

Association Intelligence.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

MEETINGS for the reading and discussion of papers on scientific subjects will be held as follows:—

On Thursday, the 18th December next, at Chester.

On Thursday, the 12th March next, at Manchester.

Gentlemen desirous of communicating papers or cases to either of the above meetings are requested to send notice to the Honorary Secretary.

A. T. H. WATERS, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

Liverpool, October 29th, 1862.

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH: GENERAL MEETING.

THE autumnal meeting of this Branch (now numbering ninety-four members) was held at the board-room of the Infirmary, Aylesbury, on Thursday, October 23rd, at 1 o'clock P.M.; ROBERT CEELY, Esq., President, in the Chair. There were also present eighteen members and visitors.

Dr. BRYAN (Honorary Secretary) having read the report of the last meeting, the President made a few remarks, in which he said the Branch had been established six years, for the purpose of professional advancement. Notes were read from members, expressing their regret at unavoidable absence.

New Members. The following members were duly nominated, and unanimously elected members of the Branch:—Frederick Duke, Esq. (Buckingham); Thos. Knight, Esq. (Brill, Bucks); A. G. Osborn, Esq. (Northampton); J. T. Savory, Esq. (Wendover); W. G. Walker, Esq. (Brill); T. A. Warren, Esq. (Prince's Risborough); Thomas Whately, Esq., Surgeon to the West Herts Infirmary.

Papers. The following papers were read.

1. Case of Sloughing of the entire Scrotum, and complete Exposure of the Testes and Spermatic Cords, followed by Restoration of the Integuments. By J. M. Bryan, M.D., Northampton. Remarks were made by Mr. Ceely, Mr. Frederick Duke (of Buckingham), Dr. McLosky, and Dr. Hooper of Hoddesdon. The latter gentleman stated that, in similar cases of sloughing, he gave extract of conium, gradually increasing the dose until a drachm was given twice a day. He considered it to have a good sedative effect. Mr. GOLDSMITH mentioned a case where all the scrotum, with the glans penis, were torn away by machinery, followed by complete restoration. The patient was at St. George's Hospital. Dr. McLosky mentioned a similar case happening at sea, when a man fell on an empty cask, with one leg in and one outside. He remained in his hammock three months, and did well. His principal treatment was leaving a catheter in the bladder to prevent infiltration of urine, and trusting to nature and time.

2. Case of Strangulated Crural Hernia, resulting in Artificial Anus, and subsequent Passage of Stools *per rectum*: with Cure. By Frederick Cox, Esq., Welford. In the absence of Mr. Cox, the paper was read by Mr. Goldsmith, one of the Secretaries. The patient was a woman in the sixth month of pregnancy, and the operation for strangulation was performed. An artificial anus took place, and things did well, and eventually returned to their normal condition. At delivery at her full time, an arm and shoulder presented; there was also retained placenta. The case terminated favourably. Mr. OSBORN mentioned a similar case, where an operation was performed, and the intestine returned. Artificial anus took place in three days;

feces passed for a fortnight; and then natural evacuations took place *per anum*, the artificial opening healing. Several cases were mentioned by Mr. Veasey, Dr. McLosky, and others, where patients refused to be operated upon, and they did well naturally, artificial anus occurring in some, and not in others.

3. Chronic Inflammation of the Os and Cervix Uteri. By G. P. Goldsmith, Esq., Bedford.

4. Variola Ovina, or Small-Pox in Sheep. By R. Ceely, Esq. The paper was illustrated by numerous coloured drawings. Mr. Ceely had had sheep on his premises for many weeks affected by the disease, either by inoculation or exposure, for the purpose of observing the disease in all its stages, and of experimenting with the virus on animals and on man. Many of the results of the experiments were detailed.

5. The Production of Instantaneous Expectoration by Stramonium Fumes. By Edward Lawford, M.D., Leighton Buzzard.

Medical Benevolent Association. Some remarks were made by several gentleman present as to the advantageousness of being received as members into the Benevolent Association for Widows and Orphans established in London and Birmingham.

The meeting terminated about 4 P.M., with a vote of thanks to the authors of the papers read, accompanied with the request that they would allow them to be published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

The members and visitors afterwards dined at the White Hart Hotel, Aylesbury.

The next annual meeting will be held at Peterborough, in May or June 1863; Dr. Paley being President-elect.

Reports of Societies.

LIVERPOOL MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THURSDAY, OCT. 16, 1862.

JAMES HAKES, Esq., in the Chair.

