

MEDICO-LEGAL CASES.

PROSECUTION FOR ASSUMPTION OF THE TITLE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

ON Friday, August 3rd, under the fortieth clause of the Medical Act, 1858, a homœopathic practitioner named James Brown Dixon, LL.D., U.S., 1857, and "Doctor in Dental Surgery, 1845", was charged in the Thames Police Court by Dr. R. H. S. Carpenter with unlawfully using the title of Doctor of Medicine, thereby implying that he was recognized by law as such. Mr. Hazeldine prosecuted, and Mr. Grain, instructed by Mr. Ricketts, defended. Mr. Carpenter said that he was the secretary to the Medical Alliance Association, that he and another member of the committee of the Association had visited defendant's house and cautioned him not to continue using the title of "Doctor" as painted upon his house and elsewhere, that defendant answered that his qualifications were obtained before the passing of the Medical Act, 1858, and that they were registrable, but he declined to produce them for inspection or to say from whom he obtained them. Witness identified a photograph, produced by Mr. Hazeldine, as a correct description of Mr. Dixon's house, and he read from it the following inscription: "Dispensary."—"One shilling a week or three shillings a month."—"Dr. Dixon."—"Homœopathic Pharmacy." In cross-examination, witness said that he was certain that no diploma was hanging up in Mr. Dixon's shop, and that he did not mean to say that his qualifications were registrable in America. Witness had not seen advertisements in the tramcars stating that Mr. Dixon was an unregistered physician and surgeon. Mr. J. P. Hentsch, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., assistant-secretary to the Association, identified the photograph, and said that it was a correct description of Dixon's house. In cross-examination, he admitted having seen at a patient's house a circular in which Dixon described himself as "Dr. Dixon, Homœopathic Practitioner and Accoucheur", "Doctor in Dental Surgery, 1845". James Haigh said that on the 11th ultimo he went to Dixon's house, when defendant said, "I am Doctor Dixon". Dixon gave him a packet of powders, for which he charged one shilling. Mr. Grain maintained that defendant had not been guilty of *wilful falsity*, and that it was necessary to prove this to bring him within the meaning of the Act. The magistrate, Mr. Lushington, thought so too, and said that the fact of Dixon having written on his window "Homœopathic Pharmacy" would be such a qualification to the title he used as not to bring him within the operation of the Act. The summons was dismissed, and upon application for a case for a superior court being made, Mr. Lushington refused to grant it, for the reason, he said, that the facts of the case would not warrant his doing so.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Metropolitan Counties Branch was held at the Alexandra Palace, on Tuesday, July 24th, at 4 P.M. In the absence of the President (JONATHAN HUTCHINSON, Esq.), the chair was first taken by ROBERT DUNN, Esq., Treasurer.

New Members.—The following gentlemen, already members of the Association, were elected members of the Branch: E. H. Ambler, Esq. (Hemel Hempstead); G. Amsden, M.B. (Brentwood); Thomas Barlow, M.D.; J. Mitchell Bruce, M.D.; T. Duka, M.D.; David Ferrier, M.D., F.R.S.; E. B. Forman, Esq.; C. E. Garman, Esq.; C. Godson, Esq. (Barnet); and A. P. Gould, M.B.

Report of Council.—Dr. HENRY, Honorary Secretary, read the following report.

"The Council of the Metropolitan Counties Branch, in presenting this the twenty-fifth annual report, have to announce that the number of members is the same as at the last annual meeting, when the number was 582. Since then, 18 have retired, and 8 have died; while 26 new members have been admitted, making the total number at present 582.

"The Branch has sustained, in common with the parent Association, severe losses in the deaths of two of its past Presidents, Dr. Francis Sibson and Sir William Fergusson.

"Dr. Sibson, who was President of the Branch in the year 1863-64, was also for three years President of the Council, and up to the time of his death a Vice-President of the British Medical Association. Your Council feel assured that the Branch joins in the expressions of regret at the death of so eminent and esteemed a member of our profession;

and that it will not soon forget the hearty energy which he displayed in all which he undertook, the valuable aid which he rendered in many matters affecting the profession, and his kindly bearing towards all with whom he came into contact.

"Sir William Fergusson was President of the Branch in 1872-73, and immediately afterwards became President of the British Medical Association at its meeting in London. As President of the Branch, Sir William was Chairman of the Committee appointed to make the arrangements for the meeting of the Association; and, by his kindness and able direction of affairs, contributed much to the success of the meeting.

"The other members who have died since the last meeting are: Dr. Snow Beck; Mr. Victor de Méric; Mr. William Harvey; Mr. Martin Luther Heelas; Dr. E. H. Ruddock; and Mr. Edmund Wood.

"Although the late Dr. Edward W. Murphy had for several years ceased to be a member of the Association and Branch, it seems right in this place to mention that he ably filled the office of President of this Branch in 1868-69.

"Of the twenty-five gentlemen who have been Presidents of this Branch, eight have died, viz: Sir John Forbes, Mr. Probert, Dr. Lankester, Dr. George Webster, Mr. Squibb, Dr. Murphy, Dr. Sibson, and Sir William Fergusson. Of the survivors, it is interesting to note that at the present time the senior, Dr. Risdon Bennett, is President of the Royal College of Physicians; and the next to him in order of time, Mr. Birkett, is President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

"At the time of the last annual meeting, the Cruelty to Animals Bill was passing through its stages in Parliament; and the Council, in referring to the subject in their annual report, strongly recommended that action should be at once taken for the purpose of obtaining the amendments which were regarded as necessary. Accordingly, within a fortnight after the annual meeting, a meeting of the Branch, which the profession in London were invited to attend, was held at St. George's Hall, and certain resolutions were passed, which were subsequently communicated to the Home Secretary by a deputation consisting of the President and other members.

"The Council regret to learn from notices which have appeared in the JOURNAL and from a statement made by Mr. Simon during the recent session of the General Medical Council, that the Cruelty to Animals Act has been the cause of much vexation and annoyance to several distinguished and highly competent physiologists, from whom—without, so far as is known, any sufficient cause—legal authorisation to carry on experimental researches on animals has been withheld.

"The Branch has also held a general meeting for the discussion of the subject of Legislation for the Treatment and Cure of Habitual Drunkards. Dr. Cameron, M.P. for Glasgow, kindly attended; and, after the subject had been introduced by Mr. Alford, explained the provisions of the Bill which he had introduced into Parliament. A resolution was passed approving of the general principles of the Bill, and authorising the President to sign a petition in its favour. The Committee on Legislation for Habitual Drunkards, appointed at the last annual meeting, will present a special report.

"The Council have to report that, a ballot of the members of the Branch having been taken for the election of twenty-eight members to represent the Branch on the General Council of the Association, the following were found to be chosen:—William Adams, Esq.; Robert Barnes, M.D.; H. C. Bastian, M.D., F.R.S.; G. W. Callender, Esq., F.R.S.; Andrew Clark, M.D.; T. B. Curling, Esq., F.R.S.; J. Langdon Down, M.D.; Robert Dunn, M.D.; A. E. Durham, Esq.; R. Farquharson, M.D.; Wilson Fox, M.D., F.R.S.; S. O. Habershon, M.D.; Ernest Hart, Esq.; A. Henry, M.D.; Berkeley Hill, Esq.; T. Holmes, Esq.; J. Hutchinson, Esq.; George Johnson, M.D., F.R.S.; John Marshall, Esq., F.R.S.; H. Maudsley, M.D.; C. F. Maunder, Esq.; A. Meadows, M.D.; W. S. Playfair, M.D.; R. Quain, M.D., F.R.S.; J. R. Reynolds, M.D., F.R.S.; S. W. Sibley, Esq.; E. H. Sieveking, M.D.; and A. P. Stewart, M.D.

"The Council regret to announce that Dr. Farquharson, who has for three years acted with great ability and uniform courtesy as one of the Secretaries of the Branch, has retired from that office in consequence of the pressure of other engagements. Dr. W. C. Grigg is recommended for election in his stead.

"At the suggestion of the President, your Council have taken into consideration a scheme for affording useful information to foreign and colonial medical men visiting London for the purpose of professional observation and study, so as to economise their time. Your Council, trusting that the Branch will recognise the value of the suggestion, recommend the subject to the attention of their successors in office."

