

own observation, the mean minimum time is twenty-two months.

c. And it gives the best criterion for the perfection of the cure. Thus, for example, when a man who has had syphilis is inoculated with matter from an indurated chancre, and the inoculation fails, the man is still under the influence of syphilis; but if the inoculation succeeds, we have the proof that his syphilis is cured.

10. The treatment of syphilitic reinfections is the treatment of syphilis itself; but as, in most cases (sixteen times out of twenty-eight), the only effects which result from the re-infection, when left to itself, consist of a chancre which is not followed by constitutional symptoms, the practitioner, when he meets with a second chancre, should always wait until constitutional symptoms appear before he prescribes mercury.

Association Intelligence.

EAST KENT DISTRICT MEDICAL MEETINGS.

THE next meeting will be held at the Fountain Hotel, Canterbury, on Thursday, the 6th November, at 8 P.M. Dinner will be ordered at 5 P.M.

THOMAS BOYCOTT, M.D., *Hon. Secretary.*
Canterbury, October 20th, 1862.

MIDLAND BRANCH: QUARTERLY MEETING.

THE quarterly meeting of this Branch was held in the Board-room of the Lincoln County Hospital, on Friday, September 26th, at 7 P.M.; T. SYMPSON, Esq., President, in the chair. There were also present eight members and one visitor.

THE PRESIDENT congratulated the members on the great success of the London meeting, which had passed off in a most satisfactory manner with regard to the practical character and excellence of the papers that were read, the eloquence of the addresses that were delivered, and the cordial welcome given, and the unbounded hospitality shown both by the metropolitan members and by the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons. He said it had occurred to him that a few observations on one of those admirable addresses then spoken—that on surgery—might not be wholly unacceptable. He referred to an answer given by Mr. Denison at a late meeting of Great Northern shareholders in reply to a query as to whether, in the case of railway companies expending a large amount of money with a view to protect their property, the remedy was not worse than the disease? The reply of Mr. Denison was, “that he did not know, as they had never allowed the disease to take its course.” This, Mr. Sympson said, was precisely the gist of Mr. Paget’s most excellent address, the subject of which was the Management of Patients after Surgical Operations. Mr. Paget dwelt particularly on the necessity of studying diseases apart from the manner in which their progress is influenced by the action of remedies—of studying the natural history of diseases; “a more accurate knowledge of which,” he said, “is becoming the most pressing want of our time.” As examples of the result of the kind of study recommended by Mr. Paget, the President instanced the treatment of delirium tremens and of pneumonia as detailed in the recent work of Dr. W. T. Gairdner, as well as of the latter disease by Dr. Hughes Bennett and Dr. K. Chambers. He concluded by observing that it must be acknowledged that year by year the treatment of disease is becoming simplified; and that perhaps the truth of Mr. Paget’s remark might be equally clear to his hearers, “that this increasing simplicity in our practice is founded on the

wider recognition of the sufficiency of the natural processes of recovery.”

Specimens Exhibited. Some very beautiful microscopic objects were exhibited; and numerous pathological specimens from the museum of the County Hospital were shown by Dr. Harrison, house surgeon.

Papers. The following papers were read:—

1. Some Cases of Intermittent Fever following Injury to the Spleen. By S. Lowe, Esq.
2. Some interesting Cases of Strangulated Hernia, with Various Complications. By C. Brook, Esq.
3. A Case of Sporadic Cholera with Rupture of some of the Fibres of the Gastrocnemius Muscle from Violence of Spasm. By G. Mitchinson, M.D.

A most agreeable and instructive meeting terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to the President, who afterwards entertained the members at his residence.

Reports of Societies.

MIDLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, OCT. 21, 1862.

J. B. MELSON, M.D., President, in the Chair.

The Laryngoscope. Mr. FURNEAUX JORDAN exhibited the mode of using this instrument. He referred, in brief terms, to the labours of Liston, Avery, Garcia, Türk, and Czermak. He drew particular attention to the numerous details which are essential to the successful inspection of the larynx; and adverted to the class of cases in which the use of the laryngoscope would prove most serviceable. In acute laryngeal disease, and in certain affections which, for the sake of brevity, he termed supralaryngeal, the instrument in question could not be used with facility.

