

object will be the leading up several funnels or air-tubes from different parts of the ceiling in each ward, to communicate with the external atmosphere, either by opening into the space between the upper ceiling and the roof, from which the impure air can be discharged through louvred windows, or these tubes may open directly through the roof itself, terminating with a cap, to prevent down-draughts. This object will be further accomplished, and the portion of air next the ceiling, which is usually the most impure, will be drawn into the tubes in horizontal currents, by placing at a few inches from the mouth of the air-tube within the room, a circular disc, spreading some distance beyond the aperture. Having provided for the exit of the vitiated air, some modification of the following plan should be adopted, in order to afford an equal supply of pure air. Several openings may be made through the sides of the wards, at different points, on a level with the floor, over which perforated zinc plates should be secured, to regulate the admission of the air; the amount of air to be admitted through them being equivalent to that which escapes.

We would recommend the zinc plates to be perforated with holes of not more than one-eighth of an inch in diameter, and about one inch asunder. The air passing through will then enter the room in streams so fine and so far asunder from one another, that it will almost immediately, by its intimate mixture with the internal air, acquire a mean temperature.

Each ventilator may be a cast metal funnellet into the wall, slightly curved to prevent the lodgment of rain, with the wider or inner end one foot square, covered with the zinc plate perforated as described, and the outer or smaller end diminishing to an opening of two inches square.

Food for Infants.—Each nurse receives, for the daily use of her child, three quarters of a pound of bread, and half a pint of milk, both of excellent quality.

We are of opinion that for *very young infants* a less solid food than bread and milk would answer better, such as barley or grot gruel, carefully made and fresh, with a greater or less proportion of milk according to their ages. Under the most favourable circumstances, the practice of mothers continuing children at their breasts after the first year is questionable, but under the circumstances in which mothers in a workhouse are generally placed, we look upon the practice as highly injurious, and one on which the prejudices of the parent, however strong, should yield. We doubt not, therefore, that taking the children from their mothers' breasts at a year old at farthest, and at a more fearful period where a necessity is indicated, would tend considerably towards securing good constitutional health in children at this period.

As a further means of effecting this object and preventing the occurrence of disease, an extra allowance of milk, animal soups, or at a more advanced age even a small quantity of animal food, should be allowed to those children who are not thriving, although not fit subjects for hospital.

Clothing.—Each infant is provided with a calico shirt, a flannel waistcoat, a linsey petticoat, and a check calico frock, and shoes; some of them also had socks and calico pinafores. The material of which the clothes are made is excellent, but the arms and chest are too much exposed; it would be conducive to the children's health to have sleeves added to their present dresses, and to have them altered in conformity with those of the children from 2 to 5 years of age at present in the workhouse. The clothing of the children generally is in a more cleanly state than is usual with children in similar walks of life in their own homes; but still not as cleanly in many particulars as it might be. No provision exists for guarding the infant from cold on going up and down stairs from one part to another of the building, or even on going into the yards; but we were informed

that when the nurses and children were occasionally brought out to the garden they have lately been allowed to wear their blankets for this purpose.

The nurses ought each to be furnished, in addition to their present dress, with about two yards of wider drugget or baize, which they can wrap round their children and themselves on their being exposed to changes of temperature: a precaution quite as necessary to preserve the health of the nursing mother as the infant, and one which will deprive her of the only excuse she at present has for not being in the open air as much as her own and her child's health require.

Ablution.—The prejudice of the mothers against the use of the bath for their infants was such that we were informed they had rebelled *en masse* against its employment; in fact, we found but one out of the 30 who gave her child the advantage of this adjunct to health—most of the others rested satisfied with washing the face, some the limbs, and a few the hands and arms of their infants, but not one of them washed the whole body. The health of the child depends so much on the proper performance of the functions of the skin, which can only be secured in infancy by the daily use of the bath, that this prejudice should be immediately overcome, and a regular and safe system of ablution introduced and persisted in; these observations would apply with equal justice to mothers and children.

The superintendent immediately in charge of the nursery and responsible to the matron, is one of the paupers themselves; she possesses no influence to enforce attention to the rules. There is a want of a fitting person to be placed over the nursery department, whose superior station and decision would give her sufficient weight and influence to introduce better habits in the nursery in this as well as in other particulars.

