

THE CRUELTY TO ANIMALS BILL.

*To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in
Parliament assembled,*

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH—

THAT the number of persons in Great Britain engaged in the pursuit of physiological and medical research and experiment on living animals is very small, in all, perhaps, not exceeding twenty.

That the results of such investigation in this country and abroad have been, and are likely to be, in the highest degree conducive to improvement in the knowledge and treatment of disease, and to the mitigation of the severest scourges which afflict mankind and the brute creation.

That the pain incidental to such investigation is largely annulled by the use of anæsthetics ; that the sum of suffering connected with or caused by physiological experiment is so small as to be infinitesimal when compared with that which is, without any attempt at regulation or restriction, inflicted by farmers, farriers, trappers, hunters, fishermen, and others for the purposes of trade, domestic convenience, or sport.

That notwithstanding the excited allegations to the contrary, which were publicly made last year, and since widely disseminated, the comprehensive inquiry of the Royal Commission has failed to elicit evidence of even a single instance of want of humanity among the professors and teachers of the Medical Schools and Universities of Great Britain ; and speaking of those schools, the Commissioners are able unanimously to state that "the evidence shows conclusively that the sense of humanity in the students is not in fact impaired".

That the experience and knowledge of all the teachers in medical schools, and of those persons who have the most ample opportunities of knowing, entirely negatives the allegation that unpractised students are at all in the habit of performing, or do perform, painful experiments on animals. Such a practice among students is described by the Royal Commission as being at least "exceptional and abnormal" ; it may, however, be more accurately asserted not to exist at all ; further, the authority of the professors and the force of opinion among the students may be confidently relied on to prevent any such practice from arising.

That the medical profession are deeply penetrated with the sentiment of humanity, and the consciousness of the nature and evils of pain, and that all mitigation and prevention of suffering, whether of man or animal, has sprung from their researches, and is due to their daily labours.

That no abuse of physiological experiment has been shown to exist in this country, nor is there any reasonable ground for believing that it is likely to exist ; but, on the contrary, it may safely be assumed that professional opinion and authority will always suffice to prevent inhumanity to animals in this country as a thing repugnant and detestable to the feelings and convictions of the medical men of Great Britain.

That no special legislation whatever is called for in respect to any existing practice of experiment on any country, nor is there any probability of its being required.

That the present Bill, intituled "An Act to amend the Law relating to Cruelty to Animals" is in fact a measure which, so far as it extends that law to other than domestic animals, makes the infliction of pain penal only when it is inflicted for the purposes of knowledge, and not under any other circumstances; that it casts a stigma, therefore, and imposes restrictions precisely upon that class of proceedings, and upon that class of persons, whose objects are most laudable, whose character is most trustworthy, and who inflict the very smallest proportion of pain when compared with the numerous classes of agriculturists, farriers, traders, trappers, and sportsmen, whose business involves the wholesale infliction of pain.

That the Royal Commission desired that any measure framed upon their report should aim at removing the feeling of suspicion which has been permitted to grow up against those who are devoted to the improvement of medicine and to the advancement of "science"; and that any such measure should be framed upon the model of the Anatomy Act, according to the suggestion of several of the most eminent witnesses.

That the present Bill goes far beyond the recommendations of the Commission, and the just inferences from the weight of evidence before them, inasmuch as

I. It treats the persons who have, upon due recommendation, received a "licence", as permanent objects of suspicion, and requires of them that they shall (a) apply for and obtain from the Secretary of State for the Home Department special permits or certificates for every series of experiments calculated to produce pain; (b) that they shall submit to whatever regulations or restrictions the Home Secretary may append to such certificates; (c) that they shall furnish to the Home Secretary whatever reports he may require as to such experiments; (d) that they shall only perform such experiments in registered places which he shall approve; (e) that whenever it is necessary to perform an experiment on a cat or dog, a horse, ass, or mule, a further permission shall be obtained from the Secretary of State.

II. It is, moreover, to be remarked, that the first four of these restrictions apply to the whole range of the animal kingdom, from the smallest tadpole or mollusc through the whole of the invertebrate as well as of vertebrate creatures.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honourable House that if any legislation should be thought necessary, it may be general and not special in its scope; and that it will extend Martin's Act, with such amendment of its machinery as may be found necessary to other than domestic animals, to which its operation is now limited; and that the present "Cruelty to Animals Bill" may be withdrawn.

If, notwithstanding the foregoing representations, the present Bill be further prosecuted, then your Petitioners pray that the analogy of the Anatomy Act, which alone was approved by the eminent witnesses before the Commission, be followed, and that the Bill be amended—

I.—By limiting its operation to the vertebrate kingdom of animals.

II.—By omitting all the clauses which require special certificates in addition to licences for performing painful operations; and further special certificates in respect to dogs, cats, etc.

III.—By providing that a licensed person may register any convenient place for the purpose of experiment, and that such register shall be a confidential document, accessible only to the Secretary of State, and to such officers and persons as he may appoint for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act.

IV.—That a register of all experiments performed shall be kept by the licensed person, and that such register shall be at all suitable times open to the inspector appointed under the Act, but that no other reports or returns be required from persons licensed under this Act.

Petitioners will ever pray.

I hereby request you to append to the Petition to the House of Commons on the Cruelty to Animals Bill, of which a printed copy is published in the JOURNAL, my signature hereto subscribed.

NAME.	DESIGNATION.	ADDRESS.

Please sign the above and return as soon

*Halfpenny
Stamp.*

FRANCIS FOWKE, Esq.,

36, GREAT QUEEN STREET,

LONDON, W.C.

THE HUNTERIAN MUSEUM.

PROFESSOR FLOWER, the indefatigable conservator of this fine collection, has just made his annual report on the state of it, and of the many additions about to be made to it, and which have been on view during the past week in the theatre of the College.

Among the noticeable additions in the Pathological department is a remarkable example of a peculiar form of hypertrophy of several of the bones of the same subject, presented by Sir James Paget. A valuable specimen of recovery from a fracture of the upper lumbar region of the spine, which occurred twenty-seven years before death, lately presented by Mr. T. Carr Jackson, was not yet sufficiently macerated to be included in the list of finished preparations. Mr. Spencer Wells has also recently presented a considerable collection of pathological specimens.

In the Osteological collection, some important skeletons of animals have been presented, including a set of bones of the "solitaire" of the Island of Rodriguez, presented by the Royal Society. The visit of the Prince of Wales to India has also been the means of enriching the collection; specimens of skeletons of tigers and bears which His Royal Highness has presented will be found particularly acceptable, as the skeletons of these animals in the museum are individuals which died in captivity in this country, and, therefore, not very favourable examples for osteological comparison.

