

present communication, from the analysis of which he determines that mercury is unable to eradicate the venereal poison.—*Lancet*, April 24th.

#### DIAGNOSIS OF A MERCURIAL SORE.

In a valuable course of lectures on syphilis, Dr. Porter gives the following as the characteristics of the mercurial in contradistinction to the venereal sore:—

1. Mercurial sores are not necessarily circular or oval in shape, neither are their edges regularly defined; on the contrary, they vary in these particulars, and assume different forms as they spread: their edges are often quite ragged, loose, and undermined, and their borders are often marked with a thin transparent cuticle, like that of a newly-formed cicatrix, extending quite around them, and giving them a silvery-white appearance.

2. The bases of mercurial sores are not hard, neither are their surfaces covered with the tenaciously adherent lymph so characteristic of venereal; on the contrary, the surface of the mercurial ulcer may present every variety of shape and appearance, sloughy at one spot, deeply excavated and rapidly ulcerating at another, with exuberant granulations at a third, and exhibiting a tendency to heal at a fourth.

3. But the most striking characteristic of the mercurial ulcer is, its tendency to spread, and the manner in which it enlarges itself. Venereal sores when not affected by phagedena increase slowly, and having reached a given size remain so: the mercurial generally spread quickly, and there seems to be no limit to the size they may possibly attain. I have seen an ulcer as large as my hand in each groin of the same individual. Mercurial sores, too, are easily distinguished from the venereal when they assume an herpetic character, and heal in one part whilst they are spreading in another, which the latter never do: this latter diagnostic is often extremely valuable in ulcers of the throat and on the penis, where any extensive loss of parts may be most sensibly felt during the life of the patient. The mercurial ulceration, too, often attacks the cicatrix of a recently healed chancre, and a fresh sore is thus formed—a circumstance that does not happen to the true venereal sore, except by some accidental injury, or the application of a new infection.—*Dublin Medical Press*.

#### TREATMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL SYPHILIS IN THE INFANT.

M. Trousseau has for several years followed the subjoined plan of treatment in these cases with success:—

He administers daily to both mother and child a sublimate bath; (Hydrarg. Bichloridi, dr. iij.—dr. vi.; Alcohol, oz. iij., to a common bath.) If the infant is nursed by the mother the latter is made to take the proto-iodide of iron; if the child is weaned it takes ten drops of the following solution three times a day:—R. Hydrarg. Bichlor., gr. iv.; Aquæ, Oij. The dose amounts to about a 60th part of a grain.—*Gazette Méd.*, Févr. 6, 1847.

#### FORENSIC MEDICINE.

##### QUESTION OF IDENTITY: ARE CICATRICES INDELIBLE?

Medical Jurists have foreseen the case in which the condition of a cicatrix may be regarded as a means of

proving identity, and they have, moreover, mentioned the circumstances which may so alter their appearance as to prevent them from being recognized. But instances of the actual necessity of referring to these marks in a medico-legal inquiry are comparatively few. The following case is one of the kind:—An Englishman, who was sentenced in 1828, to ten years' imprisonment and labour for forgery, obtained his dismissal after a brief period, on the condition that he should quit the country for ever. While in prison it so happened that he was inspected by the surgeon, M. Vandalaer, who remarked an indelible cicatrix of a burn. Having settled in France he was again pursued for forgery, and the police finding that he had returned to Brussels under an assumed name, demanded him to be given up. He was immediately arrested, but denied that he was the individual in question, in consequence of which he was transferred to Brabant to be identified.

At the trial the prisoner still persisted in his denial. Some of the officials of the prison thought they recognized him, and others could swear to his identity, but no positive proof was forthcoming. The circumstance of the cicatrix was then recollected, and surgeons were called to examine the part. M. Vandalaer, in the first instance, was asked whether he recognized the mark, and replied that he did not, but that he did not consider its absence a proof of non-identity, as time and artificial means might have contributed to its removal. The same opinion being held by other medical men, the prisoner was convicted. It appears from the evidence of one of the surgeons, that the prisoners who are branded are in the habit of removing the cicatrix by placing over it a salted herring.(?)—*Gazette Médicale*, Avril 3, 1847.

### Medical Intelligence.

#### THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION BILL.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Tuesday, May 14, 1847.

Mr. Wakley moved that the subjects of the registration of legally-qualified practitioners in medicine, and the state of the laws relating to the practice of medicine in Great Britain and Ireland, be referred for consideration to a select committee, who should report the evidence, with their opinions thereon, to the House.

