

THE

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL,

BEING THE

JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

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ANDREW WYNTER, M.D.

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M.DCCC.LVII.

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REPORTS FROM THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS HAVE APPEARED UNDER THE HEAD OF ILLUSTRATIONS OF HOSPITAL PRACTICE.

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 CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
 CITY DISPENSARY
 GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL
 GUY'S HOSPITAL
 KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL
 LONDON HOSPITAL
 ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL
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 SAMARITAN HOSPITAL
 ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL
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 ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL
 UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL
 WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL

ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL, CAMBRIDGE
 BERKSHIRE (ROYAL) HOSPITAL
 BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES EYE INFIRMARY
 BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY
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[This List is exclusive of the names of Authors of Letters on Scientific, Ethical, Political, and Controversial Subjects.]

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of a gentleman, mindful alike of his own responsibility and of the honour and interests of the learned body at whose head he was placed. He appears to have been less known as the practical than as the learned physician: for, while his only public appointment was that of physician to the Westminster Hospital for a short period about half a century ago, and while many names stand before his as men of practice, his classical knowledge was well known, and the several works which he put forth bear strong testimony to his erudition. Beyond the usually recognised limits of the profession, too, Dr. Paris was not unknown. He was the founder, while residing in the early part of his career at Penzance, of the Geological Society of Cornwall; he also invented the "tamping bar", an instrument which has doubtless saved the life of many a Cornish miner. And his desire for the general diffusion of scientific knowledge has since his death received abundant proof, in the announcement of the fact that he was the author of the popular work, *Philosophy in Sport*. The *incognito* which he preserved with respect to this work is not very explicable; yet an explanation may occur to the minds of those who know how slow the public are in recognising the fact, that the duties of the physician and of the promoter of general knowledge are other than incompatible. A longer interval than has already passed must elapse before the biographer of Dr. Paris shall be able to perform his task with justice and impartiality; but when that task is undertaken, there is little fear but that, while there will be doubtless events to be recorded which will require the exercise of charity, his reputation will stand well, as of one whose life has not been unprofitable to mankind, and whose conduct may be safely held up as an example to his successors.

The somewhat sudden death of Dr. Paris leaves the College of Physicians under rather peculiar circumstances. The new President must be selected from the body of the Elects. The Elects are self-elected, and they are also the electors of the President. The election of a Doge or Pope is the only analogous proceeding we have ever heard of. No addition can be made to the number of the Elects until after the election of a new President; and, at present, we believe the number has dwindled down to seven only. Of these, some are octogenarians or nonagenarians, and others have retired altogether from professional life. The candidates spoken of as likely to succeed Dr. Paris are, Dr. Alderson the Treasurer of the College, and Dr. F. Hawkins the Registrar, who are both Elects. Dr. Paris himself, before his decease, selected Dr. Alderson to officiate as President during his short illness, and in this capacity he received the Reform deputation of our Association. This accomplished physician will probably be the new President.

The police reports in the *Times* of Wednesday last contain an account of a case heard before Mr. Hammill at the Worship Street Court, in which Dr. J. M. Winn, a well known physician, residing in Finsbury Square, was charged, in conjunction with his servant, Thompson Finley, with committing a violent assault on Mr. Mark Benjamin Benham, a gentleman residing in the same house with the defendants. Dr. Winn appeared in court with one of his eyes much contused; and Mr. Benham's head was bandaged, he having received two wounds. The charge made was, that Dr. Winn had, on the previous night, rushed upon and struck Mr. Benham while the latter gentleman was

retiring to bed; and that he had called to his aid his servant, who followed up the assault by striking Mr. Benham several blows on the head with a poker. The magistrate sent the case to the sessions, admitting Dr. Winn to bail, himself in £500, and two sureties in £250 each. It came out in evidence, on the admission of the prosecutor himself, that he had applied the epithet "swindler" to Dr. Winn. If this be the fact, Dr. Winn received an amount of provocation which no man could be expected to bear quietly; but we fear that his indignation must have been too strong for his prudence, when he permitted his servant to chastise his adversary with a poker. As all the circumstances attending the case are probably not yet known, further comment would be premature.

Another case of Poisoning by Mistake has occurred this week. On Tuesday last, Mr. Wakley commenced an inquiry respecting the death of Mr. William Marcooly, aged 36, a master tailor, residing in Brompton, who died on Saturday morning, shortly after having taken a dose of what had been sold as castor oil at the shop of Mr. Budd, a chemist. From the evidence of the servants of the deceased, it appeared that he had sent for an ounce of castor oil. Through some error on the part of the assistant who furnished the oil, which has not yet been clearly explained, a quantity of hydrocyanic acid (about two drachms) was mixed with the castor oil. The only circumstance which can as yet throw any light on the matter is, that the prescription, entered on Mr. Budd's book immediately after the sale of the castor oil, contained hydrocyanic acid; but whether the assistant was attempting to fill the two bottles at once, and thus committed the fatal mistake, is not clear. The inquest was adjourned.

