

have large gardens intervening, but communicate with each other by means of the before-mentioned galleries. The two blocks on the right side are meant exclusively for females; the other two for males. Each of these blocks consists of a main building, with a central pavilion and one at either extremity. The extreme pavilions contain the staircases, the common water-closets and urinals (which are fitted up with all the latest improvements), and isolated rooms containing one to three beds for special cases. The central pavilion contains the common room of the convalescents, the water-closets for special cases, baths, lifts, shafts for dirty linen, and various offices, etc., for the nurses.

The main building contains the wards, which do not communicate with one another, but with a common corridor. The wards contain twenty-two beds, and are large enough to allow each person fifty-four cubic metres of air. They are lighted and ventilated by means of twelve windows reaching up to the ceiling, and capable of being opened in three parts. Numerous ventilators, communicating with the external air, are situated at the junction of the wall with the ceiling. All the angles of the walls and ceilings are rounded off; the walls and ceilings also being composed of polished stucco, so as not to catch the dust. The mattresses of the beds are filled with barley-chaff. The beds have a framework to hang curtains round, when necessary.

There are two isolated buildings; one for maternity, the other for small-pox cases. They are quite at the back of the hospital, and very nearly occupy the acute angles of the semihexagon, and are quite separated from the other buildings. Each one has its own gardens, and distinct sleeping- and day-rooms for its patients.

The maternity building is divided into three parts. The central contains the nurses' offices, etc.; the outer two contain eight rooms each, quite isolated from one another, the only communication between the rooms being through an external corridor. Every patient in this department has her own distinct room, nurse, and water-closet.

The small-pox and contagious building consists of a central part and two wings, the latter being one for women, the other for men, and contain sixteen beds each. The central part contains the nurses' rooms, the water-closets, dispensary, baths, etc.

The chapel is in the centre of the hospital, and faces the main court. On either side of the chapel are large bath-buildings for the use of in- and out-patients; one side being set apart for women, the other for men. Each contains a waiting-room, a large bath-room holding twenty baths, a hydro-therapeutic room, and a vapour-bath.

At the back of the chapel is a horseshoe-shaped building, consisting of the laundry and sleeping-rooms for the hospital *employés*. On the right of this building is the dispensary, and on the left a large kitchen and a laboratory for the students, besides store-rooms, etc.

The dead-house, quite distinct from the other buildings and having its own garden, contains a Catholic and a Protestant chapel, a dissecting and *post mortem* examination room, and a private door leading into the street.

The hospital is heated by means of hot air and also water. The ventilation is carried on by means of shafts ventilating at the rate of 100 cubic metres per hour. The hospital has gas laid on, which is consumed in lamps so constructed as to ventilate and to carry off the products of combustion at the same time. Lifts are situated at various points, to which an underground system of tramways runs for the conveyance of food, etc., to the various buildings.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE next meeting of the above District will take place at Hythe, on September 12th: Mr. JOHN HACKNEY in the Chair.

Members intending to read papers are requested to inform the Honorary Secretary as early as possible.

WM. KNIGHT TREVES, F.R.C.S., *Honorary Secretary*.  
Margate, August 14th, 1878.

### NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of this Branch will be held at Sunderland, on Tuesday, October 8th.

Gentlemen desirous of reading papers or making other communications are requested to give notice to the Secretary.

T. W. BARRON, M.B., *Honorary Secretary*.  
10, Old Elvet, Durham, August 20th, 1878.

### WEST SOMERSET BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Branch was held at the Royal Clarence Hotel, Bridgwater, on Thursday, July 25th, 1878, at 2 o'clock P.M. Thirteen members attended.

*The New President.*—S. FARRANT, Esq., the retiring President, addressed the meeting at the close of his term of office, and introduced his successor, F. J. C. PARSONS, Esq., who then took the chair.

*Vote of Thanks.*—Mr. PARSONS proposed, and Mr. RANDOLPH seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Farrant for his services as President during the past year, which, being carried by acclamation, Mr. Farrant acknowledged in due form.

