

6, Mount Street, Edinburgh, October 18th, 1876.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have to thank you for your note of the 16th and accompanying pamphlet. I have no hesitation in stating that, if returned to Parliament, I shall cheerfully use any influence I may have towards suppressing the sale of quack medicines. Of the dangers to which the public are at present exposed from that cause I am well aware. Whilst I should, as at present advised, prefer a remedy by which patents may still be granted to inventors of truly useful and wholesome medicines, I would support the total abolition of such patents if their existence cannot be safely continued without affording protection to quack inventions.—I am yours faithfully,

John M. Crombie, Esq. M.D.

W. WATSON.

POISONED DRINKING-WATER.

AN outbreak of typhoid fever, occurring among the residents of the best-built part of the city, having been this week reported from Lincoln, we have ascertained, on investigation, that the facts reported are, substantially, correctly stated, as to the probable causation of the deaths by the use of some popular wells. A further death has to be added to the list of those already published. One of the gentlemen stated to be lying dangerously ill has since died, and two servants sent home from the school are suffering from the disease.

Although continued fever is generally under treatment in Lincoln, of late years the disease has not assumed any serious epidemic form; the deaths being, in 1867, 14; in 1868, 11; in 1869, 23; in 1870, 26; in 1871, 22; in 1872, 11; in 1873, 19; in 1874, 13; in 1875, 10; in 1876 (three-fourths of the year), 8. The disease is not more, but rather less, prevalent than usual at this season of the year.

Public attention has, no doubt, been excited in consequence of the disease appearing in some of the better-class houses of the town.

Lincoln as yet is not provided with any thorough system of drainage. Many of the best houses are compelled to drain into cesspools. The existing sewers mostly discharge themselves into the river Witham, which runs through the centre of the town. The Town Council, after resisting for some time the orders of the Local Government Board to provide proper drainage, are, since the issuing of the mandamus, taking steps to carry out the plans of Mr. Manseigh, the appointed engineer; and have applied to the Local Government Board for sanction to borrow £84,000 for works of sewerage and outfall; and an inquiry into the subject matter of such application was to be held at the Guildhall on the 20th instant.

With regard to water-supply, in 1867, samples of water from two public wells and from the company's main were analysed by Dr. Frankland and Dr. Letheby, who both condemned the well-waters, but differed in opinion as to the company's water. The Town Council published the result of the analyses, but did not stop the supply from the polluted wells, the water from which is still used, and no ill effects have been directly referred thereto; the water which has been reported to have been the cause of the present attacks being from private sources (wells or springs) over which the Town Council have no direct control. The waterworks are now in the hands of the Town Council; and the supply therefrom has been frequently analysed, and not found to be impure. It generally contains from 18 to 24 grains per gallon solids; 2 to 2.5 chlorine; 6 degrees of total hardness; from 0.7 to 0.9 albuminoid ammonia. At the beginning of the present month, after much rain, the analysis made by the medical officer of health was: total solids, 24.5 grains per gallon; chlorine, 2.5 grains per gallon; free ammonia, 0.1 part per million; albuminoid ammonia, .08 part per million; permanent hardness, 2 degrees; total hardness, 7 degrees. The supply, on the whole, is of good average quality.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.

THE third annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Star and Garter Hotel, Victoria Street, Wolverhampton, on Thursday, October 26th, at 2.30 P.M.

An address will be delivered by the President, W. MILLINGTON, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.P.Lond.

Dinner at 5 P.M. precisely. Tickets (exclusive of wine), 10s. 6d. each. Members intending to be present are requested to communicate as soon as possible with the Honorary Secretaries.

VINCENT JACKSON, Wolverhampton. } *Honorary Secretaries.*
RALPH GOODALL, Silverdale.

Wolverhampton, October 2nd, 1876.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

A MEETING of this Branch will be held at the Royal Hotel, Scarborough, on Wednesday, October 25th, at 2.30 P.M.

After the meeting, the members will dine at the Royal Hotel, at 5.30 P.M. Tickets, 6s. 6d. each.

Gentlemen intending to join the dinner, or to bring forward communications, are requested at once to communicate with the Secretary.

W. PROCTER, M.D., *Local Secretary.*

York, October 3rd, 1876.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE first ordinary meeting of the Session will be held at the Royal Hotel, Bristol, on Thursday evening, October 26th, at half-past Seven o'clock: H. F. A. GOODRIDGE, M.D., President.

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

Clifton, October 2nd, 1876.

SOUTH DEVON AND CORNWALL BRANCH.

THE quarterly meeting of this Branch will be held at Truro, on October 31st, at 3 P.M.