Cases of Imperforate Anus. Mr. DUNCALFE communicated the details of five cases which had come under his care, in a practice which included three thousand midwifery cases. In two cases where a thin membrane occluded the anus, complete relief was afforded by a crucial incision and the subsequent use of a tallow bougie. In the other cases, the obstruction was at a greater depth. In one of them, Mr. Duncalfe resorted with success to an operation which he had not seen described. It consisted in passing a ligature through the distended bowel, which could easily be felt through the external incision, and subsequently making an opening with scissors. The lining membrane could thus be readily drawn down and attached to the integumental surface.

Corroding Ulcer of the Uterus. Dr. EARLE gave the particulars of a case occurring in a young woman only 21 years of age. A singular feature in the case was that the ulceration progressed very rapidly under the influence of powerful caustics, while repair was induced, which terminated in recovery, by the local use of a weak solution of the diacetate of lead.

THE TALLOW-TREE. Among the trees which have of late been extensively distributed in the North-Western Provinces of India and Punjab is the tallow-tree of China—*stillingia sebifera*. In China it is largely cultivated, and it is said that by its produce alone the taxes are paid in the district of Hongkong. It grows equally well on low alluvial plains, on the rich mould of canals, in sandy soils, and on the acclivities of mountains. From its seeds tallow and oil are procured, which are extensively used in China. Its wood is hard and durable, and its leaves yield a black dye. It is now thriving well in India. The tallow and oil are easily procured from the seeds. The tree, therefore, is well worthy of attention.

during the section of sclerotic or ciliary muscles of his or Mr. Hancock's operation. In fact, these apparently trivial operations are the very ones where there is more danger than in immense operations like ovariectomy or amputation of the thigh.

The rationale of chloroform sickness I am every day more and more clear about; but it is misunderstood in the hospitals. It is clearly an excitomotor result of the same action on the crura of the diaphragm, as the action which causes struggling, spasm, etc., in the other muscles. The slightest irritation of the cardiac end of the stomach at this point with its eighth nerve gives a blurt of vomited matter. Want of sufficient air to the patient in the inhaler helps this struggling; delay encourages it; for you can scarcely give chloroform too quickly, but steadily. To my inquiries in hospitals, it is always said to be, "Oh, something cerebral that no fellow can be expected to understand." I am, etc.,

CHARLES KIDD.

Sackville Street, Oct. 13.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS. At a general meeting of the Fellows, held on Wednesday, October 22nd, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, were duly admitted to practise Physic as Licentiates of the College:—

Aspinall, Thomas, Over Darwen
Calthrope, Edward, Deeping St. Nicholas, Spalding
Carter, Frederick, London Hospital
Chandler, Edward, 7, Chester Place, Kennington Cross
Cooper, William, Bristol
Gisburn, John James Walker, Leeds
Kerswill, George, Looe, Cornwall
Laverick, John Valentine, Henderwell, Yorkshire
Moore, James Foster, Bradford, Yorkshire
Pitchall, John, Bengal Medical Service
Renshaw, Herbert Smith, Ashton-on-Mersey
Thomas, Montague, Windsor
Woodman, Frederick, Isleworth

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREW'S. List of gentlemen on whom the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred, in October 1862:—

Ablett, Edward, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Ackland, William H., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Bideford, North Devon
Adams, James, L.R.C.P.E. & Lic. Fac. Phys. & Surg., Glasg., Brechin
Andrews, Fred. F., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Badcock, Lewis C., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Camberwell Grove
Baillie, Herbert, F.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Ballard, Thomas, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Barrett, John J., M.R.C.S., London
Bate, Henry F., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Bell, James V., M.R.C.S. & L.R.C.P., Rochester
Berwick, George, L.R.C.S. Ed., L.R.C.P. Ed., Sunderland
Bevan, Thomas K., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Carmarthen, S. Wales
Birt, Thomas, M.R.C.S. Ed., L.R.C.P. Ed., Leamington
Blanshard, Thomas, L.A.C., London
Bolton, John A., M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P. Ed., & L.A.C., Leicester
Bone, William, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Bures, Suffolk
Bourne, Thomas, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Radstock, Bath
Braddon, Charles H., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Upton-on-Severn
Bradley, John D., M.R.C.S.I. & L.M., Tullamore, Ireland
Braine, Robert S., M.R.C.S., Halifax, Nova Scotia
Brainsford, Charles, L.A.C., Haverhill, Suffolk
Britton, Thomas, L.A.C., St. Thomas's Hospital
Brodie, George B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., London
Browning, Charles, F.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Brumwell, George M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Ed., & L.A.C., Mossley
Butler, Fred. J., F.R.C.S., Winchester
Carpenter, John W., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Chessall, William, L.A.C., London
Cleveland, William F., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Cockerott, Thomas H., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Heighley, Yorkshire
Cogan, Cecil C., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Greenwich, Kent
Coles, William F., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Cerne Abbas, Dorset
Condon, Edmund H., L.R.C.S.I., Odiam, Hants
Connolly, William, M.R.C.S.I. & L.A.C., Royal Navy
Crawford, Samuel K., L.R.C.S. Ed., Lurgan, co. Armagh
Davies, Frederick, F.R.C.S., London
Dobson, Thomas, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Bowness, Windermere
Dry, Thomas, M.R.C.S., London
Edgecome, James, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London

