

much remarked, indicating the small size of the hands of Indians; and in connecting this circumstance with the size of the sword-hilts belonging to the period of bronze, it would seem to confirm the opinion which assigns to the people who introduced this metal into Europe an Indian origin. Moreover, the brooches and other ornaments found in the tombs of the age of bronze in Ireland would also indicate an Indian origin, as the same sort of jewels are to this day worn by the inhabitants of that most interesting country. As for the ornaments of the arms, they are evidently of Arabian origin, and were doubtless introduced into India when the Arabs were masters of the country.

Such is a brief, and necessarily incomplete, description of the ethnographical portion of the section devoted to anthropology. I should like to have given an account of the prehistoric portion as well, but space will not permit me to dilate further on these subjects. Many of your readers are doubtless acquainted with the Museum of Antiquities at Saint-Germain; but, however rich the Museum, this portion of the Exhibition was at least as interesting, and, in some respects, even more instructive.

At a recent meeting at the Academy of Medicine, M. Bouley, Professor of Veterinary Medicine at Alfort, read a letter from M. Fournol on the alimentary value of the flesh of game, and especially of wild animals hunted to death. Referring particularly to hares, M. Fournol stated that the animal becomes black, as much from the profuse perspiration with which the body is covered, which makes the fur look dark, as from a general extravasation of blood, which renders the skin of a dark-red colour. At the same time, the flesh is soft, black, and shrunken; moreover, it has a strongly pronounced resinous taste and odour, resulting from the storing up, in the over-fatigued muscles, of a quantity of the products of disassimilation, products are habitually eliminated by the kidneys, whose functions are during the run temporarily suspended; and even the skin, which is then bathed in perspiration, is unequal to the task of eliminating these products. Added to the muscular fatigue, there is the excessive respiratory work, and even that of the brain, which renders the animal simply uræmic, and he dies poisoned in the same way as patients affected with retention of urine. Hence the strong resinous smell noticed in hares so treated; putrefaction sets in rapidly, so much so that even in winter a hare can hardly be kept more than three days, as he then becomes exceedingly *faisandé*—a condition much appreciated by gourmands. In dilating on this subject, M. Bouley suggested the question: whether the case of the wounded in the great battles would not be the same, and whether this would not, in some measure, explain the great danger of immediate surgical operations.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

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

THE next meeting will be held at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, on Thursday, December 12th, at 4 P.M.: ALFRED CARPENTER, M.D., J.P., in the Chair.

Dinner will be provided at 6 P.M. precisely: charge, 6s., exclusive of wine.

The following communications are promised.

1. Dr. Wm. Ord: On Rheumatoid Arthritis clinically considered.
2. Dr. Duncan: On the Pathology of Spasmodic Affections.
3. Dr. Philpot: On some causes of Typhoid Fever.
4. Dr. Richardson: Cases of Fractured Patella.
5. Mr. Wm. Soper will exhibit Models of his Hospital and Portable Drain Disinfectors.

JOHN H. GALTON, M.D.Lond., *Honorary Secretary.*  
Woodside, Anerley Road, S.E., November 19th, 1878.

### THAMES VALLEY BRANCH.

THE next meeting of this Branch will be held at the Greyhound Hotel, Richmond, on Thursday, December 19th, at 6 P.M.

The following papers have been promised.

Dr. Tilbury Fox: Rodent Ulcer of the Face and its Treatment; with Microscopical Demonstration.

Dr. Fenn: Functional Nervous Disorders simulating Organic Disease.

G. F. White, Esq.: Case of Gall-Stone (with specimen), and Cases of Abscess of Liver.

Dinner will be provided after the meeting.

FREDK. J. WADD, M.B., *Honorary Secretary.*  
Richmond, November 28th, 1878.

### BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE second meeting of the session will be held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday, December 12th, at 7.15 P.M.; Dr. HENSLEY, President, in the Chair.

R. S. FOWLER, }  
E. C. BOARD, } *Honorary Secretaries.*

Bath, November 1878.

### SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT.

THE last meeting of this District was held in the library of the County Hospital at Canterbury on Thursday, November 14th, at three o'clock; present: Mr. HAYWARD of Whitstable in the Chair, and twenty-one members.

*Communications.*—1. Dr. PARSONS resumed the discussion on Alcohol by contributing a paper on this subject.—Mr. TYSON read a paper on the same subject.

2. Dr. FITZGERALD contributed a paper on Wines.

3. Mr. T. WHITEHEAD REID communicated a case of Membranous Laryngitis from Eau de Cologne.

*Next Meeting.*—Mr. E. B. Terry was elected Chairman of the next meeting, which will take place at Ashford.

