

his movements, or he would have run away there and then. I found that the Turkish ambulance had received no more instructions than myself, and, as we had no means of transport, there was nothing left but to remain where we were till morning. All night, however, the interminable procession to the rear went on: troops and guns, arabas, horses, camels, asses, and oxen, all bearing heavy loads, thus being removed out of the way of the evidently dreaded approach of the enemy.

As soon as it was daylight, I sent out in search of arabas or horses; but had not much hope of finding many. At a quarter to six o'clock on the morning of Monday, October 15th, the English ambulance, with a large white flag, having on it the red crescent, flying in a most prominent position on a rocky eminence just above, received definite orders to move its situation, in the shape of a large shell thrown deliberately into the middle of the little encampment. It fell and exploded ten yards in front of the tent in which I and my sick colleague were, and the fragments, with a shower of earth, fell all around us—thank God! without hurting anyone. In about five minutes' time, this shot was succeeded by a second, evidently aimed at the Turkish ambulance about one hundred yards lower down the hill; there was here, too, the ambulance flag flying conspicuously in front. This second shell also exploded, providentially, without inflicting damage. I immediately conveyed poor Buckley and the four other patients to a spot sheltered by the rocks from the direct fire, and gave them each a cupful of warm cocoa with a little brandy in it. Just then, up rode Ahmet, one of the Mushir's aide-de camps, and he told me that the fighting was going on near the Nalban-tepe, about two miles to our rear. My search for arabas and horses had now been attended with partial success, and, taking a few of the horses, my wretched milazim, contrary to my express orders, which were for all to move together or not at all, packed on them his personal belongings, with a couple of bales of our blankets, and while I was attending to the safety of the patients, taking his guard-soldiers with him, he made off, caring for nothing but his own safety. I mustered among the men I had left and the attendants of the wounded Bimbashi two sets of four men to carry Buckley and that officer on their stretchers, the other three patients being able to ride horses. Having arranged everything in as orderly a manner as possible, we set off in the direction of the Nalban-tepe. When we had arrived at the foot, I rode to the summit to consult the Mushir as to the best course to pursue, and he advised a temporary erection of the ambulance anywhere in that neighbourhood for the reception of the wounded, who would soon be beginning to come in, from the very hot fighting going on. I rode down again, and was going to unpack a few things for the dressing of the wounded, when we saw close on our right the whole mass of our skirmishers being driven in utter confusion. There were Cossacks mixed up with them, fighting hand-to-hand, and a sweeping fire commenced right in our direction. I took out my revolver, and told the bearers of the litters that the first man who attempted to desert from his post or to leave the sufferers I would shoot like a dog, without a moment's hesitation, and they kept manfully and steadily to their arduous toil. We were now in the midst of a crowd of troops of all arms who were all flying in the utmost confusion from the face of the advancing enemy. We were forced into a narrow defile, where the shells from Russian batteries on each side of us, and Congreve rockets, were incessantly pouring down upon the retreating masses. One large fragment of shell actually fell between Buckley's stretcher and Fortunato, who was riding close by his left side; I was on his right, and it passed just over my head. Our greatest danger, however, was perhaps in the fear of the litter-bearers being knocked down and trampled under foot by the mad crowd of men and beasts, or run over by the artillery, battery after battery of which had now joined the general stampede. I saw many of the patients of the Turkish ambulance, who had been deserted by their doctors—a Greek and a Turk—who had ridden off to Kars as fast as their horses could carry them immediately the shell was fired at their ambulance, as well as some poor fellows who had been wounded in that day's fighting, thus trampled down. At last, we passed safely out of this "valley of the shadow of death", and, having got out into the open plain, we at length pushed on to the village of Vezirkui.

[Here our correspondent and his charge were exposed to great danger from the disorderly retreating mass of the defeated Turkish army, and, finding that there was no safety, proceeded to Kars.]

