

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

The *conversazione* with which the session opened on Wednesday night at University College was no exception to the rule that the entertainments given by that institution are among the most enjoyable of their kind in London. This idea of bringing together at the commencement of a new year of professional work all the human elements of which a great educational establishment is made up appears to be a very happy one. Such a gathering, for pleasant social intercourse between the teachers, the students of different years, and their friends, is likely to promote much good in many ways besides merely fostering, as it undoubtedly does, that sympathy in hard work for a common aim which is one of the strongest of all motive powers. To the student newly joining, it may be of almost incalculable value as making him feel from the first that he is in the midst of, and belongs henceforth to, a body of intelligent men of about his own age, amongst whom he is sure to find congenial society, and that he is not cast adrift at the outset to fight the difficulties of London student life quite alone. And when he meets with his teachers unofficially in the same social gathering, ready to converse with him on any subject that may interest him, or to help him, if need be, with the usual hints necessary for beginners, the feeling of being *at home* in his school is soon experienced, and in the most wholesome way. This feeling was very strongly promoted, too, by the character of the address delivered earlier in the day by Professor Thane. In introducing his audience to the history of the medical school to which they belonged from its foundation fifty years or so ago, he naturally aroused their interest in the fullest manner. But when he reminded them that, if the school had had a very brilliant past and an immense influence for good on medical education generally throughout the country, it now rested with them to secure that its lustre should be still farther increased, he touched a spring calculated to awake the loftiest kind of *esprit de corps*. The newcomers were stimulated further to put forth their best powers by being reminded that they were afforded far greater facilities for mastering their work than the students of a few years or even of a few sessions ago. An improved and enlarged dissecting-room, an enlarged zootomical museum, new and greatly extended physical and physiological laboratories—which, as the speaker pointedly remarked, were being dealt with in such a liberal spirit as to satisfy probably *even* the professors of those subjects themselves; these increased and increasing advantages, with those derived from an hospital enlarged from 160 to 200 beds, it was hoped would call forth on the part of those now commencing life at University College an equivalent of zeal and energy which should make the future of the institution worthy of or greater even than its past.

We have heard that, in addition to the above improvements mentioned by the lecturer, in some matters simply bearing on the student's comfort much advance has taken place. Thus the luncheon-rooms connected with the college have been placed under the management of one of the best *restaurateurs* in London, thus ensuring proper attention to a very important matter. This arrangement has already given every satisfaction.

WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

Dr. Dupré's introductory address was considered to be one of the best that has ever been given at the hospital, and it will, we hear, be published *in extenso*. The lecturer treated principally the question of classical *versus* technical education, and maintained the superiority of the former. The Rev. Canon Duckworth then distributed the prizes, and made a forcible address to the students, which we publish in full at page 556. It condemned, we are pleased to observe, the anti-vivisection movement. The dinner of the hospital staff and old students took place in the evening at the Westminster Palace Hotel, and over forty sat down. Canon Duckworth was a guest. Lord Campbell presided, and dwelt upon the superiority of general over special hospitals. The dinner passed off very well; and Dr. Alchin, the Dean, made a powerful speech in favour of the conjoint scheme of medical examination.

THE STOCKER TESTIMONIAL.—From a statement of the account of this testimonial, which is published in the *Guy's Hospital Gazette* for September, it appears that the balance in hand after the payment of all expenses was £388 15s. 10½d. Of this, a cheque for £50 was on June 5th forwarded for Mrs. Stocker's immediate use, whilst the remainder is to be placed in the hands of Mr. Stocker's executors, to be invested for Mrs. Stocker's use during her lifetime, and afterwards to be divided equally for the benefit of the Misses Stocker and Mr. Henry Stocker, who is an invalid. The names of all the subscribers are printed in this number of the *Gazette*.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL:
NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held at the offices of the Association, 161A, Strand, London, on Wednesday, the 15th day of October next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary.*

161A, Strand, London, September 15th, 1879.

EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN BRANCH.

A CONJOINT meeting with the Yorkshire Branch will be held at York, on Wednesday, October 8th.

Gentlemen who intend to read papers are requested to inform the Secretary of the titles before the 27th instant.

E. P. HARDEY, *Honorary Secretary.*

35, Regent Terrace, Anlaby Road, Hull, Sept. 18th, 1879.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT.

