

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

EDINBURGH.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Treatment of Parochial Medical Officers.—Hospital Sunday Collections for the Infirmary.

WE should like to point out to those of the profession who hold, or desire to hold, parochial offices, a circumstance which has recently happened in this city. At a recent meeting of the Edinburgh Parochial Board, a letter was read from Dr. John Smith, resigning his appointment as Medical Officer to the Poorhouse. Dr. Smith has held the office for fifty-seven years with every satisfaction to the Board and the public, and continued efficiently to discharge the duties until advancing age and a very serious illness incapacitated him from doing so any longer; and yet, after all this long and meritorious service, there is no provision made for a retiring allowance. The Board showed their appreciation of Dr. Smith's services by a vote of sympathy with him in his illness; but it surely is anomalous that no more substantial token of satisfaction should be forthcoming. Fortunately, in this case it is a matter of comparative indifference whether such a provision exists or not, and we simply mention it as an exaggerated instance of an anomaly that is constantly occurring. In most other professions, when an old and faithful servant retires from work, a retiring allowance or pension is looked forward to as a matter of course; and the same should be the case with the medical profession, the more so as the work is constant and exacting, and the remuneration miserably small.

The annual collection in the churches for the benefit of the Royal Infirmary was held on Sunday last, but the amount collected has not yet been reported. In many of the places of worship, earnest appeals were made from the pulpit, and high testimony was given to the efficiency and value of the institution.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

SOUTH OF IRELAND BRANCH.

THE next meeting for scientific business will take place on Wednesday, December 9th, in the Theatre of the Royal Cork Institution. Cases of interest have been promised, viz.: Cardiac Embolism, with Amputation of both Thighs (Dr. Day), unavoidably postponed from last meeting; exhibition of an extraordinary and unprecedented case of Complete Removal of half of the Calvaria, from a Burn, and recovery (Dr. Hayes, Tralee); Microscopical Preparations of Pathological conditions of the Kidney (Dr. R. Atkins).

The students of the Queen's College, Cork, attend the meetings.

H. M. JONES, *Honorary Secretary*.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT.

THE next meeting will be held at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, on Thursday, December 10th, at 4.30 P.M.; H. T. LANCHESTER, M.D., in the Chair.

The following papers are promised. Dr. Moxon: On Paralytic Tremor as a Symptom. Dr. Walters: Cases of Naso-Pharyngeal Polypus; and Poisoning by Arsenic and Hydrocyanic Acid. Dr. Ilott: Clinical Cases and Specimens from Croydon General Hospital.

The Chairman kindly invites members and their friends to lunch at Park House, Croydon, at 2 P.M.

Dinner at 6 P.M., at the Greyhound Hotel; charge, 7s., exclusive of wine.

JOHN H. GALTON, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.
November 25th, 1874.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE next meeting will be held in the Council Room of the Midland Institute, on Thursday, December 10th, 1874, at half-past three o'clock P.M. precisely.

Mr. Watkin Williams will move—"That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Council, the Branch subscription be raised from 2s. 6d. to 5s. *per annum*; the increased subscription to confer on all members the privileges of membership of the two sections of the Branch."

Mr. Hugh Ker will move—" (1) That in Rule 9, line 7, the words 'at least a week previously' be altered to 'at least two weeks pre-

viously'; and (2) That a copy of the Laws of the Association and the Rules of the Branch be supplied to each member of the Branch."

The following papers are promised:—Historical and Clinical Notes on the Past, Present, and Future of Surgical Practice, by Mr. Sampson Gamgee. A Case of Perinephric Abscess, with Remarks on the Diagnosis of such Abscesses, from those arising from Spinal Caries, by Mr. G. H. Evans.

Members are invited to exhibit Pathological Specimens at the commencement of the meeting.

BALTHAZAR FOSTER, M.D., } *Honorary Secretaries*.
JAMES SAWYER, M.D., }

Birmingham, December 3rd, 1874.

MIDLAND BRANCH.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the Branch will be held in the Board Room of the County Hospital, at Lincoln, on Friday, December 18th, at 7 P.M.; T. SYMPSON, F.R.C.S., President; A. H. DOLMAN, M.R.C.S., President-elect.

Business.—To elect an Honorary Secretary and Treasurer for the Branch, and eight ordinary Members of Council, according to Rules 7 and 8; to elect an Honorary Secretary for Nottinghamshire; to elect new Members, and transact other business.

The laws governing the Branch, passed at a general meeting held at Boston, on 24th September, were confirmed at a meeting of Committee of Council held at Birmingham on November 4th.

In order to facilitate arrangements, members intending to be present are requested to communicate at once with

C. HARRISON, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.

Lincoln, November 28th, 1874.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR. STANSFELD, MR. MYERS, AND THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT.