Edmunds, James, M.R.C.S. & L.R.C.P., London
Edwards, Morgan J., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Guy's Hospital, London
Ellis, Edward, L.A.C., London
Farquharson, Duncan, L.R.C.P. Ed. & L.R.C.S., Tillicoultry
Farrington, Wm. H., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London Fever Hospital
Fisher, Luke, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Preston, Lancashire
Fletcher, John S., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Manchester
Frain, Joseph, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Ed., & L.A.C., South Shields
Games, Stephen H., L.R.C.S. Ed. & L.A.C., Liverpool
Godwin, Ashton, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., & L.A.C., Brompton
Golder, James, L.R.C.S. Ed., Pollokshaws
Green, Thomas, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Cambridge
Griffith, Samuel, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Portmadoc, North Wales
Hall, Christopher, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Swadlincote, Derby
Harvey, Charles H., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Harvey, John, L.A.C., London
Hearder, George I., L.R.C.S. Ed., Edinburgh
Hislop, James, Lic. Fac. Phys. and Surg., Glasg., Glasgow
Hodgson, William J., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Snaith, Yorkshire
Eorgan, William C., Lic. Fac. Phys. and Surg., Glasg., & L.A.C., Drogheda

Horner, Thomas, M.R.C.S. & L.R.C.P. Ed., Stoke Newington
Howard, Francis, L.R.C.S.I., Black Rock, Dublin
Hubert, Theodore K., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Dunstable
Hughes, Robert, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Conway, North Wales
Hughes, Thomas, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Anglessea
Huntley, Robert E., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Yarrow, near Newcastle
Ingham, Amos, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Haworth, Yorkshire
Jephcott, Samuel T., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Chester
Jones, Thomas, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Ross, Herefordshire
Kealy, John R., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Gosport, Hants
Kersey, Robert C., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Littlebourn, Kent
Lancaster, Joseph, M.R.C.P.L., F.R.S.E., & L.A.C., Clifton
Lee, Herbert G., M.R.C.S., London
Lister, Bryan, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Littleborough, Lancashire
Logan, William, M.R.C.S., co. Antrim, Ireland
Lomas, William, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Mackern, Walter, M.R.C.S., London
M'Nalty, George W., L.R.C.S.I., Dublin
Mallet, William J., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Manchester
Masters, Maxwell T., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Meadows, Robert, L.A.C., King's College, London
Morgan, William W., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Newport, Monmouthsh.
Moore, George, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Hartlepool
Moss, Hugh, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Congleton, Cheshire
Mulock, John B., M.R.C.S., London
Nesfield, Stephen, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Manchester
Newby, Thomas, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Great Grimby
Nicholson, Joseph M., L.A.C., Holbeck, near Leeds
Parsons, Samuel, M.R.C.S. & M.R.C.P.L., London
Perry, Marten, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., & L.A.C., Evesham
Pigg, Thomas, M.R.C.S., Newcastle-on-Tyne
Pratt, Charles, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Appleton, Devon
Rendle, James D., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Renshaw, Charles J., L.A.C., Ashton-upon-Mersey, Cheshire
Renshaw, Herbert S., Lic. Fac. Phys. and Surg., Glasg., & L.A.C., Ashton-upon-Mersey, Cheshire
Roe, John W., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Ellesmere, Salop
Rogers, Braithwaite, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Royle, Peter, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Ed. & L.A.C., Manchester
Sadleir, William, L.R.C.S.I., Dublin
Savile, George T., M.R.C.S., L.A.C., & L.R.C.P. Ed., Beckford
Scully, Thomas, L.R.C.P. & L.M.R.C.S.I., Tipperary
Shea, Henry G., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Shillite, Joseph, M.R.C.S., Newcastle-on-Tyne
Simpson, Thomas, M.R.C.S., Liverpool
Skæ, Charles H., L.R.C.S. Ed., Edinburgh
Skrimshire, John T., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Holt, Norfolk
Smart, Bath C., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Balsham
Stark, Peter W., L.R.C.S. Ed. & L.A.C., Lancaster
Stevens, Robt. S. J., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., & L.A.C., Christchurch
Swayne, Abraham C., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Carrick, Ireland
Symons, John, M.R.C.S., London
Tanner, John, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., & L.A.C., Tetbury
Tassell, Robert, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Canterbury
Tatham, Thomas R., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Huddersfield
Thompson, John, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Bideford
Turtle, Frederick, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Vanderstraeten, Julian L., L.A.C., Colombo, Ceylon
Walker, James, M.R.C.S., North Frodingham, Yorkshire
Walker, John S., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Hanley, Staffordshire
Walton, Thomas S., L.R.C.S. Ed., London
Watkins, Edwin T., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Watts, Horace N., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Norwich
West, Charles A., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Cornwall
White, Charles J., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Ed., & L.A.C., Brighton
Whitmarsh, William M., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Chippenham
Whitmore, John, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., London
Whitworth, John, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Heckmondwike, Leeds
Willes, George J., M.R.C.S., London
Williams, S. W. D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., & L.A.C., Northampton
Wills, John, M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Child Okeford, Dorset
Yeld, Henry J., M.R.C.S. & L.A.C., Sunderland

