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## REPORTS TO THE SCIENTIFIC GRANTS COMMITTEE OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE following Reports have been published in the present volume.

Experiments on the Biliary Secretion of the Dog, with Reference to the Action of Cholagogues. By Dr. Rutherford and M. Vignal. In JOURNAL of July 7th and August 4th.

The Antagonism of Aconite and Digitalis. By Dr. J. M. Fothergill. In JOURNAL of August 4th.

of a factor that will one day form a no mean item in the majority of practices; and the more skilful the workman is, by so much the more is the general public a gainer.

It is not only for the male students that lying-in hospitals are excellent educational establishments, but also for those who are desirous of gaining their livelihoods as midwives. According to the present existing state of matters, numerous women are allowed to practise in Great Britain, *sine diplomate*, and with no special qualification or training, relying often on their own maternity and feelings alone for guidance. The incompetency of such is often manifested by the number of places left void, because the trusted attendant knew not the means to be taken for arresting *post partum* hæmorrhage, or was ignorant of the fact that puerperal fever was infectious. In Bohemia, and throughout the kingdom of Austria generally, most often ordinary cases of midwifery are attended by properly qualified women, the physician being only summoned for a mal-presentation or some other complication of labour. Hence it becomes expedient that all professed midwives should have had some preliminary education, and that after a test of their knowledge a certificate of their fitness to practise should be awarded; for the purpose of fulfilling these necessary conditions, Prague is a good deal resorted to by those whose object is to obtain the necessary licence.

The lying-in hospital is beautifully situated on a hill on the outskirts of the town. The present edifice has been in existence for two years, and is a handsome building, somewhat in the Elizabethan style as regards architecture, constructed of red bricks relieved at intervals by ornamentations of blue ones. The hospital consists of a central square, enclosing a garden, with three wings coming off from two of the sides at right angles; that side facing the street is surmounted by a short but elegant spire, while behind the fourth side, and on somewhat a lower level, are found the out-houses, where the washing, etc. are carried on. The various wings, projecting at a right angle from the central square, are quite distinct from each other, and the only communication between the different portions is by means of the corridor of the central buildings. Each of the wings has a well lighted and airy passage running its entire length, and the doors of the wards opening into it are all on the same side. Being of recent construction, the hospital has had every opportunity of putting into practice all the means that modern science could suggest, which would tend to diminish the mortality amongst the inmates; and it is to be believed that there has been no failure in this particular.

The hospital contains at the present time fifty beds for lying-in women; judging from the size of the building, it was with some surprise that this announcement was received, but inquiry revealed the fact that more than double that number were occupied by students and midwives attending the practice of the Institution. The wards set apart for the use of patients are ten in number, each one of which contains five beds; the rooms are not quite so large as those used for a similar purpose at the Rotunda in Dublin, but are lofty and clean, with three windows on one side, these opening when required into the external air. The ventilation is extremely good; in none of the wards could anything of an objectionable nature be detected by the sense of smell of the visitor. The purity of the atmosphere was effected in the following manner. Beneath the windows, on a level with the floor, were seen three small doors, similar ones existing *vis-à-vis*; one of these being opened, a metal trap came into view; this could be raised by means of a chain, and secured to a nail fixed in the wall for the purpose. On lifting up the trap, it was found to be the means of excluding the aperture of a ventilating shaft leading directly to the open air; those shafts, situated on the corridor side of the wards, passed under the passage, and consequently were much longer than their fellows of the opposite side. In the large stove, this being the means by which the rooms were heated, there were also a shaft by which fresh air could be directly brought into the ward at will, and a separate smaller one, limited to the middle and upper portions of the stove, which raised the temperature of any air that passed through it. In addition to these shafts, above each window was a ventilator, opening and shutting as was thought best.

The wards set apart for lying-in purposes are used in turn as the labour chamber; here the women are delivered, and after an elapse of a few hours are carried back to their own beds. All the births take place in the same ward for a month, and at the expiration of this another is chosen for a like period. The bedsteads in use are of iron, but the excellent brass spring mattresses are at present not in vogue. By the side of each occupied bed a small cradle is seen, so that the mother has the option of placing "baby" out of harm's way when she wishes to sleep herself, so lessening the chance of lying upon the child. The number of women delivered last year was 2,700, with a proportional amount of operational cases. When it is necessary to perform any of the more important operations of midwifery, the patient

is carried into a room set apart solely for this purpose. Cases of badly contracted pelvis amongst the Bohemians are rare, and it has only twice been found necessary, during the existence of the present hospital, to resort to Cæsarean section. Both the women were primiparous dwarfs; in both an uterine suture was used, but neither case proved successful. I also learnt that in several cases of severe *post partum* hæmorrhage, everything else having failed, the perchloride of iron injection, according to the directions of Dr. Barnes, had as a last resource been tried, and in all the cases had proved an effectual means of stopping the flow of blood, the patients after the operation making a good recovery.

Patients are admitted from all parts of the country any time during the last month of pregnancy. Those who have homes in Prague itself generally seek the hospital when the pains of labour commence; after delivery, in ordinary cases, the women remain in the place from a week to ten days, and are then discharged.

On the ground floor of the building, the kitchen is situated, and the arrangements in that department of the hospital would excite the envy of many housewives. In the centre of the room are six large copper cauldrons, each being surrounded by pipes, and having every appliance for heating or cooling as may be required, and the head of the culinary part of the establishment informed me with great satisfaction that "she could cook anything in five minutes"; and I should not be surprised if this statement were correct, although in this particular instance I did not see her powers put to the test.

The washing houses, which stand some little distance from the main building, and connected by means of a passage, are admirable in their way, the whole of the cleaning, wringing, and mangling being done by machinery, which is worked by an engine situated at one end of the building. Six women, and a man who officiates as engineer, are found amply sufficient to keep the whole hospital in clean linen.

During the present session there are forty male students and eighty midwives taking advantage of the hospital practice and lectures; all these are provided with accommodation in the building. There is a nice lecture theatre, and every appliance, not forgetting "dummies", for thoroughly teaching midwifery is found there. The lecturers are Professor Weber for instructing the women, and Professors Streng and Breisley for teaching the ordinary students. Mixed classes are not allowed, but the learners of both sexes are present at operations and labours. As there is no department for diseases of women, the two last-named teachers have wards in the general hospital set apart for the purpose of clinically instructing those male students attending the lying-in charity.