Letters from eight members accounting for their absence were laid before the meeting.

*Report of Council.*—The HONORARY SECRETARY (Dr. W. M. KELLY) read the annual report as follows.

"The Council, in presenting their report to the members of the West Somerset Branch on its thirty-fifth anniversary, although they have not to refer to any special events connected with the Branch, have the satisfaction of stating that it has not stood still during the past year; it has made some progress numerically, and has afforded to its members the opportunity of twice assembling at the usual intermediate meetings which were held in October and in April last.

"As regards the losses and gains of the Branch in point of number, happily no loss by death has to be recorded, and the loss only of two members from other causes—one being from non-payment of subscription. Referring to the latter, the Council takes the opportunity of mentioning that there are at this time several gentlemen in arrears with their subscriptions, and, unless these are soon paid, the painful necessity will arise of erasing their names from the list of members. On the other hand, the gains comprise three new members, and one who has rejoined, so that the Branch at present numbers sixty-one, against fifty-nine this time last year.

"In the Treasurer's accounts, presented herewith, a credit balance is shown on the Branch account of £4 16s. 8d., against £8 7s. 11d. last year. The reduction is due to a donation of £5 having been voted at the last annual meeting from the balance then in hand to the widow of a medical man of the town in which we are now met, whose distressing circumstances were then brought under the notice of the meeting. The Council are able to report that the donation was gratefully acknowledged.

"A grant of £15 has recently been made through the Treasurer of the Branch by the Medical Benevolent Fund to the widow of a medical man in Taunton; and last year a still larger grant of £20 was sent through him to a case of urgent distress. The Council mention this as a proof to subscribers that, although their annual contributions may be small, yet in deserving cases this fund renders very substantial help, and it does this promptly and privately, with very little trouble and no canvassing.

"The attendance at the intermediate meeting in October was fairly good; but at the meeting in April it was very much below the average.

"The following is a list of questions discussed and papers read at these meetings.

"*Questions.*—What in your opinion is the best way of managing the third stage of labour, so as to diminish the risk of *post partum* hæmorrhage?—Is the use of water desirable in dressing wounds?

"*Papers.*—Illustration of Sayre's Plaster-of-Paris Jacket for Spinal Disease, by Dr. Meredith; Case of Diseased Heart, by Mr. Rigden; Case of Congenital Umbilical Hernia, by Dr. Meredith; Case of Transposition of Thoracic and Abdominal Viscera, by Mr. Rigden; Case of Compound Dislocation of the Astragalus, with Removal of the Bone, by Mr. Farrant.

"The legislative procedures affecting medical interests which have been engaging the attention of Parliament during the present session have on several occasions been under the consideration of the Council in connection with petitions on the questions of Direct Representation, the Restriction of Habitual Drunkards, and Registration of Dentists. As considerable progress has been made in advancing Bills on these subjects, it is to be hoped that the petitions which have from time to time been forwarded may eventually meet with fulfilment."

*Treasurer's Accounts.*—The TREASURER read his annual balance-sheet; his accounts, audited by Mr. R. B. Robinson, were submitted.

It was proposed by Mr. PRANKERD, seconded by Mr. TOWN, and resolved: That the report of Council and Treasurer's accounts be received and adopted, and that the thanks of the meeting be given to the Council and to the Treasurer for their reports.

*President-Elect and Next Annual Meeting.*—It was resolved: That T. Clark, Esq., of Dunster, be President-Elect; and that the time

and place for holding the annual meeting in 1879 be left for future decision.

*Intermediate Meetings.*—It was resolved: That an autumnal and spring meeting be held as usual.

A proposition being made to hold the autumnal meeting at Ilminster, it was resolved: That it be left to the Council to determine as to the time and place for holding the intermediate meetings, and to make the necessary arrangements.

*Council of the Branch.*—It was resolved that the following, with the President, the past President, the President-Elect, and the Secretary, be the Council for the ensuing year: H. Alford, Esq.; J. Meredith, Esq.; W. L. Winterbotham, Esq.; J. Prankerd, Esq.; G. W. Rigden, Esq.; and W. J. Todd, Esq.

