

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY MANAGEMENT.

THE TORBAY HOSPITAL AND PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.

WE are glad to learn that it is proposed to introduce some changes into the arrangements of the Torbay Hospital, and to place the outpatient department on the provident footing. This is a plan which has been in operation for some years at the Royal Albert Hospital, Devonport; and we have often recommended it to the notice of our readers. On comparing the proposed rules with those of other provident dispensaries, it appears to us that, on the one hand, the scale of members' payments is unduly low; and that, on the other hand, the "provident fund" is charged with an excessive share of the general expenses. To deduct one quarter for the cost of drugs is a very large proportion, especially when the dispensary is to be worked in association with the hospital. From both these causes, the balance divisible at the end of the year among the medical officers is likely to be smaller than it ought to be.

DERBY PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.

THE forty-seventh annual meeting of the Governors of this Institution was held at the Dispensary, St. Mary's Gate, on October 11th, under the presidency of the Mayor. From the report, it appeared that 1,898 members had been enrolled during the year, and that there were 5,260 members on the books. The receipts for the year from all sources had been £1,117 16s.; and, after paying the various expenses of the establishment, there remained a balance of £608 4s. 11d., divisible amongst the medical officers. The Secretary reported that a legacy of £50 had lately been left to the institution. A Branch Dispensary has been opened in Leonard Street; and the cost of fitting it up has been paid out of the reserve fund.

COUNTY HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS.

THE necessity of occasionally revising the rules of public institutions is proved by the report published in the *Lincoln Gazette* of a meeting lately held at the Lincoln County Hospital, on the occasion of the election of an honorary surgeon to the institution to fill a vacancy caused by the death of one of the medical staff. According to rule, an honorary surgeon must be "a Fellow or Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of either London, Edinburgh, or Dublin". It further appears there had been three candidates canvassing for the appointment—Dr. Lowe and Mr. Wilkinson, both holding the degree of Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and Mr. Mason, a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. On the day of election, Dr. Lowe sent a letter to the governors, stating that, having taken legal opinion on the subject, and finding that he was excluded by Rule 47 from obtaining the office of honorary surgeon, he was compelled to ask their permission to withdraw his name. The question then arose as to the eligibility of the other candidates. It was considered, on the one hand, that Mr. Wilkinson, holding the same diploma as Dr. Lowe, would be disqualified, if the legal opinion quoted were correct; whilst, on the other side, it was argued by Mr. Tweed that a licentiate of the College of Edinburgh was eligible; and, further, that, if the rule were to be taken in its literal sense, Mr. Mason could not be elected, because it read that only a Fellow or Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of London was eligible, whereas no such institution existed, Mr. Mason being a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The common sense construction of the rule, it was submitted, was clear and simple; namely, that they should elect a qualified person; one who held a diploma or licence from either of the three institutions. Mr. J. Banks Stanhope presumed that Dr. Lowe had taken legal opinion on the question; and that a person did not withdraw unless he had a pretty strong legal opinion that he was not eligible; the Chairman adding, or unless he had not a sufficient number of votes to win. After considerable discussion, the election proceeded, Mr. Wilkinson being successful with an overwhelming majority.

Now, it would appear that, according to the literal reading of the rule, Fellows and Members of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of England and Ireland and Licentiates of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh are not eligible to hold the appointment of honorary surgeon to this provincial hospital, the only qualification existing, as named in the rule, being the Fellow of the Edinburgh College. Such could never have been the intention of the framers of this rule, and, no doubt, the remarks about the common sense construction of the rule were correct, and the governors were justified in proceeding with the election. Position on the staff of a county hospital being a very honourable one, and giving considerable status to a medical man,

vacancies are much looked forward to and often obstinately contested. The power of election being generally in the hands of the body of governors, it behoves them to see that the rules are in conformity with the times; and it is to be hoped that the governors of the Lincoln County Hospital will see the absurdity of the rule which caused so much discussion at the late meeting; that they will at once rectify it, and, in so doing, will not take local legal opinion, but be guided by the medical staff of the hospital.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT MEETING.

THE next meeting is appointed to be held at the West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone, on Tuesday, November 20th, at 4.50 P.M.: ADOLPHUS HALLOWES, Esq., in the Chair.

