

they were present in large numbers in the later evacuations. This is quite consistent with the known growth of torulæ, which require a certain time, though short, for their development. It is said that similar bodies have been found in water condensed from the atmosphere of cholera districts. The appearances presented by the lowest forms of confervoid vegetation in their earliest stage of development, so closely resemble each other that one variety might easily be mistaken for another, and as their spores are present and rapidly germinate in every warm and damp apartment, thus producing varieties of mould, it is not surprising that some of these bodies should be found in water condensed from atmosphere in such situations.

If you consider this idea deserving of further investigation, you will oblige me by inserting these remarks in the next number of the Journal.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

FERGUSON BRANSON, M.D.

Sheffield, October 19, 1849.

P.S.—In the *Lancet* for October 20th, Mr. Grove, of Wandsworth, has given four representations of the so-called "choleraic fungi," in different stages of development. They were found by him "in the first urine that was evacuated after the algide stage of cholera was over." The appearances there figured closely resemble "torulæ," and had search been made for it, sugar would doubtless have been found in the urine in which the growths occurred. This statement seems undesignedly, and therefore more forcibly, to corroborate the view taken in the preceding communication.

October 20, 1849.

[We beg to draw the attention of our readers to the date of this letter, from which it will be seen that it was written prior to the publication of those of Drs. Herapath and Quain on the same subject.—Ed. P. J.]

Medical Intelligence.

MICROSCOPIC RESEARCHES AS REGARDS THE CHOLERA.

Dr. Plomley has made some microscopic investigations into the nature of the supposed fungoid bodies found in cholera evacuations, the result of which, we are informed, leads him to consider them, though apparently similar to fungi, to be nothing more than altered or modified epithelium cells, mixed with an unusual quantity of their nuclei and granules.

Epithelium cells are minute sacs of variable shape, inclosing granules and small bodies or germs called nuclei. These cells line the whole of the external and internal surfaces of the body, and they are continually undergoing the process of destruction and renewal. They are the only agents by which the several animal fluids or secretions, both in health and disease, are produced. In health these cells, having performed their office, are thrown off with the different secretions of the body, and in quantities proportionate to the amount of the fluids secreted. In disease, in cholera especially, the same process takes place, but at a much more accelerated rate; the cells are thrown off with the

secretions in enormous quantities, and in consequence of their being arrested in their growth and development from a morbid state of the blood, they are much modified and altered in their character, and under the microscope have the appearance of distinct and peculiar organisms, very similar to the lowest fungi and their sporules.

RAPID BRONCHOTOMY.

M. Chassaignac, surgeon to the Hôpital Saint Antoine, at Paris, lately stated to the Surgical Society that he performed the operation of tracheotomy on a child affected with croup, in the following expeditious manner:—The larynx was steadied by thrusting a tenaculum through the cricoid membrane and the skin; the subjacent tissues and the rings of the trachea were then divided by one cut of an ordinary pointed bistoury. The same surgeon advises, when a canula is not immediately at hand, to pass a thread through each lip of the wound, and fasten that thread to a needle thrust through a fold of skin on either side of the trachea.

INTRA-UTERINE CRYING.

It is still a question among accoucheurs whether the fœtus can or cannot utter a cry within the uterus, though we suspect that very few practitioners in this country would lean to the affirmative. Professor Vannoni, however, has just published in a Florence paper, two cases which would tend to establish the possibility of fetal intra-uterine crying. The professor explains the phenomenon by the penetration of some of the air accumulated in the ovum into the trachea of the fœtus.

CHAIR OF MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.

At a meeting of the senatus of the University of St. Andrew's, held on the 9th instant, Dr. George E. Day was unanimously elected to the Chandos professorship of medicine, vacant by the death of the distinguished physiologist, Dr. John Reid.

APPOINTMENTS.

John Miller Blount, M.B., M.R.C.S.E., has been appointed surgeon to the New Jail of the Borough of Birmingham.

On the 17th instant, Dr. D. Lewis, of Finsbury Place, was unanimously elected one of the physicians to the Royal General Dispensary, Aldersgate Street.

Mr. Purnell, of Charter House Square, has been appointed surgeon to the Royal General Dispensary, Aldersgate Street, in the room of Mr. Solly, resigned.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert has been pleased to appoint William Fergusson, Esq., F.R.S., Professor of Surgery in King's College, London, to be Surgeon in Ordinary to his Royal Highness, in the room of Charles A. Key, Esq., deceased.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday, October 12th, 1849:—Sampson Kingsford Birch, Canterbury;

John Philip Vander Byl, Cape of Good Hope; William Francis Fryer, Kinsale, co. Cork; Robert Growse, Bildeston, Suffolk; George Campbell Knight, Chaquar Hill, co. Galway; Thomas Henry Mayne, Templemore, Ireland; Frederick George Sadd, London; Robert Tassell, Wye, near Ashford, Kent; James Walker, Alford, Aberdeenshire.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Thursday, October 11th, 1849:—Samuel Brown, Bradford, Yorkshire; Robert Growse, Bidelston, Suffolk; James Harvey Lilley, Wisbeach; William Parry, Montgomeryshire; John Seymour, London.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Thursday, October 18th, 1849:—David Morgan, Llandilo, Carmarthenshire; Josiah Pritchard, Melbourne, Wilts; Hay Sharpley, Louth, Lincolnshire.

