

beginning of the year the head was the part chiefly affected; some of the patients had violent headache, and much delirium. In the spring the chest was often the seat of congestion; coughs were frequent, and the fever was sometimes complicated with pleurisy and bronchitis. Derangement of the bowels and stomach was also occasionally met with; the head, chest, and abdomen, in some cases, were simultaneously affected. In the latter end of summer there was an increase of fever, and the cases that occurred then were often complicate with an inflammatory state of the mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels. Some patients suffered much from sickness and vomiting, and had an unusually yellow or jaundiced appearance. As the year advanced, the cases became more numerous, and the fever sometimes assumed a more malignant type. In some patients there were symptoms of irritation of the bowels, and disorder of the biliary and other secretions, accompanied with jaundice, a complication or form of fever only lately observed in the practice of the hospital. Many of the patients were spotted with eruptions similar to those described in former reports of this charity. Two patients were admitted under certificates of fever who were affected with other diseases; one with peritonitis, and the other with rheumatic fever and disease of the heart.

"The average mortality resulting from this formidable and often fatal disease, during the past year, has been 1 in 13.8. The average stay in the house of those that were cured was about twenty-eight days. In a few cases the disease was protracted for several weeks. These were complicated cases. All the patients admitted, under twenty years of age, recovered. Two patients were moribund, and one, who had previously suffered from inflammation of the lungs, was in a hopeless state, when brought to the house. One man, who died, had been in a very delicate state of health for a long time, and subject to fits of mania. Only two patients employed private medical attendants. In every case, where there was high febrile action, cold, and sometimes tepid ablution of the body, and purgatives were employed with great advantage. Strong and active remedies were seldom required, except, in complicated cases, to remove the super-added congestions and inflammations, for which moderate bleeding, both local and general, were had recourse to. Wine and other stimulants were seldom given. In simple fever, without local symptoms of functional derangement, or organic disease, mild and innocent methods of treatment were found most efficacious.

"Of 83 patients admitted with fever, there were 40 who attributed their illness to infection, 22 who attributed it to cold and fatigue, and 21 who could assign no cause for their illness.

"The benevolent views of this charity are not confined to those who are suffering from contagious fevers, and admitted into the house; they are extended to every person. To prevent the spreading of these diseases, by separation of the sick, and by cleansing and purifying their dwellings, is one of the great objects of this charity. A twofold benefit is, therefore, conferred—the cure of those laboring under these diseases, and, what to the healthy is of equal, if not greater, importance, since prevention is better than

cure, the spreading of these fevers among all classes of society is often prevented.

"The great advantages of cleanliness and ventilation have been often dwelt upon in the previous reports of this institution; and it is proper to remark that some of the courts, lanes, and alleys, in many parts of the town, are at present in a filthy state. In these are situated the abodes of the poor and indigent, which are crowded, dirty, and ill-ventilated, and are the frequent sources of disease and contagion. The diffusion of typhus fever among the poor is often favored by these physical circumstances, as well as by other causes, such as the humidity of the atmosphere, and a want of necessary clothing and nourishment."

## OBITUARY.

Died, on the 7th ultimo, aged eighty-six years, Sir Lachlan Maclean, M.D., of Sudbury, in Suffolk, one of the original members of the Eastern Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association. After making a voyage or two, in the capacity of surgeon, to the East Indies, he settled as a physician in the above borough, where he practised for half a century. The principal product of his pen was "An Enquiry into the Cure of Hydrothorax, 1810."

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*Subscribers to this Journal are recommended to ORDER FROM THEIR BOOKSELLERS, without delay, any Numbers required to complete sets, as the first 79 are quite out of print, and but few copies remain of many of the later Numbers.*

Will *Os Coccygis* enable us to communicate with him? The subject well deserves to be exposed, but his communication had better be modified.

A Member of the P. M. A. (East Kent) should recollect that names are not things, and that hard words are always bad arguments. We never advocated vice, hypocrisy, or detestable knavery, nor anything likely to lead to them. We spoke of a means of rendering efficient service to our fellow-creatures. If our correspondent has any better plan to suggest, we shall be most happy to be the means of communicating it to the public. Until he has, he had better desist from calling names, and imputing bad motives unjustly.

\*.\* 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.

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