The collection of human crania has received many valuable accessions during the year, particularly in a series of ten skulls of natives of the New Hebrides Islands, lately rendered notorious as the scene of the lamentable death of Commodore Goodenough, R.N. Three of these skulls were collected by Dr. Corrie, Surgeon to Her Majesty's ship *Pearl*. Their anatomical peculiarities, which are very marked, have formed the subject of a memoir lately read at the Anthropological Institute by Mr. Busk.

The body of an ancient Egyptian mummy, of the twenty-sixth dynasty, about 400 B.C., which was unrolled in July last at Stafford House, has been presented by the Duke of Sutherland, and articulated as a skeleton. An account of the inscription upon the case of the mummy has been published by Dr. Birch in the *Proceedings* of the Society of Biblical Archaeology, to which Mr. Flower has added some valuable notes upon the skeleton.

Mention was made in the last year's report of the formation of a collection of the auditory ossicles of various species of animals. The subject was found to offer such a wide and nearly new field of investigation that Mr. Doran, one of the museum assistants, has continued to make it a speciality, and the collection has now become by far the most perfect that has been brought together. Not only have all of these minute but highly characteristic bones which have hitherto been hidden in the recesses of the crania of the specimens in the museum been extracted and displayed in such a manner as clearly to show their distinctive peculiarities, but other contributions towards the completion of the series have been made from the private collections of Sir Victor Brooke, Professor Parker, and Professor Garrod. With the view of making the results of his examination of these specimens more generally known, Mr. Doran has lately communicated to the Royal Society a memoir describing the peculiarities of the auditory ossicles of the orders primates, carnivora, rodentia, and ungulata, and has a description of the remaining orders in progress.

The additions to the Physiology and Normal Anatomy collection are fully equal to the usual average in number and variety. Among them may be noticed, on account of its rarity in collections (arising from the difficulty of extracting and preserving it in a perfect state), the brain of an adult Indian elephant. This was obtained from the animal which died in the Zoological Society's Gardens last summer. The series of normal human anatomy has been continued this year by several elaborate preparations showing the distribution of the nerves. All the above are the work of Mr. William Pearson. Some beautiful injections of the placenta of several animals, illustrating the views of the donor, as expressed in his lectures at the College, have been presented by Professor Turner of Edinburgh.

In Surgical Instruments and Appliances, Sir William Fergusson has presented, among other instruments of interest, a series of early forms of lithotrites, including some designed and constructed by himself.

The list of Pathological Specimens added to the museum since the last annual report is very meagre; and we think it much to be regretted that the Fellows and members of the College do not take a more lively and liberal interest in this part of the collection. The pathological collection of the Royal College of Surgeons of England ought not to be inferior to any in the world.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Forty-fourth Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Sheffield, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, August 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 1876.

President.—Sir ROBERT CHRISTISON, Bart., M.D., D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S. Edin.

President-elect.—M. M. DE BARTOLOMÉ, M.D., Senior Physician to the Sheffield General Infirmary.

An Address in Medicine will be given by E. H. SIEVEKING, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician-Extraordinary to the Queen.

An Address in Surgery will be given by W. F. FAVELL, Esq., Surgeon to the General Infirmary, Sheffield.

An Address in Public Medicine will be given by ALFRED CARPENTER, M.D., Croydon.

The business of the Association will be transacted in Four Sections, viz.:—

SECTION A. MEDICINE.—*President*: Dr. Chadwick, Tunbridge Wells. *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. J. C. Hall, Sheffield; Dr. Law, Sheffield. *Secretaries*: Dr. Robert Farquharson, 23, Brook Street, London; Dr. Banham, Glossop Road, Sheffield.

SECTION B. SURGERY.—*President*: Jonathan Hutchinson, Esq., London. *Vice-Presidents*: C. G. Wheelhouse, Esq., Leeds; J. Barber, Esq., Sheffield. *Secretaries*: Dr. J. Hardwicke, Milton Lodge, Rotherham; John Chiene, Esq., 21, Ainslie Place, Edinburgh.

SECTION C. OBSTETRIC MEDICINE.—*President*: Dr. Lombe Atchill, Dublin. *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. E. Jackson, Sheffield; Dr. Thorburn, Manchester. *Secretaries*: Dr. Wiltshire, 57, Wimpole Street, London; F. Woolhouse, Esq., Chantry Road, Sheffield.

SECTION D. PUBLIC MEDICINE.—*President*: Dr. J. B. Russell, Glasgow. *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. Eastwood, Darlington; Dr. F. T. Griffiths, Sheffield. *Secretaries*: Dr. H. F. Parsons, Goole; Dr. S. Drew, Chapeltown, Sheffield.

Local Secretaries.

Arthur Jackson, Esq., St. James's Row, Sheffield.

J. H. Keeling, M.D., 267, Glossop Road, Sheffield.

Tuesday, August 1st.

1 P.M.—Meeting of Committee of Council.

3 P.M.—Meeting of Council, 1875-76.

8 P.M.—General Meeting.—President's Address; Annual Report of Council; and other business.

Wednesday, August 2nd.

9.30 A.M.—Meeting of Council, 1876-77.

11.30 A.M.—Second General Meeting.

11.30 A.M.—Address in Medicine.

2 to 5 P.M.—Sectional Meetings.

9 P.M.—Soirée.—Weston Park Museum.

Thursday, August 3rd.

9 A.M.—Meeting of Committee of Council.

10 A.M.—Third General Meeting.—Reports of Committees.

11 A.M.—Address in Surgery.

2 to 5 P.M.—Sectional Meetings.

6.30 P.M.—Public Dinner.

Friday, August 4th.

10 A.M.—Address in Public Medicine.

11 A.M.—Sectional Meetings.

1.30 P.M.—Concluding General Meeting.—Reports of Committees, etc.

Promenade Concert at the Albert Hall.—Visits to the Works.

Saturday, August 5th.

EXCURSIONS.—Chatsworth, Wentworth, Wharfedale, and other places.

PAPERS.—The following papers have been promised.

Allbutt, T. Clifford, M.D. On some of the Causes of Granulating Kidney.

Bantock, G. G., M.D. On the Treatment of Ruptured Perinæum.

Bradbury, J. B., M.D. A Case of Idiopathic Anæmia treated unsuccessfully by Phosphorus: Death: Necropsy.

Britton, Thomas, M.D. The Origin of Scarlatina.

Browne, Lennox, F.R.C.S.Ed. 1. Cases illustrating the successful Treatment of Suffocative Goitre without Excision of the Gland.—2. Observations on the Treatment of Postnasal Catarrh.

