

of September 11th says: "It is impossible to pass over such flagrant discourtesy as that displayed by the Committee of Public Health in their correspondence with the Dublin Sanitary Association. We can quite sympathise with the Public Health Committee in finding the confidence of the public generally transferred to a private association of citizens founded for the purpose of doing that which the Public Health Committee ought to do".

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE next meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Royal Sea Bathing Infirmary, Margate, on Thursday, September 7th, 1876, at 3 o'clock; Dr. PITTOCK of Margate in the Chair.

Luncheon will, by the kindness of the Chairman, be provided at the Infirmary, from One till Two. The dinner will be at the Cliftonville Hotel at 5 o'clock precisely. Charge, 6s. 6d., exclusive of wine.

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

EDWARD WHITFIELD THURSTON, *Honorary Secretary.*

Ashford, August 20th, 1876.

NORTHERN COUNTIES (SCOTLAND) BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the Northern Counties (Scotland) Branch will be held in Inverness on the Evening of Friday, September 8th, at half-past seven o'clock. Full particulars by circular.

J. W. NORRIS MACKAY, M.D., *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.*

Elgin, August 23rd, 1876.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of this Branch will be held at Coatham, on Thursday, September 21st.

Gentlemen who are desirous of reading papers or making other communications, are requested to give notice to the Secretary.

G. H. PHILIPSON, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, August 19th, 1876.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MEDICAL EDUCATION AT CAMBRIDGE.

SIR,—As Dr. Humphry invites criticism on the scheme of medical study provided at Cambridge, perhaps he will explain how no provision is made for either the study of, or examination in, the not altogether unimportant subject of Obstetric Medicine? As the number of medical men who can pursue their profession without practising either midwifery or gynaecology must always be limited, surely the absence of any provision for the acquirement of these subjects would of itself prevent many students availing themselves of the supposed advantages for study at his University.—I am, etc.,

OBSTETRICUS.

August 18th, 1876.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS.

THE new Act for making further provision for the Prevention of the Pollution of Rivers (39 and 40 Vic., cap. 75) has just been printed. The principal object of the statute, as declared by the preamble, is "to prevent the establishment of new sources of pollution". There are twenty-two sections, divided into six parts. The first relates to prohibiting the putting of solid matters into streams; the next, to sewage pollutions; the third, to manufacturing and mining pollutions. The fourth part has reference to the administration of the law, and sanitary authorities are to afford facilities for factories draining into sewers, and those authorities have power to enforce the statute, as also the Lea Conservancy Board. The other provisions relate to legal proceedings,

etc. Offences are to be restrained by summary orders of County Courts, with the right of appeal to the High Court of Justice. The Inspectors of the Local Government Board have similar powers as the Inspectors under the Public Health Act of last year; they are to give certificates as to the best practicable means for rendering harmless any sewage-matter falling or flowing into any stream. There are provisions as to the execution of the new law in Scotland and Ireland. Under this Act, sanitary authorities and the Local Government, by active exertions, may prevent the pollution of rivers.

THE LEIGHTON BUZZARD GUARDIANS AND THEIR MEDICAL OFFICER.

THE Leighton Buzzard rural sanitary authority last year appointed, as medical officer of health, Mr. G. G. Bothwell, medical officer of a large district of the union. This year, however, when the appointment became vacant by lapse of time, they elected another gentleman to the office, alleging, as a principal reason, that Mr. Bothwell had shown a want of conciliation in his intercourse with them and with the officers of the union. A short time ago, the master of the workhouse was charged before the magistrates at the division petty sessions with assaulting Mr. Bothwell, and fined for the assault. The guardians have called on Mr. Bothwell to resign his office of Poor-law medical officer, both on account of the alleged disagreements and also on account of his having altered the diet-table, a proceeding which they hold to be beyond his functions. The case is one in which Mr. Bothwell appears to have good reason for complaining of the treatment to which he has been subjected. We trust that it will be investigated by the Local Government Board.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

BELFIELD, Chas. W., L.R.C.P.Ed., appointed Medical Officer for No. 3 District of the Bristol Incorporation of the Poor, *vice* W. Cooper, L.R.C.P., deceased.

