. *Archives Générales de Médecine*, Septicæmie Puerperale, by A. d'Espine. The conclusion in the 4th article, October, 1872.

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

SIR,—You desire to be informed as to what transpires with reference to the appointments of Medical Officers of Health. I have issued the enclosed circular (soliciting election) to the members of the Town Council of Plymouth. Nothing has as yet been settled or determined on by the Plymouth Corporation, but a movement amongst the Medical Profession is on foot, which emanates from the little town of Stonehouse, under the direction of Mr. C. Bulteel. That gentleman has had the bad taste to impugn the trustworthiness of what he is yet pleased to call the "noble" profession to which he belongs. He also takes upon himself to assert that no one hereabouts should be entrusted with this important charge, but recommends that "a stranger" should be called in, and have these honourable functions thrust upon him (p. 365 BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, Report of Discussion at the Social Science Congress, 1872). I would ask what the different Insurance Companies throughout Great Britain must think of us, if Mr. Bulteel's "*ipse dixit*" is to be accepted? Can any of us be trusted to give a truthful account when called upon to make the necessary answers to the usual questions, where our own patients, and, may I presume to quote Mr. Bulteel's imaginings, our own pockets are concerned? As an active and energetic member for the past twenty years of the British Medical Association, I call upon you, sir, to discountenance such ill-considered remarks, and to repudiate all attempts to revive, under the auspices of such a system of ideas, the worst features of trade unionism and its attendant demons, terrorism, rattening, *et hoc genus omne*, within the sacred precincts of our "noble" profession. Shade of Hippocrates! methinks I see thy crisped locks with indignation, wild, dismayed, and fiercely shaken at all those who have been unworthily betrayed into an oblivious forgetfulness of thy most solemn oath, which binds us all.

October 1st, 1872.

I am, etc.,

THOMAS LITTLETON.

WE are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Liverpool Weekly Albion, Oct. 5th; The Manchester Guardian, Oct. 6th; The Bath Express, Oct. 5th; The North British Advertiser, Oct. 5th; Saunders's News-Letter and Daily Advertiser, Oct. 6th; The Jersey Express, Oct. 3rd; The Homeward Mail, Oct. 2nd; The Tewkesbury Record, Oct. 5th; The Aberdeen Daily Free Press, Oct. 4th; The Cambridge Express, Oct. 5th; The Elgin Courier, Oct. 3rd; The Yorkshire Post, Oct. 9th; etc.

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.

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT.

SIR,—My absence on the continent has prevented until now my replying to Mr. Chapman's queries. In my former letter I stated: first, that there was no necessity for any exceptional legislation on the subject of venereal contagious diseases in this country; second, that the Contagious Diseases Acts had always in every known clime and age, not only failed to obtain the end in view, but aggravated every evil; and third, that measures entirely unobjectionable would not only suffice to meet the difficulty, but also accomplish all possible good. Now, sir, I am prepared to maintain any one or all these points against all comers; but, as the last is the one in which Mr. Chapman seems most interested, I will as briefly as possible detail the plan which was first suggested to me by Dr. Bell Taylor, and which I am sure will suffice to induce prostitutes and other women suffering from venereal disease to avail themselves of the necessary treatment. All that is necessary to accomplish this end, is to establish voluntary hospitals. This I would accomplish in the following manner. I would take a house convenient of access and yet as private as possible—three or four beds would be sufficient, and a respectable kind-hearted matron. A surgeon should attend gratuitously at a stated hour each day. This done, I would circulate among the women who are liable to be infected by the men with whom they associate, pamphlets or leaflets, pointing out the serious nature of syphilis, the symptoms by which it may be known, and urging all who may suffer themselves or know others who are suffering to apply at once to the Dispensary in question.

