

that of acute rheumatism. On the surgical side, 198 cases of erysipelas were admitted, and remained in the hospital on an average 20.8 days; 83 cases of abscesses, average residence 36.5 days; 96 of ulcers, which required a longer average residence than any others, viz., 47.5 days. As regards injuries, there were 74 cases of burns, 1,269 scalds, 71 of lacerated scalps, and 144 of fractured ribs. The admissions for injuries to the lower extremities were much more frequent than for those of the upper, as, whilst there were not 60 of any kind amongst the latter, there were 146 contusions of the lower extremities, 89 wounds of the leg, 61 cases of traumatic synovitis of the knee, 132 fractures of the femur, 147 of the tibia and fibula, and 107 of the fibula, as well as numerous other simple and compound fractures. As in the medical report, interesting abstracts of many of the cases are given, especially as regards hernia and amputations. There is also a report by Dr. Stephen Mackenzie and Mr. Wheeler Brown on skin-diseases, of which there were 2,324 cases treated in 1876.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held at the Offices of the Association, 161, Strand, W.C., on Wednesday, the 9th day of October next, at Two o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE,
General Secretary.

36, Great Queen Street, London, W.C., September 9th, 1878.

NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of this Branch will be held at the Palatine Hotel, Sunderland, on Tuesday, October 8th, at 3 P.M.; GEORGE MOORE, M.D., President, in the Chair.

The following papers, etc., have been promised.

1. Notes of a Case of Hæmaturia. By G. H. Philipson, M.D.
2. To exhibit and explain M. Tarnier's Obstetric Forceps. By Jas. Murphy, M.D.
3. Notes of a Case of Double Ovariectomy, done Antiseptically (patient nearly convalescent). By James Murphy, M.D.
4. A Patient after Operation for Multilocular Cyst of Neck. By James Murphy, M.D.
5. Notes of a Case of Intestinal Obstruction, produced by Band of Organisable Lymph: Treatment: Recovery. Notes of Second Attack in the same Patient about Twelve Months subsequently: Death: Necropsy. By E. C. Anderson, M.D.
6. Notes upon a Case of Intestinal Obstruction: Treatment: Death. By E. C. Anderson, M.D.
7. Notes of Five Cases in which Leucine and Tyrosine were abundantly present in the Urine; with Microscopical Slides mounted with specimens illustrative of each. By E. C. Anderson, M.D.
8. Case of Tumour of the Leg. By E. Allan Maling, Esq.
8. Remarks on a Case of Renal Abscess opening into the Intestine. By T. W. Barron, M.B.

The members and their friends will dine together at the Palatine Hotel at 5 P.M. Charge, six shillings, exclusive of wine.

T. W. BARRON, M.B., *Honorary Secretary.*

10, Old Elvet, Durham, September 18th, 1878.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of this Branch will be held at the Railway Hotel, Taunton, on Thursday, October 17th, at 5.15 P.M.

The following question has been settled by the Council as the one on which members should be invited to express their opinion at the said meeting after dinner:—"Is Typhoid Fever infectious; and, if so, what is the best mode of preventing its spread?"

Dinner, 5s. a head, exclusive of wine.

W. M. KELLY, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

Taunton, September 17th, 1878.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE next meeting will be held at the White Hart Hotel, Reigate, on Thursday, October 10th, at 4 P.M.: Dr. C. HOLMAN in the Chair. Dinner at 6 P.M. Tickets, 6s. each, exclusive of wine.

The following communications are promised.

1. Dr. Fothergill: The Therapeutic Use of Digitalis in Diseases of the Heart.
2. Dr. Keith (Edinburgh): The Use of Antiseptics in Ovariectomy.
3. Mr. Hallows: A Fatal Case of Purpura, with Hæmorrhage into the Ventricles.
4. Dr. J. H. Stowers: The Nature and Treatment of Acne.
5. Dr. Galton will exhibit the Heart from a case of Pulmonary Stenosis, shown at a meeting of the Branch in March 1877.

JOHN H. GALTON, M.D. Lond., *Honorary Secretary.*

Woodside, Anerley Road, S.E., September 24th, 1878.

THAMES VALLEY BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of this Branch will be held at the Griffin Hotel, Kingston, on Thursday, October 17th, at 6 P.M.

Members desirous of reading papers are requested to give notice to the Secretary.

Notices have been received of the following communications.

1. Paper on Pemphigus and Erythema Gangrenosa (illustrated). By T. H. Trouncer, M.D.
2. Case of Rupture of Quadriceps Extensor, and Case of Cut Throat. By Martindale-C. Ward, M.D.