Dinner will be ordered at the Star Hotel at 6.30.

A paper on Acute Chorea has been promised by Charles E. Hoar, Esq., M.B.

Mr. Sydney Jones of London is also expected to read a paper.

FREDERICK JAMES BROWN, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.

Rochester, November 5th, 1877.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT MEETING.

THE next meeting will be held at the Library of the County Hospital, Canterbury, on Thursday, November 22nd, at Three o'clock. The President of the Canterbury Medical Society will preside.

Dinner at the Fleur-de-Lis Hotel at 5 o'clock precisely. Charge, 6s. 6d., exclusive of wine.

Notices have been received of the following communications to be made to the meeting.

1. To receive the resignation of the Honorary Secretary, and appoint a successor.

2. Mr. T. W. Reid: A Case of Poisoning by Yew Leaves.

3. Mr. Tyson: A Case of Poisoning by Phosphorus.

4. Mr. Rigden: Two Hundred consecutive Obstetric Forceps Cases in Private Practice, their causes and results.

5. Mr. Clement Walter: Case of Hydrophobia.

Gentlemen who intend to be present at the dinner are particularly requested to inform me on or before Tuesday, the 20th instant.

EDWARD WHITFIELD THURSTON, *Honorary Secretary*.

Ashford, November 4th, 1877.

SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH: EAST AND WEST SUSSEX DISTRICTS.

A CONJOINT meeting of the above Districts will be held at the Dispensary, Queen's Road, Brighton, on Friday, November 30th, at 3.15 P.M.: F. A. HUMPHRY, Esq., Surgeon to the Sussex County Hospital, in the Chair.

All members of the South Eastern Branch are entitled to attend these meetings; and visitors from the metropolis or elsewhere are particularly invited.

Notice of intended communications is requested to be sent on or before Wednesday, the 14th instant, to either of the Secretaries, in order that they may be inserted in the regular circular.

Dinner will be provided at 5.30 P.M., at Markwell's Hotel.

W. J. HARRIS, *Honorary Secretary* of the West Sussex District, 13, Marine Parade, Worthing.

THOMAS TROLLOPE, M.D., *Honorary Secretary* of the East Sussex District, St. Leonard's-on-Sea.

November 6th, 1877.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE first meeting of the session was held at the York House, Bath, on Wednesday, October 31st; H. MARSHALL, M.D., President, in the chair. There were also present thirty-five members.

New Member.—F. K. Green, Esq. (Bath), was duly elected a member of the Branch.

Annual Meeting.—Dr. MARSHALL warmly congratulated the Bath members on having invited the Association to meet at Bath in August 1878, and proffered cordial co-operation.

Paper.—Dr. SHINGLETON SMITH read a paper on the Use of

Quinine in the Treatment of Pyrexia, which led to a very animated discussion, lasting the entire evening, in which Drs. Goodridge, E. L. Fox, Davey, Cole, Skerritt, Siddall, and Mr. Michell Clarke took part.

Habitual Drunkards Bill, 1877.—Mr. FOWLER gave a short summary of the principal clauses in the above Bill, which he hoped would be introduced next session; and laid upon the table petitions to both Houses of Parliament for signature.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: DORSET DISTRICT.

A MEETING was held at Blandford on October 31st, 1877; Dr. BACOT, President, in the chair.

New Members.—Messrs. Williamson Daniel, Ingram, and Spooner (Blandford), Mr. Lys (Bere Regis), Mr. Capon and Dr. Norton (Dorchester) were elected members of the Branch and district.

Election of Officers.—Dr. Bacot was re-elected President; Mr. Nunn (Bournemouth) and Mr. Wyke-Smith (Wimborne), Vice-Presidents; Dr. Lush (Weymouth) and Mr. Parkinson (Wimborne), Joint Secretaries and Treasurers for the ensuing year.

Meetings in 1878.—It was resolved that the April meeting in 1878 be held at Bournemouth; and the October meeting at Blandford.

Communications.—Dr. LUSH read a Medico-Legal Case.

It was resolved: "That the Secretaries be directed to make inquiry of the Medical Defence Association respecting the conditions on which this district can be affiliated."