Dr. RUGG moved, Dr. W. FARR seconded, and it was resolved: "That the report of Council now read be received, adopted, and entered on the minutes."

[During the reading of the report, the President arrived and took his seat.]

Treasurer's Report.—Mr. DUNN, Treasurer, presented the financial report, which showed receipts amounting to £101 : 9 : 9 (including a balance of £41 : 17 : 3 from last year), and an expenditure of £79 : 1 : 1, leaving a balance in hand of £22 : 8 : 1.

Mr. WILLIAM MARTIN moved, Dr. BEGLEY seconded, and it was resolved: "That the Treasurer's report be received, adopted, and entered on the minutes."

Officers and Council.—A ballot having been taken, the following were found to be unanimously elected. *President:* Septimus W. Sibley, Esq. *President-elect:* Andrew Clark, M.D. *Vice-Presidents:* Robert Barnes, M.D.; and Jonathan Hutchinson, Esq. *Treasurer:* Robert Dunn, Esq. *Secretaries:* Alexander Henry, M.D.; and William C. Grigg, M.D. *Ordinary Members of Council:* Stephen S. Alford, Esq.; John Armstrong, M.D.; G. F. Blandford, M.D.; John S. Bristowe, M.D.; T. B. Curling, Esq., F.R.S.; Thomas S. Dowse, M.D.; Robert Farquharson, M.D.; John T. Griffith, M.D.; Ernest Hart, Esq.; J. T. N. Lipscomb, M.D.; John Macpherson, M.D.; C. R. Nicoll, M.D.; Richard Quain, M.D., F.R.S.; Leonard W. Sedgwick, M.D.; Richard Shillitoe, Esq.; Morris Tonge, M.D.; E. H. Vinen, M.D.; and Edwin T. Watkins, M.D.

Mr. HUTCHINSON then, after thanking the Branch, resigned the chair to his successor, Mr. SIBLEY.

Vote of Thanks to the Retiring President.—Dr. A. P. STEWART moved, Dr. FARR seconded, and it was carried by acclamation: "That the cordial thanks of the Branch be given to the retiring President, Jonathan Hutchinson, Esq., for his able and courteous conduct in the chair, and for his kind and hospitable reception of the members of the Branch."

President's Address.—The new PRESIDENT, Mr. SIBLEY, delivered an address, in which he commented on the principal medical topics of the day, viz.: the admission of women to the profession, habitual drunkards, the amendment of the Medical Act, the London water-supply and sewage system, and hospitals for the more affluent classes, and the isolation and purification of convalescents. In the course of his introductory remarks, he said: "A very little consideration will show that, although there has been a marked improvement during the last few years, the voice of our profession on questions of public health is not so powerful or authoritative as it ought to be. The private influence of medicine no doubt is great, and what we may fairly term the wonderful discoveries in sanitary science are beginning to exert their influence upon the public mind. The important observations which have been made as to the propagation of fever, for instance, and especially the work of the Medical Department of the Privy Council, have had a remarkable influence upon public opinion: both these and other facts are proving to the community that it is not safe to disregard the warnings of our profession, and that substantial advantages may be gained by listening to its teaching. From this point of view, our profession must regret the retirement of the late chief medical officer of the Privy Council. The active and clear intellect of John Simon has put before the public in a practical form many observations of vital importance. He has gained the highest esteem of our profession, and our country is under the greatest obligation to one who has devoted to its service, with remarkable success, a life of such brilliant powers. The scanty honours and meagre rewards which have been bestowed upon such a worker show how imperfectly at present the labour is appreciated by the public. Not the least good service which he has rendered is shown in the faculty of attracting others to work with him, and it is a matter of congratulation that there remains in the Department a staff of most able men, deeply imbued with the true spirit of philosophical inquiry, and well qualified to carry on the work."

On the motion of Mr. AMBLER, an unanimous vote of thanks was given to Mr. Sibley for his able and interesting address.

Report of the Committee on Legislation for Habitual Drunkards.—The following report was read by Dr. FARQUHARSON.

"During the last year, a Bill has been prepared by the Society for Promoting Legislation for the Control and Care of Habitual Drunkards, which has been revised by the Central Habitual Drunkards Committee of our Association, and has been introduced into the House of Commons by Dr. Cameron, member for Glasgow. Having been introduced late, the second reading fell in the Whitsuntide holidays, and no proper opportunity has since offered for bringing it forward. Dr. Cameron proposes to bring it on early next session. On this account, the proposed deputation to Mr. Cross has been postponed. Numerous petitions have been presented by the Branches of the British Medical Association and also by the Society which prepared the Bill. Your

Committee have sent up petitions to each House signed by more than four hundred medical men. Your Committee ask to be reappointed, that they may watch the progress of the Bill and promote it as far as possible."

Dr. FARQUHARSON proposed that the report be received and adopted, and the Committee reappointed.—Dr. STEWART seconded the motion, which was carried.

Vote of Thanks to Dr. Farquharson.—Dr. HENRY proposed, Mr. HUTCHINSON seconded, and it was unanimously resolved: "That the cordial thanks of the Branch be given to Dr. Robert Farquharson for the able and efficient manner in which he has discharged the duty of Secretary during the past three years."

Dinner.—The meeting was followed by a dinner. Mr. Sibley, President of the Branch, occupied the chair; and Professor Flower of the Royal College of Surgeons, Drs. Sayre, senior and junior, of New York, Dr. Howard of New York, and Dr. Agnew, were present as visitors.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE fourth annual meeting of the Southern Branch was held at the Royal Hotel, Winchester, on Wednesday, June 20th, 1877. Dr. Aldridge of Dorchester introduced the President, Dr. F. J. BUTLER. Fifty gentlemen were present.

Election of Officers.—Mr. W. G. Davis of Heytesbury was unanimously elected President-elect; and Dr. Ward Cousins Honorary Secretary.

President's Address.—The PRESIDENT delivered an address.

Treatment of Empyema.—Surgeon-Major MACNAMARA introduced for discussion the treatment of empyema.—The PRESIDENT mentioned several cases in which free incision instead of tapping had proved successful.

Cæsarean Section.—Dr. MACNAMARA related a case in which Dr. BUCKELL of Winchester had recently rescued a child by Cæsarean section some minutes after the death of the mother.

Dinner, etc.—The members visited the Cathedral, and dined together in the evening.

NORTHERN COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of this Branch was held at the Gordon Arms Hotel, Elgin, on Saturday, July 20th, under the presidency of Dr. MACKENZIE of Fortrose.

The Late Dr. Carmichael.—After approval of the minutes of the last meeting, it was resolved to put on record a minute expressing the Branch's sense of the loss sustained by the lamented death of Dr. Carmichael of Buckie.

Remuneration of Medical Witnesses.—A small Committee was appointed to act with the Aberdeen, Banff, and Kincardine Branch and the North of Scotland Association in regard to obtaining more adequate remuneration in Crown cases, by pressing the matter on the Lord Advocate, or otherwise as may seem best fitted to promote the object in view.

Albuminuria of Scarlet Fever.—Dr. BRUCE of Dingwall read a valuable paper on the albuminuria of scarlet fever. In this, he wished to show that this complication may arise at any stage of the scarlatina; that it is due to nephritis; that nephritis, though, of course, influenced by cold, is not due in many cases to that cause; that nephritis is more common in some epidemics, and in some families and individuals, than in others. In the way of treatment, he placed most value on purgatives (the bowels in most cases being torpid), diuretics, general bleeding, and diaphoretics. He gave an analysis of several cases occurring in a late epidemic. There were four deaths from scarlatinal albuminuria; three cases of uræmic convulsions, all of which were freely bled from the arm, and all recovered. The urine of five patients who had had albuminuria was examined within a year after their illness; in none was albumen found. In one case, where convulsions had been severe, there was some evidence of hypertrophy and slight valvular murmurs.—This paper gave rise to considerable discussion, in which all the members present took part, the views of Dr. Bruce being generally endorsed by the meeting.

