

the cause of the widow and orphan, we may, in humble reliance on the Divine blessing, confidently anticipate a happy and triumphant result.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

R. D. GRAINGER.

Highgate, June 2, 1852.

Medical Intelligence.

DEATH OF DR. ROCHOUX.

This able physician, well known to English readers by his writings on apoplexy, has recently died at the age of 67. His last appointment was that of physician to the Bicetre, where he resided fifteen years. Latterly he lived in the country, and only came to Paris to attend the Academies and visit his friends. He had never any great amount of practice in Paris; but in early life he was a successful practitioner in Guadeloupe, and returned with a small competency, the result of his labours. He died of stone in the bladder, with its complications of cystitis and prostatic disease, for which he was for a long time under the care of Civiale. He was an admirer of the Epicurean philosophy, of which he, at least, offered a favourable specimen, for he "placed his delight in moderation and honesty with the cultivation of science and philosophy." So says his biographer.

THE ADULTERATION OF BITTER BEER.

[The following letter has been sent to Mr. Allsopp by Liebig, and will satisfy any remaining doubts as to the purity of an article which is now so generally recommended by the profession, that we are bound to consider whether that recommendation is founded in truth. That it is so, there can now be no doubt whatever.—Ed. J.]

The unguarded remark of a French chemist, that the strychnine imported into England, is employed in part as a substitute for hops in the manufacture of beer, has lately spread alarm among the lovers of pale ale. Having been appealed to by you to express my opinion on this subject, which appears to me to be, in a dietetic point of view, one of considerable public interest, I now offer the following brief statement:—

About a quarter of a century ago, a brewer in Westphalia fell into the practice of adulterating his beer with *nux vomica*, from which it is well known that strychnine is obtained. The peculiar morbid symptoms, however, which resulted from the consumption of this adulterated beer, speedily led to the detection of the fraud. The effects produced by *nux vomica* and strychnine are so characteristic, that every medical man will readily detect their origin. The French novelist, Alexandre Dumas, has described them, though with more imagination than truth, in his romance of "Monte Christo." It is possible that the Westphalian case, which from being made the subject of a criminal trial

obtained great notoriety, has given rise to the assumption that in England the strychnine imported is used for the purpose of mixing with beer. But nobody, at all acquainted with the great breweries of that country, could seriously entertain the suspicion of an adulteration of beer with strychnine or any other deleterious substance. It is practically impossible that any operation of a doubtful character could be carried out in these extensive establishments, on account of the large number of workmen employed in them. Any attempt on the part of the brewer to impart qualities to his beer in an illicit manner, which are not to be obtained from malt or hops would necessarily lead to his ruin; as he would be obliged to communicate his secret to too many persons, and to employ too many accomplices. The draymen themselves, as good connoisseurs in beer, would protest against any manipulation of a suspicious character. The case has even occurred of an eminent brewer not venturing to make use of a method suggested to him for the purpose of clearing his beer more effectually, because the addition of a new material to the wort might have induced a suspicion in the minds of his workmen, that it was an illicit proceeding, and this would have endangered the good reputation which his beer enjoyed. He stated to me at the same time that no improvement could be introduced into a brewery, the object of which was not perfectly evident to everybody.

During a sojourn of several days at Burton-on-Trent, I had an opportunity of becoming intimately acquainted with the method pursued in the manufacture of pale ale. I convinced myself that the qualities of this excellent beverage depended mainly upon the care used in the selection of the best kinds of malt and hops, and upon the ingenuity exhibited in conducting the processes of mashing and fermenting. Our Continental brewers have much to learn in these points to come up to the English brewers. I have no hesitation in saying that England possesses the greatest adepts in malting. I know positively that the chief brewers of Munich, who undoubtedly produce the best beer in Germany, have gone through an apprenticeship in Burton. This may account for the predilection entertained by the general public, as well as by medical men, for these varieties of beer; for the instincts of humanity and experience appear to be as good guides in the choice of things that contribute to health and enjoyment as the profoundest philosophy.

