

THE WEEK.

COLNEY HATCH ASYLUM, which has already cost the county £370,000, is tumbling down! Such is the report of the Visiting Committee. This building, which has not been erected six years, is so cracked and rent from basement to coping, that in the opinion of Mr. Cubitt and the clerk of the works, it will be necessary to readjust the roofs, to remove the arched ceilings of the wards, and to run a drain parallel to the whole frontage of the building, to prevent the flow of water from the rising ground in front from further impairing the foundations. It is indeed unfortunate to find this vast edifice come to such a complexion, so soon after it has risen from the ward. A greater mistake than Colney Hatch never was perpetrated. Outside it has the aspect of a palace, whilst inside it looks exactly like a prison. We trust that its present crippled condition, which doubtless arises from the fact that it is built under the brow of the hill, will put an end to the proposed scheme by which it is intended to construct new wards for the accommodation of 750 additional patients. There are at present 1250 inmates under its roof, and the additions would render it totally unmanageable. If a new asylum must be built to find room for the 1,200 lunatics who knock in vain at the doors of the two county asylums, we trust that Colney Hatch and all its arrangements, both external and internal, will be looked upon as things to be avoided rather than followed. A more cheerless building it would be impossible to construct, or one which would worse bear development of any kind. The folly of county justices has indeed culminated in this gigantic building, which begins to fall to decay before the grass plots in its airing courts have even put on a verdant appearance.

The New River Company have agreed to lower their demand upon the Corporation of London from 6d. to 3d. per thousand gallons for the public urinals. Even at this reduced charge the cost of maintaining these useful establishments would be £552 per annum, a sum which the City authorities would scarcely be justified in paying. It has been suggested that the best method of bringing the Water Company to its senses would be for the city to assess its pipeage, by which a sum equal to that charged for the urinals would, it is believed, be raised. The matter has been referred to the Committee of General Purposes, where we trust that some arrangement will be come to for a cheap and permanent supply of water to the public urinals, which should be distributed much more liberally than they are, not only in the City, but throughout the metropolis. In this respect London is not only far behind Paris, but also behind many insignificant Continental cities.

From a letter published by Mr. J. R. Humphreys, at page 1065, it appears that there are still some members of our profession who lend their sanction to homœopathy, by meeting the practitioners of that pseudo-system in consultation. We feel satisfaction in stating at once, however,

that the gentleman referred to by Mr. Humphreys is not a member of this Association; if he were, it would have become an imperative duty to follow in regard to him the same course of proceedings as was had recourse to six or seven years ago in the case of Mr. A. F. Edwards, as recorded in the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal* of that date. In 1851, our own ASSOCIATION, as well as some other medical scientific bodies, together with the legitimate medical press, raised their voices loudly and effectively in denunciation of homœopathy. Since that time, instances of the kind referred to by Mr. Humphreys have been few and far between: we hope that it will be long before we shall hear of another, and that Mr. Long, or any one inclined to act in a similar way, will remember that by meeting homœopaths in consultation, he is directly, though it may be unintentionally, countenancing a system of gross imposture.

In a recent trial, an action was brought by the executors of Mr. George Gosling, of Reading, against the New National Assurance and Loan Company, to recover the amount of a policy of insurance for £600, which he had effected with that company. The defendants pleaded that the deceased had stated himself to be uniformly sober and temperate, whereas he was at least a free-liver; and that he had denied knowledge of any circumstance which would render the life more hazardous than ordinary; whereas, in a former application by him to another company, he had acknowledged that he was the subject of an old hernia. The examination of witnesses showed that the deceased was not a man of intemperate habits; but it appeared that a surgeon in Reading, being the medical examiner to the National Company, had stated that Mr. Gosling had hydrocele. This, in all probability, arose from inadvertence; indeed, as the witness candidly acknowledged, it was a mistake which, though of possible occurrence, ought not to have been made. The case is monitory, in that it shows how unfortunately a little oversight on the part of a medical man may strengthen a person in his attempt to conceal a knowledge of the truth from an assurance company with which he may propose to connect himself.

NOTICE REGARDING THE PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE General Secretary of the British Medical Association begs to call the attention of members to the Laws regarding the payment of Subscriptions, which declare—

FIRST:—That on the 1st of January of each year, the annual subscription of one guinea becomes due in advance.

SECOND:—That "if any member's subscription remain unpaid twelve months after it shall become due, the MEDICAL JOURNAL and other publications of the Society shall be withheld from such member till his arrears be paid."

By a resolution of the Laws Committee, passed on December 21st, 1855, it was determined that each member of the Association, whose admission bears date prior to 1st January 1856, shall be requested to pay for this year the sum of Ten Shillings, in addition to his Annual Subscription.