Members having papers to read, or desiring to attend the dinner, must give the Secretary one week's notice. Tickets to dinner, 5s., exclusive of wine.

WM. SQUARE, F.R.C.S., *Honorary Secretary.*

Plymouth, October 7th, 1876.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Cancer of the Kidney.—Ligature of the Lingual Artery for Epithelioma of the Tongue.—Felt Splints.—Changes at the Hospitals and the Faculty.

SHORTLY before the lamented death of the late Professor Béhier, one of his last clinical lectures at the Hôtel Dieu was on cancer of the kidney. This affection, he premised, was far from common; and its diagnosis was consequently attended with the greatest difficulty. The following is an extract of this very interesting lecture, which I have taken from my notes.

Pain and hæmaturia are the most prominent and constant symptoms of the malady, of which a patient aged 52, who was then lying in the ward, afforded a fair illustration. The pain in this case was the most urgent symptom, as the patient described it as being intolerable. It was a dull pain, deep, continued, with radiations occupying the sacro-lumbar region and the base of the thorax. In some cases, the pain follows the course of the sciatic nerve, and may lead to the supposition that the patient is suffering from simple sciatica. The pain may also be confounded with that emanating from other affections, such as nephritic colic and pyelitis; but what would distinguish one from the other is, that the pain in cancer of the kidney never extends to the testicle; nor is it accompanied by retraction of the spermatic cord and scrotum, as is the case in the affections just noticed. Hæmaturia is another important sign of cancer of the kidney, though, like the pain, it has been found to be occasionally absent; but, when associated with the other signs, such as tumour, cachexia, etc., there can be no doubt as to the nature of the malady, as was proved by the necropsy of the patient under notice. But, as pointed out by the late Dr. Rayer, hæmaturia may be the only sign or symptom present, in which case it would be expedient to distinguish the different forms of hæmorrhage that has its exit in the urethra. When the blood is intimately mixed up with the urine, as it was with the patient, there can be no doubt as to its source, as it is considered the classical sign of renal hæmaturia; but, when the hæmorrhage is from the bladder, the blood is less intimately mixed up with the urine, and the former is frequently found in clots. This, however, may happen in renal hæmaturia, when the blood has remained for any time in the bladder. As for urethral hæmaturia, the diagnosis is unattended with much difficulty, as it is generally the result of gonorrhœa or traumatism. In this case, the blood escapes by drops from the urethral orifice, and takes place independently of micturition, or it may be mixed up with the first portions of the urine, that which follows being clear. Hæmaturia may be the result of certain other lesions of the kidney, such as that caused by the presence of concretions in that organ, in which case the hæmaturia would be accompanied by other signs peculiar to renal calculus: gravel

POOR-LAW MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

ALLKIN, William J., M.R.C.S.L., appointed Medical Officer for the Second District of the Ashton-under-Lyne Union, *vice* Edward T. O'Brien, L.K.Q.C.P., deceased.

BRAMHILL, L., L.R.C.P., appointed Medical Officer to the Third District of the Ross Union, *vice* Dr. John George, resigned.

MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

SURGEON-MAJOR J. GREIG has been granted an extension of leave from India from July 24th to January 23rd next.

SURGEON-GENERAL J. M'G. GRANT, M.D., lately promoted from Principal Medical Officer at Bermuda, is about to retire upon pension under the age limitation clause in the recent Royal Warrant.

His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has been pleased to approve of Deputy-Surgeon-General H. C. Foss, who is about to be promoted to the rank of Surgeon-General, being appointed Principal Medical Officer in Ireland, *vice* Surgeon-General J. D. M'Ilree.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—The following gentlemen were admitted Licentiates on October 16th, 1876.

Collins, Floyd, Ware
Downes, Edmund, St. Mary's Hospital
Dunbar, James John Macwhirter, 77, Ladbroke Grove
Fry, John Blount, Swindon
Greenish, Robert, 20, New Street
Khory, Kustomjee Naserwanjee, 49, Elsham Road
Merriman, John William Conyers, 45, Kensington Square
Page, William Henry, 27, Flaxman Road
Street, Alfred William Frederick, Royal Free Hospital
Thompson, Arthur Hirst, Gomersal, Leeds
Tomlinson, Edward Denham, Preston
Traill, Mark Windeyer, University Hospital
Woollett, Charles Jerome, Monmouth

The following candidates, having passed in Medicine and Midwifery, will receive the College Licence on obtaining a qualification in Surgery recognised by this College.

Byam, Samuel Henry, 14, Milner Street
Goulder, Frank Samuel, 16, Holford Square
Sugden, D'Arcy, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, October 12th, 1876.