HONOUR EXAMINATION. The following gentlemen offered themselves as candidates for Honours. The result of the examination, which included—1. The Clin-

ical Examination of Patients; 2. Physiognomical and Physical Diagnosis; 3. The Microscopical Examination of Urinary Sediments; 4. The Examination of Morbid Specimens—was as follows.

First Class.

Davies, Frederick, London
Meadows, Robert, London

Second Class.

Mulock, John B., Dublin
Whitmarsh, William M., Chippenham } equal.
Vanderstraeten, Julian L., Ceylon
Huntley, Robert E., Jarrow

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On October 16th, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Connor, James Henthorn Todd, Wandsworth
Cribb, William, Chambers Terrace, Camden Town
Griffiths, Edwin Thomas, 100, Digbeth, Birmingham
Miskin, George Albert, St. Thomas's Hospital
Renshaw, Joshua William, Streteford, near Manchester
Robinson, Haynes Sparrow, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Walton, Henry, West Auckland
Warn, Reuben Thomas, Plymouth

APPOINTMENTS.

*BARTLETT, Thomas H., M.B., appointed Surgeon to the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Children, in the room of G. Yates, Esq.
CORRIGAN, D. J., M.D., elected for the third time President of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland.
DAVIS, George H., L.R.C.P.Ed., appointed House-Surgeon to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, in the room of O. C. Maurice, M.D.
*HARRIES, J. D., Esq., elected Surgeon to the Salop County Gaol, in the room of Henry Fenton, Esq., resigned.
*STEWART, T. Grainger, M.D., appointed Pathologist to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.
TUTIN, John H., Esq., appointed Surgeon to the Ripon Dispensary, in the room of the late *S. Tutin, Esq.
WINSTANLEY, C., Esq., appointed House-Surgeon to the Stamford Infirmary, in the room of C. H. Drake, Esq.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

DROSER, W. H., M.D.	}	appointed Examiners in Medicine.
GOODWIN, J. W., M.D.		
LATHAM, —, Esq.		
PAGET, G. B., M.D.	}	appointed Examiners in Surgery.
HUMPHRY, G. M., M.D.		
LESTOURGEON, C., Esq.		

ARMY.

CHEKRY, Staff-Assistant-Surgeon W., to be Assistant-Surgeon 14th Foot, vice W. H. Jenkins.

To be Staff-Assistant-Surgeons:—

HOOPER, R. W., M.D.
JENKINS, Assistant-Surgeon W. H., 14th Foot.
JOHNSTON, J., M.D., from half-pay.

ROYAL NAVY.

CLAPP, William P., Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Tribune*.
GRAHAM, F. L., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Trafalgar*.
JACKSON, Gordon, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Cornwallis*.
LAWRENSON, George R., Esq., Acting Assist.-Surg., to the *Leopard*.
MINNIS, Belgrave, Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Victory*.

VOLUNTEERS. (A.V.—Artillery Volunteers; R.V.—Rifle Volunteers):—

MAY, J. H. S., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 2nd Devonshire R.V.
WOOD, W. P., Esq., to be Surgeon 24th Lancashire R.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

HOWARD, J. W., Esq., 11th Kent A.V.
PERKINS, J., Esq., 40th Kent R.V.
SEARLE, R. B., Esq., 11th Cornwall A.V.