*Dinner.*—The members afterwards dined together.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### PAYING-WARDS AT ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

SIR,—It appears to me that, in proposing to establish wards for the well-to-do at St. Thomas's Hospital, the authorities of that institution have placed themselves somewhat on the horns of a dilemma; for, in the first place, I see no indication of any intention to remunerate the medical staff. This may be an accidental oversight; but, assuming, for the sake of argument, that the profits of the newly opened wing are to be entirely devoted to the purposes of the charity, in plain language, this simply means so much money abstracted from the pockets of the medical profession in London and handed over to St. Thomas's Hospital. Forty beds constantly filled with wealthy patients naturally implies a large annual deficit in the returns of their usual medical attendants; and I for one most emphatically protest against being thus taxed for the benefit of an institution which happens to have built a house on too large a scale for its available funds. What the neighbouring general practitioners think of this plan, may be easily imagined; for it can hardly be supposed that they will look with indifference on proposals which threaten to magnify with tenfold intensity all the worst evils of our present system of gratuitous relief.

Or, secondly, some scale of payment for the medical staff may be conceded; but this, I venture to think, involves a still more objectionable principle. It is not for one moment to be supposed that these fees, if they be distinctly formulated at all, will in any degree approach the usual tariff for consultations or operations outside. Supposing that I have a cataract or a stone, and at the same time the command of £100, I naturally seek out the most eminent man in his specialty and put my case in his hands. But, so far as I understand such things, granted the same amount of professional distinction, the fee must always be the same; and, allowing, as I gladly do, the eminence of St. Thomas's Hospital staff, it seems to me that they would occupy a most invidious position were they to accept such inferior payments as might be given them, and thus practically undersell their professional brethren elsewhere.

Look at it as we may, Mr. Alderman Stone's idea bristles with difficulties; and, for my own satisfaction, as well as for the information of your readers, will you allow me to put the following queries? On what principle are these wards to be filled? Is there to be any restriction as to the means of their occupants? Is there to be any suspicion of "charity" in the matter beyond that which is due to the medical attendance? Is there to be a sliding scale of fees to suit comparative depth of pocket? Are the cases to be selected with any reference to professional interest or instruction? And is this part of the hospital to be in connection with the school, or kept strictly apart as a sort of parlour-boarders' wing? Finally, how is the original selection of cases to be made? Who is to certify that they are not infectious or malingeringers, or persons unworthy of reception on the ordinary hote

period. I have for several years kept a daily record of pauper cases (attended without an order), in which I have never received, or even expected to receive, any remuneration for my professional services. Guardians would say in answer to this, We are not responsible for this; you received no order, and consequently you attended on your own responsibility. During the year to which my report refers, I find I either visited at their own homes or prescribed for at my own house an average of three patients daily, or 1,095 in the course of the year. I was not legally bound to prescribe for a single one of these cases, but morally I was, for every one of these patients had previously received parish relief or a medical order; and their condition being much the same as it was when relief was granted before, they were consequently presumably entitled to the attendance of the parish medical officer. The generality of these cases required to be seen once or twice, and, as a rule, were prescribed for as I passed their houses in my daily rounds. With very few exceptions, I requested them at the same time to apply to the relieving officer for an order for medical attendance; but being, as I have said, trivial cases, and the people living in many cases five, six, or more miles from the relieving officer, they have recovered without taking the trouble to obtain an order. I have been careful to exclude from this daily average all but those cases which I knew to be truly "paupers", and yet in my report not one of these cases was placed to my credit.

I must not encroach longer on your valuable space, but, in conclusion, I would ask, has pauperism (in respect to out-door medical relief) been really reduced, or does it not rather remain in very much the same condition as it has done for some years? And although so many medical orders are not granted, still the pauper receives the advice and attention of the parish medical officer as formerly, he attending, "out of the goodness of his heart", without fee, and in many cases without even getting credit for doing a kindly act of charity.

If this letter draw attention to the subject, I trust it will not have been written in vain.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

- \*BROWN, John, L.R.C.P.Lond., re-appointed Medical Officer of Health for the Bacup Urban Sanitary District.
- \*GREENWAY, Henry, M.R.C.S., appointed Medical Officer of Health for the Plymouth District, *vice* \*Thomas Littleton, M.B., resigned.