Cree, Percy Kimbourn, St. John's Park, Holloway
Gamble, Henry Warburton Banton, Brunswick Villas, Grosvenor Park, S.E.
Skerman, Sidney, Waltham Abbey, Essex
Taylor, Henry Edward, Manor Road, Bradford
Whitshed, John, Sutton St. Edmund, near Wisbeach

The name of John Lloyd Thomas was omitted in the pass-list (Second Class) of the Arts Examination on the 29th and 30th September last.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

BAKEWELL UNION—Medical Officer for the Cromford District. Salary, £15 per annum.

BURY UNION—Medical Officer for the Workhouse.

CENTRAL LONDON SICK ASYLUM DISTRICT—Assistant Medical Officer and Dispenser. Salary, £110 per annum. Applications to Cleveland Street Asylum on or before October 21st.

DONCASTER UNION—Medical Officer of Health. Salary, £250 per annum. Applications on or before October 28th.

EAST LONDON HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN—Assistant-Surgeon. Applications on or before November 2nd.

ESSEX and COLCHESTER HOSPITAL—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications on or before November 2nd.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' MEDICAL INSTITUTE, Northampton—Medical Officer. Salary, £180 per annum, with residence. Applications on or before October 23rd.

GLENORCHY and INISHAIL, N.B.—Medical Officer. Salary, £60 per annum, and cottage. Applications on or before October 24th.

GREAT YARMOUTH PARISH—Medical Officer for the North District.

KENSINGTON DISPENSARY—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £150 per annum, with furnished apartments. Applications on or before October 28th.

LONDON LOCK HOSPITAL, Harrow Road, W.—Assistant House-Surgeon. Applications to the Secretary.

METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADE, CENTRAL DISTRICT—Medical Officer. Applications on or before October 24th.

MIDDLESEX THIRD COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM—Medical Superintendent. Salary, £700 per annum, with house, gas, and coals. Applications on or before November 8th.

MUTFORD and LOTHINGLAND INCORPORATION—Medical Officer. Salary, £110 per annum. Applications on or before October 23rd.

NORFOLK and NORWICH ASYLUM—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, coals, gas, etc. Applications on or before November 3rd.

NORTH LONDON CONSUMPTION HOSPITAL—Physician. Applications on or before November 2nd.

ROYAL SOUTH LONDON HOSPITAL—Honorary District Surgeon. Applications on or before October 31st.

SALOP MEDICAL AID ASSOCIATION—Medical Officer. Salary, £150 per annum, with house, coal, and gas. Applications on or before November 4th.

SANDSTING and WELLS, Shetland—Parochial Medical Officer. Salary, £50 per annum. Applications to the Inspector of Poor.

SHEFFIELD PUBLIC HOSPITAL and DISPENSARY—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £65 per annum, with apartments, washing, and board. Applications on or before October 31st.

SOUTH UIST, Lochmady—Parochial Medical Officer. Salary, £90 per annum. Applications to the Inspector of Poor.

SUNDERLAND INFIRMARY—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £60 per annum, with board and residence. Applications on or before October 21st.

TINGWALL—Parochial Medical Officer. Salary, £30 per annum. Applications to the Inspector of Poor.

TISBURY UNION—Medical Officer. Salary, £74:10 per annum. Applications on or before October 25th.

TONBRIDGE UNION—Medical Officer. Salary, £105 per annum. Applications on or before November 2nd.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Chelsea—Assistant Physician. Applications on or before October 26th.

WORCESTER GENERAL INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications on or before November 6th.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

GARLICK, George, M.B., appointed Medical Registrar to the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, *vice* Dr. Burness, resigned.

HICK, Henry, M.R.C.S., appointed House-Surgeon to the Clayton Hospital, Wakefield, *vice* Mr. Hugh Marriner, resigned.

*RENTON, J. Crawford, M.B., appointed Extra Dispensing Surgeon to the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

*SNELL, Simeon, L.R.C.P.Lond., appointed Lecturer on Diseases of the Eye to the Sheffield School of Medicine.

*TANNER, John, M.D., M.R.C.P., F.L.S., appointed Assistant Physician to the Metropolitan Free Hospital.

WILLIAMS, C. L., M.R.C.S., appointed Surgeon to the Tasmanian, West Indian Royal Mail Steampacket Company.

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 announcement.

BIRTH.