GOWAN, Charles, M.D., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Anston District of the Workop Union, *vice* C. M'Caskey, L.R.C.P.Ed., resigned.

HILL, Thomas, M.R.C.S.Eng., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Middleton Cheney District of the Banbury Union, *vice* J. Dewar, L.F.P.S.G., resigned.

JACKSON, Wm., L.R.C.P.Ed., appointed Medical Officer to the Skipton Workhouse, *vice* W. Birtwhistle, M.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.

M'CRRERY, John, L.K.Q.C.P.I., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for No. 1 District of the Sudbury Union, Suffolk, *vice* F. H. Marshall, M.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.

SPENCER, John A., L.K.Q.C.P.I., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Ahacragh District of the Ballinasloe Union, co. Galway, *vice* L. C. Kerans, M.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.

WALKER, Wm. Newmar, jun., M.R.C.S.Eng., appointed Medical Officer for District No. 4 of the Hackney Union, *vice* A. Butler, M.D., resigned.

WATSON, John Adam, L.R.C.P. & S.Ed., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Chudleigh District of the Newton Abbot Union, *vice* C. H. Massiah, L.R.C.P.Ed., resigned.

MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

EXCHANGES IN THE ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,—In your number of August 5th, you come to a conclusion on the above subject with which I for one do not agree, and perhaps you will kindly allow me to state why.

The exchange of two officers on the roster only affects these two officers, and, it seems to me at least, does not affect the home or foreign service of other officers. A. does not want to go to India, because, perhaps, his health will not allow him; the climate disagrees with him. B. wants to go, perhaps partly for money; and it may happen that the climate agrees well with him. Now, why should the authorities insist on sending A. to India, when he does not want to go, and keep B. at home, when he wants to go to India, and when an exchange between the two would interfere not in the least with the home or foreign service of any other members of the department? And, as to the question of money, if it is worth A.'s while to give B. money to go, it is worth B.'s while to take the money. Besides which, exchanges are allowed in the combatant ranks among officers, with the equal result of allowing some men to obtain a great deal of home-service, and of keeping another set of men much abroad. In common justice, what is allowed to them ought to be granted to us. Out of whom do you think the country is likely to get the best service: out of two willing medical officers, or out of two unwilling ones; out of an officer sent to India against his will with a grievance in his mind, or out of one who went willingly; out of an officer kept at home, where he cannot afford to serve, or out of the same officer with ample pay in India? In comparison with the rest of the army, or at least in comparison with the combatant officers, I look upon the prohibition of exchanges among medical officers as a gross injustice, and, considering that they were allowed when most of us entered the service, as a breach of faith, as of course we took the service as it then appeared. However, I will not trespass much more upon your space, but remain yours, etc.

A VICTIM OF INDIAN SERVICE.

August 14th, 1876.

NAVAL MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

FREEMAN, Surgeon D. J., to the *Aurora*.
 GOODE, Surgeon W. H., to Plymouth Hospital.
 GOODMAN, Staff-Surgeon Godfrey, to the *Duke of Wellington*, for service at Haslar Hospital.
 GRAY, Surgeon G. J., to the *Endymion*.
 LONEY, Fleet-Surgeon Henry, to the *Minotaur*.
 MARCH, Surgeon Herbert E., to the *Wolverine*.
 REID, Staff-Surgeon Walter, to the *Wolverine*.
 ROCHE, Surgeon W., to the *Duncan*.

MEDICAL NEWS.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—First M.B. Examination, 1876.—Examination for Honours.—Anatomy.

First Class.

Saunders, John Charles (Exhibition and Gold Medal), Downing College, Cambridge, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Boyd, James Stanley Newton (Gold Medal), University College

Second Class.

Baddeley, Charles Edward, King's College
 Sheppard, Charles Edward, St. Thomas's Hospital

Third Class.