#### POOR-LAW MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

- \*HUNTER, Richard H., M.R.C.S., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Isleworth District of the Brentford Union.
- TAYLOR, Adrian H., L.R.C.P.Ed., appointed Medical Officer of the Clanmough District of the Macroom Union.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.**—The following gentlemen passed their primary examinations in anatomy and physiology at the half-yearly meeting of the Board of Examiners on the 19th instant, and, when eligible, will be admitted to the pass-examination for the diploma of fellowship.

Messrs. George Ballingall Stuart, M.D.Edin., diploma of membership dated July 22nd, 1869, of the Edinburgh School; William Lang, January 23rd, 1874, of the London Hospital; Arthur William Mayo Robson, L.R.C.P.Lond., July 21st, 1874, of the Leeds School; Alfred Pain, of Guy's Hospital; Charles Emilius Thompson, of the Middlesex Hospital; William Watson Cheyne, M.B.Edin., of the Edinburgh School; William Thomas Crew, of Guy's Hospital; and Henry Chester Nance, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The following gentlemen passed on the 20th instant.

Messrs. Audley Cecil Buller, B.A.Cantab., and Gilbert Harry Barling, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and Thomas Herbert Morse, of Guy's Hospital.

Nineteen candidates out of the thirty examined, having failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Board of Examiners, were referred to their anatomical and physiological studies for six months.

*New Fellow.*—At the last meeting of the Council, Mr. Henry Colebrook of Bath was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, his diploma of membership bearing date March 9th, 1827.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.**—The following gentleman passed his examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received a certificate to practise, on Thursday, November 14th, 1878.

Patterson, John Nesbitt, Earlesdon, Lancashire

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

Galpin, George Luck, Middlesex Hospital  
Wilkinson, Charles Fixott, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, November 21st, 1878.

Adolphus, Theodore Frederick Pennington, Lyndhurst Road, S.E.  
Barker, Frederick Kowland, Aldershot  
Culling, William Robert, Thornhill Crescent, N.  
Gayton, Francis Carteret, St. Mary's Terrace, Paddington  
Vimace, John Hinks, Hockley, Birmingham

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

Harwood, John Gasson, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

**ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, EDINBURGH—DOUBLE QUALIFICATION.**—The following gentlemen passed their final professional examinations during the October sittings of the examiners. John Hewitt, Manchester; Arthur Ewen Yates, Calcutta; John Gwin, Tyrone; Geo. William Ellis, Durham; Folliott Reginald Dennis, Westmeath; Herbert James Lorraine, Dumfries; James M. McKee, India; Charles Edward Lay, Peasenhall, Suffolk; Henry James Peard, Rathcormac, Cork; Edward Goffe Swan, St. Helena; Robt. Seth Walmsley Wilson, Manchester; Denham Francis Franklin, County Cork; James Keating, County Limerick; and William Heazle, County Cork.

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

William Allan Dafoe, Canada; John Francis Moynihan, Cork; Angus Fletcher Crole, Edinburgh; John Michael De Verde Ratton, Dublin; Peter Stuart, Lancashire; William Arthur Clarke Octavius Sankey, London; Arthur Herbert Wood, Leeds; John Hannay, Dudley; Robert Alexander Shannon, County Kildare; Richard Orford Lamprey, County Wicklow; Robert Arthur Mossman, Lincolnshire; Robert Owen Gwytherin, Llanwrst; William John Irvine, County Tyrone; Arthur Douglas Webster, Nova Scotia; John Alfred Pybus, Stockton-on-Tees; John Joseph Broe, County Kildare; James Tees, County Donegal; Richard Ernest Williamson, Yorkshire; Jones Hill Turner, County Cork; William Henry Hunt, Glossop; Nathaniel Wheatcroft Holmes, Draycott; John Watson, Monaghan; Richard Loughrey, County Derry; Thomas Bousier White, Sheffield; Thomas Dutton, Pimlico; John Henry Games, Manchester; Adam Hill, Bushmills; Owen Griffiths, North Wales; Frederick Enos Fenton, Chelsea; James Palmer Rankin, Canada; and Louis Windham Fox, Bristol.

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

Arthur Thomas Lloyd Jones, Oakengates, Salop; John Edmond Fairlie, Paisley; John M'Gavin, Renfrewshire; and John Henderson Brannigan, Edinburgh.

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

Charles Warke Allison, County Derry; William Andrew Fox, Calcutta; Leslie Eccles, Tunbridge Wells; and William Donald MacKeith, Buckley.

#### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:

**BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND EYE HOSPITAL**—House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 per annum, with apartments, board, and attendance. Applications on or before the 10th proximo.