After some remarks by Mr. Wakley on the advantages to be expected from a committee of inquiry—

Sir G. Grey observed, that although he did not think the objections which had been urged against many parts of the Bill of the hon. member for Finsbury ought to prevail, he was convinced that if that measure had been pressed now, any chance of satisfactory legislation on the subject during the present session would have been hopeless. He considered that the hon. gentleman was taking the more judicious course in asking for the appointment of a committee, before whom the various conflicting opinions which existed on this question might be expressed; and he (Sir G. Grey,) believed that such an inquiry would tend to lead to satisfactory results. He was willing to accede to the motion, on the understanding that the hon.

member for Finsbury would not proceed with his Bill until after the committee had made a report.

MAY 22nd,

Committee nominated: Mr. Wakley, Mr. Macaulay, Sir James Graham, Mr. G. Hamilton, Mr. Bannerman, Mr. Acland, Mr. Hawes, Mr. Fitzstephen French, Sir Robert Harry Inglis, Mr. Dennistoun, Viscount Sandon, Mr. Boyd, Mr. Aldam, and Mr. Lascelles.

Power to send for persons, papers, and records. Five to be the quorum.

### LEEDS HOUSE OF RECOVERY AND FEVER HOSPITAL.

We have just received the Annual Report of this Institution, for the year ending September 30th, 1846, from which it appears that the number of patients, chiefly fever-cases, admitted during the period, and especially in the last two months, was considerably greater than the usual average.

The average admissions of the preceding ten years amounted to 329.7. The admissions of the year 1844-5, were 329. The admission from October 1st, 1845, to October 1st, 1846, were 433, being 104, or nearly one third more than the admissions of the preceding year, and the general average, which, with 20 cases remaining on the books, give 453 as the number of cases under treatment. The number of deaths was 59, of which, eleven took place within twenty-four hours, and twenty-two others, thirty-three in all, within one week. The mortality was 13.606 per cent. nearly, or not quite, one in seven. The greatest number of admissions was in the month of August, amounting to 69; the smallest number in December and January, 24 in each. The admissions during the six winter months averaged about 30 each month; during the six summer months, rather more than 42; but the increase in the number of patients was wholly in the months of August and September, when the admissions amounted to 128, the monthly average of the preceding ten months being 30.5, or nearly that of the winter season.

The following table shews the ages of the patients and the mortality at each decennial period:—

	Admitted.	Died.
Under 10 years . . . .	37 . .	6
10 to 20 . . . . .	173 . .	17
20 to 30 . . . . .	108 . .	11
30 to 40 . . . . .	58 . .	11
40 to 50 . . . . .	33 . .	6
50 to 60 . . . . .	12 . .	1
60 to 70 and upwards	11 . .	6

The chief mortality of the Institution, as well as the chief prevalence of disease, was therefore between the ages of 10 and 30.

### QUEEN'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.

The efficacy of the inhalation of æther, and the safety of its exhibition in operations on the young subject, was tested on Saturday last, at the Queen's Hospital, in three cases. In the first case, a little boy, from Halesowen, between three and four years

of age, labouring under stone in the bladder, was by means of Mr. Atlee's inhaler, put under its influence. The operation with the knife was performed by Professor Sands Cox, and a large stone extracted under the minute, without the poor little sufferer evincing sensibility to pain. In the second case, a little girl, aged nine, a native of the town, suffering under scrofulous disease of the knee-joint, amputation (under the same influence,) above the knee, was rapidly performed by Professor Knowles; not a sigh, murmur, nor the slightest expression of pain escaped her lips. In the third case, a boy, from Bilston, aged 14, with diseased ankle-joint, amputation was performed below the knee; narcotism, in this case, could not be induced, although inhalation was persevered in for more than a quarter of an hour, and the case formed a striking contrast to the preceding.

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENT.

It is stated that M. Berard, sen., is to succeed M. Lisfranc, as Surgeon-in-Chief of the Hôpital la Pitié, Paris.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday, May 21st, 1847:—R. P. Bayley; W. H. Brace; H. Tireman; R. Bentley; J. F. O'Leary; H. W. Slack; A. Somers; G. A. Wilkinson; W. B. Deacon; J. Ward; R. N. Bower.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday, May 28th, 1847:—D. Badcock; J. R. Lane; C. R. Durell; J. T. Clover; T. S. Collier; T. Rhys; L. Clarke; W. Pritchard; J. A. Simons; R. Davies; J. C. Inglis; B. Daniel.

### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Licentiates, Thursday, May 13th:—William Thomas Gaye, Minehead; Joseph Delves, Tunbridge Wells; James Lewis Holloway, Charlbury; Richard Dechamp Ball, Plymouth; Joseph Williams, Williton, Somerset; William Watts, junior, Nottingham; Benjamin Daniel, Kingston-upon-Hull; Thomas Robinson, Wellingborough; and Thomas Bridgwater, Glasbury, Breconshire.