Exercise in the Open Air.—There does not seem to be sufficient strictness in enforcing the rules upon this subject, yet upon their observance depends very much of the health of both nurse and child. We were informed that in this matter the nurses were most intractable, many of them remaining with their children confined to the wards for weeks, despite the repeated solicitations of those placed in charge of them. Exercise in the open air, however, is so vitally essential to parent and infant that it should not be left optional. In fact, there should be an established order for the day-rooms to be vacated, and if necessary locked for several hours in each day throughout the summer, and for at least two hours every day, the weather at all permitting it, in winter. The garden, as being more open to fresh air and light, is much better adapted as a place for exercise than the courts. In summer, benches ought to be placed in it. In winter, it is safer not to have seats, as the more the nurses move about whilst in the open air the better, but a shed should be erected in the garden to afford them shelter when required; and in order to correct their indolent and sedentary life some light occupation ought to be imposed on them.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, March 8.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD IN LARGE TOWNS.

Mr. MACKINNON said, in rising to bring forward the motion of which he had given notice, he trusted he should be excused for the few remarks he was about to make on a subject of such grave importance. He had been first induced to bring it forward in consequence of having been appointed on the select committee on the health of towns the session before last, when this question had incidentally come under their consideration, and it then appeared to him of so much

importance that he had been induced to give it his best attention. Subsequently to that time the city of London and a number of individuals had considered the subject. Under these circumstances he trusted he should not be thought presumptuous for endeavouring to show to the house the necessity of some legislative measure to alter the prevailing custom. The more they considered the subject the greater would be their astonishment that for so many centuries they had lived with such a mass of corruption amongst them, and had continued to follow the example of the most barbarous nations. The object he had in view was to prevent the inhumation of individuals in large towns. How it was possible that such a custom had been for so long a period sanctioned in this country passed his comprehension. Perhaps the house would be surprised when he told them that in all the nations in the globe a different state of things had taken place. Amongst the ancient Egyptians—(laughter)—he would not long detain the house—but the ancient Egyptians had a custom of burying their dead out of the towns; the Greeks followed the same plan; the Romans did the same. In the laws of the twelve tables there was a law that no man should be either burnt or buried except out of the precincts of the town. (Laughter.) It was impossible for any custom to be so obnoxious and injurious to individuals as this of inhumation in towns. The early Christians used to bury their dead in towns. The first person buried in a church was the Emperor Constantine. The hon. member opposite (Mr. Wakley) had alluded to this subject in a publication with which he was concerned. With the permission of the house he would read to them a few extracts from the opinions of two or three medical men totally unconnected with each other on this subject. The first that he would read was that of Mr. Jinks. [The hon. member proceeded to read the extract in question, but in so low a tone of voice, and he was so frequently interrupted by the laughter of honourable members, that it was difficult to catch more than its import. We understood him to say] “One of the effects of this custom was, a fetid and dreadful odour (laughter), which became most pernicious, and was made still more so by atmospheric electricity.” (Continued laughter.) Here was what the “Lancet” said:—“One William Green, in digging a grave in St. Margaret’s churchyard, Westminster, was suddenly taken with delirium,” and in short—(loud laughter)—in short, he died. There was a variety of occurrences which showed without any doubt that inhumation in towns was very injurious. (Hear.) All he could say seriously on the subject was, that it was a matter of very grave importance, and deserving of very deep consideration. Thinking it the duty of the legislature to guard against anything which might be injurious to the welfare of the people, and that it was the province of a member of that house to bring such a question forward, he had undertaken to do so, and he did it with the sanction of her Majesty’s government. Whether they considered the feelings of the body of the clergy, or the sentiments of the citizens of London and of the public at large, it was their bounden duty to give this subject their best attention. He concluded with moving for a “select committee to consider the expediency of framing some legislative enactments (due respect being paid to the rights of the clergy) to remedy the evils arising from the interment of bodies within the precincts of large towns, or of places densely peopled.”

Dr. BOWRING seconded the motion. He rejoiced to see that in this country at last some little attention was paid to this subject, with the view of making the dead as little noxious to the living as possible. In France, Spain, and other countries great attention had been paid to this.