**CARLISLE DISPENSARY**—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £90 per annum, with apartments, coals, and gas.

**CORNWALL COUNTY ASYLUM**—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary to commence at £100 per annum. Applications on or before the 16th proximo.

**CUMBERLAND INFIRMARY**—Assistant House-Surgeon. Salary, £60 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Applications on or before January 1st, 1879.

**GLoucester COUNTY ASYLUM**—Senior Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £150 per annum.—Junior Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £100 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications on or before the 12th proximo.

**HULL GENERAL INFIRMARY**—Honorary Physician.

**KENMARE UNION**—Medical Officer for Kilgarvan Dispensary District. Salary, £100 per annum, with £60 per annum as Sanitary Officer, exclusive of Registration and Vaccination Fees. Election will take place on the 3rd proximo.

**LONGFORD UNION**—Medical Officer for Killashee Dispensary District. Salary, £120 per annum, including £60 as Sanitary Officer, but exclusive of vaccination and registration fees. Election will take place on the 3rd proximo.

**NEWPORT UNION**—Medical Officer for Ballycroy portion of Achill Dispensary District. Salary, £100 per annum, exclusive of registration, vaccination, and sanitary fees. Election will take place on the 3rd proximo.

**OLDHAM INFIRMARY**—Resident House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications on or before December 5th.

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL**—Casual Physician. Applications on or before the 16th proximo.

**SLIGO DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM**—Assistant Medical Officer. Must be unmarried, act as apothecary, be doubly qualified, possess a diploma in midwifery, and have at least two years' medical practice. Salary, £100 per annum, and rations, or £50 in lieu of rations, with furnished apartments, fuel, light, etc. Election in December.

**WANDSWORTH AND CLAPHAM UNION**—Resident Medical Superintendent of Infirmary and Medical Officer of Workhouse. Salary, £400 per annum, with unfurnished residence, without coals and gas.—Assistant Medical Officer. Salary, £120 per annum, with furnished apartments, rations, and washing.

**YORK DISPENSARY**—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £130 per annum, with furnished apartments, coals, and gas.

#### 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.

##### MARRIAGE.

**BATTERSBURY—FLOWER.**—On November 27th, at Codford St. Peter, Wilts, by the Rev. H. Wightwick, M.A., assisted by the Rev. H. C. Batterbury, B.A., brother of the bridegroom, George Henry Batterbury, M.D.Lond., of Wimborne Minster, Dorset, to Jessie, second daughter of Isaac Flower, M.R.C.S. Eng., of Codford St. Peter.

##### DEATH.

**CLARKE.**—On November 25th, at the residence of her son-in-law, Dr. Sandford, Esq., Charles Street, Soho, in her 73rd year, Mary Elizabeth, widow of the late James Fernandez Clarke, M.R.C.S., for many years of Gerrard Street, Soho.

## 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 P.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.

**TUESDAY**.—Pathological Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. S. West: Specimen of an unusual form of Pneumonia. Dr. S. West: Primary Cancer of the Supraorbital Capsule, with Secondary Growth in the Lung. Dr. Goodhart: Lung containing Gummata and Tuberclae. Dr. Pye-Smith: Disease of the Hair, lately described as "Piedra". Dr. A. Morrison: Haemorrhage into the Pons Varolii. Mr. J. H. Morgan: Sarcoma of the Scalpula in an Infant, followed by Multiple Sarcomata. Dr. Hoggan: Specimens illustrating the Comparative Growth of Fungi in Ringworm and Favus. And other specimens.

**WEDNESDAY**.—Epidemiological Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Airy, "On Infection considered from a Darwinian point of view".—Obstetrical Society of London, 8 P.M. Specimen: Twins with Placenta, by Dr. Edis. Papers: Adjourned Discussion on Dr. Roper's paper "On Anteflexion of the Uterus"; Dr. James Braithwaite, "On Digital Dilatation of the Os Uteri in Labour".

**THURSDAY**.—Harveian Society of London, 8.30 P.M. First Harveian Lecture. Dr. Hughlings Jackson, "On the Diagnosis of Diseases of the Nervous System".

## 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, 161, Strand, London; 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.

## COFFEE-TAVERNS.

INFORMATION respecting the conditions of success and methods of organisation in starting coffee-taverns has been forwarded by the Editor, as requested, to Dr. William Fier of Lurgan, Mr. Atkinson of Pontefract, Dr. Edes of Croydon, and Mr. Leonard Armstrong of Newton Abbot. We shall be glad to give any further assistance in forwarding this valuable social work.