*Secretary and Treasurer.*—Dr. W. M. Kelly was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer.

*President's Address.*—The PRESIDENT read an address, which was much applauded.

Mr. RANDOLPH proposed, and Mr. WINTERBOTHAM seconded: That the best thanks of the meeting be offered to Mr. Parsons for his address. The resolution was carried by acclamation.

*Excursion in the Town.*—During a short interval before dinner, a visit was made to the beautiful church of St. Mary Magdalene, and to some other objects of interest to which the President had referred in his address.

*Dinner.*—An excellent dinner, enhanced by contributions from the President, was served at the Clarence at five o'clock, to which all the members present at the meeting sat down. The usual toasts were drunk, as well as the Parent Association, the Branch, and its officials. An adjournment, by invitation, took place after dinner to the house of the President where a most agreeable meeting terminated.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

### PARIS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

*Prevention of Rabies.—The Dosimetric System.—Pressinervoscopic.—International Congress of Hygiene.—French Temperance Society.*

OWING to the melancholy circumstances connected with the untimely death of the son of the highly esteemed director of the Gymnase Theatre of Paris, M. Montigny, which took place in June last at his father's residence at Passy, from rabies, resulting from the bite of his own favourite dog, a great panic was caused among the Parisians, and no wonder; for there are no less than eighty thousand dogs registered in Paris; and it became a serious question among dog-lovers and dog-keepers as to whether they should run the risk of being affected with that terrible and most deadly of all affections, rabies or hydrophobia, or to immediately sacrifice the lives of their canine companions as a precautionary measure. Even the authorities were alarmed and were greatly perplexed as to the proper measures that should be employed to prevent or cure hydrophobia. The highest talent was brought into requisition; the academies were invaded with questions on the subject, and the Prefect of Police adopted, at the suggestion of the Council of Hygiene, such measures as he believed would reduce to a minimum the chances of the whole population becoming rabid, which consisted of slaying all stray dogs, and muzzling those that had owners, whether in or out of doors. These you will agree are rather arbitrary, and the utility of the latter soon became evident, as it was shown by the Society for the Protection of Animals that muzzling was not only an useless and cruel measure, but that it rather tended to engender the malady (rabies) in dogs so treated. The order for muzzling was then rescinded, and owners were simply enjoined to have their dogs fastened with a chain or cord when taken out of doors, and to give them as much liberty as possible when at home, as it has been ascertained beyond a doubt that dogs and the other animals of the species enjoying perfect liberty are seldom or never affected with spontaneous rabies. M. Bourrel, a veterinary surgeon, proposed, as a substitute for muzzling dogs, the blunting the edges of the front teeth by filing them off, so as to reduce the chance of inoculation in case the animal is rabid. The Society for the Protection of Animals jumped at this novel and, I should say, strange remedy, and not only approved of it, but actually awarded M. Bourrel a silver medal for his humane efforts in behalf of our canine companions. M. Bourrel has published a pamphlet on the subject, which is to be seen at the Exposition, together with specimens of jaws on which he had operated; but the question suggests itself to my mind whether this procedure is not as cruel as the muzzling of dogs, if

not more so. Moreover, M. Bourrel seems to forget that it is the saliva of the rabid animal which contains the virus by which the disease is inoculated; and that it may be introduced into the system through a thin epidermis even without any abrasion. Nevertheless, M. Bourrel's brochure is worth perusal, as it is a complete treatise on hydrophobia; but I am sorry to say we are not much more enlightened as to the origin, etiology, pathology, and treatment of the disease than were our forefathers more than a century ago. M. Burggraeve, however, of dosimetric medicine celebrity, considering that hydrophobia originated spontaneously in dogs being domesticated, and caused by suppressed or unsatisfied sexual desire, proposes as a remedy the monobromhydrate of camphor, which he looks upon as a specific for rabies.