Bucknill, J. C., M.D. The Credibility of Medico-Legal Evidence.
Carter, C. H., B.A., M.D. On the Treatment of Ovarian Cysts by Drainage.

Chiene, John, F.R.C.S.Ed. Cases of Irreducible Femoral Hernia.
Collie, A., M.D. Remarks on Contagion and Contagious Hospitals.
Drysedale, C. R., M.D. 1. On Syphilitic Epilepsy.—2. On the Duality of the Chancre.—3. Alcohol and Public Health.—4. Animal Vaccination.

Eassie, W., C.E. Mechanical Disinfection.
Eastwood, J. W., M.D.
Edis, Arthur, W., M.D. On the Influence of Posture in the Treatment of Uterine Displacements.

Foss, R. W., M.D. The Mortality of Ironworkers.
Foster, Balthazar, M.D. Note on Epidemic Cerebro-Spinal Fever.
Fothergill, J. Milner, M.D. The successful Treatment of Dilated Heart.

Fox, C. B., M.D. Dissemination of Zymotic Disease among the Public by Tradespeople.

Fox, J. M., Esq. Sewer-Ventilation.
Galabin, A. L., M.A., M.D. On the Mechanism of Extraction by the Long Curved Forceps.

Gowers, W. R., M.D. 1. The State of the Arteries in Bright's Disease.—2. The Diagnosis of Labyrinthine Vertigo.

Hall, John Charles, M.D. The Effects of Trades of Sheffield on the Workmen employed in them.

Hime, Thomas W., B.A., M.B. Hemiatrophia facialis progressiva.
Holthouse, Carsten, F.R.C.S. On Twelve Months' Experience of the Treatment of Inebriates at Balham.

Johnson, George, M.D., F.R.S. On 'Cases of Latent Peritonitis, with Copious Effusion into the Peritoneum.

Kerr, Norman S., M.D. The Medical Administration of Alcohol.
Lownds, F. W., Esq. Ought the Contagious Diseases Acts to be extended?

Monks, E. H., L.R.C.P.Ed. Jaundice occurring during Pregnancy, and its effects upon Mother and Child.

Rogers, Joseph, M.D. Chaos, as exemplified in Central and Local Sanitary Administration.

Routh, C. H. F., M.D. On Fibrous Tumours of the Uterus.
Sadler, Michael T., M.D. Obstruction of the Bowels from Enteritis: with Cases.

Sims, J. Marion, M.D. Epithelioma of the Cervix Uteri.
Squire, William, M.D. The Registration of Disease, and the Part to be taken therein by the Medical Profession.

Stainthorpe, Thomas, M.D. A Case of Puerperal Convulsions treated successfully with Hypodermic Injections of Ergotine.

Taylor, C. B., M.D. On the Principles that should guide us in selecting an Operation in Cases of Senile Cataract.

Thompson, J. Ashburton, L.R.C.P. A New Emetic Purge.
Vacher, F., Esq. Public Baths.

Yeo, I. Burney, M.D. The Results of Modern Research in the Treatment of Phthisis.

Gentlemen desirous of reading papers, cases, or other communications, are requested to forward the titles to the General Secretary, or to one of the Secretaries of the Section in which the paper is to be read. All papers should be forwarded to one of the above named officers at as early a date as possible.

No paper must exceed twenty minutes in reading, and no subsequent speech must exceed ten minutes; all speeches at the General Meeting must not exceed ten minutes each.

THE ANNUAL MUSEUM.

The Ninth Annual Museum of the above Association will be held in the Church Institute, Sheffield, on August 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 1876.

The Museum Committee will be glad to receive applications as early as possible from persons desirous of becoming exhibitors, and with such applications a statement of the amount of space required.

The fittings necessary for exhibiting the objects sent will be provided; but all expenses connected with packing and carriage, and all risk from injury or loss, must be borne by the exhibitors.

A printed or written description of all articles intended for exhibition must be forwarded for insertion in the Catalogue: All such descriptions must be sent to either of the Secretaries, on or before July 15th; and all articles intended for exhibition must be delivered (addressed "Museum Committee", Church Institute) on or before July 24th, 1876.

The name of the exhibitor should be written on the outside of each parcel; and, to facilitate the return of the articles, a card bearing his name and address should be enclosed.

All communications should be addressed to the Secretaries, from whom any further information can be readily obtained.

W. R. THOMAS, Norfolk Street, } *Honorary Secretaries,*
SIMEON SNELL, 17, Eyre Street, } *Museum Committee.*

The articles to be exhibited must be included in one of the following classes.

1. New Instruments and Appliances in Medicine, Surgery, and Obstetrics.

2. New Drugs, new Preparations, and new Articles of Diet for Invalids.

3. Pathological Specimens, with Photographs, Models, Casts, etc., illustrating Disease.

4. New Physiological Apparatus; Microscopes and Microscopic Specimens, Pathological and General. New Chemicals and other Appliances used in Histological Research.

5. New Inventions relating to Public Health.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary.*
36, Great Queen Street, London, June 8th, 1876.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE twenty-fourth annual meeting of this Branch will be held at St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, on Friday, July 14th, at 4 P.M. precisely: President, ROBERT BARNES, M.D.; President-elect, JONATHAN HUTCHINSON, Esq.

Dinner at 6 o'clock precisely. Tickets, One Guinea each.

ALEXANDER HENRY, M.D. } *Honorary Secretaries.*
ROBERT FARQUHARSON, M.D. }
London, June 14th, 1876.

BATH AND BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCHES.

A JOINT meeting of the Bath and Bristol and the Gloucestershire Branches will be held at Berkeley, on July 18th.

Trains to Berkeley Road from Bath at 11.35; from Bristol, 12.35; and from Gloucester at 12.34. Leaving Berkeley Road for Bath and Bristol at 7.55; and for Gloucester at 7.41, or 9.14.

Special arrangements for seeing Berkeley Castle, and for dinner, will be announced hereafter. All members intending to join are requested to send their names to either of the Secretaries immediately.

DR. BATTEN, Gloucester. } *Honorary Secretaries.*
E. C. BOARD, Clifton. }
R. S. FOWLER, Bath. }

Bath, July 3rd, 1876.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the County Hotel, Carlisle, on Friday, July 21st, at One o'clock.

Gentlemen intending to read papers are requested to give early notice thereof to one or other of the Secretaries.

STEWART LOCKIE, } *Honorary Secretaries.*
JOHN SMITH, }

Carlisle, July 3rd, 1876.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Clarence Hotel, Bridgwater, on Thursday, July 27th, at 2.30 P.M.