Dinner will be provided after the meeting.

FREDK. J. WADD, M.B., *Honorary Secretary.*

Richmond, October 2nd, 1878.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE autumnal meeting of this Branch will be held at the Infirmary, Whitehaven, on Friday, October 25th.

Gentlemen intending to read papers, or to be present at the dinner, are requested to give notice to either of the Secretaries.

R. MACLAREN, M.D., Carlisle, } *Honorary Secretaries.*
JOHN SMITH, M.D., Dumfries, }

Carlisle, September 19th, 1878.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

AN intermediate meeting of this Branch will be held at the Infirmary, Stockport, on Wednesday, October 30th, at 3.30 P.M.

Dr. Gamgee, Professor of Physiology at the Owens College, Manchester, will read a paper on "The Liver as the Organ which generates Urea".

The following communications have been promised.

1. Dr. Ross: Structural Changes in Cirrhosis of the Liver.
2. Dr. Ball: Midwifery Statistics.
3. Mr. Dacre Fox: The Treatment of Sprains.

Gentlemen who wish to read papers or shew specimens are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary.

The members will dine together at the George Hotel at 6 P.M.

Dinner, 7s. 6d. a head, exclusive of wine.

D. J. LEECH, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

96, Mosley Street, Manchester, October 2nd, 1878.

SOUTHERN BRANCH: DORSET DISTRICT.

THE next meeting of this Branch will be held at the Crown Hotel, Blandford, on Wednesday, October 9th, at 3.15 P.M.

A Paper on Diphtheria will be read by the President, Dr. BACOT, and a discussion thereon will ensue.

Dinner at 5 P.M. Charge, 5s. each, exclusive of wine.

Members intending to be present are requested to notify the same to Dr. Bacot, Blandford, on or before October 5th, and will be expected to pay for dinner ticket, even if they cannot attend.

WM. VAUDREY LUSH, M.D., Weymouth, } *Hon. Secretaries.*
C. H. WATTS PARKINSON, Wimborne, }

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE first meeting of the session will be held in the Examination Hall of the Queen's College, Birmingham, on Thursday, October 10th. The Chair will be taken by the President, Dr. TIBBITS, at 3 P.M.

The following papers will be read.

1. Mr. Vose Solomon: On Gunshot and other Injuries of the Eye.
2. Dr. Fowler Bodington: On Cases of Alcoholic Insanity.

Members are invited to exhibit patients, pathological specimens, new drugs, instruments, or appliances, at the commencement of the meeting.

JAMES SAWYER, M.D., } *Hon. Secretaries.*
EDWARD MALINS, M.D., }

Birmingham, October 2nd, 1878.

instructions of the divisional surgeon, to be highly censurable, inasmuch as there is every reason to suppose it accelerated the death of the patient, even if it did not give the fatal turn to the case, which perhaps is more probable. The fact, however, which surprises me most is, that at the so-called investigation by the Board of Guardians, the conduct of these two officials should have been not only condoned, but that they should have been declared free from all blame. On less criminatory evidence, many a verdict of manslaughter has been returned, and in some cases penal consequences have resulted. How was it that the coroner of the district was not apprised of the facts of the case, which certainly ought to have been investigated by an impartial tribunal?—Yours,

D. B. BALDING, F.R.C.S., Coroner for County of Hertford.

SIR,—In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of to-day's date, you publish certain statements relating to the case of a man named Charles Barker, who died in the Union Infirmary, where he was under my care. Appended to these statements is a paragraph in which you make some remarks upon my conduct in the case. My knowledge of Charles Barker is this: I returned home at 11.45 P.M. on August 2nd, and I found a letter waiting for me from Mr. Taylor, worded somewhat thus:—"I have seen Charles Barker at the police-station suffering from delirium tremens, and have ordered his removal to the workhouse. I do not think you need see him to-night, but give him some chloral and see him in the morning." Not being satisfied with this, I hurried towards the police-station, and overtook the man walking to the house between a policeman and the relieving officer. I spoke to the man, and made inquiries as to how he came into the hands of the police, and I heard nothing whatever of his having been under the care of the house-surgeon of the hospital. I therefore acted upon Mr. Taylor's diagnosis of delirium tremens, and from what I observed, and treated the case as one of ordinary delirium from drink, and one where the patient had been exposed by his escape from his home, and requested the relieving-officer to direct the nurse to give him two opium-pills (each pill containing half a grain of opium, and of known strength), and to give him a hot bath.