Election of Office-bearers.—The following appointments were made. *President:* J. W. N. Mackay, M.D., Elgin. *President-elect:* T. Aitken, M.D., Inverness District Asylum. *Secretary and Treasurer:* W. Bruce, M.D., Dingwall. *Representatives in the General Council:* The President and Secretary.

Next Meeting.—It was resolved that the next meeting should be held at Inverness.

The Dinner took place in the Gordon Arms Hotel, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Excursion.—Next day, several of the members had an excursion to the beautiful ruins of Pluscarden Abbey, in the vicinity of Elgin.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE thirteenth annual meeting of this Branch was held in Bishop Cosin's Library, Durham, on Thursday, July 26th. There were present twenty-nine members and three visitors, including the Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D.

Dr. PHILIPSON, Honorary Secretary, said that it was with extreme regret he had to announce the absence of the retiring President, Mr. MATTHEW BRUMELL of Morpeth, in consequence of indisposition. He then introduced the new President, Mr. SAMUEL W. BROADBENT of South Hetton, who took the chair.

President's Address.—The PRESIDENT, after thanking the members for the very high honour he had received, and his desire faithfully to perform the important duties of his office, gave an address, recounting his experience of severe accidents, in his position as a surgeon to several large collieries in the county of Durham.

Vote of Thanks to the President.—It was moved by Dr. GIBSON, seconded by Mr. JOHN HAWTHORN, and carried by acclamation: "That the warmest thanks of the meeting be accorded to the President for his able address."

Vote of Thanks to the Retiring President and Officers.—It was moved by Dr. EASTWOOD, and seconded by Dr. DIXON: "That the best thanks of the meeting be given to the retiring President, Mr. Matthew Brumell, the Council of management, and the other officers for their valuable services during the past year."

Election of New Members.—The following gentlemen were unanimously elected members of the Association and of the Branch: R. M. Craig, Esq., Army Medical Department, Tynemouth Castle; Horace Sworder, Esq., County Hospital, Durham; Thomas Watson, M.B., Martin Colliery, Sunderland.

Report of Council.—The Council reported favourably of the stability and usefulness of the Branch. During the year, 22 new members had been elected. At the present time, the Branch consists of 247 members, 13 more than in any previous year. The attendance at the meetings had been large, and the interest of the papers read had called forth animated discussion. The Council offered its grateful thanks to the members, who, during the year, had read papers and the records of cases, and had exhibited pathological specimens.

At the spring meeting, Dr. Eastwood had proposed, and it had been carried: "That it is the duty of the General Medical Council to prosecute unqualified medical practitioners." The resolution was considered by the General Medical Council at its recent session, and the following decision was come to: "That the attention of the North of England Branch of the British Medical Association be drawn to Minute 3 of the proceedings of the General Medical Council of August 3rd, 1859, to Minute 5 of the 4th of August, 1859 (*Minutes*, vol. i, pp. 30, 35), and to Section (C) of the Report of the Medical Acts Committee, May 17th, 1877, adopted by the Council (*Minutes*, vol. xiv, pp. 131-132), and to inform them that, after mature deliberation, the Council sees no cause to alter the determination then arrived at."

The attention of the Council was directed to the case of *Annie Agnew v. Jobson* and others. The Council, in their deliberations, were aided by Mr. T. B. Thwaites of Bishop Auckland and Dr. V. Hutchinson of Bishop Auckland. After some consideration, the following resolution was agreed upon by the Council, and was forwarded to Messrs. Jobson, Mackay, and Allen: "The attention of the President and Council of the North of England Branch of the British Medical Association having been directed to the cause of *Annie Agnew v. Jobson* and others, deeply regret the circumstance, as they feel that all the defendants were unwittingly involved." The President and Council begged to offer to Messrs. Jobson, Mackay, and Allen their sincere sympathy with them in the trying position in which they have been placed.

Treasurer's Account.—The Treasurer's account showed that the receipts, including a balance of £9 : 16 : 11, amounted to £55 : 12 : 11. The balance, after all payments, amounted to £15 : 19 : 1.

Officers for 1877-8.—Dr. FENWICK proposed, Mr. W. R. SHIELL seconded, and it was unanimously carried: "That the next annual meeting be held at Hartlepool, the autumnal meeting at Stockton, and the spring meeting at Hexham; that Dr. G. Moore be President-

elect; Dr. Philipson, Honorary Secretary and Treasurer; and Drs. C. Gibson, Byrom Bramwell, Frain, and Dixon the Council of Management."

Representatives in the General Council of the Association.—It was moved by Mr. JOHN DAVIES, seconded by Mr. ROBERT SMEDDLE, and carried unanimously: "That the following gentlemen be the representatives of the Branch in the General Council of the Association: Byrom Bramwell, M.D.; S. W. Broadbent, Esq.; Matthew Brumell, Esq.; Martin Burnup, M.D.; W. H. Dixon, M.D.; J. W. Eastwood, M.D.; C. J. Gibb, M.D.; Charles Gibson, M.D.; G. Y. Heath, M.D.; Andrew Legat, M.D.; G. B. Morgan, Esq.; R. N. Robson, Esq.; and G. H. Philipson, M.D., *ex officio*."

Representative in the Parliamentary Bills Committee.—Dr. WICKS proposed, Mr. G. B. MORGAN seconded, and it was unanimously carried: "That Dr. Philipson be the representative of the Branch in the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the Association."

Vote of Thanks to the Trustees of Bishop Cosin's Library.—On the motion of the PRESIDENT, it was resolved: "That the grateful thanks of the meeting be accorded to the Trustees of Bishop Cosin's Library for their kindness in granting the use of the Library for the purposes of the meeting."

After the meeting was concluded, the members were very courteously conducted over Durham Cathedral, the Chapter House, Library, etc., by the Rev. Canon Tristram, and subsequently the majority of the members attended service in the Cathedral.

Dinner.—The dinner took place in the County Hotel. The President was supported by the Rev. Canon Tristram; the vice-chair was occupied by Dr. Philipson. After the loyal toasts, the Army and Navy, the Bishop and Clergy, the toast of the British Medical Association and success to the North of England Branch was eloquently proposed by the Rev. Canon Tristram, and very heartily responded to. Subsequently, the University of Durham, coupled with the health of the Professor of Medicine (Dr. Philipson), was proposed; also, the South Durham and Cleveland Medical Society, the Northumberland and Durham Medical Society, the President, President-elect, etc.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6TH, 1877.

CHARLES WEST, M.D., F.R.C.P., President, in the Chair.

Instruments, etc.—Dr. BARNES showed, for Dr. BECK of Fort Wayne, Indiana, an instrument for application of perchloride of iron to the cavity of the uterus.

Dr. BARNES showed a flexible galvanic stem, composed of zinc and copper wire, coiled into a tube.—Dr. AVELING said he had shown a similar stem to the Society some years ago.

Dr. ROPER showed modifications of Hicks's cephalotribe and of Barnes's craniotomy-forceps.

Dr. WILTSHIRE showed specimens of Ferguson's speculum, made of toughened glass.

Pathology and Treatment of Membranous Dysmenorrhœa.—Dr. JOHN WILLIAMS read a paper on this subject. It consisted of a narrative of fourteen cases of the affection, twelve of which had come under the author's own observation; a microscopical description of the membranes expelled; the method of treatment adopted in the cases; and conclusions drawn from the above data, as to the nature of the affection and its treatment. It was maintained that, in the study of the pathology of membranous dysmenorrhœa, regard must be had to four things: 1. The history of the patient; 2. The structure of the product expelled; 3. The state of the uterus; and 4. The normal process of menstruation. The theories advanced respecting the pathology of the affection were briefly noticed. The *post mortem* appearances met with in the uteri of two women suffering from the disorder were described, and the paper ended with the following conclusions. 1. The dysmenorrhœal membrane is not the product of conception, but the decidua ordinarily shed as *débris* with every menstrual epoch. 2. It is expelled as a whole and in masses, in consequence of an excess of fibrous tissue in the wall of the uterus; this excess is due to imperfect evolution at puberty, imperfect involution after parturition or abortion, or in the product of acute inflammation. 3. The membrane is neither the result of an ovarian congestion, nor of an hypertrophy of the ordinary decidua. 4. The chronic inflammation present is the result of the monthly expulsion of the decidua in masses from the uterus, and plays an accidental part only in the formation of the membrane; the inflam-

though the latter have no pretensions to a high degree of accuracy. When strongly alkaline hypobromite of sodium is added to urine, pure nitrogen is evolved; this gas is almost wholly derived from the urea, which is known to yield up its nitrogen by this treatment, hence the volume of gas given off approximately measures the urea contained in the given specimen of urine. Various forms of apparatus have been proposed for collecting and measuring the nitrogen, notably those of Russell and West, Blackly, and more recently of Simpson and O'Keeffe, but all these involve the use of specially graduated measuring and other vessels, which are both expensive and not easily obtained. The process which he (Dr. Reynolds) had arranged afforded the desired results very rapidly, while the only measuring apparatus required is a common two-drachm minim-measure, which every medical man is supposed to have, and the rest of the apparatus can be fitted up at a very small cost (about 1s. 8d.), with materials very easily procurable.