Hussein Bey, colonel of artillery, the camp commandant, with a small body of men (who made a most determined attempt to arrest the mad rush onwards of the panic stricken herd of soldiers), let me pass through with my charge, giving me as I passed by what cheered me as much as it astonished me—a few words of encouraging compliment, in the best of English, for what was my simple duty and my high privilege to do. By the time we approached the lines, the mad

rush was thicker and more desperate than ever, and, to avoid being actually trampled down, we made a few yards' digression to our right. Fortunately for us we did so; for suddenly a terrible explosion shook the ground, while there was showered all around us a hail of fragments of metal. A limber-wagon full of shells, jolting in its rapid flight over the rough ground, had exploded in the path we had just left, and the amount of destruction and death it dealt out to those immediately around was terrific. A few minutes afterwards, I had the intense satisfaction of depositing all my patients, with a few other sick I had picked up on the road, in safety in the consultation-room of the principal hospital, where, after getting such food as the Greek doctor "on guard" could procure for us, I was glad to lie down with them and seek repose after the fearful events of the day, and the words of my great Master found their way into the few utterances of thanksgiving I was capable of: "Of those whom thou hast given me have I lost none." This is not the place for what might be considered "religious cant"; but I am not ashamed to record my thanks to the Almighty, who had protected and preserved us unhurt through all.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, on Wednesday, the 9th day of January next, at Two o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE,

*General Secretary.*

36, Great Queen Street, London, W.C., December 22nd, 1877.

### NORTH OF IRELAND BRANCH.

THE first meeting of this Branch will be held in Lombard Street Hall, Lombard Street, Belfast, on Thursday, January 3rd, 1878, at 12 o'clock, noon, at which by-laws will be submitted for acceptance, and office-bearers appointed for the year. Members of the Association wishing to join the Branch will please communicate with

JOHN MOORE, M.D., 2, Carlisle Terrace, Belfast.

### SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT.

A MEETING of the East Surrey District of the South-Eastern Branch of the British Medical Association was held at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, on December 13th, at 4 P.M. Forty-seven members and visitors were present.

*Next Meeting.*—It was agreed that the next meeting should be held at the Crystal Palace Hotel, Upper Norwood; and that Dr. Miller be requested to take the chair.

*Papers.*—The following papers were read.

1. Dr. Goodhart read some cases of Enlargement or Inflammation of the Mediastinal Glands.
2. Mr. Howard Marsh exhibited Sayre's Apparatus and mode of applying Plaster of Paris for Curvature of the Spine.
3. Dr. Lanchester read some Remarks on Calomel as a Medicine.
4. Dr. Duncan exhibited sections of Diphtheritic Tonsils under the microscope.
5. Dr. Adams exhibited a patient with Tabes Dorsalis, showing, with Carter's ophthalmoscope, extensive Choroiditis.

*Dinner.*—Thirty members and visitors sat down to dinner.

### SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST AND WEST SUSSEX DISTRICTS.

A CONJOINT meeting of the above Districts was held at the Dispensary, Queen's Road, Brighton, on Friday, November 30th: F. A. HUMPHRY, Esq., Surgeon to the County Hospital, in the Chair. Forty-one members and visitors were present.

*Communications.*—I. Dr. W. Withers Moore read Remarks on a Case of Lardaceous Disease.

2. Mr. G. F. Hodgson read Illustrations of Aural Surgery.

3. Dr. Fussell read Remarks on a Severe Case of Lead-poisoning.

*New Member.*—One was proposed.

The Dinner took place at Markwell's Hotel. Twenty-five members were present: Mr. Humphry in the Chair.

The next Meeting is to be held at Tunbridge Wells in March 1878: Mr. F. Manser in the Chair.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

### YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

At the annual meeting of this Association lately held at Ilkley, when S. W. North, Esq., of York, was elected President for 1877-8, and Drs. Britton and Goldie Vice-Presidents, a report was read briefly enumerating the titles of the papers read during the past year, and also stating that the Association had considered the question of tenure of office, and arrived at the decision that the time has not yet come for a satisfactory conclusion in this matter. The President referred to the sewage purification and utilisation works at Ilkley, which showed that sewage can be rendered sufficiently pure, at any rate, to be poured into rivers. Dr. Goldie then read a paper on Vaccination, and said that, for the stamping out of small-pox, he should begin with "universal complete vaccination"; and insisted upon the necessity for the registration of every disease at the Public Health Department, and the disinfection of articles of clothing and bedding, of the houses and drains. Dr. Britton thought that imperfect vaccination assisted the spread of small-pox, as it tended to give an unwarrantable feeling of security. Dr. Parsons referred to the want of power to close shops when infectious diseases were raging in a house. Several of the speakers said that vaccination-marks frequently wear out in four or five years, which they attributed to the use of worn-out lymph. The President thought that vaccination might be imperfect not only from ineffective lymph, but that it was quite possible for a child to be vaccinated from a perfectly healthy subject, and "yet for the vaccination to be imperfect in consequence of some imperfect condition in the health of the child"; also that the smallest amount of disease in a child might so modify the lymph as to deprive it of part of its protective power.

### POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE Council of the Poor-law Medical Officers' Association have issued a circular to the Poor-law Medical Officers of the United Kingdom, soliciting co-operation. The objects of the Association are stated to be: 1. The further adoption of the dispensary system in all large towns and rural districts where practicable; 2. The promotion of the interests generally of Poor-law medical officers; defending, if necessary legally or otherwise, its members against oppression on the part of the authorities; 3. The continuance of agitation in favour of compulsory superannuation. The Council will feel obliged if members will kindly signify their willingness to act as local secretaries. Council meetings are held at the Rooms of the Association, 3, Bolt Court, on the first Tuesday in every month (May and August excepted), at 7 P.M.; and, for the convenience of provincial members, at 3 P.M. in March, June, September, and December. The Annual General Meeting will be held on the first Tuesday in May, at 3 P.M., at the Freemasons' Tavern, after which it is proposed to dine at 6 P.M. It has been resolved that a Special General Meeting shall be held at Bath during the visit of the British Medical Association, to which all medical men are invited, whether in the Poor-law Medical service or not. The financial state of the Association continues in every way satisfactory.

### REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

BETHNAL GREEN.—We have received a letter from Dr. Bate in reply to our observations on his report, wherein he states that, in making his report up to March 31st in each year, he has followed the practice of his predecessor; further, that he believes he has no option in the matter, and refers, in support of his opinion, to 25 and 26 Vict., cap. 102, s. 43. But, on referring to this section, and to the 18 and 19 Vict., cap. 120, s. 132, under which he is appointed, we do not find any words compelling him to do more than make an annual report on the sanitary condition of the parish or district, which is to be appended to the annual report of the vestry or board to be made in the month of June in each year. The general practice, as well as the wording of the Acts, is against him; besides which, his vital statistics can be framed for the year ending December 31st, with the addition, if deemed advisable, of the number of births and deaths for the quarter ending March 31st. He also says that he did not add the proportion of deaths in hospitals because he was not furnished by his vestry with the local registrars' returns, and consequently could not make the required corrections.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM.—First Professional Examination for the Degree of M.B., held on December 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th.

Loves, Septimus, University of Durham College of Medicine  
Mahony, L. F., M.R.C.S.I., L.S.A., London Hospital  
Price, H. E., B.Sc.Lond., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., London Hospital  
Robinson, A. H., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., University College  
Rygate, B., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., London 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, December 11th, 12th, and 13th, 1877, the following candidates were successful.—For the Licence to practise Medicine and Midwifery.

Dodel, Henry Francis  
Drury, Maurice O'Connor  
Flanagan, John William Henry  
Marques, Lourenço Pereira  
O'Sullivan, Daniel  
White, Thomas George

For the Licence to practise Midwifery.  
MacNeele, James Gausson

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.—At the Michaelmas Term Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine, held on Monday and Tuesday, December 3rd and 4th, 1877, the successful candidates passed in the following order of merit.

Woodroffe, John F.  
Powell, Blacker C.  
White, Edward W. W.  
Casement, Brabazon  
O'Donnell, Joseph F.  
Thompson, R. Norman  
Fogarty, Thomas F.  
McCullagh, James A.  
Galbraith, John  
Taylor, Rogers  
Cox, Henry L.

At the examination for the Degree of Bachelor in Surgery, held on Monday and Tuesday, December 10th and 11th, 1877, the following was the order of merit in which the successful candidates passed.

Woodroffe, John S.  
Hurford, Cedric H.  
O'Donnell, Joseph F.  
Manning, George H.

At this examination, the Degree of Master in Surgery was also obtained by

West, Arthur Annesley, M.D. Univ. Dubl.

At the examination for the Diploma in State Medicine, held on Thursday, December 13th, and following days, this qualification was granted to

Goode, William Henry, M.D. Univ. Dubl.

### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

CENTRAL LONDON SICK ASYLUM DISTRICT—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with board and residence. Applications to be made on or before January 7th.  
COUNTY DOWN INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon and Registrar. Salary, 60 guineas a year, with board, apartments, and washing. Applications to be made on or before January 31st instant.  
DORE UNION—Medical Officer. Salary, £75 per annum, and fees, with £17 per annum as Medical Officer of Health. Applications to be made on or before the 31st instant.  
DUNDALK UNION—Medical Officer for the Ravensdale Dispensary District. Salary, £120 per annum, and the usual sanitary and vaccination fees. Applications before the 29th instant.  
GUEST HOSPITAL, Dudley—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £120 per annum, with furnished apartments, board, coals, and gas. Applications to be made on or before January 1st.  
HAILSHAM UNION—Medical Officer for the Parish of Heathfield. Salary, £60 per annum, and fees. Applications to be made on or before January 7th.  
HANTS COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM—Second Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, lodging, washing, and attendance. Applications to be made on or before January 9th.  
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE INFIRMARY—Senior House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be made on or before February 4th, 1878.  
NORTHAMPTON GENERAL INFIRMARY—Physician. Applications to be made on or before January 9th.  
SUDBURY UNION—Medical Officer for No. 1 District. Salary, £55 per annum, and fees. Applications to be made on or before January 10th.  
SUNDERLAND and BISHOPWEARMOUTH INFIRMARY—Senior House-Surgeon. Salary to commence at £80 per annum, with board and residence. Applications to be made on or before January 24th.

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

\*REID, Thomas W., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.Eng., elected Surgeon to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, *vice* H. E. Hutchings, M.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.  
WALKER, William, M.R.C.S., appointed Surgeon to the Convalescent Home, Coatham.  
WALTER, William, B.A., MB., Senior Resident Surgeon to the Salford Royal Hospital, appointed Obstetric and House-Surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, *vice* H. Runcorn, M.R.C.S., deceased.  
\*WHISTLER, M. MacNeill, M.D., M.R.C.P., appointed Honorary Physician to the National Training School for Music.

## 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, 1.30 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, 2.30 P.M.—Cancer Hospital, Brompton, 3 P.M.—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.

**WEDNESDAY.**—Obstetrical Society of London, 8 P.M. Specimens. Annual Meeting. President's Address.

**FRIDAY.**—Pathological Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Annual Meeting for Election of Officers. The following specimens will be shown. Dr. Ralfe: 1. Urine from a Case of Phosphatic Diabetes. 2. Gangrene of the Lung in a Case of Lead-poisoning. Mr. Wagstaffe: Dermoid Cysts growing along Line of Branchial Fissures. Dr. Dowse: Case of Paralysis Agitans. Dr. Goodhart: Symmetrical Sarcoma of Iliac, with Hyperostosis of Cranium. Dr. Garlick: Diaphragmatic Hernia. Mr. Butlin: Mollities Ossium, with Myeloid Sarcoma. Dr. Greenfield: 1. Cases of Aneurysm of Cerebral Arteries. 2. Aneurysm of Brachial Artery, probably due to Embolism. Dr. Burney Yeo: Heart and Aorta—Sequel to Case of Rupture of Aortic Valves. Mr. Bryant: 1. Prostatic Tumours removed during Lithotomy. 2. Impacted Fracture of the Shaft of the Femur.

## 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.

## A RENEWED PLEA FOR BREVITY.

WITH the continued increase of the number of readers of the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* (which has now a circulation of eight thousand copies weekly), the pressure on space by correspondents naturally grows apace, and we must once more remind our contributors of all classes of the necessity of cultivating brevity to the utmost degree. Of many communications of great interest which we publish from time to time, it is difficult to suppose that the same amount of information could not be conveyed in fewer words.

**SIR**,—I require two good practical reference books—one on medicine, the other on midwifery—for a general practitioner. Will any member kindly advise me?—I am, etc., A MEMBER.

## CHILBLAINS.

A CORRESPONDENT in Paris sends us the following for an ointment for chilblains, which has been communicated to him by a brother practitioner, who describes it as being better than any other application that he has used. Take of lard 15 drachms; rose pomade, burnt alum, each 2½ drachms; iodide of potassium, Rousseau's laudanum, each 1 drachm. To be applied with gentle friction twice a day, after washing the affected parts with a watery solution of carbonate of soda.