THE next meeting of this district will be held at the White Hart Hotel, Reigate, on October 9th, 1879, at 4 P.M.: F. B. HALLOWES, Esq., in the Chair.

The following papers are promised.

1. Dr. D. W. Chas. Hood: On Croup and Diphtheria.
2. Mr. Hallowes: A Clinical Report upon an Outbreak of Enteric Fever at Redhill in the early part of 1879.
3. Dr. John Walters: The Treatment of *Post Partum Hæmorrhage* by Injections of Hot Water.

The dinner will take place at 6 P.M. Tickets, 6s. a head, exclusive of wine.

JOHN H. GALTON, M.D. Lond., *Honorary Secretary.*
Woodside, Anerley Road, S.E., September 15th, 1879.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE first meeting of the Session 1879-80 will be held in the Examination Hall of the Queen's College, on Thursday, October 9th, 1879. The Chair will be taken by the President, Dr. JOHNSTON, at Three o'clock P.M.

Business.—The following member of the Association will be proposed as a member of the Branch: Dr. F. Fitch, Chaddesley.

Papers.—Mr. Furneaux Jordan: A Method of performing Lithotomy.
Dr. Sawyer: Therapeutic Notes.

Mr. Bartleet: Notes of a Case of Femoral Aneurism in which the Common Femoral was ligatured, subsequently the External Iliac for secondary hæmorrhage.

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

E. MALINS, M.D.,
E. RICKARDS, M.B., *Honorary Secretaries.*

October 1st, 1879.

YORKSHIRE AND EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN BRANCH.

A CONJOINT meeting of these Branches will be held in the Museum of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, York, on Wednesday, the 22nd October, 1879, at 3 P.M.

Members intending to read papers are requested to forward the titles to either of the Secretaries.

After the meeting, the members will dine at 5 P.M. at the Station Hotel. Tickets (exclusive of wine), 6s. 6d. each.

W. PROCTER, M.D., York,
E. P. HARDEY, Hull, *Honorary Secretaries.*

WEST SURREY DISTRICT.

THE next meeting of this district will be held at Guildford, on Friday, October 24th, 1879.

Gentlemen desirous of reading papers or cases are requested to communicate at once with the Secretary.

A. ARTHUR NAPPER, *Honorary Secretary.*
Broad Oak, Cranleigh, September 22nd, 1879.

help and back them. They may decline responsibilities and burthens which they feel too heavy for them. But it is not so with our army medical officers. We throw on their unaided hands and heads hundreds of most valuable lives. And they must act one way or the other—kill or cure; in the Khyber Pass, in Zululand, all over the world. What is the plain inference? Why, that our army should be supplied with medical officers who can stand the test of the severest examination—with young medical men not below, but above, the average of those who pass into civil life.

Moreover, Dr. Crawford must permit me to say that he has left a great blank in his argument. He has put forward competitive examination as if it were the cause of a deficiency in candidates; but has made no allusion to the burning questions, and the very different reasons which your pages have so often given, touching this deficiency of candidates. Until, however, he has reasoned these other causes down, he must not be surprised if the profession refuse to accept his explanation. Dr. Crawford refers to the London University; but he knows that, despite its searching examinations, there are abundant candidates for the honour of passing them. And I certainly must have good proof before I can believe that young medical men shun the army competitive examination because it is too severe.—Yours obediently,

London, September 23rd, 1879.

W. O. MARKHAM, M.D.

THE ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE: OPEN COMPETITION.

SIR,—I think that Surgeon-General Crawford's letter ought not to be passed over without remark. I do not think he has at all answered the objections to the comparison between civil institutions in this country and the Army Medical Department, as regards mode of entry. It is impossible to compare them, as they have so little in common, either with that department, or even with each other. Some are purely private benefactions, and their government and administration vary greatly. At the same time, if it were the practice in this country to have a *concours* for such appointments, I do not believe that even the best men would feel themselves humiliated thereby. But such a comparison rather tends to draw away attention from the real question at issue; for it is obvious that, to apply the principle of public competition to civil hospitals, as they are constituted in this country, so as to be in any way fair, such changes would be necessary in their government and arrangement as would almost amount to a revolution.