The midwives remain inmates of the hospital for four months, and then, if the examination they undergo be considered satisfactory, a diploma is given enabling them to practise. It might be better if a six months' attendance, as at the Rotunda, were required before the certificate could be obtained by any woman; an expression of this opinion led one of the chief officials to state that this was also his own idea, so that possibly in a short time some change in the existing regulations may be made. The average stay of the students is a session, consisting of six months; up to the present time, only one of our countrymen has been a resident in the new hospital for any lengthened period.

The general hospital in the town is a large irregular old building, containing eight hundred beds, but does not offer anything of much interest. The other medical institutions consist of a large military hospital, an asylum for foundlings, another for the insane, and an establishment for the deaf and dumb.

Attending the University at the present time are one thousand five hundred students, of whom three hundred belong to the medical faculty.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held in Bishop Cosin's Library, Durham, on Thursday, July 26th, at 2 P.M.

G. H. PHILIPSON, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*,  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, June 12th, 1877.

### BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at Carlisle, on Friday, July 20th. President: Dr. BARNES. President-elect: Dr. LOCKIE.

Members wishing to communicate papers or cases are requested to send notice to the Secretaries.

RODERICK MACLAREN, M.D. } *Honorary Secretaries*.  
JOHN SMITH, M.D. }  
Carlisle, June 16th, 1877.

# COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, on Wednesday, the 11th day of July next, at Two o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE,

General Secretary.

36, Great Queen Street, London, W.C., July 4th, 1877.

# BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Forty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held in the Owens College, Manchester, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, August 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th, 1877.

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

*President-elect*.—M. A. EASON WILKINSON, M.D., Senior Physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

An Address in Medicine will be given by WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S., Manchester.

An Address in Surgery will be given by T. SPENCER WELLS, F.R.C.S., London.

An Address in Obstetric Medicine will be given by ROBERT BARNES, M.D., F.R.C.P., London.

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

**SECTION A. MEDICINE.**—*President*: Sir William Jenner, Bart., M.D., K.C.B., F.R.S. *Vice-Presidents*: Samuel Crompton, M.D.; Wilson Fox, M.D., F.R.S.; Henry Simpson, M.D. *Secretaries*: Julius Dreschfeld, M.D., 292, Oxford Road, Manchester; F. T. Roberts, M.D., F.R.C.P., 53, Harley Street, London, W.

**SECTION B. SURGERY.**—*President*: Edward Lund, F.R.C.S. *Vice-Presidents*: W. Adams, F.R.C.S.; F. A. Heath, M.R.C.S. *Secretaries*: S. M. Bradley, F.R.C.S., 272, Oxford Road, Manchester; Henry Morris, F.R.C.S., 2, Mansfield Street, London, W.

**SECTION C. OBSTETRIC MEDICINE.**—*President*: W. O. Priestley, M.D., F.R.C.P. *Vice-Presidents*: A. H. McClintock, M.D., LL.D.; James Whitehead, M.D. *Secretaries*: David Lloyd Roberts, M.D., 23, St. John Street, Manchester; John Thorburn, M.D., 333, Oxford Road, Manchester.

**SECTION D. PUBLIC MEDICINE.**—*President*: Surgeon-Major F. S. B. De Chaumont, M.D., *Vice-Presidents*: Alfred Aspland, F.R.C.S.; W. H. Corfield, M.D., F.R.C.P. *Secretaries*: William Armistead, M.B., Station Road, Cambridge; John Haddon, M.D., Monk's Hall, Eccles, Manchester.

**SECTION E. PHYSIOLOGY.**—*President*: Arthur Gamgee, M.D., F.R.S. *Vice-Presidents*: John Cleland, M.D., F.R.S.; Thos. Lauder Brunton, M.D., F.R.S. *Secretaries*: Joseph Coats, M.D., 33, Elmbank Street, Glasgow; William Stirling, M.D., University, Edinburgh.

**SECTION F. PSYCHOLOGY.**—*President*: J. C. Bucknill, M.D., F.R.S. *Vice-Presidents*: H. Rooke Ley, M.R.C.S.; G. W. Mould, M.R.C.S. *Secretaries*: P. M. Deas, M.B., County Asylum, Macclesfield; T. Clay Shaw, M.D., Middlesex County Asylum, Banstead.

*Local Secretaries*. { Dr. LEECH, 96, Mosley Street, Manchester.  
C. J. CULLINGWORTH, Esq., 260, Oxford Street, Manchester.  
Dr. HARDIE, St. Ann's Place, Manchester.

**SPECIAL DISCUSSIONS.**—It is intended to hold discussions on certain special subjects in several of the Sections, as follows.

*Medicine*.—Aortic Aneurism; the Treatment of Pleuritic Effusion.

*Surgery*.—Antiseptic Surgery; Excision of the Knee; Treatment of Stricture of the Urethra.

*Obstetric Medicine*.—Transfusion of Blood.

**PAPERS.**—The following papers have been promised.

ADAMS, William, F.R.C.S. On the Treatment of Hip-Joint Disease by Extension with Motion, as practised by the American Surgeons, instead of long continued Rest and Immobility.

ALLBUTT, T. Clifford, M.D. The Treatment of Pleuritic Effusion.

ATKINS, Ringrose, M.D. 1. Pathological Illustrations of the Localisation of Brain-Function.—2. The Morbid Histology of the Spinal Cord in Five Cases of Insanity.

ATKINSON, E., M.R.C.S. Stricture of the Urethra, with Special Reference to Urethrotomy.

ATTILL, Lombe, M.D. Treatment of Chronic Endometritis.

AVELING, J. H., M.D. Coagulation during Transfusion.

BAKER, J. W., M.R.C.S. Treatment of Placenta Prævia.

BARLOW, Thomas, M.D. Case of Cirrhosis of the Liver in a Child.

BARNES, H., M.D. The Value of Paracentesis of the Chest in the Treatment of Pleuritic Effusion.

BERNARD, W., L.K.Q.C.P. A Form of Uterine Hand-spray Apparatus.

BRADLEY, S. M., F.R.C.S. 1. Evolution of Cancer.—2. Alveolar Sarcoma.

BRAMWELL, Byrom, M.D. 1. Abstract of Case of Aneurism treated by Iodide of Potassium.—2. Abstract of Seven Cases of Pernicious Anæmia.—3. Abstract of Cases of Cerebral Tumour.

BROWNE, Lennox, F.R.C.S. Edin. 1. Illustrative Cases of the Value of the Galvano-Cautery in Diseases of the Throat, Nose, and Ear; with Description of a Convenient Battery.—2. On Objective Causes of Globus Hystericus and other Allied Conditions.