Dinner at 5 o'clock.

Members who may desire to bring any communications before the meeting are requested to give notice to the Secretary.

W. M. KELLY, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*
Taunton, June 19th, 1876.

SOUTH DEVON AND CORNWALL BRANCH: FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual general meeting was held at the Athenæum, Plymouth, on June 27th, at 3.30 P.M.; P. W. SWAIN, Esq., in the chair.

Mr. W. J. SQUARE, the President-elect, gave a short address.

Mr. C. Bulteel was appointed President-elect for the ensuing year.

As the Branch was hardly in working order, it was determined to send no representative to Council until next year.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH: FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.

THE first annual general meeting of the Branch was held on June 23rd, at 2 P.M., in the Faculty Hall, Glasgow. Professor ALLEN THOMSON, the President, took the chair, and delivered an inaugural address. (See p. 35.)

On the motion of Dr. MORTON, a vote of thanks was given to Dr. Allen Thomson for his address.

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

"In presenting their first report, the Council congratulate the Branch on the very favourable start which it has made, the numbers having already reached 130.

"It may be well here to say something as to the history of the Branch. It has been felt by many that advantages are likely to be gained by the association of members of the medical profession residing in the same district. There are matters occasionally coming up which interest the profession at large, and in which combined action is likely to afford good results. This has led in recent years to the formation of various associations in certain districts of Scotland. The usefulness of such associations will probably be more apparent to persons residing outside the large centres than to those within; but even the latter have, perhaps, few enough opportunities of meeting for the friendly exchange of ideas and for the discussion of matters of general professional interest. It is to the existence of some such feeling as this that the Branch owes its success. The Council is happy to say that this success seems to them secured by the large numbers who have already joined.

"The first step taken towards the formation of the Branch was the calling of a meeting of existing members of the British Medical Association to consider the propriety of moving in the matter. This meeting was held in the Faculty Hall, Glasgow, on November 30th, 1875, and it was there stated that at that date the Association numbered 86 members in Glasgow, and 75 in the counties of Ayr, Lanark, Renfrew, Dumbarton, and Argyle—in all, 161. The meeting unanimously adopted the following resolution: 'This meeting considers that, in view of the large number of members of the British Medical Association in the West of Scotland, it is advisable that they should be organised into a Branch. It is accordingly hereby resolved that such a Branch shall be formed, under the name of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch of the British Medical Association.'

"It will be in the remembrance of those who were present at that meeting that the question came up as to the kind of business which such a Branch should undertake. And it seemed agreed that, there being in Glasgow a sufficient number of purely medical societies, this Branch should endeavour to confine itself as much as possible to matters of general professional interest. At the same time, it seemed to be felt that circumstances might arise in which purely medical or scientific subjects could with propriety be introduced, and that there was, therefore, no need to lay down any absolute rule against them. It will be seen that in the laws ultimately adopted the general expression 'matters of professional interest' was used as indicating the business of the annual meeting.

"This meeting then appointed a provisional committee, with instructions to draw up a constitution and laws for the Branch, and to report at a future meeting. The Committee met on December 31st, and went carefully over a proposed set of laws and regulations. The members of the Association were again called to a general meeting on January 18th, 1876. This meeting completed the organisation of the Branch by adopting the laws and constitution as prepared by the provisional committee, and by electing the office-bearers for the year.

"These laws of the Branch were in due course approved by the Committee of Council of the Parent Association, and the Branch was thereby formally recognised.

"The Council would specially direct the attention of members of the Branch who reside outside Glasgow to No. XI of the By-Laws, by which it is enacted that members residing in any district may form themselves into a district society. Such local societies would probably meet occasionally to show interesting cases and discuss medical subjects. But they might also consider any professional matters specially concerning their district. By means of the Branch and the Parent Association, they would have an organisation to their hand for bringing before the profession and the proper authorities any matters which they might regard of sufficient importance.

"The Council would add that, in preparing the programme of this meeting, they have not thought it necessary to bring forward any special subject for discussion. They consider it more suitable that this first meeting should be rather a preliminary and social nature, and pos-

sibly subjects may be suggested which will give material for action at future meetings."

The report was adopted on the motion of the PRESIDENT.

The Office-bearers for the ensuing year were then elected, with the following results:—*President-elect*: Dr. G. H. B. Macleod. *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. Grieve, Dr. Fraser. *Secretaries*: Dr. Joseph Coats, Dr. James G. Lyon. *Council*: Dr. W. T. Gairdner, Dr. McCall Anderson, Dr. Morton, Dr. Fergus, of Glasgow; Dr. Fairless of Bothwell; Dr. Macleod of Kilmarnock; Dr. Cuthill of Denny; Dr. Stewart of Greenock; Dr. Steven of Ardrossan.

Dinner.—At the conclusion of the business, a dinner was provided, to which about fifty sat down.

EDINBURGH BRANCH: FIRST ANNUAL MEETING.

THE first annual meeting of this Branch was held on Thursday, June 22nd; Sir R. CHRISTISON, Bart., President of the Branch, in the chair.

Officers and Council.—After the preliminary business had been transacted, Dr. Bishop was elected Treasurer, in the place of Dr. J. G. Sinclair Coghill, resigned; and Mr. Annandale was elected a member of the Council, in the place of the late Dr. Warburton Begbie.

Admission of Women to the Association.—Mr. ANNANDALE, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. LISTER, moved the following resolutions, which were carried unanimously.

"That, in the opinion of this Branch, the introduction of women into the Association involves such a fundamental change in its constitution, that it was *ultra vires* of any Branch to admit women without the sanction of the general body."

"That a copy of the above resolution be transmitted to the Committee of Council, with the request that they will afford an opportunity of bringing it before the general meeting about to be held in Sheffield."

Legislation for Habitual Drunkards.—A petition in favour of legislation on the habitual drunkard question was allowed to lie on the table, as it was deemed an unfavourable time to petition, seeing that legislation on the subject could not take place this session.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of this Branch was held on Wednesday, June 28th, at Exeter. Prior to the meeting, the President-elect, C. H. ROPER, Esq. (Senior Surgeon to the Devon and Exeter Hospital), most hospitably entertained the members at luncheon. The meeting was held in the Board Room of the Hospital. In the absence of the President, the chair was taken at 1 P.M. by Dr. BARHAM of Truro, who briefly introduced Mr. ROPER, who then took the chair, and delivered an able address.

Vote of Thanks.—On the motion of Dr. BARHAM, seconded by Dr. THOMPSON of Bideford, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the President for his address.