Either of the following modes of payment may be adopted:—

1. Payment by Post-Office Order to the Treasurer (Sir C. Hastings), or to the undersigned.
2. Payment to the Secretary of the Branch to which the member belongs.
3. Members residing in the Metropolis and vicinity can make their payments between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. at the office of the JOURNAL, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, General Secretary.

Worcester, December, 1856.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS and other COMMUNICATIONS for the JOURNAL should be directed to the private address of the Editor, 39, Cuzson Street, May Fair.

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

To CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others, would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that in future no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers always deter the reader from commencing them, this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

HOOPER'S WATER BEDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

SIR.—As the accompanying letter defines so clearly, and in such few words, the usefulness of my Water Cushions and Water Beds, I asked Dr. Wood to allow me to send it to your Journal for publication, which he immediately consented to. I shall therefore feel obliged by your inserting it in an early number.

Pall Mall East, Nov. 20th, 1866.

Yours obediently, WILLIAM HOOPER.

Chempside, Wakefield, Nov. 18th, 1866.

"SIR.—I enclose a Post-Office Order in payment of your account for the Water Cushion.

"This Cushion is for the same patient as that which you sent me three and a half years ago, and I think it but justice to you to say that in consequence of severe Morbus Coxarius, the patient has been laid upon his back during the whole of that time, without any bedsores whatever, so long as the Cushion could be used; but, during the short time that elapsed between the old one being unfit for use, and the arrival of the new one, a bedsores began to form.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

"Mr. William Hooper, 7, Pall Mall East, London. WILLIAM WOOD, M.D."

Communications have been received from:—DR. JOHN KETWORTH; DR. W. TINDAL ROBERTSON; DR. MONTGOMERY; MR. THOMAS R. HEYWOOD THOMSON; MR. R. J. STARLING; AMICUS; THE COUNCIL OF THE APOTHECARIES' COMPANY; THE SECRETARY OF THE EDINBURGH MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY; THE DIRECTORS OF THE GENERAL ORTHOPEDIC ASSOCIATION; MR. J. V. SOLOMON; MR. J. BROWNLOW; DR. JAMES WILLIAMS; MR. AMESBURY; DR. R. U. WEST; SIR CHARLES HASTINGS; MR. W. MOXON; MR. T. HOLMES; DR. G. G. ROGERS.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

Pathological Chemistry in its Application to the Practice of Medicine. Translated from the French of M.M. Bequerel and Rodier. By *Stanhope Templeman Speer, M.D. London: Churchill. 1857.

On Rheumatism, Rheumatic Gout, and Sciatica: their Pathology, Symptoms, and Treatment. By *Henry W. Fuller, M.D. Second Edition. London: Churchill. 1856.

The Change of Life in Health and Disease. A Practical Treatise on the Nervous and other Affections incidental to Women at the Decline of Life. By *Edward John Tilt, M.D. London: Churchill. 1857.

Defects of Sight: their Nature, Causes, Prevention, and General Management. By T. Wharton Jones, F.R.S. London: Churchill. 1856.

The Stomach and its Difficulties. By Sir James Eyre, M.D. Fourth Edition. London: Churchill. 1857.

Outlines of Ophthalmology. Third Edition. By William Mackenzie, M.D. London: Longmans. 1856.

The Vocation of the Medical Scholar: being the Oration delivered at the Eighty-third Anniversary of the Medical Society of London. By *Benjamin W. Richardson, M.D. London: Thomas Richards. Glasgow: William Mackenzie. 1856.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Association Medical Journal.—Office—37, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, LONDON.

The Journal of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association is published every Saturday, and is transmitted direct from the Office to between Two and Three Thousand Members of the Association in all parts of the United Kingdom.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Seven lines and under.....	20	4	0
Every additional line.....	0	0	6
A whole column.....	2	15	0
A page.....	5	0	0

Advertisements ought to be delivered and paid for at the Office on the Thursday preceding publication; or if not paid for at the time should be accompanied by a respectable reference.

Post-Office orders are to be made payable to THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN (the Publisher), 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London.

Crosse and Blackwell, Purveyors in

Ordinary to Her Majesty, respectfully invite attention to their PICKLES, Sauces, Tart Fruits, and other table delicacies, the whole of which are prepared with the most scrupulous attention to wholesomeness and purity. The practice of colouring pickles and tart fruits by artificial means has been discontinued, and the whole of their manufactures are so prepared that they are not allowed to come in contact with any deleterious ingredient. A few of the articles most highly recommended are, Pickles and Tart Fruits of every description, Royal Table Sauce, Essence of Shrimps, Soho Sauce, Essence of Anchovies, Jams, Jellies, Orange Marmalade, Anchovy and Blomster Pastes, Strasbourg and other Potted Meats, and Calf's-foot Jellies of various kinds for table use. C. and B. are also sole Agents for M. Soyer's Sauces, Relish, and Aromatic Mustard; and for Carstairs' Sir Robert Peel's Sauce, and Payne's Royal Osborne Sauce. The above may be obtained of most respectable Sauce Vendors throughout the United Kingdom; and Wholesale of CROSSE and BLACKWELL, 21, Soho Square.