As congresses are greatly in fashion just now, M. Burggraeve, the founder of the dosimetric system of treatment, was determined not to be behind his neighbours, and held a congress of his own at the Institute of Dosimetric Medicine, as he could not obtain permission to have it at the Trocadéro, where all the other scientific congresses have been held since the opening of the great Exhibition in Paris. I have, in a former letter, referred to the dosimetric treatment of disease, and, if I again bring it to notice, it is to give your readers some idea of the proceedings of the "Congrès International de Médecine Dosimétrique". The meetings occupied three days, and the questions discussed were extremely interesting. The meetings were not largely attended, which M. Burggraeve, in his report, very opportunely ascribes to the strike of the Paris cabmen; but the real cause must be sought for elsewhere. The truth is, M. Burggraeve has not made many converts in France, or rather in Paris, if one may judge from the number present, which at none of the sittings exceeded seventy-five, the majority of whom were members, and a few only were visitors, which rather surprised me, as M. Burggraeve invited discussion even by those who were not actual members. All the papers read before the meeting were most interesting; but M. Burggraeve's opening address as President was certainly one of the most remarkable productions I had heard for a long time. It is published in the last number of his *Répertoire*, and ought to be read with an unbiassed mind. I cannot here fully enter into the principles of the dosimetric system of therapeutics; but I may remind your readers that the pharmacological part of it holds a mid-position between allopathy and homoeopathy, or, as M. Burggraeve expresses it, between the polypharmacy of the allopathists and the infinitesimalism or nihilism of the homoeopaths, and consists in the administration of medicines in the most concentrated state and in the form of granules. The granular form of drugs is being more generally adopted by the profession, and even in veterinary practice it is found valuable.

Another remarkable paper that was brought to the notice of the congress was that by Dr. Auguste Pinel, nephew of the eminent physician and alienist of that name, on the diagnosis of diseases of the chest and abdomen by compression of the pneumogastric and sympathetic nerves, to which he has given the name of "pressinervoscopie". By compression with the fingers on any portion of these nerves, and the peculiar sensations thereby produced, Dr. Pinel professes to be able to define the seat and nature of the malady from which a patient may be suffering. This new discovery somewhat startled the audience, and M. Burggraeve declared that as a means of diagnosis it was even superior to stethoscopy or pleximetry. Dr. Pinel's paper has been printed separately in a pamphlet form, which I would commend to the notice of your readers. I may, however, observe *en passant* that, although I have styled Dr. Pinel's discovery a new one, it was made by him twenty years ago, and it formed the subject of his inaugural thesis for the doctorate; but how and why it had never since been brought to notice is not explained. Dr. Pinel is a member of the Dosimetric Society of Paris, and invites all practitioners without distinction to attend his consultations at the premises of the society, where they can judge for themselves the value of his discovery.

One of the questions submitted by the International Congress of Hygiene for consideration consisted as to the means by which workmen may be protected against the dangers resulting from the different mineral poisons employed in manufactures, such as mercury, lead, arsenic, etc.; or how the dangers may be reduced to a minimum or rendered inoffensive, or whether these substances can be replaced by others less noxious. The importance of this subject cannot be overrated, and I am glad to say that to a compatriot of ours is due the honour of having contributed, and I believe successfully, to the removal of the dangers arising from the use of white-lead. Dr. Phipson seems to have solved the problem in a most satisfactory manner, and his substitute for the white-lead is fully described in the report of the congress.

The French Temperance Society has also had its congress, which occupied three days, and the principal speakers were Drs. Lunier,

## MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

### RECENT ADMIRALTY REGULATIONS FOR MEDICAL ATTENDANCE ON THE COASTGUARD.

SIR,—In reference to the regulations of the Lords of the Admiralty for medical attendance on Coastguards, I venture to offer a few observations. The regulations have been revised lately; and, though the necessities of life have increased fifty per cent., still my lords adhere to the half-crown fee, which regulation has been in force now for about twenty years. They further offer a direct insult to the medical profession by issuing an order to the following effect: "That daily visits will not be paid for except in undoubtedly severe cases." Certainly the liberal fee of half-a-crown will not induce any member of our profession to give himself the trouble of paying one visit more than is absolutely necessary to satisfy his own conscience; at the same time, I think we should not be hindered in doing everything needful for those committed to our care, even did we feel obliged to do such a monstrously extravagant thing as to pay a second visit in one day.