The Suicide of Mr. Hugh Miller, of Edinburgh, in the midst of his literary labours, should have engaged our attention this week, but we are obliged for want of space to defer our remarks upon the subject until the next number.

Association Intelligence.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: GENERAL MEETING.

A general meeting of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch was held at Dee's Royal Hotel, Birmingham, on December 11th, 1856. S. J. JEAFFRESON, M.B., President, in the Chair.

There were also present:—A. Alcock, Esq. (Smethwick); Edwin Bartleet, Esq. (Birmingham); Pye Chavasse, Esq., (Birmingham); E. H. Coleman, Esq. (Wolverhampton); J. Davies, Esq. (Dudley Port); J. Fraser, M.D. (Wolverhampton); Dr. Fraser (10th Hussars); H. Hancox, M.D. (Wolverhampton); J. H. Houghton, Esq. (Dudley); W. Hinds, M.D. (Birmingham); E. Jackson, M.D. (Handsworth); G. Jones, Esq. (Birmingham); J. W. Keyworth, M.D. (Birmingham); W. J. Kite, Esq. (West Bromwich); C. T. Male, Esq. (West Bromwich); J. B. Melson, M.D. (Birmingham); G. H. Marshall, Esq. (Birmingham); W. C. Orford, Esq. (Birmingham); Oliver Pemberton, Esq. (Birmingham); A. B. Rye, Esq. (Banbury); J. Simons, Esq. (Birmingham); J. V. Solomon, Esq. (Birmingham); W. H. Sproston, Esq. (Birmingham); T. Swain, Esq. (Birmingham); Spencer Thomson, M.D. (Burton-on-Trent); C. Warden, M.D. (Birmingham); W. Willington, M.D. (Handsworth); Watkin Williams, Esq. (Birmingham); and George Yates, Esq. (Birmingham).

NEW MEMBERS.

Dr. Fraser of the 10th Hussars, and Mr. Hopkins of Handsworth, were unanimously elected members of the Branch.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS read the report of the Treasurer of the Entertainment Fund for the recent meeting of the Association in Birmingham. It was resolved:—

"That the same be received, adopted, and entered on the minutes."

THE METHODUS MEDENDI OF THE ANCIENTS.
BY A. B. RYE, ESQ.

Dr. MELSON regretted that the author of the paper had not favoured the meeting by a more particular reference to the views of the ancient authorities in medicine, as well as in surgery; especially in regard to what might be termed natural medicine; for the ancients paid more attention to sanitary influences than was even paid in the present day. He trusted that a subject so interesting might be resumed at a future period.

Mr. RYE stated that his object in bringing the subject forward was rather to elicit the remarks of the meeting in regard to the question generally. He was pleased to find it one likely to prove still more interesting; and he would hope to renew the discussion on another occasion.

DISEASE OF THE SUPRARENAL CAPSULES.
BY S. J. JEAFFRESON, M.B.

[This paper will be published in the JOURNAL.]

Dr. SPENCER THOMSON remarked that it was important to notice the states of the conjunctiva and urine in disease of the suprarenal capsules accompanied by bronzed skin. He was not aware of any case of icterus having occurred without discoloration of the urine. In the *post mortem* examination of these cases, he believed that very frequent adhesions of the serous membranes were noticed.

Mr. SOLOMON said that the state of the conjunctiva, as described by Dr. Addison, was borne out by the narration of its appearance in Dr. Jeaffreson's cases. He should like to know whether the ordinary anæmic murmurs were audible in these cases.

Mr. YATES alluded to the fact of its being affirmed that there may be disease of the suprarenal capsules without any discoloration of the skin. In a case under his own observation, the suprarenal capsule in a diseased state weighed many pounds, yet there was no discoloration of the skin.

Dr. HINDS considered that Dr. Jeaffreson's cases failed to connect bronzing of the skin with disease of the suprarenal capsules. The mere fact of a change in colour of the skin amounted to nothing, as it was so frequent an accompaniment of organic disease.

Dr. MELSON narrated a case in which a tumour was removed, in connexion with a diseased state of the suprarenal capsule, weighing upwards of two pounds. During life, there had been observed a pearly colour of the skin and conjunctiva. The family of the patient were eminently scrofulous.

Mr. OLIVER PEMBERTON drew attention to the peculiar discolorations of the skin that were so constantly observable in certain forms of malignant disease, especially the melanotic variety, which not only affected the patient by its special deposits, but by a characteristic tinging of the entire surface. He had possessed the opportunity of observing the remarkable colour of the skin—a pearly white—which was present, accompanied also by anæmia, in cases where the *post mortem* examination revealed alterations in the size and character of the pancreas. This colour of the skin and the presence of anæmia were, in his experience, always present in pancreatic disease.

Mr. HOUGHTON observed that, in our investigations for the further elucidation of the subject, it must be always borne in mind that an anæmic condition, with the peculiar discoloration of the skin described, were the two points said to be connected with disease of the suprarenal capsules by Dr. Addison.