Had I not received Mr. Taylor's note, I should have heard nothing of the case until called (as I should have been) in the ordinary course to the union-house by the master on Barker's admission. My directions were carried out, and I visited the man at 9.30 A.M. on August 3rd, when I found him in a state of violent delirium, and that this was due not only to drink, but to pneumonia of both lungs, from which cause he died on August 5th.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
Gulldford, Sept. 28th, 1878. CHAS. J. SELLS.

. We are very pleased to publish Mr. Sells' statement as to his relation to the case of Charles Barker. Our comments were based wholly on the report of the proceedings before the Guardians, which were published *in extenso*. We do not see that the fairness of our criticism is in any way weakened by Mr. Sells' letter.

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentleman passed his examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received a certificate to practise, on Thursday, September 19th, 1878.

Garrett, Charles Frederick, Walsall, Staffordshire

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

Bentham, Newton, St. Thomas's Hospital
Bunn, Charles Grinling, Charing Cross Hospital
Corder, Sheppard Ransom, University College
Mantle, Alfred, London Hospital

The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, September 26th, 1878.

William Blockley Boughton, Staunton, Gloucestershire
Joseph Ernest Bullock, 54, Berners Street, W.
Donald Sinclair Costerton, Kennerton, Gloucestershire
William Freeman Hopkins, Birmingham
William Arthur Ormsby Roberts, Carnarvon

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

John Dugdale Astley, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
William Archdeacon Duncan, St. Thomas's Hospital
Frank Spencer Watson, Charing Cross Hospital

At the Preliminary Examination in Arts, held at the Hall of the Society, on the 20th and 21st of September, 1878, 109 candidates presented themselves; of whom, 37 were rejected, and the following 72 passed, and received certificates of proficiency in general education—viz., in the First Class, in order of merit:

1. Annie Jacob; 2. Mary Susan Mungeam; 3. J. O. Braithwaite, F. Freeman, J. H. Spitzly, I. S. Withers; 7. W. C. Faulkner, I. V. Salvage, and John Smith; 10. Clarinda Boddy, Thomas Carr, C. E. Cormack, E. F. Halliday, J. W. D. Hooper, Elizabeth Longheed, Catherine Mitchell, A. L. Tireman, and S. H. Wass.

In the Second Class, in alphabetical order:

M. Angelo, B. Aslanian, A. J. Beardmore, P. C. C. Billups, H. T. Brickwell, C. J. G. Bunker, H. P. Butterworth, S. Camps, J. R. Cater, C. B. Chamberlain, H. L. G. Chevers, Julia Cock, H. M. Cox, W. T. Crawford, G. Darwin, L. B. Diplock, W. B. Etches, C. H. Evans, Elizabeth Grace Evans, C. H. Fitzroy, R. F. B. Halpin, J. Y. Hicks, J. D. Hill, A. E. Y. Hughes, J. L. Jackson, P. Jennings, A. G. Kealy, W. W. Kingston, H. J. Ley, H. T. G. Linde, C. F. Lovibond, Janet Michie, E. H. B. Nickoll, H. E. Noble, H. G. Plimmer, R. W. Quennell, L. Robinson, W. W. C. Robson, C. H. Sharpe, Edwin Shillcock, W. B. Silverwood, P. W. Smith, A. Sollit, F. J. Spilsbury, J. H. Spreat, R. G. Taylor, J. T. Tupholme, A. J. Weakley, F. Wells, H. G. O. Wharry, Robert Williams, A. Witchell, Everard Woods, and G. R. M. Wright.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:—

CALLAN UNION.—Medical Officer for Callan Dispensary District. Salary, £100 a year, and £20 as Sanitary Officer, with the usual fees for vaccination and registration. Applications to the 10th instant.

CAVAN UNION.—Medical Officer for Arvagh Dispensary District. Salary, £80 per annum as Medical Officer, and £20 per annum as Sanitary Officer, together with vaccination and registration fees. Election will take place on the 18th instant.

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

DERBYSHIRE GENERAL INFIRMARY.—House-Surgeon. Salary to commence at £100 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications to be made on or before the 12th instant.

ROYAL ALBERT EDWARD INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY, Wigan.—Senior House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with rations. Applications to be made on or before November 1st.

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

WONFORD HOUSE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, near Exeter.—Resident Medical Superintendent. Salary, £350 per annum, with board, lodging, washing, and attendance. Application to be made on or before the 19th instant.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

*DOBSON, Nelson C., F.R.C.S., appointed Lecturer on Surgery at the Bristol University College, *vice* *R. W. Coe, F.R.C.S., resigned.

*LYLE, T., M.D., appointed Physician to the Exeter Dispensary, Exeter.