## VOLUNTEER SURGEONS.

**MR. F. DAVISON** (Elton, Bury).—Volunteer surgeons, who must be registered practitioners, are required to be acquainted with the nature and intended application of the various articles composing the equipment of army hospitals in the field, and with the authorised means of the transport of sick and wounded soldiers, and the proper modes of employing them. They are also examined in the treatment of wounds and injuries to which troops are exposed, and in the duty to be performed by army medical officers in camps and bivouacs and during marches, as named in Section 21 of the Sanitary Regulations for Field Service.

**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.

## AN APPEAL.

**SIR**,—May I ask the favour of your inserting in the *JOURNAL* an appeal to the profession for assistance? I am now in my eighty-third year, and have been bedridden more than three years. I practised in St. Osyth, Essex, nineteen years, and twenty-five years in the Vassall Road, Brixton, where I had a very severe illness in 1865, lasting eight months, so that I had no practice to sell. Since the death of my son in June last, I have no means of support, and my two daughters are quite unable to assist me. Trusting you will grant my petition, I am, sir, yours respectfully,

S. F. SCARNELL.

1, Frederick Place, Penton Place, S.E., December 1877.

\* \* We are informed on good authority that this case is a deserving one. The applicant is a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, his licence being dated 1822. He has already been relieved by the Medical Benevolent Fund. Contributions should be sent to Mr. Scarnell at the address given above.

## MEDICAL ETIQUETTE.

**SIR**,—Dr. Beresford intimates that I ought to substantiate by some evidence the case I laid before your readers a fortnight since. I think I offered the evidence when I named the three surgeons by whom the man Morris was examined. Dr. Beresford also requests me to obtain certificates from Messrs. Wood and Harries upon the minor consideration whether the injury to the ulna was or was not the result of fracture. I think the better plan will be for me to state here, once more, what I conceived to be the result of the examination, and leave these gentlemen to correct me if I err.

1. It was *decided*, without question, that the fracture of the radius was well and thoroughly repaired, and the bone so firm and good that it was not possible it could have been either broken or bent, or in any way interfered with in Dr. Beresford's manipulation a fortnight previously.

2. It was *decided* that there was no sign of injury to the ulna opposite the fracture of the radius.

3. There was the question as to the cause of the very obvious injury to the ulna that was now seen some two or three inches above the site of the fracture of the radius; and here I believe an opinion was generally formed that it was not from fracture, but I am open to correction; and if this was not the opinion of all or either of the examiners, I have no doubt I shall be set right.

The opinion "that the injury was caused by pressure against some sharp edge" is my own, and I still hold to it, though I am not so foolish as to believe for one moment the pressure was caused by a splint or a bandage. I am prepared to swear this injury was not present while the man was under my care; and I still think I shall be able, in due time, to show that it could not have occurred at the time when the radius was broken.

Dr. Beresford was fully justified in publishing my second note. It was withheld by me because it seemed in some degree to prejudice the case.—I am, sir, yours obediently,

W. H. BOX.

Chirk, December 17th, 1877.