Club-practice.—A discussion took place on the question of Club-practice; and the general feeling was that the present rate of payment was unremunerative, and should be increased.

THAMES VALLEY BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

A MEETING of this Branch was held in the Board Room of the Richmond Infirmary on October 17th.

New Members.—Dr. N. H. K. Kane and Mr. W. Jeaynes of Norbiton were elected members of the Branch.

Papers.—The following papers were read.

1. Mr. G. F. WHITE: Tubercular Meningitis.

2. Dr. F. P. ATKINSON: Hæmaturia in Children.

Dinner.—The members, to the number of twelve, afterwards dined together at the Greyhound Hotel.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SUSSEX DISTRICT.

A MEETING of the members of the above district was held on Friday, September 28th, at the Castle Hotel, Hastings; Dr. BAGSHAW in the chair.

New Members.—Mr. D. H. Gabb of Hastings, Mr. D. W. Duke of St. Leonard's, and Dr. E. P. Thurston of Ore were nominated for membership of the Association and of the Branch. Dr. Kirkman of Silverhill was nominated as a joining member.

Communications.—The following communications were made.

1. Dr. PARSONS: Case of Diphtheritic Paralysis.

2. Mr. CAMPBELL: Case of Hip-Disease.

3. Dr. ALLEN: Pericarditis and Pleurisy in a Child.

4. Dr. TROLLOPE: Case of Xanthelasma.

5. Dr. COOKE: Aneurism of the Abdominal Aorta.

6. Dr. TROLLOPE: Aneurism of the Descending Thoracic Aorta.

Effect of Sea-Air on Skin-Diseases.—A discussion on this subject was commenced by the CHAIRMAN, and shared in by several of the members.

The Dinner took place at the Castle Hotel; most of those were present who had attended the meeting.

The Next Meeting was fixed to take place at Brighton, conjointly with the West Sussex District, at the end of November; F. A. Humphry, Esq., Surgeon to the Sussex County Hospital, will take the chair.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST AND WEST SURREY DISTRICTS: CONJOINT MEETING.

A CONJOINT meeting of these districts was held on October 18th, 1877, at the Red Lion Hotel, Dorking; C. W. CHALDECOTT, Esq., in the chair. Twenty-nine members and visitors were present.

Next Meetings.—It was proposed by Dr. LANCHESTER, and carried unanimously: "That the next meeting of the East Surrey District be held on December 13th, at Croydon; and that Dr. Philpot be requested to take the chair."

It was proposed by Mr. JARDINE, and carried unanimously: "That the next meeting of the West Surrey District be held at Guildford; and that Mr. Henry Taylor be requested to take the chair."

Papers, etc.—The following communications were read.

1. Dr. BRISTOWE: Two Cases of Hysteria.

2. Dr. HUGHLINGS JACKSON: Cases of Brain-Disease.

3. Dr. DYCE DUCKWORTH: The Medical Injunction of Stimulants in Health and Disease.

4. Dr. BURNEY YEO: Cerebral Tumour.

Dinner.—The members and visitors afterwards dined together.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PENGE CASE.

SIR,—The reasons which induced the medical witnesses for the prosecution in this case to give the opinion that the death of Harriet Staunton was caused by starvation and neglect were published in the JOURNAL of October 27th, and I had hoped before this to be able to explain more fully some of the disputed points in the case.

I find it impossible, however, in the limits of an ordinary letter, to answer in detail all the objections which have been urged against the opinion we hold; but, lest silence should be considered as any proof of assent to these remarkable views, perhaps you will kindly allow me to state that I hope shortly to place before the profession, in another form, a complete history of the case, in which each and all of these objections shall be fully and carefully considered.

I cordially agree with the opinion expressed in the concluding sentence of Dr. Payne's last letter, that, "in a matter of such moment, it is desirable that all objections which can fairly be raised should be fully discussed and left to the arbitrament of those best qualified to judge"; and, however startling it may seem to Dr. Payne, I believe it will not be difficult to show that the opinion we gave was in strict accordance with science and truth, and that any other opinion would have been inconsistent with the facts. I am sure it will be of interest to the profession to know that Dr. Alfred Taylor has most kindly offered to edit and revise this pamphlet with medico-legal comments, so that, whatever may be the literary defects of my report, it will at least be an authentic record of a great *cause célèbre*, enriched by Dr. Taylor's notes and the weight of his great experience.