SIR,—May I be allowed to make some addition to your editorial comments of last week on Dr. Nevins' letter with the above-named title, as his remarks so specially refer to me? At the same time, let me thank you for the support you kindly gave me.

My letter has attracted far more attention than I could have expected, and it was not at all intended to do battle with men who revel in statistics, but rather to give information to impartial observers who wish to obtain a fair practical view of a question without much labour. In that letter, I showed unmistakably the fact of syphilis having been almost stamped out at Windsor, which no statistics of Dr. Nevins can disprove, though he may consider my evidence, however clear, to have been far too limited to be of value. How long might we not have been left in doubt regarding the identity of Dr. Livingstone's remains had not the conclusive evidence of Sir William Fergusson been obtained of the ununited fracture of the humerus?

I admit, that Dr. Nevins who, I presume, has had no personal experience with the army, has fair cause to be led astray by the *Blue-book* venereal returns from Windsor from the years 1867 to 1871 inclusive; and, I must confess, to having experienced much momentary surprise on reading them.

It certainly appears that, though the disease has been infinitely less in Windsor than in London, there has been a considerable increase at Windsor since the Act was enforced, viz., in 1868. To the very low rate of syphilis at Windsor in 1867, I must make special reference, as it has attracted so much attention. For nine months of that year, the Scots Fusilier Guards were quartered there; and it so happens that, in that regiment, the soldiers were not then inspected for venereal disease; and, as the soldier has a natural aversion to the restraints of hospital life, and, therefore, will not report himself sick if he can avoid so doing, I think it may be granted, that the cases admitted into hospital of that regiment in 1867 could have been no criterion of the number of men suffering from primary disease; or, at least, that no fair comparison could be drawn between the ratio of admissions in that regiment and in those which succeeded it, in which careful medical inspections were made weekly. To give point to this observation, I may state that I have been informed, that at a recent inspection of a battalion of Scots Fusilier Guards for venereal disease before proceeding to Windsor, twenty-five cases were detected and sent to hospital, and that medical inspections are now ordered to be made regularly.

In 1868, the year in which the Act was enforced at Windsor, the ratio of admissions was undoubtedly very high; but, as it only came

found time to send occasional papers to the medical journals. Few men have worked harder and more unremittingly than Mr. Stevens during his twenty-seven years' residence at Plymouth; but, like too many of his professional brethren, he failed to meet with a commensurate pecuniary reward, and he has left his family but slenderly provided for. On October 24th last, he was seized with violent shivering fits, and indications of some disease in the region of the sigmoid flexure of the colon, the nature of which was not apparent, and, in spite of the anxious care of his friends and attendants, no alleviation of his symptoms could be procured. On November 5th, he quietly sank in the sixty-fourth year of his age. An examination of the body after death showed very extensive deposit of melanotic cancer about the sigmoid flexure; the canal of the gut was very much contracted in places, and in one spot the coats of the bowel had broken down and peritonitis had been set up. It may with strict truth be said that Mr. Stevens was universally respected and beloved. He was thoroughly honest, manly, and straightforward. His professional brethren loved and admired him for his candid and independent spirit, that never permitted him to do anything that was not honourable and right. To his patients and friends, he was endeared by his generous and warm-hearted character. In his family, he was the loving and anxious father and the kind and tender husband.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The half-yearly examination in Anatomy and Physiology of candidates for the diploma of Fellow of this institution, took place on November 24th, when the following members of the College passed; and, when eligible, will be admitted to the final examination.

John Morgan, diploma of membership dated November 11th, 1860, Bristol and Guy's Hospitals; Joseph William Annington, July 21st, 1860, Manchester School; Henry Ambrose Lediard, July 27th, 1870, Edinburgh School; Rutherford John Pye-Smith, July 26th, 1871, Guy's Hospital; William Harrison Cripps, July 23rd, 1872, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; John Hammond Morgan, July 23rd, 1872, St. George's Hospital; Charles Firth, November 18th, 1873, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The following gentlemen, not members, also passed.

Edward Amplett, Guy's Hospital; Robert Edmond Carrington, Guy's Hospital; Hugh Gordon Cumming, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Henry Blake, St. George's Hospital; George Henry Makins, St. Thomas's Hospital.

Twelve candidates having failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Court of Examiners, were referred to their Anatomical and Physiological studies for six months.

The following passed on November 25th.

Ernest Tredennick, James A. M. Moulin, and Henry P. Potter, St. Thomas's Hospital; William G. Archer, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Robert H. Clarke, Cambridge and St. George's Hospitals; Francis J. Davies, University College; and Thomas C. Charles, Belfast Hospital.

