

should be had on the nature of the re-action of these two substances on each other, before medical men employed coffee as a vehicle for quinine, and accordingly made some experiments on them. On mixing the quinine in powder with coffee a re-action was instantly caused; part of the sulphate of quinine united with the tannin of the coffee with which it formed an insoluble compound; another portion of the salt united with the fatty oil and vegetable extractive into a pasty mass; and a third portion combined with the free acids always found in infusion of coffee. M. Martin found that coffee was not the only infusion that precipitated the solutions of sulphate of quinine; tea also formed insoluble compounds with it, and a marked difference could be perceived in the action of this mixture from that of infusions of indigenous plants. The infusion of tea of good quality contains much tannin, as is shown by a few drops of a solution of sulphate of quinine, while the precipitate is almost nothing when added to adulterated tea.—*Journ. de Chimie Médicale*.

### TOXICOLOGY.

#### POISONING FROM SWALLOWING PERCUSSION-CAPS.

Mr. Foster relates the case of an infant aged fourteen months, who appeared to be sinking fast from the effects of some percussion-caps which it had been observed to swallow. The eyes had a hollow glazed appearance, with great heat in the epigastric region, and coldness of the extremities. The bowels had been profusely purged; vomiting was excited by ipecacuanha, but this appeared to prostrate the child so much that it was checked by a laudanum injection. An alkaline purgative was then given to neutralize the acid which might be present, and in an hour the child became tranquil. The next day several percussion-caps, deprived of their fulminating material, were found in the stools.—*Medical Examiner*, June, 1847.

### THE MEDICAL REGISTRATION BILL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

The question at issue between Dr. Shearman and myself respecting the Medical Registration Bill is simply this:—With regard to medical men who have not a license to practise generally, would the intended legalization of them, as general practitioners, by Mr. Wakley's bill, and by the Institute, amount to the same thing? No one can answer in the affirmative, for they are two *very different* plans; whilst four questions will occur to every one after reading the Doctor's letter in your number of May 21st. 1. Do not the third and fourth "reasons" signify that the Council of the Institute are double-faced, and do they not impugn their principles? 2. Does not the concluding part of the letter impeach their ability as a managing committee? 3. Does not the publication of that letter abuse and revile the Council of the Institute? And, 4, does not the Doctor by the letter give me the full choice of every style of reply?

It is quite immaterial what answers Dr. Shearman or I give to these questions; your readers will judge for

themselves respecting them, as well as in regard to the respective motives of a member of the Council of the Provincial Association, and a member of the Council of the Institute.

*The force of a quotation is dependent upon its exact and perfect adaptation*, and it is very evident that the Doctor's quotations have a far greater affinity to himself than to me, as to "the leather," since the Doctor has said "that because the Council differ from him in opinion they do not think rightly," the leather adheres too tenaciously to him to be ever brushed off—it is indelible!

Although a foretaste of Secretary of State Medical Legislation has been quite sufficient to satisfy me, yet, I cannot object to Dr. Shearman's desire to see such legislation; for we may readily agree to differ in opinion (if he will agree,) respecting this matter, as well as with regard to the best means for obtaining certain ends.

It appears to me, that the more efficiently general practitioners are educated, the more able and willing they will be to meet physicians in consultation.

The Council of the Institute, as a body, have not noticed any groundless effusions, and the consequences have been, that great numbers have been misled upon different points; the subject of medical politics has been involved in mystery, and there has been a good deal of unnecessary and useless writing and printing; however,

Magna est veritas et prevalebit,

mere assertions are not arguments, and our thanks are due to Dr. Shearman for having displayed his inability either to *prove* a single charge against the Council, or to advance any tenable *argument* against the establishment of the Institute. Moreover, I think he has done much to show that the establishment of a National Medical Institute is essential for the future respectability and welfare of the profession, as well as for the requirements of the public.

I am, Sir,

Yours very truly,

July, 1847.

W. ALLISON.

### Medical Intelligence.

#### THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL MEDICAL DIRECTORY.

By the time our present number reaches the hands of our subscribers, they will have or ought to have received the annual circular from the Editors of the above work. The importance of such a publication to the medical community cannot be questioned, and we therefore hope the feeling will be general in the profession to co-operate with the Editors in making it correct, by acceding to their wishes in reference to the interrogatories contained in their circulars.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

W. Dashwood Kingdon, Esq., M.D., has been elected Resident Medical Superintendent to the St. Thomas' Hospital for Lunatics, near Exeter, in the room of Luke Ponsford, Esq., resigned.

Mr. John Marshall has been appointed to the office of Demonstrator at University College, London, in the room of Mr. Phillips Potter, deceased.