RUDD, Leeson J., M.B., appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy at St. Thomas's Hospital.

TAMPLIN, Charles Harris, M.R.C.S.Eng., appointed Surgical Registrar to the National Orthopaedic Hospital.

WHITE, W. R., M.B., appointed House-Surgeon to the Royal South Hants Hospital, Southampton, *vice* A. B. Wade, M.R.C.S.Eng., resigned.

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.

LUCEY.—On October 1st, at Ben Rhydding, Wharfedale, the wife of *William Cubitt Lucey, M.D., C.M., of a son.

DEATH.

*GALT, John, F.R.C.S., aged 68, at Ashton-under-Lyne, on the 27th September.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.—An open scholarship in Arts, for a prize of 125 guineas, was competed for last week, and gained by Mr. Wm. Arnison Slater, of Edinburgh. The open Scholarship of 125 guineas in Science, was gained, at the same time, by Mr. Edwin James Onions, of Leicester.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—The examiners for the Medical Entrance Exhibitions have recommended Mr. C. M. McShane, Mr. W. C. C. Wilkinson, and Mr. E. R. St. Clair Corbin for the three Exhibitions of the respective values of £30, £20, and £10 *per annum*, tenable for two years.

DISPENSARY APPOINTMENTS.—At a meeting of the Bray Dispensary Committee held last Monday, Dr. Raverty was appointed medical officer of the Rathmichael portion of the district, at a salary of £130 *per annum*, with the usual fees. Dr. Maturin has been elected medical officer to the Blessington Dispensary, in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. Given.

DR. CORTIS.—At a meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums' Managers held on Saturday, the 21st ult., a letter was received from Dr. Cortis, who has been an active manager of the board from the commencement of its labours, and held the position of Chairman of the Caterham Committee, stating that in consequence of his ill health (arising from an accident) he was compelled to resign. The managers passed a resolution expressive of deep regret at parting with their colleague.

PRESENTATIONS.—On the occasion of Mr. Arthur Orwin lately resigning the post of Resident Surgeon to the Guest Hospital, Dudley (an office he had held for over four years), the honorary medical staff presented him with a handsomely bound copy of Heath's *Operative Surgery*; the secretary, matron, and nurses, with a massive dining-room timepiece; and personal friends in the district with a gold lever watch and a photographic album. Each *souvenir* bore an appropriate inscription.—Mr. George Neale has been publicly presented at a crowded meeting with a gold watch and chain of the value of sixty guineas, and a purse containing £14. The watch is inscribed: "Presented to Mr. G. Neale by his numerous friends and patients, on his leaving the Rhondda and Ely Valleys, as a token of their high appreciation of his qualities, and of the urbanity of his manner during his seven years' service as assistant to Dr. H. N. Davies. September, 1878." With much emotion, Mr. Neale thanked the subscribers for their generous gifts, and also the speakers for their kind expressions towards him.

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.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

WEDNESDAY.—Hunterian Society (London Institution). 7.30 P.M.: Council Meeting. 8 P.M. (first meeting of the session): Mr. J. Hutchinson, "On some unusual forms of Syphilis Disease of the Nervous System".

FRIDAY.—Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Hulke, "Fracture of both Humeri; Rupture of Left Brachial Artery; Loss of Conductivity of Median and Radial Nerves of Left Arm; and other Injuries: Recovery, with restoration of Nerve-function". Mr. Hutchinson, "A Case of Suprapubic Lithotomy for a Large Stone". Mr. Lucas, "Case of Pistol-shot Wound of Skull". Dr. Whiphram, "Perforation of the Appendix Cæci and the Cæcum, followed by Pyæmia".

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.

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, 161, Strand, London.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

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

AN ADVERTISEMENT: A DISCLAIMER.

SIR.—By the notices to correspondents in your issue of September 28th, I regret to see that I am held to have transgressed in a matter of ethics, and can only say that I have done so most unwittingly. Results of interest had come before me in the case of patients living for long periods on a diet more or less completely "vegetarian", and I wished to extend these observations. Being accustomed to reserve from the claims of an arduous practice one hour in the week for seeing poor patients, I inserted the advertisement referred to in a "vegetarian" journal, selected because it appeared to me free from extreme or vulgar partisanship. I took pains to word it in a manner which I hoped would avoid any possible imputation of an unworthy motive; but, alas! "It is not in mortals to command success".

Can you or any of your readers suggest a practicable and inoffensive means of obtaining the results sought? In these days of anti-vivisectionists, there is surely sufficient impediment to investigation from outside the profession. I do not myself feel equal to undergoing a prolonged vegetarian diet. Perhaps "Noblesse Oblige" will feel called upon by his sense of honour to offer himself as a substitute.