I would specially impress upon the patients that they would not be restricted, coerced, preached at, exposed or annoyed in any way or shape; in fact, they should be perfectly at liberty, treated as ladies, and as free as air; all we offer, all that we should profess to offer them, and all we should offer them, would be the utmost sympathy, the most delicate treatment, and a cure as painless and as little irksome as possible for their diseases. These women are literally sacrificed in the cause of our sexual nature, as Lecky has observed: The prostitute is the high priestess of humanity, blasted for our sins, and although we find, of course, all sorts among them, and although the degradation and contempt with which they are treated may aggravate many evil qualities, there are among them many women of noble character, most amiable disposition, and great natural talent. Now 75 per cent. of all cases of venereal disease at the very least come under the head of gonorrhœa, and of the remaining 25 per cent. 9 out of 10 according to Acton and Balfour, or 4 out of 5 according to the venereal commission, are cases of soft sores which do not affect the constitution. Gonorrhœa I should treat by strong aluminated injections, such as were proved before the venereal commission to be capable of destroying the infecting qualities of that disease; soft and specific sores I would destroy at once by actual cautery under chloroform, which would prevent infection of primary sore; and the constitutional symptoms I would meet at once by applying appropriate remedies. Confinement would very seldom be necessary, and only even advisable in 5 per cent. of cases of true syphilis, and only then so long as there was any danger of infection. Aggravated cases that required prolonged treatment I would hand over to the general hospital; and I think arrangement should be made by which a recommendation from the dispensary should at once insure admission. As to supporting the women during their period of treatment, I think arrangements might be made by which they could have a small allowance while under treatment (this would be a great inducement for them to come forward) or be supplied, say by a committee of ladies, with some light remunerative employment, such as would prevent them being driven to the street from sheer starvation. Now this plan we intend shortly to carry out in Nottingham. The objections urged against it by the compulsory fanatics who will insist on doing in one way what can only be accomplished in another, are that, 1. Women will not apply; 2. They do not know when they are diseased; 3. They will not stay to be cured. These objections I shall be happy to dispose of next week, if you will allow me space to do so.

I am, etc.,

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

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

Dr. J. Crichton Browne, Wakefield; Dr. T. R. Fraser, Edinburgh; Mr. Walter Whitehead, Manchester; Mr. Callender, London; Dr. Cheadle, London; The Secretary of the Clinical Society; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. Lawson, London; Dr. Procter, York; Mr. Langton, London; The Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; Dr. Marshall, Nottingham; Mr. T. H. Morton, Brightside, Sheffield; Mr. E. Lund, Manchester; Dr. Bradbury, Cambridge; Dr. L. W. Marshall, Nottingham; Dr. Smyth, Kildare; Mr. A. Jackson, Sheffield; Mr. Spittle, London; Dr. W. W. Wilson, Birmingham; An Associate; Dr. Pye-Smith, London; F.R.C.S.; Mr. Howard Marsh, 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; C. E.; Mr. W. J. Harris, Worthing; Mr. J. Morgan, Dublin; Mr. J. W. Langmore, London; Dr. A. C. Campbell, Dundee; Dr. J. Ross, Waterfoot, Manchester; Dr. Alexander R. Simpson, Edinburgh; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. Mackinder, Gainsborough; Dr. W. C. Arnison, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. Worthington, Victoria; Dr. Spencer, Clifton; Dr. C. Kidd, London; Mr. Roberts, London; Mr. C. J. Wright, Leeds; Our Liverpool Correspondent; Dr. A. Mackintosh, Callington; Mr. Jordon, Malpas; Dr. Grace Calvert, Manchester; Mr. Talbot King, London; Dr. W. H. Day, London; Mr. Waren Tay, London; The Secretary of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow; Dr. James Morton, Glasgow; Mr. F. Stedman, Badwell; Mr. Terry, Hong Kong; Mr. G. Terry, Mells; Dr. Beardsley, Grange; Dr. Spence-Thomson, Torquay; Dr. Clifford Allbutt, Leeds; Dr. Cheadle, London; Dr. Cayley, London; Dr. Barnes, Carlisle; Dr. Hitchman, Cheltenham; Dr. Gordon, Bradford; Mr. Dunkley, Stoke-on-Trent; Mr. T. W. Hime, Sheffield; Messrs. Churchill, London; Sir Lawrence Peel, London; Mr. P. H. Bird, London; Mrs. W. H. Dry, London; etc.