

When we find that, out of forty-eight hospitals, interrogated by the Hospital Out-patient Reform Association, only nine were able to state that their out-patients were never prescribed for by unqualified students; when we learn that, in one of our largest hospitals, one hundred and twenty cases can be "cleared off" in seventy minutes (though it has been asserted, on good authority, that "the busiest doctors cannot see private patients at the rate of ten per hour"), we cannot doubt that any truthful chronicle of out-patient departments would be fertile in tragic incidents. The amount of harm done and of good left undone, through mistaken or imperfect treatment, is, at all times, most difficult to estimate; and cases of such treatment, among out-patients, are little likely to achieve notoriety; yet already some instances, sufficiently painful and suggestive, have, on undeniable authority, been placed before the public. A half-grain dose of opium has been given by a student to an infant nine months' old. A child's arm has required resetting under chloroform, after having been kept in splints for more than three weeks, at the end of which time the case was dismissed as cured. Blindness has ensued from mistaken diagnosis and treatment during the earlier stages of a disease in the eyes; and a boy has died from caries of the cervical vertebrae, within twenty-four hours of his dismissal from a hospital as a case too trivial for admission to the wards. In these, and in cognate cases that have actually occurred, the author of *Great St. Benedict's* has lately found sufficient material for the construction of a highly picturesque and pathetic tale, directed against out-patient abuses. Even in the absence of any recorded instances, this incredibly hasty prescribing by persons who, at best, are unqualified, suggests melancholy probabilities of failure and maltreatment; of ill-health confirmed or permitted for want of a moderate amount of timely and attentive care; of diseases unrecognised till the period of possible cure had passed, or misunderstood in their most important crises; and of suffering and weakness entailed through needless, ill-timed, or hasty operating. Moreover, the physical evils which result from excessive and indiscriminate out-patient relief cannot all be included under the head of rapid or unskilful treatment. It is found that numbers of poor people, and more particularly of sickly women, are encouraged to resort to a chronic system of tonic and other medicines, instead of making any endeavour to remedy the various unsanitary conditions which are apparent in their homes and lives; while many others, whose diseases are such that no amount of medical skill could, in their case, compensate for the injurious effect of fatigue or exposure, are induced to tramp about, for long distances and in the most unfavourable weather, first perhaps in search of governors' letters, and afterwards to the hospitals themselves, whereas, by means of a provident dispensary, they could be promptly attended in their homes. Nor are their hardships at an end when they have arrived at the hospital selected. They are to be seen waiting for hours in crowded rooms, where diseases may easily be communicated, and where the sights and sounds are highly injurious to nervous patients. Their chance of care and attention is proportioned rather to the clinical interest than to the urgency and destitution of their cases. They are compelled too often to wait in patience, while persons belonging to a class for which the charity was never designed obtain precedence of them, by feeing the porters and nurses; and, lastly, they may, week after week, be dismissed without examination, and after an hour or two of anxious waiting, on the plea of want of time. In my own extremely limited experience, and of an excessive number of cases, I have met with the case of a woman, suffering apparently from serious symptoms of heart-disease, who, when I last saw her, had just made with great difficulty, and at much inconvenience, her fourth unavailing visit to one of our largest endowed hospitals; and I have also known of an instance in which a man, who was compelled to keep his bed from asthma and chronic rheumatism, used to get up and dress himself once a week, in order to crawl miserably to a hospital through the snow and fog of the beginning of the year 1874.

The evils which result from an excessive number of out-patients do not end with themselves. Not only has it been repeatedly urged, that the proximity of out-patient departments has a serious effect on the health of those in the in-patient wards, but it is also evident that the enormous expense of the out-patient departments is, in a great degree, responsible for the present unfortunate necessity of habitually discharging the in-patients before their cure is complete, and when the utmost benefit might be hoped for a prolongation of their treatment.

Lastly, be it remembered that, for relief of the kind I have described, so often injurious both to themselves and others, out-patients are expected to make the worst and most demoralising payment which can possibly be exacted from the poor, since they can scarcely make a single visit to the hospital without the sacrifice of a whole day's work and wages.

And if it be objected that such actual benefit as may, in spite of all

these drawbacks, be attainable, is a benefit which could be secured by no other means, let it be remembered that this gigantic and ill-regulated system of medical charity has rather created a demand than met one which already existed. In the original charters of most of the large hospitals, no mention was made of any but in-patient cases; and at St. Thomas's no others were received till 1834. Moreover, if Poor-law dispensaries were improved, and provident dispensaries were extended, as much as they might easily be were a clear field left open to them, it is scarcely too much to say that there would be no out-patient cases requiring hospital advice, excepting those which, from their exceptional gravity and complexity, might be advantageously referred to the hospitals from dispensaries of either kind.

Truly, in the matter of medical charity, institutional conservatism has much to answer for.—I am, sir, yours obediently,

A MEMBER OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

EVIDENCE IN CASE OF WOUNDING.

SIR,—I have no disposition to reply at any length to your remarks upon my evidence in a recent case of wounding, and will content myself by merely stating a few particulars, in the hope that they may induce you to modify your opinions with respect to my conduct in the matter.