The two points to be considered with reference to the Army Medical Department are these:

1. What is best for the service?
2. What is fairest for the medical profession?

As regards the first, I do not desire to uphold competitive examination as a perfect system, nor do I wish to say that good men did not come in under nomination; but I do not, on the other hand, think there is a shadow of proof that *better* men came in under that system than have entered since under the competitive system. If, then, the system of nomination have no claim to better results than competition, the question comes to be decided with reference to the rights of the profession. It may fairly be claimed that every qualified practitioner has a right to get into the public service, if he can, on equal terms with his brethren. I see no grounds on which any prescriptive claim can be based, or indeed any ground except superior efficiency. Dr. Crawford complains that the present system does not secure that; and specifies general education as a qualification essential for a good military medical officer, but one which the competitive examination does not profess to touch. There I am perfectly at one with him; and we have had only too much experience of this at Netley, where we have often had to lament (less often, I think, as years have gone on) serious deficiencies shown by successful candidates in their preliminary education. But I do not draw the same conclusions as Dr. Crawford. The old system of nomination provided the service with men quite as deficient—indeed I might almost say more so—without furnishing a guarantee (as the competitive system does) that, at least in professional qualifications, the candidate is fairly well-grounded. Of course, we may presume that the last point will be attended to in the proposed new system of nomination. But, so far from admitting Dr. Crawford's objection as telling against competition, I should make it a reason for extending the powers of the Examiners, so as to include general education—at least so long as the civil colleges permit men to pass who cannot write intelligible English, or even spell their own language. As to the question of good men being deterred by competitive examination, I have never known a particle of proof of their being so ever brought forward, much as it has been talked about. It is idle to expect that the *very best* men will enter the public service, as a rule; and nomination in that respect will be no more successful than competition, nor do I believe that the offer of commissions without examination would, for many years back, have induced any better men to

enter the service than have already done so during that period. But it will always be in the power of the Government to secure *good* men, and plenty of them, if the inducements held out are sufficient—the number of competitors for the Indian Medical Service is proof enough of that. The argument, that competition has failed to obtain men enough for the service, is surely as transparent a fallacy as ever was put forward. The failure has been, not in the principle of competition, but in the fact that the thing to be gained by competition was apparently not considered by the profession as worth the trouble of competing for. Fifteen years ago, a similarly fallacious view was put forward with reference to the Indian Medical Service. After 1860, no appointments were offered for competition for several years; and in 1864, Sir Charles Wood announced to the House of Commons that the competitive system had entirely failed, and proposed to revert to the system of nomination. The House did not view it in the same light; and it certainly seemed a curious argument that, because no appointments had been offered and no opportunity for competing had been afforded, *therefore* competition had been a failure! The proposed abolition was negatived, and, in 1865, the system of competition for the Indian Medical Service was recommended; and it has been continued to the present day with the most marked success, both as to the numbers and the quality of the men competing.

I am, your obedient servant,

F. DE CHAUMONT.

MEDICAL NEWS.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

Particulars of those marked with an asterisk will be found in the advertisement columns.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

ARDWICK AND ANCOATS DISPENSARY AND HOSPITAL, Manchester—Junior House-Surgeon. Salary, £100 to £120, with apartments and attendance. Duties commence January 1st, 1880.

*BELGRAVE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Pimlico—Resident House-Surgeons. Board and lodging. No salary. Applications to the Honorary Secretary at the Hospital on or before October 4th.

*BROMPTON HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £200 per annum, with board and residence. Applications on or before October 8th.

*GENERAL LIVING-IN HOSPITAL, York Road, Lambeth—House-Physician. Applications on or before October 15th.

HARTEPOOL FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' MEDICAL INSTITUTION—Two Resident Medical Officers. Salary, £150 per annum, a proportion of accouche-ment fees, free residence, coal, and gas; rates and taxes (except income-tax) paid by institution. Applications not later than October 7th.

*HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST—Resident Clinical Assistants. Applications, with testimonials, on or before October 11th.

*LEICESTER INFIRMARY AND FEVER HOUSE—Honorary Physician. Applications on or before October 4th.

RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY, Oxford—House-Surgeon. Salary, £105 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing. Double qualification and registration as a medical practitioner requisite. Application on printed form, to be obtained of Secretary, to be returned, with testimonials, on or before October 4th.

*TIVERTON INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon and Dispenser. Salary, £100 per annum, with furnished apartments, coal, gas, and attendance.

TRURO UNION, District of St. Agnes—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator. Salary, £45 per annum, and £16 as Medical Officer of Health. Applications by October 14th.

