

of our Association,) on a point of vital importance and interest to society. I have endeavoured to inform myself on the subject of scirrhus of the female breast by reading the published writings of many of our distinguished countrymen, and I regret to say I have been dissatisfied with the result of my reading, and have been unable to form any definite opinion, for in many respects there is a wide difference of opinion on the nature, as well as of the treatment, of this "cruel scourge of humanity."

I have taken every opportunity of asking many surgeons of experience (some who have retired from practice) what has been the result of their operations for scirrhus of the mammary gland. The answer I have almost invariably received has been,—the less you interfere the better. During the last few years I have been made acquainted with cases in which both eminent London and provincial surgeons have been consulted, and the opinions given the anxious patient and her friends have been discordant indeed. In more than one instance, under the advice of "great men," the whole gland has been extirpated, when, to all appearances, the operation promised success; yet the result has been far different; the wound has nearly healed, but instead of cicatrizing, the edges have become dark and shining, and carcinomatous ulceration and miserable death has ensued.

The question has arisen in my mind, was not the fatal termination hastened by the operation. We know that a scirrhus tumour of the female breast, if left to itself, usually ulcerates, and the patient dies from its effects.

Every surgeon who witnesses the progress and termination of these cases would gladly avail himself of a doubtful remedy, in the hope of being instrumental in arresting this state of things. The only remedy we have is the knife, and of the propriety of operating I am desirous of being made acquainted; and I hope the members of the Provincial Association, who have leisure, will give me their opinions through the medium of the *Journal*. I will not trespass longer on your patience.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CLEMENT HAWKINS.

Cheltenham, November 5, 1849.

Questions.

1. Is scirrhus of the female breast ever a local disease?
2. Is the removal of it by the knife advisable when it is in an indolent state?
3. When the operation has been performed under such circumstances, has the disease been observed to take on a more active form, and proceed more rapidly to a fatal termination?

N.B.—Any other practical information on this subject.

MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND.

To the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal.

MR. EDITOR,—Will you allow me to suggest to each one of your readers, that the day appointed for public

thanksgiving,—viz., next Thursday, would be a peculiarly favourable opportunity for contributing a special thank-offering to Almighty God, in the shape of a donation to the Medical Benevolent Fund, as a token of grateful acknowledgement of that mercy which has protected himself and his family from the destroying pestilence, from the effects of which several have become claimants upon our fund, and many more are suffering from the direst calamity?

A small sum from each would amount to a considerable aggregate, and might be appropriated to the relief of sufferers from cholera.

I am, Mr. Editor, faithfully yours,
WILLIAM NEWNHAM.
Secretary.

Farnham, Nov. 9, 1849.

Medical Intelligence.

THE CHOLERA SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, ON THE CHOLERA FUNGI.

The following are the principal conclusions and results arrived at by this committee on the nature and import of certain bodies examined microscopically in relation to cholera:—

"1. Bodies presenting the characteristic forms of the so-called cholera fungi are not to be detected in the air, and, as far as our experiments have gone, not in the drinking-water of infected places.

"2. It is established that, under the term 'annular bodies' and 'cholera cells, or fungi,' there have been confounded many objects of various and totally distinct natures.

"3. A large number of these have been traced to substances taken as food or medicine.

"4. The origin of others is still doubtful, but these are clearly not fungi.

"5. All the more remarkable forms are to be detected in the intestinal evacuations of persons labouring under diseases totally different in their nature from cholera.

"Lastly. We draw from these premises the general conclusion that the bodies found and described by Messrs. Brittan and Swayne are not the cause of cholera, and have no exclusive connexion with that disease; or in other words, that the whole theory of the disease which has recently been propounded, is erroneous, as far as it is based on the existence of the bodies in question.

WILLIAM BALY, M.D. } Cholera Sub-
WILLIAM W. GULL, M.D. } Committee.

QUALIFICATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS FOR PAROCHIAL APPOINTMENTS.