BURMAN.—At Devizes, on the 16th instant, the wife of *J. Wilkie Burman, M.D., Medical Superintendent of the Wilts County Lunatic Asylum, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

FRANKLIN—DENNE.—On Tuesday, 17th instant at St. Saviour's, Eastbourne, by the Rev. H. R. Whelpton, M.A., Incumbent, *George Cooper Franklin, F.R.C.S., Leicester, elder son of George B. Franklin, Stoneygate School, Leicester, to Lucy Hannah, younger daughter of William Denne, F.R.C.S., Eastbourne.—No Cards.

RENTON—MILL.—At 2, Forbes Street, Edinburgh, on September 20th, by the Rev. Abn. O. Laird, Dundee, assisted by the Rev. J. D. McCulluch, Latheron, *J. Crawford Renton, M.B., F.F.P.S.G., 18, St. James's Terrace, Hillhead, Glasgow, to Margaret Annie, fourth daughter of the late Dr. James Mill, Thurso.

DONATIONS AND BEQUEST.—Mr. John D. Barborn has given a donation of £50 to the Belfast Royal Hospital; Dr. Henry Stewart has given £100 to the Building Fund of the Stewart Institution for Imbeciles. Mr. A. Findlater has bequeathed £500 to the same Institution.

A BOY, 13 years of age, named Patrick Brady, has died in Glasgow from the effects of a pea lodging in his ear, and causing inflammation. The accident was the result of some boys firing peas on the street with what is known as a "pea-shooter".

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, EDINBURGH.—At the annual meeting of this College, held on the 18th instant, the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year. *President*: Henry Duncan Littlejohn, M.D. *Secretary and Treasurer*: Joseph Bell. *Librarian*: David Wilson, M.D. *President's Council*: Andrew Wood, M.D.; William Walker; Joseph Lister; Patrick H. Watson, M.D.; John Smith, M.D.; James D. Gillespie, M.D.; *ex-officio*, Joseph Bell. *Examiners*: Archibald Inglis, M.D.; Peter David Handyside, M.D.; James D. Gillespie, M.D.; Henry D. Littlejohn, M.D.; Patrick H. Watson, M.D.; David Wilson, M.D.; John Smith, M.D.; Argyll Robertson, M.D.; Joseph Bell; Thomas Annandale; John Duncan, M.D.; Robert J. Blair Cunynghame, M.D. *Assessors*: Wm. Brown; James Spence; William Walker; James S. Combe, M.D. *Conservator of Museum*: Robert J. Blair Cunynghame, M.D. *Clerk*: James Robertson. *Officer*: John Dickie. *Assistant Conservator*: James Grandison. At the same meeting, Dr. Andrew Wood was unanimously re-elected Representative of the College in the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom for the period of three years from the 9th instant.

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.
WEDNESDAYSt. 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.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.	—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Sansom, "Two Cases of Croup and Diphtheria"; Mr. Chas. F. Maunders, "Cases which have been subjected to Subcutaneous Osteotomy"; Mr. Richard Davy, "On Degenerative Cysts on Muscles".
TUESDAY.	—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Dr. W. Miller Ord, "On a Case of Pseudo-hypertrophic Paralysis, and on Surface Temperature"; Sir B. C. Brodie, M.A., "On the Use of the Magnet in the detection of a Needle broken in the Leg".
WEDNESDAY.	—Hunterian Society, 8 P.M. Mr. Stevens will exhibit an Abnormal Fetal Heart. Mr. Barrett, M.B., will read a paper on Dental Septicæmia.
FRIDAY.	—Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Daly and Mr. Maunders, "Fatal Case of Gallstone"; Dr. Cayley, "Case of Empyema in which washing out the Pleural Cavity was followed by Convulsions and Death"; Dr. Gowers, "Case of Lymphatic Leucocythæmia treated by Phosphorus"; Dr. Theodore Williams, "Sequel of a Case of Contracted Cavity in the Lung communicated in 1871".—Quekett Microscopical Club (University College, Gower Street), 8 P.M. Ordinary Meeting.

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, on 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, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C.; 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., London.

DEAF-MUTISM.