Next Annual Meeting.—It was proposed by Dr. HARRIS (Redruth), seconded by Mr. ROLSTON (Devonport), and carried unanimously: "That the meeting in 1877 be held at Penzance; and that Dr. J. B. Montgomery be the President-elect."

Proposed Combined Meeting.—It was proposed by Dr. BARHAM (Truro), seconded by Dr. NANKIVELL (Torquay), and carried unanimously: "That the Council of the Branch be requested to communicate with the Council of the South Devon and Cornwall Branch, and ask if they can make arrangements for a combined meeting of the two Branches at Penzance next year."

A Vote of Thanks was passed to the retiring President, P. W. Swain, Esq.

Council of the Branch.—The following gentlemen were elected to fill vacancies on the Branch Council: C. Barham, M.D. (Truro), W. H. Dodge, Esq. (Penzance), H. Harris, M.D. (Redruth), R. S. Hudson, M.D. (Redruth), R. W. P. Kerswill, Esq. (St. Germans).

Representation in the General Council.—The following members were elected as representatives of the Branch in the General Council: C. Radclyffe Hall, M.D. (Torquay), H. Harris, M.D. (Redruth), R. W. P. Kerswill, Esq. (St. Germans), J. B. Montgomery, M.D. (Penzance), T. E. Owen, Esq. (Plymouth), C. H. Roper, Esq. (Exeter), Spencer Thomson, M.D. (Torquay).

The Secretary.—The Honorary Secretary, Mr. J. Woodman, having stated his intention to retire, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to him for his services during the past five years. Louis Tosswill, M.B., of Exeter was unanimously elected Honorary Secretary.

Parliamentary Bills Committee.—The Honorary Secretary (L. Toss-
will, Esq.) was then elected to represent the Branch on the Parlia-
mentary Bills Committee.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were elected members of
the Branch and Association: L. R. Potter, M.B. (Collumpton), W. H.
Heygate, Esq. (Crediton), F. P. Phelps, M.A. (Exeter), G. H. Whid-
borne, Esq. (Topsham).

The Branch Subscription was raised to half-a-crown.

Communications.—The PRESIDENT exhibited the following cases:
Case of double amputation below the knee, able to walk well, fitted
with artificial legs by Gillingham of Chard; three cases of excision of
joints, hip, knee, and ankle.

MR. CUMING, MR. CAIRD, and MR. BANKHART also showed cases;
and Dr. HENDERSON one of successful ovariectomy.

A paper on Typhoid was to have been read by Dr. THOMPSON of
Bideford, but time did not permit.

MR. SOMER of Broadclyst exhibited an ingenious bed-lift for moving
a paralytic patient in bed.

After the meeting, by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter,
Mayor, etc., the Cathedral (just restored), the Guildhall, Albert
Memorial Museum, and Gaol were visited.

Dinner.—The members then dined, fifty sitting down, the Mayor of
Exeter being there as the guest of the President.

Conversations.—In the evening, a very successful *conversations* was
given by the Devon and Exeter Medico-Chirurgical Society, to which
all the members were invited; thus ending one of the most successful
meetings this Branch has ever held.

SOUTH MIDLAND, AND CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUN- TINGDONSHIRE BRANCHES: COMBINED ANNUAL MEETING.

A MEETING of the South Midland Branch, in conjunction with the
Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Branch, was held in the Board
Room of the Harpur Charity Trustees, Bedford, on Tuesday, June
20th, at 3 P.M.; Present: H. W. SHARPIN, Esq., President, in the
Chair, and forty members. About thirty gentlemen were previously
entertained to luncheon at the President's house, at 1.30 P.M. The
new President, Mr. Sharpin, was introduced to the Chair by H. Terry,
Esq., ex-President.

Combined Meeting in 1878.—It was decided that a combined meet-
ing of the above Branches with the East Anglian be held at Peter-
borough in 1878.

New Members.—The following gentlemen were elected: E. Hem-
sted, M.D., Wellingborough; Cottingham Johnson, Esq., Bedford;
E. Hacon, Esq., Bedford.

President's Address.—The President read an address referring to the
benefits of membership, also to the most important medical topics of
the day, as Vivisection, Medical Education of Women, etc. A vote
thanks was proposed for the same by Professor HUMPHRY, and se-
conded by Dr. FRANCIS.

Papers and Cases.—1. Dr. PRIOR read a paper on the Bedford
Experience of Puerperal Fever, with cases.

2. Dr. BRADBURY read a paper on Two Cases of Hydatid Tumour
of the Liver, treated by operation successfully.

3. Mr. H. STEAR read a paper on Belladonna Poisoning (Liniment
of Belladonna), treated successfully by evacuating the stomach—emetics,
etc.—Dr. LATHAM related the case of a person who accidentally
swallowed five or six drachms of solution of atropine. Immediately
on discovering the mistake, warm water and salt were copiously ad-
ministered, and copious vomiting quickly ensued. Morphia was then
injected subcutaneously, and strong coffee administered internally.
The patient made a good recovery.

4. Professor HUMPHRY made some remarks on the treatment of
wounds, advocating stitching, and leaving without any dressing. He
described and illustrated Lister's carbolic dressing; he also advocated
a system of drainage, as the most efficacious known.—Dr. BUSZARD
replied at some length, particularly as to the fault of wounds not
healing by first intention.

Votes of Thanks were given to the readers of papers; to the Presi-
dent for his conduct in the chair; to the honorary secretaries; to the
authorities for the use of the Board Room.

Dinner.—The members adjourned to an excellent dinner at the
Swan Hotel, were twenty-four sat down. The Presidents of the
Branches, Dr. Humphry and Mr. Sharpin, occupied the middle table,
opposite to each other, with the Secretaries, Dr. Bryan and Dr. Brad-

bury, at the ends. The usual loyal and other toasts were drunk, fol-
lowed by those for the continued prosperity of the British Medical
Association, the Branches, the Presidents, the Secretaries, etc. The
members departed about 9.30 after an agreeable and interesting
meeting.

Officers and Council of the South Midland Branch.—The following
have been elected. *President*: H. W. Sharpin, Esq., Bedford; *Pre-
sident-elect*: W. Moxon, Esq., Northampton; *Secretaries*: J. M. Bryan,
M.D., and W. Moxon, Esq.; *Treasurer*: J. M. Bryan, M.D.; *Other
Members of Committee*: F. Buszard, M.D.; C. J. Evans, Esq.; G. P.
Goldsmith, Esq.; E. Lawford, M.D.; J. A. Macdonald, M.D.; C. E.
Prior, M.D.; T. J. Walker, M.D.; R. W. Watkins, Esq. *Represen-
tatives in the General Council*: R. Ceely, Esq.; D. J. T. Francis,
M.D.; J. A. Macdonald, M.D.; H. Terry, Esq.; J. M. Bryan, M.D.,
Secretary. *Representative in the Parliamentary Bills Committee*: J.
M. Bryan, M.D.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3RD, 1876.