## COUNTER PRESCRIBING.

If "Broom Hill" be right in saying that there are druggists in Sheffield who go a daily round of visiting and prescribing for patients, the sooner a local Medical Defence Association is formed, to stop so dangerous and illegal a performance the better. The inquest-court should be watched, and the death-register; and the fatal consequences of this sort of haphazard practice would soon be found to furnish the names of those who should receive the attention of the society.

SIR.—Will you or one of your readers tell me what hospitals in London or the provinces undertake to train ladies as nurses?—Yours faithfully, G. F. C.

\* \* \* Most hospitals in London now take part in this work.

## PREPARATIONS OF PHOSPHORUS.

SIR.—Will any of your readers kindly inform me what is the most reliable preparation of phosphorus for internal use, and the percentage of phosphorus in each dose? I am anxious to try it in two or three cases.—I am, yours very truly, November 26th, 1878.

A MEMBER.

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.

## A HARSH EXPRESSION.

SIR.—In last week's JOURNAL, I notice an abstract of an introductory address given at the South Infirmary, Cork, by Dr. Curtis. There is no allusion to an expression, reported in the local papers, which was applied to legally qualified practitioners, and which appeared to be harsh and uncalled for, especially when used by one whose opportunities of correct information must be supposed by a critical public to be unquestionable—I refer to the expression "licensed murderers". I scarcely think that Dr. Curtis would, on reflection, apply such a term to the humblest of his professional brethren.—I am, sir, yours, etc.,

A MEMBER.

DR. C. FOX.—Shall appear, if possible, next week.

## IRREGULAR PRACTICE.

SIR.—On visiting the other day a young lady patient of mine, who is a sufferer from epilepsy, I was informed by her guardian that, when in the country, she had been advised to send to London for some medicine which had been advertised in a local newspaper as an infallible remedy. The lady did so, more owing to curiosity and the pressure of her acquaintance than from any real belief in the efficacy of the remedy, but resolved that she would not make any trial of its virtues until she returned home and received my sanction. She then placed in my hands a bottle of the medicine and a pamphlet with the name of "S. Berry Niblett, M.D., Royal College of Physicians", on the cover. I at once said he must be some quack, but I would look up the *Register*, which I did on returning home, and, to my astonishment, found that the gentleman referred to is a duly qualified and registered practitioner. The titles are "L.R.C.P. Ed., 1860; L.F.P.S. Glasg. and L.M., 1861; L.S.A., 1858 (Guy's), 10, Oxford Terrace, Hyde Park". A very few extracts from the pamphlet will suffice as my justification for so hastily assuming that the whole affair was the work of a quack.

"The specific medicine which I have so successfully prepared for every form and variety of consumption and all diseases of the lungs and air-passages is called the 'Restorative Balsam'. There is not a single symptom of consumption that this balsam will not take hold of and eradicate", etc. Further: "It heals all internal ulcerations and tubercles", etc. "One bottle of the restorative balsam 5s., six bottles 24s. I make no charge for advice, either personally or by letter." Again, on epilepsy: "I have been able to discover a certain remedy for all forms of epilepsy and fits: it is called 'The Vital Renewer'. This invaluable medicine will cure the most invertebrate cases: it is perfectly harmless", etc. Again: "The 'Health Renovator' is a great remedial agent: it increases both the quality and the quantity of the nervous fluid: it will remove all nervousness, loss of memory, giddiness, specks before the eyes, melancholy feelings, low spirits, bashfulness, sleeplessness, indecision", etc. "The 'Universal Pill' should be taken constantly by all nervous persons. It is a medicinal concentration prepared exclusively from the extracts of foreign roots and barks, combined with rare gums and distillations. If taken regularly, this excellent pill will keep the system in a state of sound health and strength. This famous pill is a certain cure for piles of every kind, whether external, internal, blind, or bleeding." The pamphlet contains sixty-four pages of such like material, with of course numerous letters from grateful patients for the cures effected.

Now, sir, I would like to inquire whether the colleges to which the author of this pamphlet belongs have no power of putting a stop to a practice so unbecoming to the profession of which he appears to be a regularly constituted member.—I am, etc.,

A DISGUSTED MEMBER.

\* \* \* We have many times before had the same question put, and have referred to the subject. It seems to be a case in which the licensing corporations whose diplomas are paraded should make investigation, with a view to disciplinary action.