Dr. JEAFFRESON, in reply, said that his only object in bringing forward these cases was to show that he had observed their peculiarities previous to Dr. Addison's publication. This disease must always be studied in connexion with anæmia as well as colour. He had not heard any anæmic murmurs in his cases.

CASE OF BLIGHTED FETUS. BY J. SIMONS, ESQ.

Mr. SIMONS exhibited a remarkable specimen of a blighted fœtus, and narrated the following history of the patient from whom it had been passed.

Mrs. B., aged 25, a pale and delicate looking woman, was first confined on August 3rd, 1854, and again on August 24th, 1855, on the latter occasion of twins, prematurely, about the

eight month. The third confinement came on very suddenly when at her work, and again prematurely, about the eighth month, on December 5th, 1856. The labour was natural, quick, and nothing remarkable occurred. Upon making a final examination after the expulsion of the placenta, a hard solid mass, feeling like a tumour, was found engaged in the mouth of the uterus. Upon pressing the uterus externally, this substance was expelled; it proved to be a blighted fœtus, with the placenta and membranes entire, appearing to have been separated about the third month. The whole mass was blanched and flattened. Upon opening the membranes they contained about one ounce of liquor amnii, and a perfectly formed fœtus (a female), which was quite flat, of about the thickness of a pennypiece, and, like the rest of the mass, quite blanched. It was attached to the placenta by the funis. The placenta was of a cartilaginous hardness, and compressed into an uniform thickness of about half an inch. Though the whole mass had been compressed for the last five months of pregnancy between the living contents of the uterus and the uterine walls, there was no evidence of any decomposition either in appearance or smell. The child born, was weakly, and lived two days. The mother, who assists her husband in a pork shop, has been actively engaged during her pregnancy, and in the habit of lifting heavy weights, and resting them against the abdomen. She recollects that when gone about three months, she one day felt a sudden pain in the belly; she applied to Mr. Simons' assistant, Mr. Dawson, who gave her some medicines. She continued in pain, more or less (fearing a miscarriage), for a week, when it went off, and she followed her usual occupation, without anything further remarkable, until taken in labour on December 5th, 1856.

Reports of Societies.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, MANCHESTER.

MEDICAL SECTION.

OPERATION IN A CASE OF IMPERFORATE ANUS.
BY JAMES MILLER, ESQ.

SUMMARY.—*Operation for imperforate anus in a case in which the rectum terminated in the bladder, and the meconium passed by the urethra. Subsequent formation of a very large alvo-urinary calculus in the rectum: its removal and chemical analysis. The patient, now nearly 36 years of age, is perfectly free from every inconvenience, except the occasional passage of some urine per anum, there being no difficulty in controlling the fæces, etc.*

Mr. MILLER, of Manchester, drew the attention of the Medical Section to the case of T. M., upon whom he operated in 1821 for imperforate anus. Some of the particulars of this case were communicated by Mr. Miller (through Mr. Liston) in 1829 to the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*; he has obtained additional particulars of importance, bringing the history of the patient down to the present time. He delivered a Mrs. M. of a healthy looking male infant in January 1821. In thirty hours after birth it was discovered that the child had neither an anus nor the slightest mark of its situation. The meconium was passing *per urethram*. Mr. Miller made an incision in the usual situation of the anus, about an inch in length and as much in depth, and then he thrust in a large trocar (used for paracentesis abdominis), with which, at the second attempt, the rectum was penetrated, and a free passage given to the fæces. The trocar had to be passed up to its hilt. The usual difficulties were experienced in keeping open the aperture, and it had to be reopened with a bistoury ten times before the child was eight months old. When he began to walk, he had a strange propensity to eat cinders, which stuck in the rectum and rendered frequent operations necessary. In the last operation for that purpose, it was requisite to turn the edge of the bistoury forwards to divide the stricture, and in doing this the bladder was slightly wounded, and ever since a portion of the urine has been discharged by the anus, though the greater part has come regularly by the urethra. Under the use of laxatives and frequent purgative clysters he thrives as other boys. When he was about four years old, his mother was sensible of some hard substance occasionally opposing the introduction of the clyster pipe, but, through fear of further operations being necessary, she concealed this knowledge from Mr. Miller, and allowed the difficulty to increase during the three following years, till at length there was complete obstruction of the bowels with exces-

return, and I appeal to you, sir, and ask if this act of injustice is to be allowed to be carried out. Trusting you will deign to notice this matter and give it your best consideration,

I have the honour, etc., JOSEPH GODDEN.

Oxton, Cheshire, December, 2nd, 1856.

Reply.

Whitehall.

SIR,—I am directed by the Secretary, Sir George Grey, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., and to inform you that the Secretary of State has no power to interfere in the matter of your claim for an allowance as a medical witness in the case to which you refer. I am, etc.,

H. WADDINGTON.

J. Godden, Esq.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

* In these lists, an asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.

BIRTHS.