J. D. GILLESPIE, M.D., President, in the Chair.

Tubercular Deposits in Spleen.—Dr. JAMES CARMICHAEL showed a
spleen, in which were numerous miliary tubercular deposits. It was
taken from a boy, seven years of age, who died of meningitis. There
were caseous deposits in the lungs, as well as small granulations on the
pleura. The brain presented the usual appearances found in tubercular
meningitis, with the exception that there were no small granulations on
the pia mater, the whole of which, however, was intensely congested;
the central space between the optic commissure in front and the pons
Varolii behind being quite blocked up with sero-fibrinous lymph. The
corpus callosum and fornix were softened.

Demonstration of Recent Brain-Lesions.—Dr. J. B. TUKE described
Charcot's method of demonstrating recent lesions of the brain, which,
though not exactly pathological, was yet of great interest. The brain
to be preserved was steeped in nitric acid and water for about six
weeks. By this, its size was much reduced, its colour altered, and it
could then be preserved, without any further trouble, for the purpose
of demonstrating brain-lesions. This method of preservation, he be-
lieved, to be both interesting and useful for teaching purposes.

Inguinal and Femoral Hernia on same Side.—Mr. ANNANDALE read
a note of a large reducible inguinal and femoral hernia affecting the
same side, successfully treated by operation. [A full account of this
appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for May 6th.]—The
PRESIDENT, having expressed the thanks of the Society to Mr. Annan-
dale, said that, for his own part, he would like to see the patient again
in about nine months, because his experience of radical operations had
been that the hernia recurred. In Mr. Annandale's case, there seemed
to be a fair prospect of success as to the inguinal hernia; but there was
a slight recurrence of the femoral one. The latter probably, however,
would not be so large as formerly, and might be restrained by a truss.
He noticed, too, that, on the other side, the patient seemed likely to
have another hernia, so that he might again require a similar operation
for it.—Mr. CHIENE assisted Mr. Annandale at the operation, and had
felt pleasure at the prospect. The methods of operating for the radical
cure of hernia were chiefly three in number. Wutzer plugged the canal;
Wood stitched the aperture; while others ligatured the neck of the sac
with silk or silver wire. Wutzer's and Wood's plans generally failed
in the long run. In Mr. Annandale's case, he believed the inguinal
hernia would not recur. From 1867, he had been watching for cases of
complete or partial closure of the neck of the sac. He had now ob-
served two such, where the opening was partially closed. In the one,
it admitted the little finger, and, therefore, a cure was going on owing
to the pressure of the truss; while in the other, only the handle of a
pen could be introduced. At the time of the operation, he felt sure
that the result would be as good in the case of the femoral as of the in-
guinal hernia. He, therefore, believed that the true way to operate in
such cases was that based on the pathological results of his cases, viz.,
that the sac-contents should be returned, and the neck of the sac
ligatured; and that they should not attempt to cure by plugging the
canal.—Dr. A. R. SIMPSON remarked on the absence of any distinct
history in Mr. Chiene's cases.—Mr. BELL said that it would certainly
be a happy consummation if a radical cure of hernia could be accom-
plished; but, along with the President and Dr. Simpson, he would
have liked to see Mr. Chiene's cases during life. Professor Roser had
found many hernial sacs after death without any contents; and his

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, June 29th, 1876.

Duke, Edgar, 321, Clapham Road
Snell, Edward Arthur, St. Wilfrid's, Mortlake
Southam, Frederick Armitage, Pendleton, Manchester

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

Alford, Charles Edward, University College
Crick, Samuel Arthur, St. Thomas's Hospital
Jolly, Robert William, Charing Cross Hospital
Woodman, William Edwin, St. Thomas's Hospital

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN: Trinity Term, 1876.—At the examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine, held on Monday and Tuesday, June 12th and 13th, the successful candidates were placed in order of merit as follows.

Davison, Henry A.
Wright, William, M.A. } equal
Blunden, William
Hamilton, Thomas K.
Benson, Arthur H.
Fullerton, Richard
Fitzgerald, Dudley L.
Gorman, Charles
Poole, Jonas S.
Maginniss, Robert M.
Conry, Walter
Taylor, Sidney H.
Kenny, William W.

Peyton, Jones L.
Cooper, Charles A.
Marshall, Joseph
Orr, David W.
Power, Edward
Biddulph, Richard E.
Dwyer, John H.
Sproule, Oliver G.
Hamilton, James A. G.
Whitaker, George
Lambert, William F.
Newell, Shapland H.
Comyn, George

At the examination for the degree of Bachelor in Surgery, held on Monday and Tuesday, June 19th and 20th, the candidates passed in the following order of merit.

Maginniss, Robert M.
Peyton, Jones L.
Poole, Jonas S.
Fullerton, Richard
Fox, Charles
Gorman, Charles
Barrington, Harry E. W.
Sproule, Oliver
Fetherston, H. Charles
O'Carroll, Martin

The Medical Travelling Prize was awarded to Henry A. Davison. The Surgical Travelling Prize was not awarded.

KING AND QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN IRELAND.—At the ordinary monthly examination meetings of the College, held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, June 13th, 14th, and 15th, 1876, the following candidates obtained the Licence to Practise Medicine.

Armstrong, John
Coynne, Francis Kennedy
Fairclough, John James Kent
Gould, Edward Gardiner
Middieton, John Jameson
McNulty, John
McParland, Owen Aloysius
Ross, Charles Emilius

The Licence to Practise Midwifery was obtained by the candidates marked *m*, and by
Marks, Edward George Keighly

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:—

BURY UNION—Medical Officer for the First Tottington District.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL—Medical Registrar. Applications on or before July 12th.

CHORLTON UNION—Dispenser at the Workhouse.

CUMBERLAND INFIRMARY, Carlisle—Resident Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £60 per annum. Applications before July 12th.

FULHAM UNION—Medical Officer for the First District.

HANTS COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM—Two Assistant Medical Officers. Salary of Senior Officer, £150 per annum; salary of Junior Officer, £100 per annum. Each will have furnished apartments, board, etc. Applications on or before July 10th.

HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN—House-Physician. Applications on or before July 30th.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN—Medical Registrar. Applications on or before July 13th.