BURDETT, Henry C., Esq. Home Hospitals: their Scope, Object, and Management.

CHIENE, John, F.R.C.S. Ed.

COUPLAND, Sidney, M.D., and MORRIS, Henry, M.B. Cases of Intestinal Obstruction, with Remarks on Diagnosis and Treatment.

CULLINGWORTH, Charles, M.R.C.S. A Case of Cancer of the Stomach in an Infant five weeks old.

DAY, W. H., M.D. Observations on Renal Affections in Children.

DEAS, P. Maury, M.B. Some Notes on General Paralysis of the Insane.

DRESCHFELD, Julius, M.D. On Spinal Hemorrhage.

DRYSDALE, C. R., M.D. Pigmentary Syphilide in Females.

DUNCAN, J. Matthews, M.D. Treatment of *Post Partum* Septicæmia by Internal Manipulations.

DURHAM, Arthur E., F.R.C.S. On Internal Urethrotomy by Aid of a New Urethrotome.

ELAM, Charles, M.D. Observations on Certain Forms of Paralysis.

ELLIOTT, John, M.B. Statistics of the Waterford Lying-in Hospital.

EVANS, R. W., L.R.C.P. Ed. On Skin-Grafting.

FARQUHARSON, Robert, M.D. Some Points in the Art of Prescribing for Children.

FOSTER, Balthazar, M.D. On Sudden Death in Diabetes Mellitus.

FOTHERGILL, J. Milner, M.D. When not to give Iron.

FOX, E. Long, M.D. On a Case of Paralysis of the Diaphragm, with peculiar Laryngeal Symptoms.

FOX, Wilson, M.D., F.R.S. Paracentesis in Pleurisy.

GAIRDNER, William T., M.D. A Case of Prenatal Sleep with Choreic Movements: Sequel to a Paper read at the Meeting of the Association in Edinburgh in 1875.

GOODHART, James F., M.D. Paracentesis in Pleurisy.

GOODERS, W. R., M.D. On some Points in the Symptomatology of Chorea.

GRIFFITH, G. de Gorreger, L.R.C.P. Female Diseases.

GROSHOLZ, F. H. V., L.K.Q.C.P. Obstetrics in the Country.

HADDON, John, M.D. On Pleural Effusions, their Diagnosis and Proper Treatment.

HARDY, H. Nelson, F.R.C.S. Ed. Hospital Out-Patient Reform: its Helpers, its

Hinderers, and its Passers by.

HARRISON, Reginald, F.R.C.S. Surgical Cases.

HEATH, F. A., M.R.C.S. Cases in Surgery.

HEWITT, Graily, M.D. Abnormal Softness of the Multiparous Uterus as a Factor in the Etiology of Uterine Distortion, and as a Cause of Impairment of Power of Locomotion.

HIGGINS, Charles, L.R.C.P. Clinical Remarks on Cases of Tumour of the Orbit.

JESSOP, J. R., F.R.C.S. Antiseptic Surgery.

KERR, Norman, M.D. Habitual Drunkards: what shall we do with them?

LEECH, D. J., M.B. Abstract of Cases of Pleurisy treated by Paracentesis.

MCCLINTOCK, A. H., M.D. Fetal Therapeutics.

MADDEN, T. More, M.D. The Constitutional Treatment of Certain Uterine and Ovarian Diseases.

MAHOMED, F. A., M.D. Some Indications for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Aortic Aneurism.

MAJOR, Herbert C., M.D. The Histology of the Brain of Apes.

MANN, J. D., L.K.Q.C.P. On Current-Measurements in Electrotherapeutics.

MOXON, John, M.D. The Use of Chloral-Hydrate in Convulsions.

MOULD, George W., M.R.C.S. The Best Mode of Treating and Dealing with Habitual Drunkards.

PHILLIPSON, G. H., M.D. Two Cases of Abdominal Aneurism: one cured by Compression, the other by Iodide of Potassium.

ROBERTS, D. Lloyd, M.D. Transfusion.

ROBERTS, F. T., M.D. Notes from Cases illustrating the Diagnosis and Treatment of Internal Aneurism.

ROBERTS, John, M.D. Gangrene of the Ascending Colon.

ROSS, James, M.D. On a Case of Posthemiplegic Chorea.

SIMPSON, Henry, M.D. 1. The Treatment of Aortic Aneurism.—2. Abstract of Laryngeal Cases.

SQUIRE, William, M.D. On Infantile Pneumonia.

TAYLOR, Charles Bell, M.D. 1. Interpal Syphilitic Ophthalmia.—2. On certain cases of apparently hopeless Blindness in which Sight was restored by Treatment.

THORNBURN, John, M.D. Latent Gonorrhœa as an Impediment to Marriage.

TIBBIS, Herbert, M.R.C.P. Ed. Medical Electricity: its Scope and its Limitations as a Remedy.

WADDY, H. E., M.R.C.S. Terebene and Scab-dressing.

WHITCOMBE, Edmund B., M.R.C.S. On the Frequency and Causes of Meningeal Hemorrhage in the Insane.

WHITEHEAD, W., F.R.C.S. Ed. Use of the Speculum Clamp in Disease of the Rectum.

WILLIAMS, William, M.D. A Case of Paralysis occurring on the same side as the Lesion in the Brain.

WOOD, T. Outterson, M.R.C.P. Ed. On a Case of Aneurism of the Middle Cerebral Artery.

YEO, J. Burney, M.D. Pleurisy of the Apex.

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 the Secretaries of Sections on or before the 1st of August.

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

FRANCIS FOWKE, General Secretary.

36, Great Queen Street, W.C., July 4th, 1877.

## NORTH WALES BRANCH.

THE twenty-eighth annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Corsygedol Arms, Barmouth, on Wednesday, July 11th, at 1 P.M. The President, Dr. RICHARDS, will resign the Chair to the President-elect, ROBERT ROBERTS, Esq., who will deliver an address.

Gentlemen intending to read papers, or be present at the dinner, are requested to inform the Honorary Secretary on or before July 1st.

Dinner at 3.30 P.M. Tickets, 7s. 6d., exclusive of wine.

T. EYTON JONES, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.  
Wrexham, June 18th, 1877.

## SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held in the Grand Jury Room of the Shire Hall, Brecon, on Wednesday, July 11th: W. TALFOURD JONES, M.B., President-elect.

