

# THE LATE CHARLES COTTON, M.D.

SURGEON TO THE WEST NORFOLK AND LYNN HOSPITAL.

WE announce with regret, in our obituary of to-day, the death of Dr. Charles Cotton, an old and worthy member of the Association, and a man of excellent reputation among our provincial surgeons. Subjoined is a brief sketch of his career, for which we are indebted in great measure to a local paper.

Charles Cotton was born in Lynn in 1811, and was articled, it is believed, to Mr. Morris, surgeon, of Gosberton in Lincolnshire. He obtained the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1833, and the license of the Apothecaries' Company in 1834. He then returned to Lynn, and was elected house-surgeon to the Lynn Dispensary, in which office he continued till the institution was dissolved. He then entered into partnership with Mr. Ingle, and upon that gentleman's retirement, succeeded to the whole of his practice. He had previously been elected surgeon to the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital, succeeding Mr. Ingle on his resignation of the appointment. He obtained the fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1844, by examination; and the degree of M.D. at St. Andrew's in 1845. He held the responsible position of surgeon to the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital for several years, until compelled, by threatenings of phthisis in the form of a severe attack of hæmoptysis, to resign it, together with his general practice, and limit his attention to that of a physician and consulting surgeon. His failure in health was also increased by the death of his son. On the occasion of his retirement from the surgeoncy of the hospital, he received from the governors a silver inkstand as a slight testimonial of their genuine esteem towards himself and appreciation of his valuable aid. On the death of Mr. Sayle (the then senior surgeon to the hospital) in 1857, Dr. Cotton, upon the earnest solicitation of several friends of the institution, was induced to become a candidate for the vacant appointment, and was re-elected. He continued to perform the duties of his office until within a few weeks of his death, and then resigned from conviction of the fatal character of the illness by which he was attacked. Unfortunately, the impression which he felt proved too well founded, and he died peacefully and resignedly at nine o'clock on Friday morning, December 31st, 1858, at the age of forty-seven years.

The professional reputation of Dr. Cotton was deservedly high. As an operator he was particularly skilful, and attained to a deserved eminence in that respect amongst his professional brethren, by whom he was held in the highest esteem. One of his earliest performances was the successful excision of a knee-joint, a case amongst the first of the kind on record. He contributed some articles of merit to the literature of practical surgery, chiefly descriptive of important cases which he had treated. Most of his contributions, if not all, were presented to the JOURNAL of this Association: they are, in general, descriptions of cases operated on, principally for excision of joints.

He was an ardent lover of his profession, and in every way in his power demonstrated his well-founded belief in its importance to, and claim upon the respect of, the community. He was also a most zealous and efficient supporter of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, of which he was for some length of time local honorary secretary. He served the municipality for six years, as an alderman; and also for several years as a borough magistrate; of both of which offices he discharged the duties actively and honestly, with a strong desire (however he might have differed in opinion occasionally from some of his coadjutors) to promote the public welfare. This, indeed, was an object which he steadily held in view throughout his career; and to a public servant no higher praise could be

awarded. He was of amiable disposition, though at times hasty: and his benevolence (unmarred by ostentation) was of a most practical character.

## MEDICAL REGISTRATION.

### LIVERPOOL MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION.

THE Registrar under the new Medical Act having requested the Registration Societies to receive the applications and fees of all qualified members of the profession desirous of being registered,—NOTICE is hereby given that, in consequence of the numerous applications that continue to be made for Registration through this Association, the Sub-Committee will ATTEND at the Medical Institution, Mount Pleasant, between the hours of Twelve and One, on Tuesday the 11th, Thursday the 13th, and Friday the 14th instant, for the purpose of receiving such applications, etc., and transmitting them to the Registrar. Forms of application for registration will be supplied.

A. T. H. WATERS, *Honorary Secretary.*

Liverpool, January 5th, 1859.

## Association Intelligence.

### LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Letters or communications for the JOURNAL should be addressed to Dr. WYNTER, Coleherne Court, Old Brompton, S.W.