DEATHS.

BARRETT. On October 21st, at Ewell, Surrey, Isabel, wife of Samuel Barrett, M.D.

*BRODIE, Sir B. C., Bart., D.C.L., F.R.S., at Broome Park, Betchworth, aged 79, on October 21.

BURN. On August 16th, at sea, aged 3 months, Edward G. W., only child of G. A. Burn, M.D., 2nd Cavalry Hyderabad Contingent.

BURT. On October 18th, at Edinburgh, Marion Louisa, wife of Benjamin Burt, M.D., Bengal Medical Service.

CARY. On September 2nd, at Sullupore, India, aged 29, Lieutenant Stanhope Cary, second son of W. H. Cary, Esq., Surgeon, of Woodford.

*DYSON, Thomas Wilson, Esq., at Manchester, on September 20.

HARRISON, James, M.D., of H.M. Bengal Medical Service, at Uxbridge, aged 42, on October 16.

LISTER, Nathaniel, M.D., at Somers Place, Hyde Park, aged 59, on October 16.

WATT. On October 20th, at Woodford, Essex, aged 61, Elizabeth, widow of the late James T. B. Watt, M.D., of Jamaica.
WILLIAMS, Heaton Lloyd, M.D., at Dhurrungam, on August 30th; and on the same day, at Julgaum, aged 18, Georgina Caroline, wife of H. L. Williams, M.D.

MIDLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY. The following officers have been appointed:—John B. Melson, M.A., M.D., president; Langston Parker, Esq., and James Russell, M.D., vice-presidents.

FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, GLASGOW. The following office-bearers have been appointed:—William Young, M.D., president; James Scanlan, M.D., vice-president; John McCarron, L.F.P.S., treasurer; R. Cowan, L.F.P.S., secretary.

COMPARATIVE PRODUCTION OF FRUITS. At the late great horticultural show at Namur, it was found that the Belgian gardeners produced the finest pears, the Germans the finest apples, and the French the finest grapes.

VACANCIES. The following appointments are vacant:—Surgeon to the Infant Orphan Asylum, Wanstead; assistant house surgeon and dispenser to the Royal Portsmouth, Portsea, and Gosport Hospital; Poor-law medical officer to the Dilwyn district of the Weobley union, Herefordshire; Poor-law medical officer to the Raglan district of the Monmouth union; house surgeon to the North Staffordshire Infirmary; house surgeon for the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital; apothecary at the Male Lock Hospital, Dean Street, Soho; and house surgeon, clerk, and apothecary at the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary.

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE MR. G. S. BRENT. Mr. George Smith Brent, deputy-coroner for Middlesex, died suddenly in July last, leaving his wife totally unprovided for. An earnest appeal is therefore made to the profession generally, on her behalf, trusting that the great respect shown to her late husband while alive, will be further evinced by supporting his widow in her endeavour to make a start in life. Properly authorised collectors will await upon the profession at large for their subscriptions in her behalf, or they may be sent to Dr. Alfred Deane, 13, Granville Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. The Regius Professor of Medicine has given notice,—1. That the first examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine will commence on the 17th of November, and that intending candidates should at once forward to him their names and addresses. 2. That any members of the University who are studying or who propose to study medicine should, for the purpose of registration, acquaint the Professor thereof, stating whether they are registered elsewhere, or whether they desire to be registered at Oxford. 3. That the next examination for the Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship will commence on January 26, 1863. N.B. Any further information, if required, may be obtained from the Professor, either by letter or personal application.

HEREFORDSHIRE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. At the annual meeting of the Association held at the Hereford General Infirmary, October 7th, 1862, Dr. Bleek Lye was appointed president, and Dr. Gilliland vice-president. The following resolutions were passed:—"In the opinion of this Association it is very undesirable to alter the present weights used in medicine, unless for the purpose of introducing a decimal system." "That this Association strongly disapprove of medical men publishing scales of charges, or otherwise advertising for practice, the more particularly so, when done for private motives under the guise of charity." Messrs. James and Boyce from Leominster, having laid before the meeting a statement regarding the conduct of the curate of that town in practising medicine to the injury of the public, it was proposed and seconded. "That the Committee collect information regarding the irregular proceedings of the Rev. Hugh

Reed at Leominster, and adopt such a course in reference thereto as may appear most desirable." Charles Griffiths, of Ross, at the invitation of the Committee, attended the meeting to explain his "outline of a plan for the suppression of empiricism."