Of the thirty-nine candidates examined, no less than twenty were referred to their anatomical and physiological studies for six months.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, November 26th, 1874.

Owen, William, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, Monmouthshire
Young, Patrick Percy, Winchester Street, Pimlico

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

Norris, Richard Hill, Queen's College, Birmingham
Taylor, Henry Cumberland, Guy's Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:—

ABERYSTWTH INFIRMARY—Surgeon.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE DISTRICT INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon: £80 per annum, board and residence. Applications on or before December 14th.

ATHY UNION, co. Kildare—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator. Salary, £120 and fees.

AXBRIDGE UNION—Medical Officer for the Second District. Salary, £30 per annum.

BASFORD UNION—Medical Officer for No. 1 District. Salary, £40 per annum.

BRIDGEWATER INFIRMARY—Dispenser. Salary, £40 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be sent to Mr. E. Lilley, the Honorary Secretary, Bridgewater.

BRIDGNORTH INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with coal, gas, furnished apartments, and attendance. Applications not later than 8th instant.

CARLISLE FEVER HOSPITAL—Resident Medical Officer. Applications to the Clerk of the Urban Sanitary Authority, Carlisle.

CASTLEBAR DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM—Resident Medical Superintendent.

DAVENTRY UNION—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for No. 2 District. Salary, £25 per annum, and fees. Applications to be sent on or before the 8th instant.

EAST SUSSEX, HASTINGS, and ST. LEONARD'S INFIRMARY—Assistant-Surgeon.

FIFE AND KINROSS DISTRICT ASYLUM—Assistant Physicianship. Salary, £80, with board, etc. Apply to Dr. Fraser, Medical Superintendent, Cupar-Fife.

GAINSBOROUGH UNION—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Willingham District. Salary, £70 per annum, and fees. Applications on or before 7th instant.

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY—Assistant-Surgeon. Salary, £120 per annum. Applications on or before the 5th instant.

GRAVESEND AND MILTON UNION—Medical Officer for the District of Milton, and that portion of the Workhouse belonging to the parish of Milton. Salary, £70 per annum, and fees. Applications, on or before the 16th instant, to W. J. King, King Street, Gravesend.

GREENOCK INFIRMARY—Dispenser. One who can assist in dressing preferred. Salary, £25 per annum, with board. Applications to the Secretary on or before the 7th instant.

HARRIS, Parochial Board of—Surgeon. Salary, £66 per annum, including vaccination and medicine for the poor. The gentleman elected will get £90 per annum for attending the ratepayers and cottars within South Harris. Applications to be made to the Chairman of the Parochial Board of Harris.

HEADINGTON UNION—Medical Officer for the Wheatley District. Salary, £70 per annum.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE—Twenty appointments as Surgeon. Examination in February 1875.

LONDON FEVER HOSPITAL, Liverpool Road—Medical Registrar: £50 per annum. Applications to the Resident Medical Officer, not later than the 7th instant.

MALTON DISPENSARY—Medical Officer: £100 per annum. Applications to Mr. H. Pickering, Honorary Secretary.

MIDDLESEX LUNATIC ASYLUM, Hanwell—Assistant Medical Officer.

MORVEN (Parish of), Argyshire—Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum. Testimonials to be sent in on or before the 30th December, to H. A. Fraser, Morven, Fort William, N.B.

NOTTINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL—Physician. Applications to be made not later than the 16th instant.

OAKHAM RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT—Medical Officer of Health; £60 per annum.

PLYMOUTH UNION—Medical Officer for No. 3 District.

RATHMINES DISPENSARY—Apothecary: £50 per annum.

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road—Senior House Surgeon. Salary, £104 per annum, with board and residence in the Hospital. Testimonials to be sent in to the Secretary on or before December 9th.

RYDE DISPENSARY—Physician.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL—Assistant Physician.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL FOR LUNATICS—Second Clinical Assistant. Board and furnished apartments.

ST. PANCRAS UNION—Non-resident Dispenser. Salary, £80 per annum, with dinner daily. Candidates must be L.S.A., or duly registered under the Pharmacy Act (1868), or some other authority of law in that behalf. Applications on or before December 8th.

SALISBURY INFIRMARY—Two Physicians. Candidates must be Graduates in Medicine, or a Fellow, Member, or Licentiate of one of the Colleges of Physicians in the United Kingdom. Applications must be sent to the Secretary on or before December 10th.

SEVENOAKS UNION—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for No. 2 District. Salary, £70 per annum.

SHEFFIELD PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY—Surgeon.