**SIR**,—I am much obliged to you for your insertion of my letter respecting my conduct towards A. B. and his patient; but his last letter demands from me a reply, which I, too, hope may be the last one. I much regret that I should have been compelled to introduce personalities; but as my professional honour was assailed I was obliged to do so, to vindicate my character; and in one respect I must do so still further, to explain why I saw the patient more than once whilst he was under the care of A. B. Three of my boys were under the patient's tuition, and the first time I saw the patient was when paying the school-fees for the past half-year; the second time, when the patient wrote to ask me to come and see him; and the third time, when I took my third son to school, after he had been detained a few weeks at home with a fractured radius and ulna. As previously stated and admitted by A. B., the patient expressed to me a wish that I should meet A. B. in consultation, but I declined for the reasons previously given. The patient then told me that A. B. was consulting Dr. George Johnson by letter respecting his case, but that he was not satisfied with it, as he wished for a personal examination of his case, and a consultation with A. B. and myself. I then asked him, "Why not ask A. B. to bring Dr. G. Johnson down?" To that he replied, "I do not feel justified in paying so large a fee." Then I replied, "If you wish for a personal consultation, there is Dr. William Roberts of Manchester, who is a specialist on kidney-disease, and whom, I am sure, A. B. will meet, and who will do you more good than I can." On the two other occasions when I saw him, the patient expressed a strong wish that I should meet A. B.; but to this I answered, "I am indebted to A. B. for much kindness when on my back with a compound Pot's fracture, and I would much rather not do anything that would be unpleasant to him." This I can positively assert. I declined on three separate occasions the patient's request, out of respect to A. B.'s feelings. If the advice tendered to ask for a consultation with Dr. William Roberts instead of myself be "meddling with the patient," I admit that to such extent I did meddle. Now, if I had not mentioned what took place on November 23rd between A. B. and the patient (please remember I have given the statement as reported me by his friends, the statement not being my own), I could not have explained the sudden revulsion of feeling towards A. B. after he and his patient had been for so many years on such good terms; but A. B. states in his last letter, "his distress of mind was of the most poignant character." Why? A. B. doubtless thinks that it was due to a fancied separation of their friendship. The patient's friends set it down to the cause previously mentioned; hence their determination and the patient's wish not to send for A. B. again. I can but express my regret that such should be the case, but I feel perfectly innocent of being the cause of the estrangement. I hope you will not assume that I wish to lay any cruelty to A. B.'s door: far from it. I do not hesitate to tell you that he is of a most kind and humane disposition, and would be the last person in the world, knowingly, to wound any person's feelings. I perhaps may have been guilty of one oversight—viz. that it would have been more in accordance with etiquette to have written to A. B. before going to see the patient than after I had seen him; but the urgency of the message, the positive assurance that A. B. would not be sent for, and that the homœopath would not come again (for he had been sent for more to gratify the

**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.**

**PUERPERAL SEPTICÆMIA.**

SIR,—In the JOURNAL of November 17th, I notice a lecture by Dr. Playfair on puerperal septicæmia and its treatment. I wish to notice one or two points, which are apparent to any one who studies the lecture. 1. There was no certain cause of the production of the disease in the case narrated: all is mere speculation; and the mere fact of the skin peeling off does not convey the impression to my mind that the *matærias morbi* was scarlatinal poison. 2. In regard to treatment, it is quite evident that the continued application of cold to the patient made no material difference in the symptoms. Quinine also failed; and it was reserved for Warburg's tincture to complete the recovery of the woman. To me it appears that any beneficial effects to be noticed after the administration of this remedy were due to its power of producing diaphoresis; and perhaps had this been tried at the outset of the disease, it might have been shortened. Some time ago, I had a case under treatment with somewhat similar symptoms, and the temperature rose very high, one day reaching 108 deg. At the time, I had little hope that I could do anything to mend matters; but I resolved to commence with a diaphoretic mixture, containing liquor ammoniæ acetatis, tincture of aconite, antimonial wine, spirit of camphor, and spirit of nitrous ether, in the usual doses, and in a few hours I was glad to find that there was an appreciable difference in the temperature. The case was a head-presentation; and there was an excessive amount of liquor amnii, with the presence also of a very short cord, which seemed to retard the birth of the child, the placenta being expelled along with the child. The woman did well till the second day, when the usual symptoms of septicæmia appeared. After a considerable time, the disease was controlled by diaphoretics, warm poultices to the abdomen, ice to suck for the great thirst present, and brandy to restore the extreme prostration. Surely it should be our endeavour to enable the system to cast off the deleterious matter in the blood; and there appears to me no better method than by employing drugs which have some power in this direction. My case made a good recovery; and should another such case occur, I would have no hesitation in adopting the same treatment. As to the aphorism "that we have to use our utmost endeavours to keep the patient alive until the intensity of the disease has worn itself out", would it not be preferable to make the attempt to shorten the disease before it attains to an alarming height? Certainly we have as potent diaphoretics as the patent medicine which goes by the name of Warburg's tincture. Perhaps the method adopted by Dr. Matthews Duncan in cases of pyæmia arising from the retention of putrid matter in the uterus may be the more scientific; and there is no reason to doubt that it is a most sensible and judicious line of treatment in all cases where there is the least suspicion of any such retention.—I am, etc.,

JOHN COCHRANE, L.R.C.P.Ed., L.R.C.S.Ed., Parochial Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator, Kirkmichael, Perthshire.