PUBLIC HEALTH

AND

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

THE WEST BROMWICH BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

It seems necessary to point out that the population of the district in the West Bromwich Union, of which Mr. Downes had medical charge, is considerably over that allowed by law. The legislature thinks that no man can do justice to a population larger than 15,000, and has plainly said so by passing an Act to that effect. Apparently, the Guardians of West Bromwich think differently; and this little difference of opinion we would recommend to the consideration of the Local Government Board, as a fit and proper case in which it might do something to enlighten the minds of these particular Guardians. Again: Can it be seriously expected that the pauper work of the Board of Guardians for West Bromwich, amid a population of 16,041 persons—just 1,041 larger than the number allowed in any medical district by law—can be done for £60 *per annum*? The salary for the work, with such a population as that, should be at least £250 *per annum*; the Board, in addition, finding all medicines and surgical appliances. And were the payment made on anything like a commercial basis, it would assuredly amount to far more. As it is, anything like £60 a year simply means that the Board's paupers are to be cared for at the expense of the medical man attending: a state of matters certainly not contemplated by Parliament, and one in which the best portion of our people do not concur. We advise medical men to consider the miserable terms offered by the contracting party on the other side, before they consent to accept the terms; and such consideration will lead them to refuse to undertake the onerous duties for such paltry remuneration.

MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,—Your able article in the JOURNAL for July 14th deserves the gratitude of the members of the Army Medical Department, inasmuch as it tells those who wonder what the officers of that department have to complain of, the grievance they labour under. Slowness of promotion, bad quarters, summary injustice meted to them in the shape of half-pay when, from the effects of service, they are unable to work and earn full pay, are as nought when compared with the want of consideration shown them by the heads of their own department. Speaking of Whitehall Yard, you say "the junior officer shuns its gloomy portals". If any number of senior executive officers of over twenty years' service were asked what aid or counsel they would expect from a visit to that mausoleum of dead hopes and ambition, they would reply, the greater our claim the less hope should we have of obtaining either right or indulgence. It is now a generally accepted belief, that every effort is made by those who rule to drive senior men from the service. With what success this work is carried out, can be proved by a reference to the *Gazettes* of the last six months; scarcely one will be found that does not record the fact of two, three, or more men of over twenty years' service retiring on half-pay. Upon those whose daily wants chain them to the service, the extra work devolves; and yet Mr. Hardy assures the House there are but twenty-three vacancies. Unification was strongly opposed by all the executive, because they knew full well it was desired by the administrators to enable them to exercise a greater control and power over the former, a regimental surgeon was protected by his commanding officer. Unification has become a fact, but that the department is united is a fiction. It is impossible that this widespread feeling of distrust between the executive and administrative branches, extending as it does throughout the former, should be without cause. The result of it is painfully apparent in men who work without zeal, hope, or ambition—bound to a service they would gladly leave, did not the leaving entail want on those dependent upon them. The appointment of a medical adjutant-general would be an insult to the department, and would publish to the world at large its incompetency to manage its own affairs; but the saving it from destruction is of more importance, and the end would justify the means.—I am, sir, yours obediently,
July 1877.

SIR,—In a leading article in the JOURNAL dated July 14th, you happen to have hit upon one of the very greatest causes of discontent in the Army Medical Department, especially amongst the junior officers. The utter want of consideration, the haughtiness, the red tape, and very often what in my opinion actually approaches to discourtesy, displayed to junior members of the profession by those at Whitehall Yard, who ought to be our supporters in difficulties and helps in our professional career—all these are simply proverbial. I appeal to any medical officer in the service, and ask him if he has ever experienced, by the War Office or Horse Guards staff, one-tenth of the lurking insolence displayed by the hall-porters at Whitehall, and abruptness and even incivility from the heads of our own department? Is not this enough to make us yearn to have a just and independent gentleman at the head of the department? After long thinking, and not without regret, I have come to the conclusion that medical officers will never receive justice or the consideration due to gentlemen until they have a man at the head of the department who is not a medical officer; and what man so fit as some major-general well and honestly chosen by H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief? The reproach made to us by all right-thinking combatant officers is that it is our own fault; and often I have had it said to me: "Why, it is your own people, who not only do you all these injuries, but really seem to take a delight in it." How can I answer, when I know how much truth there is in the remark. I believe there are not far off one hundred vacancies in the department. How can Dr. Muir tell Mr. Hardy that the department is fit for active service, when we can barely meet the requirements of peace? Why does not Mr. Hardy find out for himself the actual state of the department for peace or war?—Your obedient servant,
July 16th, 1877.

TRUTH.

SIR.—Whatever may be said against the unification of the Army Medical Department, its opponents must at least grant that certain important advantages have accrued to medical officers: among the chief of these may be cited early and certain promotion, equalisation of foreign service, and retirement of senior or administrative officers at sixty years of age. Due allowance should, however, be made for the feelings of a large body of officers whose connections with their corps are suddenly severed, and many, too, of whom are considerable losers in a pecuniary sense by the introduction of this new scheme. There are also few medical officers above ten years' service who do not retain pleasant recollections of happy times spent with their comrades and their old regiments.

Though the regimental like the purchase system has been abolished, probably never to be restored, still with some modifications and concessions the department may yet become satisfied, and even popular. To arrive at this result, two objects will require to be aimed at—1, to endeavour to satisfy the medical officers who are at present on full pay; 2, to attract candidates. To effect the first, there should be greater freedom of exchanges permitted. The medical officer should receive the same treatment as any other officer with regard to sick-leave. In a seniority service, promotion should be by seniority as a rule and by selection as an exception. Let there be a distinction in duties between seniors and juniors, which could be attained by having three grades among the executive medical officers, with duties pertaining to each. The department being considered staff, grant staff quarters always, or staff allowances. Restore forage-allowances to those medical officers who were entitled to it by Royal warrants prior to the one of April 1st, 1873. Permit retirement at twenty years' service on an increased pension, and hold out prospect of subsequent employment at a slightly increased salary in the auxiliary forces, or in medical charge of detachments, pensions, and in such appointments as are held by civilian practitioners; also in certain recruiting stations, depot brigades, etc. To gain the second object—*i.e.*, to attract candidates—abolish the ten years' system. It has been tried sufficiently long, and will prove a greater failure every year. It will never attract candidates of a good class in sufficient numbers while the Indian Army and the Royal Navy offer the lengthened service system.—I am, sir, yours obediently,
DELTA.

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, August 2nd, 1877.

Eastwood, Lewis, North Road, Darlington
Temple, Thomas Cameron, Doddington Grove, Kennington
Young, Alexander Stewart Ward, Chandos Villas, Clifton

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

Alban, Evan, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Blackburn, Herbert B., Guy's Hospital
Dykes, John Swindells, Queen's College, Birmingham
Farmer, Ernest W. W., University College
Nance, Henry Chester, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.—The following candidates received Degrees in Medicine and in Surgery on August 1st, 1877.