The wound was seen by me within half an hour of its infliction, and, on the same day, I gave evidence before the magistrates supporting the possibility of its having been caused by a sharp instrument. A day or two afterwards, I observed some ecchymosis in its vicinity, especially of the eyelid, and, therefore, considered it was more likely caused by a sharp blow from a blunt instrument. I have found it difficult, in some cases of wounds of the head, to say offhand that they were caused by sharp or blunt instruments.

When a medical man changes his opinion, he might be credited with some honest reason for doing so, and be permitted to explain his reason, instead of having permission refused him and being censured besides. To prove guilt in unlawfully wounding, it is not necessary to show that a weapon was used.—Yours faithfully,

Portsmouth, July 10th, 1877. S. STICKLAND.

* * The reason which Mr. Stickland assigns for giving such conflicting evidence as that reported is by no means satisfactory. In his deposition before the magistrates, he stated that a knife might have caused the wound. At the trial, he said that a blow with the fist might have more probably produced it. In his letter, he states that, a day or two after the assault, owing to the presence of some ecchymosis, he thought a blunt instrument had been used. The question is not whether a sharp or blunt instrument was used by the prisoner, but whether he had used any instrument or weapon at all; in other words, whether a blow with the fist could have produced the serious amount of injury which he so minutely described. Mr. Stickland adduces no sound reason for this sudden change of opinion. We infer from his letter that, within a day or two after the occurrence, he had arrived at the conclusion that what he had stated to the magistrates was entirely wrong. It was then his duty to send at once a written retraction of his evidence to the committing magistrates through their clerk, with the reasons for such a sudden change of views. This would at least have shown that he was acting *bonâ fide*. In a charge of unlawful wounding, the crime is always visited with a much more severe punishment when "a blunt or a sharp instrument" is used than when the assailant simply employs his fist. A medical man, therefore, should not play fast and loose, and assign the injury at one time to a weapon and at another time to the fist.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

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.

ROBERT FARQUHARSON, M.D.

} *Honorary Secretaries.*

London, June 18th, 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.

Tuesday, August 7th.

11 A.M.—Service at the Cathedral: Sermon by the Lord Bishop of Manchester.

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

2 P.M.—Meeting of Council, 1875-76.

3 P.M.—General Meeting.—*President's Address*.—Annual Report of Council, and other business.

9 P.M.—*President's Reception and Soirée*.

Wednesday, August 8th.

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

11.30 A.M.—Second General Meeting.

11.30 A.M.—Address in Medicine.

2 to 5 P.M.—Sectional Meetings.

9 P.M.—*Soirée* by the Mayor and Corporation of Manchester, at the Town Hall.

Thursday, August 9th.

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

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

11 A.M.—Address in Surgery.

2 to 5 P.M.—Sectional Meetings.

6.30 P.M.—Public Dinner of Association in the Assize Court Hall.

Friday, August 10th.

10 A.M.—Address in Obstetric Medicine.

11 A.M.—Sectional Meetings.

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

4 P.M.—Garden Party by President and Reception Committee at Manley Hall.

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.

Public Medicine.—It is proposed to arrange the subjects in this Section as follows. *First day*, August 8th. Papers and Discussion on Infection: its essence, origin, modes of propagation, duration, incubation, and periods of activity in diseases which are infectious, together with papers on the best means of preventing its development and spread.—*Second day*, August 9th. Water-Supply, including such questions as: 1. What are the best tests? 2. Are the tests of purity reliable? 3. How can the pollution and scarcity of water-supply in rural districts be remedied?—*Third day*, August 10th. Miscellaneous papers, including Registration of Diseases, the Weather as a Cause of Disease, or as favouring particular Diseases, etc.

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.

ARMISTEAD, William, M.B. Influences affecting the Propagation of Diphtheria.

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.

ATTHILL, 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. 1. Case of Cirrhosis of the Liver in a Child 18 months old.

—2. On a Case of Ascites in a Child treated by Resin of Copaiba.

BARLOW, Thomas, M.D., and PARKER, R. W., F.R.C.S. Notes on Pleuritic Effusion in Childhood.

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.

BERRY, William, M.R.C.S. The Treatment of Spina Bifida.

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.

BROWN, 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.

CHAMBERS, Thomas, F.R.C.P. Ed. The Treatment of Uterine Flexions by the Intra-uterine Stem: with Cases.

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 Hæmorrhage.

DRYSDALE, C. R., M.D. 1. Pigmentary Syphilide in Females.—2. Overpopulation and Health.—3. Syphilitic Aphasia.

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, Cornelius, M.D. A Comparison between the Frankland and Armstrong Process and the Wanklyn, Chapman, and Smith Process of Water-Analysis.

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 Preterm 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.

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

GRIFFITH, G. de Gorrequer, L.R.C.P. On Reflex, Eccentric, or Irritative Albuminuria, especially as bearing on Women.

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

HADDON, John, M.D. 1. On Pleural Effusions, their Diagnosis and Proper Treatment.—2. The Incubation and Duration of Infection.

HARDIE, James, M.D. 1. Some Cases of Rhinoplasty.—2. On Amputation of the Thigh by Oblique Circular Incision.—3. On the Treatment of the Earlier Stage of Hip-Disease by Incision of the Capsular Ligament.