C. F. D.'s letter is unsuited for our columns. We do not publish recommendations by patients of particular individuals or methods of cure.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

THE following were the questions on Anatomy and Physiology submitted to the thirty candidates at the half-yearly examination for the Fellowship of the College on the 15th instant. They were required to answer all four of the questions. 1. Describe the dissection required to expose the upper surface of the first rib; and mention, in order from before backwards, the several structures in immediate relation with that bone. 2. A transverse vertical section is made through the cranium and its contents, passing through the odontoid process. Mention, in order from above downwards, the several structures which would be divided. 3. Describe the development of the vertebral column, and mention the form of the vertebral centrum characteristic of each of the primary divisions of the vertebrata. 4. Describe the structure of the suprarenal capsule; and give the evidence which at present exists regarding its function.

## DEFAULTERS, BEWARE.

THE publishers of our excellent Italian contemporary, the *Annali Universali di Medicina e Chirurgia*, insert the following notice on the cover of the journal at the end of the year:

"Si pregano i signori associati in mora di pagamento a voler mettersi sollecitamente in regola onde evitare reciproci disturbi ed eccitamenti personali." That is to say: "Subscribers in arrear of payment are begged to be good enough to put themselves right at once, in order to avoid mutual disturbance and personal excitement."

## HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS.

SIR.—Will you kindly inform me which of the following two is considered the higher qualification—viz., L.R.C.P. Lond., M.B. Glas.? What books would be most suitable for a qualified man to read for the second part of the examination for L.R.C.P. Lond., surgery being excluded?—I am, etc.,

A MEMBER.

\* \* \* The M.B. of Glasgow, being an University diploma, is, we presume, a far "higher" qualification than the Licence of the London College.

## COLD FEET.

SIR.—I would be glad to know through your columns what remedy some of your readers have found most beneficial in the treatment of cold feet at night. My patient is a young man, in otherwise robust health. On going to bed, his feet become so cold that he is unable to sleep for hours.—I am, etc.,

L.R.C.S.I.

answer any questions relating to the surgical anatomy, etc., of the various structures; and may be asked to do some portion of the dissection.

The examiners are at all times patient, kind, and gentlemanly; and I would also especially mention the disinterested kindness of Dr. James, Professor of Latin and English Literature in the University, who acts as interpreter, and who, although not a medical man, nor in any way connected with the medical faculty, is always most happy and ready to render all assistance to such of his countrymen as may call upon him.

The books I read were: Aitken's and Niemeyer's *Medicine*, Green's *Pathology*, Ringer's *Therapeutics*, Guy and Ferrier's *Forensic Medicine*, Leishman's *Midwifery*, Parkes' *Hygiene*, Bryant's *Surgery*, Hill's *Regional Anatomy*, and Gray's *Anatomy*.—I am, yours, etc., JAMES ROBINSON, M.D.

Rockfield, Dunsar, Bolton, Nov. 14th, 1878.

#### PRELIMINARY MEDICAL STUDY.

SIR.—It has lately been advised that of the four years required by the General Council to be spent in professional study, one (the first) should be passed in obtaining practical knowledge in pupilage to a surgeon, rather than that the whole four years should be spent at hospital and college. In this first year thus spent, though deep reading be out of the question, the student must not put book-work on one side. It is, however, a difficult matter for him to find out what subjects to read, and how deep to go in each subject; and, unfortunately, surgeons do not always take the amount of interest they should do in their pupils, and leave them to learn what they can. It is undesirable that a student should buy a lot of books haphazard, because by the time when he goes up to the medical school other and better books may have come out. Therefore, if some one would bring out a magazine in monthly parts (the series commencing on the 1st of October in each year), each costing about 3s. or 2s. 6d., and containing matter for study on osteology, physiology, chemistry, botany, materia medica, etc., for one month, I feel sure he would deserve the hearty thanks of many a student. Men would then know exactly what to read and how far to go in their subjects; and by thus combining book-knowledge with that obtained by seeing practical work, they would take up to their school a good foundation for deeper study.—I enclose my card, and remain, yours obediently,

November 1878.

A REGISTERED STUDENT.

#### BICYCLES FOR DOCTORS.

SIR.—We have heard, in eloquent terms from Mr. Stilwell, of the abuses of the bicycle; let me preach this week of its uses, and endeavour to defend it from some of the charges brought against it.

Having ridden the bicycle for some thousands of miles, I may, perhaps, be allowed to possess experience on the subject. It occurred to me, three years ago, when bicycles were far less numerous than at present, that the new machine was exactly suited to my wants, for long country journeys. I then learned to ride, but never ventured beyond my garden till a year later, when the great increase in the number of these vehicles had made the public so familiar with them, that a new rider was much less remarkable than formerly. I am now a frequent rider, and do most of my country work in this way; but I shall not dwell on my own personal experience more than is necessary to throw light on the general subject.

