

the Poor-Law Medical Officers suffered throughout the country, particularly adverting to the inequality of payment,—its inadequacy,—the short tenure of many Poor-Law Medical Appointments,—the system adopted in giving orders, and the mischief which from all these causes constantly arose to the pauper sick. They referred to instances in illustration, and adverting to the influence the position of the College necessarily gave it with the government, urged on it, that by representations to the government on the one hand, and by joining on the other, (through the President,) a Deputation to Sir George Grey and Mr. Buller, to be sent from the Committee, the College would exercise all its power to mitigate an evil alike mischievous and dishonouring to the whole profession.

The President and Censors having promised to give their best consideration to the statements of the Deputation, expressed the warm interest they felt in removing the grievances complained of, with an assurance that the College would be glad on every occasion to communicate with the Committee, and to second, as far as practicable, their exertions.

The Deputation having expressed their acknowledgements for the marked courtesy and cordiality with which they had been received, and their representations heard, then retired.

#### AGE OF PUBERTY IN ENGLAND :

MR. WHITEHEAD AND MR. ROBERTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

I shall feel greatly obliged if you will allow me, through the medium of your next publication, to correct an error which I inadvertently committed in my letter inserted in the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal* of last week. I may just be permitted to remind your readers that the object of the letter in question was to rectify two statements, presently to be repeated, which appear in my work "On Abortion, Sterility, &c.," regarding Mr. Robertson's researches on the age of puberty, conducted among the patients of the Manchester Lying-in Hospital.

Relying upon an imperfect recollection of my former reading, and not having at the time an opportunity of again consulting the necessary documents, I stated in my letter that the conclusions at which Mr. Robertson had arrived respecting the age of puberty in this country,—namely, that the average age of female puberty was, for England, fourteen years and ten months; and that the proportion of instances in which puberty was developed before the age of eleven years, was 3.15 per cent., as stated in his paper published in the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, vol. 66,—were deducted from a table comprising the result of his own inquiries and those of Professor Murphy, inserted in the 26th volume of the *Dublin Journal of Medical Science*; and that the inquiries of the latter were made among the Irish. On referring to the paper in question,

I found, at a period, however, when it was too late to correct the errors in my last communication, that Professor Murphy's table was, on the contrary, compiled from his own investigations and those of Dr. Robert Lee, both made in London, including also the inquiries of Mr. Robertson, instituted at Manchester.

The following statement exhibits the results of Mr. Robertson's and my own investigations respectively, as they ought to have stood in my treatise :—

Average age of puberty for England, according to Mr. Robertson's table	15 years and 3¼ mths.
The result of my own inquiries	15 years and 7 mths.

Proportion of instances arriving at puberty before the age of 11 years, according to Mr. Robertson	2.22 per ct.
The result of my own inquiries	0.225 „

That the above-mentioned errors have occurred, is a circumstance that I much regret. And should they have caused some degree of pain to the gentleman referred to, Mr. Robertson, (as I am privately informed has been the case), the explanation now given will, I trust, entirely satisfy him that nothing was farther from my thoughts than to misrepresent any of his views and statements.

I am, Sir,

Yours very respectfully,

J. WHITEHEAD.

Manchester, Jan. 31, 1848.

#### Medical Intelligence.

##### MORTALITY OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN IRELAND FROM FEVER.

It is with deep regret that we notice the ravages which fever continues to make in the ranks of our medical brethren, in Ireland. Scarcely a week passes without the loss of three or four district medical officers from this cause being announced in the *Dublin Medical Press*. During the late epidemic, of twenty-seven physicians attached to fever hospitals and districts in the province of Ulster, attacked with fever in the discharge of their duties, fourteen, or more than half, died, leaving nine widows and thirty-seven children, for the most part but scantily or not at all provided for. These gentlemen have fallen a sacrifice in the faithful discharge of duties entrusted to them by the public, in the endeavour to restore health to the sick, and administer assistance to the dying; surely their families are at least as much entitled to a provision at the hands of the government, as those of any other class of public servants.

##### DEATH FROM THE USE OF CHLOROFORM.

We regret to state that a case has occurred in which death was apparently owing to the employment of the vapour of chloroform. The operation was that of removing the toe-nail, and about a drachm of the chloroform was used to induce insensibility; the patient was a girl of fifteen, much reduced in her general health, who had undergone the same operation at the

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Infirmary, in which chloroform was also employed, about four months ago. The fatal event took place about three minutes from the first inhalation of the chloroform, the nail having been removed in the interval. An inquest was held, and the immediate cause of death was stated by Sir John Fife and Dr. Glover to have been congestion of the lungs. The verdict of the jury was, "that the deceased, Hannah Greener, died from congestion of the lungs, from the effect of chloroform, and that no blame can be attached to Mr. Meggison, surgeon, or to his assistant, Mr. Lloyd."