Scarlatina in Liverpool. Mr. BAILEY drew attention to the great prevalence of scarlatina at the present time. It was an epidemic of a very intense and virulent nature; many of the cases proving fatal within thirty-six hours after seizure, convulsions often preceding death. His idea of the treatment necessary was to combat the tendency to death by means of stimulants, such as carbonate of ammonia, wine, and brandy.

Dr. VOSE said it was no exceptional thing for scarlatina to prevail in a form to be almost suddenly fatal. The same thing sometimes occurred with cholera; the same with typhus, which was sometimes fatal in a few hours. Without question, the result was due in part to idiosyncrasy, in part to the intensity of the poison. As to the therapeutics, stimulants freely given, and the admission of plenty of fresh air, were essential.

Dr. SHEARER stated that this disease was committing great ravages in the Toxteth Park District.

Chronic Peritonitis. Dr. CAMERON read a case, in which a cancerous growth in its hard, non-ulcerated stage, was found along the outer border of the stomach, and another, of about the size of a filbert, at the pyloric end. The spleen was remarkably small. In each ovary was a scirrhous tumour completely supplanting the original tissue, and causing those organs to be about twice their natural size. The intestines were matted together with adhesions caused by chronic peritonitis. The whole canal was reduced to between three and four feet in length, and presented numerous constrictions alternating with large pouch-like sacs, consisting of portions of bowel doubled upon itself.

Dr. NOTTINGHAM remarked, that in this case the left

Correspondence.

THE PHARMACOPŒIA AND THE METRICAL SYSTEM.

LETTER FROM E. A. PARKES, M.D.

SIR,—I was very glad to read Dr. Stiff's able paper on the Metrical System of Weights and Measures in the last number of the JOURNAL. There is one point, however, of such great importance to us that it is deserving of more attention than it has received.

The English weights and measures must now be considered obsolete in all chemical works. In all the best books which have been lately published, and in some of the largest medical schools, the French weights are alone used. A man who knows nothing but ounces and grains would be puzzled to read Fresenius or Odling, or to listen to Hoffman or Williamson. If we go to the Chemical Society, we never hear the words grains and ounces. And this is not only the case in England; it is so in Germany, Italy, Belgium, Spain, America, and Russia, in part, and I am told, Portugal.

The metrical system is not merely the common language of chemists; it is rapidly coming into use among physiologists of all countries.

Here is a practical result. If medical men do not understand the metrical system (which happily can be learnt in ten minutes), they will soon not be able to read works on chemistry and physiology. Independent of all theoretical considerations, the French weights and measures have taken such root in sciences which we cannot neglect, that we must learn them. And it is certain that all future medical students will learn them, and will hear, during their pupilage, a great deal more about *grammes* and cubic *centimètres*, than about drachms and ounces.

But more than this, it is equally certain that the chemists and druggists (who are yearly becoming better chemists) will in ten years be more familiar with the *gramme* than the grain. The same causes which have made the French weights universally used in chemistry, will bring about the same result in pharmacy.

We must propose then this question. In the face of an accomplished fact, are we to cling to a system rapidly becoming obsolete, and to place ourselves in a state of scientific isolation in this matter? We cannot now debate the principles of the metrical system; good or bad, it has already been introduced in such a way that we must adopt it.

That this beautiful method will in ten years be as familiar to us as it is to chemists, I am confident. The sooner we use it the better; and if the *Pharmacopœia* Committee will introduce it by the side of the English system, leaving it permissive for a prescriber or chemist to use which plan he prefers, the value of the *Pharmacopœia* will be greatly increased, and a large public question will be much advanced. This is, in fact, just one of the cases contemplated by the Committee of the House of Commons, when they recommended that the metrical system should be legalised and introduced at pleasure.

To the obvious objection that it is inadvisable to have two sets of weights in the same shop, it may be replied that accurate stamping and a different colour will prevent all mistakes.

I trust, sir, you will give your powerful support to Dr. Stiff's proposal, and will urge this matter with your accustomed force on the notice of the Association.

I am, etc.,

E. A. PARKES.

November 1862.

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On October 30th, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Irvine, William Johnstone, Galgate, Lancaster
Jones, William Thomas, Kentish Town
Moore, Edward Howard, Newmarket Terrace, Hackney
Nichols, Robert Thomas, Rotherhithe
Russell, William Smyth, West Indies

At the same Court, the following passed the first examination:—

Atkinson, Charles T. A., University College
Court, Josiah, Sydenham College, Birmingham
Elkington, George, Guy's Hospital
Taylor, Hugh, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

APPOINTMENTS.

Brooks, James S., M.D., appointed Resident Physician and Superintendent of the Surrey County Lunatic Asylum.

EVANS, Caleb, Esq., elected Surgeon to the Birkenhead Borough Hospital.