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN. The lectures at the Royal Institution for the coming winter session have been arranged as follows:—Christmas Lectures, 1862: Professor Frankland, six lectures, "On Air and Water" (adapted to a juvenile auditory). Before Easter, 1863: Professor Marshall, twelve lectures, "On Physiology"; Professor Frankland, ten lectures, "On Chemistry"; W. Savory, Esq., four lectures, "On Life and Death"; Professor Max Müller, twelve lectures. After Easter: Professor Tyndall, seven lectures; D. T. Ansted, Esq., nine lectures, "On Geology"; Professor William Thomson, three lectures, "On Electric Telegraphy."

DURATION OF LIFE IN SWEDEN. From official details just published, it appears that the average duration of life in Sweden during the eighteenth century was thirty-four years for men and thirty-seven for women; it is now forty-one and forty-six respectively. This is not owing to any great tendency to longevity, but rather to a diminution of deaths in the earlier stages of life, since only three-twentieths of the number of infants born die in the first year of their existence. Among the causes which have tended to increase the average of life in Sweden vaccination holds the first rank. A hundred years ago one-seventh of the deaths were attributable to small-pox, while now there is scarcely one death in a thousand owing to that disease.

BEQUESTS. Joseph Almond Cropper, Esq., barrister-at-law, who died on the 27th September last, has left by his will the following legacies, clear of legacy duty, viz.:—£200 to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, £200 to the Midland Institution for the Blind, £200 to the Leicester Infirmary, £200 to the Stafford Infirmary, and £100 to each of twenty charitable institutions, among which are the Royal Free Hospital; St. Mark's Hospital; Hospital for Sick Children; University College Hospital; Hospital at Brompton for Consumption; St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, and City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest. The testator also devises houses and land, woods and woodland, in the parishes of Fawkham, near Dartford, Ash, Hartley, Horton Kirby, Milton next Gravesend, Plumstead, Meopham, and Luddesdown, in the county of Kent, to the governors of Westminster Hospital. He gives his manor of Asbourn, and houses and land in Caldon and Caudon, Staffordshire; Whitwick, Thringstone, Belton, Sheepshed, and Daddington, in Leicestershire, to St. George's Hospital. He gives his fee farm rents in the counties of Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex, and Chester; and his houses and land at Windsor, Wapping, Kingston-upon-Thames, East Greenwich, Croydon, and Fulwood House, and all the residue of his personal estate to the Middlesex Hospital. The rent of the property devised to the Westminster Hospital amounts to about £800 per annum; to St. George's Hospital, £700; and the Middlesex Hospital will receive in rents £600 per annum, and money to the amount of £4000. These hospitals are enabled by special acts of parliament to receive lands notwithstanding the Statute of Mortmain.

DEATH OF DR. HAMEL. Dr. Joseph Hamel, a distinguished foreigner, who resided many years in this country, and was well known in the scientific world. Dr. Hamel, "Conseiller d'Etat actuel de S. M. l'Empereur de Russie, Membre de l'Académie Impériale de St. Pétersbourg," died in London on the 22nd of September, after a few days illness. He was born in 1788, at Sarepta, on the Volga, in Russia. In 1807 he distinguished himself by the invention of an electrical machine, and in 1813, after having finished his studies, he was named by the

Emperor Alexander member of the "Académie de Médecine et de Chirurgie de St. Pétersbourg." He soon after visited England for the first time, and travelled all over the country, making himself well acquainted with it. He was appointed to accompany the Grand Duke (afterwards the Emperor Nicholas), during his visit to England in 1813, and in 1818 he fulfilled the same duties towards the younger brother, the Grand Duke Michael. In 1820 Dr. Hamel made a well-known ascent of Mont Blanc, when he lost several of his guides. In 1821 he returned to Russia, and was attached to the suite of the Governor-General of Moscow. He was elected in 1828, "Membre de l'Académie Impériale de Sciences de St. Pétersbourg." It was through his exertions that the first exhibition of industry took place at Moscow. He was afterwards employed in several other exhibitions in Russia, and, taking the liveliest interest in the progress of industry, he visited all the great exhibitions which have since taken place in France, England, and even the one at New York in 1854. Dr. Hamel published a history of the steam engine, a work written with the precision and care distinguishing all his scientific researches. He also published a history of the electric telegraph, which is very complete and full of interest in a scientific point of view. Having studied during his first visit to England the system of teaching originated by Lancaster, he published an account of it in Russia, and this was the cause of its introduction into that country. It is believed that Dr. Hamel, during his residence in this country, was employed by the Russian Government in furnishing them with information relative to the progress of science and the arts in England.