In these days of increased prices, for almost every necessary of life—when horseflesh is far dearer to buy and more expensive to keep than formerly—it is surely opportune to discuss the question, whether this now familiar invention cannot be adopted by the country practitioner; and some of the expenses (if not all) of the stable be thus avoided. The question, perhaps, primarily arises—is not bicycle riding undignified and unsuited for a professional man, whose deportment is generally expected to be grave and serious? To this, I reply that the bicycle can be ridden with dignity and self-possession; and that (even as water invariably finds its level), whatever the public may say or think at first, the professional qualifications and talents of the doctor will survive everything, and certainly receive their due appreciation. There is surely no degradation in bicycling. A rider, well mounted, is generally admired by the public. No man need be ashamed to use a machine which it is notorious that a Chancellor of the Exchequer and many members of Parliament have delighted so to ride.

Is the bicycle adapted for ordinary use? To this I reply, exactly. It is hardly necessary for me to remember that I address myself particularly to the younger members of the profession. It would be comparatively difficult for a man of sixty years to first learn to ride; but to a man of that age who had ridden from his youth, there would, as a rule, be no more difficulty than in mounting and riding a horse. The danger of riding, under any circumstances, is certainly not greater, probably less. There are, of course, hilly districts, where the bicycle could hardly be utilised; but average hills are no impediment to its use: and though a flat country is generally preferred, many riders prefer undulating roads, on account of the rest afforded by the descents, and the pleasant sensation of travelling without effort.

No more convenient machine than this could have been invented for medical purposes. The bicycle occupies scarcely any room, is always available, and gives no trouble on reaching the patient's house. An urgent summons arrives; you mount the machine, and have reached your destination in the time that it would usually take to "find the man, and get the horse ready". Thus I have officiated at many midwifery cases where otherwise my services would have arrived too late; and have thus expeditiously reached the scene of accidents, often to the satisfaction of my patients.

Now, in regard to the dangers of the road, I am aware of the powerful prejudices working in the minds of the public against bicycles—they are an unmitigated nuisance! I know all this; but so, years ago, were the railway and the steam engine! Many of your readers (and probably Mr. Stilwell) will remember the anger and ridicule with which they were greeted. The bicycle, like the locomotive, will outlive its detractors.

For the present, it is enough to know that its riders may be numbered by tens, even hundreds, of thousands; that it is the principal source of industry in Coventry; and that scarcely a town of any importance in the kingdom is without its bicycle manufacture.

The number of riders, both in the medical and clerical professions, is also rapidly increasing; and besides many rural practitioners, I know of a hospital physician (of good standing) in a cathedral city, who drives a velocipede. I do not deny that this is an exception; and that, while the number of country riders must inevitably increase (and is increasing), the town physician will probably, for many a year yet, keep to his sedate carriage and pair. But it is, nevertheless, a sign of the times.

One word in conclusion about horses, in relation to bicycles. I have travelled from this place to London, from London to Bristol, and from Bristol home again, by Salisbury and Southampton (some four hundred miles in all), without meeting with a single *contretemps*. It is a rare thing indeed now for a horse to shy at

a bicycle. But there are bicyclists and bicyclists, even as there are reckless drivers of the steam-engine and the horse. These are the black sheep which prejudice the flock, and I heartily resign them to Mr. Stilwell's anathema.—I have the honour to be, sir, your faithful servant,

H. J. KENDRICK VIVES, F.R.C.P.Ed.,  
President of Littlehampton Bicycle Club.

Ferry House, Littlehampton, November 16th, 1878.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Western Morning News; The Cornwall Gazette; The Freeman's Journal; The Somerset and Wilts Journal; The Somersetshire Advertiser; The Eastern Morning News; The Irish Times; The Chicago Times; The Manchester Guardian; The Berkshire Chronicle; The Glasgow Herald; The Oswestry Advertiser; The Edinburgh Daily Courant; The Middlesex County Times; The Liverpool Evening Albion; The Daily Courier; 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 Keile Chronicle; The Fifeshire 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 Southport Visitor; The Wrexham Advertiser; The Edinburgh Courant; The Lincolnshire Express; The Hull Advertiser; Saunders's Irish Daily News; The Daily Express; 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., RECEIVED FROM:—