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

HARRISON, J. Bower, M.D. On Laryngismus Stridulus.

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, Herscott, L.R.C.P. Clinical Remarks on Cases of Tumour of the Orbit.
- HILL, Berkeley, F.R.C.S. Surgical Cases.
- JESSOP, T. R., F.R.C.S. Antiseptic Surgery.
- JONES, T., F.R.C.S. Notes of a Case of Multiple Exostosis in a Boy Nine Years of Age.
- 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. Fœtal Therapeutics.
- MADDEN, T. More, M.D. The Constitutional Treatment of Certain Uterine and Ovarian Diseases.
- MAHONEY, 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.
- MERSON, 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.
- PARSONS, Francis H., M.D. The Highlands of Hastings and St. Leonard's as a Health-Resort: with Notes on the Chalybeate Water of St. Andrew's Spa.
- PHILLIPSON, G. H., M.D. Two Cases of Abdominal Aneurism: one cured by Compression, the other by Iodide of Potassium.
- REYNOLDS, J. Russell, M.D., F.R.S. Some Affections of the Nervous System dependent upon a Gouty Habit.
- 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.
- SAVAGE, George H., M.D. Hysteria and Insanity.
- SHUTTLEWORTH, George E., M.D. Intemperance as a Cause of Idiocy.
- 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. Internal Syphilitic Ophthalmia.—2. On certain cases of apparently hopeless Blindness in which Sight was restored by Treatment.
- TEEVAN, W. F., F.R.C.S. Internal Urethrotomy.
- THORBURN, John, M.D. Latent Gonorrhœa as an Impediment to Marriage.
- TIBBITS, Edward T., M.D. On the Hygienic and Therapeutic Influence of Habits and Character in Medical Men.
- TIBBITS, Herbert, M.R.C.P.Ed. Medical Electricity: its Scope and its Limitations as a Remedy.
- VACHER, Francis, L.R.C.P.Ed. A Villa-Hospital.
- WADDY, H. E., M.R.C.S. Terebene and Scab-dressing.
- WAHLTUCH, A., M.D. Cases of Asthma Nervosum successfully and permanently treated by Arsenical Inhalations and Galvanisation of the Pneumogastric Nerve.
- WALKER, G. E., F.R.C.S. Sympathetic Ophthalmia.
- WARTENBERG, V. A., M.R.C.S. On the After-Treatment of Excision of the Knee.
- WHITCOMBE, Edmund B., M.R.C.S. On the Frequency and Causes of Meningeal Hæmorrhage 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.
- WOAKES, Edward, M.D. Noises in the Head: their Diagnostic and Therapeutic Value.
- WOOD, T. Outterson, M.R.C.P.Ed. On a Case of Aneurism of the Middle Cerebral Artery.
- YEO, I. Burney, M.D. Pleurisy of the Apex.

EXCURSIONS, ETC.

On Saturday, August 11th, excursions will be made to the following places.

Lancaster.—The medical men of Lancaster have notified to the Reception Committee that they will be glad to entertain fifty members of the Association. The County Lunatic Asylum will first be visited, and then the Royal Albert Asylum for Idiots and Imbeciles, where a luncheon will be provided. The visitors will afterwards be conducted over the Ripley Institute, St. Mary's Church, and Lancaster Castle.

Southport.—The medical men of Southport invite one hundred members of the Association to visit them on the 11th of August. The Aquarium, Winter Gardens, Pier, Glaciarium, and the New Sewage Works, are the principal objects of interest here; and the Local Committee are making every arrangement to give a hearty welcome to those members who may visit Southport on this occasion.

Blackpool.—The Mayor and Corporation of this town have most kindly offered to entertain as many members of the Association as may like to visit Blackpool.

Woodhead Water-Works.—These are probably the largest artificial water-works in the world. The reservoirs cover about five hundred acres, and supply a population of about one million in the valleys of the Irwell and Mersey, besides the numerous works situated therein. Those who visit Woodhead will also have the opportunity of seeing some dye-works belonging to Mr. Potter of Manchester, at which there is a special and most interesting plan of purifying water in operation. The works themselves are amongst the finest of the kind in Lancashire.

Northwich.—An excursion will be made to visit the salt-mines at Northwich. One of these mines will be illuminated for the occasion.

Castleton.—Professor Boyd Dawkins has undertaken to conduct an excursion to Castleton, in Derbyshire. Peak Cavern, Peak Castle, the Winnel, and other interesting places in this locality will be explored;

and a special visit will be paid to the recently discovered cave-deposits containing remains of prehistoric times. Professor Boyd Dawkins will give a short address, and explain the nature of the deposits.

Arrangements are being made for a visit to one of the coal-mines near Manchester.

SOIRÉES.

On Tuesday, the first day of the Meeting, there will be an exhibition of Medical and Dietetic Plants at the Botanical Gardens; and the President of the Association and the Council and Senate of the Owens College will give a reception and soirée in the evening.

An extremely interesting feature of this soirée will be a collection arranged by Professor Boyd Dawkins, illustrating the history of man in Britain from the pleistocene to the historic period. There will also be a series of fossils, illustrating the ancient carboniferous flora of Lancashire.