*HILL, Alfred, M.D., appointed Surgeon to the Birmingham Borough Gaol, in the room of *J. V. Solomon, Esq.

McGILLIVRAY, Paul H., Esq., appointed Resident Surgeon to the Bendigo Hospital, Sandhurst, Victoria.

MIALI, P. E., Esq., appointed Surgeon to the Infirmary, Bradford.

RODGERS, J. E. D., Esq., appointed Lecturer on Toxicology at the London Hospital, in the room of H. Letheby, M.D.

*TERRY, Henry, jun., Esq., appointed Surgeon to the Borough Gaol and Police, Northampton, in the room of the late C. Dodd, Esq.

WRIGHT, George E., M.D., appointed House-Surgeon to the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary.

ROYAL NAVY.

MOORE, John S., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon (confirmed), to the *Brisk*.
ROE, Thomas A., M.D., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Trafalgar*.

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

SIDLEY, C. M., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon Prince Albert's Own Leicestershire Regiment of Volunteer Cavalry.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon:—

SOMERVILLE, H., Esq., 14th Staffordshire R.V.

DEATHS.

BRUORTON, William, Esq., Surgeon, at Wincanton, aged 61, on October 30.

ROE. At Ellesmere, Salop, on October 24th, aged 26, Margaret Elizabeth, wife of *J. W. Roe, M.D.

WOOD, Robert Henton, Esq., Surgeon, late of St. Martin's, Leicester, aged 29, on October 30th.

GIFT TO THE HALIFAX INFIRMARY. Dr. Kenny has presented to the Halifax Infirmary, for the use of the medical staff, a valuable collection of books.

NATIVE INDIAN MEDICAL OFFICERS. Representations are being made to head quarters concerning the claims of the duly educated Indian medical practitioners, to be admitted into the service of the Government.

THE HERBERT GENERAL MILITARY HOSPITAL, building on Kidbrook Common, was commenced twelve months since, and is now ready for roofing in. The building stands upon seven acres of land, and is to cost £180,000.

DINNER TO DR. GAIRDNER. On the 21st ult., a dinner was given to Dr. W. T. Gairdner, on occasion of his leaving Edinburgh to fill the Chair of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Glasgow.

MEDICAL STUDENTS OF THE PRESENT SEASON. The number of students registered as prosecuting their studies at the metropolitan schools is about 1,045. And in 1861 it was 1,124; and in 1860 the total number amounted to 1,228.

VACANCIES. The following appointments are vacant:—Resident Surgeon to the Birmingham Lying-in Hospital and Dispensary for Diseases of Women and Children; Medical Officer for the Willesden District of the Hendon Union, Middlesex; Medical Officer for the Second District of the Shepton Mallet Union, Somersetshire.

ELECTION OF RECTOR OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY. As some opposition is being made to the return of Mr. Gladstone, a committee has been appointed to take the necessary steps to endeavour to secure the reelection of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as rector.

AMERICAN ARMY. "We regret to notice," says the *American Medical Times*, "the retirement of some of the older and most respectable members of the Medical Staff of the volunteer corps of the army. The army cannot well spare the services of such men at this time."

DUBLIN MEDICAL SCHOOLS. The winter session at the Meath Hospital and County Dublin Infirmary, was opened with an introductory lecture by Dr. Stokes, on Tuesday. His Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant honoured the occasion with his presence, and there was a crowded attendance of other visitors and students.

A FEATHERED REPTILE. Professor Owen has communicated a paper to the Royal Society on a subject which has of late excited some interest among paleontologists—namely, the newly discovered fossil reptile with feathers. The strange specimen here referred to was found in the lithographic slate of Solenhofen.

DR. SHORTT AND THE COTTON SUPPLY. Dr. John Shortt, of Chingleput, in the Madras Presidency, who has distinguished himself by his exertions to secure a supply of cotton from the East Indies, has received a gold medal from the Manchester Cotton Supply Association. He has also received a medal from the International Exhibition, as well as honourable mention for tree cotton and medicinal drugs.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON. The first meeting of the council for the session 1862-63 was held on Saturday last. On the report of the examiners, Professors Sharpey, Erichsen, and Wilson Fox, the Filliter Exhibition for proficiency in pathological anatomy (£30) was awarded to Mr. Thomas Griffiths, of Dryslwyn fawr, Carmarthenshire.

A NEW DROP-COUNTING APPARATUS, invented by M. Salleron, has been described in the *Repertoire de Chimie*. It is composed of a small flask with a side tube, from which the liquor is poured, the diameter of which is determined by experiment with a drop of distilled water. The number of drops of distilled water for a *gramme* being 20; the number for the same weight of nitric acid will be 27; of sulphuric ether, 90; of laudanum, 34; of chloroform, 60; of tincture of rhubarb, 54, etc.