*WEST SUSSEX, EAST HANTS, and CHICHESTER INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon. Salary, £80 per annum, with board, lodgings, and washing. Applications on or before the 25th instant.

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 announcements.

BIRTH.

STARTIN.—On September 30th, the wife of James Startin, M.R.C.S., of 17, Sackville Street, Piccadilly, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

HAYWARD—BURDEN.—On June 26th, at St. Mary's Caulfield, Victoria, William Thornborough Hayward, M.R.C.S., Riverton, South Australia, to Florence, youngest daughter of the late P. H. Burden, Esq., of Adelaide, South Australia.

HORNSBY—FOWLER.—On September 25th, at the Parish Church, Edgbaston, by the Rev. T. Roper, Vicar of Trinity Church, Smethwick, assisted by the Rev. H. Aldham, Vicar of Stoke Prior, George H. Hornsby, Esq., M.R.C.S., of Bromsgrove, to Ellen, eldest daughter of Edmund Fowler, Abberley, Edgbaston.—No cards.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.—An open Scholarship in Arts for a prize of one hundred and twenty-five guineas was competed for last week, and gained by Mr. George E. Halstead of Newark.—The open Scholarship of one hundred and twenty-five guineas in Science was gained at the same time by Mr. W. Fowler of London.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 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.—St. Mark's, 2 P.M.—Cancer Hospital, Brompton, 3 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.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Peter's, 2 P.M.

THURSDAY.....St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Hospital for Women, 2 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.

FRIDAY.....Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Royal South London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Guy's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department), 2 P.M.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.

SATURDAY....St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.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.

HOURS OF ATTENDANCE AT THE LONDON HOSPITALS.

CHARING CROSS.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1.30; Skin, M. Th.; Dental, M. W. F., 9.30.

GUY'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, exc. Tu., 1.30; Obstetric, M. W. F., 1.30; Eye, M. Th., 1.30; Tu. F., 12.30; Ear, Tu. F., 12.30; Skin, Tu., 12.30; Dental, Tu. Th. F., 12.

KING'S COLLEGE.—Medical, daily, 2; Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. Th. S., 2; o.p., M. W. F., 12.30; Eye, M. Th. S., 1; Ear, Th., 2; Skin, Th.; Throat, Th., 3; Dental, Tu. F., 10.

LONDON.—Medical, daily exc. S., 2; Surgical, daily, 1.30 and 2; Obstetric, M. Th., 1.30; o.p., W. S., 1.30; Eye, W. S., 9; Ear, S., 9.30; Skin, W.; Dental, Tu., 9.

MIDDLESEX.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1; Obstetric, Tu. F., 1.30; o.p., W. S., 1.30; Eye, W. S., 8.30; Ear and Throat, Tu., 9; Skin, F., 4; Dental, daily, 9.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, M. Th. S., 2; o.p., W. S., 9; Eye, Tu. W. Th. S., 2; Ear, M., 2.30; Skin, F., 1.30; Larynx, W., 11.30; Orthopaedic, F., 12.30; Dental, F., 9.

ST. GEORGE'S.—Medical and Surgical, M. Tu. F. S., 1; Obstetric, Tu. S., 1; o.p., Th., 2; Eye, W. S., 2; Ear, Tu., 2; Skin, Th., 1; Throat, M., 2; Orthopaedic, W., 2; Dental, Tu. S., 9; Th., 1.

ST. MARY'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.15; Obstetric, Tu. F., 9.30; o.p., Tu. F., 1.30; Eye, M. Th., 1.30; Ear, W. S., 2; Skin, Th., 1.30; Throat, W. S., 12.30; Dental, W. S., 9.30.

ST. THOMAS'S.—Medical and Surgical, daily, except Sat., 2; Obstetric, M. Th., 2; o.p., W. F., 12.30; Eye, M. Th., 2; o.p., daily except Sat., 1.30; Ear, Tu., 12.30; Skin, Th., 12.30; Throat, Tu., 12.30; Children, S., 12.30; Dental, Tu. F., 10.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1 to 2; Obstetric, M. Tu. Th. F., 1.30; Eye, M. W. F., 2; Ear, S., 1.30; Skin, Tu., 1.30; S., 9; Throat, Th., 2.30; Dental, W., 10.3.