Council Meeting at 11.30. General Meeting at 12.15. Luncheon by invitation of the President-elect at his residence. Dinner at 3.

Members intending to read papers, or to dine, are requested to inform the Honorary Secretary at Swansea immediately.

ANDREW DAVIES, M.D. } *Honorary Secretaries*.  
ALFRED SHEEN, M.D. }

Swansea, July 2nd, 1877.

## WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Railway Hotel, Taunton, on Thursday, July 12th, at 2.30 P.M.  
Dinner at 5 o'clock.

Gentlemen wishing to read papers are requested to send early notice to the Honorary Secretary.

W. M. KELLY, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.  
Taunton, June 23rd, 1877.

## NORTHERN COUNTIES (SCOTLAND) BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Gordon Arms Hotel, Elgin, on Friday, July 20th, at 6.30 P.M.: Dr. MACKENZIE of Fortrose, President, in the Chair.

*Subject of Discussion*.—Scarlatinal Albuminuria, to be opened by Dr. Bruce of Dingwall.

J. W. NORRIS MACKAY, M.D., *Hon. Sec. and Treasurer*.  
Elgin, July 2nd, 1877.

## METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE twenty-fifth annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Alexandra Palace, on Tuesday, July 24th, at 4 P.M. President: JONATHAN HUTCHINSON, Esq., F.R.C.S. President-elect: SEPTIMUS W. SIBLEY, Esq., F.R.C.S.

Dinner at 5.30 precisely. Tickets, 15s. each, exclusive of wine.  
Further particulars in circulars.

ALEXANDER HENRY, M.D. } *Honorary Secretaries*.  
ROBERT FARQUHARSON, M.D. }

London, June 18th, 1877.

## ABERDEEN, BANFF, AND KINCARDINE BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of this Branch will be held in the University Buildings, New Aberdeen, on Wednesday, July 25th, at 1 P.M.  
Exhibition of instruments and pathological specimens will take place from 11 A.M. in the University.

The members will dine together at the Palace Hotel at 3 P.M.

ALEX. OGSTON, } *Honorary Secretaries*.  
JOHN URQUHART, }

Aberdeen, July 3rd, 1877.

## SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE thirty-third annual meeting of the South-Eastern Branch took place on June 13th, at the Burlington Hotel, Eastbourne. There were about forty members present.

At the commencement of the proceedings, the Chair was taken by Dr. S. MONCKTON, the President for 1876-77, who acknowledged the hearty and valuable support which had been universally tendered to him by all his neighbours and friends connected with the Branch during the year of his presidency. It was with no small degree of

pride that he looked back upon the honourable position which he had held. He then introduced his successor, Dr. BRANSBY ROBERTS.

*President's Address*.—Dr. ROBERTS then took the Chair amid applause, and delivered an address. He began by thanking the members for the great honour conferred upon him by electing him to fill the Chair. He would, with the kind assistance of the vice-presidents and members, endeavour to do his duty to the best of his ability. In the name of the vice-presidents and of the local Committee—indeed, of the whole profession at Eastbourne—he welcomed the members to the town. Dr. Roberts then gave an account of Eastbourne as a health-resort. (See page 805 of last volume.)

*Vote of Thanks*.—Dr. HALL of Brighton proposed that the best thanks of the Branch should be tendered to the President and Vice-Presidents for 1876-77, for the efficient services they had rendered.

Dr. FUSSELL seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

*Report of Council*.—The following report was read by Dr. PARSONS of Dover, the Honorary Secretary.

"In presenting their report for the past year, your Council would direct attention, in the first place, to the numerical position of the Branch at the present moment. Last year, we numbered four hundred and sixteen; of these, eighteen have either withdrawn from the Branch or have migrated to other parts of the country and have been absorbed by other Branches, whilst six have been removed by death. One of these—Dr. Carr of Blackheath—was so well known and respected in the Branch, that a recapitulation of his services is unnecessary; but your Council desire to express their deep sense of the loss which they, as a body, have sustained by the untimely death of their old and valued friend and colleague. We have also to mourn the loss of Mr. Sanger of Alfriston, Vice-President-elect, a man of the highest integrity, beloved and respected by everybody in the East Sussex district, whose professional sagacity was only equalled by the genial warm-heartedness which was so characteristic of him. The members of last year, therefore, are reduced to three hundred and ninety-two. On the other hand, however, twenty-five new members have joined the Branch, and of these one has withdrawn, so that the total number of members to-day is four hundred and sixteen, the same as last year.

"It will be in your recollection that it was a recommendation from the annual meeting last year to the Executive Council, that a Medico-Ethical Committee should be formed for the Branch. After much deliberation, the Council have constituted themselves a Committee for one year for the consideration of such questions as may be referred to them.

"In compliance with the minutes of the general annual meeting of the Association held at Edinburgh in 1875, petitions have been presented to Parliament from various towns in the Branch in favour of legislation for the 'control and care of habitual drunkards'; and there is good ground for believing that before long this question must be taken in hand by Government, and the suggestions of our Association, embodied in the Bill of Dr. Cameron, eventually be adopted by Parliament.

"The Parliamentary Bills Committee of the Association has this year occupied itself in presenting to the notice of the War Office a case of hardship involved in the deprivation of income of militia surgeons without appropriate compensation. Strong parliamentary influence was brought to bear upon Mr. Hardy, the Secretary of War, who has acknowledged the hardship, but at present alleges the incompetency of the War Office to redress it. The case will be carried further in Parliament; and it is hoped that ultimately some compensation will be obtained for the militia surgeons, in lieu of the income of which they have been deprived.

"The Committee have also co-operated with the Factory Surgeons' Association in pressing upon the Home Secretary modifications in the Factory Acts Amendment Bill now passing through Parliament, and with the various professional bodies in Ireland in bringing under the notice of the Secretary for Ireland desirable amendments in the Public Health Bill (Ireland) which the latter minister has introduced into the House of Commons."

It is probable that the attention of the Council will be required for the working of the Experiments on Animals Bill, and data for this purpose are being collected. (Since the above was written, Mr. Holt's Bill on this subject has been thrown out by a large majority.)