SIR,—Dr. Playfair's carefully recorded case of "puerperal septicæmia" has called forth two very interesting letters on the subject. Dr. Griffiths holds the case to have been one of true septicæmia, unconnected with scarlatina-poison; while Dr. Seaton agrees with Dr. Playfair in believing that the exceedingly early appearance of the symptoms excludes the possibility of septic material having been the cause, and he suggests that the poison was probably that of typhus fever. In a paper read before the Liverpool Medical Institution, and which is at present in your hands, I have endeavoured to show that infection from decomposing blood-clots in the uterus may take place within a very few hours after delivery; therefore, I believe that there is no need to drag into the explanation of such a case some mysteriously communicated scarlatina-poison. On the other hand, it is well to remember that the zymotic diseases frequently produce abortion, and that they may not unfrequently be the determining cause of labour within a fortnight or a week from term, or at another time when another (seemingly satisfactory) reason is given by the patient. In such cases, the more urgent symptoms of labour serve to disguise those of pyrexia, and it is not till some hours after delivery that the patient is discovered to be in a condition of grave disease. The following case is a good illustration.

Mrs. K., aged 22, eight months pregnant, had a fall, which was supposed to be the cause of premature labour. I was called to see her on February 19th, 1877, and found nothing to distinguish her from any other woman in whom there were strong labour-pains. The os being rigid, there was no progress for three or four hours, so that the forceps was applied, as soon as its introduction was possible, and delivery accomplished without difficulty. After the application of the binder, the thermometer was applied in the axilla, as a matter of routine, when, to my surprise, it registered 101.5 deg. Such a temperature is very rarely met with so soon after delivery; and as the labour was not a severe one, there seemed no reason for it. The pulse at the same time was 114. Next day the temperature was 102.5 deg., pulse 132. There were nausea and vomiting, with tenderness and swelling of the abdomen; and I felt certain that the case would prove one of septicæmia. The same afternoon the small-pox eruption appeared on the face and chest, which soon became confluent, and the patient died on February 26th.

Now, had this been a case of typhus or typhoid instead of small-pox, it is extremely probable that it would have been pronounced one of septicæmia. The aggravating and disguising influence of the puerperal condition, together with the short time available for carefully observing the progress of the disease, would have had the effect of obscuring the nature of the illness. Dr. Seaton's suggestion of typhus as the probable cause of the symptoms in Dr. Playfair's case is certainly very plausible; nevertheless, there seems no reason to suppose, unless infection can be traced, that it was other than poison from septic material.—I am, sir, yours truly,

JAMES MUIR HOWIE, M.B. Edin.

50, Rodney Street, Liverpool, December 8th, 1877.

**SMALL-POX.**

"M.D." writes:—In the report of the inquiry before the Royal Commissioners as to the Factories Acts, it is reported in vol. ii, page 402, question 8,160, that one of the medical witnesses, in reply to a question put to him, stated: "I think it is important that all children working in factories should be properly vaccinated. I believe, if the duties of the medical officers of factories were efficiently carried out with regard to vaccination, it would be a means of stamping out the disease of small-pox." Notwithstanding that the Royal Commissioners concur in this evidence, I find that the Home Secretary has not in his Factories Bill adopted the recommendation. Can you understand how this is?

SIR,—I think the member who wishes for lectures on the five senses will find the work to suit him in *The Five Gateways of Knowledge*, by George Wilson, M.D., F.R.S.E., etc.; published by Macmillan and Co.—Yours faithfully,  
36, Ladbroke Road, W., Dec. 22nd, 1877. W. DOUGLAS HEMMING.

**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.

**POMPHOLYX.**

SIR,—Dr. Robinson's deduction, quoted by Dr. Thin in his paper on "Pompholyx or Dysidrosis", that "the disputed point between Mr. Hutchinson and Dr. Fox was clearly decided", because he found albumen in the vesicular contents and not in the sweat, is open to doubt, unless the sweat was taken from the part affected, which could not have been effected without having the contents of the vesicles mixed with it. Blood-serum and corpuscles may also be found in the sweat-ducts when they are in a catarrhal or inflammatory condition, such as may be induced to a varying degree by retained sweat. I have seen the "sago-grain" vesicles following an attack of "prickly heat" in a sailor in the Mediterranean during excessively hot weather in June, and I have also seen them in a girl whose hands were generally cold, and whose sweat-glands acted slightly. It seems quite possible, and even probable, to have both forms of the disease; that which is seen most frequently during the extreme heat being probably an affection of the sweat-ducts. It is a remarkable fact, that these cases have been less prevalent this summer, during which there has been fewer extremely hot days, a lower average rate of temperature, and consequently the skin has had less work to perform.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

FRED. S. ALFORD.