WESTMINSTER.—Medical and Surgical, daily, 1.30; Obstetric, Tu. F., 3; Eye, M. Th., 2.30; Ear, Tu. F., 9; Skin, Th., 1; Dental, W. S., 9.15.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

FRIDAY.—Clinical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Report of the Committee on Dr. Douglas Powell's Case of Leprosy with Enlarged Glands; Dr. Dyce Duckworth, "A Case of Myxedema"; Dr. Ord, "Notes on some Cases of Myxedema"; Dr. F. Taylor and Mr. Howse, "A Case of Empyema in which portions of Ribs were Excised".

LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMUNICATIONS respecting editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, 161, Strand, W.C., London; those concerning business matters, non-delivery of the JOURNAL, etc., should be addressed to the General Manager, at the Office, 161, Strand, W.C., London.

AUTHORS desiring reprints of their articles published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, are requested to communicate beforehand with the General Secretary and Manager, 161, Strand, W.C.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered, are requested to look to the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

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*.

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

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

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.

THE MEDICAL ALLIANCE ASSOCIATION AND FOREIGN DEGREES.

SIR.—On observing the sweeping statements of Mr. R. H. S. Carpenter, Secretary to the Medical Alliance Association, in your issue of the 20th instant, respecting the Universities of Brussels, Giessen, and Jena, I immediately communicated with that gentleman, requesting him to furnish me, as President of the Foreign Graduates Association for the current year, with further particulars regarding the "facts" in the possession of the Medical Alliance Association as to the manner in which degrees are granted at these Universities, leading him at the same time to infer that, on producing names, addresses, etc., I would institute inquiries in the proper quarters in order to test the veracity of the statements in question. These so-called "facts" he has been unable or unwilling to produce, and, for the present, I can only infer that they do not exist. Nothing is easier than for an unprincipled person to affirm that he is a graduate of this or that University; and this is probably what has misled Mr. Carpenter and his coadjutors, but it is quite a different matter when his case is put to the test.

Before Mr. Carpenter's assertions can have any force, he must produce his men and acknowledgments from the Universities whose titles these men assume, that they are actual graduates of such Universities. It has been proved over and over again that Continental degrees cannot be procured unless the candidate has produced evidence of having gone through a regular medical curriculum, and of having passed an examination in the ordinary subjects of medical education. Any one who may think otherwise should just try, and no doubt the medical world will be glad to have the result. A case in point—and in this I think I am fairer than Mr. Carpenter, who declines to give data—will be found reported in the *Lancet* of May 2nd, 1874, page 642, where an advertiser of foreign diplomas was neatly checkmated by a gentleman who pretended he wished to purchase a German degree, but who found that such was "impossible either for love or money". In this instance, the individuals can be traced by any one who takes the trouble to do so, and where the helplessness of the advertiser was made quite clear on being put to the test. In the meantime, therefore, I would strongly advise those who may think with Mr. Carpenter to be prepared with their "facts" before entering into a controversy out of which there may be a possibility of their coming second best, and, above all, to be wary of contrasting British and foreign graduates, the issue of which may also be doubtful. Most intelligent men will be loth to believe that there is no honour amongst scientific bodies out of the United Kingdom; and certainly before such a belief can gain much ground, better evidence must be adduced than the bare assertions of spasmodic reformers.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

K. H. MACDONALD, M.D. Erlang., F.R.C.P. Edin., etc.,
President Foreign Graduates' Association.

Gowan Park, Cupar Fife, September 27th, 1879.

FOREIGN DEGREES.

SIR.—I have read with surprise and indignation Mr. R. H. S. Carpenter's sweeping denunciation against Continental Universities, and think that before making such an unwarranted attack he should have been in a position to prove the charges he made in his letter of August 30th.

1. The charge he makes against the University of Brussels for admitting a candidate to the M.D. examination who only held a medical diploma is perfectly absurd. I find, on referring to the Regulations of the Durham University for medical practitioners of fifteen years' standing, that the only qualification required is, that the candidate be first registered. Whatever "A. B.'s" qualification may have been before admission, I know for a positive fact that to obtain the Brussels degree he must have proved himself thoroughly acquainted with every department of medical and surgical science; and to denounce an University because one of its graduate's antecedents will not bear investigation is preposterous. What University or College have we in England where some member has not disgraced himself and the profession? When I graduated in Brussels, four years ago, there was a gentleman admitted with only a medical licence, who made an excellent examination during the first two days on every subject; but on the third day, when he was brought to the operating table, he was at once rejected, because he was not expert in applying a ligature to the posterior tibial artery. All his protestations were of no avail. When he told the examiner he only practised as a physician, the reply was, that if he came there he must undergo every part of the examination.