STRATHKINNESS, Village and District of—Medical Officer. Salary, £10 from Parochial Board, with £110 from a workmen's club, exclusive of midwifery fees. Apply to Mr. A. Cowper, Kincaid, Cupar Fife.

TORPHINS in the Parish of Kincardine O'Neil, Aberdeenshire—Parochial Medical Officer: £45 per annum. Applications to Chairman of Parochial Board.

TRINITY COLLEGE, Dublin—Professor of Chemistry: £500 per annum, and fees. Applications to the Rev. Dr. Haughton, Trinity College.

WESTERN GENERAL DISPENSARY, Marylebone Road—Physician in Ordinary. Honorary Physicians must be Fellows or Members of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and duly registered. Applications must be made to the Secretary on or before December 14th.

WESTMINSTER—Medical Officer of Health and Analyst. Salary, £150 as Medical Officer of Health, and £50 as Analyst. Applications, on or before December 9th, to George Buzzard, Vestry Clerk.

WEST RIDING ASYLUM, Wakefield—Assistant Medical Officer and Pathologist.

WOOLWICH UNION, Kent—Assistant Medical Officer to the new Infirmary at Plumstead. Salary, £60 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. An additional salary of £20 per annum will be given for dispensing for the poor of the Plumstead District.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

CLARKSON, J. W., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., appointed House-Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital.

ROSSITER, George F., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., appointed House-Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital.

THOMAS, William, F.R.C.S., appointed Honorary Acting Surgeon to the Birmingham and Midland Free Hospital for Sick Children.

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.

FLETCHER—At Earl Soham, the wife of *George Fletcher, M.B., of a daughter, on November 26th.

DEATH.

***SUTHERLAND**, William, M.D., M.R.C.S., on November 25th, at his residence in George Street, Croydon, in his 63rd year.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY	Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 9 A.M. and 2 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.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—West London, 3 P.M.—National Orthopaedic, 2 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.—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.—Royal Free, 9 A.M. and 2 P.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.	Medical Society of London, 8 P.M. Mr. H. Royes Bell, "A Case of Cyst of the Lower Jaw"; Dr. Routh, "An Epidemic of Infectious Sore-throat which occurred in a Public Institution, and the probable causes of its production";—Odontological Society, 8 P.M. Mr. Charles Tomes, "Studies on the Attachment of Teeth".
TUESDAY.	Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8 P.M.; Ballot, 8.30 P.M.: Dr. George Johnson, "On the Laryngeal Symptoms which result from the Pressure of Aneurismal and other Tumours upon the Vagus and Recurrent Nerves".
WEDNESDAY.	Epidemiological Society, 8 P.M. Mr. J. N. Radcliffe, "On Plague"; Dr. Dickson, "Reappearance of Plague"; Dr. Marroin, "Plague at Bengazi"; Dr. Schlimmel, "Plague in Persia".—Royal Microscopical Society, 8 P.M. Dr. C. T. Hudson, M.A., "On some Male Rotifers".
FRIDAY.	Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Rouse, "A Case of Aneurism"; Mr. Venning, "A Case of Syphilis, with Secondary Symptoms, appearing after twenty-three years".

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.—We shall be much obliged to Medical Officers of Health if they will, in forwarding their Annual and other Reports, favour us with *Duplicate Copies*.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the JOURNAL, are requested to communicate beforehand with the printer, Mr. T. Richards, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C.

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

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

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, 36, Great Queen Street, W.C.

S. W. F. would be glad of information on the subject of Artificial Incubation, and also as to where the "Incubator" can be obtained.

The name of Dr. George Johnson, F.R.S., appears as Consulting Physician in a list issued by the new Civil Service Co-operation Society, without any authority from him. He has required and received an apology; but some copies of the list have already passed into circulation.

ERRATUM.—The last sentence of the last paragraph but one of our article in last week's impression on the Contagious Diseases Acts should run thus: "The diminution from 146 to 136 is trifling; that from 100 to 51 is very great."

MESSERS. FRADELLE and MARSHALL, 230, Regent Street, have forwarded us characteristic portraits of the late Dr. Edward Smith and the late Dr. Lankester, which form part of their fine collection of medical portraits.

MR. D. GRIFFITH (Grosnant, Rhyl). It would not be right for a medical man who has been called to a consultation to continue his visits to the patient, or to ask questions of the kind mentioned. If the ordinary medical attendant have forgotten to let the one called in know how the patient is, he should be reminded of it by a note or interview. The omission would not justify visits to the patient.

SHEFFIELD PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY.