"The machinery of the Branch still continues to work most satisfactorily, and your best thanks are due to the honorary district secretaries for their indefatigable zeal and energy. Your Council have much pleasure in announcing that the vacancy in the office of honorary secretary for the West Sussex district has been now filled by the appointment of Mr. A. A. Napper, the son of one of our oldest and most respected members (Mr. Albert Napper), whose name is familiar

enough to you all; and it is confidently hoped that, with this addition to our official staff, our Branch next year will number many more members. The West Surrey district has been practically unworked for many years; but the revival of periodical district meetings, and the presence and co-operation of members of neighbouring districts, will doubtless develop attachment to our Association in the district, as in all other parts of Great Britain where a similar experiment has been made.

"Your Council have observed with much satisfaction the very marked success which attended the conjoint meeting of the East and West Kent districts at Rochester, when sixty-five members were brought together by the untiring efforts of the two district secretaries; and at the conjoint meeting of the East and West Sussex districts at Brighton fifty-two members assembled. The remarkable success of these experiments induces your Council to recommend occasional conjoint meetings of the various districts to the notice of the district secretaries. In this way, not only is the influence of the Association for good very greatly enlarged, but members of one district are made acquainted with those of another, and the whole Branch is thus bound together in one professional brotherhood, which our great Association is so well fitted to foster and encourage."

Dr. LANCHESTER (Croydon) proposed and Dr. BAGSHAW (Hastings) seconded the adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously.

*The Secretary.*—Dr. MONCKTON proposed that the best thanks of the Association be given to the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Parsons, for the very efficient way in which he had discharged his duties during the past year; and that he be re-elected. The vote was carried by acclamation, and acknowledged by Dr. Parsons.

*Officers for 1878-79.*—Dr. HOLMAN (Reigate) proposed that Dr. Lanchester of Croydon be the President-elect, and Messrs. A. G. Roper (Croydon) and C. W. Chaldecott (Dorking) be the Vice-Presidents-elect, for the year 1878-79; and that the next annual meeting of the Branch be held at Croydon.

This proposition was seconded by Dr. GALTON (South Norwood), and carried unanimously.

The meeting then terminated, and the members adjourned to the residence of the President, where they partook of luncheon.

*Excursions, etc.*—During the afternoon, several excursions were arranged. A visit was paid to Pevensey Castle, a description of which interesting ruin was given by the well-known archaeologist Mr. G. F. Chambers. An excursion was also made to Beachy Head, and another to All Saints' Convalescent Hospital, which institution was inspected under the guidance of Mr. A. Whitefield. Some of the members paid a visit to the Caldecott Museum, over which they were conducted by Dr. Ogier Ward. Visits were also paid to the Devonshire Park Pavilion and Baths, which buildings, by the kind permission of the directors, were opened to inspection; to the St. Saviour's and St. Mary's Churches, and the Redoubt and other places of interest in the town and neighbourhood.

*Dinner.*—The proceedings terminated with a dinner at the Burlington in the evening, over which Dr. Bransby Roberts presided.

#### CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of this Branch was held in the board-room of the Saffron Walden Hospital on Tuesday, June 26th, under the presidency of HENRY STEAR, Esq. There were twenty-three members present and several visitors, including Dr. A. P. Stewart of London.

Previously to the meeting, the members were entertained at luncheon by the President.

*President's Address.*—The PRESIDENT, having been briefly introduced by Dr. Bradbury, in the absence of the late President, gave an interesting address on the history of Saffron Walden, Audley End, etc.

Mr. CARTER proposed and Mr. HODSON seconded a vote of thanks to the President for his address, which was carried unanimously.

*New Members.*—The following new members were elected:—Association and Branch: Clement Frederick Gray, Esq., Newmarket; Thomas Hyde Hills, Esq., Cambridge. Branch only: George Richards, Esq., Great Dunmow; George Samuel Watson, Esq., Thaxted; H. A. Hallett, Esq., Kimbolton.

*Next Place of Meeting.*—Dr. BRADBURY proposed and Mr. CARTER seconded, that the meeting next year be at Peterborough, in conjunction with the South Midland and East Anglian Branches, and under the presidency of Dr. T. J. Walker. This was carried unanimously.

*Representatives in the General Council.*—The following were elected: J. B. Bradbury, M.D.; G. M. Humphry, M.D., F.R.S.; Henry Stear, Esq.; Bushell Anningson, M.B., Honorary Secretary, *ex officio*.

*The Secretary.*—The Honorary Secretary (Dr. BRADBURY) having expressed his intention to resign, it was unanimously resolved, on the proposition of Dr. Bradbury, seconded by Dr. Latham, to elect Dr. Bushell Anningson of Cambridge in his place.

Dr. HUMPHRY proposed and Mr. HOUGH seconded a vote of thanks to Dr. Bradbury for his services as Secretary during the last six years.

*Discussions at Meetings.*—The PRESIDENT wished to elicit the opinions of members on the following subject, but no decision was come to; viz., "The advisability of fixing upon some one subject in practical medicine or surgery at each annual meeting, to be brought forward for discussion at the ensuing one".

*Papers.*—The following papers were read.

1. By H. J. BUCK, Esq.: On Capsicum as a Counterirritant.

2. By A. P. STEWART, M.D.: On a Case of Neurosis affecting the Venous Circulation. There was a discussion on this paper by Dr. Bradbury, Dr. Paget, Dr. Latham, and Mr. Satchell.

3. By G. E. PAGET, M.D., F.R.S.: Cases of Opium-Poisoning. Dr. Latham and Dr. T. J. Walker took part in the discussion.

For want of time, papers by Dr. Armistead and Dr. Bradbury were not read.

*Specimens.*—Dr. HUMPHRY showed and made observations on Early British Skulls, and on an Anglo-Saxon Skull recently found at Saffron Walden.

Mr. BRIDGER showed specimens (1) of a Funis tied in a complete knot, causing the death of the child during birth; (2) of a portion of Funis removed from a child three days old.

Mr. IRELAND showed a woman with two Supernumerary Mammaræ, and gave a short history of the case.

*Excursions.*—After the business of the meeting was concluded, a visit was made to the historic mansion and park of Audley End, which were kindly thrown open to the members by Lord Braybrooke. The fine old Parish Church of Saffron Walden, the Museum and Anglo-Saxon Remains, were also visited.

*Dinner.*—The dinner took place at the Rose and Crown Hotel the President in the Chair, and Dr. Bradbury acting as Vice-Chairman. About twenty-seven sat down to dinner, including Messrs. Tuke and Clark of Saffron Walden and other visitors.

There was an unanimous feeling amongst the members that this was one of the most pleasant and successful Branch meetings which had ever been held, this success being due in great measure to the exertions of the President.

