

increasing the strength of their vinegar, or, in some instances merely from habit and the indisposition to disturb the routine of an old-established practice. The presence of sulphuric acid in vinegar should be looked upon as the mark of inferior quality, for it is only where the mode of manufacture is defective that the addition appears to be at all necessary.

"It is the alleged addition of sulphuric acid to the vinegars of Messrs. Hill, Evans, and Co., of Worcester, that has led to the present inquiry, in the performance of which every assistance and facility was afforded to us by these manufacturers in obtaining the information necessary to form a correct judgment. The examination of the journals in which the daily operations of the manufactory are recorded for upwards of twenty years, afforded no trace of such a practice having ever been followed there; and an inspection of the works proved equally satisfactory. Samples were drawn from several vats fixed upon by ourselves, in the extensive stores of the establishment, which represented a stock of several hundred thousand gallons. The fermented wort before acetification, which was at the time in stock, the water employed upon the works in mashing the grain, were also taken for examination. The careful analysis of these products established the following conclusions:—

"That the water used, which is drawn from a well on the premises, is hard and alkaline, and contains a proportion of sulphuric acid in the form of neutral sulphates, principally sulphate of lime, amounting to 1·37 grains in 1000 grains of the water.

"That seven samples of vinegar contained respectively 1·31 grains, 1·33, 1·29, 1·23, 1·26, 1·25, and 1·25 grains of sulphuric acid in 1000 grains. This, it is to be observed, is no more sulphuric acid, or more properly sulphate found in the vinegar, than is contained in the water. Indeed, the proportion of sulphate proves to be somewhat less in the vinegar than in the water used in its preparation, no doubt from the known property of sulphate of lime to precipitate as an insoluble compound with the nitrogenous principles of the grain. This comparison of the water and vinegar is sufficient to preclude the possibility of any sulphuric acid having been added to the vinegar in the process of manufacture, and therefore refutes any charge of adulteration, while it explains how such an idea may have originated. The sulphate of lime which the water introduces into the vinegar cannot, in our opinion, have the slightest effect in injuring its quality; and this sulphuric acid, being neutralized, can in no way strengthen the proper acidity of the vinegar due to its acetic acid.

"It is to be remembered, also, that the use of hard water has its advocates among brewers, and that the keeping quality of vinegar made with such water may very possibly be improved, from the more complete removal of nitrogenous matter from the liquid, which, as has been already stated, sulphate of lime contributes to effect.

"The vinegars of Messrs. Hill, Evans, and Co., therefore, demonstrate themselves to be pure malt vinegars, wholly unadulterated with sulphuric acid; while, on the other hand, their strength is not artificially enhanced by the addition of pyroligneous acid, sometimes practised, and which would betray itself by an odour of creosote, when the liquor is heated, of which these vinegars were entirely free."

"THO. GRAHAM, F.R.S., Professor of Chemistry, University College, London.

"A. W. HOFMANN, Ph.D., F.R.S., Professor Royal College of Chemistry, London.

"LYON PLAYFAIR, C.B., Ph.D., F.R.S., Professor of Chemistry, Museum of Practical Geology, London.

"London, October 21, 1852."

Medical Intelligence.

(From our own Correspondent.)

LONDON, Nov. 8, 1852.

Mr. Hunt, formerly of Herne Bay, the author of an useful work "On Diseases of the Skin," in which he clearly shows the very great reliance he places on the careful and sustained administration of arsenic in small doses for even a very long period of time, read at a subsequent meeting of the Medical Society of London,* a paper "On the Constitutional Treatment of Tinea, &c." These diseased conditions of the hairy scalp the author was inclined to attribute almost entirely to a constitutional cause, believing that derangement of the system and poverty of the blood, or deficiency of constitutional vigour, were the principal agents in inducing their occurrence. The affection, in all its forms, was believed by the author to be communicable by one and the same contagion, and to be either the consequence or the cause of a vegetable parasite, which, taking root in the hair bulbs, became a source of disease. Consequently, Mr. Hunt placed but little reliance on the efficacy of local remedies, but directed the treatment he adopted to the improvement of the general health, and the destruction of the parasite. Arsenic is with him almost a *sine quâ non* in the management of skin diseases; it is not likely, therefore, he would pass it by in these cases. Accordingly, he mentioned several cases in which he had employed it successfully, using weekly tepid water only, for the sake of cleanliness. He averred that it exerts a specific action on the hair-bulbs, and stated that in some cases of pure alopecia, which he looked upon as caused by the parasitic fungus, it had effected a cure. He concluded by observing that if the same principles of treatment should prove to be applicable for contagious forms of scalp disease, which he had found so practically useful in other chronic cutaneous affections, the difficulties of diagnosis would be reduced to a very simple and easy problem, as far as practice was concerned. For whatever may be the character of the disease, provided it were neither syphilis nor scabies, the only thing necessary was to rectify the general health, and, if that measure failed to restore the healthy condition of the skin, to administer some powerful alterative tonic in suitable doses for a proper time. For this purpose the author preferred arsenic, as being a remedy more manageable and more certain, and more permanent in its effects than any other.

