

### ORDER OF THE LEGION OF HONOUR CONFERRED ON BRITISH ARMY AND NAVY MEDICAL OFFICERS.

THE *Monitor* of last week published an Imperial decree, dated June 16th, by which, on the proposition of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Order of the Legion of Honour is conferred upon a number of English officers and soldiers; among whom are the following members of the medical profession.

I. OFFICER. John Hall, M.D., Inspector-General of Hospitals. II. KNIGHTS. Archibald Gordon, M.D.; James Mouatt, M.D.; Thomas Patrick Matthew, M.D.; Richard Coffin Elliot, M.D.; Inspector-General Thomas Alexander, M.D.; Assistant-Surgeon Thomas Clarke Brady; Assistant-Surgeon Thomas Ligertwood, 40th Foot; Assistant-Surgeon Henry Thomas Sylvester, 23rd Regiment; Assistant-Surgeon George Fair; Assistant-Surgeon Charles O'Callaghan;—all of the Staff; Assistant-Surgeon William Young Jeeves, 38th Regiment; Assistant-Surgeon William Alexander McKinnon, 42nd Regiment; Assistant-Surgeon John Gibbons, 44th Regiment; Surgeon Stanhope Hunter Fasson; Surgeon William Pearson Ward; Assistant-Surgeon Thomas Park, and Assistant-Surgeon Arthur Henry Taylor;—Royal Artillery. David Deas, Inspector of Fleet and Hospitals; John Rees, Deputy-Inspector of Hospitals; James Walsh, Surgeon, Royal Navy; William Edwin Richard Smart, Surgeon, Royal Navy; James Jenkins, Surgeon, Royal Navy.

**LOCAL ANÆSTHESIA.** Dr. Simpson has just revived the idea of Dr. Hardy of Dublin, by publishing some extracts and cases as to the practical application of chloroform as a topical anæsthetic to mucous and cutaneous surfaces. Reference is made to an essay in the *ASSOCIATION JOURNAL* for July 1848. Dr. Simpson has found a stream of chloroform vapour a most valuable anæsthetic in painful affections of the womb. This vapour is four times heavier than atmospheric air. One remarkable case is published, of a lady given up by the "speculum doctors", but who, after being brought with some difficulty to Edinburgh, was subjected to a simple plan of injection of "chloroform vapour into the vagina several times a day, which at once relieved and ultimately altogether removed the uterine pains. Within a week, the morbid sensibility of the parts entirely disappeared." Dr. Simpson offers a valuable practical hint in midwifery, in cases with rigidity of the cervix uteri, to smear the maternal passages with an extemporised mixture of a little lard or butter, with half a drachm of chloroform.

**LITHOTOMY BY CRUCIAL INCISION.** A surgeon at Constantinople, Surgeon to the Sultan, and Professor in the new School of Surgery lately established, has operated lately in two cases by the bilateral section of Dupuytren, and in both instances has found it necessary to resort to a second vertical incision through the centre of the prostate and upper half of the sphincter ani, owing to the large size of the calculi. Both patients made good recoveries. "Allarton's operation" is making rapid strides in Australia, and nearly all the cases in London have done well.

**CAUTION TO DENTISTS.** A lady had recently to undergo a surgical operation for the removal of a swelling immediately beneath the angle of the jaw, when it was found to contain a piece of ordinary dentists' "gold-filling", which had evidently escaped during ordinary mastication, and had got lodged in the fauces or a fold of mucous membrane of the lower part of the mouth, and had thence made its way, like needles, pins, etc., through the soft parts to the spot whence it was removed.

**HUMBOLDT ON MESMERISM AND THE TRANSCENDENTAL IN ANATOMY.** A letter recently appeared from the venerable author of the *Kosmos*, dated Berlin, April 1850, in which, speaking of cerebral electricity, he says: "I am not able to give any opinion upon the existence of various kinds of mineral, vegetable, animal, direct or indirect cerebral electricity. I have a direful horror of table turning and all kinds of pine wood spiritualism and wooden psychographic mysticisms. We know that Geoffroy St. Hilaire pretends to have transpired the oxide of thought in Egypt. My incredulity is the simple consequence of my inability to follow him."

**BEQUESTS.** The Treasurer of the Salisbury Infirmary reports having received from the executors of the late Dowager Countess of Pembroke the legacy of £1,000, free of legacy duty. The Wilts and Dorset Female Penitentiary has also received a legacy of £500, free from any reduction for legacy duty, from the same executors.