Gabb, James Percy Alwyne, University College
 Heath, William Lenton, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

Physiology, Histology, and Comparative Anatomy.

First Class.

Tuke, William Samuel (Gold Medal), University College
 Saunders, John Charles (Gold Medal), Downing College, Cambridge, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Neale, John Edward, University College

Second Class.

Uthoff, John Caldwell, Guy's Hospital

Third Class.

Mackern, George, Guy's Hospital
 Whitney, Neville Scott, University College

Organic Chemistry, and Materia Medica and Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

First Class.

Smith, Kenneth Rawlings (Exhibition and Gold Medal), University College
 Uthoff, John Caldwell (Gold Medal), Guy's Hospital
 Whitney, Neville Scott, University College

Second Class.

Berry, Frederic Haycraft, Guy's Hospital

Third Class.

Lory, William Manley, University College

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, August 17th, 1876.

Alford, Charles Edward, Upper Helmsley, Yorkshire
 Bott, Henry Septimus, Bury, Lancashire
 James, Thomas, Aberdare
 Jolly, Robert William, Shooter's Hill, Kent
 Peake, Joseph, Coventry

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

Fagg, Thomas William, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
 Hammond, Alexander Billing, Guy's Hospital
 Langdon, John Winkley, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

ASTON UNION—Medical Officer for the No. 5 Nechells District.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE DISPENSARY—Resident Medical Officer and Dispenser. Salary, £130 per annum, with furnished apartments, etc. Applications on or before September 4th.

CEYLON—Medical Officer for the District of Hewaheta. Salary to commence at 5000 rupees per annum, and private practice allowed.

GENERAL INFIRMARY, Leeds—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, residence, and washing. Applications on or before September 6th.

HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN, Soho Square—House-Physician. Applications on or before August 31st.

KNIGHTON UNION—Medical Officer for the Brampton Brian District.

LONDON HOSPITAL—Aural Surgeon. Applications on or before Sept. 4th.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE INFIRMARY—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodgings, and washing. Applications to be made on or before September 5th.

NORTHAMPTON GENERAL INFIRMARY—Surgeon. Applications on or before August 28th.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE INFIRMARY, Stoke-upon-Trent—House-Surgeon. Salary, £120 per annum, with furnished apartments, etc.—Also, House-Physician. Salary, £80 per annum, with furnished apartments, etc. Applications on or before August 30th.

NORTH WITCHFORD UNION—Medical Officer for the First District.

SOUTHAMPTON UNION—Medical Officer for the Parishes of Burrington and Kingsnympton. Salary, £200 per annum, and fees. Applications on or before the 26th instant.

STOURBRIDGE UNION—Medical Officer for the Oldswinford No. 1 District.
 THINGOE UNION—Medical Officer for the Eighth District. Salary, £125 per annum.

WOLVERHAMPTON AND STAFFORDSHIRE GENERAL HOSPITAL—Assistant to the House-Surgeon. Lodgings and board will be provided. Applications to be made on or before September 18th.

WORKSOP UNION—Medical Officer for the Anston District. Salary, £25 per annum.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

HEX, Harry, M.R.C.S.Eng., appointed House-Surgeon to the Birmingham and Midland Eye Hospital, *vice* H. Eales, M.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.

MACDONNELL, M. A., M.D., appointed Assistant House-Surgeon to the Liverpool Dispensaries, *vice* W. Clibborne, M.B., resigned.

NEWBY, C. H., L.R.C.P., appointed Surgical Registrar to St. Thomas's Hospital.

PLANT, Henry W., M.B., appointed Resident House-Surgeon to the Brixton, Streatham, and Herne Hill Dispensary, *vice* T. W. W. Williams, M.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.

SPARROW, G. Gordon, M.R.C.S., appointed House-Surgeon to the Chichester General Infirmary, *vice* H. Cotton, M.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.

STONE, Wm. D., M.D., appointed Physician to the Western General Dispensary, Marylebone Road, *vice* F. A. Mahomed, M.D., 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.