Professors Graham and Hofmann, in the excellent report already addressed to you upon the alleged adulteration of the pale ale by strychnine, have indicated a very simple process for detecting the most minute quantity of strychnine contained in beer. I have satisfied myself of the great convenience and accuracy of their method, and have farther assured myself, by an analysis of several specimens of pale ale obtained from London houses, supplied by your establishment, of the utter groundlessness of the imputation that this beer was poisoned with strychnine. I am positive, and am supported in my views by the concordant analyses of all chemists who have occupied themselves with the examination of beer, that the poisoning of pale ale with strychnine has never occurred. I believe I may safely add, that it never will take place; for although an ignorant brewer might be induced from interested motives to add *nux vomica* to his beer, the

word strychnine so forcibly suggests one of the most virulent poisons, that whoever has heard anything about strychnine at all is sure to be aware of this. By adulterating his beer with strychnine, the brewer would be knowingly committing a crime which, in the present state of science, must be followed by immediate detection and punishment.

Mr. E. Merck, of Darmstadt, one of the most extensive strychnine manufacturers in Europe, informs me that this substance is peculiarly adapted to destroy vermin of all kinds. In many parts of Germany it is the popular poison for rats and mice. This fact fully accounts for the large amount of the drug that has lately been introduced into commerce.

The specimens of your pale ale sent to me, have afforded me another opportunity of confirming its valuable qualities. I am myself an admirer of this beverage, and my own experience enables me to recommend it, in accordance with the opinion of the most eminent English physicians, as a very agreeable and efficient tonic, and as a general beverage both for the invalid and the robust.

JUSTUS LIEBIG.

Giessen, May 6, 1852.

COLLEGIATE ELECTION.

The by-laws relating to the election of fellows into the Council appear to have been but little understood, inasmuch as we are informed that only Messrs. Gulliver, Partridge, Shaw, and Tatum, have given notice of their intention to become candidates for the vacant seats in the Council, of which there will be two, viz., the vacancies occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Stafford and the death of Mr. Dalrymple.—*Lancet*.

CHAIR OF MEDICINE, GLASGOW.

Mr. Secretary Walpole has appointed Dr. John McFarlen to the vacant Professorship in the University of Glasgow.

APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. Henry S. Gaye was last week appointed House-Surgeon to the Taunton Hospital.

We have great pleasure in stating that at the last meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, Mr. John T. Quekett, the resident conservator of the Hunterian Museum, was unanimously elected Professor of Histology in the College. Mr. John Henry Sylvester, of Cheltenham, late pupil in King's College, was appointed student in human and comparative anatomy, in the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. D. H. Monckton.

MILITARY.—57th Foot: Acting Assistant Surgeon, T. Clark Brady, to be Assistant-Surgeon, *vice* Jackson, promoted on the Staff. Hospital Staff: Assistant-Surgeon James Jackson, from the 57th Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon of the second class.

PRIZES AWARDED BY THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF PARIS.

We earnestly solicit the attention of our readers to the following list, which will show in a very impressive manner how extensively scientific labour is rewarded in France, and how certain a man of ability and industry

may be of acquiring distinctions adequate to his labours. We refrain from sketching a parallel with this country in this respect: our professional brethren know but too well how scanty are the rewards of scientific labours in this gifted land.

On the 22nd of March, 1852, the public sitting of the Academy of Sciences was held, under the Presidency of M. Rayer, on which occasion the following prizes were announced:—

1. *Experimental Physiology*.—The prize is awarded to M. Claude Bernard, for his paper "On a Newly Discovered Function of the Liver of Man and Animals," wherein the author has brought to light a function of the liver hitherto unsuspected, and shown that the production of sugar belongs as much to the animal as to the vegetable kingdom. 2. A favourable notice is granted to M. Brown Séquard, for his paper "On the Transmission of Sensitive Impressions along the Spinal Marrow." 3. Another favourable notice to M. Dufour, for his "Anatomical and Physical History of Scorpions." 4. A favourable notice to M. Jobert de Lamballe, for his paper "Researches on the Electrical Apparatus of the Torpedo and Gymnotus."