2. As to the case of "C. D.", who has not had one hour's medical education, any man of the world could at once have seen that he was trading on a forged document.

In conclusion, I cannot imagine why these charges should have been made at all, except it was through some petty jealousy.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
September 27th, 1879.

A PROVINCIAL MEMBER.

SIR.—In my letter last week, I stated that the next examination for the degree of M.D. at Brussels would take place on Tuesday, Oct. 7th. I have to-day received the new Regulations from the Secretary to the University, and I find there will be no examination until the first Tuesday in November, instead of October. By inserting this you will oblige, sir, your obedient servant,

20, Golborne Road, W., Sept. 30th, 1879. J. ERNEST POCOCK, M.D. Brux.

SIR.—Will you kindly insert this in an early number of the JOURNAL as a further reply to Mr. R. H. S. Carpenter? The University of Giessen, according to its regulations, which are always strictly enforced, requires, before admitting candidates for examination for the medical degree, besides other things, a certificate of at least three years' medical and surgical study at an University or medical institution. If the candidate be not a native of Germany, he must produce a certificate of sufficient preliminary studies from his own country; and if unable to do this, must undergo an examination in extra-medical subjects. The medical examination takes place in the University before the Faculty of Medicine, and embraces all branches of medical study. After the examination is concluded, a report of it must be drawn up by the president of the examination and signed by the examiners, upon which report depends the fate of the candidate. The examination cannot be passed if two or more members of the Faculty declare the result of the examination to be unsatisfactory. Promotions to the M.D. do not take place in *absentia*, or without full compliance with all the regulations, except in the case of M.D. *honoris causa*, by the unanimous decision of the Faculty, granted to men who have rendered some

sional status to which they have only a spurious claim. If our correspondent's statements are supported by adducible testimony, he would do well to give due and courteous notice to any gentleman whose conduct he proposes to impugn, in order to afford ample opportunity for personal explanation; and subsequently, if necessary, to bring the matter under the notice of the Council of that Branch of the British Medical Association within whose district the parties may reside. Even when such matters are not capable of preliminary adjustment, a gentle remonstrance, which does not assume impropriety of conduct when often none is intended, is frequently not less effective than public complaint. It is of course a much more desirable mode of proceeding; and possibly even this publication of our correspondent's letter will lead to the desired result. He may be advised, therefore, to look to the future rather than to the past.

THE DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON.

SIR.—By a mischance the advertisement of this hospital was headed "Medical School"; it should have been "London School of Dental Surgery". May I ask you kindly to insert this letter in your next issue?—I am, yours faithfully,

T. FRANCIS KER UNDERWOOD, Dean of the School.

Leicester Square, W.C., Sept. 29th, 1879.

A CORRESPONDENT suggests that it would be desirable to exclude from the College of Surgeons' *Calendar* the names of all members admitted up to, say, 1810, and place them, as formerly, in a supplementary list for two or three years, as persons supposed to be dead, and then exclude them altogether.

HOW TO FORM A METEOROLOGICAL STATION.

SIR.—I should be much obliged if you would kindly inform me in your JOURNAL on the following points.

1. The best works on meteorology, more especially in relation to medicine, including explanation of principles and practical directions for use of meteorological instruments.

2. Directions for taking temperature of sea, if not given in above.

3. As to where I might procure the most reliable instruments—barometer, wet and dry bulb thermometer, maximum and minimum ditto, etc.

I am a country practitioner and removed from sources of information, and I should be much indebted to you for your help in this matter. I wish to set up a small meteorological station this winter, and it is with this view I ask this favour.—I am, etc.,

A. J. U.

. 1. The best of the late observations on diseases and variations in the meteorological elements are said in Parkes' *Practical Hygiene* (p. 468) to be those by Guy, Ransome, Vernon, Moffat, Tripe, Scoresby Jackson, and Ballard: most of these, cannot, however, be separately procured. There are two good chapters on Climate and Meteorology in Parkes' *Hygiene*, 5th edit., pp. 429-468. Buchan's *Text-Book of Meteorology, or Modern Meteorology*, consisting of six lectures by Fellows of the Meteorological Society, will either of them be suitable, especially the latter, for obtaining a knowledge of the principles of meteorology. Short directions for the reading of meteorological instruments will be found in Parkes' *Hygiene*, pp. 445-446; but the best book on the subject is *Instructions on the Use of Meteorological Instruments*, by R. H. Scott, M.A., F.R.S., which is used by the Army Medical Department.