Letters regarding the business department of the JOURNAL, and corrected proofs, should be sent to 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

### MIDLAND BRANCH: MEDICAL REGISTRATION.

A GENERAL meeting of the medical practitioners residing in Derbyshire, convened by circular, to discuss the subject of registration, was held in the board-room of the Infirmary, Derby, on December 30th. J. WHITAKER JOHNSON, Esq., President-elect of the Branch, was called to the Chair. There were also present: J. Adams, Esq. (Matlock); R. R. Allen, Esq. (Belper); J. W. Baker, Esq. (Derby); A. Borman, Esq. (Derby); C. Borough, Esq. (Derby); F. Borough, Esq. (Derby); H. Brigstock, M.D. (Derby); G. Calvert, Esq. (Derby); T. C. Cade, Esq. (Spondon); J. Clark, Esq. (Derby); P. Fant, Esq. (Derby); S. W. Fearn, Esq. (Derby); J. T. Featherstone, Esq. (Butterley); J. German, Esq. (Derby); H. Goode, M.B. (Derby); C. Grant, Esq. (Hearne); R. Hamilton, Esq. (Derby); J. Heygate, M.D., F.R.S. (Derby); W. Hollis, Esq. (Alvaston); — Ingle, Esq. (Melbourne); J. Jones, Esq. (Derby); W. R. Lomas, Esq. (Matlock); N. Mant, Esq. (Wirksworth); G. B. Thorpe, Esq. (Staveley); J. S. Turner, Esq. (Alfreton); H. W. Watson, M.D. (Derby). Letters expressing a desire to co-operate were received from several gentlemen who were unable to attend personally.

The following resolutions were brought before the meeting, and adopted; viz.:

"1. That, to ensure an accurate registration, an Association be formed of the qualified medical practitioners in this neighbourhood, to be called 'The Medical Registration Association for Derbyshire'.

"2. That, to cover expenses, all members pay an entrance-fee of two shillings and sixpence.

"3. That a committee, with power to add to their numbers, be now formed, to communicate with every person practising medicine in this neighbourhood, in order to obtain an authentic list of their qualifications; and also to receive the applications and fees of persons wishing to be registered, and forward them. The committee to consist of the following gentlemen: J. Whitaker Johnson, Esq. (Derby); J. S. Walters, Esq. (Bakewell); J. Skivington, Esq. (Ashbourne); N. Mant, Esq. (Wirksworth); and of the Honorary Secretaries.

"4. That H. Goode, M.B., and A. Dolman, Esq., be Honorary Secretaries and Treasurers."

amenable to treatment, in some cases proved fatal from super-venient pleurisy. The successful treatment of horses, as of men, in throat-disease, was stimulant. Of four hundred cases that came under the author's observation, one only proved fatal. His treatment consisted mainly of the local application of the nitrate of silver, with the internal administration of chlorates of potassa and soda, hydrochloric acid, the preparations of iron and quinine, with a most liberal diet and the free use of wine. He attached great importance to the necessity of carefully noting the disease in its different stages. In the first stage, the disease must be sought for; since there was no pain, and often no feeling of indisposition; but this was the time for treatment.

Dr. MURCHISON considered that the members of the Society were under great obligations to Dr. Mackinder for his paper; but for various reasons, amongst which was the infinitesimal mortality in Dr. Mackinder's cases, compared with the results elsewhere, he was disposed to think that many of the author's cases were not, in reality, diphtheria. In investigating the nature of this throat-disease, two points deserved special attention—whether the patient had been exposed to scarlatina poison, or whether he had previously been the subject of scarlatina. With regard to the immediate cause of death in diphtheria, he was of opinion that, while asphyxia from the local disease sometimes led to a fatal termination, syncope from blood-poisoning, without local lesion of any importance, was the more common cause. Scarlatina had been more prevalent during the present year than for ten previous years. Tonsillitis and inflammatory affections of the glandular system generally had been much more common, as sequelæ of disease, than usual. Dr. Murchison thought that an eruption of the skin threw great doubt upon the existence of diphtheria.

Dr. McWILLIAM said he was at present attending a custom-house officer with diphtheria, who had no skin-eruption, but whose family, consisting of several children, were laid down with scarlatina. He had been informed by Dr. Ryegate, a gentleman in extensive practice in the eastern district of London, that several cases, more especially among children, had come under his observation, in which the throat-affection appeared comparatively slight, but which had proved fatal from syncope by blood-poisoning. Dr. McWilliam considered that the presence of the *oidium albicans* on the tonsils and fauces should be further investigated.

Dr. CAMPS said that, in his paper on Diphtheria, read before the Society last year, he also had divided the disease into three forms; and he was of opinion that Dr. Mackinder's cases were not all cases of diphtheria. He had seen many cases of diphtheria prove rapidly fatal.