SIR,—Mr. Blenkarne has a communication last week, "Deaf-mutism not Hereditary". Having attended the Liverpool School for Deaf-Mutes for nearly twenty years, and also for some length of time having given my services to the Adult Deaf-Mute Society, I venture to give you the result of my observation. I do not know an instance in Liverpool of the children of deaf-mute parents being themselves deaf-mutes. If the parents themselves came from families in which there had been relatives deaf-mutes, you might get as a result deaf-mute children. Dr. Buxton, Principal of the Liverpool Deaf and Dumb Institution, read a paper before the Liverpool Medical Institution on "Intermarriage of the Deaf and Dumb", published in the *Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Journal*, vol. i, 1857, p. 167, in which he says: "The probability of congenital deafness in the offspring is nearly seven times greater when both parents are deaf than when only one is so"; and concludes by saying "that there is no sufficient reason for prohibiting the marriages of deaf persons with the hearing, but that it is at the same time highly inexpedient that the deaf and dumb should marry with each other". The Blue-Book on the Census of Ireland, 1871 (Part ii, Vital Statistics), contains much useful information on the hereditary taint of deaf-mutism.—Yours faithfully,
Liverpool, Sept. 19th, 1876. FRANCIS JAS. BAILEY, L.R.C.P. Lond., etc.

A MEMBER (Bradford).—The following is an extract from the printed report of the General Medical Council: "Thompson Whalley, name erased from the Register by order of the Executive Committee on the 2nd February, 1866, on the ground of his having been convicted of a misdemeanour." Write to the Secretary of the College of Surgeons.

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.

FIRST CONVICTION UNDER THE VIVISECTION ACT.

SIR,—In your issue of the 7th instant, you express your approval of the conviction recorded against me for an alleged offence under the Vivisection Act at Sunderland. In that spirit of fairness which I have found generally animates journalists in this country, you will doubtless afford me an opportunity to place my view of the case before your readers. My position is this: I did not break the law, therefore I deserved not punishment. First, let me state the legal objections to this conviction. Section 6 of the Act says, "Any exhibition to the general public, whether admitted on payment of money or gratuitously, of experiments on living animals calculated to give pain, shall be illegal"; and a subsection runs, "and any person publishing any notice of any such intended exhibition, by advertisement, in a placard, newspaper, or otherwise, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding one pound". I was summoned under the subsection. The announcement in the placard to which so much objection has been taken was as follows: "Interesting experiments will be made, showing the effects of poisons on animals." Concisely stated, the technical objections to my conviction are these: 1. The alleged offence was not the complete offence intended by the Act to be furnished, the experiments not having been made. 2. The words in the placard did not come within the meaning of the Act, inasmuch as (a) I did not state in the placard that I intended to experiment on vertebrate animals; therefore, it ought to be assumed that I meant invertebrate animals, experiments on which are permitted by the Act; (b) I did not say I intended to experiment on living animals; and (c) I did not say I would cause pain to living animals. But what were the real circumstances of the case? I may premise that I am a German, therefore can scarcely be expected to know the provisions of every new law passed at Westminster. While, as I now learn, the Vivisection Act, then a Bill, was before Parliament, I had given instructions for the printing of the placard, and within three days of the passing of the Act the placard was issued. Up to that time, I had not been aware that there was anything in the laws of England that would prevent me making the experiments I proposed; but on the existence of the Vivisection Act being brought to my knowledge a few days afterwards, I at once abandoned the idea of illustrating my lecture in the way I had intended, and no experiments were made during my address. I was, however, fined by the Sunderland magistrates for publishing my intention, my abandoned intention. "If," as the *Standard* observes, "the clause which is taken as rendering the mere announcement of an intention a misdemeanour must be considered on such a subject unreasonable," what must we feel when we find a person convicted under it who has voluntarily abandoned the intention on learning that it is illegal for him to make the experiments? "Ah," but say my prosecutors (or as many of the inhabitants of Sunderland who know the circumstances maintain, persecutors), "you spoke disrespectfully of the Act." I did condemn the Act, as it interferes with my professional studies; but surely it is not a criminal offence, an offence to be urged against one in a court of law, that the defendant spoke disparagingly of an Act of Parliament. At any rate, I can find no clause in the Vivisection Act under which a person can be punished for speaking disrespectfully concerning it; nor is there, so far as I can see, any clause providing punishment for a person who has merely said that if the Act had not come into operation he had intended to experiment on animals. Then it is urged against me, that I declined to express regret for having broken the law. Had I published anything which I believed to have been a breach of the law, no one would have been readier to apologise; but as I believed I did nothing of the kind, I had nothing to regret. Yet, although my able legal agent, Mr. Hines, forcibly stated these arguments, the Sunderland justices convicted me, though in the smallest penalty. I attribute their decision to the way in which the prosecutors were allowed to conduct their case—that is to say, in admitting evidence not bearing strictly on the offence charged. If, as a talented local justice, Mr. Ritson, who presided at my lecture, recently observed, the magistrates occasionally be too lenient, may it not happen that in some cases they are too harsh, and even convict when they should not? If others murder justice, I will not. I will doubtless some day be in a position to relate the secret history of the case; how certain medical men, living in my own locality, inspired by professional jealousy, stirred up in a few well intentioned gentlemen in London, who had assisted to induce Parliament to pass the hard measure for the prevention of cruelty to animals, the desire to pursue me as they would pursue a hare—a desire which ought to be very foreign to their natures, but a desire fed by an anxiety which made them eager (almost regardless as to whether the opportunity was a good one or not) to show the world what a wonderful instrument for the suppression of cruelties they have badgered the legislature into giving them. I may say here that I am a subscriber to the local branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, who, I may add, declined to prosecute me.