Haverstock Hill, December 1st, 1877.

**WARBURG'S TINCTURE.**

SIR,—Having recently seen the great advantage of "Warburg's tincture" in cases of malarial and other fevers in India, I recommended a practitioner in a country district in Scotland to use it in a case of puerperal fever. Two doses were given, but none of the characteristic effects—such as profuse perspiration, reduction of temperature and pulse—were produced. On examining the bottle, I found it was the spurious "tincture of Madame Warburg" that had been given, which accounted for the results being *nil*.—Your obedient servant,

December 11th, 1877.

FLEET-SURGEON, R.N.

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; The Belfast News Letter; The Scotsman; The Cork Constitution; The Freeman's Journal; The Hampshire Post; The Somersetshire Herald; The Isle of Man Times; The Sussex Advertiser; The Herts Advertiser; The Manchester Guardian; The Evesham Journal; The Devonport Independent; The St. Pancras Gazette; The Bath Herald; The Western Morning News; The Hull News; The Redditch Indicator; The Derby Mercury; The Preston Guardian; The Scarborough Express; The Jewish World; The Yorkshire Post; The Coventry Herald; The Wisbech Advertiser; The West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser; 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:—**

Dr. Graily Hewitt, London; Dr. J. B. Bradbury, Cambridge; Dr. J. Burdon Sanderson, London; Dr. Humphry, Cambridge; Dr. Coats, Glasgow; Dr. W. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; Dr. J. Milner Fothergill, London; Mr. Alban Doran, London; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham; Mr. E. G. C. Snell, London; The Secretary of the Obstetrical Society; Dr. T. W. Hime, Sheffield; Mr. Cawley Dawson, Leeds; Mr. C. G. Wheelhouse, Leeds; Dr. E. M. Skerriitt, Clifton; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; The Registrar-General of England; Dr. Edis, London; Dr. Joseph Bell, Edinburgh; M.D.; Mr. Eastes, London; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Dr. Levinge, Bristol; Mr. W. Douglas Hemming, London; Mr. Howard Marsh, London; Dr. W. H. Spencer, Clifton; Dr. W. M. Whistler, London; Mr. W. Walker, Coatham; Dr. I. Ashe, Dundrum; Dr. J. Clarke, Leicester; Dr. G. F. Burder, Bristol; Mr. G. Rice, Manchester; Mr. G. R. Gilruth, Edinburgh; D. J. Adam, Caterham; Mr. W. J. Weston, Leicester; Mr. A. Ford, Harrogate; Dr. Sieveking, London; Dr. Cavafy, London; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Dr. Thompson, Melbourne; Dr. Sinclair Coghill, Ventnor; Dr. Wilks, London; Dr. Parsons, Dover; The Secretary of St. Mary's Hospital; Mr. Golding-Bird, London; Dr. A. S. Taylor, London; Dr. Macrae, Leyton; Dr. R. J. Lee, London; The Secretary of the Pathological Society; Our Dublin Correspondent; Mr. Ridsdale, Hull; Mr. R. S. Lewis, Llandi county; Our Paris Correspondent; Dr. Bateman, Norwich; Mr. Arthur N. Turner, Penge; Dr. H. Macnaughton Jones, Cork; Dr. Collie, Homerton; Dr. Cortis, London; Mr. Y. J. Jay, Nantwich; Mr. W. Mitchell, Rothel; Dr. Sawyer, Birmingham; Mr. T. Holmes, London; The Secretary of the Epidemiological Society; Dr. Aitken, Rome; Mr. James Elliott, Sowerby Bridge; Mr. W. Walter, Manchester; Dr. Rogers, London; etc.

**BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.**

Auscultation and Percussion, together with other Methods of Physical Examination of the Chest. By Samuel Gee, M.D. London; Smith, Elder and Co. 1877.  
A Treatise on the Ear. By Charles H. Burnatt, A.M., M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1877.  
Diet and Opium in Intestinal Obstructions. By Hugh Owen Thomas. London: H. K. Lewis. 1877.  
Transactions of the New York Pathological Society. By John C. Peters, M.D. New York: William Wood and Co. 1877.