The reading of this paper led to a rather warm attack on the author's ideas of pathology. It was condemned as unphilosophical, and far from being in accordance with the present state of knowledge. Diseases totally dissimilar in origin, nature, and character, and consequently in their treatment, had been confounded together, while local remedies, so essential for the cure of some of these, were almost totally neglected. The use of arsenic was not considered to be advisable in all these diseases, although it might be serviceable in some.

* ERRATUM.—In the last report, in the title of Dr. Bennett's paper, for "Purulent Pleuro-pneumonia," read "Prevalent Pleuro-Pneumonia."

It is also uncertain in its operation, and injurious in many cases. No clear explanation had been given of the means of diagnosis between the different scalp diseases, nor between those which were contagious and those which were not. On the other hand, some of the speakers were very unwilling to regard the vegetable parasite in any way as the cause, but rather as the result of the inveterate scalp affection, the result of the decomposition of the tissues, leading to the origination of the low forms of life. Some of the speakers, however, defended the constitutional origin of all cutaneous maladies, and the consequent necessity for remedies capable of strengthening the system at large, and restoring it to health. Mr. Hunt's reply was very brief, the chief remark being to the effect that one of his principal objections to local remedies arose from their application obscuring the appearances presented, and thus preventing his observing the effects produced by the internal medication.

Prior to the reading of Mr. Hunt's paper, Dr. Ryan exhibited a portion of an umbilical cord, ruptured during delivery in the upright posture. This bore on a medico-legal question, having reference to the destruction of the life of the fœtus. Dr. Ryan referred to one or two cases in point. Mr. Richardson showed a specimen of internal strangulation of the ileum in a young pig. A brief discussion took place, in the course of which remarks were made on the inaptitude of the lower order of animals to bear up against the inroads of acute inflammation. It was stated that when the horse was attacked by acute pneumonia, veterinary surgeons generally considered the case desperate. In contra-vention to this, Dr. Ogier Ward alluded to the operation performed on cows, when in the state called "hoven," from eating large quantities of wet clover. The abdomen was freely pierced with a knife, and the distending gas evacuated. Notwithstanding this severe penetrating wound of the abdomen, the animal generally recovered.

While the embers of cholera are still smouldering in Posen and Berlin, and cases are even said to have been seen in Vienna, the reports from the West Indies, and from the more southern districts of the United States, are anything but gratifying. Yellow fever is exceedingly prevalent in Charleston, U.S., and at the Savannah, insomuch that the Sardinian Board of Health, following the steps of our own wise Government, have decided on adopting quarantine measures against vessels coming from either of those parts. As that horrible disease, "Yellow Jack," is also decimating our troops in Barbados, a similar decree will doubtless be launched by the Sardinians against it. The disease first showed itself in the iron barracks (St. Ann's) occupied by the 69th Regt., and in less than a week it carried off more than twelve privates and two officers; the troops in consequence were withdrawn from the barracks, and encamped on the grounds of the Naval Hospital, at Hastings—a more elevated and healthy situation. This was soon found to be beneficial, and consequently a similar plan was followed at all the other barracks, the whole of the troops in garrison being encamped—a detachment of the 69th at Gun-hill, the Royal Artillery and the 34th on Brittan's-hill; the 69th have been since

withdrawn from the neighbourhood of the Naval Hospital, and they also are encamped at the former place, which is a very elevated and healthy situation. The fever has since assumed a much less malignant character; the cases in the hospital are less in number, several are convalescent, and it is hoped that the disease will soon be entirely eradicated. There are no reports of the fever from the country districts, but it broke out at Bridgetown almost as soon as at St. Ann's. It first appeared among the police, and in a few days it showed itself almost simultaneously in different parts of the city and suburbs, but its victims, considering the large population of the place, have been comparatively few. The latest accounts state that the fever has appeared in St. Phillips parish, and in the Blackrock district. While this epidemic is carrying off our soldiery in this beautiful island, our Government are employed in sending out more pabulum for the fever, in the shape of young unacclimatised soldiery and officers, intended to relieve the island garrison, but apparently destined for the grim clutch and dark embrace of fever and death. The *Megara* bears away this devoted band. Are human lives of no more worth? The mortality in Antigua during the last two months, in the absence of any epidemic, has been almost unparalleled. In British Guiana, the weather has been very dry, with intense heat, accompanied by an epidemic influenza and colds, coughs, and fever, prevailing extensively in the colony. There is a good deal of sickness in the Lucca, and two cases of fever terminating fatally, are recorded. The yellow fever is said to have abated considerably in Martinique.

APPOINTMENTS.

ROYAL SOUTH GLOUCESTER LIGHT INFANTRY REGIMENT OF MILITIA.—Commission signed by the Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Gloucester, of the city and county of the city of Gloucester, and of the city and county of the city of Bristol, Assistant-Surgeon William Philpot B. Brookes, M.D., to be Surgeon *vice* Tate, resigned.