Mr. RADCLIFFE had not seen diphtheria, but it seemed to him desirable that the various stages of the disease should be watched and marked. He pointed out the necessity of observing the course of all epidemics, and noting how far the curves of various epidemics coincided. The investigation of the coexistence of epidemic diseases on the lower animals, with the same class of diseases prevailing amongst mankind, was also a question of much importance.

The PRESIDENT had seen but few cases of diphtheria; but, so far as his observation went, it did not bear out the rapid course towards death which had occurred elsewhere. He had seen three children in whom the complaint lasted five or six days. In a case which proved fatal, there was a deposit of false membrane; and in another case, which recovered, the membranous deposit was brought up.

The President suggested the formation of a committee to investigate the subject of diphtheria. Dr. Bird and Dr. Seaton spoke to the same effect; and the meeting adjourned at ten o'clock.

## Editor's Letter Box.

### POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

LETTER FROM JOHN W. WEST, ESQ.

SIR,—Will you allow me, through the medium of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, to make a few observations on the "Heads of a Scheme for a New Arrangement of Medical Relief"? I think, and I have no doubt the majority of the Poor-law medical officers will acquiesce with me in saying, that, taking the scheme as a whole, it is the most objectionable that could have been proposed. Instead of being a benefit to the profes-

sion, it will, if carried out in its present form, prove a great injury.

The greater part of the present Poor-law medical officers have their appointments for life. This was a judicious arrangement of the Poor-law Commissioners, as it did away with the necessity of an annual election of surgeons to the Union, and consequently prevented them from coming so frequently in contact with the guardians by being compelled to make a personal canvass for their support. It is now proposed that the contract shall only extend to three years.

The next objectionable part in the new system is the proposal to appoint two surgeons to each parish; and that the poor people are to choose which of the two they prefer. I am confident such a plan as this would be productive of the greatest animosity, rivalry, and ill-feeling, that could possibly exist; and, moreover, would place the poorer classes, with respect to their medical attendant, in a very unfavourable position. It will be much better for the present salaries of the medical officers to be increased, according to the amount of time and labour they have to bestow on the poor, in reference to distance and number. I take it, it is not the present system of medical relief to the poor that the bulk of the profession are desirous to have altered, but merely an augmentation of salary in comparison to their services, which is certainly not now generally the case.

I think the first, second, fourth, and tenth articles of the new scheme the most objectionable; and that the scheme will require an entire alteration before it can, as a whole, be tolerated. It will be very unfair for those who are now permanently elected to have their appointments cancelled, and others, whom the caprice of the guardians may think fit to choose, placed in their stead.

I hope the remarks I have made on the proposed scheme will elicit from others their opinions on this all-important subject.

I am, etc., JOHN WICKENS WEST.

Poole, January 1st, 1859.

## Medical News.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

#### BIRTHS.

- EDMUNDS. On December 24th, 1858, at 2, Spital Square, the wife of James Edmunds, Esq., Surgeon, prematurely, of a daughter.
- ELLIOTT. On December 26th, 1858, at Heathfield House, Woolwich, the wife of J. W. Elliott, M.D., R.N., of a son.
- KEYS. On January 3rd, at Warwick Street, Regent Street, the wife of G. F. Keys, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
- KINGSLEY. On December 29th, 1858, at Stratford-upon-Avon, the wife of \*Henry Kingsley, M.D., of a daughter.
- MARCEY. On January 3rd, at 36, Chapel Street, Belgrave Square, the wife of William Marcey, M.D., F.R.S., of a son.
- MASON. On December 25th, 1858, at Surbiton, Surrey, the wife of Charles J. Mason, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
- NASH. On November 8th, 1858, at Bezoarah, the wife of J. Pearson Nash, M.D., Madras Army, of a son.
- TRAVERS. On January 1st, at 32, Castlenau Villas, Barnes, the wife of Benjamin Travers, Esq., Surgeon, of Dover Street, Piccadilly, of a son.

#### MARRIAGES.

- CHILDERS—MOSTYN. Childers, Eardley W., Esq., Lieutenant H.M.'s Madras Artillery, to Henrietta, third daughter of the late H. T. Mostyn, M.D., H.M.'s 47th Foot, at St. Mark's Church, St. Helier's, Jersey, on December 31st, 1858.
- HOOKE—WILDASH. Hooker, E. M. C., Esq., Surgeon, of Sheerness, to Anne, daughter of J. Wildash, Esq., of Davington Hall, at Davington Church, Kent, on Dec. 29th, 1858.