A detailed account of the arrangements will be published before the Meeting.

The Mayor and Corporation have intimated their intention of inviting the Association on Wednesday to a soirée, which they will give at the Town Hall. This building, which has been in course of construction for the past eight years, and has cost nearly a million, is just completed. It is probably the finest building of the kind in the world; and its splendid architectural proportions and magnificent decorations will, doubtless, be highly appreciated by all who visit Manchester.

The owners of all the most important warehouses, cotton mills, and other works in and round Manchester, have most kindly signified their intention of allowing members of the Association to visit their various places. Several of those which are not usually open to visitors will be shown at the time of the Association Meeting to members.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Council of the Owens College have most kindly granted the use of the College as a place of meeting for the sections, and for all other purposes of the Association. The School of Medicine, which forms one of the blocks constituting the College, will be used as a Museum, and will make a most excellent place for the exhibition of all kinds of preparations, instruments, etc.

The Physiological Laboratory will be devoted to the use of physiological instruments, of which there will be a very fine collection.

One of the rooms will be set apart for the exhibition of microscopical specimens, and this will form a special feature in this year's Museum. At no previous Meeting, probably, has such an excellent series of rooms been at the disposal of the Museum Committee.

The Museum of the Sanitary Association will be situated in the College grounds, and thus the whole work of the Association will be carried on in one place.

There will be two Reception Rooms, one at Owens College and one in the town. This arrangement has been made to enable members to obtain full information of what is going on, without obliging them to go to the College, which is situated above a mile from the centre of the town. The two Reception Rooms will be in direct connection by messengers or telegraph. A large building, the Concert Hall, has been taken for the Town Reception Rooms, and it is probable that the Business meetings on the first day will be held in this building.

ANNUAL MUSEUM.

THE Subcommittee appointed to superintend the collection and arrangement of objects for exhibition at the forthcoming meeting will be glad to receive—1. Pathological specimens (wet or dry); 2. Drawings or diagrams illustrative of disease; 3. Casts and models; 4. Surgical instruments and appliances; 5. Microscopic preparations; 6. Microscopes, thermometers, and other instruments of investigation; Preparations, diagrams, etc., relating to investigations in anatomy and physiology.

The work of forming a careful catalogue will be greatly facilitated if intending exhibitors will kindly bear in mind the following points: 1. That it is impossible that descriptions, etc., can be included in the catalogue, unless sent in early; and 2. That the descriptions should be written on one side of the paper only, so that they can be forwarded at once to the printer.

Specimens may be addressed to "THE SECRETARIES OF THE MUSEUM SUBCOMMITTEE, OWENS COLLEGE, MANCHESTER"; or, if for special reasons they cannot safely be sent direct, any of the gentlemen named in the subjoined list of the Museum Subcommittee will be happy to receive and take charge of them. All articles must be sent during the first fortnight in July, unless by special understanding with the Secretaries.

The following is a list of the Museum Subcommittee; to any mem-

ber of which communications, etc., may be addressed. Professor Thorburn (Chairman), 333, Oxford Road, Manchester; Dr. Anningson, Pathological Museum, Cambridge; Mr. J. Broadbent, Alexandra Road, Moss Side, Manchester; Dr. Caton, 18A, Abercromby Square, Liverpool; Professor Cleland, Vicarscroft, Galway; Mr. C. J. Cullingworth, 260, Oxford Road, Manchester; Dr. Dreschfeld, 292, Oxford Road, Manchester; Dr. Duffey, 30, Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin; Professor Arthur Gamgee, Owens College, Manchester; Dr. Goodhart, 27, Weymouth Street, Portland Place, London, W.; Dr. C. E. Glascott, 25, St. John Street, Manchester; Mr. J. D. Hamilton, Pathological Laboratory, the University, Edinburgh; Dr. James Hardie, 1, St. Ann's Place, Manchester; Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, 15, Cavendish Square, London, W.; Dr. Humphreys, Children's Hospital, Pendlebury; Dr. D. J. Leech, 96, Mosley Street, Manchester; Professor Lund, 22, St. John Street, Manchester; Professor McKendrick, the University, Glasgow; Dr. J. Dixon Mann, St. John Street, Manchester; Dr. Alexander Ogston, 252, Union Street, Aberdeen; Dr. Arthur Ransome, 1, St. Peter's Square, Manchester; Dr. D. Lloyd Roberts, 23, St. John Street, Manchester; Dr. Henry Simpson, 3, Oxford Street, Manchester; Mr. A. W. Stocks, 23, the Crescent, Salford; Professor Morison Watson, Owens College, Manchester; Dr. James Whitehead, 87, Mosley Street, Manchester; Dr. M. A. Eason Wilkinson, 96, Mosley Street, Manchester; Professor Boyd Dawkins, Owens College, Manchester; Mr. Young, Owens College, Manchester.

Secretaries } THOS. JONES, F.R.C.S., 96, Mosley Street, Manchester.
JAMES ROSS, M.D., 335, Oxford Road, Manchester.

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 12th, 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.

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.

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.

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.

Dinner at the County Hotel, at 5 P.M.