A word as to the alleged unprofessional character of my conduct in giving the lecture on "The Balham Mystery", in which I maintained that Mr. Bravo was poisoned with tartar emetic and laurel-water. Being a legally qualified medical practitioner, I hold that if I see medical evidence degrading to the medical profession, I have just as much right to criticise it as the editor of any medical journal. The word "doctor", as you are aware, means teacher. I am a teacher, who likes to instruct all who seek instruction—not secretly, but openly, so far as decency will permit. I trust I shall always fulfil the first motto given me by my earliest schoolmaster, "Do thy duty in thy calling."—I beg to subscribe myself, yours truly,
GUSTAV ADOLPH AB RATH, M.D.

Sunderland, October 14th, 1876.

A. T. (Ventnor).—A licentiate in dental surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons has no right to have on his doorplate "L.R.C.S. Eng." (omitting the "D."); the title does not exist.

ANÆMIA.

SIR,—The article of October 7th, 1876, lays before us, as students of medicine, several important hints in regard to the diagnosis of the cause in different cases of spanæmia. According to this account, we can treat most of these causes with success, when discovered. There is, however, one cause which appears to me to have been omitted—namely, a congenitally contracted aorta, which, although not common, might lead a young practitioner not aware of such a condition, which, so far as I have ascertained, is incurable, into giving a favourable, but at the same time a wrong, prognosis.

Apologising for thus far trespassing upon your space and time, I am, etc.,
October 1876. M.B.

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.

REVACCINATION.

SIR,—Absence from home prevented my seeing, in the JOURNAL of September 23rd, your criticism of my report on the effect of revaccination in the late outbreak of small-pox at Swinton Schools, or I should have asked earlier to be allowed a few words in reply. The question as to the age at which revaccination is necessary is certainly one of great importance; and, as you take exception to my conclusion, based upon our recent experience at Swinton, that (in the presence of an epidemic, at all events) the operation is necessary at an earlier age than usually practised, I shall be obliged if you will allow me, though so late, to give a few additional details.

You say, "It would have been of value if Dr. Williams had stated the exact date of his revaccinations; whether the eight cases which occurred between June 25th and July 7th occurred after the general revaccinations, and in revaccinated subjects; and the state, as to quantity and quality, of the vaccinations in those attacked, as compared with those who escaped." I will now supply these particulars, and beg at the same time to explain that I should certainly have entered more minutely into these points had my report been written for the profession; but I wrote it at the request of the guardians, without the slightest idea that they would publish and disseminate it so widely.

The exact dates of the admission to the Infirmary of the twenty-three cases of small-pox were these: June 4th, one case; 8th, one; 17th, two; 18th, two; 19th, three; 20th, one; 21st, three; 22nd, two; July 3rd, four; and July 7th, two cases. Up to June 22nd, I contented myself with strict isolation from the first appearance of suspicious symptoms, and revaccination of those boys only who were known to have been in direct contact with the patients; but as these measures failed to check the spread of the disease, I then considered it my duty to revaccinate the whole of the boys as quickly as possible. Accordingly, between June 22nd and June 30th, I revaccinated 129 boys; on July 1st, 146; and on July 3rd, the remaining 69. Of the 350 boys thus revaccinated, six were subsequently seized with small-pox, at intervals varying from three to nine days after the operation. With regard to the primary vaccination marks in the twenty-three small-pox patients, I found two unsatisfactory, one with one good mark, five with two, eight with three, and seven with four good marks; so that, so far as these marks are evidence of protection, these children were quite as well protected previous to revaccination as those who escaped.

You ask, "If the revaccinations checked the spread of small-pox, how is it to be established that, before a single revaccination took place, the disease had not reached its acme, had not attacked all susceptible subjects, and was not disappearing of its own proper motion?" Of course, it is impossible to prove that this was not the case; but it would be equally impossible to prove that small-pox had not reached its acme in this country about the end of the last century, and that its virulence would not have abated if vaccination had never been practised at all. I certainly think, however, that the majority of your readers will consider the evidence in favour of the effect of vaccination extremely strong in the former case as well as the latter, when they take into consideration the fact, that for a week before the general revaccination, boys were breaking down with small-pox at the rate of two and three a day, that these boys were in constant close contact with their schoolfellows in the dormitories and schoolrooms, and, moreover, that they almost invariably concealed their illness as long as possible, and yet that, in spite of these conditions, after the revaccinations had had time to take full effect, not a single case occurred.