#### APPOINTMENTS.

William Thomson Barker, M.D., has been elected one of the Physicians to the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary, in the room of Dr. Robert M'Lellan, deceased.

Campbell De Morgan, Esq., F.R.C.S., has been appointed Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, in the room of Mr. Tuson, resigned; and Charles Hewitt Moore, Esq., has been elected Assistant-Surgeon, in the room of Mr. De Morgan.

James Dixon, Esq., F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the London Ophthalmic Hospital, has been appointed Assistant-Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, in the room of Mr. B. Travers, jun., resigned.

The appointment of Dr. Meyer as Physician to H. R. H. Prince Albert, mentioned in the last number, is, we have authority in stating, an error. Dr. Meyer is not a Physician, but a Doctor of Philosophy, and has been for some years attached to the establishment of Prince Albert as Librarian.

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted members on Monday, February the 28th:—J. Jordan, N. Marsh, H. Armstrong, R. Gorst, P. Y. Gowlan, J. T. Jackson, H. Dermott, T. J. Sayer, A. Goodchild.

#### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Licentiates, Thursday, January 20th, 1848.—James Bailey, Wednesbury; George Robart Hanbury, Hereford; Frederick Greenwood, Huddersfield; John Broadbent, Leeds; Josiah Clarkson, Birmingham.

Gentlemen admitted Licentiates, Thursday, January 27th:—Henry Christmas Walton, Liverpool; John James, St. Just, Penzance; Thomas Wise, Malton; George Reynolds Schofield, Leeds; James Rice; George Fry, Mayfield, Sussex.

#### OBITUARY.

Died, January 1st, at Fintona, of fever, Andrew Allen, Esq., late Surgeon, Royal Navy.

January 6th, at Kendal, aged 79, Edmund Tatham, Esq., Surgeon.

January 7th, William Finch, M.D., F.L.S., Physician to the Laverstock Lunatic Asylum, Salisbury.

January 9th, of fever, Samuel Edward Barnes, Esq., Surgeon to the Ballymore Eustace Dispensary.

January 11th, at Kilrea, aged 34, of fever, John Chaine Hunter, Esq., Surgeon to the Tamlaght Dispensary.

January 16th, at Baldock, aged 40, Robert Inverarity, Esq., Surgeon. Mr. Inverarity had scratched one of his fingers, and afterwards dressed the arm of a patient affected with phlegmonous erysipelas. Shivering occurred the following afternoon, diffuse inflammation of the cellule texture supervened, and he died on the eighth day from the attack.

January 23rd, of fever, Charles Hyndman, Esq., M.B., Physician to the Sick-Poor Institution, Meath Street, Dublin.

January 25th, at Edinburgh, J. W. Reid, M.D., Surgeon, R.N.

January 27th, of fever, Richard Strong Sargent, M.D., Physician to the North Dublin Union Fever-Sheds.

January 29th, at Edinburgh, of fever, Joseph Bell, M.D.

January 31st, at Sevenoaks, aged 51, James Gellatly, M.D.

Lately, George Leopold Perfect, M.D., Town Malling, Kent.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

Susrutas. Ayurvédas. Id est Medicinæ Systema a venerabili D'Hanvantare demonstratum a Susruta Discipulo compositum. Ex Sanskrita in Latinum Sermonem vertit Dr. Franciscus Hessler. Erlangæ apud Ferdinandum Enke. Tom. I. 1844. Tom. II. 1847. pp. 206, and 248.

Ventilation Illustrated: a Tract for the Schools of Rich and Poor. London: Churchill. 1848. 8vo. pp. 36. Wood-cuts.

The Cholera not to be arrested by Quarantine, &c. &c. By Gavin Milroy, M.D., Member of the Royal College of Physicians, &c. London: Churchill. 1847. 8vo. pp. 51.

Tenth Annual Report of the Suffolk Lunatic Asylum. December, 1847. Woodbridge: Munro. 8vo. pp. 28.

#### ERRATA.

Page 44, col. 2, line 14, for "W. H. Evans" read—*Evan Evans*.

— 45, col. 2, line 10 from the bottom, for "disgusting" read—*unsightly*.

— 45, col. 2, lines 17 and 18 from the bottom, for "pleasant to find, &c.," read—*pleasant*. I find, &c.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. E. Ray; Mr. F. Buckell; Mr. J. Moore; Mr. G. King; Mr. W. Newnham; Mr. Crompton; Dr. A. W. Davis; Mr. H. W. Budd; Mr. Whitehead; Mr. H. Williams; The Birmingham Pathological Society; Professor Simpson; Dr. Robertson; Dr. Oke.

*Dr. A. W. Davis*.—The subject shall be attended to.

The communication from H. B. B. is in type, but is unavoidably postponed to the next number.