THE LATE SIR BENJAMIN BRODIE. On the retirement of this distinguished surgeon from the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, a commission was given to Mr. Weekes, R.A., to execute a bust for the Council chamber. The serious indisposition of Sir Benjamin, however, prevented the eminent sculptor from commencing his task, but immediately after the decease, a capital cast was taken, from which we may expect to see a bust equal to those which already ornament the College, from the studio of Mr. Weekes.

MISS NIGHTINGALE. We regret to learn that there is only the very slightest foundation for the report of Miss Nightingale's restoration to health. She is able to remove from one place of residence to another—a very few miles—once a year, but she is scarcely able to leave her bed in the intervals, and quite unable to struggle with the flood of correspondence and applications of all kinds which the report of her partial recovery has brought upon her.

DEATH OF DR. WILLIAM CHALMERS. Dr. Chalmers was born at Aberdeen in 1786. Educated for the medical profession, he went to India in 1805, and served as surgeon in the Hon. Company's service. He retired in 1827 with an ample competence, but from the failure of his bankers and agents at Calcutta, he was compelled to resume his professional duties, and became physician to the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, after which he went to

Croydon, in Surrey, where he practised twenty-two years, and was physician to both Archbishops of Canterbury until his final retirement in 1852. He died at Brighton.

ACCIDENTAL POISONING. Last week, soon after dinner, the family and servants of Mr. Falconer, Bogindollo, to the number of thirteen, were seized with most violent sickness, which, in the opinion of Dr. Forman, Fettercairn, who was in immediate attendance, was caused by poison having found its way into the food of which they had partaken. One of the female servants lies in an almost helpless state of inflammation and paralysis. The others have recovered. Mr. Falconer has placed the case in the hands of the fiscal. No blame can be attached to the servant who cooked the food, she having suffered severely herself. It is believed that the unfortunate occurrence has resulted from a merchant's assistant having sold poison of a virulent character by mistake for a kind of seasoning to which it bears a strong resemblance. (*Dundee Advertiser.*)

AN USEFUL HINT. In the introductory lecture at the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, Dr. Jacob told the students that they should be very careful about their penmanship. He had read a letter lately written by Lord Palmerston, recommending to all candidates for public offices the necessity of writing legibly, and this applied to all men looking for public employment, or going into the army or navy. All these were expected to write legibly. Composition in connection with penmanship could not be too highly valued, and it was of the utmost importance that the student should be able not only to write neatly, but to commit his thoughts to paper in proper language.

ARMY CHIROPODISTS. The Federal Government, with plenty of paper dollars to buy shoes, has a watchful eye over its soldiers. It is not so cruel as to deprive them of shoes altogether; it will not interfere with the contract articles duly provided at a high but accepted price; and it cannot force shoemakers to construct shoes upon the principles of common sense and regard to the delicate anatomy of the foot; but it can provide the army with an authorised and qualified corps of "pedicures" and chiropodists. This has lately been done by express command of the President. To each division of the army is to be attached a corn doctor and assistants, who will do their part to keep the feet of the men in order, either to overrun the South or run away from it, as strategy may compel.

LINT. At a special meeting of the Providence Medical Association, held on the 18th of September, 1862, the subject of Lint and its uses was discussed. It was voted, after general consultation, that Drs. Mauran and U. Parsons be a committee to express to the public the views of the Association on the subject. In accordance with this vote, the committee would state, that they fully indorse the very sensible views of their medical brethren of Boston, published in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* of September 11, a summary of which was republished on the 13th inst., in the *Providence Journal*; that the use of scraped or drawn lint is rarely deemed necessary in modern surgery, and that its use in hospital practice has indeed been injurious rather than beneficial to the patient, especially as an application to suppurating wounds. On the field of battle, however, its use is common; and for that purpose they would now present an admirable substitute, abundant, cheap, and of easy manufacture, viz., the recently invented steam-rotted and bleached *flax-cotton*. Information in regard to this article may be obtained by addressing the Secretary of the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry.