I enclose my card, and trust to your sense of fairness to insert this.—Yours faithfully,
THE PRACTITIONER REFERRED TO.

P.S. Perhaps I may record a fact which appears to me of some interest—viz., that copious and persistent deposits of uric acid, sand, and gravel occurred in a man who reported himself living on a diet almost vegetarian.

MEDICUS.—The regulations of the Local Government Board require that a district medical officer shall hold a diploma in medicine as well as in surgery.

SEASIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR A PHTHISICAL PATIENT.

SIR.—A "Surgeon" would find what he wants for his phthisical patient at Teignmouth. During the winter months, apartments can be obtained at a very reasonable rate, as there is not so great a demand for them as during the bathing season. The number of the *Pictorial World*, published November 10th, 1877, contains several views of the town and neighbourhood, and an account of the climate and death-rate, besides various other information.—Yours truly,
Teignmouth, October 1st, 1878.

C. J. WORKMAN, M.D.

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, 161, Strand, London, and not to the Editor.

MATERNAL IMPRESSIONS.

SIR.—I was lately called to attend a patient in her confinement. During the progress of the labour, I had some conversation with the husband, who told me that his eldest child, a girl aged thirteen, had only one finger on each hand, one toe on one foot, and two toes on the other foot. This deformity was congenital. The husband accounted for it by his wife, during her first pregnancy, having been thrown into the society of a friend who had lost one of her fingers. Presently I delivered the patient of a male child with this deficiency in its hands and feet. The great and little toes of each foot were perfect, but the phalanges of the intervening toes were entirely absent. The little finger on each hand was perfect, but the phalanges of the remaining fingers and of the thumb, and also the metacarpal bone of the thumb (due, probably, to its resembling a phalanx in its development), were altogether absent.

I mentioned the occurrence to Dr. Ewing Whittle, who had attended the patient in all her previous confinements. He told me that in her first pregnancy the patient had been very much shocked by seeing the hand of her friend suddenly uncovered after recent amputation of one of the fingers. She has had altogether seven children, of whom the second, third, fifth, and sixth possessed complete sets of fingers and toes; but the fourth, which only lived three months, was born with a similar deformity to those of the eldest and youngest.

I think these thrice recurring illustrations of maternal impressions affecting the children may be regarded as a complete answer to those who maintain that impressions on the mother's mind have never any influence on the fœtus.—Yours faithfully,
GLYN WHITTLE, M.A., M.D.

Liverpool, September 28th, 1878.

DUDLEY PORT.—For the F.R.C.S. examination, you might read Foster's or Hermann's *Physiology* (new editions); Wood's *Materia Medica*, which is still the most complete and scientific hand-book, we think; or Ringer's very interesting book. In medicine, you have your choice of the recent text-books of Bristowe, Roberts, or Aitken; in surgery, Bryant or Holmes.

OUGHT MEDICAL MEN TO BE COMPELLED TO REPORT CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES OCCURRING IN THEIR PRACTICE?

SIR.—What answer are the members of the profession prepared to give to the above question? Why should medical men be saddled with such compulsory duties, when the proper persons to bear the burthen are the householders in whose houses such cases occur? Already for the benefit of the public medical men are compelled to furnish, gratuitously, to the registrar of deaths a certificate as to the cause of death in each case attended by them. Are they now to submit to a further imposition of compulsory and gratuitous duty in the shape of reports of infectious cases to the local sanitary authority? No doubt medical men are self-sacrificing enough to undertake heavy duties and responsibilities when they deem the public welfare is at stake; but in their anxiety to serve their neighbours they allow themselves to be imposed upon, and place too low an estimate upon the value of their services, thus lowering their own position in the eyes of the public at large. I maintain, also, that by undertaking duties which ought properly to fall upon the shoulders of others, they interfere with that education of public opinion which would otherwise take place in all matters pertaining to sanitation. Let the householder be bound under penalties to report the occurrence of any given case of infectious disease to the sanitary authority, and the end in view will have been obtained, whilst the duty will have been placed upon the proper shoulders. At all events, before allowing such an important step to be taken as that of compelling medical men to give information as to the existence of infectious disease occurring in their practice, ample opportunity ought to be afforded of discussing the subject in all its bearings, and of obtaining a general expression of opinion as to whether the profession generally are satisfied to accept this new responsibility.—I am, sir, faithfully yours,
JOHN W. MARTIN.

The Grange, Drinfeld, near Sheffield, August 31st, 1878.