Mr. WAKLEY wished to know if the hon. member intended that witnesses should be examined before

his committee? If so, it was unnecessary that any discussion should then take place on the subject. (Hear, hear.) Many complaints had been made to him that the charges made at the cemeteries for burying the poor were outrageous, and he feared that unless caution were exercised in conducting the inquiry, monopolies might be created of a very dangerous and pernicious character. He was informed that a poor person could not be buried at a less charge for the ground alone than ten shillings. He hoped that this subject would be examined into before the committee.

Sir J. GRAHAM said he was decidedly of opinion that the time had arrived when some legislative interference was absolutely necessary on this subject; that the comfort of the community and the feeling of decency of civilised minds required that greater space should be provided for the burial of the dead outside the walls of towns. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wakley) feared that this inquiry might lead to the establishment of some monopoly on an enactment being passed on that inquiry. But, in giving assent to this inquiry, he guarded himself against allowing any legislative measure emanating from this committee. He did think that any legislative measure must be very carefully considered by that house; but, on the other hand, he thought that previous inquiry was the best ground for any legislative measure. (Hear.) With regard to the constitution of the committee, he was quite sure the hon. member would take every possible caution with respect to the names on that committee, and that, in conformity with the established rule of the house, he would give notice of the members to be put on it.

The motion was then agreed to.—*Times*.

ASPHYXIA DISSIPATED BY A PINCH OF SNUFF.

A child, five months of age, being constipated, was given a spoonful of sweet oil. The dose having been carelessly administered, some of the oil got down the trachea, and brought on complete asphyxia; the lungs had ceased to contract, and the infant was on the point of death. M. Pigeau, who was sent for, at once perceived the cause of this alarming state, and passed a pinch of snuff up the nostrils of the infant. The violent sneezing thus brought on excited the contractility of the respiratory muscles, and respiration commenced, feebly at first, but was gradually re-established. Strong vinegar and other means had been previously tried, but without success.

PROGRESS OF QUACKERY.

We copy the following precious morsel from a recent number of the “Times” newspaper. Assuredly empiricism has established a railroad for its own special conveyance. Mr. Cooper, it appears, has been created a baronet; the quack is Professor H.; Dr. Bright has so little to do with his money that he gives half-sovereigns to buy quack pills, and the public are expected to swallow pills and lies together.

[Advertisement.]—Holloway’s Pills and Ointment.—The Mansion-house.—Affidavit was made this day (March 8, 1842) by William Brook, messenger, of No. 2, Union-street, London-road, that the deponent was a patient at the Metropolitan, King’s College, Gay’s, and Charing-cross Hospitals, he being afflicted with fifteen ulcers on his arm. Sir Bransby Cooper and other surgeons at Guy’s recommended amputation; Dr. Bright, however, the principal physician at that institution, gave deponent half a sovereign to purchase Holloway’s pills and ointment, stating that he had witnessed, in desperate cases, great cures effected by these remedies. In three weeks the deponent was radically cured by this means. To be had at Professor Holloway’s establishment, where advice may be had gratis.”

MAXIMS,

OF A RETIRED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, ETAT. 69, AND
A BACHELOR.

I.

Never refuse a fee.

II.

Take a house near a thoroughfare, but not in it;
and avoid a move as you would the d—l.

III.

Give up practice, before practice gives you up.

IV.

Take time by the fore-lock, and save whilst you are
in fashion; for practice, like peas, gets out of season.

V.

The road to eminence is slow but certain, the
greatest impediments we have to encounter, are plausible
sycophants and "d—d good-natured friends."

VI.

He who rises rapidly, descends before long, even
below his level.

VII.

Dinners and fees are incompatible.

VIII.

Don't marry until you please, or don't marry at all
if it pleases you better; none but speculative mammas
and disappointed spinsters refuse to consult the
unmarried.

IX.

Stick to your last and shun politics. Physic and
law are distant, and very different matters.

X.

The man who seeks patients by going to church
destroys his own soul, and is soon seen through.

XI.

If you desire a reputation for wealth, never asso-
ciate with professors, nor be seen at medical conversa-
ziones.

XII.

Give an early exit to matter when situated under
a fascia, and never give lectures.