The Honourable Board of Ordnance have appointed Mr. George Moseley, of Sandgate, Acting Ordnance Surgeon in charge of the Detachment of Royal Artillery, Shorncliff Barracks. The Detachment consists of a nine pound field battery.

Mr. William Adams has been elected to the St. Pancras Dispensary.

MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND.

The late Mr. J. Terrett, of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, has left, amongst other munificent bequests, one of £500 to the above most deserving fund.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

Sixty-one gentlemen presented themselves on the 27th ultimo for examination for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, annually awarded by the Senate of this University. The candidates were examined in mathematics, classics,

moral philosophy, animal physiology, French, and German; the examiners being the Rev. Dr. Jerrard, and T. B. Burcham, Esq., M.A., Barrister-at-Law, late fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.* The examination terminated on Thursday, when those candidates who desire it may enter upon examination for orders, which commenced on Tuesday, Nov. 2, and will conclude on Friday, Nov. 19. There will also be an examination in the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, the Greek Text of the New Testament, and in Scripture history, commencing on Nov. 15. The examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine was appointed to commence on Monday, Nov. 1, and that for Doctor of Medicine, on Monday, Nov. 22.

GENERAL HOSPITAL BIRMINGHAM.

Mr. Oliver Pemberton has been elected one of the Surgeons of this Institution, in the place of Mr. Wood, resigned.

CHARITABLE BEQUESTS.

The late Mr. Thomas Croft, of Gravesend, has left £400, and the late Mr. Hunt, of Boxley, £10, to the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

The following gentlemen were admitted members on the 29th ultimo:—John Armstrong, Manchester; St. John Edwards, Bangor, North Wales; George Davenport Freeman, Bath; William Giles, Sydney; Thomas Hillier, Stroud, Gloucestershire; William Body Mushet, Haverstock Hill, Middlesex; George Russell, Clifton, Bristol; Samuel Thorpe, Manchester; Alfred Tronsdale, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire; Heaten Lloyd Williams, Denbigh, North Wales.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.—From the annual report of the receipts and expenditure of the College in the year, from Midsummer-day 1851 to Midsummer-day 1852, it appears that the gross amount of receipts were £25,304. 13s. 6d., derived from the following sources of income:—The Court of Examiners, £8921. 12s.; fellowship, £220. 10s.; admission to Council, £42; sale of lists of members, catalogues, &c., £77. 8s. If to these sums are added the dividends on investments in Government securities, £1,021. 11s. 10d., the interest on exchequer bill, £22. 1s. 8d., and the late Parliamentary grant in aid of erection of additional museums, of £14,999. 10s., it will make a total of £25,304. 13s. 6d., as the total amount of receipts from all sources. The disbursements during the year amounted to £13,267. 3s. 6d.

THE FELLOWSHIP.—The Council of the Royal College of Surgeons have just announced that the next examination in classics, mathematics, and French, will take place at the College, the first week in November, and the professional examinations for the fellowship, the first week in December. We find, from the College list just published, there are at present 172 gentlemen who have undergone the examinations for the dis-

inction, and 528 honorary and other fellows, making a total of 700. We are glad to perceive that the Council have placed a distinguishing mark to those fellows who have undergone the rigid examinations of the Courts of Examiners. This is an act of justice to which the gentlemen have a claim, and which has been considerably bestowed without any application to the College authorities.—*Lancet*.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Members on the 28th ultimo:—James Askquith Ellis, Bristol; Thos. Beard Farncombe Bishopstone, Sussex; George Bell Poppelwell, North Shields; Henry Tucker, Lyme Regis, Dorset.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

The Central Council of the Association beg to call the attention of those members whose subscriptions are in arrear to the following resolutions passed at the Anniversary Meeting, held at HULL, on the 7th and 8th of August, 1850:—

“But if any Member's subscription remain unpaid twelve months after it shall become due, the *Medical and Surgical Journal*, and other publications of the Society, shall be withheld from such Member till his arrears be paid; and when any Member has been in arrears of subscription for the space of *three years*, application shall be made for the same by the General Secretary, and if the arrears be not paid in *three months*, the name of that Member shall be omitted from the list of Subscribers; but this omission shall not be deemed, either in honour or equity, as releasing any Gentleman from the subscriptions owing during his Membership.”

Those gentlemen who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the CURRENT YEAR, or who are in ARREARS, are requested to forward the amount due either to the Secretary of the district in which they reside, or to the Treasurer or Secretary of the Association at Worcester.

All post-office orders should be sent either to the Treasurer or Secretary, who alone have the power of giving receipts.

J. P. SHEPPARD.

Worcester, October 23, 1852.

Secretary.

ERRATA.

In Mr. Mitchell's letter “On the Acid Treatment of Diarrhoea,” by some unaccountable mistake a wrong signature was attached thereto. Instead of John James Mitchell, L.S.A., it should have been “James Johnston Mitchell, M.R.C.S., and L.S.A., Surgeon to the Western Dispensary of Bath.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Dr. Tilt, Dr. Shapter, Epidemiological Society, Dr. Nelson, Mr. Reid, Mr. Coates, Mr. Collins, and Dr. Oke.