These matters call for reform. Let the British Medical Association lend us its powerful aid. Let the Lords of the Admiralty allow us, say, half-a-crown a month for every man, woman, and child in our district (for it is a real hardship that the wives and children of our sailors should not have the benefit of gratuitous medical attendance as well as the men); let them deal with the medical profession in a more liberal spirit, and they will find a corresponding improvement.

Hoping the Medical Association will help us, I remain, sir, your obedient servant,  
A SURGEON AND AGENT.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The following candidates obtained honours at the recent First B.Sc. and Preliminary M.B. conjoint examinations.—Chemistry.

#### Second Class.

Teed, Frank L., First B.Sc., University College and private study  
Williams, Thomas Walter, First B.Sc., University College and Royal College of Chemistry

#### Third Class.

Onions, Edwin James, Prel. Sci., private study  
Hoffmeister, George B., Prel. Sci., Caius College and St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Rennie, Edward H., First B.Sc., University College and Royal School of Mines  
Hart, Samuel L., First B.Sc., St. John's College, Cambridge } equal

#### Experimental Physics.

#### First Class.

Waghorn, J. W. W., First B.Sc. (disqualified by age for Arnott Exhibition and Medal), private study  
Hart, S. Lavington, First B.Sc. (Arnott Medal), St. John's College, Cambridge

#### Second Class.

Burns, Gavin James, First B.Sc., Birkbeck Institution and private study  
Hill, Samuel C., B.A., First B.Sc., University College  
Samways, Daniel West, Prel. Sci., St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Barfield, S. G. H., First B.Sc., private study  
Laloe, Aug. F., B.A., First B.Sc., private study  
Hichens, James H., Prel. Sci., Epsom College  
Onions, Edwin J., Prel. Sci., private study

#### Third Class.

Hall, Ben, Prel. Sci., St. Bartholomew's Hospital

#### Botany.

#### First Class.

King, Arthur, Prel. Sci. (Exhibition), University of Edinburgh

#### Second Class.

Stuart, Charles Ed., First B.Sc., University College and private study

#### Third Class.

Halliburton, Wm. D., Prel. Sci., University College  
Champ, John H., Prel. Sci., Guy's Hospital

#### Zoology.

#### First Class.

Overend, Walker, Prel. Sci. (Exhibition), Royal School of Mines and St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
\*Frankland, Percy Faraday, Prel. Sci., Royal School of Mines and University College  
Bourne, Alfred Gibbs, Prel. Sci., University College  
Fletcher, J. J., Prel. Sci., University College and Royal School of Mines  
Forrest, James R., Prel. Sci., University College  
Halliburton, Wm. D., Prel. Sci., University College  
Tunzelman, E. Woldemar von, Prel. Sci., University College } equal

#### Second Class.

Parry-Jones, Maurice, Prel. Sci., University College  
Radford, Edwin, First B.Sc., University College  
Steel, John Henry, First B.Sc., private study  
Weldon, Walter F. R., Prel. Sci., St. John's College, Cambridge } equal

#### Third Class.

Berry, James, Prel. Sci., St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Roberts, Edward, Prel. Sci., Guy's Hospital and Epsom College } equal

\* Obtained the number of marks qualifying for the Exhibition or for the Prize.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, August 15th, 1878.

Groome, William Wollaston, Monk Soham, Suffolk  
Ladell, William John Simpson, Knockholt Lodge, Greenhithe  
Neale, John Edward, 60, Boundary Road, N.W.

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

Pryn, William Wenmoth, Guy's Hospital  
Woollett, Sidney Winslow, King's College

The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, August 22nd, 1878.