Doctor of Medicine, under the new Statutes; with the titles of the theses. [*** indicates those candidates who obtained Prizes for their Dissertations; ** those deemed worthy of competing for the Dissertation Prizes; * those commended for their Dissertations.]—*Andrew Balfour, Hong Kong, M.B. and C.M., 1873; Tumours. James Barbour, Scotland, M.B. and C.M., 1872; Catarrh, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy. ***Byrom Bramwell, England, M.B. (with Second-Class Honours), 1869; Clinical Reports. John William Bramwell, England, M.B., 1873; Vivisection. *John Cameron, Scotland, M.B. and C.M., 1874; The somania. Reginald Kennedy Casley, England, M.B. and C.M., 1874; The Ætiology and Treatment of Chronic Gastric Ulcers. *John Henry Clarke, England, M.B. and C.M., 1875; Syphilis in its relation to Pregnancy. James Crabb (M.A. Aberd.), Scotland, M.B. and C.M., 1875; The Relation of Diphtheria to Croup. Andrew Stark Currie, Scotland, M.B. (with Second-Class Honours), 1874; An Enquiry into the Modes of Death from various Anæsthetics. *James Crompton Eames, England, M.B., 1875; Osteitis Deformans. William Fairbanks, England, M.B. and C.M., 1874; Nerve-Storms with special reference to Hysteria. William Garton, England, M.B. and C.M., 1875; Some Uses and Abuses in Practice. **Robert Alexander Gibbons, Canada, M.B. and C.M., 1874; The Ætiology of Internal Anæurism, and its Treatment by

Iodide of Potassium and Galvano-puncture. Alexander Henry, Scotland, M.B., 1874; Observations on a rapidly fatal case of Pericarditis from large effusion. James Holmes, Berwick, M.B. and C.M., 1875; Care and Treatment of the Insane. *William Allan Jamieson, Scotland, M.B. and C.M., 1865; Acute Rheumatism. Received the Degree on 21st April, 1877. *John Johnston, Scotland, M.B. and C.M., 1874; Tubercular Meningitis in Children. *Thomas Johnstone, Scotland, M.B. and C.M., 1874; Researches into the Actions of certain Drugs in Toxic and Therapeutic Doses. *Abraham Emrys Jones, Wales, M.B. and C.M., 1875; Hypopyon-Keratitis. Richard Anderson Lambert, France (B.A. Trinity College, Dublin), M.B., 1874; Belladonna. Jas. Little, England, M.B., 1874; Vaccination. Thomas MacCall, Scotland, M.B. and C.M., 1873; The various kinds of Enemata, their Uses and Mode of Administration. *George Hunter Mackenzie, Scotland, M.B. and C.M., 1873; The Physiological and Therapeutical Actions of Aconite and Aconitia. *Frank Nankivell, England, M.B. and C.M., 1875; Rheumatic Fever. Chas. Arundel Parker, England, M.B. and C.M., 1873; On Phlegmasia Dolens. *Joseph Chaning Pearce, England, M.B. and C.M., 1871; Erythroxylon Coca. Robt. Burnet Porteous, England, M.B. and C.M., 1868; Actions and Uses of Hydrate of Chloral. *Henry Prescott Roberts, England, M.B., 1868; Intermittent Fever. *Robert Sandby, England, M.B. and C.M., 1874; The Participation by the Walls of the Blood-Vessels in the Morbid Changes of the Connective Tissue. *John Halliday Scott, Scotland, M.B. and C.M., 1874; Nervous System of the Dog. Received the Degree on 21st April, 1877. Robt. Scott, Scotland, M.B. and C.M., 1874; Treatment of Compound Fractures. Roger St. Clair Stuart, Scotland, M.B. and C.M., 1873; Exercise and the Influence of the Will upon the Voluntary and Involuntary Muscular Systems. Graham Steell, Scotland, M.B. and C.M., 1872; Scarlatina, with Charts illustrating the subject of Specific Fevers.

Doctor of Medicine under the old Statutes, with the title of the thesis.—Alexander Tweedie Stodart, Scotland; Leucocythæmia.

Bachelor of Medicine and Master in Surgery.—(A) indicates that the Candidate passed the Examination with First Class Honours; (n) that the Candidate passed the Examination with Second-Class Honours.—John Adam (M.A. Ed.), Scotland; Robert Smail Anderson, Scotland; James John Archbold, England; Henry Morton Baker, England; (n) Isaac Bayley Balfour (Sc.D. Edin.), Scotland; Robert Baxter, Scotland; William Baxter, Scotland; Charles George Beaumont, England; De Burgh Birch, England; Alexander Black, Scotland; George Black, Scotland; Robert Johnstone Blanchard, Nova Scotia; Albert Adolphus Boucaud, Trinidad; Arthur Henry Boucher, England; Edward Salisbury Brander, India; Henry Briggs, England; Thomas Monck Burn-Murdoch, Scotland; Francis Mitchell Caird, Scotland; Augustus Barclay Calder, Scotland; John Cameron, Scotland; Duncan Carmichael, Scotland; William Barstow Carstairs, India; William Joseph Christie, America; Herbert Edward Daniell, England; Ellis Thomas Davies, Wales; Henry George Deverell, India; (n) William Dick, Scotland; Thomas Dixon, Australia; Chas. Edward Douglas, India; Harry Drinkwater, England; Lionel Druitt, England; Matthew Robinson Fairer, England; Thomas Ferguson, Scotland; Nelson Spersholt Foster, England; William Simpson Frew, Scotland; John Fyffe, Scotland; William Robert Gibson, Scotland; John Gloag, Scotland; Robert Hardie, Scotland; David Berry Hart, Scotland; Alfred Joseph Harvey (B.A. McGill), Newfoundland; George Henderson, Scotland; John Oke Horden, Canada; Welby T Anson, England; (n) Charles Rumney Illingworth, England; Peter Pearson Johnson, England; Robert Colquhoun Johnston, Scotland; Walter Smith Kay, Scotland; Edward Law, England; George Le Fevre, England; Edward Jodrell Leapingwell, England; Thomas Preston Lewis, England; Andrew Walker Herdman Lindsay (B.A. Dalhousie), Nova Scotia; Arthur Charles James Rudd Lundy, Canada; James Abercrombie Lyon (M.A. Edin.), Scotland; Stanhope Hastings MacCulloch, Australia; Colin Mackenzie, Scotland; Daniel Mackenzie, Scotland; Charles M'Laren, England; James Farquharson MacLaren, Scotland; Henry James M'Laughlin, India; Roger M'Neill, Scotland; Hugh William Mann, Scotland; Jas. Inglis Mason, Scotland; John Mowatt (M.A. Edin.), Scotland; William Murdoch, Scotland; Walter Murray, Scotland; Peter Mitchell Penman, Scotland; Albert Plain, Wales; David Thomson Playfair, Scotland; Thos. Henry Pope, India; George William Potter, England; Robert Purdie, England; William Cash Reed, England; (A) William Richardson, England; James Robbins, England; John Rowland, Wales; John William Rowland, England; Cubitt Sindall Rundle, India; (n) James Scott, Scotland; Julius Henry Shannon, Barbadoes; Oliver Cromwell Shaw, England; Thomas Henry Smith, England; James Snadden, India; Douglas Edward Stewart, Tasmania; John Stewart, Nova Scotia; (A) Johnson Symington, England; Chas. Vernon Taylor, England; Alexander Thom (M.A. St. And.), Scotland; John Thomson (M.A. Edin.), Scotland; Francis Wyatt Turnham, England; James Turnbull, Scotland. (Received the Degrees on 25th November, 1876.) Charles Walter Van Geyzel, Ceylon; Howel Holland White, Wales; John Whitised, England; Robert Lamley Williamson, England; Ralph William Wilson, England; Russell Elliott Wood, Scotland.

Bachelor of Medicine.—Edward Allen, England; (n) James Milne Chapman, Scotland; Jean Aristide Clément Daruty, Mauritius; Horace Flint, England; Duncan Forbes (M.A. Edin.), Scotland; Benjamin Jones Massiah, England; (n) Walter James Strang (M.A. Edin.), Scotland.

Master in Surgery.—Alexander Henry, M.B., 1874, Scotland.

The Ettles Prize for 1877 was awarded to William Richardson, M.B. and C.M.; the Syme Surgical Fellowship was awarded to William Watson Cheyne, M.B. and C.M., 1875.

ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, EDINBURGH: DOUBLE QUALIFICATION.—The following gentlemen passed their first professional examinations during the July and August sittings of the examiners.