OBITUARY.

May 24th, at Adelaide, South Australia, James Tweedale, M.D., Royal Navy.

At Madras, on the 26th of July, at the early age of 31, Joseph Appleton, M.D., late of Greenwich, and formerly Demonstrator of Anatomy at the Webb Street Medical School. After commencing practice at Greenwich, with every prospect of a successful career, the development of pulmonary disease arrested his progress, and he was obliged to dispose of his practice. He then graduated at St. Andrews, and obtained an appointment in the East India Company's service, with the hope of being enabled, in a warmer climate, to continue the practice of a profession to which he was warmly attached, but unfortunately an attack of dysentery put an end to his hopes, by removing him from this world, with the cares and labours of which he was by nature so unfitted to contend.

September 26th, at Inverness, of cholera, Dr. John Nicol,

October 13th, at Alton, Hants, William Curtis, surgeon, in his 30th year.

October 15th, at his residence, No. 7, Norland Place, Notting Hill, Samuel Proctor, Esq., M.D., late of Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, aged 64.

October 16th, aged 25, Ray Charles Golding, M.D., eldest surviving son of Dr. Golding.

October 17th, at 3, Storey's Gate, St. James's Park, John Wright, M.D., aged 44.

October 20th, at Park Terrace, Park Road, Clapham, Edwin Tipple, Esq., aged 65, late of Mitcham, Surrey, surgeon.

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

Cholera; an Analysis of its Epidemic, Endemic, and Contagious Character, &c. By Henry Stephens, M.R.C.S., &c. London: Renshaw. pp. 47.

Cholera considered Psychologically. By Forbes Winslow, M.D. Churchill. pp. 15.

New York Journal of Medicine, Vol. iii., No. 1.

Malignant Cholera, its Mode of Propagation and Prevention. By W. Budd, M.D., Physician to the Bristol Infirmary. London: John Churchill, Princes Street, Soho. 1849. Pamphlet, pp. 30.

The Address delivered at the Anniversary Meeting of the Worcestershire Natural History Society. By George Woodyatt Hastings, of the Middle Temple. Worcester: Deighton and Co., pp. 16.

Notice on Homœopathy. By John Loftus Marsden, M.D. London: William Headland, Princes Street, Hanover Square. 1849. 8vo., pp. 180.

On the Employment of Nitrate of Potash in Acute Rheumatism. By W. R. Basham, M.D., Physician to the Westminster Hospital. Pamphlet, pp. 24.

Lectures on Electricity and Galvanism, in their Physiological and Therapeutical Relation, delivered at the Royal College of Physicians. By Golding Bird, A.M., M.D., F.R.S., F.L.S. London: Longman and Co. 1849. Small 8vo, pp. 208.

American Journal of the Medical Sciences, July, 1849.

Flora Sidostiensis; or a Catalogue of the Plants indigenous to the vicinity of Sidmouth. By W. H. Cullen, M.D. Sidmouth: W. S. Hoyte. London: Simpkin Marshall and Co.

The Journal of Psychological Medicine and Mental Pathology. Edited by Forbes Winslow, M.D., October, 1849.

London Journal of Medicine, October, 1849.

Monthly Journal and Retrospect of the Medical Sciences, October, 1849.

Demonstrations of Anatomy. By G. V. Ellis, F.R.C.S. Professor of Anatomy in University College. Part II. London: Taylor, Walton, and Maberley, Upper Gower Street. Small 8vo, pp. 308.

Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association. Reported from the American edition. Oxford: John Henry Parker. London: John Churchill. 1849.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

The Secretary presents his compliments to those members of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association whose Subscriptions remain in Arrear, and begs respectfully to call their attention to the following Law, which was passed unanimously at the Anniversary Meeting, held at Bath, in 1848:—

"If any Member's Subscription remain unpaid twelve months after it shall have become due, the *Medical Journal* and other publications of the Society shall be withheld from such Member till his arrears be paid."

He earnestly entreats all those gentlemen whose subscriptions are now in arrear, that they will cause them to be paid, either to himself, or to the Treasurer, Dr. Hastings, without further delay.

JAMES P. SHEPPARD,

Secretary to the Association.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. Humphry, Mr. Crouch, Dr. Robertson, Mr. Ewin, Dr. Duncan, Mr. Bartrum, and Mr. Lord.

In answer to the inquiries of *A Student*, we can give no certain information as to the publication of the new Pharmacopœia. We do not know for what purpose he wishes a substitute, but the book he mentions is the best authority at present in print.

It is requested that all letters and communications be sent to J. H. Walsh, Esq., Foregate Street, Worcester. Parcels and books for review may be addressed to the care of Mr. Churchill, Princes Street, Soho.