Gentlemen admitted Licentiates, Thursday, May 20th, 1847:—Charles King, Southampton; George Milburn, North Shields; William David Wilkes, Salisbury; John Smith, Bishops Lydiard, Taunton; Samuel James Augustus Salter, Poole; Richard Jones, Brackley; Ellis Southern Guest, Manchester; Charles Frederic Augustus Courtney, Ramsgate; William Honner Fitzpatrick, Liverpool.

### OBITUARY.

Died, May 11th, aged 58, at Paris, from malignant remittent fever, M. Lisfranc, Surgeon-in-Chief of the Hôpital la Pitié. M. Lisfranc was a member of the Royal Academy of Medicine, and a Knight of the Legion of Honour.

May 11th, at Bath, aged 35, Joseph Channing Pearce, Esq., M.R.C.S., F.G.S., &c.

May 11th, at Fulham, aged 47, Joseph Holmes, Esq., Surgeon.

May 15th, at Bedford, William R. Mesham, M.D., Physician to the Bedford General Infirmary. Dr. Mesham was found dead in the Committee-Room of the Infirmary, having evidently swallowed prussic acid.

May 16th, at Mohill, of typhus fever, Henry Soden, M.D., Medical Attendant of the Union Workhouse.

May 17th, in Regent Street, John Phillips Potter, Esq., Assistant Surgeon to University College Hospital, and Assistant Demonstrator at University College. Mr. Potter died from the effects of a puncture received during a *post-mortem* examination.

May 25th, at Worcester, Thomas Taylor, Esq., Surgeon, of Kidderminster, a Member of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.

Lately, at Berlin, aged 55, Professor Wagner, of that University.

### METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL FOR MARCH, 1847.

Observed at Uckfield, Sussex, by C. L. PRINCE, Surgeon.

	DEGREES.
Maximum Temperature in the Shade, 26th	67.
Minimum ditto . . . ditto 11th	20.
Mean ditto . . . ditto . . .	42.37
Range of ditto . . . ditto . . .	47.
Mean daily Range . . . ditto . . .	18.29
Mean Maximum . . . ditto . . .	51.83
Mean Minimum . . . ditto . . .	32.91
Maximum in the Sun . . . 27th	75.
Minimum on the Grass . . . 11th	15.
Extreme Range . . . . .	60.
Mean Maximum in the Sun . . . . .	58.16
Mean Minimum on the Grass . . . . .	28.93
Mean Dew-point, 9 a.m. . . . .	34.84
	INCHES.
Mean Pressure . . . . .	29.967
Maximum ditto . . . . . 3rd	30.43
Minimum ditto . . . . . 31st	29.47
Range . . . . .	.96
Depth of Rain . . . . .	.67
Evaporation . . . . .	2.31

Prevailing Wind, North-East.

### BOOK RECEIVED.

An Account of the late Epidemic Scarlatina, in Newcastle and its Neighbourhood. By Edward Charlton, M.D., Edin., Physician to the Gateshead Dispensary, Lecturer on the Practice of Physic in the Newcastle-on-Tyne Medical School, &c., &c. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Richardson. 1847. 8vo. pp. 62.

### PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

#### ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The Anniversary Meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association is appointed to take place at Derby, on Wednesday, August 4th, and Thursday, August 5th.

ROBERT J. N. STREETEN,  
Secretary.

#### YORKSHIRE BRANCH MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Yorkshire Branch of the Association will be held at the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield, on Thursday, June 10th, at twelve o'clock. Members of the Association, or of the profession, who are not members of the Branch, may be admitted as visitors on the introduction of a member.

Any communication connected with the meeting should be made to the Secretary, Mr. Husband, York.

#### COUNCIL PRIZE.

The Committee appointed at Norwich for the management of the Council Fund for the present year beg to announce that THE COUNCIL PRIZE of £50 will be given for the best Report "On the Cerebral Affections of Infancy."

The prize is open to general competition; the papers to be sent in to the Secretary of the Committee, Dr. Streeten, Worcester, on or before the 31st of May, 1848, each paper to have a motto affixed, and to be accompanied by a sealed envelope, bearing the same motto, and inclosing the name of the author.

#### NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

Gentlemen who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year, or who are in arrears, are requested to forward the amount due, either to the Secretary of the District in which they reside, or to the Treasurer or Secretary of the Association.

ROBERT J. N. STREETEN, Secretary.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. J. F. Clark; Dr. Addison; Mr. Image; Mr. T. Salter; Mr Mayo; Mr. Trousdale; Dr. Turnbull.

Dr. Basham's Lectures will be resumed in the next number of the Journal.

It is requested that all letters and communications be sent to Dr. Streeten, Foregate Street, Worcester. Parcels and books for review, may be addressed to the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal, care of Mr. Churchill, Princes Street, Schc.