DR. T. W. HIME of Sheffield writes to remove any erroneous impression which might be formed from a recent paragraph in which we noticed the changes which had been made in the Sheffield Public Dispensary. Dr. Hime has not absolutely ceased to be connected with the dispensary, as the Committee transferred to their colleague the whole of the practice which belonged to that institution, and no one would think of removing his name for three years which would have to elapse before the term for which he was elected would expire. The arrangements with Dr. Hime evince the greatest amount of courtesy and good feeling on both sides.

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, 36, Great Queen Street, W.C., and not to the Editor.

SIR,—You will much oblige by giving your opinion in the following matter. I was called by the officer in charge of the police-station to examine at the station the dead body of an infant that had been found in a ditch. I made an examination, and came to the conclusion that the child had been non-viable, being certainly not more than six months developed. I gave a certificate to that effect. The coroner consequently thought it unnecessary to hold an inquest, and the matter was dropped. Now, who is to pay me for the examination? The police, the parish, and the coroner refuse to do so. You will much oblige by telling me to whom I should apply, and the fee I can demand. I am, etc., "STILLBORN."

. The person who summoned the medical practitioner, and who directed the examination to be made, is liable to pay, and should be proceeded against in the County Court.

"CANCER AND DROPSY."

CAPTAIN J. PICTET's letter gives no reason, beyond his own belief, why any one should trouble themselves in the matter. If the practitioner of whom he speaks has, or thinks he has, any improved means of treatment, all the medical societies and journals are open to him, and it is his duty to submit a statement of his mode of treatment.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

SIR,—While the discussion on typhoid fever is going on in the *Times*, will you permit me to make a few simple remarks in your JOURNAL? Without going into the scientific portion of the question, as to whether typhoid fever be contagious or not, and how (though all fevers capable of taking on an epidemic form probably are contagious). I wish to note the analogy between the human body and the soil of the earth, as far as the development of contagious diseases and plants are concerned. For instance, if the human body be exposed to contagion, it will not develop the disease unless the secretions and tissues are in a fit and proper state to propagate it. To induce this unhealthy condition, it is probably necessary (in fevers) to place the system under the influence of either impure water, impure atmosphere, unwholesome food, or bad drainage; and when the constituents favourable to the development of contagion are thus produced, the system is ripe to mature the germs of the disease. So with the soil of the earth: if we plant a tree in a dry soil which will only grow in a sandy one, it will not thrive, because the soil does not contain those elements necessary to develop the plant.

Again, the reason why people who have had a contagious disease, do not usually have it a second time, may be because the first attack has exhausted the fertilising elements in the system necessary for its development; or, when a second attack does occur, it is probably either owing to the system being again replenished and brought into the necessary condition by exposure to the unhealthy influences previously mentioned, or that the first attack did not sufficiently exhaust the body of the developing principles. So also the soil is worn out by a succession of one crop, and must be refertilised by a suitable manure. If the human body, in disease, can produce vegetable growth, vegetable decay may produce animal germs capable of inducing disease. Improved sanitary conditions, though not preventing contagion, arrest its development by keeping the human body free from those constituents necessary to develop and propagate it. I am, etc.,

Tudor House, Anerley, Nov. 17th, 1874.

W. H. TAYLER, M.D.

THE VACCINE-INSITOR AND THE PEN-VACCINATOR.

SIR,—I heard of the "vaccine-insitor" for the first time from the letter of Dr. Nicholas, which appeared in the JOURNAL of the 14th instant. It seems that Dr. Nicholas and I have each of us taken the idea of a vaccinator from the mathematical drawing-pen. The vaccine-insitor (the description and illustration of which I have seen to-day in the volume of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for 1856) is the ordinary drawing instrument, without any alteration whatever, excepting change of name. The "pen-vaccinator", on the contrary, is a vaccinating instrument and case for tubes (or points) combined: the blades are of hard incorrodible metal, which, when not in use, are reversed and shut into the case. I have used it in a considerable number of vaccinations, and the convenience of the instrument, carrying as it does its reserve supply of lymph, and holding a charge, sufficient for several operations, moist between its blades, appears to me to constitute desirable qualifications entirely peculiar to itself. I am, etc.,

Belgrave Terrace, Upper Holloway, Nov. 17th, 1874.

EXCESSIVE MASTURBATION BY A CHILD.

SIR,—Will you allow me to ask, through the medium of the JOURNAL, any of my brother members who may have met with a case similar to the one now mentioned, to be kind enough to give me his advice and experience. I am much distressed about it, as the child is left under my charge, his friends being abroad.

W. B., only seven years of age, is addicted to excessive masturbation, and has been so about twelve months. The discharge of seminal or prostatic fluid is now beginning to cause him weakness, which makes him fall down three or four times a day, and he is fast losing flesh. He is a healthy boy otherwise, and by no means precocious. Having been in practice over fifty years, I never knew or heard of a similar case in so young a child.—I enclose my card. I am, etc.,

Dovercourt, Essex, Nov. 23rd, 1874.