- BARKER, Alfred J., Esq., Surgeon, of Upper Holloway, the wife of—a daughter—on December 27th, 1856.
 EVEREST, George, M.D., H.M.S. *Highflyer*, the wife of—a son—at Margate, on December 27th, 1856.
 *FENTEM, Thomas, Esq., Surgeon, of Eyam, Derbyshire, the wife of—a son—on December 26th, 1856.
 FRERE, R. Temple, M.D., of Queen Street, May Fair, the wife of—a daughter—on December 27th, 1856.
 GROVE, John, Esq., Surgeon, of Wandsworth, the wife of—a daughter, stillborn—on December 29th, 1856.
 LARKINS, J. B., Esq., Staff Surgeon at Poona, Bombay, the wife of—a daughter—at Oxford Terrace, on December 26th, 1856.
 NAIRNE, Robert, M.D., of 44, Charles Street, Berkeley Square, the wife of—a daughter—on December 24th, 1856.

MARRIAGES.

- BECKETT—HANNAH. BECKETT, Charles, Esq., Surgeon, of Hull, to Amelia, third daughter of the late John Hannah, Esq., Surgeon, of Alford, Lincolnshire, at St. Mary's, Islington, on December 18th, 1856.
 WEBSTER—SQUIRE. WEBSTER, George, Esq., Surgeon, of Peckham Rye, to Rose, second daughter of William Peppercorn Squire, Esq., of Newbury, Silsoe, Bedfordshire, at Silsoe, on December 24th, 1856.

DEATHS.

- BRIGHT. On December 26th, 1856, at 12, Cambridge Square, Hyde Park, aged 9, Ellen Catherine, youngest child of *James Bright, M.D.
 GEERE. At Brighton, on December 28th, 1856, Ellen, wife of George Geere, Esq., Surgeon.
 MITCHELL, Charles, M.D., at Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, aged 73, on December 22nd, 1856.
 PARIS, John Ayrton, M.D., President of the Royal College of Physicians in London, in Dover Street, Piccadilly, aged 71, on December 24th, 1856. He was born at Cambridge on Aug. 7th, 1785. He became a member of Caius College, in that University, and graduated when very young in medicine. He was distinguished for the extent and elegance of his classical attainments. From Cambridge he went to Edinburgh, and was the friend and intimate companion of the many celebrated men who, in the first years of this century, had congregated in the Scottish capital. On his return to London, at the age of 22, he was elected Physician to the Westminster Hospital, but soon after vacated the appointment, as it was his wish to establish himself in the town of Penzance in Cornwall. During his residence at Penzance, Dr. Paris distinguished himself as the founder of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall; this, we believe, was the first Geological Society in England. When at Penzance, too, he gave to the miners the great boon of the "tamping-bar", the instrument by which they are enabled to pursue their business amid inflammable gases without the fear of striking fire from the rock. In the year 1810 he returned to London, and here for forty-five or forty-six

years he was actively occupied as a physician. He was elected President of the College of Physicians in the year 1844, and this office he held until the hour of his death. Dr. Paris was remarkable for his literary ability. The *Life of Sir Humphry Davy* will ever remain one of the classical biographies of the English language. In conjunction with Mr. Fonblanque, he also wrote the *Medical Jurisprudence*. His treatise *On Diet* first brought him into notice, and was published at a very early age; his *Pharmacologia* ran through many editions. Besides these, and many other acknowledged publications, his *Philosophy in Sport* has attained an enormous popularity, and, with his life, the motive for an *incognito* which was never really maintained has altogether terminated. The last ten days of Dr. Paris's life were spent in excruciating sufferings, which were borne with remarkable fortitude. His intellect remained to the last as clear as at any time of his life.

SPACKMAN. On December 23rd, 1856, at Harpenden, Herts, aged 5, Anna Maria Isabella, fourth child of Frederic R. Spackman, M.D.

WARD, William, Esq., Surgeon, at Forant, near Shrewsbury, on December 21st, 1856.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS. At the usual Quarterly Meeting of the Comitia Majora, held on Monday, Dec. 22nd, 1856, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations, were admitted members of the College:—

- Dr. DALDY, Broad Street Buildings
 Dr. HORACE DOBELL, London
 Dr. EVANS, Lancaster Place, Strand
 Dr. FRIPP, The Mall, Clifton
 Dr. HEADLAND, Guildford Street
 Dr. HILLIER, Upper Gower Street
 Dr. BENJAMIN W. RICHARDSON, Hinde Street, Manchester Square
 Dr. ROLLESTON, Ely Place
 Also, as Extra Licentiates:—
 Dr. DAY, Stafford
 Dr. PEARSON, Ely
 Dr. WOLLASTON, late of the Military Hospital, Scutari

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners on Friday, December 19th, 1856:—