MANCHESTER MEDICO-ETHICAL ASSOCIATION. The following memorial was presented to the Manchester City Council by Mr. Councillor Horsfall, on Wednesday,

October 20th, 1862:—"To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of Manchester, in Council assembled. Your memorialists, on behalf of the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association, beg to express their satisfaction that the Council is inquiring into the efficiency of the Coroner's Court, and its capability of fulfilling the ends for which it was instituted. The objections to the Coroner's Court, as at present constituted, are numerous and important—not merely local, but general and inherent. Your memorialists submit that the mode of appointment of the coroner—his qualifications for the office—the extent of his powers—the routine and imperfect system of investigation—and the class of persons from which coroner's juries are usually selected—are some of the more prominent defects which demand the serious attention of the Council. Your memorialists, whilst expressing their concurrence generally with the substance of Professor Taylor's letter, and without committing themselves to the scheme there embodied in its totality, regard it as a basis for entirely remodelling the ancient institution, and adapting it to the requirements of a more advanced age, which, in their opinion, is urgently called for. Your memorialists, feeling the importance of the subject, propose to take an early opportunity of petitioning Parliament (where only reform can be obtained); and, in conclusion, they respectfully suggest to the Council the value of the cooperation of all public authorities. Signed, on behalf of the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association, J. L. Bardsley, *Knt., President*; Daniel Noble, Richard Allen, *Vice-Presidents*; Louis Borchardt, *Treasurer*; Joseph Stone, Jonathan Wilson, *Hon. Secretaries*. Manchester, Oct. 27, 1862."

DISEASES OF THE HEART IN AUSTRALIA. Inflammation of the pericardium is more common in the colony than in England, and the deaths are more numerous. Thus about 1 out of every 359 deaths which ensued in Melbourne during twelve months was from this disease; while in London it amounted to only 1 out of every 532 of the deaths, and in England to only 1 out of every 889. Aneurism, again, is both more frequent and more fatal in the colony than in England. The deaths in Melbourne in twelve months from this disease were 26 out of 3,593 deaths from all causes—about 1 in 138; while in London the number was only 68 out of 59,103 of the deaths from all causes—about 1 in 869; while in England the deaths were 321 out of 419,865 of the deaths from all causes—about 1 in 1,349. (*Medical Record*.)

CENSUS OF ENGLAND. The first volume of the census for England, which has just been issued, shows the numbers and distribution of the people in the several parishes and places. An abstract of the returns was published last year; a careful revision of them shows that on the 8th of April, 1861, the population of England and Wales, with the Isle of Man and Channel Islands, including the army at home and the navy and seamen in the ports, rivers, and creeks—that is to say, all the persons in the kingdom—amounted in number to 20,209,871. The returns for Scotland having also been revised, the population of Great Britain on that day is found to have been 23,271,965; and the returns for Ireland, when the revision of these also is completed, will bring the population of the United Kingdom to above 29,000,000. The increase in England and Wales alone since the census of 1851 has been 2,138,615, notwithstanding that in the interval 2,250,000 persons emigrated from the United Kingdom, of whom it is calculated that 640,316 were English. Since the census of 1851 the male population of England and Wales has increased 11·33 per cent., the female population 12·50 per cent. The excess of females over males, 365,159 in 1851, had grown to 513,706 in 1861; and these figures do not include the army, navy, and seamen out of the kingdom. In Scotland the disproportion is still greater; in Great Britain, with the islands in the British seas, the excess of females over males in 1861 was

687,471, to which the Irish returns, according to the unrevised abstract, have above 150,000 to add. On the census night 62,430 persons were on board vessels in the harbours, rivers, and creeks of England and Wales, without reckoning persons in barges on canals; in the metropolitan district 8,084 persons were on board vessels in the docks and in the Thames. In England and Wales 124,962 persons were in workhouses, and workhouse schools, 13,456 in hospitals, 24,207 in lunatic asylums, 26,395 in prisons and reformatories, 23,598 in orphan asylums and other principal charitable institutions, without reckoning in any instance the official staff in charge of these institutions; 80,839 persons military, and families of military, were in barracks. The population of the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, which had previously been increasing, has, in the ten years under review, hardly maintained its number, except by an increase of the military force. In a few months the publication of the census of England will be completed by the issue of tables of the ages, occupations, birth places, etc., of the people, with a report on the general results.