AN OLD MEMBER.

MARTIN'S SOLUTION OF TANNIN.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me space to ask Mr. Miall if he has ever used Martin's Solution of Tannin as an injection in obstinate gleet; and what is the strongest solution he has ever known used as an urethral injection?

I am, etc., MEMBER OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

London, November 10th, 1874.

WATER-SUPPLY.

THE town of Galashiels is in a bad way as regards its water. The supply is taken from public and private wells: some are actually, and all are liable to contamination from sewage- and surface-water to such an extent as to render the water unfit for domestic use, and liable to produce and promote epidemic diseases. Dr. Littlejohn reports that disease of a febrile type, and occasionally taking the appearance of diphtheria, was scarcely ever absent; and he attributes this entirely to the water-supply, which is not only inadequate and unfit for domestic purposes, but there is absolutely no water for sanitary purposes. The drainage is also reported to be in an unsatisfactory condition, owing to there being no means for flushing sewers.

These facts were brought before the notice of the Local Authority so long ago as 1871; and in 1874 the same state of things exists.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements for insertion in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, should be forwarded direct to the Publishing Office, 36, Great Queen Street, W.C., addressed to Mr. FOWKE, not later than *Thursday*, twelve o'clock.

PROSTATIC CASTS IN URINE.

SIR,—I wish to state, with reference to a letter from me in the *JOURNAL* for July 25th, under the above heading, that I am informed that the casts in question are mucoid, and are probably from the prostate. As it appears that there is not much known about them, I may add that some of them are very similar in appearance to the renal casts depicted at page 81 of the *JOURNAL* for January 1873, fig. 6, and page 109, February 1873, fig. 13; others have a fungoid appearance. If these be from the prostate, and be abnormal, would not their appearance be an early indication of disease? I am, etc.,
November 1874. WALTER LATTEY, L.R.C.P. Lond.

MEDICAL DEGREES AND TITLES.

SIR,—In reply to "Ph.D., L.K.Q.C.P.I.," I beg to say that I did not deny the right Licentiates of his College may have to the title of Dr., but stated that the College of Physicians of Ireland either had, or professed to have, the right to confer it upon them. If what he states be correct, I should think there could be no doubt about the matter.

In answer to "L.R.C.P., another Country Practitioner," I greatly regret that I have not the letter to which I referred. I received it between five and six years ago from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and it contained almost the exact words which I used in my letter, published October 24th. I do not doubt that many other medical men have received similar information.

I thank Mr. Batley, L.R.C.P. Lond., for seconding my proposition. I would now propose that the L.R.C.P.s living in London should hold a meeting and appoint a committee to draw up the desired petition, forwarding it to those in the country for approval and signature. Should none of the British Universities admit us, I would suggest that (as there are a great number of medical men in England desiring the degree of M.D., and unable to obtain it here), we apply to some good foreign University to send over examiners to test our knowledge, and to grant us the degree after thorough examination; also, that the Medical Council be asked to appoint visitors to the examination, and to allow the degree to be registered. Then our brother practitioners could not accuse us of possessing worthless foreign diplomas, which otherwise, with their usual good feeling, they would be very likely to do. I am, etc.,
November 1874. A COUNTRY PRACTITIONER.

* The Medical Council have no power whatever to order the degrees obtained from a foreign University to be registered. The Medical Act, as at present passed, prevents this. In the late Amendment Bill of the Government, there was a suitable provision for this purpose.

SIR,—When are we to have an end of this unseemly conflict? For wellnigh fifteen years the strife has raged, and the end seems no nearer than ever. No sooner has one warrior laid down his arms than another girds himself for the battle. There can be little doubt that the gentlemen who sought the license of the College of Physicians of Edinburgh during the year of grace fourteen or fifteen years ago, and especially those of them who already possessed the double qualification, as it was called, expected to be able to call themselves Doctors. If, then, these Licentiates have no legal claim to be called Doctors, they have either deceived themselves or have been deceived. In the latter case, they are deserving of some sympathy, for the title, once assumed, could not be easily dropped; and, moreover, it was well known that the Licentiates and Extra-Licentiates of the London College of Physicians fifteen and twenty years ago invariably prefixed the Dr. to their names, and were so styled, in courtesy, by patients and friends. It would appear to be only just that if the Edinburgh College of Physicians gave countenance to a delusion, it is their duty to help in setting matters right. I would therefore cordially support the suggestion of your correspondent, that the Licentiates of Colleges of Physicians throughout the country should sign a petition to the University of Edinburgh, and that the College of Physicians of Edinburgh should be asked to support it, seeking admission *ad eundem* to the degree of M.D. at that University. A year of grace, dispensing with the *annus medicus*, and perhaps some slight modification in the examination, would be all the concession asked, and we should probably hear no more of the vexed question of Dr. or no Dr. I am, etc.,
November 1874. PAX.