- ALLINSON, Augustus Ward, Beresford Square, Woolwich
 BARRETT, Osman, Finsbury Square
 CALLENDER, William, Newcastle-on-Tyne
 GOVER, Robert Mundy, Andover, Hants
 HAWKES, Edgar Coulson, Bishops Stortford, Herts
 KEDDELL, William Frederick, Sheerness
 REID, David Boswell, University College
 WALKER, Nathaniel Osbourne, Woodhouse, Toronto, Canada West
 WHITE, William Acraman, Frome, Somerset
 Monday, December 22nd:—
 BAILEY, Francis James, Blackburn, Lancashire
 BALDING, Charles Cullidge, Barkway, Herts
 BENBOW, Edwin, Army
 DRESSER, William, Atherston, Warwickshire
 KELLETT, Edwin, Leicester
 KENNARD, Thomas Atherton, Lambourne, Berkshire
 WHITE, Richard George, Southgate Road, Islington

APOTHECARIES' HALL. Members admitted on Thursday, December 18th, 1856:—

- BROWNE, William Valentine, St. Asaph, North Wales
 DAWSON, Arthur Houghton, Gildeston, Norfolk
 DEAMER, William, Brant Broughton, Newark
 GRAHAM, William, Goxhill, Lincoln
 JOHNSTON, Joseph Salkeld, London
 LEWER, John Richard, Wimborne, Dorset
 MANNING, Joseph, Northampton
 MULLINGER, Frederick John, Bishops Stortford, Herts
 PIGGE, Charles, Guy's Hospital
 RANSOME, Arthur, Manchester
 Wednesday, December 24th:—
 BEACH, Henry John, Cheltenham
 BERESFORD, Herbert, Chesterfield
 COCKEILL, Philip Wyatt, Royal Navy
 COLLINS, William Henry, Hereford
 HAYNE, William Reynolds, Essex
 HINE, Daniel Benjamin, London

IRWIN, John, Whitehaven
 ROWE, Samuel, Leicester
 SUTTON, Henry Gaven, Middlesbro'-on-Tees
 WAUGH, John Neill, Australia
 WINTERBOTHAM, Lauriston, Cheltenham

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING
 DECEMBER 20TH, 1856.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

AFTER a sudden increase of mortality the Weekly Return again exhibits results of a very favourable character. In the week that ended on Saturday the deaths registered in London decreased to 1060. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55 the average number of deaths was 1269; but if the excess of deaths in the fifty-first week of 1847, when influenza nearly doubled the mortality, be excluded from the calculation, and the average, thus reduced, be corrected for the increased population of the present time, it will be found that the ordinary rate of mortality at this season would have produced 1300 deaths last week, and therefore more by 240 than the number actually returned.

The number of deaths referred to the zymotic class of diseases is 187, whilst the corrected average of corresponding weeks is 317. It may be remarked that none of the diseases of this description show a tendency to prevail to an excessive degree: the mortality from small-pox, which numbered 6 deaths last week (all, except one, in the Small-pox Hospital), is low; and the greatest number of deaths in the zymotic class is referred to scarlatina, which was fatal in 42 cases, the corrected average being 53. Forty children died from hooping cough, and 23 from measles. The deaths from typhus or common fever were 37, exhibiting a decrease on previous weeks. On reference to the table which exhibits the topographical distribution of six principal epidemics, it will be seen that the Eastern Division of the metropolis contributes more than its just contingent to the total mortality from scarlatina and typhus; and to whatever cause it is to be attributed, the same fact has been frequently observed in the current year. Diseases of the organs of respiration were fatal last week in 230 cases, showing a considerable decrease on the numbers in two preceding weeks, which were successively 368 and 287. Bronchitis was the fatal disease in 110, or nearly half of the whole number; whilst pneumonia carried off 93 persons, of whom 71 were children. In the last three weeks phthisis or consumption, which stands in the tubercular class, caused 164, 130, and 119 deaths. The deaths of 3 persons are returned as caused by intemperance.

Last week the births of 868 boys and 823 girls, in all 1691 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55 the average number was 1465.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 30.128 in. The mean daily reading was above 30 in. on five days. The barometer rose from 28.98 in. on Sunday to 30.46 in. on Tuesday, the highest reading attained in the week. The mean temperature of the week was 38.8 deg., which is rather below the average of the same week in 38 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The mean daily temperature was below the average on four days, and the extent of depression on Tuesday was 9 deg. The *lowest* reading in the week occurred on Wednesday, and was 24 deg.; the *highest* reading occurred on the following day, and was 48 deg. The range of temperature in the week was therefore 24 deg. The mean dew-point temperature was 36.5 deg., and the difference between this and the mean air temperature was 2.3 deg. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 43.7 deg. The *highest* temperature of the river was 48.3 deg. on Sunday; it declined till near the end of the week, and on Friday the *lowest* temperature was 41.1 deg. The wind, which blew from the north at the beginning of the week, changed to south-west, and again veered to N.N.E. On Saturday it was in the west. The air was frequently calm. Scarcely any rain fell; but fog or haze prevailed on several days.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 27TH.