THE CONGRESS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY. At the meeting of this congress at Brussels in the early part of October, Dr. Knapp, of Heidelberg, gave the researches by which he was able to determine the differences of refraction and the meridians of the globe of the eye. Having measured in many living individuals the curved rays of the cornea in the different meridians, M. Knapp was able to construct, by means of accurate figures, the left surface shown and defined by Hume, thus giving a physiological and geometrical basis to the analysis of a disease recently discovered by Donders—namely, astigmatism. M. Herring read a paper containing new facts, which have been used by Professor Ruete to present, under a novel point of view, the doctrine of horoptics. M. Coccia showed a new ophthalmoscope, by means of which anyone can examine the deep structures of his own eye. Professor Arlt exhibited preparations of the orbicular muscle and the lacrymal canal, showing that a tendinous raphe exists, uniting the two superior and inferior portions of the orbicularis. M. Schweiger, of Berlin, pointed out the phenomena of choroiditis; and M. Liebreich exhibited plates representing alterations of the retina and choroid as seen with the ophthalmoscope. M. Hasner showed the practical results of corelisis, or the tearing of posterior synechiae. M. Hairion and M. Furnari referred to the inoculation of gonorrhoeal pus and the shaving of the cornea in granular ophthalmia, and gave an account of the results obtained from the use of these methods. M. von Gräfe gave his ideas respecting a new affection, to which he gave the name of muscular asthenopia, the consequence of defective action of the external rectus. In his communication the history of muscular paralysis and of strabismus was elucidated, and the near relation between visual defects and a disturbance in the general muscular system was pointed out. M. Donders gave the etiological history of the different kinds of strabismus; and showed, by statistics, the influence of the optical state of the eye, and the geometrical condition of its refraction on the production of strabismus. M. Giraud Teulon and M. Donders exhibited scales of printed types contrived separately at Paris and Utrecht, and, by a strange coincidence, almost similar. Both symptoms were based upon the idea emitted by M. Jäger of Vienna. Thereby can be fixed the limits of the antero-posterior plane of vision, and the numbers of the glasses required, by the state of the power of accommodation; as also the degrees of sensibility of the retina. M. von Gräfe spoke of his experiments on the antagonism of opium and belladonna. As is well known, belladonna, and the Solanaceae in general, dilate the pupil, whilst opium contracts it. M. von Gräfe has ascertained that the ciliary apparatus, on which belladonna also has a paralysing action, contracts under morphia.

A DIFFICULT QUESTION. The question as to the propriety or impropriety, right or no right, of women to avail themselves of the advantages of an university education has been just raised in a somewhat unexpected form at St. Andrews. A young English lady, Miss Elizabeth Garrett, the daughter of a gentleman of independent fortune, who has educated herself highly in classics, and in some of the physical sciences, with a view to the study of medicine, visited St. Andrews during the summer, and intimated her desire to become a student in several of the classes during the winter. She received decided encouragement from some of the professors; and others were understood to say that they would offer no opposition to her becoming a student. They were all very gallant except, we believe, Professor Ferrier, whose strong conservative tendencies led him to oppose, and to intimate his opposition with that candour which extorts the respect due to a trusty opponent as to a trusty friend. Relying on the encouragement which she had received, this lady arrived at St. Andrews a few days ago, and on Wednesday last applied to the Rev. Mr. MacBean, Secretary of the University, for a matriculation ticket, paid the usual fee, received the ticket, and signed her name in the matriculation-book. Next day, she presented her ticket to Dr. Heddle, the Professor of Chemistry, and asked leave to attend his lectures. He stated that he had no personal objection, and gave her a letter to Mr. Ireland, the Secretary of the United College, authorising him to give her a ticket for the chemistry class. On presenting this letter, and paying the class fee, she, according to the usual course, obtained the ticket. In the same way, she obtained a ticket for Dr. Day's class of anatomy and physiology, he having no objections to her being a member of it; but, on the contrary, giving her a cordial welcome. All this was very well, and just what might have been expected from the distinguished and accomplished professors of this ancient and celebrated university. But, unluckily, they seem somehow to have become alarmed at the idea of being the first to take the lead, or rather to permit of its being taken, in regard to this so-called "innovation" of educating women in a College, and in those branches of education that have been generally confined to men, or, at least, not sought after by women. Accordingly, on Saturday, the Senatus met and passed a resolution to the effect that the issuing of the matriculation ticket and the class ticket to Miss Garrett was not sufficiently authorised; that this novel question raised ought to be deliberately considered and decided; that the opinion of other universities and of lawyers should be taken if thought expedient; and that, in the meantime, professors should be enjoined to defer allowing the attendance of this lady on the classes of the university. No one can fail to sympathise with the difficulty of the St. Andrews' Senatus. We feel assured that it appears to them a very serious one; or gentlemen so enlightened and so much before the age in point of liberality as the majority of its members are, would not have hesitated to make up their minds at once and settle this question one way or other upon grounds of reason and common sense. We feel sure that on these grounds the great majority of the professors think as we think, that it is not wrong, but right, to educate women in the highest pitch possible, and that female doctors of medicine would be a great boon to society, and an inestimable safeguard to the feelings of delicacy of their own sex. However, there is still left the practical difficulty of mixed classes of young men and young women—especially in medical classes—and we can see that this difficulty may attain very formidable proportions, though not at St. Andrews, which, in this sense, would be a very favourable field for the experiment. The classes there are all comparatively small; in anatomy averaging about a dozen, and in chemistry about twice that number; so that every student is under the professor's eye, and no

indecorum can go unnoticed, as might be the case in very large classes. Besides the practical, there are knotty legal points in the matter. For example, it may be doubted whether any Senatus can exclude ladies from those universities that are established by law and supported by public money. Where do they find the right to do it? Girls are not yet prohibited from attending parish schools—they are rather encouraged to attend—and what difference is there, unless arising from custom, between parish schools and universities? We are not aware of any difference in law. (*Scotsman*.)