G. H. PHILIPSON, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, July 7th, 1877.

VACCINATION.—The Local Government Board have awarded to Mr. G. Okell of Winsford a grant of £19:10 for efficient vaccination in his district. This is the third time he has received the grant.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday, July 9th, 1877.

Broadmoor Lunatic Asylum.—On the motion to go into Committee of Supply, Mr. RYLANDS proceeded to call attention to the report of the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into certain matters relating to Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum. He contended that the institution had, from the beginning, been managed by the Government in a manner which was not to the public advantage.—Mr. CROSS had visited the place and made himself acquainted with its management; and he hoped, before long, to be able to do something which would relieve the country from a certain amount of expenditure. The institution was not under the direction of the Home Office, but of a Council of Supervision. In future, no person who committed a crime, and then became a lunatic, would be sent to or detained in Broadmoor. For some time past, great care had been taken to keep down the expenses, and he trusted that still further economy would be effected. The matter then dropped.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen passed their primary examinations in anatomy and physiology at a meeting of the Board of Examiners on July 10th; and, when eligible, will be admitted to the pass-examination.

Messrs. Henry G. Brooke, James K. Milne, Edward L. Luckman, and Harry A. Dison, students of the Manchester School; William R. Bates and Arthur Manners, of the Liverpool School; Arthur Harrison and J. W. L. Russell, of the Sheffield School; Albert Beverley and Henry N. Oglesby, of the Leeds School; Stanley M. Rendall and Henry W. King, of the Edinburgh School; John J. Robins, of the Newcastle School; Gilbert Kirker, of the Belfast School; Benjamin H. Dale, of the Bristol School; Wilfred Benthall, B.A. Cantab., of the Cambridge School; and Frederic S. Dennis, of the New York School.

The following gentlemen passed on July 11th.

Messrs. Alfred J. Pickworth and John D. Hayward, of the Liverpool School; William P. Dester, of the Bristol School; Octavius Todd, of the Aberdeen School; William Gibbon, of the Manchester School; William M. Taylor, of the Newcastle School; Edward J. Freeman, of the Dublin School; William A. C. O. Sankey, of University College Hospital; William J. Baker, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and Seton G. Hamilton, of St. George's Hospital.

Twenty candidates were rejected.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

BRISTOL GENERAL HOSPITAL.—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £50 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 26th instant.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.—Assistant-Physician. Applications to be made on or before the 24th instant.

CUMBERLAND INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon.

HAVERSTOCK HILL AND MALDEN ROAD PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.—Medical Officer. Applications to be made on or before the 31st instant.

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

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.

NATIONAL DENTAL HOSPITAL.—Two Assistant Dental Surgeons.

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 HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, City Road.—Two Assistant-Physicians. Applications to be made on or before the 31st 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.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.—Resident Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £140 per annum, with furnished apartments, fire, light, washing, and attendance.

Applications by 10 A.M. on the 10th instant.

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

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon.—Candidates to attend on the 16th instant at 10 A.M.

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

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.

PAGET.—On July 1st, at Great Crosby, Liverpool, the wife of *William S. Paget, M.B.Lond., of a son.

DR. HETLEY, of Norbury Lodge, Upper Norwood, has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for the county of Surrey.

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, non delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the General Manager, at the Office, 36, Great Queen Street, W.C., London.

THE RECENT DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON VACCINATION.

SIR,—On Tuesday evening, the 3rd inst, Earl Percy moved "That it is expedient that inquiry should be instituted into the practice of vaccination, for the purpose of ascertaining whether it cannot be conducted in a more satisfactory manner than at present." Several members of the House took part in the debate which followed; but it is only to the concluding sentence of Mr. Sclater-Booth's speech that I wish to draw attention. If correctly reported, he there says: "As to the complaints about the lymph, in the great majority of cases these arose from that used in private practice." Having, during the fifteen years in which I have been engaged in private practice, vaccinated several hundred persons of all ages, I beg to say that I am not aware of a single instance in which the vaccination has been followed by small-pox or by any ill effect whatever. The simple precautions I take are to use a clean lancet for each fresh patient, and never to take lymph which has accidentally become mixed with blood. I try to impress upon my patients of all ranks the advantage of vaccinating directly from the arm, and I seldom have any difficulty in getting them to attend at a stated time; but where the distance is great, we cannot expect this. Vaccinating upwards of sixty in the year, I can generally maintain an unbroken chain from week to week: but occasionally, from some cause or other, there is a lack of lymph, and I have to send to the National Vaccine Establishment for a fresh supply. It is but justice to observe that no ill effects have ever in my experience followed the use of this lymph. But I think many practitioners will bear me out in saying that, although the quantity sent is lavish in the extreme, it is, as regards potency, lamentably deficient.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

July 4th, 1877.

ESPIRIT DE CORPS.

THE EFFECTS OF MATERNAL IMPRESSIONS ON THE FETUS

SIR,—Two cases illustrative of the above, recorded in the JOURNAL of June 30th, remind me of the following one, which came under my notice in February last, in London.