William George Mawbry, Northampton; John Jardine Dunlop, Port-William; Robert Roberts, North Wales; Duncan William Francis Chisholm, Nova Scotia; Frank Augustus Coward, Cape of Good Hope; Wm. Edward Hayes, Wexford; Hubert Lindsay Miller, Tasmania; Allan Grant Mackenzie, Strathpey; George Cuscaden, Wexford; Edwin Weston, India; William Abraham Dartnell, Rochester; Joseph Wm. Townsend Anderson, India; Henry Richard Powell, South Pacific; Albert Victor Wheeler, Dublin; Wm. Campbell, Caithness; Alfred Ernest Scanlan, Chester; Johnson Herbert, Whitby; George

Dixon Mitchell, Coldstream; John Templer Crosbie Conry, Roscommon; John Yellowlees Tant, Argyleshire; William Cornfoot Philip, Kirkcaldy.

The following gentlemen passed their final examination, and were admitted L.R.C.P. Edinburgh and L.R.C.S. Edinburgh.

John Glaister, Lanark; Peter Campbell, Crieff; Charles Fergus Naismith, Bengal; Rodolphé Durand, Mauritius; Peter Macgregor, Perthshire; Robert Forrest Dedrickson, Dublin; Andrew Graham, Forfarshire; Henry Bournes Walker, Nenagh; Joseph Greasley, Melton Mowbray; Richard Knox Tait, Eyemouth; Wm. Hall Stowell, City of Wells; Henry Cooke Brannigan, County Mayo; Laurence Maxton, Calcutta; John Macnaught, Glasgow; John Albert Howard, Bagborough; John Denis Thorpe Reckitt, Hull; Hugh Murray, Bonar Bridge; Alfred Henry Miller, Rochester; Alfred Wyatt Crane, France; Harrison Hartley, New Malton; Antonio Balmanya, Cuba; Arthur Bayly Vane, Worcestershire; Hartley Innes Noad, Herne Hill; Edward John Baxter, Middlesex; William Gillespie Mackenzie, Belfast; Alfred Samuel Jenkinson, Yorkshire.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, EDINBURGH.—The following gentlemen passed their first professional examination during the recent sittings of the examiners.

John Caithness Innes, Marykirk; John Cameron Dall, Bedlington; James Alexander John Smith, Stornoway; Thomas Charles Walker, Lincithgowshire.

The following gentlemen passed their final examination, and were admitted Licentiates of the College.

Henry Preece Jervis, Bombay; Beramji Nasarvanji Koyaji, Bombay; Maneckjee Eduljee Reporter, Amrolee, Surat; Hiraji Jehangir Khambata, Bombay; Kaikhosro Sorabji Nariman, Surat; Percy Grant Hickson Norcor, Plymouth; James Henry Croude, county Durham; Richard Gordon, county Sligo; William Bacon Hodgson, Middlesex; Edmund St. George Baldwin, Toronto; George Duncan, Perthshire; Arthur Wm. Thomas Flintoff Mickle, Yorkshire; James Alexander John Smith, Stornoway; Wm. Lauder, Port-Glasgow; Jas. Parker, Indian Ocean; Edward Day M'Nicoll, Liverpool; David Holmes, Malta; Edward Frederick Hoernlé, India; Albert Charles Butler Smyth, Dublin.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

COSFORD UNION—Medical Officer for the Bileston District.

COVENTRY UNION—Medical Officer for the Workhouse.

DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON—Medical Tutor and Demonstrator of Dental Operations. Salary, £100 per annum to each of the offices. Applications to be made on or before September 15th.

ISLE OF WIGHT UNION—Medical Officer for the Workhouse. Salary, £90 per annum, with usual extra fees. Applications to be made on or before the 22nd instant.

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP—Resident Assistant Medical Officer at the Crumpsall Workhouse.

TAMWORTH UNION RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY—Medical Officer. Salary, £120 per annum. Applications to be made on or before the 11th instant.

TAMWORTH UNION—Medical Officer for the Workhouse. Salary, £105 per annum. Applications to be made on or before the 18th instant.

WILTS COUNTY ASYLUM—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £110 per annum, with board, residence, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 21st instant.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

*BROWN, W. Perrin, L.R.C.P. Edin., etc., appointed Visiting Surgeon and Junior House-Surgeon to the Macclesfield General Infirmary.

*McBEAN, Samuel, L.R.C.P. Edin., late Lecturer on Botany, University of Durham Medical School, appointed Lecturer on Materia Medica in the same School.

*ROE, William, M.D., appointed Professor of Midwifery to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

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.

BIRTHS.

DALY.—On August 7th, at 101, Queen's Road, Dalston, the wife of *Frederick H. Daly, M.D., of a son.

HARDWICKE.—On August 4th, at Parkfield House, Sheffield, the wife of *Herbert Junius Hardwicke, M.D., of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

SWAYNE—CORMACK.—On Wednesday, August 8th, at the British Embassy, Paris, by the Rev. James M. Laycock, Colonel James Dowell Swayne, of H.M. Bengal Staff Corps, to Mary Morris, daughter of *Sir John Rose Cormack, M.D.

WOOD—HENRY.—On August 7th, at Holy Trinity Church, Roehampton, by the Rev. L. S. Stanley Clarke, B.C.L., Prebendary of Chichester, and Rector of Bexhill, Sussex, assisted by the Rev. W. W. Kelly, M.A., Curate of Hove, William Edward Ramsden Wood, M.A., M.B. Cantab., eldest son of William Wood, M.D., of 99, Harley Street, and the Priory, Roehampton, to Alice Louisa, youngest daughter of James Henry, Esq., of Blackdown, Sussex, formerly of the 72nd Highlanders.

PRESENTATION.—At the annual meeting of the medical staff of the Great Western Railway Provident Society, held at the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury, on Tuesday, August 7th, Dr. Cooper, Medical Officer of the Great Western Railway, the president, was presented with a very elegant and massive silver tea and coffee service, as a mark of the high esteem and great personal regard held towards him by the staff.

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.

CLUB PRACTICE.

SIR,—Now that the question of club remuneration has been raised, I trust that the matter will not be allowed to drop till some understanding has been reached. No one can deny that the present rate of payment is quite inadequate. Many of the working classes themselves perceive this, and either employ a medical man in the usual way, or else, if they have a "club-doctor", offer to pay him something extra in order that they may secure the attention they desire. Isolated attempts to raise the tariff will not avail. As long as clubs can obtain medical attendance at the present low rate, they will naturally do so. Let us be unanimous, and when friendly societies find that respectable members of the profession expect a higher remuneration, and only the "waifs and strays" will accept payment at the rate of 3s. per member yearly, they will probably consult their own real interests, and employ the former.

The tariff proposed by your correspondent Mr. W. J. Marsh is, on the whole, a good one. The exclusion of all members whose incomes exceed 30s. weekly is urgently needed, for in this respect there is gross abuse. If a man with an income of £2 or £3 a week choose to insure himself for a certain allowance during sickness, no one is injured thereby; but if the same man contract for medical attendance on the ordinary scale for clubs, he imposes upon the profession.

It is probable that the working classes would not be unreasonable in this matter. Within the past few years their wages have been—and rightly, too—considerably increased: why, then, should the "club-doctor's" salary remain stationary? If the question were brought before them and discussed in a friendly spirit, they could not fail to admit the justice of the doctor's claim to a higher scale of remuneration.

There is an association of Poor-law medical officers: why should there not be a similar combination amongst surgeons to friendly societies? I merely offer the suggestion, leaving it to more experienced surgeons to decide whether such a scheme be desirable or practicable.

Let every one who is interested in this matter do his best to bring about the reformation so urgently needed, and there can be no doubt that our efforts will be crowned with success.—Yours, etc.,
Handsworth, August 6th, 1877.

LICENTATE.

ANTIQUARIAN INQUIRIES.

SIR,—Can you give me any information respecting the following medical terms. 1. Diascordium; 2. Dysodonium; 3. Maiestalis plumbi? The first is an electuary of the *Pharmacopœia*, 1682, but I want its derivation. The third is intended, I suppose, for magistery of lead; but what particular preparation? I wish to know something of the history of Dr. Adamson, who lived in Carlisle, or near that town, one hundred years ago.—Yours faithfully,
XYSTER.

