

which, as Schönlein remarks, is in some measure to be considered as the precursor of this favorable change in the urine, and as the first critical effort of nature. The last time, when the process of the typhous disease appeared in a much milder form, this peculiar change of the reaction of the urine was in like manner observed several times, so that after the alkaline reaction has preceded and continued for some time, the recurrence of the acid reaction, combined with the clear appearance of the urine and a more copious secretion of the fluid, may be looked on as a favorable sign for the successful solution of the disease, whilst on the contrary, I remember some cases since the year 1840 where the urine came to have a neutral or alkaline reaction, but passed soon again into the acid reaction, in order to become alkaline again at a subsequent period, but in like manner only for a very short time: in one of these cases the disease was extremely tedious, and terminated fatally.—*Beiträge Zur Physiologischen und Pathologischen, Chemie und Mikroskopie, von Dr. Franz Simon, Berlin, 1843.*

POOR-LAW QUALIFICATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Surgeons' Hall, Edinburgh,
August 30, 1843.

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh are desirous to make it publicly known that they lately represented to the Secretary of State for the Home Department the injury occasioned to their fellows and licentiates by the general medical order of the English poor-law commissioners, with respect to the appointment of medical officers to the unions, parishes, &c., under 4 and 5 William IV, cap. 76, by which order all persons are excluded from these offices who have obtained their medical qualifications in Scotland or Ireland. In consequence of this representation, the commissioners were directed by the Home Secretary to lay a case before her Majesty's Attorney-general, for the purpose of ascertaining the state of the law under which they considered themselves bound to direct such exclusion. The Attorney-general has stated it to be his opinion, which is coincided in by Mr. Martin, another counsel consulted, "that, as far as the question of *surgery* is concerned, those persons who have a *surgical* diploma or degree from a royal college or university in Scotland or Ireland, are (in point of law) as competent to be appointed, and to act as medical officers under the statute referred to, as the persons who have the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons in London."

In consequence of this opinion, the commissioners have intimated their intention to admit those persons who hold a Scotch or Irish diploma or degree in surgery "to the same rights under the Poor-law Amendment Act as members of the Royal College of Surgeons of London," and "their readiness to make such modifications in their general medical order of the 12th of March, 1842, as may be necessary for giving effect to the above-recited opinion of the Attorney-general."

By order of the Royal College,

JOHN SCOTT, Secretary.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL,

KEPT AT SIDMOUTH.

By W. H. CULLEN, M.D.

August, 1843.

Mean of External Thermometer at 9, a.m.	62·61
" " " at 9, p.m.	57·35
Maxima	72·55
Minima	51·99
Mean daily Range	17·41
Extreme Highest on the 20th	80·
" Lowest on the 16th and 27th	44·
" Range	36·
Mean Dew Point at 9, a.m.	57·96
" " at 9, p.m.	50·50
Mean of Barometer at 9, a.m.	29·660
" " at 9, p.m.	30·017
Extreme Highest on the 12th	30·304
" Lowest on the 23rd	29·441
" Range	863
Number of Days Fine	17
" " on which any Rain fell	14
" " Variable	6
Quantity of Rain in Inches	3·58

PREVAILING WINDS.

N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
2	2	—	10	7	5	1	4

REMARKS.

On the 8th three claps of thunder, with lightning, were heard faintly. The 18th and 19th were sultry and oppressive; low thunder, with lightning, was heard all night.

WESTERN DISPENSARY.

Dr. Frederic Bird has been elected to the office of consulting-accoucheur to the above-named institution.

OBITUARY.

Died, at Montpelier, France, on the 14th ultimo, Dr. James Saunders.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

Mr. Walker, of Manchester, is about to publish a work on diseases of the eye, entitled "The Oculists' Vade-Mecum," which will form a suitable companion to those of the same kind already published on many other branches of surgery.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

London and Edinburgh Monthly Journal of Medical Sciences, for September (in exchange).

Some Account of the Epidemic of Scarlatina which prevailed in Dublin from 1834 to 1842, with Observations. By H. Kennedy, M.B. Dublin. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 212.

A Lecture on Quack Medicines, delivered at the Wakefield Mechanics' Institution, February 20, 1843, by T. G. Wright, M.D. London and Wakefield, 1843. pp. 44.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Medicus.—We think our correspondent did not see the exact import of our remarks. The College of Physicians certainly has the right of giving a *license to practise* to whomsoever it pleases; but we contend that it certainly has not the right of conferring the title of Doctor of Medicine. *Medicus* will, no doubt, readily admit that there is some difference between these two things. The title of M.D. is an *academical distinction*, conferred by some university on those who have pursued a certain course of study, and passed certain examinations, within its walls. But the possession of this title confers no right to practise as a physician; in fact, as *Medicus* expresses it, "no person whatever (be he a graduate in medicine of any university, however famous) possesses a legal right to practise as a physician in England," with the exception only of graduates of Oxford and Cambridge; all others must be licensed by the London College of Physicians before they can practise in any part of England; and even the Oxford and Cambridge doctors must procure that license if they wish to practise in London, or within seven miles thereof. Since, then, according to the customs heretofore existing, a physician was a man possessing the academical title of M.D., and a *license to practise* also, and since the College of Physicians, although they can confer the latter, certainly have no power to grant the former, we think our correspondent will admit that our original assertion was correct. We speak, of course, of the law as it exists, but without contending that it is well adapted to the present state of society. We may add, that a precisely similar distinction between the possession of a title and the right to exercise it exists in the church as in medicine. The Church of England recognises the orders of the churches of Rome, Greece, America, and Syria; but yet the clergy ordained in those churches cannot exercise their vocation here without a license from the bishop.

Discipulus.—We have received a long letter from some enthusiastic boy, smarting under the grievances, real and imaginary, which he endures during the term of his apprenticeship. He complains of the neglect of masters who leave their pupils to acquire their professional knowledge as they best may, without taking the trouble to direct them in their course of reading, or to explain to them the nature of the cases which they witness, and the principles on which they are treated. But, more especially, he complains of the petty indignities often inflicted on medical pupils by the mistress of the establishment. We well know how difficult it must be for a youth of spirit to endure the domestic tyranny of a woman who has neither liberality of conduct nor lady-like feeling, and how heavily responsible those persons are for the future misconduct of young men, who give them the strongest inducement to seek the pleasures of debauchery abroad, by denying them the comforts and happiness to which they are entitled at home. Yet we would counsel our youthful correspondent to submit with a good grace, to do his duty, and to revenge himself by showing a better example.

C. R.—The account is, we think, moderate, and such as any jury would allow; except, perhaps, that the charges for attendance on servants ought not quite to equal those for their superiors.

Immediate attention shall be given to the communication from *Manchester*.

Communications have been received from *Mr. Newnham*, Farnham; *Dr. Oke*, Southampton; *Dr. Starr*, Kettering; *Dr. Favell*, Sheffield, &c. We shall endeavour to make room for the greater part of them next week.

A.—The suggestion relative to the fellowship is hardly worth attending to.

* * Communications, journals, and books for review, to be forwarded (carriage paid) to the Publisher, 356, Strand, London. Letters connected with the Provincial Association, to Dr. Streeten, Worcester.

Gentlemen desirous of having the "*Provincial Medical Journal*," forwarded to them by post, may send a post-office order to the Publisher, 356, Strand, London.

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ERRATA.

In last Number, page 461, col. 1, line 22, for "Maitre Jan," read *Maitre Jean*; line 39, for "Walthen," read *Walther*.

THE FRIENDS' RETREAT, YORK.—

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