Evans, Edward Prichard, Llanfalon, Glamorganshire  
Woodman, William Edwin, Lindade, Leighton Buzzard

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

Alldridge, William Edward, Birmingham  
Bedford, Walter George Augustus, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Bullock, Joseph Ernest, University College  
Clarke, Walter James, Birmingham  
David, William Washington, Guy's Hospital  
Epps, Franklin, University College  
Payne, Charles Alexander, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Sanders, John William, Guy's Hospital  
Turton, James, Charing Cross Hospital

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.—At the examination held on July 22nd and following days, the undernamed gentlemen, having passed their final examinations for the Letters Testimonial of the College, and having made and subscribed the declaration, were admitted Licentiates.

Frederick A. Barrington, Robert J. Browne, John J. Burges, Julio P. Burke, Edward Batt, George M. Dartnell, Yelverton Dawson, Constantine R. Egan, James Fennell, William Fennelly, William E. Fitzgerald, William H. Fitzmaurice, Henry S. Gabbett, Hugh Harris, Allsopp Harty, William F. Heffernan, Harry L. Hoops, Edward C. Hynds, James B. Jacobs, Edmond Henry Lindsay, Murray Mackenzie, Joseph E. M'Cracken, John E. J. Moffit, John P. Moran, Edward Morrisey, James O'Dwyer, William H. Ogden, Francis C. Reeves, Richard H. Symes, George E. Twiss, and Vincent S. White.

The Fellowship of the College was granted, after the usual examination, on August 3rd, to—

Kendal M. Franks, M.D. Univ. Dabl., L.R.C.S. Irel., and Francis Peirce, M.B. Univ. Dabl., L.R.C.S. Irel.

## MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, Birmingham.—Non-Resident Assistant House-Surgeon and Registrar. Salary, £60 per annum, with lunch and dinner daily.

CUMBERLAND INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board and washing. Applications to be made on or before September 4th.

LEEDS GENERAL INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board, residence, and washing. Applications to be made on or before September 12th.

LINCOLN COUNTY HOSPITAL.—House-Surgeon and Apothecary. Salary, £100, with board and lodging. Applications to be made on or before September 27th.

MACCLESFIELD GENERAL INFIRMARY.—Senior House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board and residence. Applications to be made on or before the 31st instant.

ROYAL SEA BATHING INFIRMARY, Margate.—Resident Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with board and lodging.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOLS.—Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy. Applications to be made on or before September 14th.

WEST HERTS INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon and Dispenser, and also be Assistant Secretary. Salary, £100 per annum, with board and lodging. Application to be made on or before September 5th.

WEST LONDON HOSPITAL, Hammersmith.—Surgeon-Dentist (Honorary). Applications to be made on or before September 9th.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

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

### BIRTH.

NOAD.—At Chesham Lodge, Lower Norwood, on August 13th, the wife of \*Henry Carden Noad, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S., of a daughter.

### MARRIAGE.

LISTER—BURRELL.—On August 22nd, at the Parish Church, Masham, Yorkshire, by the Rev. G. M. Gorham, assisted by the Rev. W. Glaister, \*Edward Lister, L.R.C.P. Ed., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A., of Haydock Lodge, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire, to Elizabeth Lucinda, elder daughter of the late Wm. Burrell, of Masham and Liverpool.

## 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.—London, 2 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.—St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department), 2 P.M.

**SATURDAY....** St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1 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.—London, 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.

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

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.

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.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

## QUALIFICATION TO PRACTISE.

SIR,—Would you kindly tell me what course to adopt towards a M.R.C.S. and L.M., who styles himself on his door-plate as "Dr. —, Surgeon"? also, if he be entitled to practice medicine or dispense his own drugs? A reply in next week's *JOURNAL* would oblige yours faithfully, EXPECTANS.