INFIRMARY FOR CONSUMPTION, 26, Margaret Street—Visiting Physician. Applications on or before July 20th.

MANCHESTER ROYAL EYE INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon. Salary, £70 per annum, with board, etc. Applications on or before August 1st.

MILFORD AND LAUNDITCH UNION—Medical Officer. Salary, £45 per annum. Applications on or before July 14th.

NORWICH MEDICAL INSTITUTE—Surgeon. Salary, £150 per annum. Applications early in July.

SAMARITAN FREE HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN—Physician. Applications on or before July 15th.

WARWICK COUNTY ASYLUM—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, etc. Applications to the Superintendent.

WELLS UNION—Medical Officer for the Fourth District.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

BULL, Wm. H., M.R.C.S.E., appointed Surgeon to the Cottage Hospital and to the Provident Dispensary, Stoney Stratford, *vice* A. D. Mackay, M.B., deceased.

HETLEY, Henry, M.B., appointed House-Surgeon to the Leicester Infirmary, *vice* F. H. Hodges, L.R.C.P.Ed., resigned.

JOHNSTON, Arthur A., L.R.C.S.E., appointed House-Surgeon to the Bournemouth General Dispensary, *vice* Richard T. Hearn, M.B., resigned.

OWEN, Rayley, L.S.A., appointed Assistant House-Surgeon and Dispenser to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

SMITH, James Greig, M.A., M.B., appointed Assistant House-Surgeon to the Bristol Royal Infirmary, *vice* J. E. Shaw, M.B., resigned.

TAYLOR, John M., M.R.C.S., appointed Surgeon to the General Dispensary, Birmingham.

WILSON, J. Hamilton, M.B., appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Ipswich Borough Asylum, *vice* J. I. Bowes, M.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.

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.

DEATH.

GRAHAM.—On July 5th, at 59, Everton Road, Liverpool, aged 38, Susanna, wife of A. F. Graham, M.D.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAYMetropolitan 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.

TUESDAYGuy'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.

THURSDAYSt. 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.—Hospital for Women, 2 P.M.—St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department), 3 P.M.

FRIDAYRoyal 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.—Guy's, 1.30 P.M.

SATURDAYSt. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 9.30 A.M. and 1.30 P.M.—Royal Free, 9 A.M. and 2 P.M.

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

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.

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.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE "JOURNAL".

WE have again to impress upon our correspondents that as the bulk of communications addressed to the JOURNAL is considerably in excess of its space, the task of selection will be greatly facilitated by the observance of studied conciseness.

POISONING BY DECOMPOSED OYSTERS (f).

SIR.—Will any one of your readers kindly give me his opinion as to whether the following symptoms would be likely to be produced by eating decomposed oysters? G. G., aged 42, for the past three years has been affected with paraplegia and general symptoms of cerebral softening: lately, however, he has shown no symptoms likely to cause increased anxiety. His pulse was normal, and his appetite very good, until a few weeks ago, when, about ten minutes after partaking of four oysters for supper, he was suddenly seized with violent convulsions, twitching of the lips, rolling of the eyeballs, rigidity of the muscles (including those of the paralysed legs), violent eructations, and excessively swelled and tympanic condition of the epigastric and abdominal regions. This condition having continued about half-an-hour, an enema of turpentine and soap-and-water was administered, when in a few minutes an enormous amount of flatus was expelled both by the mouth and anus. The symptoms rapidly subsided, simply leaving the patient in a somewhat prostrated condition, with a slight tendency to vomiting, which was soon combated by a mixture of bismuth, ammonia, and prussic acid.

As far as I can ascertain, the patient had taken nothing likely to interfere with the digestive functions, except the above-mentioned four oysters, which, it appears, had been opened a considerable time before being eaten. Were the above symptoms due to the oysters, or to the previously existing deranged state of the cerebral functions?—I am, sir, yours, etc.,

GEORGE GREENSLADE.

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

"FOOLS RUSH IN."

SIR,—In the JOURNAL of to-day you refer, under the above heading, to a case in which a person, not a medical man, "bled one doctor with a lancet borrowed from a second, and in the presence of a third member of the profession, who looked on." It is not my intention to defend the action of the person who used the lancet with such ill-directed zeal on the occasion referred to; but I, for one, cannot hold the medical men who watched the proceeding blameless in the matter. It appears to me that, before placing a surgical instrument in the hands of a stranger, the house-surgeon referred to should have ascertained that the person who proposed to operate was a duly qualified surgeon. Until proof is forthcoming, we should not take for granted that every busybody who comes forward in a street or public place and undertakes the treatment of persons seized with sudden illness, is a medical man. One Sunday evening, not long ago, I was walking through a street in North London, when my attention was attracted by a crowd around a man lying on the pavement apparently in a fit. Elbowing my way through the crowd, I saw that a person in a black suit and with a white tie was feeling the man's pulse. For a minute or two I thought that the person was a medical man; but, seeing that his proceedings were not strictly professional, I ventured to ask him if he were a doctor. He replied in the negative, but stated that he knew a good deal of physic. I immediately sent a policeman for the nearest doctor, whose residence was within fifty yards, and told the amateur doctor (who, I learnt from a bystander, was a street-preacher), that he would earn a much higher reputation by attending to his own business than by interfering in cases of which he could know nothing whatever. Of course I did not disclose that I was a medical man, or he might have suggested that I was actuated by personal motives in objecting to his publicly exhibiting his medical knowledge.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
London, June 24th, 1876.

ANTI-QUACK.

DR. M. G. EVANS (Cardiff).—We cannot find any record of the cases to which our correspondent refers.

ASYLUM MEDICAL ETIQUETTE AND THE RIGHTS OF PUBLIC OFFICERS.

SIR,—I do not deny the paramount rights of the superintendent while on the premises, but am not aware of a "rule" granting him absolute authority when one hundred and fifty miles away. Dr. Phillimore is well aware that the assistant medical officer, in the absence of the superintendent, is chief medical officer, performs the duties of the superintendent, is held responsible for the well-being of the asylum and its inmates, and is under the control of the Committee of Visitors. I shall not quarrel over the title of "deputy superintendent", which is a quotation in the present case from a testimonial written by Dr. Phillimore himself. I should like to know the "rule" that enables him to confer a title one day and revoke it the next. Such a deviation from authority is unaccountable in Dr. Phillimore's conduct, and surely demands a word of explanation. The apparent discrepancy in the dates is easily explained: for those in the "case-book" the nurse is in part responsible. The casual fall of this tottering paralytic did not merit a special examination for fracture; and, moreover, as the patient required assistance in walking before the accident, there was nothing to arouse suspicion until the nurse observed "the swelling". Then the limb was examined and put up. Therefore, the "dates in the case-book" are but an approximation to the truth, whereas those published express as accurate a clinical opinion as I could possibly give; consequently, Dr. Phillimore's *indirect* charge of negligence on my part, and his jubilee over the "dates", fall together.