In the meantime, let it be remembered that our opinion was based on facts, and that it was confirmed in a very remarkable manner by the circumstantial evidence, while the objections urged against it rest, for the most part, on pure hypotheses.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

Forest Hill, November 6th, 1877.

JOHN M. BRIGHT, M.D.

THE WEYMOUTH MYSTERY.

SIR,—We crave permission in your next impression to make a few remarks relative to what you designate in the leading article of your last number "A Weymouth Mystery".

We may observe, *in limine*, that we have no sympathy with counter-prescribing by chemists, who have at least no moral, if they have any legal, right by such practices to tamper with the lives of their fellow-citizens. It was, therefore, only under a painful sense of duty that we acceded to the urgent request of the chemist implicated in this case, acting under legal advice, and with the concurrence of the coroner, to make a second *post mortem* examination of the body of the deceased commercial traveller Frank Cole. We were informed of the nature and composition of the draught administered, which was not intended, as is alleged, to "revive him", but to induce sleep, as Cole told the chemist in the morning that he had not had any sleep the previous three or four nights.

Dr. Lush, at the first inquiry before the coroner, stated that he had not found sufficient disease to account for death unless by the action of poison. Without entering into minutiae, we may observe that we examined carefully all the leading viscera discoverable, but that the heart, stomach, and one kidney were missing, having been previously removed by Dr. Lush. The kidney present weighed eight ounces, and presented a mottled appearance on its surface, being in an early stage of "granular degeneration". We discovered a few granular tube-casts in the urine, of which we found about half a pint in the bladder, having a specific gravity of 1015 (not 1010, as stated by Dr. Lush). This important point was verified by two urinometers. Of the liver, it is unnecessary to say more than that it was considerably enlarged, being five-and-a-half pounds in weight, and apparently in a state of fatty

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, October 25th, 1877.

Aldrich, Arthur Woolledge, Mildenhall, Suffolk
Baker, Frederick Grenfell, Cambridge Gardens, Notting Hill
Jeffreys, James Graham, Richmond, Surrey
Nundy, Edward, Rotherham Hospital
Rogers, Maurice Cohen, 23, Wimpole Street

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

Wray, George Bury, University College Hospital

The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, November 1st, 1877.

La Page, Clement, Nantwich, Cheshire
Peacock, Henry George, Melton, Suffolk

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

Allinson, Henry Calthrop, King's College Hospital
Craddock, Frederick Hurst, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

KING AND QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN IRELAND.—At the ordinary monthly examination meetings of the College, held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, October 9th, 10th, and 11th, 1877, the following candidates were successful.—For the Licence to practice Medicine: Previous Examination.

Butler, Frances Jane

Final Examination.

Abbott, Charles Edward
Canavan, Patrick
Finegan, Lawrence Patrick Joseph
Kehoe, Matthew Joseph
M'Cann, Joseph George
Mackey, Stephen William
Macnamara, Rawdon, jun.

Miley, William Kildare
Mitchell, Daniel
Nicholson, Joseph John
Owen, William Hall
Pollard, Evelyn Richard Hugh
Russell, Thomas O'Dwyer
Smith, James

For the Licence to practice Midwifery.

Abbott, Charles Edward
Canavan, Patrick
Finegan, Lawrence Patrick Joseph
Kehoe, Matthew Joseph
M'Cann, Joseph George
Mackey, Stephen William
Macnamara, Rawdon, jun.

Miley, William Kildare
Mitchell, Daniel
Nicholson, Joseph John
Owen, William Hall
Pollard, Evelyn Richard Hugh
Russell, Thomas O'Dwyer

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.—The annual meeting of the University for the conferring of Degrees and the declaration of University distinctions, was held in St. Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle, on Friday, October 12th. The following Degrees in Medicine and Surgery, and Diplomas in Midwifery, were conferred by His Grace the Duke of Leinster, Chancellor of the University.