I was called to see a child aged fifteen months, suffering from small-pox. When examining it, I observed a mark on the outer side of the left leg, about five inches in extent, of a brownish colour, unaffected by pressure, and which bore a most striking resemblance to the profile of a bull—the eye, ear, and mouth being remarkably distinct. On questioning the mother, she informed me that, when about seven months pregnant, she was knocked down in the street by a bull, and in the fall she hurt her right leg against a box. She fainted, and was carried home in that condition. On recovery, and for some days subsequently, her leg, at the seat of injury, was very painful. When the child was born she noticed the mark. This woman, as I had several opportunities of observing, was of an extremely nervous disposition.—I am, etc.,

WM. SMYTH.

MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

SIR,—I am surgeon to the Railway Provident Society in this district, and one of the members whom I attended some months back in an illness has lately been again taken poorly, and called in, I hear, a neighbouring medical man. Does professional etiquette allow this practitioner to attend such a patient without first notifying me of the patient's wish and obtaining my sanction?—Yours, etc.,

July 1877.

ENQUIRER.

* It is not ethically binding in a practitioner, in every case where a new patient comes to him, to notify the fact to the previous medical attendant.

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.

THE COMPOSITION AND QUALITY OF THE METROPOLITAN WATERS IN

JUNE 1877.

The following are the returns made by Dr. C. Meymott Tidy to the Society of Medical Officers of Health.

Names of Water Companies.	Total Solid Matter per Gallon.	Oxygen required by Organic Matter, etc.	Nitrogen As Nitrates, &c.	Ammonia.		Hardness. (Clarke's Scale.)	
				Saline.	Organic	Before Boiling.	After Boiling.
<i>Thames Water Companies.</i>	Grains.	Grains.	Grains.	Grains.	Grains.	Degs.	Degs.
Grand Junction ..	18.40	0.050	0.129	0.001	0.008	11.0	4.2
West Middlesex ..	17.70	0.054	0.129	0.000	0.007	12.6	3.3
Southwark and Vauxhall	18.90	0.064	0.108	0.001	0.009	12.6	3.0
Chelsea	18.80	0.076	0.090	0.002	0.009	13.2	3.3
Lambeth	19.90	0.074	0.150	0.000	0.008	13.2	3.7
<i>Other Companies.</i>							
Kent	28.70	0.003	0.450	0.000	0.002	19.4	7.0
New River	18.20	0.033	0.150	0.000	0.006	12.6	3.3
East London	17.80	0.047	0.090	0.000	0.007	12.0	3.0

Note.—The amount of oxygen required to oxidise the organic matter, nitrates, etc., is determined by a standard solution of permanganate of potash acting for three hours; and in the case of the metropolitan waters, the quantity of organic matter is about eight times the amount of oxygen required by it. The water was found to be clear and nearly colourless in all cases but the following, when it was slightly turbid—namely, in that of the Grand Junction, Southwark and Vauxhall, and the Lambeth Companies.

BAILEY'S ABDOMINAL BELTS.

MESSRS. W. H. BAILEY AND SON, 16, Oxford Street, have introduced an excellent abdominal belt, which has many advantages, and is ingeniously constructed, so as to afford very complete and equal abdominal support, without constraint of the figure, and so arranged as to avoid the creasing, rucking, and riding up. The hips are left free, and thus it can be worn with much ease and comfort.

THE TITLE OF DOCTOR.

SIR,—The letter of a "Graduate" in your impression of the 30th ult. demands from me a reply; and, whilst admitting the extreme severity of the examinations and regulations for obtaining the degree of M.D., I maintain that these have only kept increasing with the advancement of science, the increased facilities for teaching, and the ever growing demands of the Medical Council; but the requirements of the Colleges and the other licensing bodies have *pari passu* become equally severe. This, however, was not the main cause of complaint, but rather the collateral conditions of two years' residence, and the age with which such regulations are inseparably connected. The age regulations practically confine the candidates for such degrees to the two extreme and strange periods of life—that which is little more than the first childhood, on the one hand, or, on the other (St. Andrew's), that which is closely bordering upon the second ("second childishness and mere oblivion"), fifty years of age; whilst candidates of every position or standing at all in middle life are hopelessly shut out. At twenty-one years of age, men may leave the Queen's University in Ireland, taking away with them the M.D. degree; at Dublin and the four Scotch Universities, they may leave at twenty-one, and take away with them the M.B. degree. Two or three years in any practice will complete the rest of the curriculum; and if the age be twenty-four, it is little in advance of the time formerly stated. Formerly, the degree of M.D. was almost the exclusive mark of the teacher of medicine and the consulting physician, and it was properly kept to its legitimate uses; now it has become a licence for general practice. Swarms of young men holding it are entering into the already too full field of competition, and openly vie with general practitioners in open shops, club, dispensary, and provident work at a price of remuneration which some respectable tradesmen would despise, and even assume, by reason of the possession of these degrees, airs of superiority over their older and riper brethren which neither the practical knowledge nor the standing of these youthful graduates justify. The highest honours which any University can bestow have been placed upon such youthful and inexperienced recipients chiefly and unconditionally because they have resided for two years at some University far remote from the best metropolitan and provincial schools, at a time of life when, as already shown, time can be of little value—eighteen to twenty-one years of age, a period, probably, when such youths would have a great difficulty in earning the wages of a good mechanic, say £100 per annum. But for the power possessed in granting these degrees, these Universities would probably be nearly abandoned by students in the severe competition with the better metropolitan and other schools. But as bad or even worse is the fate of the successful general practitioner. After ten or twenty years' hard work, he would like to have a degree as a pledge to the public and his friends that he had kept pace with science, that he had faithfully worked and become a ripened scholar and finished workman. He turns to the Universities, if weak enough; is treated with coldness and contempt, and told to reside with them for one or two years. Such residence would involve his ruin: he must abandon his practice, and find it gone upon his return. His time is probably worth £400 to £1000 per annum. This he must lose, and probably he has neither capital, work, nor energy enough to regain it. If the value of a degree may be, for illustration, taken at £200 at twenty-one years of age, by the time that a man is forty, half the period of his professional life having passed away, the value of the degree becomes but £100, and at fifty probably £50. From the very moment of a man's possessing it, it has a gradually decreasing value from the lapse of time; and the general deterioration which all degrees are undergoing in this commercial age by their abundance, by the foreign competition, and by the want of protection of those who possess them from those who assume them. The degree for which so much has been sacrificed is to the holder thereof unprotected. Any one may assume it practically and with impunity, if the assumer be in the *Medical Register*, say with the L.S.A. qualification. Herein is the *fons et origo mali*; the cruel and fraudulent price placed upon the degree, the false and irresponsible assumption of it by unauthorised persons, and its consequent degradation and threadbareness. What would happen in