2. The best method of taking sea-temperatures is not yet settled. It would suffice for medical purposes that the bulb of the thermometer be immersed for five minutes at least one foot below the surface of the water, and that a self-registering thermometer be used. If a boat be procurable, twenty or thirty feet from the shore would be a sufficient distance, but this is not absolutely necessary. Reliable sea-temperature observations are much required.

3. The instruments can be procured from any good instrument-maker, and must have been tested at Kew, and the certificate ought to be sent with them. Negretti and Zambra's and Cassella's instruments are largely used at the Meteorological Society's stations. The rain gauge should be of Symons' pattern for rain and snow, and should be placed four inches above ground, and as far as possible from trees and buildings. Stevenson's screen should be employed for the thermometers. Negretti's pattern of maximum thermometer should be obtained, and a mercurial in preference to a spirit minimum, unless great care be used to protect it from the direct rays of the sun; but it must be admitted that the spirit minimum thermometers are ordinarily employed.

CIDER AND RHEUMATISM.

SIR.—I observed it stated in one of the public papers, a short time ago, "that cider should not be used as a beverage by any person having a predisposition to rheumatism". I would feel obliged by some of your numerous readers (who have had experience) giving me their opinion regarding the above matter, and oblige

Belfast, September 22nd, 1879.

A MEMBER.

THE ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL, DUBLIN.

It may well be doubted whether it is desirable to multiply orthopædic institutions. The treatment of deformities is only a part of general surgery, and the number of orthopædic cases is not so great as to call for the establishment of many special hospitals for their reception; but there can be no doubt that, if they are established, they should not be advertised by means of fulsome articles in the newspapers. We have lately received articles printed in the *Dublin Evening Mail* and the *Irish Times*, which have not for the first time drawn attention to the Orthopædic Hospital, Usher's Island, in a way which may interest their readers, but is not calculated to raise the position of the hospital. Ordinary cases, such as are successfully treated in every general hospital, are magnified into marvels; and the care which poor sick persons everywhere receive is spoken of as if it were peculiar to this institution. We would advise the committee of the Dublin Orthopædic Hospital to put a stop to these flattering communications. In the long run they will do the institution more harm than good.

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

PAYMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

SIR.—I presume that Mr. Postgate, in publishing in the JOURNAL a letter written by him to the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, desires to invite approval and to submit to criticism. On this supposition I desire to enter my humble protest against his principles and to question the reality of his facts. He states (and on this the whole letter is founded) that "the great habit of working for nothing in our profession affects injuriously the workers"; of course, implying that the injury is moral. I am much astonished that a distinguished member of our profession should so seriously make this statement. No doubt it is a question of great nicety what work should and what should not be done for nothing; but I submit that it is very much by gratuitous work properly undertaken, prompted by benevolence or by public spirit, that our profession has earned the title of "noble", and its members an elevation of mind which helps them to bear the numerous petty troubles with which we are peculiarly beset.

Mr. Postgate (writing from Birmingham) conceives that this action "has lowered the profession in the estimation of the commercial classes of the country". I entirely disbelieve this, all my experience being against it. I fear, however, if we were to adopt Mr. Postgate's principle, we should lose our own respect and cease to deserve that of the public.—I am, sir, yours, etc.,

Ramsgate, Sept. 22nd, 1879.

JAS. WOODMAN, F.R.C.S.

MEDICAL CARDS.—The *Dundee Advertiser* tells us in its advertising columns, that "Dr. George Duncan has commenced practice at 47, South Tay Street". This is very interesting to the public, and we trust they will take due notice of the fact; but there are many other and better ways in which a medical man may put himself forward. To publish "cards" of this kind is, we believe, an American custom; but on this side of the Atlantic it has always been thought unworthy of a learned profession, and unsuited to the position which physicians and surgeons desire to hold.

HYDRASTIN.