BIRTH.

MARCH.—On August 20th, at Tennyson Place, Bradford, Yorkshire, the wife of *Frederick K. March, L.R.C.P.E., of a son.

MARRIAGE.

HUTCHESON—JOSEPH.—At Llwyngwrl Parish Church, on August 17th, by the Rev. A. G. Edwards, B.A., Warden of Llandoverly College, assisted by the Rev. J. E. Davies, M.A., Rector of Llwyngwrl, John Davis Hutcheson, M.B., of Aberdare, to Marie Louisa, daughter of Thomas Joseph, Esq., J.P., of the Buttrills and Ty Draw, Glamorganshire.

HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND.—Hospital Committees and those of kindred medical institutions who desire to participate in this year's Hospital Saturday Distribution, but who have omitted to furnish to the Council of the Hospital Saturday Fund the information on which the Council will make their awards, are reminded that the time for supplying the required information has been extended to Hospital Saturday, September 2nd. Medical institutions, the committees of which neglect to send in returns by September 2nd, will necessarily be excluded from this year's distribution, the plan of which has already been prepared. As in the two previous years, the distribution will be made equitably to each institution according to the amount of relief given, economy practised, and efficiency attained.

BEQUESTS.—Mr. Charles Frederick Beyer, late of Manchester and of Llantysilio Hall, Denbighshire, has bequeathed, among other legacies, £2,000 to the Manchester Royal Infirmary. After specifying various bequests, such part of the rest of his property as he can legally give for that object is left for the purposes and benefit of Owens College, Manchester, to be applied in such manner as the governing body shall think expedient in or towards the foundation and endowment of professorships in science, one at least of which shall be a professorship of engineering, in the said College. The residue he gives to his executors for their own absolute use, but expresses an earnest wish, which is not to have any legal obligation, that they will apply it for the benefit of Owens College.—Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, late of Margate and Craven Hill, Bayswater, has bequeathed £1,000 each to the Asylum for Idiots at Earlswood, the British Home for Incurables, and the Margate Infirmary.

EAST LONDON MEDICAL DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.—On the 18th instant, the Committee and officers of the East London Branch of the Medical Defence Association were entertained at dinner at the "Ship" Hotel, Greenwich, by Mr. James E. Adams, F.R.C.S., one of the Vice-Presidents of the Branch. Covers were laid for twenty-five guests, and among the company present were: Dr. A. Ernest Sansom; Mr. H. Nelson Hardy and Mr. George Brown (Vice-Presidents of the Branch); Dr. R. H. S. Carpenter (Honorary Secretary); Mr. F. G. Aubin (Vice-Chairman of Committee); Drs. Wills, Edgar Potte, Stirling, T. Richardson, Chaple, O'Connor, and G. Danford Thomas; Mr. Gordon Brown, etc. After dinner, several toasts were drunk, among them being "Our Host, Mr. James E. Adams"; "Success to the East London Branch of the Medical Defence Association", replied to by Dr. G. Danford Thomas; "Success to the Medical Defence Association", replied to by Mr. George Brown; "Health to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, and Law Officers of the Branch", replied to by Mr. F. G. Aubin. A very pleasant evening was spent, and the company broke up in time to catch the last train to town.

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.—Hospital for Women, 2 P.M.—St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department), 3 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.—Guy's, 1.30 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.—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.

THE BRAVO CASE.

SIR,—The strongest proof in my opinion that Mr. Bravo committed suicide lies in the fact that, when he was told by his medical attendants that his symptoms could not be attributed to laudanum, he was perfectly silent as to who administered it to him. If he did not take the poison himself, he would be certain to ask or express something regarding the matter; but observe, he did not throw out the slightest hint, nor did he make any observation touching the question. This course would not be adopted by a sane man, provided he was ignorant of the cause of his illness, more especially when he was told by those in whom he should place the most confidence that he must have swallowed poison.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

A. MACKINTOSH, M.D.

Chesterfield, August 21st, 1876.