any other calling of life? Vend a thing at a fair and reasonable price, commensurate with its intrinsic value and worth to the purchaser, protect the patentee, and a certain demand may be relied upon; but put a fraudulent price upon the article, allow the patent to be infringed with impunity, and the natural result ensues—people either do without it altogether, or obtain it from an illicit source. The whole trade and reputation are injured: so it is with degrees. The price to the general practitioner is fraudulent in collateral conditions; scarcely one in his senses would pay it, and so the degree is assumed upon the possession of the L.R.C.P.; and, whether rightly or wrongly, it can be done with impunity if the person be upon the *Medical Register*. Other medical men finding the possession of a degree desirable, are going in annually increasing numbers to the Continent to obtain it; and, emanating from such a source, it has to many increased charms and recommendations. Thousands of pounds are annually lost by the Universities at home, and, like the iron manufacturers and contractors, they find that their extortionate prices are fast driving trade to foreign shores: professional morality is lowered; persons are almost proud to assume titles, or procure them abroad, and the reputation of medical men is being injured, and the general tone of morality lowered. Hence the present scandal of the false assumption of titles. The F.R.C.S.Eng. and M.R.C.P.Lond. require no residence beyond that at any recognised medical school; and why the M.D., which certainly occupies a lower grade, should do so, is a puzzle to hundreds of well educated men. During my connection with the profession, now twenty-seven years, I have found some of the worst men in it amongst the M.D.s, as well as the most unsuccessful in life. I have known graduates of the London and British Universities starving, bankrupt, and erased from the *Medical Register* for "infamous conduct". Giessen and other foreign graduates I have known eminent, skilful, successful, and wealthy; and there are now eminent and accomplished men who have been driven abroad by cruelty and extortion at home. And since "Graduate" has introduced the personal aspect of the question, I may tell him that I am no so "clamorous" as he imagines. I am nearly forty-five years of age; I have long made a position which no degree would improve. I could obtain a British degree, but should certainly refuse to sacrifice a position which to me is worth more than all the degrees in the United Kingdom; neither should I stoop, after twenty-five years lapse of time, to students' benches again, or wait until over fifty for St. Andrew's.

I write more in the interest of hundreds of my professional brethren than of myself. So far as my *clientèle* and the public are concerned, I could get on well all my life without any qualification at all; but the law demands at least one. Twenty years ago, when doubly qualified, many judicious and far-seeing friends told me that a degree of M.D. was not worth the fees paid for it, to say nothing of the trouble of obtaining it. Then it could be got by any qualified man without residence; and if it were known then, it must be still more true now.

Finally, I should like to know what law gives the M.D. the right of the title of "Dr." So far as I know or can find out, it is merely a matter of custom or courtesy, the same as the L.R.C.P. There is no law, I believe, to enforce it. Constantly in the *Times* I see the name of some eminent London physician "Mr. So-and-So, M.D." And if a registered medical man possess the M.D. of a foreign power—a title which, by the way, seems current throughout the civilised world—what law will take it away or prevent him using it? If the M.D. be required by young men of twenty-one to twenty-four years of age as an apothecary's licence and a qualification for practice, by all means enforce two years' residence as now; but if, as registered men of five or ten years' standing qualified in medicine or surgery, want it as an honorary thing—and to him it can possibly be no more—by all means throw it open; strip it of every vexatious collateral condition of residence, age, etc.; let it depend upon examinations alone; protect the recipients in the use of it, and the present abuse and scandal will cease: every one will be benefited, no one injured. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

GAMMA.

SIR,—Why this M.D. mania, except that young M.D.s (chiefly Edin.) object to physicians using the prefix "Dr."? They mention the higher class examinations and extra study: may I ask which is the easier qualification to get, the M.D. of any University (except London) or the M.R.C.P.Lond.? Now, sir, though I have the misfortune to be only M.R.C.P.L., if it should be my good fortune to attain such an exalted position in my profession as F.R.C.P.Lond., I shall feel proud rather than having any M.D. after my name. Would it not be better if men devoted their spare time to studying disease rather than in picking holes in their brethren's qualifications?—I am, sir,

PHYSICIAN.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES AND THEIR MEDICAL OFFICERS.