**ALEXIS ST. MARTIN.** "Alexis St. Martin will be in Boston next week," says the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* for June, "when arrangements will be made to enable the profession to witness the experiments which have so often interested men of science in this individual." A subsequent account states that St. Martin had arrived, and some observations as to the chemistry and physiology of digestion were already noted when the last mail left America in July.

**SURGERY IN AMERICA.** "The Eclectic Medical Institute in Cincinnati," say the American Medical journals, "has been the scene of a riotous demonstration, in consequence of differences of medical opinion among the members of the faculty. A chief difference arose in consequence of a 'difficulty in relation to a female medical student.' The lady's party in the dissecting room forcibly entered the Institute in the night, and endeavoured to take possession of the school, but were resisted by Dr. Cleveland and others. Dr. Cleveland was attacked by a large party, 'who threatened to kill him;' a general fight ensued with clubs and other weapons. Dr. Newton and the lady's party retreated upstairs, and occupying the lecture room, prepared for a defence. A number of students and the police took possession of the lower story. Dr. Newton and the lady's party were discovered attempting to 'get a small cannon in the back way, and the police captured it.' This party, in fact, had bedding, food, wine and beer, to stand a siege. At last accounts things were *in statu quo*. We wait with anxiety for the result. (*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.)

**WATER HYGIENE.** "The tanks for water in India are covered with a green weed," says the *Indian Annals of Medical Science* for May, "and this at the same time that it imparts a greenish hue to the water, possesses a remarkable power of filtering it, and rendering it sapid and wholesome; for where you have this green weed, you also find small fish and infusoria, which preserve the water also. Sir Charles Napier, inspecting the hill districts of the Punjab, observing the Bheestees drawing water from one of these tanks, ordered it to be immediately cleaned, and the authorities fearing to remonstrate, the mandate was obeyed. The result was that the water soon turned putrid, and it was not till a fresh crop of duck weed had grown that it became clean and drinkable." When marshes cannot be drained, the best prophylactic of fevers is to plant the marshes with aquatic plants, and such trees as alders and poplars.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS and other COMMUNICATIONS for the JOURNAL should be directed to the private address of the Editor, 30, CURZON STREET, MAY FAIR.

Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

**ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF ASYLUMS AND HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.**—DR. LOCKHART ROBERTSON requests us to intimate that the Annual Meeting of the Association of Medical Officers of Asylums and Hospitals for the Insane, which takes place this year at Derby, has been fixed for Friday, the 1st of August, in order to suit the convenience of those Members of the Association who are also Members of the Provincial Association, and thus likely to be at Birmingham on the 31st inst.

**THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL MEDICAL DIRECTORY.**—As the Returns to this work will shortly be issued, it has been suggested that the Associates would do well to return themselves as Members of the British Association of Medicine and Surgery. By so doing our strength would be made apparent to the medical public, and this useful work would be rendered still more useful to our own body.

We are obliged to our correspondents for having forwarded to us the *Huddersfield Chronicle*, the *Bath Herald*, and the *Oldham Chronicle*.

Communications have been received from:—MR. BERRY; DR. J. JOHNSTONE; MR. OLIVER PEMBERTON; DR. KIDD; MR. GEORGE MAY, JUN.; M.D.; DR. SIDSON; THE SECRETARY OF THE NORTH OXFORDSHIRE MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY; MR. CHARLES H. SOAME; MR. J. V. SOLOMON; DR. F. J. BROWN; MR. ALFRED BAKER; DR. ROULSTON; MR. W. J. SQUARE; MR. F. A. HINGESTON; DR. ROBERTS; MR. WM. COLLINS; DR. W. H. RANKING; MR. W. E. CROWFOOT; DR. C. HANDFIELD JONES; MR. J. H. JAMES; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; MR. W. B. KESTEVEN; DR. ROUTE; MR. J. Z. LAURENCE; MR. LANGSTON PARKER; MR. STONE; SIR CHAS. HASTINGS; DR. LOCKHART ROBERTSON; and MR. T. O'CONNOR.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

[\* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

1. An Exposition of the Signs and Symptoms of Pregnancy: with some other Papers on Subjects connected with Midwifery. By W. F. Montgomery, A.M., M.D., M.R.I.A. Second Edition. London: Longmans, 1886.
2. The Progress of Preventive Medicine and Sanitary Measures: being the Thurston Speech at the Wendy Commemoration at Caius College, delivered on May 19, 1886. By A. W. Harclay, M.D. Pamphlet. Cambridge: Deighton, Bell, and Co., and London: Bell and Daldy, 1886.
3. Surgeon's Vade Mecum. A Manual of Modern Surgery. Seventh Edition. With numerous Engravings. By R. Druitt, M.D. London: H. Renshaw, and John Churchill.