\* The practitioner in question, if not holding a medical degree or diploma, is not legally entitled to practise in purely medical cases; but he may treat the medical symptoms arising in surgical cases, and dispense his drugs accordingly. If only a M.R.C.S., he has no right to call himself "Dr." The system of general practice under a partial qualification is an evil which has been repeatedly commented on; but we fear that its eradication must be left to time and professional opinion, and to the establishment of conjoint boards.

A REGISTERED STUDENT will find the following books useful. Huxley's *Lessons in Elementary Physiology* (Macmillan and Co.); Wagstaff's *Student's Guide to Human Osteology* (J. and A. Churchill); Williamson's *Chemistry for Students* (Macmillan and Co.); Hensley's *Elementary Course of Botany*, edited by Dr. M. T. Masters (J. Van Voorst); or Bentley's *Manual of Botany* (Churchill); Nelligan *On Medicine*, edited by Macnamara.

## HOLIDAY EXCHANGE OF DUTIES.

SIR,—“J. Wy.” in last week's *JOURNAL*, announces his willingness to exchange duties with any brother-practitioner of like mind with himself in order to enjoy the benefits of a change of scene, with the least possible outlay. This arrangement would fail in procuring what is perhaps the most important element in a change—namely, relaxation from duty, as work, wherever it may be carried out, has associated with it anxieties of a like nature, from which it is most desirable that the practitioner should be relieved, if he is to enjoy a holiday properly. I therefore recommend “J. Wy.” to adopt what I think, from experience, a much better system, and attended by no outlay—namely, the “Intermedical Note”, as published by Russell and Co., 8, John Street, Adelphi, W.C., London, which can be employed wherever there are two or more medical men in a place, any two of whom are not separated from each other by a foolish and unprofitable jealousy. A “Book of Forms”, with explanation, only costs 2s. 8d. by post.—Yours, etc., August 1878. M.

## PHARAOH'S SERPENTS.

“PRACTITIONER” would like to know the composition of a children's amusement, which, under the name of “Pharaoh's Serpents”, came out at Christmastide some years since. By lighting one end of these little white cones, a very large and long vermicular substance was produced. Are they or their ash poisonous?

\* Dr. Littlejohn of Edinburgh, in 1865, examined “Pharaoh's serpents”, and warned the public against their use. He found them to be composed of sulphocyanide of mercury, the combustion of which gives off products the inhalation of which is very dangerous—viz., cyanogen, sulphurous and sulphuric acid, bisulphide of carbon, and vapour of mercury.

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.

## LADIES AT THE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.

SIR,—May I be allowed, through the medium of your paper, to request our Irish friends to give due notice of any meeting of the British Medical Association (next year) to which ladies will be admitted? I, in common with the wives of several members, was most anxious to hear Dr. McKendrick's lecture, but did not care to run the risk of being turned back from the door after having driven several miles. I should also like to hint that it would be kind and polite to put a reception or waiting-room at the disposal of the members' wives. Many of us look forward to the meeting with great pleasure. The country doctor and his wife have little congenial society, and the week is a far greater treat to them than it is to the more favoured city men. But I think you all must have pitied the ladies, who, having come from a distance to attend the various social gatherings, and having no friends in Bath, were obliged to wait for their lords in the dusty entrance to the Assembly Rooms, amidst hurrying gentlemen and wondering waiters. We do not wish to push ourselves unduly forward, but this is a small favour, which it would not injure you to grant, and would be a graceful acknowledgment of the intelligent interest which every true wife takes in her husband's pursuits, and will, I am sure, recommend itself to the approval of so gallant a race as our Irish neighbours—I remain, yours truly, A MEMBER'S WIFE.

ERRATUM.—In the *JOURNAL* of August 10th (page 228), Foo-chow is described as being in the province of Folikiew: it should be Fuh-Kien.

