

inwards, and there was foaming at the mouth; afterwards they walked unsteadily, trembled, and vomited, uttered occasional cries, and there was paralysis of the hind legs; they finally lay down, could no longer be roused, and were insensible to the action of caustic ammonia. In the course of a day they both recovered. —*Hinterberger, Sitz.-Bericht der Wien. Akad., der Wissensch. Bd. 7, No. 3.*

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## Provincial Medical & Surgical Journal.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1852.

It was our intention to have made some further comments upon the amended Draft Bill in the present number of the *Journal*, but we have been prevented doing so owing to the severe illness of the Secretary of the Committee (Mr. GEORGE HASTINGS) immediately on his return from Scotland. We may, however, state, that that gentleman, with Mr. NUNNELEY, has had several very satisfactory interviews with Deputations from the Scotch medical bodies, who have agreed to carry out the scheme by the framing of clauses on a similar principle to those already adopted by the Association for this country. We trust that the Deputation appointed to confer with the Council of the College of Surgeons in London, may be equally successful.

ALTHOUGH we have not received the official Report of the Council of the Bath and Bristol Branch of the Association, we understand that Mr. Cox has withdrawn from the Association, and has thus, of course, stopped all further investigation into his conduct. We have already expressed our sentiments upon this painful subject so fully, that there is no necessity to do more than express the hope, that by a rigid course of upright professional conduct, he may regain that *status* which he has now—we hope for a time only—lost. Whilst on this subject we beg to draw attention to the letter of Mr. COLE, published at page 622, which certainly, if attended to, would obviate much of the odium which the public now sprinkle upon us with no unsparing hand. If the profession could only agree upon a scale of charges suited to the varying aspects of medical life, this might—though not easily, be avoided.

OUR correspondent, Mr. COLLYNS, must pardon us for suggesting that his letter does not at all meet the point in dispute between Mr. SHEPPARD and ourselves. It is not that we differ as to the propriety of saving the mother's life, by the sacrifice of the child, but that we are not agreed as to the precise time at which interference is necessary. We fully agree as to the soundness of Mr. COLLYNS's practice, but in all of his cases everything was done to save the child which could be done, and therefore they are not in point. If Mr. COLLYNS, in his second case, had perforated the head, we should say that he would have acted most improperly; as it was, he did what all would advise, and saved both mother and child. The subject is worn threadbare, and we therefore refrain from any further observations upon it, especially as our space is limited by the necessity for accommodating our numerous correspondents before the removal of the *Journal* to London.

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## Medical Intelligence.

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(From our own Correspondent.)

LONDON, NOV. 22, 1852.

I must mention the accident, which occurred at the Zoological Gardens through the folly of one of the keepers who, being intoxicated, began playing with the Indian Cobra di Capello. He was bitten by it on the nose, and dying about an hour afterwards, it has led to the deluging the daily press with letters laying down a plan of treatment to be adopted in such cases, in some of which the method pursued is rather sharply criticised, the writers not having taken into due consideration the state the man was in when he arrived at the hospital. From the account furnished in the columns of the *Medical Times*, it is evident that he was past all hope of recovery, the time having been allowed to elapse in the gardens, during which an attempt ought to have been made, without an endeavour to counteract the animal's poison. The proper plan, if the person is seen soon after the accident, is to cut out the bitten part if possible, to cauterise it, apply cupping glasses, or to suck it, as recommended by the coroner, as the poison may with safety be taken into the stomach; but if that be practised it behoves the operator to make sure that he has *neither cracks, fissures, nor broken surface on his lips*, for if he has, he will assuredly transfer the poison from the victim to himself. The application of *eau de luce* (an old preparation of ammonia and amber), with sal volatile, brandy, or other stimuli given internally, and keeping the person walking about, will generally prove successful; but if the time when this should be done is thrown away, and the patient is not seen till he is in the state that Gurling was, when admitted, then artificial respiration,