The following communications have been handed to the General Manager:—Mr. J. G. Serres, Anerley; Mr. R. Leslie, Liverpool; Dr. J. H. T. Cameron, Toronto, Canada (with enclosure); M. T. Mellor, Elton, Bury; Drs. Wyld and Wilson, London.

HARMLESS SERPENTS.

"PRACTITIONER" can make eggs of Pharaoh's Serpents, the fumes of which are harmless, from nitrate potassa, one part; acid chromate potassa, two parts; white sugar, three parts; balsam Peru, q.s. M. Divide into small eggs, varnish with sandarach, and keep in a dry, dark, and cool place.

Philadelphia, U.S.A. WM. R. W. BLACKWOOD, M.D.

A RABID German anti-vaccinationist has concocted the following epitaph to Jenner:—"Homo vanus et levis, cerebro vacuus et temerarius, mente et judicio carens, scientiam profanasti, terram perdidisti, populum occidisti." Comprehensive, to say the least of it.

CUBIC SPACE.

SIR.—Allow me to point out a grave error in your Paris correspondent's letter in the *JOURNAL* of the 28th September. In one part he states that "the Prefect of Police, who has all hotels and furnished apartments under his control, has ordained that the cubic space for each person should not be less than 14 *mètres*, or 52 feet 9 inches and 5 parts". How this extraordinary result has been arrived at it is difficult to say; but of course the *mètre* here is the cubic *mètre*, equal to 35.3 cubic feet, and 14 *mètres* equal 494 cubic feet. Further on, he says that M. Trélat allows a minimum cubic space for ordinary patients of 56 *mètres*, or 183 feet 9 inches, and 100 *mètres* or 362 feet 6 inches, for those affected with contagious diseases; and he adds that this "is far from liberal, and considerably less than what is allowed in any British hospital". Now the real amounts above are 1,977 cubic feet for ordinary cases and 3,530 for contagious diseases—an amount, to say the least, quite up to the standard of any British hospital.—I am, etc.,
D. C.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements for insertion in the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL**, should be forwarded direct to the Publishing Office, 161, Strand, London, addressed to Mr. FOWKE, not later than *Thursday*, Twelve o'clock.

BATHS AND HEALTH-RESORTS.

SIR,—You will greatly oblige an old member if you will recommend a good practical work giving the chief salient points about the principal English and Continental baths, watering-places, and health-resorts. I cannot get what I want in any of those I have consulted.—I am, etc., W. D.

. We believe that Braun's *Manual*, edited by H. Weber, and Macpherson's *Baths and Wells of Europe*, are the only recent English works on baths, if we except two more popular works, that of Dr. Madden, and *Our Baths and Wells*. Our correspondent, we should say, ought to have no difficulty in making out the salient points from Braun, who discusses them at length, or from the more succinct *Baths and Wells of Europe*. Valentiner's *Handbook of Balneology*, and edition, is one of the best recent German works on the subject. Perhaps, if W. D. would indicate his wants more precisely, we might be able to help him.

PECUNIOSUS has of course only his legal remedy: how far he chooses to enforce it is a matter of individual feeling, which he himself can alone decide.

MENSTRUATION AND THE CURING OF MEAT.

"Oh! menstruating woman, thou'rt a fiend
From which all nature should be closely screened."

The above couplet is from a work on the *Principle and Practice of Midwifery*, by Milne of Edinburgh, published in 1871. We are reminded of it by reading a discussion which has been going on in the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL** for some weeks past, on the question whether meat "cured" by a woman while she is menstruating will "keep". To show the drift of the discussion, we quote the following in full from a recent number.

"Sir,—I thought the fact was so generally known to every housewife and cook, that meat would spoil if salted at the menstrual period, that I am surprised to see so many letters on the subject in the **JOURNAL**. If I am not mistaken, the question was mooted many years ago in the periodicals. It is undoubtedly the fact, that meat will be tainted if cured by women at the catamenial period. Perhaps the fact is not so generally known, that meat cured by men suffering from gonorrhoea or syphilis will also be spoiled. Whatever the *rationale* may be, I can speak positively as to the fact.—Your obedient servant, WM. STOKY.—Linslade, April 8th, 1878."