The Degree of Doctor in Medicine, October 1877.—First Honour Class—William Allen, Galway; James Clarke, Belfast; William Whittle, Belfast. Upper Pass Division—Gervase Robert Percy, Belfast; Wm. John Sprott, Belfast. Lower Pass Division—Daniel Francis Barry, Cork; Patrick Maurice Carleton, Belfast; John Power Carmody, Cork; Thomas Reid Denham, Belfast; Robert E. Donovan, Cork; Isaac Chichester Dundee, B.A., Galway; Chas. Fredk. Knight, Cork; Joseph Stanislaus Lawlor, Galway; Robert Lindsay Love, B.A., Galway; Michael J. Lyden, Galway; John Wesley Megarry, Belfast; Thomas M. O'Brien, Galway; Patrick O'Connor, Galway; John O. G. Sandiford, Cork; James Stuart, Belfast; Garnett George Tatham, Galway; David Taylor, Belfast; Henry Tomkins, Belfast; Francis Henry Walmsley, Belfast; John Edward Walsh, Cork; Edward Alexander White, B.A., Belfast; James O'Brien Williams, Galway; John Wilson, B.A., Cork; Thomas John Withers, Belfast. June 1877—Archibald R. H. Bland, Cork; Wm. Henry Bracken, Belfast; George Henry Bull, Cork; Wm. Corry, Belfast; Robert Donaldson, Cork; Hugh L. Donovan, Cork; J. J. Kent Fairclough, Belfast; Denis Harrington, Galway; Henry O'Neill, Belfast; Wm. A. Quayle, Belfast; Robert H. Robinson, Belfast; Henry George Thompson, Galway; Wm. Henry Thornhill, B.A., Cork; James Tidbury, Cork; Charles Workman, Belfast.

The Degree of Master in Surgery, October 1877.—Denis Harrington, M.D., Galway; Henry O'Neill, M.D., Belfast; Wm. Allen, Galway; Daniel Francis Barry, Cork; John Power Carmody, Cork; James Clarke, Belfast; Thomas Reid Denham, Belfast; Joseph Stanislaus Lawlor, Galway; Robert Lindsay Love, B.A., Galway; Michael J. Lyden, Galway; Thomas M. O'Brien, Galway; Patrick O'Connor, Galway; Gervase Robert Percy, Belfast; John O. G. Sandiford, Cork; Wm. John Sprott, Belfast; James Stuart, Belfast; John Edward Walsh, Cork; Edward Alexander White, B.A., Belfast; Jas. O'Brien Williams, Galway; Thomas John Withers, Belfast. June 1877—J. J. Adams, M.D., Belfast; David Bradley, M.D., Belfast; John Mulrennan, M.D., Cork; Archibald R. H. Bland, Cork; George Henry Bull, Cork; William Corry, Belfast; Robert D. Donaldson, Cork; Hugh L. Donovan, Cork; J. J. Kent Fairclough, Belfast; Wm. A. Quayle, Belfast; Robert H. Robinson, Belfast; Henry G. Thompson, Galway; Wm. H. Thornhill, B.A., Cork; Jas. Tidbury, Cork; Charles Workman, Belfast.

The Diploma in Midwifery, October 1877.—Denis Harrington, M.D., Galway; Henry O'Neill, M.D., Belfast; Maurice J. O'Sullivan, M.D., Cork; William Allen, Galway; Daniel Francis Barry, Cork; Patrick Maurice Carleton, Bel-

fast; James Clarke, Belfast; Thomas Reid Denham, Belfast; Robt. E. Donovan, Cork; Charles Frederick Knight, Cork; John Wesley Megarry, Belfast; John O. G. Sandiford, Cork; Wm. John Sprott, Belfast; James Stuart, Belfast; Edward Alexander White, B.A., Belfast; Thomas John Withers, Belfast. June 1877—Dr. J. J. Adams, Belfast; Archibald R. H. Bland, Cork; George Henry Bull, Cork; Wm. Corry, Belfast; Hugh L. Donovan, Cork; Wm. A. Quayle, Belfast; Wm. H. Thornhill, B.A., Cork; James Tidbury, Cork; Charles Workman, Belfast.