In the case of the girls, I freely admit that their escape was probably due to strict isolation, and not to revaccination. We could not, however, be certain that in spite of every care the contagion might not be conveyed to their department, and therefore I decided to afford them the same protection as the boys.

Your somewhat bitter taunt about the seven years' notion being worthy of the time in which it arose, falls quite harmless in my case, as I have no seven years' notion to defend. My only reason for fixing upon the age of seven is, that that is the age at which our children are drafted from the infants' to the boys' and girls' schools respectively, and as I did not revaccinate the infants, my experience in this matter does not extend below the age of seven.—I am, sir, yours truly,

Swinton, October 9th, 1876. JOHN WILLIAMS, M.D.

*The letter of Dr. Williams is open to considerable criticism, if our space permitted. We have room only to say that Dr. Williams, whilst giving some information asked for in the article referred to, leaves the criticism therein untouched.

X. L. (Liverpool).—The prosecution of Inspector Annis appears to have been a very disgraceful affair, and the "Society for the Repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts" would do well to express its pain at having been misled into taking part in proceedings so discreditable, with which it is impossible to suppose that the better-minded members of the Society can have any sympathy.

THE PHOSPHORUS PILLS OF THE "BRITISH PHARMACOPEIA".

SIR,—Will you kindly permit us to add a word or two to Dr. Owen Rees's contribution on the subject of the phosphorus pills of the *Pharmacopœia*, recorded in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of October 7th? Dr. Rees, after explaining his objection to the pills passing through the alimentary canal undissolved, concludes by expressing himself sincerely glad that this imperfection of the *British Pharmacopœia* has been so "early shown".

May we be allowed, sir, to point out the fact, that two years and a half ago, at the evening meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society, May 9th, 1874, almost immediately after the issue of the appendix containing the formula, Mr. Martindale gave particulars of his experience of them as follows. "Having made the pills as directed, it occurred to him that they might not be really soluble, yellow wax requiring a temperature of 140 deg. Fahr. to melt it, that of the body being under 100 deg. Fahr.; and, therefore, bearing in mind the old saying, *fiat experimentum in corpore vili*, he had tried them upon himself, taking one in the morning and one in the afternoon. As he expected, he found them both next morning perfectly globular, as slightly acted upon as possible, and not appreciably decreased in weight." Six months afterwards, in the following November 1874, Mr. Postans, in a paper read before the Pharmaceutical Society on various phosphorus preparations, again drew the attention of pharmacists and others to the insolubility of this *Pharmacopœia* phosphorus pill, and proposed a remedy—namely, the adoption of the formula published in Mr. Squire's *Companion to the British Pharmacopœia* for 1867, p. 182, as follows: "Melt the phosphorus in prepared suet in a closed vessel, afterwards roll out the pills, and coat them with gelatine."—"We remain, sir, yours faithfully,

Pharmaceutical Laboratory, 35, Baker Street, W.

YOUNG AND POSTANS.

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.

LOSS OF TASTE AND SMELL FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT, WITHOUT INJURY TO THE CRANIUM.

SIR,—Your correspondent Chirurgus will find that a case precisely similar to the one he mentions was reported by me at a meeting of the Clinical Society, held on the 10th May, 1872, a full account of which will be found in the *Transactions* of the Society for that year. A report of the interesting discussions which followed, and in which Sir William Gull, Dr. Hughlings Jackson, Dr. Lockhart Clarke, and others took part, will be found in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of May 25th, 1872.—I am, sir, yours, etc.,

44, Hertford Street, May Fair, October 16th, 1876.

SIR,—Having seen a question under the above heading asked by Chirurgus in this week's number of your JOURNAL, I beg to state that I have noticed in several instances a remarkable stimulation of the power of the gustatory nerves under small repeated doses of podophyllin. In one case I ordered five or six drops, to be taken three times daily, of a mixture containing two grains of podophyllin to half an ounce of rectified spirit, with most satisfactory results.—I am, yours truly,

73, Albert Street, Regent's Park, Oct. 1876. LOUIS LEWIS.