JAPANESE PLANTS. The *Bulletin de la Société d'Acclimatation*, published this month, contains the second part of a letter from M. Eugène Simon, writing from Japan, and the first part of which we noticed about a month ago. M. Simon, in this second part, recommends the cultivation of the hemp-palm (*Chamerops excelsa*), brought over into Europe about thirty years ago by Dr. Sieboldt, but hitherto confined to botanical gardens. This species of palm-tree would thrive very well in France, since it will bear a temperature of 10 degrees Fahrenheit. It requires no particular care; the stalk of each leaf is covered with filaments of various fineness; the coarsest are used for ropes, the finer sort for nets. Every second year the leaves are cut off close to the trunk, except a few which are left on the top; the filaments are separated and packed into bales of twenty-five kilogrammes each. The price of this commodity varies from 56f. to 70f. per hundred kilogrammes. Each tree will yield from four to five kilogrammes. Another plant mentioned by M. Simon is the *soja*, a kind of bean, used in Japan for a condiment, which is manufactured on a large scale at Nagasaki and other places, and is sold at the rate of about 17f. per jar, weighing 21½ kilogrammes. To prepare this condiment the beans are boiled, and then mixed with roasted barley. When the dough thus obtained has become perfectly uniform by stirring, it is put into moulds one inch and a half in height, and eighteen inches by eight at the base. The cakes so made are left to ferment for a week in a close room, when they acquire a uniform golden hue. They are then thrown into large vats, and lime water is added in the proportion of two kilogrammes for every kilogramme of cakes. After stirring a good deal, the vats are then left to themselves for at least a twelvemonth; the substance contained in them is then put into canvas bags, and subjected to the action of a press. A syrupy liquid oozes out, which is *soja* of the first quality; of the residue an inferior quality is made for the poor. It is used in almost every Japanese dish, is very savoury, and particularly well adapted to fish.

SCIENTIFIC JOTTINGS. M. Em. Mounier recommends the following method for dying wood of a rose colour by chemical precipitation:—A bath A is prepared with eighty grammes of iodide of potassium per litre of water;

bath B in another vessel with twenty-five grammes of bi-chloride of mercury. The wood to be dyed is first put into the bath A, where it is left for several hours; it is then dipped into the bath B, when it assumes a beautiful rose colour. The wood thus dyed is afterwards varnished; the baths will last a long while without any necessity for renewal. M. Payen recommends the following cure for diseased trees and shrubs:—As soon as it is perceived that the leaves are turning yellow the earth must be dug up all round the root within the space of a metre and a half from the stem, and the roots are then watered, twice on the first, and once on the following day, with a solution of five hundred and twenty-five grammes of sulphate of iron, five hundred of common salt, and five hundred and twenty-five of alum in forty litres of water. This treatment will instil fresh vigour into the sound roots, corrode the bad ones, and restore the health to those which were about to be attacked. The amalgam of sodium as an agent for reducing metals is beginning to attract attention. Mr. Ch. W. Vincent has obtained an amalgam of chromium by introducing that of sodium into a solution of chloride of chromium, and by subsequent distillation in a retort filled with naphtha vapour the chromium itself is obtained in a finely divided state. Mr. W. B. Giles also has decomposed a saturated solution of pure protochloride of manganese by the amalgam of sodium, whereby an amalgam of manganese was obtained. The mercury of the latter being driven off by the application of heat, there remains a brownish-black powder, which appears to be manganese.

THE SAGO PALM. In a paper read at the recent meeting of the British Association, Mr. A. R. Wallace, mentioned the sago palm, and the manufacture of the sago, which is the staff of life of the inhabitants of New Guinea and the adjacent islands. It was described as a truly extraordinary sight to behold a whole tree trunk converted into human food with as little labour as is required to convert corn into bread. A single good tree will produce six hundred pounds of sago cakes, and with an expense of ten days labour a man may produce food enough for a year's consumption. This was stated, however, to be a curse instead of a blessing to the inhabitants, who, by the great facility of obtaining food and clothing, are rendered lazy and improvident, and existed in the lowest state of degradation and misery. Men, therefore, required the stimulus of a cold climate and a fertile soil to rouse them to exertion, and it was thought that had the earth everywhere presented the same perennial verdure that exists in the equatorial regions, and everywhere produced spontaneously sufficient for the supply of man's physical wants, the human race might have still everywhere remained in that low state of civilisation in which we now find the inhabitants of the fertile islands of the Moluccas and New Guinea.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY..... Royal Free, 2 P.M.—Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's for Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum, 1.15 P.M.—Samaritan, 2.30 P.M.
TUESDAY..... Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.
WEDNESDAY..... St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.
THURSDAY..... St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—London, 1.30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopædic, 2 P.M.
FRIDAY..... Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.
SATURDAY..... St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY. Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Clinical Discussion. Mr. Ernest Hart: 1. "On a Recent Case of Popliteal Aneurism cured by Flexion, after failure of Pressure." 2. "On an Improved Tourniquet with Index, and a Case in which it was employed."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * * All letters and communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