THE total number of deaths registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday is 1069, being very nearly the same as in the preceding week. In the corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55 the average number of deaths was 1247; but the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, and if they are to be compared with the average, the latter should be raised proportionally to the increase, in which case it will become 1372. It appears that the number in the present return

is less by 300 than would have been returned if the average rate of mortality had prevailed.

The number of deaths referred last week to diseases of the zymotic class is 211; the corrected average of corresponding weeks is 273. Hooping-cough, which for seven previous weeks had shown great uniformity of results, the weekly number of deaths having been about 40, increased last week to 55. Typhus and common fever ranked next in the order of mortality, and were fatal to 38 persons. Cases of typhus seem to be frequent in Paddington; a nurse of St. Mary's Hospital died of it on the 10th instant; two patients brought to the hospital from Harrow Road and Stanley Street died on the 11th and 22nd respectively, and an aged woman on the 22nd in Market Street. Measles were fatal to 32 children, all under 10 years of age: 3 of the deaths from it occurred in St. Margaret, Westminster; 4 in Islington. Scarlatina was fatal in 26 cases, diarrhoea in 12, erysipelas in 10, croup in 9, small-pox in 5. Taking the diseases of this description in the aggregate, the mortality from them, at present, is not great.

The deaths caused by diseases affecting the respiratory organs were 233, nearly the same as in the previous week, and considerably less than the average. Fatal cases of pneumonia or inflammation of the lungs decreased in two weeks from 93 to 67. Phthisis or consumption, which is not included in the class above mentioned, caused 128 deaths, the corrected average being 135.

Only two nonagenarians died in the week; viz., two widows, aged respectively 91 and 92 years.

Last week the births of 749 boys and 733 girls, in all 1472 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55 the average number was 1382.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.419 in. The reading fell from 30.33 in. at noon on Sunday to 28.76 in. on Thursday. The mean temperature of the week was 35.7 deg., which is 2.5 deg. below the average of the same week in thirty-eight years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The mean daily temperature was below the average on the last five days, and on the last three days the extent of depression below the average was from 7 deg. to 10 deg. The *highest* temperature was 46.5 deg., and occurred on Sunday (the 21st); the *lowest* was 24.6 deg., and occurred on Friday. The range of the week was therefore 21.9 deg. The *highest* temperature on Thursday (Christmas Day) was only 31.2 deg. The mean dew-point temperature of the week was 32.9 deg., and the difference between this and the mean air temperature was 2.8 deg. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 40.6 deg.; the *lowest* in the week was 38.4 deg. on Saturday. The wind was generally in the west till noon on Thursday, after which it was in the north-east, north, and north-west. The air was frequently calm. The rain-fall of the week was only 10.13 in., all of which occurred on Wednesday. Light snow fell early on the morning of Saturday.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN: ADDRESS TO DR.
 MONTGOMERY.

THE following graceful and eloquent tribute to the long and important services rendered by Dr. Montgomery to the School of Medicine, especially in the obstetric department, whose professional chair he filled with eminent advantage to science, and high honour to himself, has been paid by his colleagues. The deputation, who waited on him at his residence to present the address, was accompanied, amongst others, by the President of the College of Physicians. The address was read by Dr. Stokes, as follows:

"Trinity College, November, 1856.

"DEAR SIR,—We cannot permit you to retire from that chair in the School of Medicine in our University, which you have so long and so honourably filled, without not only expressing our feelings of regret upon the occasion, but also recording our unanimous opinion of the exemplary manner in which you have discharged its important duties. It was principally through your instrumentality that the professorship of midwifery was established by the College of Physicians, and attendance on its annual course of lectures rendered an essential part of medical education. To you was assigned the honour of being the first to fill that chair. During a period of thirty years you have discharged its onerous duties with great ability and with undeviating regularity, and by the reputation thus acquired you have conferred dignity on the appointment, and now constitute a bright example to encourage the student in medicine to pursue

his course with zeal, with steady perseverance, and with a determination always to maintain a character for high and honourable conduct. By your indefatigable industry and deep research, as also by your excellent and interesting lectures, obstetrical science and practice have been improved and advanced in this country and in Great Britain; while your important discoveries and valuable publications have acquired for you an European reputation. As our colleague in the school of medicine, we cannot but feel sincere regret at a separation caused, we are well aware, by the public demands on your time, and the pressure of professional engagements. During our long intercourse, we have ever found you the cordial, confidential, and honourable friend, the intelligent adviser, and the assiduous and cheerful fellow-labourer in our arduous duties; and though our connexion with you as professor in the same school has been severed, we shall ever cherish a lively and pleasing recollection of the many years we have been together. In all the other relations of life, professional and social, we trust that we may long continue to maintain the same mutual feelings of friendship and esteem. Most sincerely wishing you all happiness, believe us to remain, dear sir, faithfully yours,

“WILLIAM STOKES, Regius Professor.

J. W. CUSACK, University Professor of Surgery.

ROBERT HARRISON, Professor of Anatomy.

JAMES APJOHN, Professor of Chemistry.

W. H. HARVEY, Professor of Botany.

ROBERT W. SMITH, Professor of Surgery.