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; The Yorkshire Post; The Bromsgrove, Droitwich, and Redditch Weekly Messenger; The Redditch Indicator; The Cambrian; The Bristol Daily Times; The Southport Daily News; The Jewish World; The Cork Constitution; The Broad Arrow; The Allahabad Pioneer; The Sussex Daily News; The Harrogate Herald; The Dumfries and Galloway Standard; The Glasgow News; The Buxton Advertiser; The Wexford Constitution; The Yarmouth Independent; The Islington Gazette; The Manchester Courier; The Newcastle Daily Chronicle; The Sunderland Daily Post; The East Lancashire Echo; The Wigan Observer; The Northampton Herald; The Blackburn Standard; The Architect; The Western Morning News; The Western Daily Mercury; The Hereford Times; 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:—

Mr. Henry Morris, London; Mr. Wm. Mac Cormac, London; Dr. G. H. B. Macleod, Glasgow; Dr. George Johnson, London; Dr. A. B. Shepherd, London; Mr. R. Kershaw, London; Dr. G. F. Burder, Clifton; Dr. W. M. Banks, Liverpool; Mr. J. Priestley, Manchester; Mr. G. Cowell, London; Dr. J. Curnow, London; Dr. W. Wadham, London; Dr. F. Taylor, London; Mr. A. Jackson, Sheffield; Dr. Mackey, London; Dr. F. Taylor, London; Mr. J. E. Moreton, Tarvin; Dr. Wadham, London; Dr. S. Wilson Hope, Petworth; An Old Correspondent; Dr. Alex. Collie, Homerton; Mr. Samuel Lee, London; Dr. Thomson, Peterborough; Mr. J. Groves, London; Dr. Campbell Pope, London; Dr. Herbert M. Morgan, Lichfield; The Secretary of the Hunterian Society; Mr. F. Payne, London; D. R.; Dr. Syson, Huntingdon; M.D. Ed.; Mr. Sampson Gamgee, Birmingham; Dr. Douglas Powell, London; Mr. Louis Lewis, London; Dr. Percy Boulton, London; Dr. Harrison, Lincoln; Mr. Topham, London; Our Paris Correspondent; Mr. F. Lowndes, Liverpool; Mr. Clement Lucas, London; Dr. Moorhead, Weymouth; Mr. Gilruth, Edinburgh; Surgeon-Major Porter, Netley; Dr. Norman Kerr, London; Dr. Leonard W. Sedgwick, London; Mr. G. D. Brown, Ealing; Dr. Laidlaw Purves, London; Dr. G. Owen Rees, London; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; Dr. Edis, London; The Registrar-General of England; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Mr. Wanklyn, London; Dr. Tripe, Hackney; Mr. Eastes, London; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Dr. J. Milner Fothergill, London; Mr. Hugh Robinson, Preston; Dr. Goldie, Leeds; Mr. J. Ingpen, London; Mr. C. F. Maunder, London; Dr. James Edmunds, London; Inquirer, Northampton; Clyde, Gourack; J. C., Sheffield; Dr. Simeon Snell, Sheffield; Dr. John Tanner, London; The Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians of London; Dr. G. F. Duffey, Dublin; A Member of the Association; Dr. Pollard, London; Dr. Cayley, London; Dr. W. L. Lane, Crossgate; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Dr. Galton, London; The Secretary of the Quekett Microscopical Club; Dr. Farquharson, London; Dr. J. Wilkie Burman, Devizes; Dr. Abrath, Sunderland; Mr. J. Wright, Pitlochrie; Dr. Burney Yeo, London; Dr. Paul, London; Dr. Oliver, Preston; Mr. Lennox Browne, London; Mr. F. Denison, Elton; Mr. Culshaw, Liverpool; Mr. Nettleship, London; Dr. Purdon, Belfast; The Secretary of the Clinical Society; Mr. H. Burdett, Greenwich; Enquirers; Mr. F. W. Lowndes, Liverpool; Dr. Harrison, Lincoln; Dr. Bucknill, London; Spes; Dr. Young, Edinburgh; Dr. W. Ord, London; Dr. James Russell, Birmingham; Dr. Squire, London; Mr. W. H. A. Jacobson, London; Dr. Lombe Athill, Dublin; Dr. Marshall, Nottingham; C. W., Dunse; Mr. F. S. Turner, London; Mr. F. Wright, London; Dr. Eddison, Leeds; Dr. Grainger Stewart, Edinburgh; Mr. Henry Thompson, Hull; Dr. J. B. Sanderson, London; Mr. Hancock Wathen, Fishguard; Dr. Cornelius Fox, Chelmsford; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Atlas of Skin-Diseases. By Tilbury Fox, M.D., F.R.C.P. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1876. Part 13.