The following prizes were awarded in the Medical Faculty:—Peel Prize in Composition, limited to the competition of Undergraduates in Medicine—Prize awarded for the Essay signed "Vix Medicatrix Nature", Alfred Henry Keogh, Galway; Proxime accessit, "Quid est in somnis gelidæ nisi mortis imago", Henry Tomkins, Belfast.

Peel Exhibition awarded at the First University Examination in Medicine—Robert Thomas M'Geagh, First, £20 a year for two years.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:—

CASTLE WARD UNION—Medical Officer for the Workhouse and the Ponteland District.

CENTRAL LONDON SICK ASYLUM DISTRICT—Assistant Medical Officer and Dispenser for the Asylum in Cleveland Street. Salary, £100 per annum, with board and residence. Applications to be made on or before the 10th inst.

COOTEHILL UNION—Medical Officer for the Workhouse. Salary, £80 per annum, and fees.

DRAYTON UNION—Medical Officer for the Second District and Workhouse.—Medical Officer for the Fifth District.

EAST SUSSEX, HASTINGS, and ST. LEONARD'S INFIRMARY—House Assistant Surgeon. Applications to be made on or before the 10th instant.

GENERAL HOSPITAL and DISPENSARY FOR SICK CHILDREN, Manchester—Directing Physician. Salary, £500 per annum. Applications to be made on or before the 21st instant.

INFIRMARY FOR CONSUMPTION and DISEASES OF THE CHEST—Physician in Ordinary and Visiting Physician. Applications to be made on or before the 14th instant.

LIVERPOOL ROYAL INFIRMARY—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 20th instant.

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL—Assistant Physician. Applications to be made on or before the 10th instant.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM, Colney Hatch—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £150, rising to £200 per annum, with board, washing, attendance, and apartments. Applications to be made on or before the 10th instant.

NORTH-EASTERN HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN—Fourth Physician. Applications to be made on or before the 10th instant.

PORTLAND TOWN FREE DISPENSARY—Resident Surgeon and Dispenser. Salary, £100 per annum, apartments, fire, gas, and attendance.

ST. GEORGE'S UNION, Middlesex—Medical Superintendent for the Infirmary in Fulham Road. Salary, £400 per annum, with furnished residence, coals, gas, etc. Applications to be made on or before the 14th instant.

WEST BROMWICH UNION—Medical Officer for the West Bromwich South District.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE HOSPITAL and DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon. Salary, £70 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 19th instant.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

ARCHER, William G., M.B., appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the Birmingham General Hospital.

***BINDLEV, Philip, M.B.**, appointed Assistant-Physician to the Birmingham General Hospital.

CHAVASSE, Thomas F., M.B., appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the General Hospital, Birmingham.

HAYWARD, T. E., M.R.C.S.Eng., appointed House-Physician to the Westminster Hospital.

ROBERTSON, Frederick Freer Leslie, M.B., appointed House-Physician to the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City Road, *vice* A. G. Williams, M.R.C.S.Eng., whose time has expired.

***SAUNDREY, Robert, M.D.**, appointed Assistant-Physician to the Birmingham General Hospital.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, is 3s. 6d., which should be forwarded in stamps with the announcement.

MARRIAGES.

BROWN—SHEPARD.—On October 18th, at St. George's Church, Tredegar, by the Rev. Thomas Smith, Vicar of St. Mary's Walkley, Sheffield, assisted by the Rev. Edward Jones, Vicar of St. George's, Tredegar, George Arthur Brown, Surgeon, of Tredegar, to Hannah Elizabeth, younger daughter of Horace Shepard, Esq., Solicitor, of Polar House, Tredegar.

GRESHAM—THORNE.—On October 27th, at Holy Trinity Church, Bromley Common, Kent, by the Rev. A. Rawson, M.A., F. C. Gresham, M.D., M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A., eldest son of Chief Justice Gresham, Grenada, West Indies, to Julia Mary (May), daughter of the late Capt. J. N. Thorne.

DEATHS.

***DUNN, Robert, F.R.C.S.Eng.**, aged 78, at 31, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C., on November 4th.

LEE, Matthew, M.D., at Bradford, aged 39, on October 13th.

DONATION.—The Building Fund of the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, has received a donation of £100 from Miss Fetherston H.