M. Dubois, (d'Amiens,) has been elected Secretary to the Academy of Medicine, Paris. The unsuccessful candidates were MM. Royer-Collard, Réveillé-Parise, Méliér, Bousquet, Renaudin, and Bourdon. At the first scrutiny, the numbers were, for—

M. Royer Collard - - - - 27  
M. Dubois - - - - 24

At the second scrutiny—

M. Royer Collard - - - - 42  
M. Dubois - - - - 41

As neither of the candidates had yet obtained a majority of the votes present, a third scrutiny was then held, when the numbers were, for—

M. Dubois - - - - 56  
M. Royer Collard - - - - 43

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday, August 20, 1847:—S. G. Bousfield; T. A. Rogers; W. H. Cook; E. B. Sinclair; W. A. Roche; R. E. Jones; M. A. Levan; M. Halley; E. C. Curran; R. Gunn; J. Newton; D. G. Jones.

Gentlemen admitted Monday, August 23rd:—W. L. Cashel; R. T. Spark; C. Ferraley; T. W. Crosse; R. Abercrombie; J. M. Camplin; M. J. Booth; C. T. Wagstaff; W. O. J. Wollaston; B. F. Matthews.

#### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Licentiates, Thursday, August 12, 1847:—Benjamin Fielding Matthews, Bedford; Joseph Meldon Dempsey; Thomas Green, Grassmere.

Gentlemen admitted Thursday, August 19.—T. Hunter, R.N., Budleigh Salterton, Devon; M. F. Bush, Trowbridge; S. Griffith; J. Simmonds Nedham, Leicester.

Gentlemen admitted Thursday, August 26th:—Thos. Morris Ward, Ollerton; Patrick Downey, York; William Hand, Northwich; George Alfred Rhodes, Wakefield; Sherard Freeman Statham, Cranford, Middlesex; William Emerson.

#### OBITUARY.

Died, Aug. 9th, at Edinburgh, Andrew Combe, M.D. Dr. Combe was the author of several highly esteemed works on Popular Physiology and Hygiène, and deservedly respected by his numerous friends, and by his professional brethren.

Aug. 10th, at Condonstown, of fever, David Barry, Esq., M.D.

Aug. 17th, at Lakeview, Mountnugent, of fever, Thomas Draper, Esq., Medical Attendant of the Dispensary and Fever Hospital of Ballymachugh, Cavan.

Aug. 20th, at Roscommon, of fever, Stephen H. Browne, Esq., M.D., Surgeon to the Infirmary and County Gaol, Roscommon.

Aug. 26th, at Oxford, aged 47, John Wootten, Esq., M.D., of Balliol College, Physician to the Radcliffe Infirmary.

Aug. 28th, Kenrick Watson, Esq., of Stourport, F.R.C.S., one of the earliest members, and a member of

the Council, of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.

Sept. 1st, in Gloucester Place, aged 74, Sir Richard Dobson, M.D., F.R.S., &c., Inspector of Hospitals and Fleets, and a Knight of the Foreign Orders of St. Vladimir, and of Dannebrog.

Lately, at Frankfort on the Maine, Sir John Hamme, M.D.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

A Guide to the Use of the Buxton Waters. By William Henry Robertson, M.D., Physician to the Buxton Bath Charity. Fourth Edition revised. London: Churchill. 1847. pp. 32.

The Consciousness of Right and Wrong, a first Test of the Plea of Insanity in Criminal Cases, &c. By C. Lockhart Robertson, M.D., Medical Staff, attached to the Military Lunatic Asylum, at Yarmouth, &c. Edinburgh. 1847. 8vo. pp. 18.

Health of Towns and of London Associations. Unhealthiness of London, and the necessity of Remedial Measures, &c. By Hector Gavin, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., Lecturer on Forensic Medicine at Charing-Cross Hospital, &c., &c. London: Churchill. 1847. 8vo. pp. 69.

The Microscopic Anatomy of the Human Body, in Health and Disease, &c. By Arthur Hill Hassall, F.L.S., &c. Part X. London: Highley. 1847.

On the Structural Relation of Oil and Albumen in the Animal Economy, and on certain Physical Laws connected with the Origin and Development of Cells. By John Hughes Bennett, M.D., F.R.S.E., &c., &c. (Read to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, April 19, 1847.)

#### ERRATA.

Page 456, col. 1, line 14 from foot, for *measure parted* read *manner secreted*; line 10 from foot, for *hæmorrhagia* read *menorrhagia*.

Page 466, col. 1, line 16, for *natural* read *mutual*.

Page 467, col. 1, line 5, for *representation* read *representative*.

Page 458, col. 2, in Mr. Higginbottom's paper, On the Use of Nitrate of Silver in Erysipelas, the quantity of water employed in the solution is erroneously stated at *four ounces* instead of *four drachms*. The prescription should stand thus:—

R. Argenti Nitratiss ..... scr. ii.  
Acidi Nitrici..... gtt. vj.  
Aquæ destillatæ ..... dr. iv  
M. Fiat Solutio.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. A. Prichard; C. A.; an Admirer of Zeal; Mr. F. Buckell; Mr. H. Clark; Scrutator; Mr. Daniell; Dr. Campbell; Mr. H. B. Pickess.

A London Surgeon.—The Council Prize is open to general competition, and not confined to members of the Association.

The continuation of the report of the proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the Newton Branch will be given in the next number.