Now we always liked these positive fellows, who are always so sure of the facts. How, like a great rock in a weary land, they rise up in this world of doubts and misgivings and errors. Among them we always find the "Bunby's" and "Goss's," who are "positive as to the facts" of the wonderful medicinal virtues of *Berberis aquifolium*, and *Grindelia squarrosa*, and *Cascara sagrada*, and *Damiana*, and *Eucalyptus*, and *Jaborandi*, et id omne genus. Although the latter have only their own very limited experience to draw from, Dr. Story can, at least, quote from Pliny, who, we believe it is, says that the presence of a menstrual woman "turns wine sour, causes trees to shed their fruit, parches up young trees and makes them for ever barren, dims the splendour of mirrors and the polish of ivory, turns the edge of sharpened iron, converts brass into rust, and is the cause of canine rabies." As the greater always includes the less, it would be of course absurd to question her ability to accomplish such a small trifle as the spoiling of a small mess of meat. However, either our meat is tougher, or our women less strong, or our atmosphere more antiseptic, or our observers less acute, than in England, or something else is different, as we have never heard in this country of the existence of any such superstition—we mean observation—as that spoken of.

A MEMBER writes:—Will you kindly favour me with answers to the following questions?

1. A. dies, and B., a brother practitioner, is offered such interest as may be available for conducting the vacant practice for the benefit of the widow and family. Would it be *infra dig.* to intimate the transfer by "card" in the local newspapers?
2. What percentage of the receipts, extending over two or three years, is equitably due to the representatives?

. As to No. 1, we are of opinion that such "a card" in the papers is improper. It must surely be sufficient to intimate the transfer to the patients on the books, who are the only persons presumably interested, or who can be properly addressed on the subject. As to No. 2, we can give no opinion: it is a question for a valuer.

A. C.—Upon inquiry, we learn that the publisher's price of the book you mention is nine shillings.

A MAN WHO BURST.

THE following is taken from the *Medical and Surgical Reporter* of August 14th:—We have all of us, in early life, had held up to us as a warning, when too voracious, the terrible story of the boy who ate so much that he burst! The learning of maturer years led us too hastily to discredit this frightful example; for here, in the last number of the *Vierteljahrsschrift für Gerichtliche Medicin*, July 1878, Dr. Bremser gives a detailed account of a man who literally burst, split his diaphragm in two, and died, from four plates of potato-soup, "numerous" cups of tea and milk, followed by a large dose of bicarbonate of soda to aid digestion! His stomach swelled enormously, and tore the diaphragm on the right side, causing immediate death. The case is probably unique.

C. CURTIS (Brookfields, Chester).—We have no intention of publishing any more on the subject than has already appeared.

HOSPITAL FLOORS.

IN answer to a correspondent's query about the floors of hospital wards, we recommended to soak the floor with paraffin. This, we are told, will be interpreted, by those unacquainted with Dr. Langstaff's plan, as soaking with paraffin oil, whereas it is the solid paraffin melted, painted over the wood, and smoothed with a hot iron. The other would both be useless and eminently dangerous.

SIR,—I would feel obliged by your opinion on the following case. A lady, the daughter of a medical man (deceased), is attended in an illness by another medical man. Is it usual for the medical attendant to forward his account for medical attendance in such a case? The lady referred to is unmarried, and in reduced circumstances.—Yours faithfully,
FRAMPTON-ON-SEVERN, September 28th, 1878.

ROBT. E. BURGESS, M.D.

. Certainly not.

NOTICES OF Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Appointments, intended for insertion in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, should arrive at the Office not later than 10 A.M. on Thursday.

THE HEATING OF HOSPITAL-WARDS.

SIR,—I should be much obliged if any medical brother who has had experience in heating hospital wards by other means than open fireplaces, would kindly give me the result of such experience. Also, I particularly wish to learn whether such means are quite healthy, which is the best apparatus, and who are the skilled manufacturers to supply the same. Lastly, whether there is any reliable publication on the subject.—I am, etc., EDWYN ANDREW, M.D.
Hardwick House, Shrewsbury; October 2nd, 1878.

MEDICAL TITLES.

SIR,—There is in my immediate neighbourhood a gentleman who has for some short time past been practising as a dentist with merely the word "Dentist" on his plate, but who has within the last few days placed in his window a blind with the following inscription:—"Mr. — Surgeon and Mechanical Dentist." Now, what his object is I cannot say; but as this form of announcement is very likely to mislead and induce the public to believe that he is a "surgeon" and a "mechanical dentist," I shall be greatly obliged if you will be good enough to inform me whether in so styling himself he is within his rights under the new Act of Parliament with reference to dentists, and, if not, what would be your advice for my guidance.—I remain, faithfully yours, PHYSICIAN.

. The new Act does not, in our opinion, entitle the dentist in question to use the title "Surgeon" in the manner indicated, which is obviously open to great abuse.