and the treatment used in the hospital, with perhaps the forming an atmosphere of ammonia around him, give the only chance for life, and a very poor one it is. Arsenic has been recommended as a curative agent, to be given in large doses; but its action on the system is much too slow to be effectual in cases where death follows in an hour or two. The celebrated Tanjore pill contains a notable quantity of that mineral. Sir E. Home mentions a case of a man bitten by a rattlesnake, who survived the injuries some fifteen or sixteen days, dying afterwards from the effects of diffuse inflammation in the part bitten. To cause a fatal result it is absolutely necessary that the poison be introduced into the blood; if applied to an unbroken surface, or taken into the stomach, it is effete.

An opinion has prevailed that serpents brought from a warm climate lose a great deal of the energy of their poison in the more temperate countries, but this and other cases prove that opinion to be erroneous.

Sad news have arrived from Germany. What Justus Liebig is to chemistry, was Nees von Esenbach to botany and natural history, and yet how different is their fate. The one, in the prime of life, courted by all men who love science, in the enjoyment of a high reputation, and of a lucrative professorship at Munich's famous University, and rich withal. The other, in almost extreme old age, deprived of his professorship for his political proceedings, without property of any kind, save his invaluable herbarium, and dying of starvation in a place no better than a cow-shed in the suburbs of Breslau. The following is the account given of the present condition of this Prince—*facile princeps*—in natural history :—

The *Wiener Zeitung* publishes an appeal on behalf of Nees von Esenbach, one of the most learned German naturalists, who, having lost his professorship on account of the part he took in the political troubles of 1848-49, is now living in the most extreme destitution and misery in Breslau. His deprivations are not comparative; he is literally threatened with death from old age and hunger. The paper states that the Professor, who is in his 76th year, lives in a low suburb of Breslau, in a miserable den that can hardly be called a room, over a cow-stall. His extensive library has been sold to pay his debts, and a large collection of plants, which in some branches is described as unequalled, he has in vain endeavoured to dispose of. It is his only property, and, after the trifle it may realize has been exhausted, there is nothing before the grey-haired *savan* but starvation.

But surely the literary and scientific world, albeit not itself rich, will never permit so sad a fate to overtake the rash politician, the learned, the talented *savan*? Is there no Mæcenas of the present day willing to part with a little of his wealth to rescue Von Esenbach from the horrors of death by starvation? The old man was not idle while his powers of mind could be fruitful. A more valuable or excellent work than his great one in folio, on botany, has never been presented to the world, and now is the time that his services could best be acknowledged. Poor Hancock, of Essequibo, himself an admirable botanist, and a clever and learned physician, after having been plundered by swindlers in

his old age of all he possessed, died sadly in this metropolis of disease, induced by poverty and want in its direst form. Let us not have to record the name of another great botanist as "starved to death!" If Germany will do nothing for one of her greatest sons, let England shame her by rendering efficient and timely aid. Such is our earnest hope and aspiration.

A strange affair took place a few days ago, near the Edgware Road, which has been recorded in the papers under the heading "Perils of a Surgeon." It might as well have been designated "Brutal Freaks of a Madman." A surgeon and his assistant, while engaged, by order of the Coroner, in making the *post-mortem* examination of a female suicide, was attacked by the husband, who, after seizing portions of the body, exhibited them to a mob he had collected outside the house, and after denouncing the medical men as his wife's murderer, called on those assembled to aid him in obtaining vengeance. He then rushed back to the room, tore the clothes from their backs, and made several violent attempts to cut their throats, in avoiding which the surgeon's hands were greatly mangled. The mob finally turned them out of the house. The sole remedy the medical men seem likely to get, is compensation for the destruction of their clothing, the husband being also bound over to keep the peace. Now, this is not enough; the medical men were engaged in the performance of a public duty, ordered by a competent authority, and are as much entitled to protection, while so occupied, as are the police. The fellow should have been taken before the Magistrates, by whom, doubtless, he would have been severely punished, if he were not sent for trial to the Central Criminal Court, for the attempt to commit murder. It was at the best a most gross case of assault. The victim was Mr. Obre, the criminal a carpenter, named Jones.