#### THAMES VALLEY BRANCH: GENERAL MEETING.

A MEETING of the above Branch was held at the Griffin Hotel, Kingston, on June 14th: Dr. LANGDON DOWN in the Chair.

*Communications.*—1. Dr. FENN read a paper on Nocturnal Incontinence of Urine. He regarded it as a neurosis, and insisted on the importance of study of the antecedent history of the family. He recommended early treatment, and especially iron and belladonna.

2. Dr. HOOPER brought forward a case of Post-scarlatinal Uræmia.

3. Dr. TROUNCER related a case of *Post Partum* Hæmorrhage treated by Injection of Perchloride of Iron.

*New Member.*—Dr. Owen Jones was elected a member of the Branch.

*Dinner.*—The members afterwards dined at the hotel.

WEM.—The population is estimated at 12,773; the births in 1876 were 308, and the deaths 197, which affords a death-rate of 18.10, against 19.11 in 1875. In the township of Wem, the death-rate was 26.49, against 11.16 for the rest of the district, after the deaths in the workhouse had been subtracted. This high death-rate in the township is attributed to polluted water-supply, the large number of cesspools, and defective scavenging arrangements; so that the air, soil, and water have become polluted. There were 21 deaths from zymotic diseases; viz., 1 from typhus, 2 from typhoid, 2 from scarlet fever, 2 from measles, 8 from whooping-cough, and 6 from diarrhoea. These figures certainly hardly point to polluted water-supply as the cause of undue mortality in the township. There were 28 deaths of children under one year, being about 9.1 deaths amongst each 100 births, which is less than usual. Dr. Gill discusses at some length the question of keeping pauper lunatics in workhouses, or giving pauper relief at home, and comes to the conclusion that neither should be allowed, but that all lunatics should go to the county asylum.

Earl of Shaftesbury), he wrote "An Account of the Diseases of Colliers", which was incorporated in the *Report of the Children's Employment Commission*. These were much appreciated, and were presented to both Houses of Parliament.

He settled in London in 1841, and devoted himself chiefly to the diseases of the heart and lungs. This led him to devise his "differential stethoscope", which is much valued by those who have had opportunities of testing its usefulness, and which, in affections of the heart in particular, has afforded the most satisfactory results. His sphygmoscope also contributed to the facilities of determining the synchronism or non-synchronism of the various motions of the heart and great vessels. He was a skilful diagnosticist, and was remarkable for the accuracy with which he detected the early signs of phthisis and disease of the heart. He contributed largely to the *Proceedings* of the Royal Society and of the Royal Institution, and to the medical and scientific journals. He was, besides, the author of various practical treatises on the heart and lungs. The work, however, by which he is best known is the *Physical Examination of the Chest in Pulmonary Consumption and its Intercurrent Diseases*, which, both in a practical and scientific view, is a most learned and valuable contribution to medical literature. He was formerly Honorary Secretary to the Medical Society of London, and Physician to the Hospital for Consumption at Brompton. He was warm-hearted and unaffected, with a kind word and willing ear for all in suffering or distress; and by those who had the privilege of his intimate acquaintance he will be long deeply mourned and his memory cherished with affection.

## UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

**MERTON COLLEGE POSTMASTERSHIP IN PHYSICAL SCIENCES.**—An examination will begin at Merton College on Tuesday, October 2nd, for the purpose of electing one Physical Science Postmastership. The Postmastership is of the annual value of £80, and is tenable for five years from election, or so long as the holder does not accept any appointment incompatible with the pursuance of the full course of University studies. After two years of residence, the College will raise, by a sum not exceeding £20 *per annum*, the Postmasterships of such Postmasters as shall be recommended by the Tutors for their character, industry, and ability. Candidates, if members of the University, must not have exceeded, for the Physical Science Postmastership, six terms of University standing. Those who give in their names at Merton are requested to call on the Warden, with testimonials of character, and, if members of the University, with certificates of matriculation, between 4 and 6 P.M. on Monday, October 1st, or on Tuesday, October 2nd, between 9.30 and 10 A.M. The subjects of examination for the Physical Science Postmastership will be Chemistry and Physics. There will be a practical examination in Chemistry. Candidates will have opportunities of giving evidence of a knowledge of Biology; but in such cases the Examiners will look for evidence of an acquaintance with the principles of Chemistry and Physics equal in extent to that which is required in the Preliminary Honour Examination in the Physical Science School. A paper will be set in Algebra and Elementary Geometry, which, *ceteris paribus*, will be of weight in the election to the Postmastership. Further information may be obtained from the Tutor in Physical Science.

## 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 28th, 1877.

Gristock, William, 26, Blandford Square  
Johnson, William Henry, Hogsthorpe, Lincolnshire  
Marriott, Frederick Thomas, Western General Dispensary  
Marsh, Frank, Tillington, near Stafford  
Oxley, Alfred James Richard, Conisbrough, Yorkshire

The following gentleman also on the same day passed his primary professional examination.

Burt, Alfred, Guy's Hospital

**UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM.**—The following gentlemen, having satisfied the examiners, had their degrees conferred on Tuesday, June 19th. The degree of M.D. for practitioners of fifteen years' standing.

Cassidy, James L.

Goldsmith, George P.

The degree of M.B.  
Emmerson, John B.

Fenwick, Bedford

**UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN: SCHOOL OF PHYSIC IN IRELAND.**—At the Trinity Term examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine, held on Monday and Tuesday, June 11th and 12th, 1877, the following candidates were successful.

Malet, Henry  
O'Dwyer, Malachi  
Patterson, John  
Walsh, William B.  
Mallins, Clement  
Dobbs, Arthur F.  
Crofts, Freeman W.

Barton, Travers B.  
Hamilton, Thomas W.  
Adams, John J.  
Booker, William A.  
Hall, James C.  
Manning, George H.  
Byrne, William

At the examination for the degree of Bachelor in Surgery, held on Monday and Tuesday, June 18th and 19th, the following candidates were successful.

Malet, Henry  
Thompson, James E.  
McCartie, Frederick F.  
O'Dwyer, Malachi  
Dobbs, Arthur F.  
Hamilton, William  
Byrne, William  
Sheppard, Henry D.

Crofts, Freeman W.  
Taylor, Sidney  
Booker, William A.  
Wrightson, Richard B.  
Adams, John  
McDermott, Rudolph J.  
Hall, James C.  
Conolly, John N.

The names in the foregoing lists are arranged in the order of merit of the candidates' answering.