An interesting discussion took place in the St. Pancras vestry, on the appointment of a medical officer for one of the districts of that extensive parish. The directors of the poor having advertised for a medical

officer for the north district, vacant by the resignation of Mr. Smith, three candidates presented themselves to the vestry. The first stated that he was a member of the College of Surgeons of London; the next, that he was a member of the College, and a licentiate of the Apothecaries' Company; and the third, that he was a member of the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. All were in actual practice in the district. In the discussion which took place, Mr. Harding, a medical member of the Board, made some explanatory remarks on the present state of the law, the former custom of the vestry, and the merits of the qualifications produced. The vestry determined that a qualification in medicine and surgery be required of each candidate. That as the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the College of Surgeons of Dublin educate and examine in medicine, surgery, midwifery, and chemistry, the diploma of either of these colleges be considered a sufficient qualification. The effect of this vote, as far as the parish of St. Pancras is concerned, was of course to exclude the member of the College of Surgeons of London, on the ground that he had not, by examination, proved his qualification to practise medicine, midwifery, and pharmacy.

FEE TO MEDICAL MEN.

The Royal Insurance Company, Liverpool, have issued a notice that they will give a fee in EVERY case of reference to a medical man.

COPAIBA CAPSULES.

Capsules are occasionally to be met with in the market, purporting to be copaiba capsules, but which do not contain one particle of the balsam. A correspondent informs us, that he examined some of these spurious articles, and found that they were filled solely with train oil. He further states, that his experience in this matter has been confirmed by that of others. The fraud in this instance is very reprehensible, and the dealers ought to be punished.

APPOINTMENT.

Dr. Edward Crisp has been unanimously elected Physician to the Metropolitan Dispensary.

NEW COUNCILLORS OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

At a numerously attended meeting of Fellows on Thursday, November 1st, Mr. George Pilcher, and Mr. John Bishop, were elected members of the Council, in the vacancies caused by the death of Mr. C. Aston Key, and the resignation of Mr. Welbank. The result will have a material influence in forwarding the projected revision of the Charter of the College.

THE FELLOWSHIP.

We understand, that, in consequence of the new regulations from the College coming into operation in the ensuing year, making it compulsory on all junior candidates presenting themselves for the honour, to

undergo examinations in the classics and mathematics, a larger number than usual will present themselves for examination at the ensuing meetings on the 4th and 6th of December.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday, November 2nd, 1849:—Messrs. Robert Hamilton, Ipswich; John Thompson Goodrich, Paington, Devon; Richard Allanson Gaskill, St. Helen's, Lancashire; Charles Anthony Floyer, Floore, Northamptonshire; William Martin Hatfield, Chilham, Kent; Henry Taylor, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk; John Gilby Townsend Rossiter, Bristol; Thomas Croft, Bracknell, Berkshire; John Lascelles Nowell, Liverpool; Edward M'Kellar, Madeira; Samuel Reynolds, Debach, Suffolk; Henry Dixon, Stockton-upon-Tees.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Thursday, November 1st, 1849:—Joseph Hughes Hemmings, Kimbolton, Hants; John Cox Lynch, Norwood; Wm. Ferdinand Wratishaw, Rugby; Thomas Pettit Wright, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire.

OBITUARY.

June 12th, at Sidney, New South Wales, after a few days' illness, John Loftus Hartwell, Esq., Staff-Surgeon, 2nd class.

October 30th, at his residence, Woburn Place, Russell Square, Mr. Thomas Morton, aged 36.

November 5th, at his residence, Guildford, Surrey, Mr. Caleb Woodyer, in the 84th year of his age. He was elected a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1843, and at the time of his death was, we believe, the oldest member of the College, having received his diploma about the year 1790.

At Clapham, aged 65, Edwin Tipple, Esq., Surgeon, late of Mitcham, Surrey.

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

The Physiognomy of Disease. By George Corfe, M.D. London: James Nisbet, Berners Street. 1849. 4to, pp. 151. Plates.

Homœopathy, a Delusion!!! A Lecture on Homœopathy, by Dr. Guinness, analytically examined at the Athenæum, before the Members of the Exeter Literary and Scientific Institution, on the 23rd of October, 1849, by T. W. Christie, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England. Dublin: Fannin and Co. London: Longman and Co. Liverpool: Walmesley. Exeter: Glanville. 1849. 8vo, pp. 46.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. B. Travers, jun., Dr. Cooper, Dr. Boisragon, Mr. Hugh Neill, and Mr. Teale.

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.