SIR,—Some of your correspondents appear to think that, by not admitting candidates, without residence, to medical degrees, the Universities of the United Kingdom are guilty of an injustice. As all the medical examining bodies require residence somewhere, and a certain fixed course of study, your correspondents should, in order to be consistent, demand that the Royal College of Surgeons, for instance, should give its Membership or Fellowship to all found, on examination, possessed of the requisite knowledge, where or however obtained. Here, however, no injustice is perceived, but all candidates fit their course of study uncomplainingly, so as to meet the conditions required. Much more than the College, which, in its relations to students, is simply an examining body, have the Universities—being, with the exception of that of London, well endowed teaching bodies—the right to decide at what schools and for what time the candidate shall be taught. In the case of the scholastic profession, no injustice is complained of at its members being excluded from the degrees of the older Universities, unless they fulfil certain conditions of residence; and yet there are many well read and good teachers who, for lack of the University degree, to which they are more than equal, stand in their profession, both socially and pecuniarily, in a much lower position than they would had they the good fortune to have been sent, when young, by their friends to the University. Moreover, if the medical degrees, for which your correspondents pine, were to be thrown open to all able to pass the examinations, they would lose the most part of their value; for the world estimates a degree not only by the social and educational advantages which may be supposed to attach to the residence implied by it, but also by the amount of money and time consumed in its pursuit. I am, etc.,
November 1870. WM. A. BRAILEY, M.D. Camb.

SIR,—I have been much interested in the correspondence which has recently appeared in the *JOURNAL* with reference to the M.D. degree, agreeing as I do with those who consider that the honour should be attainable, without residence, by those members of the profession whose professional and social position entitle them to it. For my own part, I think it unreasonable that, although a magistrate, a member of the Council of the British Medical Association, and a medical officer of health of a rather important district, I am not admissible to examination for a degree which, for reasons apart from my private practice, it might be advantageous to me to possess. I am, etc., J. P.

SIR,—It is evident by the numerous letters on Medical Titles in your valuable journal, that the subject is an important one. "Cosmopolitan" has, in your impressions of the 24th ult. and the 21st inst., placed the matter in its true light, and I fully endorse all his remarks therein. It is a shame and a disgrace that fully qualified men, after five or ten years' practice, should be denied the opportunity of presenting themselves for examination for the M.D. degree at the English Universities. I am in the same predicament as hundreds of my professional brethren who are desirous of obtaining a degree in medicine, and who, after years of hard work and practical experience, and holding the L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., and L.S.A., are still debarred from obtaining the M.D. degree until the last years of professional life have passed away—until, in fact, the mature age of forty-five or fifty is attained. We ought not to let the matter rest, but protest with all the power we have until the residence clause is removed. I am, etc.,
November 24th, 1874. M.B., M.A.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Birmingham Daily Gazette; The Western Daily Press; The Manchester Guardian; The Ulster Advertiser; The Sussex Coast Mercury; The Broad Arrow; The Surrey Advertiser; The Bedale and Northallerton Times; The Hackney Express; The Liverpool Porcupine; The Scotsman; The Liverpool Mercury; The Glasgow Herald; The Stroud News and Gloucestershire Advertiser; The Bradford Observer; The Morpeth Herald; The Portsmouth Times;