A singular ceremony took place a few days since at Islington. Mr. Nobbs, who for twenty-five years has been the surgeon, priest, and governor of Pitcairn's Island, in the Pacific, was admitted to holy orders by the Bishop of Sierra Leone, under letters dimissory from the Bishop of London. Pitcairn's Island, supposed to be the original of Byron's poem, "The Island," was first inhabited by the mutineers of the *Bounty* in 1789, and, after many scenes of horror and bloodshed, fell under the dominion of Adams, one of the mutineers, who ruled its population wisely, and well. Mr. Nobbs, who was acquainted with Adams, afterwards became their governor, their medical attendant, and, as already stated, their priest, marrying, baptising, and burying as such, although not ordained to the office. After having fulfilled these duties for a long period of time, he was sent by Rear-Admiral Moresley to Valparaiso, and has travelled thence to England for ordination. It is supposed that in a few weeks he will be received as a priest, and will then return to his happy, virtuous, and simple-hearted subjects. The whole affair, from the first setting sail of the *Bounty*, the brutal misconduct of Lieutenant Bligh to Christian and the others of his crew, the proceedings of the mutineers, the capture, shipwreck, and drowning of some of them, the punishment of others, and the

escape of a few with South Sea Islanders into the wide and wild expanse of the waters, the subsequent discovery of the survivors and their descendants on Pitcairn's Island, the bloody scenes there enacted, the subsequent penitence and beneficial rule of old Adams the mutineer, with the simple, affectionate, and earnest conduct of the inhabitants, and their submission to their pastor and surgeon, constitute one of those romantic chapters in history, which clearly prove that truth is indeed stranger than fiction. That a surgeon should have ruled sway for so long a time, is not so wondrous. Other examples might be adduced, and indeed the foundation of our Indian power is clearly referrible to the influence of an English surgeon over a native prince; but all the circumstances connected with the island are deeply tinged with romance, not the least of which is the filling of the patriarchal office, (for such it is in this instance,) by one who was to the inhabitants at once their ruler, surgeon, priest, and friend. Such a man does, indeed, set an example to the rulers of the earth, and at the same time, causes us to feel proud of our profession, and of his association with it.

During the last few years several inquests have been held on the bodies of persons deceased, who had been previously attended by homœopathic practitioners. In one instance, a married woman died from inflammation of the brain; the physician who attended her, formerly an allopathic lecturer, abstained totally from bleeding, and did not even give a dose of castor-oil, although the bowels were obstinately confined. We do not remember what verdict was recorded in that case, nor in that of a solicitor residing near Tottenham Court Road, who died from some chest affection, while under the care of a well-known homœopath. The principal feature in that case was the total and continued abstinence from food enforced by the disciple of Hahneman. In a third instance, a case of cholera near Camden Town, a similar abstinence, rigidly enforced by the homœopath, who, by-the-by, was the patient's brother, led the Jury, under the direction of Mr. Membury Wakley, the then Deputy-Coroner, to return a verdict of manslaughter, which, however, was set aside at the Central Criminal Court, if our memory mislead us not. Recently an inquest was held by the Coroner himself in Gloucester Place, Bedford Newtown, on the body of a female, 60 years of age, in consequence of a certificate of death as follows:—"Margaret Sedgwick died from inflammation of the lungs, peritoneum, and the liver; and her death resulted from, I believe, the neglect of the homœopathic attendant, and the general nullity of treatment." After hearing evidence, the Jury returned the following sensible verdict:—"Deceased died from inflammation of the lungs; but we are not competent to judge of the medical treatment." In all these cases the disease was acute, and of great severity; in all such cases homœopathy must fail; it is only when rest, a well-regulated diet, and the other means unconnected with real medical treatment, are sufficient for a cure or for relief, that "the general nullity of the treatment" can obtain a credit for usefulness to which it is not in reality entitled. In cases such as those we have mentioned, and in all of a similar nature, Hahneman himself would prove

utterly useless, unless he abandoned his absurd dogmata, and had recourse to the measures placed in our hands by the advance of science.