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.—Lock, Clinical Demonstration and Operations, 1 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. Mr. Henry Smith, "The Treatment of Certain Forms of Hemorrhoidal Tumour and Prolapsus; with the Description of a New Clamp."
TUESDAY. Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Mr. W. W. Smith (Southampton), "Case of Elephantiasis Scroti"; Mr. Wm. Smith (Chesterfield), "Case of Poisoning by Oil of Wormwood"; Dr. Robert Lee, "Cases of Ovariectomy."

POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—NOVEMBER 1, 1862.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Boys..	Girls..	Births.	Deaths.
During week.....	920	963	1883	1184
Average of corresponding weeks 1852-61			1856	1215
Barometer:				
Highest (Wed.) 29.789; lowest (Fri.) 29.596; mean, 29.682.				
Thermometer:				
Highest in sun—extremes (Sun.) 89 degs.; (Fri.) 55.8 degs.				
In shade—highest (Sun.) 58 degs.; lowest (Th.) 28.5 degs.				
Mean—46.8 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs. 0.0 deg.				
Range—during week, 29.5 degrees; mean daily, 13.3 degrees.				
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 94.				
Mean direction of wind, S.W. & S.E.—Rain in inches, 0.54.				

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.

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

ERRATUM.—In the list of graduates of the University of St. Andrews, published in the JOURNAL of October 25th, the letters "F.R.S.E." were, by an accidental error, placed instead of F.R.C.S.E., after the name of Dr. Joseph Lancaster, of Clifton.

DR. FOWLER'S MEDICAL VOCABULARY.—Dr. Fowler, "in strict justice to himself," asks us to state that he is "prepared at any time to prove by documentary or other evidence before a Court Medical (or on oath, if preferred, before a Court Legal), every statement written by him on the above subject. I have never," he adds, "been in, or near to, Leeds in my life; and have never, to my knowledge, cast eyes upon Dr. Mayne."

JOURNALS WANTED.—The Publisher of the **BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL** is in want of the numbers for August 15th, 1857, and June 5th, 1858. Perhaps some member who does not bind his volumes will kindly forward his copy of those numbers.

C. K.—A writer in the *Saturday Review*, who exults in not knowing anything about physic, has another fling at the profession. He has a leaning towards the "coarse specifics of Morison and Holloway"; and argues, because we have now more modified views of bleeding, calomel, stimulants, open windows, etc., there can be little certainty at all in medicine as an art. And he is wonderfully dogmatic, as all such exulting "know-nothings" usually are, that the *vis medicatrix nature* is the foundation of all therapeutics, and after that reflex action is the great dominating law of all vital actions. He compares the statistics of hospitals, but thinks physiology a stand-still science. He should try his hand at the "harmony not understood" of Ricord.

MR. PARKER has forwarded us the following:—£100 reward to any person or persons who will refute, in writing, the principles of the new physiological views that are comprehended in avocations of common life, in a treatise, by W. Parker, M.R.C.S., L.A.C., with a frontispiece of the Bath Mineral Hot Water Fountain, and an appendix on the Bath Mineral Waters. The above sum will be given by the author, after the decision of a fair and open tribunal, selected from men of renown. Sold by Peach, Bath; and all booksellers. Bath, 1857. Price one shilling.

MEDICAL WITNESSES IN COURTS OF LAW.—**SIR:** I see in your issue of to-day, a note from my friend Dr. Hall of Torquay, in which he asserts, that "two years ago, when touching upon 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." If he will take the trouble to read Nos. 207 and 208 of our *JOURNAL* (December 1856), he will perceive that so long as six "years ago, precisely the same solution of the difficulty which 'has' just now occurred to the Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science," was suggested by myself. The paper referred to concludes with these words:—