JOHN T. BANKS, King's Professor of Physic.

JONATHAN OSBORNE, Professor of Materia Medica.

ROBERT LAW, Professor of Institutes of Medicine.

F. CHURCHILL, Professor of Midwifery.

THOMAS BRADY, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence.”

Dr. Montgomery returned the following answer:—

“GENTLEMEN,—It is almost superfluous for me to assure you that I receive, with heartfelt thankfulness, this most flattering testimony of your good opinion with which you have so greatly honoured me. I beg you will believe that I regard it not as a subject of mere ephemeral gratification or pride, however intense may be the pleasure it affords me, but that I trust to preserve it as an honourable and enduring record for the guidance and encouragement of my children, and their children after them, who will, I hope, hereafter look upon it as a powerful incentive to strive earnestly,—no matter how long or how arduous may be the struggle,—to win the approbation of the wise and good, which they should ever feel, as I do at this moment, to be a reward of inestimable value, which neither wealth can purchase nor patronage procure them. I wish to add, that although now officially separated from the School of Physic, that severance in no way abates my cordial anxiety for the welfare and success of an institution in which I so long laboured, and to which I owe so much. And it is my most fervent hope and wish that health, happiness, and prosperity may attend you, my kind friends and colleagues, who so ably uphold its character, and promote its interests.

“W. F. MONTGOMERY.”

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

As several communications have appeared in our contemporaries, adverse to the charge of £40 per annum for the board and education of the exhibitors of this College, we think it but fair to give publicity to the appended letter:—

“Cheltenham, December 23rd, 1856.

“MY DEAR MR. PROPERT,—Will you be kind enough to inform me when and where the special general meeting of the governors of the Royal Medical Benevolent College takes place, in order that I may, if practicable, be there, to give your committee, and yourself in particular, my feeble support on that frivolous and vexatious question, the very moderate charge of £40 per annum for the education, board, etc., etc., of the exhibitors.

“Let those that are dissatisfied with such reasonable terms reflect that if, through false reasoning, they refuse to strengthen the hands of your committee, they must put up with an ill paid and inferior class of teachers, and that the education of our sons will be second or third rate, instead of, as we all hope and desire, that their instruction shall be equal to the best of our public schools.

“I quite concur in the sentiments of Mr. Stilwell, that, by kind consideration and liberal assistance to strengthen the hands and cheer the minds of those so anxiously engaged in establishing and promoting the well-doing of so valuable an

institution, we shall simply be doing our duty to the rising generation.

“I have much pleasure in accepting the terms of £40 per annum; and I trust that my youngest son, Owen Dalton, may be permitted to become an exhibitor immediately after the vacation.

“I would also beg to propose as a standing rule of your excellent institution, that you follow the example of our excellent College in receiving the exhibitors' fees for education in *advance*. On no account whatever permit the expenses to fall below £40 per annum, and by all means insist upon prepayments. I would suggest that £10 be paid quarterly, in advance, for the convenience of all parties. At the Cheltenham College, payments are made half-yearly, in advance. It is estimated by the parents of boys at our College, that the entire expenses of board, education, stationery, travelling, and other expenses, average £100 per annum. Here, then, is a saving of at least one-half.

“Pray make what use you like of my letters, and believe me, my dear sir, amongst the numbers of our professional friends who owe you a deep debt of gratitude.

“Faithfully yours,

WM. DALTON.

“J. Propert, Esq.

“P.S. The expense of board and education at the Swansea Grammar School is £64 per annum!”

TESTIMONIAL TO PROFESSOR SANDS COX. A meeting of the Council of the Queen's College, Birmingham, and friends of the above gentleman, was held in the library of the College, on Wednesday, December 17th, John Ratcliff, Esq., the Mayor, in the chair, for the purpose of considering the propriety of raising a subscription to provide a suitable testimonial to him in consideration of the eminent services which he has rendered to Birmingham by the establishment of the College and the Queen's Hospital. The Chairman opened the business by observing that from what had previously taken place, there was but one opinion among the friends of the Institution in which they were assembled, and of those intimately acquainted with the great benefits conferred upon the town by Mr. Sands Cox, that a testimonial ought to be raised to him, and the only question was the sort of one which would be most appropriate and agreeable to that gentleman. Mr. Haines said that he knew Mr. Cox would not accept anything for himself. His great object had ever been the good of the Queen's College and Hospital; and if the public considered that anything could be done, through the medium of a testimonial, to further the interests of those Institutions, it would have his approval. The Rev. Chancellor Law said, knowing as he did Mr. Cox's disinterestedness in all he had undertaken, he did not anticipate that any personal consideration would influence him in the testimonial; and the question, as observed by the Mayor, was the kind of testimonial which would be most agreeable to the gentleman they desired to honour. It was necessary, in order to enable gentlemen to regulate their subscriptions, to know the probable amount of money that would be required. He was inclined to believe that the establishment of a few scholarships to be held by the sons of medical men in the College, to be called after Mr. Cox, would be most agreeable to him, and the number would of course depend upon the amount subscribed. Dr. Birt Davies said he knew that if the proposed subscription would enable them to found scholarships, nothing would be more agreeable to Mr. Cox. Such a design would be fully in accordance with that real nobility of character which he had manifested during the last thirty years, throughout which period he (Dr. Davies) had had the happiness of knowing him. If the testimonial took that shape, it would indeed be adding another laurel to the many which Mr. Cox had already earned from his fellow-townsmen. Mr. Osborn thought the better course would be to raise as large a subscription as they could, and leave the entire appropriation of it to Mr. Cox himself, well knowing, as they did, how he would dispose of it. They might rely upon it, the public alone would be benefited by the testimonial. A conversation ensued upon the subject, after which a resolution in accordance with Mr. Osborn's suggestion was adopted. The following donations have been promised: the Mayor of Birmingham, John Ratcliff, Esq., £50; the Rev. Chancellor Law, £50; ditto, second donation, £50; Mr. Samuel Haines, £50; Mr. James Shaw, £50; Mr. E. Armfield, £50; Thomas Bagnall, Esq., £50; Mr. Thomas Uphall, 50; Mr. James Busby, £50; F. I. Welch, Esq., £50; Mr. W. H. Osborn, £25; Mr. Jacob Phillips, £25; Messrs. Ingleby, Wragge, and Evans, £25; Mr. G. Taylor, £20; Mr. J. B. Payn, £10; Dr. Birt Da-