Mr. Malet was recommended to obtain the degree of B.Ch. *stipendiis condonatis*, as he had won first place at both the Medical and the Surgical degree examinations.

### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:—

**BATH UNION**—Medical Officer for the Workhouse and First District.  
**CARRICK-ON-SUIR UNION**—Medical Officer for the Carrick-on-Suir Dispensary District. Salary, £100 per annum as Medical Officer; £15 as Sanitary Officer for the Rural District; and £15 for the Urban District. Applications to be made on or before the 9th instant.

**CUMBERLAND INFIRMARY**—House-Surgeon.

**FREEBRIDGE LYNN UNION**—Medical Officer for the Workhouse and the Second Eastern District.

**ISLE OF WIGHT UNION**—Medical Officer for the Workhouse. Salary, £90 per annum, and fees. Applications to be made on or before 25th instant.

**LEXDEN and WINSTREE UNION**—Medical Officer for the Ninth District.

**LISMORE UNION**—Medical Officer for the Ballyjamesduff Dispensary District. Salary, £120 per annum, together with £17 as Sanitary officer, and fees. Applications to be made on or before the 14th instant.

**ROYAL BERKS HOSPITAL, Reading**—House-Surgeon. Salary, £90 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 14th instant.

**ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road**—Junior Resident Medical Officer. Applications to be made on or before the 11th instant.

**SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL, Greenwich**—House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, furnished apartments, and attendance. Applications to be made on or before the 12th instant.

**SLIGO UNION**—Medical Officer for the Sligo Dispensary District. Salary, £100 per annum, and fees. Applications to be made on or before the 16th instant.

**WARWICK COUNTY ASYLUM**—Junior Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with furnished apartments, board, and attendance.

**WEST KENT GENERAL HOSPITAL, Maidstone**—Physician. Applications to be made on or before the 12th instant.

**WILT'S COUNTY ASYLUM**—Medical Officer. Salary, £110 per annum, with board, residence, and attendance. Applications to be made on or before the 18th instant.

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

**HARRIS, Vincent, M.D.**, appointed an additional Assistant-Physician to the West London Hospital.

**OTTLEY, Walter, M.B.**, appointed an additional Assistant-Surgeon to the West London Hospital.

### 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.

**SPARROW.**—At 1, Great Francis Street, Birmingham, the wife of W. W. B. Sparrow, M.R.C.S. Eng., etc., of a son.

#### MARRIAGES.

**UNDERHILL—FAITHORNE.**—On June 14th, at St. John's, Perche, Ontario, by the Rev. Isaac Barr, Vicar, assisted by the Rev. Thomas Ellerby, \*Francis William Underhill, Surgeon, of 363, Moseley Road, Birmingham, to Ellen Julia, second daughter of Colonel Faithorne, Royal Canadians, of East Range, Sarnia, Canada.

#### DEATHS.

**DAWSON.**—On June 30th, at Hunmanby, Martha, wife of \*Dr. C. W. Dawson, aged 28 years.—No cards.

**HANKS.**—On June 26th, at 146, Mile End Road, Mary Ann Dinah, the wife of \*Henry Hanks, L.R.C.P. Ed. (exam.), M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A., after eleven years' severe suffering, borne with extreme fortitude.

**PAGE.**—On Sunday, July 1st, aged 24 years, Mary Morgan, the dearly beloved wife of \*Herbert Markant Page, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. Lond., of Redditch, Worcestershire.

**TURNBULL.**—At Tweed View, Coldstream, on June 28th, Sophia, wife of \*Matthew James Turnbull, M.D., aged 51 years.



## 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.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 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.—King's College, 2 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.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 P.M.
THURSDAY....	St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Charing Cross, 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), 4 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.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 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 *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, are requested to communicate beforehand with the printer, Mr. Thomas 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, not delivery of the *JOURNAL*, etc., should be addressed to the General Manager, at the Office, 36, Great Queen Street, W.C., London.

## A DISEASE RESEMBLING HAY-FEVER.

SIR,—In the interest of a long suffering patient, I write to ask for suggestions any member may offer for the relief of the following case, accurately reported by the patient himself, an otherwise healthy gentleman aged 26. He has consulted Sir W. Gull, Dr. Chambers, an eminent physician in Switzerland, and others. He has taken bromide of potassium and endless other drugs. He is very careful in his diet. I think I can safely say nothing has done him any permanent good.—Believe me, faithfully yours,

WM. THOS. BRISCOE.

Chippenhams, June 16th, 1877.

"In the year 1869, for the first time, I had severe sneezing and discharge from the nostrils, which lasted during the whole of June and first week in July. It came on again about the middle of June the following year, but more severely, and each successive year till 1873, when I had it so badly as almost to keep me to the house. The sneezing became very violent indeed, and a continual discharge from the nostrils, so that I required nine or ten handkerchiefs daily. The violent sneezing also made my eyes very bloodshot and exceedingly irritable. I went to the seaside for a month, but nothing seemed to do it any good. It began to get better when the weather got cooler in September. In 1874, it again came on about the 10th of June. I now tried injections of quinine into the nostrils. This did no good, so was told to try an injection of diluted iodine. This produced very violent irritation and sneezing; and after persevering for ten days, was compelled to discontinue it. Nothing seemed to give any relief till the cooler weather arrived, when it gradually got better, but left me very weak. The year 1875 was only a repetition of the former. In the year 1876, I made up my mind to go to the higher and cooler regions of the mountainous parts of Switzerland, so soon as the first symptoms should appear; so started on June 6th, but had got no further than Brussels when it came on very badly. I hurried on to the Zermatt and the Riffelberg; but even in those high places, surrounded by snow, I suffered badly, though not quite so intensely, as in the lower regions. On the whole, the change of climate seemed to somewhat abate the disease, which, however, did not leave me till the usual time—viz., the arrival of the cooler weather. This year it has returned again quite as badly as ever. I dare not go into the sunshine, or near a hay-field, as that at once brings on the most distressing and violent sneezing. Each sneeze is like a prolonged roar, or like ten sneezes at one time, and shakes me so violently that I feel bruised all over; it almost makes my eyes start from my head, and they become so bloodshot that I can hardly see. It also brings on asthma, particularly at night, so that some nights I cannot lie down. The heart's action is also affected by it, which at times produces great faintness. As a rule, the sneezing disturbs me but little during the night, but is always very severe the moment I get out of bed. I now dare not leave the house at all whilst the sun is shining, though violent fits of sneezing continually come on without any apparent cause. The whole of the mucous membranes are exceedingly inflamed, and extremely painful and irritable."