WE are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Western Morning News; The Chicago Times; The Manchester Guardian; The Berkshire Chronicle; The Glasgow Herald; The Oswestry Advertiser; The Edinburgh Daily Courier; The Middlesex County Times; The Liverpool Evening Albion; The Daily Courier; The Southport Visitor; The Wrexham Advertiser; The Edinburgh Courier; The Kelso Chronicle; The Fife Herald; The Merthyr Express; The Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald; The Surrey Advertiser; The Stroud News; The Scotsman; The Manchester Courier; The West Middlesex Advertiser; The Western Mail; The Essex Advertiser; The Melbourne Argus; The Midland Free Press; The Cork Constitution; The East London Observer; The Leeds Mercury; The United Service Gazette; The Citizen; The Gloucestershire Standard; The Glasgow Evening News; The Liverpool Mercury; The Weymouth Telegram; The Yorkshire Post; The Coventry Herald; The Wisbech Advertiser; The West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser; The League Journal; The Liverpool Daily Post; The Newport and Drayton Advertiser; The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette; The Cornwall Gazette; 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:—

Mr. E. Ray Lankester, London; Dr. Edis, London; Dr. H. Merryweather, Sheffield; Mr. W. Fear, Brencley; Mr. G. F. Rossiter, Taunton; Mr. Draper, Caistor; Dr. A. W. Fox, Bath; Dr. J. W. Gillespie, London; Mr. C. Higgins, London; Mr. W. Spencer Watson, London; The Secretary of the Hunterian Society; Mr. C. Macnamara, London; Dr. Glynn Whittle, Liverpool; Mr. J. D. Price, Dudley Port, Tipton; Dr. Alfred Carpenter, Croydon; M.D. Edin.; Isolated, London; Dr. Foulis, Glasgow; Mr. J. Knowles Thornton, London; Dr. Francis Warner, London; Dr. A. B. Vesey, Magherafelt, Derry; Mr. C. H. Tamplin, London; Dr. Farquharson, London; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; Mr. Eastes, London; The Registrar-General of England; Mr. Howard Marsh, London; An Associate; Dr. J. Milner Fothergill, London; Dr. F. Taylor, London; The Secretary of University College; Professor R. Bentley, London; Dr. J. F. Goodhart, London; Mr. H. Morris, London; Mr. R. C. Lucas, London; Mr. Edmund Owen, London; Mr. T. P. Pick, London; Mr. W. K. Treves, Margate; Mr. H. N. Edwards, Belmont; Dr. Whiphram, London; Dr. Max Schüller, Greifswald; A Departmental Militia Officer; Dr. Liveing, London; Dr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Dr. R. E. Burgess, Frampton-on-Severn; Professor Rutherford, Edinburgh; Surgeon-Major; Mr. J. Startin, London; Dr. A. Gamgee, Birmingham; Mr. I. Gregory, Blackpool; Dr. H. Waldo, Clifton; Dr. N. Chevers, London; Dr. Dreschfeld, Manchester; Dr. W. R. Blackwood, New York; Mr. R. Johnson, Boyton, Suffolk; Dr. Robert Saundby, Birmingham; Mr. D'Arcy Power, London; Mr. G. Curtis, Brookfields; Professor De Chaumont, Southampton; Mr. W. D. Husband, Ventnor; The Anatomical Porter, St. George's Hospital; Mr. E. Nettleship, London; Mr. C. Heath, London; Mr. C. J. Sells, Guildford; Mr. Orwin, Brixton; Mr. Leeson J. Rudd, London; Mr. E. Bates, Cowbridge; Dr. Radford, Manchester; Mr. Coleman, London; W. D.; Mr. H. A. Reeves, London; Dr. Trollope, St. Leonard's-on-Sea; Dr. Dyson, Sheffield; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. Craven, Thurso; Dr. Wilberforce Smith, London; Dr. E. Andrew, Shrewsbury; Mr. Young, Edinburgh; Dr. Wade, Birmingham; Dr. Moorhead, Weymouth; Mr. Jas. Duncan, Ashton-under-Lyne; Another General Practitioner; Afghan; Dr. Charles Parsons, Dover; Physician; R. B., London; Mr. Talford Ely, London; Mr. G. H. Larmuth, Manchester; The Secretary of the Clinical Society of London; A Member, Chester; Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, London; Dr. Lush, Weymouth; Dr. Leech, Manchester; Dr. H. A. Martin, New York; Dr. Henry Bennet, Menton, Alpes Maritimes; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Habitual Drunkenness and Insane Drunkards. By John Charles Bucknill, M.D. London: Macmillan and Co. 187.