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

Dr. J. Braxton Hicks, London; Dr. J. Matthews Duncan, Edinburgh; Dr. J. Hughes Bennett, Nice; Mr. Sercombe, London; Dr. Allen Thomson, Glasgow; Dr. J. Coats, Glasgow; Dr. W. Dickson, London; Dr. Tilbury Fox, London; Mr. T. Holmes, London; Dr. E. L. Fox, Clifton; Dr. Sturges, London; Dr. Greenhalgh, London; Dr. Ringland, Dublin; Surgeon-Major Portet, Netley; Dr. Jones, Cork; Dr. Munro, Cupar-Fife; Mr. T. Vincent Jackson, Wolverhampton; Dr. Challacombe, Bristol; Mr. Sidney Rich, London; Dr. J. J. Charles, Belfast; Dr. F. J. Brown, Rochester; Dr. Monckton, Maidstone; Dr. Harvey, Aberdeen; Dr. A. R. Graham, Weybridge; Mr. A. B. R. Myers, London; Mrs. Dalrymple, Norwich; Mr. J. Baker, London; L.R.C.P. Ed.; Dr. Lavies, London; Dr. Klein, London; Mr. Lattey, Southam; Dr. Copeman, Norwich; Dr. J. C. Reid, Newbiggin-by-Sea; Dr. G. F. Bodington, Kingswinford; Mr. S. W. Moore, London; Mr. Harris, Worthing; Dr. Jukes Styrap, Shrewsbury; Mr. J. Hutchinson, London; Mr. Heber Ellis, Poole; J. P.; Dr. Drummond, Royton; Dr. Wardell, Tunbridge Wells; Dr. Edis, London; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; The Registrar-General of England; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Mr. Wanklyn, London; The Registrar of the Medical Society of London; Mr. J. Burdett Willy, Glasgow; Dr. Winter Fisher, Leicester; Messrs. Fleet and Co., Liverpool; Mr. Ernest Tyler Smith, Salop; Mr. H. Burdett, Greenwich; Mr. W. W. Reeves, London; Our Paris Correspondent; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. George Johnson, London; An Associate; Dr. Michael Harris, Liverpool; Mr. Wilson Hope, Petworth; Dr. Hime, Sheffield; Dr. Finlayson, Glasgow; Mr. Butler, Glasgow; Dr. G. de Gorrequer Griffith, London; Dr. Balthazar W. Foster, Birmingham; Dr. Craig, Edinburgh; Dr. Desmond, Liverpool; Mr. Steele, Clifton; Mr. Prince, Tunbridge Wells; Mr. T. Annandale, Edinburgh; Dr. Bradbury, Cambridge; Dr. Sansom, London; Dr. Hawksley, London; Dr. Sieveking, London; Mr. De Méric, London; Dr. Lauder Brunton, London; Mr. F. Jordan, Birmingham; Dr. Parkes, Bitterne; Mr. Callender, London; Dr. Tindal Robertson, Nottingham; Dr. Ransome, Manchester; Dr. Russell, Birmingham; Mr. H. Morris, London; Dr. Farquharson, London; Mr. Allingham, London; Mr. J. Rouse, London; Dr. Hughlings Jackson, London; Dr. H. Charlton Bastian, London; Dr. A. Robertson, Glasgow; Dr. Cleland, Galway; Dr. J. C. Browne, Wakefield; Mr. Holthouse, London; Dr. Robert King, London; Mr. Joliffe Tufnell, Dublin; Dr. Ferrier, London; Dr. Rasch, London; Mr. M. H. Stapleton, Dublin; Dr. de Chaumont, Woolston; Mr. N. C. Dolman, Clifton; Dr. J. B. Potter, London; Dr. Ramskill, London; Dr. John Williams, London; Dr. Ross, Manchester; Mr. Fairlie Clarke, London; Mr. E. J. Adams, London; Dr. Frodsham, Streatham; Dr. Wynn Westcott, Martock; Dr. Moon, Brighton; Mr. J. H. Jackman, Swymbridge; A Liverpool Associate; Mr. H. Sewill, London; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. T. H. Bartleet, Birmingham; Mr. Sanger, Seaford; Mr. MacCormac, Belfast; Dr. Ross, Manchester; Dr. Morgan, Manchester; Mr. J. R. Lane, London; Mr. Sydney Jones, London; Mr. B. A. Rugg, Earlswood; Dr. Trollope, St. Leonard's-on-Sea; Dr. Sayre, Philadelphia; Dr. Taafe, Brighton; Dr. W. Squire, London; Dr. Heaton, Leeds; Dr. Gillespie, Edinburgh; Mr. W. B. Dalby, London; Dr. J. E. Pollock, London; Dr. J. B. Yeo, London; Dr. Douglas Powell, London; Dr. Philipson, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Mr. Chiene, Edinburgh; Dr. Sibbald, Edinburgh; Dr. Smith-Shand, Aberdeen; Mr. Eastes, London; Mr. Macready, London; Dr. Wilks, London; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Outlines of the Science and Practice of Medicine. By Wm. Aitken, M.D., F.R.S. London: Chas. Griffin and Sons. 1874.
Address in Medicine delivered at the Meeting of the British Medical Association in Norwich, 1874. By J. Russell Reynolds, M.D., F.R.S. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1874.
Nature Series: Polarisation of Light. By William Spottiswoode, M.A., LL.D., F.R.S., etc. London: Macmillan and Co. 1874.
The Elements of Embryology. By M. Foster, M.A., M.D., F.R.S., and Francis M. Balfour, B.A. London: Macmillan and Co. 1874.
The Elements of the Psychology of Cognition. By Robert Jardine, B.D., D.S. London: Macmillan and Co. 1874.