SIR,—I am anxious to obtain an appointment as surgeon on board an emigrant ship bound for any of our Australian colonies about October next. I am twenty-four, "doubly qualified", and have good hospital experience. Can you or any of your numerous readers give me information on the following points, viz., 1. Whom shall I apply to? 2. What is the pay? 3. Are instruments, etc., supplied?—Faithfully yours,

L.R.C.S.I., L & L.M., K.Q.C.P.I.

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.

## THE TITLE OF DOCTOR.

SIR,—Your correspondent "A Disgusted M.D.," seeing that "many licentiates of the College of Physicians affix on their door-plates before (*sic*) their names the title of "Dr.," without having the degree M.D. from any Universities (*sic*), wishes to know "if the fact (*sic*) is creditable or legal"; and further, "if the title is to be tolerated, can the Medical Council institute proceedings to suppress such titles?" (*sic*). Will this disgusted M.D. permit me, before replying to questions expressed in language so lucid and elegant, to inquire from what University his degree was obtained? The question he must not consider irrelevant; for, apart from the fact that the knowledge will undoubtedly be of advantage to such men as have hitherto failed in obtaining any qualification whatever, and whose education has been from birth generally neglected, it must be held, in common justice, that the graduate of some obscure University, requiring for its worthless degree, as one is led to suppose from experience of its alumni, as little knowledge in the science of medicine as in the rudiments of the English language, who will affix to his name (or to his door-plate, as your correspondent has it) simply the letters M.D., without any indication of his humble origin, and who will thus attempt to lead the public into the belief that he not only obtained his degree from, but was educated at, an English University of high standing, has at least no right to complain of another's disregard of any moral obligation.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

A.L.R.C.P., WHO NEITHER CLAIMS NOR DESIRES THE TITLE OF "Dr."

SIR,—Some thirty years ago I became an extra-licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, was styled "Dr." by the then Registrar, Dr. Francis Hawkins, when introduced by him to the examiners, and acknowledged as such by them. For thirty years I have been known as Dr. So-and-So by my friends and patients, and had the prefix of "Dr." engraved on my door-plate. Must I now, in consequence of a recent regulation of the College, exchange the title "Dr." for "Mr.," proclaiming myself an impostor? or am I entitled to keep the title that was bestowed upon me by the Royal College of Physicians, for which I was examined, and for which I paid?—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

London, June 27th, 1877.

EXTRA-LICENTIATE.

SIR,—Your correspondent "A Disgusted M.D." remarks that "many licentiates of the Royal College of Physicians openly affix on their door-plates 'Dr.' before their names", and he wishes "to know if the fact be creditable or legal". Will you permit me to reply?

1. Every L.R.C.P. is legally and truly a physician: this is now acknowledged on all hands; and, indeed, as you, sir, have recently remarked in answers to a correspondent, "his diploma confers that title upon him" (see *BRIT. MED. JOUR.*, March 31st, 1877). It has always been the custom to address physicians with the prefix "Dr." I have before me an old copy of the regulations of the London College of Physicians, dated December 22nd, 1838, and signed by Francis Hawkins, which states that the College "is prepared to regard in the same light, and address by the same appellation, all who have obtained its diploma, whether they have graduated elsewhere or not". This was forty years ago; but less than twenty years ago the Registrar of the General Medical Council used to give the title of Doctor to licentiates in the official receipt for their registration fee; and only two years ago the last official list of Fellows, members, and licentiates of the Edinburgh College was addressed to licentiates who had not "graduated elsewhere" with the prefix "Dr." Now, it cannot surely be otherwise than "credible and legal" in the highest degree to adopt a custom which has been formally recommended by the London College of Physicians, and occasionally observed by the Edinburgh College, and even by the Registrar of the General Medical Council—the very latest and highest authority on matters of "education and registration". It is true the London College has altered its mind, and, in the face of a recommendation by its own committee, has recently declined to give the title to those who have not "graduated elsewhere"; but a physician settled in practice cannot be expected to suddenly abandon a title which he has been previously encouraged to assume.

2. The use of the prefix "Dr." is not intended to imply, as your correspondent suggests, that he who uses it is a M.D.: the title is far too vague to imply anything so definite as that. Even in the strictest academical usage of the title this is not necessarily implied, for it includes Doctors of Laws, Divinity, Philosophy, etc., whilst in the ordinary usage of polite society it includes all who are recognised as physicians; hence it is that Bachelors of Medicine are usually addressed as Doctors, not because they are University graduates—for no one would think of addressing a Bachelor of Laws as Dr.—but because they are physicians.

The custom of addressing a physician with the prefix "Dr." is a very ancient one; and the fact that "many" do now "openly" prefix this title to their names is evidence that the good old custom is not likely to die out.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

DOCTOR.

SIR,—In answer to your correspondents, "A Disgusted M.D." and "Graduate", on the above vexed subject, I beg to make a few remarks in reply. Is a licentiate of a College of Physicians entitled to the title of "Doctor"? In the case of the College of Physicians of Ireland, I say Yes. The above College is incorporated with the University of Dublin, and formerly granted an M.D. This, however, was proved to be beyond their chartered powers, so they afterwards gave but the licence. I believe I am not wrong in stating that there is not a single practitioner in the United Kingdom who holds this diploma that does not use the title of "Doctor". "Graduate" says in his letter that licentiates "coolly assume the title of 'Doctor' in face of the disclaimers of the Colleges and the press". I most emphatically deny that assertion (with reference to the Irish College). I have been informed by the Registrar that holders of the licence are entitled to put "Doctor" on their door-plates. I am always styled "Doctor" in all communications from the College and by medical graduates, and also by the medical press. "Graduate" also states that "no subaltern in the army dare style himself 'Captain'". In answer to that, I may say that no licentiate of a College of Physicians or Surgeons dare (or would) style himself "M.D.", which would be illegal. If "Graduate" wish to distinguish himself from licentiates of Colleges of Physicians, he can do so by writing "M.D." after his name in the same way Fellows of the College of Surgeons distinguish themselves from members and licentiates. Both are surgeons; so with "M.D.s" and licentiates of the Colleges of Physicians; both are "Doctors" and "Physicians"; yet M.D., with his superior qualification, can affix that additional honour to his name. It is customary for University graduates to affix their titles: in fact, it is impossible to do otherwise with the following: B.A., M.A., B.D., M.S.,