On Unhealthy Trades.—1. A prize of £80 is granted to M. Masson, for having introduced means of preserving vegetable substances, which means are of great benefit to the crews of French vessels. 2. A prize of £80 to M. Sucquet, for the introduction of a process wherewith the unhealthy emanations of dissecting-rooms are neutralized.

Medicine and Surgery.—1. A prize of £100 to M. Guérin, for his "Generalization of Subcutaneous Tenotomy." 2. £80 to M. Huguier, for his work, "Researches on the Diseases which may attack the Female Generative Organs, and especially on Abscess of the Vulva." 3. A reward of £80 to Messrs. Briquet and Mignot, for their "Analytical and Practical Treatise on Cholera." 4. A reward of £80 to M. Duchenne, (of Boulogne), for his "Electro-Physiological Researches applied to Pathology and Therapeutics." 5. A reward of £80 to M. Prosper Lucas, for his "Physiological and Practical Treatise of Natural Heredity in Health and Disease." 6. With a view of favouring and extending the use of physical agents in therapeutics, the Academy awards £80 each to Messrs. Tabarié and Pravas. To the first gentleman for having originally used compressed air in the treatment of pulmonary affections; as well as for trials of the same means in other diseases in which an increase of atmospheric pressure might appear useful. And to the second gentleman, for his "Essay on the Medical Use of Compressed Air," and for having elucidated, by means of actual observation and the most recent physiological inquiries, facts relating, on the one hand, to the influence of compressed air on the organs of respiration, on audition, on hæmatosis, and the circulation of the blood; and on the other hand, for having duly appreciated its beneficial effects on digestion and assimilation. Finally, for having varied and extended the use of this powerful modifying agent of the organism, and for having ever done so rationally and practically, with results which might hardly have been expected to be so successful. 7. A reward of £80 granted to M. Gluge, for his work "On Pathological Histology," wherein he has studied, with the aid of the microscope, a certain number of alterations of the animal textures. 8. A reward of £60 to M. Gosselin, for his "Researches on the Obliteration of Spermatic Canals." 9. A reward of £80 to M. Gariel, for his medical and surgical applications of vulcanized India-rubber. 10. £60 to M. Vidal, for the invention of "Serre fines," (little silver spring forceps to facilitate union by first intention, which should be more extensively tried in this country.) 11. £40 to M. Serres (d'Uzès), for his "Researches on Phosphenes." 12. £40 to M. Boinet, for his paper on "The Treatment of Congestive Abscess by Injections of Iodine." A favourable notice to the

"Compendium of Practical Medicine," of Messrs. Monneret and Fleury, and to the "Treatise on Nervous Diseases," written by M. Sandras.

By offering this list we are rendering no small service to our readers, for therein they will find which are the most esteemed works that have of late been published in France, and what inventions have, within the last year or two, been found deserving of the approbation of so learned and independent a body as the Academy of Medicine of Paris.—*Lancet*.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

The following gentlemen were admitted members on the 4th instant:—J. Clarke, London; Thomas Hillas, Brompton, Middlesex; Edward John Longport, Lancashire; George Naylor, Hon. East India Company's Service; Robert Reynolds, Debach, Suffolk; Charles Royston, Harrow Road, Paddington; Benjamin Simpson, Dublin; William Snell, Neston, Cheshire; Henry Tournay Stiles, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

The following gentlemen were admitted members on the 11th instant:—Josiah Austen, Plymouth; George Church, Listowell, Kerry; John Andrew Clarke, Army; Savill James Coombs, South Lambeth; Francis D. Kelly, Liverpool; Henry Lankester, Poole, Dorset; James Martin, Quebec, Canada; George Mason, Deal; George Selwyn Morris, Wye, Ashford, Kent; John Barry Murphy, Cork; John Smith, Daventry; John Fremlyn Streatfield, Wanstead, Essex; Thomas Wyld, Ramsbottom, Lancashire.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted members on the 3rd instant:—Henry James Ellery, Truro, Cornwall; Charles Dudley Kingsford, Wellington Street, Southwork; Benjamin Richard Lawrence, Cheddar, Somerset; William Boyd Mushet, Coventry.