"I would submit to you—if it would not be desirable, for the sake of science, and not less for the honour of our profession, that in all cases, of whatever kind, involving in any degree a knowledge of the principles and practice of medicine and its collateral branches, a plain statement of all the facts should be drawn up, and submitted to a MEDICAL ARBITRATION. Reverting for one moment to the case of Mrs. Catherine Cumming, and to that of Mr. J. Parsons Cook, do you not feel with me that, had the physicians and surgeons engaged on either trial constituted what may be called a medical committee (jury), then would the whole matter have been greatly simplified, the cause of justice very materially promoted, and science itself maintained in all its integrity, uncontaminated by the technicalities of law, or degraded by the sophistries lawyers? Under such circumstances, would not law be made subservient to medicine, or, what is the same thing, mere precedent to scientific truth—the mere words of man to the glorious works of his Creator? In a word, would not mere art be made to fall prostrate before the natural or organic laws? The fact that the reverse of all this obtains to this hour is in every way sufficient to assure us that there is yet scope and opportunity for the medical reformer—for him who would venture on the responsible task of ameliorating the position of our own most honourable calling."

I am, etc., JAMES G. DAVEY.

Northwoods, Bristol, October 25th, 1862.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—**Dr. JAMES RUSSELL**; **Dr. J. W. ROE**; **Mr. C. W. WOOD**; **Mr. ANTHONY MARTIN**; **Dr. PARKES**; **Dr. SKINNER**; **Dr. STONE**; **Dr. JOSEPH LANCASTER**; **Mr. J. K. SPENDER**; **Mr. WILSON**; **Dr. HANDFIELD JONES**; **Dr. FOWLER**; **Mr. H. TERRY, jun.**; **THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY**; **Mr. HAYNES WALTON**; **Dr. E. COPEMAN**; **THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON**; **Mr. WILLIAM CONEY**; **Mr. F. JORDAN**; and **Mr. T. M. STONE**.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Contributions to Practical Medicine. By James Begbie, M.D., F.R.S.E. Edinburgh: 1862.
- Analysis of Two Hundred and Twenty Cases of Pulmonary Consumption. By William R. Hill, M.D. London: 1862.
- On Diseases of the Chest, including Diseases of the Heart and Great Vessels. By Henry William Fuller, M.D. London: 1862.
- On Diseases of the Skin. By Erasmus Wilson, F.R.S. Fifth edition. London: 1862.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Hospital for Sick Children, 49,

GREAT ORMOND STREET, QUEEN SQUARE.—A Series of LECTURES on the DISEASES of CHILDREN will be given by the Medical Officers of the Hospital, on Wednesdays, at Three o'Clock.

The FIRST LECTURE will be given by Dr. WEST, on Wednesday next, the 12th instant, at Three o'Clock precisely.

The Lectures are free to Practitioners on presenting their cards; and to Students of Medicine after their first year, by tickets to be obtained of the Secretary at the Hospital.

November 1862.

S. WHITFORD, Secretary.

The London Medical Review

(enlarged eight pages) for November,
CONTAINS:—

ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

- "An Essay Towards a New Law of Healing."—Part II.
- Dr. Inman, "Essays on Therapeutics."
- Mr. Ballard, "On the Convulsive Diseases of Infants."
- Dr. Roger, "Clinical Researches on Auscultation of the Head." (Translated by Alfred Meadows, M.D.)

ANALYTICAL AND CRITICAL REVIEWS.

- "Medical Climatology," by R. E. Scoresby-Jackson, M.D.
- "On Long, Short, and Weak Sight, and their Treatment, by the Scientific Use of Spectacles." By Soelberg Wells, M.R.C.S., M.D. Edin.
- Homoeopathy, as practised in Manchester in Harmony with its alleged Principles, by J. Drummond, L.R.C.P.E., M.R.C.S.
- Short Notes on Books Recently Published.
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THERAPEUTICAL INQUIRY. No. 2.

NON-SYPHILITIC PSORIASIS.

This Sheet to be detached from the JOURNAL, and with the Cases recorded on it, to be sent to DR. HANDFIELD JONES, 49, GREEN STREET, PARK LANE, LONDON, W., before the 1st of January, 1865.

Remedies recommended for investigation.—Liquor Potassæ Arsenitis: Donovan's Solution: Decoction of Dulcamara: Sulphur Fume-Bath: Pitch Ointment and Napthaline Ointment: Wet Sheet:
Liquor Potassæ: Infusion of Galium Aparine.

NO.	INITIALS.	AGE.	SEX.	CONSTITUTION.	Previous Duration of Disease and of Relapse.	CAUSES.	Attendant Symptoms, State of Urine, etc.	Treatment, and how long continued.	RESULT.	REMARKS. CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.

Directions for filling up this Schedule will be found in the Number of the "British Medical Journal" for November 8, 1862.

Signed _____
Address _____

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