MR. M. M. BRADLEY (Arrow-on-Tyne).—Our correspondent will very probably be able to obtain the information he requires by application to Mr. H. K. Lewis, 136, Gower Street; or Mr. Kimpton, Bookseller, Holborn.

COMPETITOR.—We cannot say on what day or week it is probable that the award of the Hastings prize will be made; but it is not likely to be before the meeting of the Committee of Council in October.

A TERRIBLE THREAT.

THE following occupies a prominent position in the *Home Chronicle* of August 5th. "A New Anti-Vivisection Society.—We have received several letters suggesting that an association should be formed of ladies and gentlemen who pledge themselves not to seek the advice, or allow anyone over whom they exercise control or influence to seek the advice, of the consulting-physicians or surgeons who have signed the memorials to the Government, or who have in other ways declared themselves in favour of vivisection.

"It is desirable that members of this association should be found in almost every town in the kingdom, in order to exert an appreciable influence; and we shall be happy to receive the names of ladies and gentlemen desirous of joining the society, in order that steps may be taken for its proper organisation. We have no doubt that such a society would have a very useful effect, when the anti-vivisection battle comes to be renewed, as it will be, next season.

One can scarcely imagine the desolation that would reign in Grosvenor Street, Brook Street, Cavendish Square, Harley Street, and other places where consulting-physicians and surgeons flourish, if this proposal were carried out to the extent that is evidently desired. But will the members of the proposed society stand by their resolution in all circumstances? And if so, where are they to find a consulting-physician or surgeon who has not in some way declared himself in favour of vivisection?

PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE.

A. is in attendance upon B., when sudden severe hemorrhage occurs, which is promptly stopped. Next day, B. is going on well, and out of danger, when the parents of B., while expressing complete confidence in A., suggest a consultation between A. and C., a qualified homœopath, and the ordinary medical attendant of one of the parents. What ought A. to do under the circumstances?

M.B.LOND.

*. A. should decline to meet C. in consultation.

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.

It is particularly requested that, during the months of August and September, communications for "The Editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL" be so addressed, and not to any person by name.

TREATMENT OF POSTNASAL CATARRH.

SIR,—If any of your readers have met with cases of chronic catarrhal inflammation of the posterior nares, I shall be glad to have any suggestion as to treatment in the following case.

The patient is troubled with copious mucous discharge from the left nostril, following a severe cold caught about a year since. He has slight deafness in the left ear, and total loss of smell. There is no polypus or other obstruction of the nostril, and fluids can be drawn up into the fauces without difficulty. The sound of the voice is nasal, as usually observed in persons suffering from a cold in the head. His general health is good. The complaint is aggravated by cold or damp weather. I have tried iodide of potassium internally, and have used injections of alum, sulphate of zinc, gallic acid, and sulphurous acid fumes, but all without effect.—I am, etc.,

RUSTICUS.

DISEASE OF THE BONES IN THE INSANE.

SIR,—You will, I trust, allow me to observe, in reference to your interesting and instructive comments on the case of the late Mr. F. W. Wimberly, in the JOURNAL of this day, that the peculiar liability of the bones of the insane to disease, and consequently to fracture, "even when no extraordinary violence is used", has been long known. You have written thus: "Numerous observations on the subject have been made in recent years." Certainly to Drs. Clouston, Rogers, Brown, Sankey, and others, are due the credit of teaching, in 1870, that the osseous system of the insane is especially liable to undergo certain chemical changes, "approaching that observed in osteomalacia". Much credit is due also to Dr. Morrell of Florence, for his article entitled "Fractures of the Ribs, and a Peculiar Form of Osteomalacia in the Insane". Let me add, however, that long years before, or anterior to either one of the several gentlemen named in your editorial of August 10th, 1876, I had written thus, in 1857: "One word more; osteomalacia may be confined to one or more bones, or even to a portion only of the same bone. In the examination of patients who have died insane—inmates of the Middlesex Asylums at Hanwell and Colney Hatch—I have met with six examples of this affection of the skeleton: the greater number of the patients alluded to were afflicted with paralysis. An interesting fact this, and one which bears me out in the views here taken of both osteomalacia and of this specific form of paralysis so common to the alienated." (See my *Ganglionic Nervous System*, chap. iii, "Pathology", p. 265.) It was in 1842 that I detected, at the Hanwell Asylum, the existence of osteomalacia in those dying insane. Furthermore, in the *Medical Times*, No. 170, vol. vii, p. 195, *et seq.* (1842), is seen recorded by me a highly interesting example of the coexistence of osteomalacia and insanity in a female patient who died under my care at Hanwell, in whom six spontaneous fractures of the long bones—femur, humerus, and so on—were found *post mortem*. In this case I have described the skeleton as "converted, in great part, into a dark semi-calcareous grumous matter".