vies, £5:5; Mr. John Boucher, £5:5; Mr. Morris Banks, £5:5; Dr. Heslop, £5:5; Mr. H. R. Cooksey, £5:5; Mr. John Suckling, £5:5; T. R. T. Hodgson, Esq., £3:3; Mr. Langston Parker, £3:3; Mr. S. Hemming, £2:2; Mr. S. Bal-den, £1:1; Mr. P. Harris, £1:1. (*Aris's Birmingham Gaz.*)

CHANGES IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE INDIAN ARMY. The *Athenæum*, an Indian paper, says:—That our medical readers may learn the changes which rumour alleges are to be made in their department, we may mention that our present information is to the effect that Dr. McLennan, who lately retired from the Bombay Presidency after having attained the rank of Physician-General there, is to return in the capacity of Director-General of the Medical Department for all India. Subordinate to him, in each presidency, there is to be one civil and one military Inspector-General; according to the *Delhi Gazette*, the class of superintending surgeons is to stand, but, as we suppose, subject to the operation of the staff rules, so as to insure their displacement at the end of five years, and allow a constant succession of younger men to fill their important offices. The cry for promotion is urgent, and the quinquennial removal of the superintending surgeons will give it, while their immediate condition as to pay will not be worse than that of the major-generals who are removed on promotion. Our own information coincides with that of the *Delhi Gazette*, as to the formation of a class of staff-surgeons; but the exact position they will occupy, whether they will replace the present garrison surgeons or be aides to the superintending surgeons, we have not learned. There are rumours, also, that the existing orders regarding rank and position, which should never have been issued, are to be abrogated; and that assistant-surgeons in charge of corps, who now draw only 105 rupees a month, are, after eight years service, to draw 300 rupees, as surgeons at present do. The medical staff appointments, in all cases, are to be made by selections; and this duty is to be left to the Director-General to perform.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS and other COMMUNICATIONS for the JOURNAL should be directed to the private address of the Editor, 39, Curzon 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.

Communications have been received from:—DR. RADFORD; DR. PAYNE; MR. JOHN SUCKLING; DR. S. H. SWAYNE; MR. A. G. FIELD; MR. M. REDMAN; MR. GLEASON; THE SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS; MR. SAMUEL HILL; DR. J. C. HALL; MR. HAYNES WALTON; DR. T. HERBERT BARKER; MR. SAMUEL CROMPTON; MR. J. S. SMITH; MR. GEORGE ALLEN; MR. B. C. B. HOLLAND; MR. J. W. PRICHARD; MR. JOSEPH GODDEN; MR. J. V. SOLOMON; MR. THOMAS HUNT; MR. J. I. IKIN; MR. PROBERT; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; MR. W. T. BELL; DR. F. J. BROWN; MR. J. ARMITAGE PEARSON; MR. T. WATKIN WILLIAMS; MR. W. G. CARTER; DR. HATES JACKSON; MR. T. FENYEM; MR. AMESBURY; DR. KIDD; MR. J. SIMONS; MR. OLIVER PEMBERTON; DR. BRINTON; MR. JAMES YEARSLEY; MR. JOHN RUSSELL (Merthyr); THE TREASURER OF THE ODONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY; DR. RADCLIFFE HALL (Torquay); and MR. G. STEVENS.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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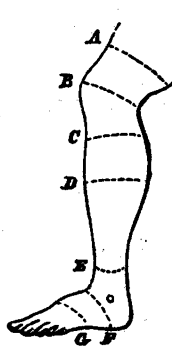
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