Mr. Bourjeaud's Registered Elastic

APPLIANCES, acting SPIRALLY and FREE from SEAMS; to be obtained only at No. 11, DAVIES STREET, BERKELEY SQUARE, opposite Mivart's Hotel, London; and 17, Rue des Beaux Arts, Paris. At home from One till Five.

Fig. 1.

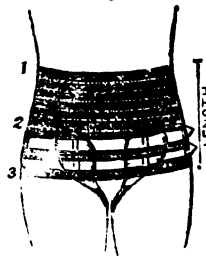


Fig. 2.

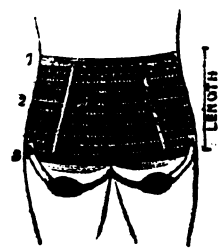
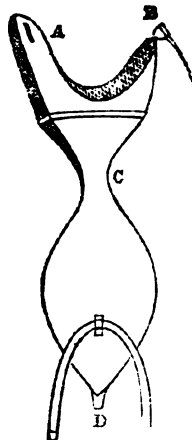


Fig. 1. MR. BOURJEAUD'S NEW BELT & AIR-PAD for INGUINAL HERNIA.—MR. BOURJEAUD begs to state that the smaller ends of the pyriform air-pads are seen below the inferior margin of the belt. The latter is made of elastic strips, about one-inch in breadth, which by being sewn together in a peculiar manner, effect an equable compression around the abdomen. On the internal and front part of the belt two air-pads are attached, exactly on the spot where the belt comes in contact with the inguinal rings; and these yielding pads exercise a gentle compression upon the rings, which compression may be increased or diminished in changing, by means of a small tube and stopcock, the quantity of air contained in the pads. This apparatus is now driving the steel springs completely out of the field; and Mr. BOURJEAUD is happy to say that the hernia belt is getting more and more a favourite among the leading surgeons of the metropolis and the provinces. It is plain to all, that two ends should be kept in view as to apparatus for hernia: First, the support of the intestinal mass; and secondly prevention of protrusion through the rings, without giving the patient pain or causing inflammation and gangrene by pressure on the abdominal parietes with unyielding steel springs. These generally acknowledged desiderata the new belt for hernia completely satisfies; and it becomes every practitioner's duty to advise its use to such of his patients who are affected with hernia.

Fig. 2. POSTERIOR VIEW OF THE HERNIA BELT & AIR-PAD.—This diagram has been drawn in order to illustrate the latest improvement MR. BOURJEAUD has introduced touching this extremely useful apparatus. It had, namely, been found that, in the sitting posture, the pressure of the air-pads upon the inguinal rings became somewhat weaker; to guard against this change, the tubing attached to the lower margin of the belt and terminating in the air-pad has been made to swell towards its centre, posteriorly. When the patient sits down, he drives the air contained in this kind of reservoir into the air-pad in front; the latter becomes a little larger, and the slight difference alluded to above is compensated without any effort on the part of the patient. This contrivance gives to the hernia belt a most valuable accuracy.

WALTERS' INDIA RUBBER URINALS.



F. WALTERS, having originally invented these URINALS, begs to warn the PROFESSION of the many bad and useless Imitations which are now Sold; and he would advise them, before Purchasing, to look that they are STAMPED with his NAME, as, unless that be the case he cannot guarantee them.

Made of Solid INDIA RUBBER with PATENT VALVE, and adapted for LADIES, GENTLEMEN, and CHILDREN.

F. WALTERS, 16, MOORGATE STREET, LONDON.

RECOMMENDED BY THE FACULTY.

Pure Manzanilla Sherry, 48s. per

dozen. Amantillado, from 54s. Jerez Viejo Aromatico, 84s. Bordeaux premier, 48s. JAMES MARKWELL, Sen., since May 1840 specially appointed Wine Merchant to Her Majesty and the Imperial Embassies. Office, 35 to 40, Albemarle Street, and 4, Stafford Street, Piccadilly. N.B. Several dozen in Stock of the famous Old Wines accumulated by J. M. during his lengthened proprietorship of Ibbotson's, Long's, the London and the Grafton Hotels. Good and pure Wines are not cheap. Stock, 5,500 dozen. Wines of all kinds to Shippers, in casks, quarter-casks, hogheads, butts, and pipes. Several cases of Longworth's celebrated Cincinnatti Sparkling and dry Catawba. A few lots of the Prospect Hill, Reading, Wine.