XIII.

Write your prescriptions in a plain round hand, and
in full Latin if you practice in the city; the reverse, if
you practice at the west end.

XIV.

Never give a satisfactory answer to any question
you may be asked in a sick room.

OBITUARY.

(From a Correspondent.)

Died on the 16th inst. (Feb.), at Manchester, John
Pendlebury, M.D., Physician to the Royal Infirmary,
&c.

Dr. Pendlebury was distinguished among his medi-
cal brethren, for zeal and talent of a high order.
Educated for the profession, he passed a considerable
time at the medical schools of Dublin and Paris, as
well as at the University of Cambridge, where he came
out first medical graduate of his year, and was ad-
mitted a member of the Philosophical Society. As an
accomplished scholar, strictly honourable and exem-
plary in all the relations of life, of amiable and attrac-
tive manners, and possessed of a thorough knowledge
of his profession, it is not surprising that he should
have been early called upon to impart to the rising
generation that information with which he had so
amply enriched his own active and inquiring mind.
He was accordingly solicited, shortly after commencing

practice, to become a teacher at the Marsden-street
School of Medicine, where he lectured successively
on medical jurisprudence, *materia medica*, and practice
of physic; and they who had the gratification of listen-
ing to his discourses will not soon forget his graceful
and vigorous style of thought and reasoning, and the
interesting bias which he imparted to the ordinary
routine of medical instruction. His introductory lec-
tures were indeed perfect models, and we hope that
the publication of some of these in a permanent form
may be secured to posterity as a memento of the
sterling ability of their gifted author. Although but
little known to the literary world, Dr. P. has left
behind him a considerable collection of MSS. He,
many years ago, translated Delpach's valuable work
on Distortions of the Spine, which at a future period
it was his intention to publish, together with much
valuable additional matter, the fruit of his own re-
search and observation. Hitherto, however, he had been
more bent on collecting than diffusing information, but
there is every reason to believe that the public would
have been benefitted, perhaps not the less from the
delay, by the mass of knowledge which he was gra-
dually storing up. It is, therefore, much to be la-
mented that so promising a member of the profession
should have been cut off thus early in his career—a
career which promised to be both lengthened and
brilliant. The regret is not diminished by the know-
ledge that in all probability he fell a victim to the
zealous discharge of his duties at the Fever Hospital.
Dr. P. had only reached his 35th year. Possessing
the many excellent qualities we have mentioned, it is
almost superfluous to add that, by those who had the
good fortune to be intimately acquainted with him,
the recollection of his virtues can only be effaced by
the ruthless hand that has removed him from the sphere
of his active usefulness. Nothing could have exceeded
the tribute of respect paid by his friends and col-
leagues on the occasion of his funeral.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN
LONDON.

List of Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday,
March 4, 1842.

Charles Ingram, John Carter Barrett, William
Godfrey Watt, Benjamin Frederick Frankis, James
M'Namara, William Carson, Thomas William Ran-
som, Henry Day, John Balfour Buchanan, John
Deighton, Frederick Hughes Kelson, Douglas Nicholas
Tucker, Charles Otter Gilby.

CORRESPONDENTS.

Verax.—We have received several letters on the
subject of the newspaper puffs of an "eminent
surgeon," but we must decline to insert them. The
task of a public censor is one which requires certain
qualities that we do not possess. "Eminent sur-
geons," "distinguished physicians," and the whole
host of professional quacks, may puff away for
aught we care. Unless the profession, as a body,
take some decided steps in a matter which so nearly
concerns their honour and best interests, it cannot
be expected that one or two individuals should
sacrifice themselves unprofitably for the public
weal.

A.B.—We are unwilling to make any further allusion
to the inquest on Miss Rathbone, Bath.

Back Numbers.—Every possible care is taken in for-
warding the numbers by post. We regret to say
that we have no back stamped numbers to supply
those which may be lost.

Printed by SAMUEL TAYLOR, of 6, Chandos-street, in the
Parish of St. Paul's, Covent-garden, at his Office, No. 6,
Chandos-street, aforesaid; and published by JOHN
CHURCHILL, at his residence, No. 16, Princes-street, in the
Parish of St. Anne, Westminster.—Friday, March 11, 1842.