#### DEATHS.

- \*COTTON, Charles, M.D., Surgeon to the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital, at King's Lynn, of phthisis, aged 47, on December 31st, 1858.
- DUNMAN, George, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon Madras Army, at Kerwer, Jubbulpore, on June 14th, 1858, aged 30.

**HARWOOD.** On December 29th, 1858, at Derby, Thomas, infant son of \*Charles Harwood, M.D., Surgeon 1st Derby Militia.

**HUNTER, James, M.D.,** late of Islington, at Greenhithe, aged 43, on January 3rd.

**MUIR, Henry, M.D.,** formerly Superintendent of Health of the Ionian islands, at Milnholm, Strathaven, Lanarkshire, on December 8th, 1858.

**NOBLE, James, Esq.,** Surgeon, at Kendal, aged 63, on December 26th, 1858.

**REYNOLDS, Michael, M.D.,** late Surgeon H.M. 59th Regiment, at Staplegrave House, Somerset, aged 83, on December 25th, 1858.

## APPOINTMENTS.

\***WEBB, Francis C., M.D.,** elected Physician to the Islington Dispensary.

## PASS LISTS.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.** The following gentlemen have just passed their examinations in anatomy and physiology, viz.:—

ADAMS, James, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 ASHLEY, John, Bristol  
 BAKER, Thomas Young, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 BANCROFT, Joseph, Manchester  
 BARTER, Clement Smith, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 BELLINGER, George Hext, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 BETT, Robert L., St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 BONE, William, St. Thomas's Hospital  
 BOOTH, Samuel, University College  
 BRACEY, Charles Jamss, Birmingham  
 BREAD, William, Middlesex Hospital  
 BRIGHOUSE, John, Leeds  
 BRISTOCK, Richard Wish, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 BROOKS, Brinsley, Guy's Hospital  
 BUSZARD, Frank, Guy's Hospital  
 CANN, Thomas, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 CLOSE, Henry Ashlin, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 CRESWELL, Pearson R., Middlesex Hospital  
 DAWKER, Frederick Woodcock, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 DOWNS, Peter, King's College  
 DOWSON, Alfred P., University College  
 DRAKE, Charles Henry, St. Thomas's Hospital  
 EMPSON, Charles Frederick, Leeds  
 EVANS, George Moule, King's College  
 EVANS, Nicholl, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 FAGG, Charles Hilton, Guy's Hospital  
 FARRINGTON, William Hicks, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 FRESHFIELD, Allen, Guy's Hospital  
 GAYE, Arthur Charles, University College  
 GEORGE, Ambrose Brooke, Liverpool  
 GODFREY, Charles V., St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 GODWIN, Charles H. Y., St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 GRABHAM, Charles, St. Thomas's Hospital  
 GREENWOOD, Newton, Guy's Hospital  
 GREGORY, Bradley, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 HAMERTON, Ernest, St. Thomas's Hospital  
 HARRISON, Reginald, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 HEAD, Robert Turner, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 HILDITCH, John, St. Thomas's Hospital  
 HORNIBLOW, William Robert, Edinburgh  
 HUDSON, George, Hull  
 ILLINGWORTH, John Alfred, St. Thomas's Hospital  
 JONES, Thomas, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 KEMPSTER, Felix Henry, University College  
 KENNARD, David, Westminster Hospital  
 LLOYD, Francis, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 LONG, Alexander, Liverpool  
 MOORE, Thomas, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 MORETON, Thomas, St. Thomas's Hospital  
 MURRAY, William, University College  
 MYERS, Arthur B. R., St. Mary's Hospital  
 NOBLE, Samuel Clarke, Middlesex Hospital  
 NUNN, John Robert, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 PARKER, Robert, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 PEARSON, Henry Walker, Middlesex Hospital  
 QUENNEL, John Cooper, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 ROBINSON, George, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 RUTTER, Joseph, University College  
 SAUNDERS, G. J. Symes, King's College  
 SHARP, Edward, King's College

SHERWIN, Henry Chrippes, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 SIMMONS, Edward Lamburn, St. Thomas's Hospital  
 STONE, Thomas Westcott Gale, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 TAYLOR, Herbert, Middlesex Hospital  
 TERRY, Joseph Garside, Guy's Hospital  
 TREND, Theophilus William, Westminster Hospital  
 VAN, Arthur F., St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 WALES, John, Guy's Hospital  
 WHITE, Francis Thomas, St. George's Hospital  
 WILLIAMS, Humphry, Guy's Hospital  
 WILSON, Jacob Affriatt, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 WINTERBOTHAM, Washington L., University College  
 WORKMAN, William, King's College  
 WORTHINGTON, Francis S., Middlesex Hospital