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.—St. Peter's, 2 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.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Drysdale, "On Pigmentary Syphilitic Affections in the Female: with Cases".

TUESDAY.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Barwell, "On a Large Aneurysm of Aorta, Innominate, etc., treated by Double Ligature"; Mr. Marrant Baker, "On Removal by Operation of a Hairy Mole occupying half the Forehead".

WEDNESDAY.—Hunterian Society, 7.30 P.M.: Council Meeting. 8 P.M.: Dr. Stephen Mackenzie, "On a Case of Capillary Bronchitis, with Remarks on Treatment"—Epidemiological Society, 8.30 P.M. An Inaugural Address will be delivered by the President, Surgeon-General John Murray.

THURSDAY.—Harveian Society of London, 8 P.M. Casual Communications. Mr. Osman Vincent, "A New Treatment of Lumbar Abscess"; Dr. Broadbent, "On a Case of Acute Dementia in a Child: Recovery".

FRIDAY.—Medical Microscopical Society, 8 P.M. Mr. J. Needham, "A Case of Hydrophobia".

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*.

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.

CORRESPONDENTS, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

SIR.—A. purchases a practice of B., who, among other appointments, holds that of medical officer to an union, an appointment which had been in the practice for many years. B., after three months' introduction, retires from the practice and resigns his union appointment, for which A. applies in due course. There are only two other practitioners in the town, who are in partnership. 1. Is it in accordance with professional etiquette for the junior partner to compete for the appointment? 2. Is it so, taking into consideration the fact that the senior partner distinctly gave A. to understand, before the said practice was negotiated for, that, so far at least as he himself was concerned, he would offer no opposition to A.'s succeeding to the union appointment?—I am, etc., M. B.

. There is here a question of valid understanding rather than of etiquette. Public appointments are not private property, to be transferred absolutely at the will of the incumbent without control. If the gentleman in question desire to apply for any such advertised vacancy, and can do so without a breach of faith, we do not see that he would commit any impropriety in making such application. Public appointments in the Poor-law and elsewhere are not created for the benefit of the individuals who hold them, but of the public generally, and in this case, of the sick poor; and their very theory requires that they should be given to the best and most suitable persons, and that they should not be considered as appointments which the existing incumbent has the right to transfer for a valuable consideration from hand to hand. The guardians are the trustees of the public, and it is no part of their duty to recognise or accept private transfers of such appointments, unless they consider that they are also for the public good, or at least that the public interests, of which they are the trustees, will not suffer.

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.

ADVERTISERS are requested to take notice that the regulations of the *Post Office* do not allow letters to be addressed to initials and directed to any *Post Office* in the United Kingdom, but letters may be addressed to initials to the *JOURNAL* Office or any stated address other than a *Post Office*.

THE PENGE CASE.

SIR.—Admitting that the medical evidence for the prosecution does not clearly show that murder has been committed, I think it may fairly be said that for the defence goes a long way short of proving it has not. Dealing with some of the facts that Dr. Payne has taken up in his letter of October 27th, I may say I do not think it at all extraordinary that Harriet Staunton should have felt weak and bad when her child (her first born and only child) was taken away from her to the hospital, nor that she should have apparently failed to understand the news of her child's death. We (general practitioners) often see persons affected in this way, who are certainly not the subjects of cerebral disease. As regards the swelling of her feet, may not this have been due to poverty of blood and exudation of serum? The drowsiness spoken of, as occurring before her removal to Penge, may have been caused by extreme exhaustion, and her inability to walk may have been due to the same thing. Supposing this explanation with regard to the cause of the symptoms to be correct, it is only natural she should have shaken violently when she arrived at the end of her journey. As regards her having a fit on being put to bed, this, according to the evidence of Dr. Fowler (*vide* letter October 20th) is just what we might expect. There may or there may not have been any paralysis of one arm or side of the body, but we have no more certain evidence of this than of the attempts to feed her. The absence of vomiting, strabismus, twitching of the muscles of the neck or extremities, and the presence of diarrhoea, are against the theory of tubercular meningitis. As regards the *post mortem* examination, Dr. Fowler, who attended upon the Welsh fasting girl, states that the condition of the heart, stomach, intestines, and omentum, coincides very closely with that described by Mr. Biggs in the case of Mark Cornish (*vide* letter *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, October 20th). Again, Professor Virchow says: "The striking reduction in the weight of Harriet Staunton makes it a matter of some difficulty to suppose even the possibility that her emaciation was the consequence of tuberculosis"; and he adds, "that Dr. Greenfield's additional hypothesis to explain it, that the woman was of unsound mind and the subject of general paralysis before becoming tuberculous, is one which cannot be inferred from the necropsy, and in the absence of that evidence there always remains the possibility that she was not supplied with food"; adding, finally, "that even if there were proof of the unsoundness of mind, there would still be the evidence favouring the possibility of starvation".