Gentlemen admitted members on the 10th instant:—James Balfour Cockburn, Guernsey; Thomas William Damant, Fakenham, Norfolk; Henry Richard Foquett, Newcastle Emlyn, Cardiganshire; Benjamin Lawrence Hawkins, as an assistant; John Henry Hewer, Chatham, Surrey; Joseph Hooper, Milton Terrace, Wandsworth Road; William Price Jones, Bala, North Wales; Ezekiel John Lock, Barton, Norfolk; James Rolph, London.

Gentlemen admitted members on the 27th ultimo:—William Charles Rockeff, Clark Arncliffe, Duncton, Quadring Eaudike, Lincolnshire; John Edmund, Bangorwood, Flintshire; Charles Harris, Northiam, Sussex; John Hancock Wolstenhome, Bolton-le-Moor; Leonard Keatley Yelf, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

OBITUARY.

June 21st, in Barnsbury Road, William Webber, M.D., surgeon R.N., aged 34.

June 21st, at Star Hill, Rochester, John Lewis, Esq., surgeon, H.P., and in charge of medical stores, Fort Pitt, Chatham, aged 78.

June 2nd, at Bideford, in Devonshire, Henry C. Boisragon, M.D., of Cheltenham, aged 74. Dr Boisragon was one of the oldest members of the Council of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, having joined in 1832; he was elected President in 1837, and was subsequently one of the permanent Vice-Presidents, which office he held until the period of his death.

June 18th, at Cambridge, after a few hours illness, Frederick Thackeray, M.D., Consulting-Physician to Addenbrooke's Hospital, aged 78.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

In consequence of the 8 P.M. train from Liverpool having been discontinued, the Sixteenth Anniversary will be held on Wednesday, the 30th of June, in the Medical Institution, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, at *twelve* o'clock instead of one, as previously advertised; and the dinner will take place at *three* o'clock instead of four.

ROBT. BICKERSTETH, Esq., Liverpool, President.

JOHN HATTON,

114, Oxford Street, Manchester, Hon. Sec.

SUFFOLK BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Suffolk Branch of the Association, will take place at the Railway Station Room, Needham Market, on Friday, June 25th,

Dr. BEDINGFIELD, President, in the chair.

JOHN KIRKMAN, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

The next meeting of the members of the South-Eastern Branch of the Association, will take place at the Pavilion Hotel, Folkestone, on Wednesday, the 30th inst., at *twelve* o'clock precisely.

THOMAS MARTIN,

Secretary and Treasurer.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

The annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the residence of H. W. Randolph, Esq., at Milverton, on Wednesday, the 30th of June. The chair will be taken by the President, S. F. Bridge, Esq., at *two* o'clock.

F. HENRY WOODFORDE, M.D.,

Honorary Secretary.

Taunton, June 19, 1852.

SHROPSHIRE BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Shropshire Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, will be held at the Boreaston Arms Inn, Baschurch, on Thursday, the 8th of July next. The chair will be taken by J. Hickman, Esq., President, at one o'clock. Dinner will be provided at half-past four, for all members who intimate to either of the Secretaries their intention of being present.

T. J. DRURY, M.D., } Hon. Secs.
J. R. HUMPHREYS, }

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. Humphry, Dr. Nelson. Mr. Matterson, jun., Dr. Laycock, and Dr. Barker.

In consequence of the great length of the proceedings at the anniversary meeting of the Midland Branch, we are obliged to postpone the insertion of several important communications.