Dr. Phillimore has at length admitted that he found the limb under treatment on his resumption of office; and since the method of procedure adopted by me remained throughout, it becomes almost superfluous to reassert that "the case, its treatment, and the notes taken, were legally and morally mine". So much for the "ethics and dates". The "result" was disposed of in my last letter.

The introduction of the *post mortem* question into this discussion was merely as an illustration of Dr. Phillimore's views on "public rights" *versus* "science", and as corroborative of the assertion in my first letter, that the "ground" on which "he withheld his consent" to the publication of a case was, that "public officers have no right to use their patients for scientific purposes". A look at Note B in the report—which, by-the-by, is the second you have been favoured with—will serve to confirm my statement, and show Dr. Phillimore's exclusive and antagonistic opinions. Publishing those opinions is submitting them to his brethren; and the Commissioners of Lunacy who issued the "circular" have already commented on his opposition. Nay, he goes further, and declares that it is equally illegal to "write about" the living "as to 'cut up the dead'"; and, doubtless, if the latter practice of "using patients for scientific purposes" be a breach of the "written law", the former is a violation of the *lex non scripta*, which is the basis of individual right. I hold that, if Dr. Phillimore will not admit his verbal argument, his *post mortem* manifesto covers and more than proves my original assertion. To admit this, however, would be disastrous to his cause, as he himself has published cases; therefore, I am forced to conclude that when Dr. Phillimore "withheld his consent" he had no object to satisfy such a personal whim.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
Birmingham, June 26th, 1876.

ALEX. M'COOK WEIR, M.D.

NERVOUS SHOCK COMMUNICATED TO THE SUCKLED BABE?

SIR,—Permit me to give short notes of a case somewhat similar to that related by Mr. Blenkarn in your issue of last week. A healthy child of three months of age was brought by the mother to the surgery of the union medical officer in order to be vaccinated. During the time she was sitting in the surgery, a thunderstorm broke over the place. Whilst the child was being vaccinated, she gave it the breast; and the crying of the child during the little operation, together with the thunder and lightning, caused her much mental agitation. Soon after the operation was finished, there was a lull in the storm; but as it was still raining, she wrapped the child in a shawl, and, in order to keep it quiet, she allowed it to suck the breast, whilst she hurried to the railway-station, a distance of about three-quarters of a mile. On unwrapping the child at the station, to her horror she found it senseless; and, as my house was close to the station, a messenger was despatched for me, and I was in attendance without loss of time. The child, however, was dead, and, in Mr. Blenkarn's words, "it was perfectly pale, as white as marble, looked as if it were fast asleep, with a smile on its face, no lividity of the lips, no frothing at the nose or mouth, no appearance of its having had the least convulsive or spasmodic movement of any kind". So far, the cases are parallel in essential features. I was not, however, so fortunate as Mr. Blenkarn in having my opinion asked at the inquest. The coroner, who was *not* a medical man, directed the jury to bring in a verdict of "died from accidental causes", or "from the visitation of God", or some such absurdity, and the case was at once disposed of. Had my

opinion been asked, I should certainly have urged most strongly the necessity for a *post mortem* examination, and I think that such an examination would have helped me very much in forming an opinion of the cause of death. Surely the presence or absence of lesions in the brain, the condition of the lungs, and, above all, the condition of the heart with respect to the relative quantity of blood in its cavities, would have enabled me to judge whether death began in the brain, lungs, or heart; but in the absence of such evidence, I have the strongest possible conviction that, in her eagerness to protect the child from the rain, and in the subsequent forgetfulness caused by the agitation of her mind, the child was held so close to the breast as to have been smothered. The calm, peaceful, almost smiling, expression of countenance, just as if the person were in a happy sleep, is quite indicative of death by suffocation; nor does the marble pallor of the face immediately after death militate in the slightest degree against this opinion, though in such cases the face, after some hours, usually becomes more or less livid. And in Mr. Blenkarn's case I prefer to attribute the death to a similar cause, even although I place myself in opposition to the opinion of the coroner, and to that of the jury also, rather than make a gratuitous assumption of such a fictitious and altogether inadequate cause as "nervous shock through the mother".

I enclose my card, and remain, yours, etc.,
June 25th, 1876.

CAUTION.

DR. DRAPES (Enniscorthy).—1. Warburg's tincture is a preparation of a number of ingredients which has had much repute on the Continent for many years in malarious disease. Its composition was described some months ago by Dr. Maclean, in the *Medical Times and Gazette*. 2. In the case in which A. does not present himself at the end of at least half-an-hour after the time appointed, we think that B. might see the patient; but that he should take the earliest opportunity of having an interview with A., and should in the meantime not interfere with the treatment, unless the urgency of the symptoms demand such interference. 3. Bigelow's book may, we believe, be procured from Trübner and Co., Ludgate Hill, London.

DOCTOR AND M.D.

SIR,—As the prefix "Dr." has been so freely adopted and placed on the door-plates of non-University men, is there any objection to my placing on my plate simply my name, followed by "M.D."? I really know no other means of letting the public know what I am; and, being a spade, I should prefer being known as such, and not by a name merely implying any sort of garden tool, for the term "Doctor" may now be said to be the common property of every practitioner. But I ask your advice, as I should not willingly offend those who, while claiming the title "Dr.", cannot, as I propose, put on their plates

PETER SIMPLE, M.D.

* * We see no objection whatever, our correspondent being actually M.D.

A MEMBER (Strabane).—The form of printing the Reports to the Scientific Grants Committee has been adopted in order to facilitate their subsequent binding in a separate Volume of Scientific Reports, which will have a distinct value hereafter for reference, and as a volume of original research on physiological and therapeutic subjects. A legible and full-sized type has been purposely selected.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Birmingham Daily Post; The Leeds Mercury; The Glasgow Herald; The Manchester Courier; The Hull News; The Hastings and St. Leonard's Independent; The Nottingham Daily Guardian; The Worcester Chronicle; The Islington Gazette; The Bolton Weekly Journal; The Brighton Examiner; The Hastings and St. Leonard's Observer; The Metropolitan; The Whitehall Review; etc.

* * We shall be greatly obliged if correspondents forwarding newspapers will kindly mark the passages to which it is desired to direct attention.

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

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BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

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