SIR,—Having just noticed a Letter in your impression of the 16th of June last, under the *Nom de plume* of "Look before you Leap", Whenever a personal attack is made, either on a particular Society or individual, it needs a reply; and, although our friend seems to be ashamed of his name, we must treat him as *Enu rationis*. In the first place, he states that certain Societies are Advertising for Medical Officers at (all told) nothing superior to Railway Drivers. Now Northampton is estimated to be worth nearly £300 *per Annum*. Can he inform me in what part of England they Average £300? and if they did they would not be overpaid, as it is a Business of great responsibility. I am quite aware that a great many of the profession are very much underpaid; for we often find men of great ability have to plod a country District, perhaps a circuit of twenty or thirty miles, for less Sum than these despised Societies pay and find Medicines into the bargain. He next pretends to give advice gratis to the whole of the profession by warning them not to have anything to do with Club Unions, as they will lose caste by so doing. Here our friend's reason seems to be fading. He will have to preach that dogma a long time before taking effect, as the profession well know that in Club practice the money is sure; no long Bills, which too often fade away and become useless; and, to show his error, I may say that, in the appointment of a Medical Officer, I have had as many as eighty applications, many of them from Men of great Eminence in the profession. His concluding remarks I consider are a great insult to the members of the profession, which I will leave them to deal with, trusting that our friend, on the next occasion, will think deeply before he Leaps into print, and that he will gain courage and be able to spell his own name.—Yours faithfully,

GEORGE KNIGHT,

Secretary Friendly Societies' Medical Institute, Northampton.

BRANCH MEETINGS.

SIR,—I forward you by this post a copy of the *Cornish Telegraph*, containing an account of the proceedings of the Branch Medical Association for Penzance, held on Wednesday evening, June 27th, 1877. Such proceedings, when published in a paper having one of the largest circulations among the people, seem to me against the ordinary custom of the profession, and resemble more an advertisement than anything else.—I remain, sir, yours faithfully,

C. K. HERAPAT H.

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.

SALINE TRANSFUSION IN HÆMORRHAGE.

SIR,—Some time in June 1870, when a successful case of transfusion of blood-serum in a case, I believe, of *post partum* hæmorrhage had made some noise amongst the profession in Dublin, I addressed a short note to the editor of the *Medical Press and Circular*, who kindly inserted it, relating what I had seen occur in 1832 after transfusion of a saline solution into the veins in cases of algide cholera, and suggesting that in cases of extreme hæmorrhage the use of a similar fluid would answer all the purposes of either blood or serum.

Consideration of the subject convinces me that, although the direct transmission of living blood may exert a more powerful influence than that of any other fluid, no particular advantage can be derived from the use of defibrinated serum. It appears to me that the danger to be met in such cases is the stasis of the heart, and that, if you supply it with a *point d'appui* and the stimulus of distension, its action will be resumed and life maintained long enough to allow of a fresh supply of nutrient matter to be provided for the wants of the system. The difficulty of obtaining a supply of fresh blood when required for direct transfusion, and the difficulties of the operation are serious. I know that skill and practice will do much to avoid the latter, and the heroism of our medical students diminish the former; still, if such difficulties need not be encountered, it is all the better.

Those who have witnessed the transfusion of saline fluid in cases of cholera will bear out what I have stated in my note to the *Medical Press and Circular* as to the wonderful results attained, although too many of the cases finally succumbed to the virulence of the disease.

The saline fluid consisted of bicarbonate of soda and muriate of soda dissolved in tepid water, but I have not by me the actual proportions; I think, however, they are given in Sir Thomas Watson's *Practice of Medicine*, which I have not by me at this moment.

Woodview, Portlaw, July 1877.

JAMES MARTIN.

WE are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Birmingham Daily Post; The Durham Chronicle; The Harrogate Herald; The Sunderland Times; The Lincolnshire Chronicle; The Bromsgrove Weekly Messenger; The Manchester Courier; The Broad Arrow; The Cork Examiner; The Cork Daily Herald; The Rotherham and Masbro' Advertiser; The Liverpool Daily Courier; The York Herald; The North Wales Chronicle; The Sheffield Daily Telegraph; The Blyth Weekly News; The Glasgow Herald; The Nottingham Journal; The Eastbourne Standard; The Scarborough Daily Post; etc.

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BOOKS, etc., RECEIVED.

The Hunterian Oration, delivered in the presence of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales at the Royal College of Surgeons of England on February 13th, 1877. By Sir Jas. Paget, Bart., F.R.S. London: Longmans, Green, and Co.
The Student's Manual of Venereal Disease; being a concise description of those affections, and of their treatment. By Berkeley Hill and Arthur Cooper. London: Smith, Elder, and Co. 1877.
Transfusion of Human Blood by the Method of J. Roussel (of Geneva); with Preface, by Sir James Paget. Translated from the French and German, by C. H. C. Guinness. 1877.