Disease appears to be extending amongst the products of vegetation. The potato plant and the vine have been for several years subject to a blight which has annually proved to be very destructive; during the present year, the vineyards have suffered more than on any previous occasion, even to their utter destruction in some places. The chesnut and walnut trees in many districts on the Continent have also been included in the visitation. The corn in Canada is the subject of an extensive blight; and here the onion and the apple have suffered. The latest intelligence we have, now represents the pear-tree as participating in this almost universal disease and destruction of vegetation. The malady has shown itself principally among the variety designated the winter pear, and known as the "green bury." Externally the rind is shrunken and depressed in many places; internally the fruit is full of brown spots, which soon cause rotteness. The appearance presented closely resembles that of a diseased potato; the malady is very destructive, and very rapid in its effects. The failure of the apple is very extensive; the crop, it is said, will not be equal to one half that of previous years. What can be the cause of all this, and where is it to end? Famine, and fever, the result of famine, must be the final result of such an extensive destruction of the means by which we live, and it is full time that the most careful and energetic investigations should be made to ascertain the causes of this blight, and also to find out the means by which its progress may be arrested, if within the power of man.

There is a report current that the homœopaths are about to obtain a triumph in Berlin: the celebrated university in that city, the diplomas of which have hitherto ranked among the highest in Germany, equalled perhaps only by those granted by the university of Munich, is, it is said, to be dishonoured by the establishment of a chair of homœopathic medicine. It is to be hoped that the other professors, at least all those connected with medicine, will show their indignation at the insult, by at once resigning their professorships, and that the falling off in the number of the students in medicine will show the authorities how injudicious such a step must be. They could hardly have adopted any other proceeding so likely to lower the value of their diplomas. After this the degree of M.D. (University Berlin) will be considered not only of no value, but absolutely a degradation. Meanwhile we have long had something of the same kind in the University of Edinburgh. When will that far-famed school of medicine be purged of its homœopath? How, indeed, can the professors reconcile it to their consciences to be co-lecturers with a man, who must hold the opinion that the dogmata they teach are so erroneous, that if carried out they must tend to the destruction of life. And how can he retain his professorship, holding one doctrine and teaching another, or at all events, teaching those, who are imbibing from his colleagues doctrines essentially different and distinct from those he practises. They

are as opposed to each other as oil and vinegar, and cannot amalgamate. If these worthies must have an university and a school of medicine, they should have one of their own. At all events, while a homœopath retains a seat among the professors in the University of Edinburgh, and another is about to obtain a similar berth in the University of Berlin, the dogmata of homœopathy obtain a *quasi* legal status which they ought not to possess, and which the teachers and practitioners of legitimate medicine should exert themselves most strenuously to overthrow.

#### UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS.

List of gentlemen who had the degree of Doctor of Medicine conferred upon them, Oct. 22, 1852:—Thomas Allen, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., London; Samuel Blackmore, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., London; Leonard Buckell, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., Chichester; Gustavus Matthews Burton, M.R.C.S., Lancashire; John Courtney, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., Yorkshire; Maurice Davis, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., King's Coll., London; Joseph Meldon Dempsey, L.A.C., London; James William Duffy, M.R.C.S., Chili, S. America; Charles Anthony Floyer, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., Camberwell, Surrey; George Fayrer, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., Essex; Robert Anstruther Goodsir, Fifeshire; Richard Hassall, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., Ext. Lic. Coll. Phys., Surrey; Arthur Newstead Holmes, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., Yorkshire; Frederick Lewins, M.R.C.S. Ed., Borvie, Kincardineshire; Frederick John Lowes, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., Gosport; Francis Nottidge Macnamara, M.R.C.S., King's Coll., London; Albert Massey, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., Camberwell, Surrey; William O'Connor, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., London; Patrick Panton, M.R.C.S., & Extr. Lic. Coll. Phys., Turriff, N. B.; John Dungeat F. Parsons, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., Gloucestershire; J. Henry Shorthouse, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., Surrey; Charles Taylor, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C., Camberwell, Surrey; Charles Jean Tourrette, M.R.C.S., Mauritius; John Turnbull, M.R.C.S., East Lothian; Henry Watts, L.A.C., Staffordshire; William Wightman, M.R.C.S., & L.A.C.; Yorkshire; Simon Armstrong Willis, Lic. Fac. Phys. & Surg., Glasgow, Fermaugh, Ireland. Mr. Joseph Ewart, of Guy's Hospital, passed the requisite examinations, but in consequence of an informality in his certificates, his degree was temporarily deferred.

#### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

##### M.B. SECOND EXAMINATION, 1852.

*First Division.*—Thomas Bridgwater, King's College; Thomas Armstrong Cammack, University College; Thomas King Hornidge, St. George's Hospital; Robt. Coane Roberts Jordan, King's College; Joseph Lister, B.A., University College; Thomas Littleton, University College; Frederick William Pavy, Guy's Hospital; Thomas Morley Rooke, Guy's Hospital; John Henry Trouncer, University College.

*Second Division.*—William Thomas Gaye, University College; Henry Parfitt, King's College; Bernard Rice,

St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Elias Jones Roberts, Richmond Hospital, Dublin.

In accordance with the recent regulation of the Senate, that the examinations shall be conducted "by demonstration from preparations, and by requiring the candidates to report on cases of actual patients,"—

The examiners in physiology required the candidates to name and describe microscopic specimens, illustrating important points in physiological anatomy.

In Surgery, the candidates were examined by demonstrations from dry and wet preparations, illustrative of various surgical diseases and accidents, and of their treatment.

The examiners in Medicine required the candidates to examine patients in the wards of a metropolitan hospital, and afterwards to report in writing on the cases, and also to examine microscopically various specimens of morbid products.

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted members on Friday, November 5th:—Jean Valleton de Boissiere, Trinidad; George Bulleid, Oakhampton, Devon; James Ekin, London; George Richmond Ferris, London; Christian August Flemmer, Horsor, Denmark; Thomas Foster, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Henry James Franks, Whittlesey, Isle of Ely; George Britton Halford, London; Benjamin Kerr, Cowes, Isle of Wight; George Kirkhouse, Merthyr Tydvil; William Knox, Castle Combe, Wilts; Angus Macmillan, Hull; Harry May, Burslem, Staffordshire; John Ray Philip, Canada; William Renwick, Boulogne-sur-Mer; William Saville, Wakefield, Yorkshire; George Spicer, Hammersmith; Sanderson William Mathew Walker, St. Michael's, Azores.

#### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted members on Thursday, November 4th:—William Edward Musson, Birkholme, Lincolnshire; George Richard Pratt Walker, Kent.

Gentlemen admitted on Thursday, Nov. 11th:—Henry Lane, Stratford-on-Avon; John Turle, Richmond Villa, Holloway.

#### OBITUARY.

November 11th, at Bedford, Daniel Bull, Esq., M.R.C.S., and formerly of Cranfield, in the same county. His sufferings were most protracted and extreme, but his end was peaceful. This case excited a great amount of sympathy last year through the medium of the medical journals.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*As we already have more communications in hand than we shall be able to insert, we must beg our correspondents to forward them in future to DR. CORMACK, unless they require immediate attention.*

Communications have been received from Dr. R. Hall, An Old Subscriber, Dr. Merei, Dr. H. Johnson, Dr. E. Copeman, Mr. Nunneley.