*. Diascordium is said to be derived from *δια*, through, and *σκόρδιον*, the water-germander, one of its ingredients. We have no means of answering our correspondent's question regarding "dysodonium" and "maiestalis plumbi". Perhaps some of our Cumberland members will be able to give a reference to information respecting Dr. Adamson.

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.

COMPOSITION AND QUALITY OF THE METROPOLITAN WATERS IN JULY 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 ..	17.00	0.052	0.120	0.001	0.007	11.0	2.8
West Middlesex ..	17.10	0.053	0.105	0.000	0.007	11.8	3.3
Southwark and Vauxhall	20.70	0.050	0.090	0.001	0.008	12.1	2.8
Chelsea	17.40	0.057	0.090	0.000	0.007	12.6	2.4
Lambeth	17.00	0.052	0.120	0.000	0.009	11.8	3.3
<i>Other Companies.</i>							
Kent	26.70	0.015	0.300	0.000	0.003	17.0	5.1
New River	16.40	0.019	0.120	0.000	0.006	12.1	3.3
East London	18.30	0.046	0.090	0.000	0.007	12.1	3.3

Note.—The amount of oxygen required to oxidise the organic matter, nitrites, 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, West Middlesex, Southwark and Vauxhall, Chelsea, and the Lambeth Companies.

THE VIN DE BAUDON.

SIR,—My attention having been called to an advertisement of the Vin de Baudon, in which my name is mentioned in such a manner as to begot the idea that I had employed this compound, that to its employment I had ascribed the recovery of a patient from empyema, and that I recommended its use, perhaps you will kindly permit me to state, in answer to many communications on the subject, that the wine was prescribed by the resident medical officer of the London Hospital, that in my opinion its use exerted no favourable influence upon the patient's recovery, that I have never prescribed the preparation, that the garbled extracts from the reports of the case (neither written nor revised by me, used by the advertisers to promote the sale of their commodity) have been published without my knowledge, and that the continued use of the advertisement, as it now runs, is contrary to my judgment of what is right.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

ANDREW CLARK, M.D., Physician to the London Hospital.

August 4th, 1877.

DR. W. H. AXFORD'S letter has been handed to the General Secretary, to whom all business communications should be addressed.

VOMITING CONNECTED WITH DYSMENORRHOEA.

The following are abstracts of replies to the question of M.R.C.S. in the JOURNAL of July 28th.

DR. J. E. RANKING of Tunbridge Wells has had under notice for the past two years a case of true membranous dysmenorrhœa, in which urgent vomiting is a constant attendant upon the period. The patient has never been married, and the mola-mina, as will be readily imagined, are of no mean intensity. The cause of the vomiting appears to him to be twofold—(1) intensity of pain; (2) sympathetic nervous disturbance. Although these cases most frequently complicate each other, one or other can often be determined to be in the ascendant. For the pain, nothing equals the hypodermic injection of morphia. His other measures are—1, complete rest in the supine position in bed; and 2, as much rest of stomach as possible, either withholding food altogether, or giving very small quantities of very simple nourishment, such as milk and soda-water, Brand's essence of beef, champagne, with or without ice. He has frequently seen more solid food passed at stool, or vomited even twelve hours after ingestion, absolutely unchanged. As regards medicines, whenever the sickness is not controlled by the means mentioned above, and effervescing draughts with Prussic acid, he uses the following prescription, which as yet has never failed. *℞* Liqueur bismuthi et ammoniac citrat 3j; acid hydrocyanici diluti ℥iv; liquoris morphiæ acetatis ℥v; spiritus chloroformi ℥x; aquæ q.s. ad 3j. This is taken every hour, until the vomiting ceases. Quantity, whether of food or medicine, is of primary importance. Success, to be permanent, must be based on removal of the physical cause of the dysmenorrhœa.

DR. JAMES MURPHY (Sunderland) suggests that M.R.C.S. Eng. make a thorough examination of the uterus to discover the cause of the dysmenorrhœa and to remove it, when the vomiting will cease if it depend upon uterine derangement. The symptoms point to obstructive dysmenorrhœa; but without an examination it is impossible to be certain: possibly the patient is a multipara, suffering from chronic cervical endometritis. Should this be the case, he recommends free scarification of the cervix once a week, and the passing of a bougie every third or fourth day through the entire length of the cervical canal, using a larger size each time.

DR. STOWERS should, we think, bring the subject before the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association, of which the gentleman in question is, we believe, a member.

BITES AND STINGS OF INSECTS.

SIR,—If it be not generally known that the irritation caused by the bites and stings of many insects may be almost immediately allayed by the application of the oil of lavender, a refresher in your JOURNAL may be useful.—Your obedient servant,
August 1877.

W. H. TAYLER, M.D.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements for insertion in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, should be forwarded direct to the Publishing Office, 36, Great Queen Street, W.C., addressed to Mr. FOWKE, not later than *Thursday*, Twelve o'clock.

MR. HARDY.

SIR,—“Allusion had been made to the system of three years’ service in India. That was rendered necessary by the exigencies of climate, and the Indian Government would not take any one for an administrative department who had not served three years there. If an officer had not complied with this rule, he had brought this bar upon himself, and was sent out to fill up the number of months or years to make up his term. It was no doubt a War Office rule, but it was rendered necessary by the rule of the Indian Government.” So spoke Mr. Hardy, if the *Times* report be correct, before the House of Commons on Monday, the 2nd June. Mr. Hardy also alluded to the acts “worthy of a great profession”. How the “exigencies of climate” render three years’ service in India necessary for promotion there or elsewhere, Mr. Hardy does not explain. What Mr. Hardy means by “the Indian Government would not take anyone for an administrative department”, Mr. Hardy must also explain, because, as far as I know, there are no special administrative departments in India or at home; and if he mean “anyone for an administrative position in India who had not complied with the Indian rule”, Mr. Hardy has been misinformed from 6, Whitehall Yard, because not only have Sir William Muir and several others administered in India without compliance with this rule, but there are administrative officers there now who have failed in this respect.

It would have been only fair for Mr. Hardy to make himself acquainted with facts before he stated before the world “that if an officer had not complied with this rule he had brought the bar upon himself”. Mr. Hardy knows that no officer could “bring the bar upon himself”, who, even after thirty years’ service, had never heard of such a rule as “three years’ Indian service being a *sine qua non* for promotion”; and, even if he had, could not have ordered himself to that country. Mr. Hardy knows that no such rule has been officially promulgated, and that officers only heard of this illegal exercise of an unpublished rule when it was impossible for them to qualify by going to India, because they would have been superannuated by the fifty-five years’ clause before the three years in India could have been completed. Mr. Hardy says the rule is, “no doubt, a War Office rule”, but he does not mention the number of the clause or circular in which it has been issued by War Office authority. What are the conditions of this War Office rule? Are they identical with the Indian rules? If so, the War Office rule has been violated since it was made—in fact, Mr. Hardy knows, or ought to know, that the department to this day does not know what the rule is.—Yours obediently,

FIDES.

INFECTIOUS DISORDERS.

SIR,—I want to have it made clear to me (and I do not see how I can have it better done than through your columns) as to who is to pay in cases of removal of persons suffering from infectious disorders. I will briefly give two cases occurring in one house in my own practice.