## MOIST HANDS.

SIR,—I have a patient who habitually suffers from “moist” hands. He has lately consulted me as to the possibility of a remedy. My patient is a professional man, accustomed to good society, etc., and he tells me the condition of the palmar surface of his hands is a constant source of annoyance and embarrassment. He often dreads to shake hands with his friends, because of the profuse perspiration of his hands. His constitution is a fairly good one, and he has had no serious illness. Can you, or can any brother practitioner, suggest any means of stopping this extraordinary perspiration from his hands? which, I believe, is a source of vexation to a large percentage of people, though this is the worst case by far I have met with, the secretion being constantly visible and his hands always wet.—I am, sir, yours faithfully, A MEMBER.

INQUIRY.—It is decidedly inconsistent with strict professional propriety that a licentiate of the King and Queen's College of Physicians should see patients, on market days, in the shop of a chemist and druggist (not far from his own house) who pursues counter-practice and visits patients at their homes. The circumstances of the case should be represented to the authorities of the college to which the practitioner in question belongs.

## NOISES IN THE EARS.

SIR,—I beg permission to call the attention of your readers to the following case, and to ask their opinion thereon. A gentleman, aged fifty-two, of gouty diathesis, but otherwise healthy, temperate in the use of animal food, a total abstainer, somewhat sedentary in his habits, a moderate smoker, has been troubled during the last two years, particularly when alone at night in his library, by a dull booming re-verboration, occurring in both ears, which at the time grow hot, red, and itching. He notices it at first when reading aloud—a habit which he was obliged to discontinue, owing to the persistent echo which followed the sound of his voice. This symptom continued, off and on, for over a year, sometimes leaving him for a week or two and then recurring, and apparently intensified at any time by exposure to cold and damp. Then, all at once, the booming was confined to the left ear, and in the right there came in its place “a far-off crashing sound”, as though somebody was endeavouring to break open a door in the distance. His hearing is good, and, as I said, his health is good, but nothing appears to afford the slightest alleviation of the disordered sensations I have endeavoured to describe.—A line from any of our aural friends as to the cause and relief of what is really a most tormenting and distressing malady, will be gratefully perused by A MEMBER.

## THE DURATION OF LIFE.

SIR,—Your correspondent “M.B.” asks for “statistics in regard to duration of life in the medical profession”. I would refer him to a well known and valuable book, *Contributions to Vital Statistics*, by Mr. Neison. The work includes an elaborate essay “On the Rate of Mortality in the Medical Profession”, extending to upwards of thirty quarto pages, and containing an account of some investigations concerning the mortality among officers of the medical department of the army, and among members of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. In relation to the former class, Mr. Neison concluded “that the members taken in the aggregate under the age of 55 are subject to an unprecedented amount of mortality, but that subsequent to that age the rate of mortality does not differ widely from that of the population generally”. Again, “of the number living at the age of 25, one-half only will be alive in about thirty-four years afterwards”; but in the male population of England and Wales, one-half would be alive forty years afterwards. In the portion of his paper relating to the rate of mortality among the members of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, the writer remarks: “It is, however, very curious and instructive to observe the rate of mortality developed in some of these latter tables . . . as compared with the rate of mortality found to prevail among the medical officers of the Royal army. The difference is certainly one of the most remarkable results yet deduced by any inquiry into vital statistics.” He sums up his conclusions thus: . . . throughout the period of life 26-70, the mortality among the members of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society approximates very closely to that of the male population of England and Wales, being considerably less between the ages 26-35, somewhat higher above 35; but in the whole term of life, varying from 26 to 70 years of age, the mortality differs but little; the actual number of deaths in the Society being 96, while that which would have taken place according to the mortality of England and Wales is 97.1.”

Your correspondent may further learn from Mr. Neison's excellent book, that in the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*, vol. ix, there is a paper by Dr. Guy, “On the Duration of Life in several Professions”; and in vol. xvii, another paper by the same author, “On the Duration of Life among Medical Men”. It appears that Dr. Guy's results show a somewhat greater mortality among our brethren than that for the male population generally of this country. Reference is also made to some statistics collected by Professor Casper of Berlin, which exhibit a higher rate of mortality than is shown in Dr. Guy's essays.—I am, etc., Birmingham, August 19th, 1878. JAS. SAWYER, M.D. Lond.