JOURNAL WANTED.—The Publisher of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is in want of the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL for July 12th, 1856 (No. 184). Perhaps some gentleman who does not bind his volumes of the JOURNAL can forward his copy of that number.

MEDICAL WITNESSES IN COURTS OF LAW.—SIR: Two years ago, at the meeting at Torquay, when touching upon the subject of the discrepancy of medical witnesses, I ventured to suggest that Government should appoint three experts, whose duty it should be to decide upon the scientific bearing of any important medico-legal question. It is pleasant to me, and I hope not too egotistical, to point out that precisely the same solution of the difficulty has occurred to the Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; and, although the question was referred back to the Committee, yet the report from the *Times* may be of sufficient interest to induce you to reprint it.

I am, etc., C. RADCLYFFE HALL.

Torquay, October 16th, 1862.

[The report referred to by Dr. Hall will be found at p. 429 of last week's number.]

QUALIFIED OR UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANTS.—SIR: Permit me to make a few remarks on the above question; and to begin, in answer to the first letter which appeared on this subject. Your correspondent laments, and very properly so too, the unfavourable position of qualified assistants, and the miserable manner in which they are remunerated and treated by principals. He discountsenances unqualified assistants; and advises that men with some recognised diploma be employed. Now, may I ask, how are men to obtain *practical knowledge* without *practical instruction*; and is it not much better that young men be under the guidance of a qualified practical man?—one who can direct, and, if necessary, can control them, in the diagnosing of disease and the administration of remedies—rather than that men *theoretically* qualify themselves, and then be turned loose on the public to do as they like, under the countenance and support of the colleges at which they have graduated. Your other correspondent writes in a manner highly flattering (?) to young students. I hope he does not judge others by himself. I am willing, but sorry, to admit that some young gentlemen are anything but *gentlemanly* in their behaviour, but such are the exceptions; and the *pseudo* he mentions is an *exception among the exceptions*. It little becomes one man (and less so a *professional* man) to run down another; as the case he mentions, of course, reflects on the employer as much as on the assistant. But none, save those who have had pauper practice, can form any idea of the manner in which the poor would impose on the parish doctor; they make his surgery a house of call; some patients come complaining of aches and pains, and, no one can deny it, have some medicine, which, by the way, they never take; ask for a medical certificate for the guardians; and apply for pecuniary assistance. This is the great object of their consulting a doctor at all. Persons have applied to me for medicine; and, when I have called two or three days afterwards, have found the bottle unopened, untouched, and almost forgotten. The poor are subject to ills, even in a greater degree than the rich, and should be properly cared for. When the doctor comes, do they stop to inquire whether he is a M.R.C.S. or a L.S.A.? No! what do the poor know about diplomas or qualifications? Provided his medicines do them good, they are satisfied—at least, the poor in our district are; and that sometimes, too, with one who must sign himself,

Yours, etc., R. W. P.,

An Unqualified Assistant.

[We fear that the case of "unqualified assistants" is a very poor one, if nothing more than this can be said in its favour. EDITOR.]

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—SIR HENRY COOPER; MR. GASCOYEN; THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; DR. WIELIN; DR. C. RADCLYFFE HALL; DR. F. L. FOX; MR. PARKER; DR. STIFF; DR. HUGHES BENNETT; MR. RIGDEN; MR. EDWARD GARRAWAY; MR. HENRY LOWNDES; MR. E. MORRIS; MR. ROBERT HARDEY; MR. WILLIAM COPNEY; MR. WORDSWORTH; DR. G. E. DAVIS; DR. ROMAIN VIGOUROUX; DR. A. DEANE; DR. G. E. DAY; MR. G. DYSON; MR. PARKER; MR. JORDAN; MR. COOPER; DR. INMAN; and M. R.