Under the circumstances, then, you will, I trust, afford me this opportunity to make a prior claim—one of no less than twenty-eight years' standing—to the recognition of a "condition of the bones of the insane", of so much importance both to the jurist and pathologist.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES GEORGE DAVEY, M.D., M.R.C.P. Lond., etc.

4, Redland Park Villas, Bristol, August 19th, 1876.

FICTITIOUS DUMBNESS.

SIR,—In your issue of July 29th, Mr. Hovell, in the first place, suggests that I made a very great error in diagnosis, and upon that assumption proceeds to dogmatise upon the "inhumanity" and "cruelty" which resulted from my error. Upon the latter point I am sure Mr. Hovell cannot be aware that it is not competent for officers in Her Majesty's Service to discuss publicly any affairs of discipline, or he would have confined his criticism to the professional aspect of the case. With reference to the diagnosis, I have to state—1. That I acted upon my own knowledge and experience, which, if not extensive regarding "emotional aphasia", has hitherto been of some service to me in cases of malingering; 2. That before deciding upon the case I took an experienced medical officer into consultation; 3. That the lad confessed his crime. Some time afterwards he feigned lunacy, or, perhaps, had emotional insanity; but the acting in this instance was hardly up to the mark, and he was again successfully dealt with by the executive authorities.

Whilst readily conceding that all cases published in the JOURNAL are open to criticism, hostile or otherwise, from a professional point of view, I beg to submit that it is, fortunately, not the custom of the profession for one member to arraign before the bar of public opinion, or any other bar, a professional brother of whom there is no *prima facie* evidence that he has exercised his judgment without a reasonable amount of skill, or without good faith; and I have yet to learn that, granting my diagnosis had been incorrect, I am open to such grave charges as are involved in being a party to inhumanity and cruelty.—Yours faithfully,

August 7th, 1876.

ROBT. NELSON, R.N., Staff-Surgeon.

E. W. W. may try the following lotion for sunburn: Half pint of sweet milk, juice of a lemon, tablespoonful of brandy. Boil these, skim the fluid well, and set it aside to cool, after which it may be used.

FOREIGN DEGREES.

SIR,—I was very much surprised by the communication from M.D. Brussels which appeared in this week's MEDICAL JOURNAL, in which he states "that operations on the dead subject are not required by either of the Colleges of Surgeons of London, Edinburgh, or Dublin, or the Glasgow Faculty". I must, in justice to the Irish College of Surgeons, deny this altogether. Operations on the dead subject have been required by all their licentiates for the past three years. I myself had to perform two; and, besides, it is quite a common thing for several men to be "plucked" at them. Operations are also required for the M.Ch. Univ. Dub. The graduate in medicine from Brussels ought to "look before he leaps", and not to make such mistakes in his communications. Surely those gentlemen who take out their degrees in foreign Universities and Colleges cannot expect to share the same rights with those who spend their money, time, and, in a great many instances, risk their health, to obtain a good medical and surgical degree.—Yours truly,

GILFORD, Co. Down, August 2nd, 1876. ROBERT M'BIDE, M.B.