SIR.—Can any of your readers inform me concerning the virtues of hydrastin? It is an American remedy, and is mentioned by Squire in his *Companion to the British Pharmacopœia*; but I wish to obtain more information than he gives, and should be glad to know where I can find it, or if some of your readers would kindly give the JOURNAL the benefit of their experience.—Yours truly,

HYDRASTIN.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news, reports, and other matters of medical interest:—The Western Morning News; The Glasgow Herald; The Manchester Guardian; The Yorkshire Post; The Leeds Mercury; The Cork Constitution; The Coventry Herald; The British Guiana Royal Gazette; The Ceylon Observer; The Wigan Observer; The Peterborough and Huntingdonshire Standard; The Sussex Daily News; The Liverpool Mercury; The Banffshire Journal; The Newport and Market Drayton Advertiser; The North Wales Guardian; etc.

. We shall be greatly obliged if correspondents forwarding newspapers will kindly mark the passages to which it is desired to direct attention.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:—

Mr. T. Spencer Wells, London; Dr. Alfred Carpenter, Croydon; Dr. Ringrose Atkins, Waterford; Dr. A. B. Duffin, London; Dr. James Sawyer, Birmingham; Dr. Saundby, Birmingham; M.; Mr. W. B. Dalby, London; Dr. Alfred Sheen, Cardiff; Dr. O. F. Wyer, Leamington; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Inquirens; Mr. T. P. Harvey, Hastings; Dr. A. B. Greatrex, Lawton; Mr. G. J. Hinnell, Bury St. Edmunds; Dr. W. Wilberforce Smith, London; The Secretaries of the Medical Society of London; The Dean of Guy's Hospital; The Dean of the Medical Faculty of King's College; Mr. Talfourd Ely, London; Mr. W. H. Cripps, London; Dr. S. Coupland, London; Mr. S. Snell, Sheffield; Dr. Dupré, London; Mr. Francis Hird, London; Mr. Alban Doran, London; Mr. W. T. Hayward, Riverton, South Australia; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; Dr. F. Barnes, London; The Registrar-General of England; Mr. G. Eastes, London; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Dr. J. G. Sinclair Coghill, Ventnor; Dr. K. N. Macdonald, Cupar-Fife; Dr. C. E. Underhill, Edinburgh; Dr. Robert Sinclair, Dundee; The Secretary of the Clinical Society of London; Dr. W. O. Sinclair, Manchester; Dr. Barracough, London; Mr. J. Walker, Blackburn; Mr. J. A. E. Stuart, Dunse; A Member; Medicus; Dr. F. W. Barry, Bradford; Mr. F. E. Pocock, London; Dr. Frazer, Bournemouth; Dr. F. A. de Chaumont, Southampton; Mr. W. Knight Treves, Margate; Mr. Golding-Bird, London; Dr. C. R. Francis, Malvern; Dr. Neudorfer, Vienna; Mr. T. Jones, Brecon; Dr. K. H. Macdonald, Edinburgh; Dr. R. de la Cour Corbett, Cork; Dr. Griffiths, Rhyl; Our Scotch Correspondents; Dr. W. H. Spedding, Belfast; Dr. Robert, Manchester; Dr. Lowndes, Liverpool; Dr. A. J. Urquhart, Kirkcudbrightshire; Dr. Bond, Gloucester; Dr. Batten, Gloucester; Our Indian Correspondent; Dr. J. Graham Brown, Edinburgh; Professor Rutherford, Edinburgh; Dr. Hirschberg, Berlin; Mr. Tomes, Caterham Valley; Dr. Rabagliati, Bradford; Dr. Sayre, Bedford Hotel, Brighton; Dr. Sheen, Cardiff; Dr. Wolfe, Glasgow; Mr. John S. Murphy, London; Dr. Liveing, London; Dr. Hardwicke, Sheffield; Dr. Cory, London; Professor Charles, Cork; Mr. Vines, Littlehampton; Mr. J. B. Pitt, Norwich; Dr. R. Renfrew, Glasgow; Dr. Percy Boulton, London; Mr. R. H. S. Carpenter, London; "Follicle"; Dr. R. Ryder, Nailsworth; Mr. W. E. C. Nourse, Exeter; A Member, Boston; Mr. T. F. Ken Underwood, London; Mr. T. R. Jessop, Leeds; Dr. Duir, Cape of Good Hope; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Homes for Convalescents from Acute Infective Diseases. By John William Moore, M.D., M.C. Dublin: John Falconer. 1879.