Every medical man engaged in private practice will, I am sure, heartily thank you for the honest and fearless manner in which you have upheld their cause in this trying and difficult case. The *Lancet*, no doubt from motives just as conscientious, has taken the opposite side; but the strong remarks made by that paper against the medical evidence adduced on the side of the prosecution, I venture to say, will damage its position with the body of general practitioners.

I perfectly agree with Mr. Donovan, that some means should be taken to vindicate Drs. Bright and Longrigg and the gentlemen who acted with them in attempting to further the ends of justice.—I am, sir, yours obediently, M.D.

SIR.—I perfectly agree with Mr. Donovan in his remarks in your *JOURNAL* of Saturday last. The profession should in some way express their sympathy with Messrs. Bright, Longrigg, etc., in the treatment they have received from some of their professional brethren. Some few years ago I attended Harriet Staunton. She was then a well nourished woman, remarkably neat and clean both in person and dress, and from what I knew of her she was the last person who would voluntarily become dirty or negligent of either. Surely, tubercle in the brain could hardly account for the dirt and vermin, and filth, in which this poor woman was found, any more than it could change the baby's name to "Harris". It appears to me that a little common sense will do us more service than a good deal of theory.—I am, yours very truly, THOS. WATTS.

Frampton-on-Severn, November 5th, 1877.

E. R. M.—The last author on the subject of physiognomy, or facial expression, is Mr. Darwin, whose works are published by John Murray, Albemarle Street.

FEES TO MEDICAL WITNESSES AT INQUESTS.

SIR.—Can you or any of your readers throw any new light on the question of fees to medical witnesses at coroners' inquests in hospitals. We have a small hospital in this town in which a coroner's inquest is occasionally held. Heretofore, under the jurisdiction of the preceding coroner, who was a lawyer, the medical officers of the hospital were paid fees for giving evidence at inquests in the hospital. The present coroner, who is a member of the College of Surgeons, declines to pay such fees, on the ground of 6 and 7 William IV, cap. 89, section 5, which says that "the medical officer whose duty it may have been to attend the deceased person (upon whom the inquest is held) as a medical officer of such institution as aforesaid (viz., any public hospital or infirmary, or any county or other lunatic asylum, or any public infirmary or other medical institution, whether supported by endowments or by voluntary subscriptions), shall not be entitled to the fees or remuneration therein provided". I have, in making claim for fee, based my claim on this argument: that when the above quoted Act was passed, there were no such institutions as cottage hospitals and the smaller provincial hospitals which are now springing up in many small country towns; that in all the hospitals existing at the time of the passing of that Act, the medical officer who was called upon to give evidence at inquests in such hospitals was the house-surgeon, or resident medical officer, who lived in the hospital, was a paid officer of the hospital, and was required to devote his time to the work of the hospital, being restricted from private practice: whereas in these more recently established small county hospitals there are no resident medical officers, no paid medical officers: but the medical officers are men engaged in private practice, living away from the institution, and receiving no remuneration for services in the hospital.

The case is so different, that I cannot think the clause of the Act referred to can cover our little county hospitals. Can you suggest the best way of getting an authoritative opinion on the subject?—Yours faithfully,

Sherborne, Dorset, Oct. 21st, 1877.

WM. HENRY WILLIAMS, M.D.

. By referring the subject to the Lord Chancellor or the Home Secretary, the two official superiors of coroners, a further decision might be obtained on the point raised by our correspondent.