A. B., master of a large boarding-school of boys, has a servant taken ill with scarlatina. Immediate removal is, of course, necessary. This is done in a closed cart belonging to the parish authorities, in shape exactly like the one in the celebrated picture known to our childhood as “Bring out your dead” during the London plague. The servant is detained five weeks in the infectious diseases’ hospital, and the master is mulcted in the modest sum of £5:17:6—I presume, 17s. 6d. hire for the antediluvian cart, and £1 a week for food and medical attendance. Ten months afterwards, a second case, this time a boy, turns up in the same house. The master is, of course, desirous to get rid of a centre of infection at once. The sanitary officer is not in the way; but the workhouse authorities, after pressure, lend the ancient cart. The boy is now removed to lodgings about one hundred and fifty yards from the school. An old nurse who has nothing else to do has charge of the boy, and the lodging-house keeper has no other lodgers. She is now told by the sanitary authority that, for taking in a patient knowing him to be infectious, she is liable to a penalty of £20. The schoolmaster, for having got rid of a centre of infection from a number of healthy boys, also has the same pleasant assurance. Now, what I want to know is, what I am to do in the future. I shall certainly never consult our sanitary authorities again, for two reasons. If I consult them, I run the risk of being fined £20 (or my friends do) for not carrying out precautions, the data of which we cannot from them procure, and, if carried out, would apparently (if the boy were not to be moved) spread the disease at a fearful rate; and, secondly, for ordinary pockets the cost of nearly £6 for an attack of scarlatina (so mild as to be doubtful) in a servant is far too heavy. Surely, if the law does not provide conveyance and suitable disinfectants at an extremely small cost, for all, the efforts of private individuals and their medical advisers must be directed entirely in the direction of evasion of the law.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

4, Portland Square, Plymouth, July 15th, 1877. WM. SQUARE, F.R.C.S.

THE ARGUMENTUM BACULINUM.

WITH reference to a recent occurrence, it may be interesting to notice that Goethe places as the motto to the first part of the *Dichtung und Wahrheit*, “Ο μη δαπὲς ἀνθρώπος οὐ παιδεύεται”, which may be summarised as “Unwhipt, untaught”, and is commended to the attention of school-boards for use in the same manner as the Hippocratic axiom by the London College of Physicians.

Benvenuto Cellini (Goethe’s trans., chap. 1) says: “When I was in about my fifth year, my father was in a cellar of our house, where washing had been carried on, and where a good fire of oak charcoal had been left: he had a fiddle in his hand, and sang and played round the fire, for it was very cold. By chance, he discovered in the strongest glow a little animal, like a lizard, that was enjoying itself in this strong flame. He observed immediately what it was, and had me and my sister called, showed the animal to us children, and gave me a sound box of the ears. As on this I began to set up a loud bellowing, he sought in the most friendly manner to appease me, and said: ‘My son, I did not strike you because you had done anything wrong, but only that you may remember the lizard that you see in the fire. It is a salamander, which, so far as I know, has not been seen by any one before. On this, he kissed me and gave me some penny.’ This was a recognised mode of impressing a fact or circumstance on the memory in those times.

PRACTICE IN AMERICA.

SIR,—Would you kindly inform me whether a British qualification entitles the holder to practise in Canada or the United States without further examination or registration there?—I remain, sir, yours, etc.,

INQUIRENS.

* * * As a general rule, we believe, further registration is required in Canada; but the extent to which British qualifications are recognised varies in the different provinces.

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.

VOLUNTEER SURGEONS.

SIR,—Presuming “A Volunteer Surgeon” has mastered Aitken’s *Medicine* and Erichsen’s *Surgery* before becoming a busy practitioner, I should advise him to study Parkes’s *Hygiene*, Professor Longmore on the *Transport of the Sick and Wounded* and the *Manual of Instructions for the Officers and Men of the Army Hospital Corps*, also the *Army Medical Regulations*.

In answer to the question addressed by another “Volunteer Surgeon”, it is not necessary for the surgeon of a battalion of volunteers to reside at head-quarters. I know several administrative battalions the surgeons of which do not live in the towns in which the head-quarters are located.—Your obedient servant,

P. P. S.

SIR,—I passed the examination for volunteer surgeons last September, and I found the books most useful to me were Surgeon-Major Porter’s *Pocket-Book* and Parkes’s *Hygiene*. The questions asked were about ambulances, and the transport of sick and wounded, gunshot-wounds, formation of camps, and the sanitary arrangements necessary for them. Water and its impurities, which will be found to be fully treated upon in Dr. Parkes’s book, chap. 1, were also entered upon. It is not necessary for the battalion-surgeon to reside at head-quarters.—Yours truly,

August 1877.

W. EASBY, M.D.

ERRATUM.—In the list of candidates who passed the primary examination at the Royal College of Surgeons on July 17th, for William Berthwaite, read William Outhwaite.

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; The Isle of Wight Observer; The Sussex Daily News; The Metropolitan; The Leeds Mercury; etc.

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

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

Sir Michael Hicks Beach, London; Mr. W. D. Husband, York; Dr. George Johnson, London; Dr. Bucknill, London; Mr. Nelson Hardy, London; Dr. Sibley, London; Dr. Braidwood, Birkenhead; Dr. Morris, Spalding; Dr. Alfred Swaine Taylor, London; Dr. Arthur Watson, Manchester; Mr. W. Downes, Birmingham; Mr. A. E. Wilmot, Escrick; Master in Surgery; Mr. John Pranker, Langport; W.; Dr. Andrew Clark, London; Dr. W. H. Axford, Southsea; Delta; Dr. W. W. Cheyne, Edinburgh; Dr. Sieveking, London; Dr. E. H. Jacob, Leeds; The Secretary of Apothecaries’ Hall; Dr. Wolfe, Glasgow; M.D.; Mr. Vacher, Birkenhead; Dr. Foster, Birmingham; Dr. De Chaumont, Netley; Mr. Lund, Manchester; Dr. W. Roberts, Manchester; Dr. W. Williams, Liverpool; The Registrar-General of England; Dr. F. T. Roberts, London; P. Q.; Dr. Tayler, Anerley; Dr. George Bland, Macclesfield; Mr. Arthur Jackson, Sheffield; Dr. Rabagliati, Bradford; Dr. Carpenter, London; Dr. Stowers, London; Dr. Wilkinson, Manchester; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Dr. Bell Taylor, London; Dr. Warner, London; Dr. Stephenson, Aberdeen; Mr. Eastes, London; Dr. Tilt, London; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Dr. Edis, London; An Associate; Dr. Joseph Rogers, London; Mr. H. C. Burdett, Greenwich; Dr. A. P. Stewart, London; Dr. Joseph Bell, Edinburgh; Dr. W. O. Priestley, London; Mr. T. Spencer Wells, London; Mr. Lowndes, Liverpool; Dr. Mahomed, London; Dr. Bradbury, Cambridge; Dr. Daly, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. W. Holder, Hull; Dr. J. W. N. Mackay, Elgin; Mr. T. G. Vawdrey, Handsworth; Mr. R. Edmunds, Wrexham; Dr. J. T. Gobat, Ruabon; Mr. C. W. Chubb, Devonport; Dr. Robert Smith, Heckfield; Dr. H. J. Hardwicke, Sheffield; Mr. C. Hunter, Ben Rhydding; Dr. W. Easby, March; M.D. Edin.; Dr. Rhys Williams, London; Dr. J. F. Horne, Barnsley; An Old Member; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Dr. Denton, Steeple Claydon; Dr. S. McBean, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. W. Roe, Dublin; Our Paris Correspondent; Dr. Collie, Homerton; Mr. E. Turner, London; Mr. C. H. Cornish, Taunton; Dr. Robert Farquharson, London; Dr. J. P. Cassells, Glasgow; Mr. W. P. Brown, Macclesfield; Sir John Rose Cormack, Paris; Mr. Teevan, London; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Care and Cure of the Insane; being the reports of the *Lancet* Commission on Lunatic Asylums for 1875-6-7. Two Vols. By J. Mortimer Granville. London: Hardwicke and Bogue.

Guy’s Hospital Reports. Edited by H. G. Howse, M.S., and F. Taylor, M.D. Third series, vol. xxii. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1877.

Diseases of Women. By Lawson Tait, F.R.C.S. Ed. London: Williams and Norgate. 1877.

St. George’s Hospital Reports. Edited by W. H. Dickinson, M.D., and T. Holmes, F.R.C.S. Vol. viii, 1874-6. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1877.

Headaches: their Nature, Causes, and Treatment. By W. H. Day, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1877.

The Retrospect of Medicine, being a Half-Yearly Journal. By W. Braithwaite, M.D., and James Braithwaite, M.D. Vol. lxxv, January to June, 1877. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. 1877.

Carlsbad and its Natural Healing Agents, from the Physiological and Therapeutical Points of View. By J. Kraus, M.D. London: Tribner and Co. 1877.

Pathology of the Pneumogastric Nerve. By S. O. Habershon, M.D., F.R.C.P. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1877.