Dr. R. Douglas Powell, London; Dr. H. Macnaughton Jones, Cork; Surgeon-Major J. H. Porter, Netley; Dr. G. Padley, Swansea; Mr. L. Armstrong, Newton Abbot; Mr. E. M. Smith, Nottingham; Mr. W. K. Treves, Margate; Surgeon-Major Maunsell, Mussoorie, India; Dr. A. H. Benson, Dublin; Dr. R. Farquharson, London; Mr. A. Hart, Dublin; The Secretary of the Harveian Society; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Our Paris Correspondent; Mr. H. Sewill, London; Dr. T. W. Hime, Sheffield; Dr. J. M. Fothergill, London; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. Edis, London; Dr. I. Burney Yeo, London; Mr. T. V. Jackson, Wolverhampton; Mr. J. W. Annison, Burnley; Dr. H. Leach, London; Mr. A. Allen, London; The Ghosts of a late M.D.; Mr. T. Dutton, London; Dr. T. M. Rotch, Boston; Dr. E. Holland, London; Dr. W. P. Nesbitt, Burra Burra; Dr. L. Aitken, Rome; Dr. Gowers, London; Dr. Lawton, Middleton; Mr. W. F. Moorhead, Charleville; Dr. J. Althaus, London; Dr. James, Manchester; Dr. Tripe, London; Dr. R. Bruce, Edinburgh; Dr. R. Lee, London; The Registrar-General of England; Mr. Fowler, Bath; Mr. Annandale, Edinburgh; Mr. Gamgee, Birmingham; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Mr. Howard Marsh, London; Dr. Poulain, London; Mr. W. Pugin Thornton, London; Dr. Lombe Atthill, Dublin; Mr. W. R. Barker, London; Twenty Years' Experience; Mr. John Greene, Birmingham; Dr. C. B. Fox, Great Baddow; Mr. James Heelas, London; W.; The Secretary of the Epidemiological Society; Dr. W. O. Markham, London; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. G. Eastes, London; Our Dublin Correspondent; Dr. Stewart Lockie, Carlisle; The Secretary of the Pathological Society; Mr. J. Macnab, Stirling; Mr. W. A. Hunt, Yeovil; Mr. T. Leeds, Sheffield; Mr. Bridgman, Berkeley; Dr. Arthur Fox, Bath; Mr. Murrell, London; Mr. G. Harvey, Wirksworth; C. F. D.; Dr. L. S. Forbes Winslow, London; Dr. Mackay, Brighton; The Secretary of the Obstetrical Society; Dr. Ward Cousins, Southsea; A Member, Evesham; Mr. Richard Davy, London; Dr. Sheen, Cardiff; Dr. F. Warner, London; Dr. H. W. Williams, London; Dr. J. Rogers, London; Dilemma; G. F. C.; Mr. Wyndham Cottle, London; Mr. H. Sutcliffe, West Bromwich; An Old Subscriber; A Member; Mr. Annandale, Edinburgh; Dr. Jukes Syrap, Shrewsbury; Sir Dominic Corrigan, Dublin; Mr. S. M. Bradley, Manchester; Dr. McKendrick, Glasgow; Dr. Ross, Londonderry; Dr. John Cochrane, Edinburgh; Mr. J. J. Ritchie, Leek; Mr. H. A. Allbutt, Leeds; etc.

#### BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

William Harvey: a History of the Discovery of the Circulation of the Blood. By R. Willis, M.D. London: Kegan, Paul, and Co. 1878.  
 Atlas of the Diseases of the Membrana Tympani, with Explanatory Text. By H. Macnaughton Jones, M.D. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1878.  
 An Atlas of Human Anatomy: accompanied by an Explanatory Text. By Rickman John Godlee, M.S., F.R.C.S. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1878.  
 Clinical Lectures on Diseases of Bone. By C. Macnamara, F.R.C. Uni. London: Macmillan and Co. 1878.  
 Food and its Preparations: a Course of Twenty Lectures. By Mrs. W. T. Greenup. Bemrose and Son. 1878.  
 On Bronchitis, and the Morbid Conditions connected with it. By E. H. Greenhow, M.D., F.R.S. London: Longman, Green, and Co. 1878.  
 Health Primers. London: Hardwicke and Boyd, 192, Piccadilly.  
 Dispauperisation: a Popular Treatise on Poor-law Evils, and their Remedies. By J. R. Prettyman, M.A. Second Edition. London: Longman, Green, and Co. 1878.  
 A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of the Testis and of the Spermatic Cord and Scrotum. By T. B. Curing, F.R.S. Fourth Edition, revised and enlarged. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1878.