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.** Members admitted on Thursday, December 30th, 1858:—

ACEY, Thomas, Hull  
 ARNOLD, George Richard, Ratcliff  
 FERGUSON, George, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 FULLER, Harry, Stowmarket  
 HARRIS, William Henry, Hampton Court  
 LOW, William, Stepney Green  
 LYNCH, John, 1, St. James's Terrace, Shadwell  
 MEDD, William Henry, Heaton Norris, Stockport  
 O'DOHERTY, William, Londonderry  
 ORD, George Rice, Army  
 PACKMAN, Alfred William Kennett, Puckeridge, Herts  
 PHILLIPS, William Weld, Birmingham  
 PINCHARD, Benjamin  
 ROLFE, Alfred George, Newcastle-on-Tyne  
 SPURRELL, Flaxman, Bexley Heath, Kent  
 WAITE, Joseph

# HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING JANUARY 1st, 1859.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE total number of deaths registered in the metropolitan districts in the last week of the year was 1494. In the ten years 1848-57, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1315; but as the deaths in the return for last week occurred in a population which had increased, they should be compared with the average after it is raised proportionally to the increase, a correction which will make it 1446. The comparison shows that the deaths of last week exceeded by 48 the number which the rate of mortality as derived from the fifty-second week of previous years would have produced.

If the deaths in London last week had been according to "the healthy rate" of mortality derived from certain selected English districts in the last quarter of the year, they would have been 765; and the excess above this point which the true number exhibits is 729, and represents what may be termed the *unnatural* part of the mortality.

Fatal cases of diseases of the zymotic class numbered last week 400; the corrected average for corresponding weeks being only 298. Measles, scarlatina, whooping-cough, and typhus, all exhibit an increase on some previous weeks. Scarlatina was fatal in 135 cases. Five of these occurred in the Kensington Town sub-district; six in that of Christchurch, Marylebone; five in Kentish Town; seven in Poplar. This disease continued very fatal in the Pancras district. Measles carried off 53 children; it prevails chiefly in the north and central districts. Whooping-cough carried off 61 children; eight of these in the east sub-district of Islington. Of the 52 deaths from typhus, one occurred in Butcher Row, Deptford, in a family consisting of ten persons, of whom seven have been attacked by the disease. The premises are described as being in a filthy condition. Last week the deaths from bronchitis were 167, the average being 134; and those from pneumonia (inflammation of the lungs) were 122, the average being 106.

Nineteen women died last week from diseases incidental to childbearing. Three persons died from intemperance. The deaths of one man and three women (widows) occurred at the age of 90 years and upwards; their respective ages as registered being 90, 93, 95, and 100 years. But the Registrar believes that there is good ground for questioning the alleged age of the centenarian.

Last week the births of 981 boys and 1013 girls, in all 1994 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1848-57, the average number was 1541.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of

the barometer in the week was 29.744 in. On the last two days the mean reading was above 30 in. The barometrical readings varied from 29.15 in. to 30.15 in. The mean temperature of the week was 41.4°, which is 4.4° above the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The mean daily temperature was above the average throughout the week. The highest temperature was 49.8°, and occurred on Sunday, the 26th ult. The lowest was 31.9°, and occurred on Thursday. The range of the week was therefore 17.9°. The mean daily range was 8°. The range of temperature on Friday was only 4.5°. The difference between the mean dew-point temperature and air temperature was 3°. The mean degree of humidity of the air was 88; on Thursday and Friday the humidity was 98, almost the point of complete saturation. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 41.8°. The wind blew generally from the south-west. On Sunday evening lightning was seen; and on that day rain fell to the amount of 0.16 in. The total amount in the week was 0.22 in.

#### POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM ASSOCIATION.

THE following letter has been addressed by Mr. Griffin to the Poor-law medical officers in England and Wales:—

"12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, January 5th, 1859.

"DEAR SIRS,—The President of the Poor-law Board has forwarded for our consideration, as well as for that of the Guardians, 'The Heads of a Scheme for a New Arrangement of Medical Relief', which is of a most comprehensive character, and deserves our earnest attention. I have ventured to make certain amendments, and now submit them for your opinion; and shall feel obliged by your returning me your suggestions on each clause objected to, in *one week* from this time, in order that I may speedily lay before you the result of the general feeling, and that thus we may be prepared to give a tolerably unanimous answer to the President of the Poor-law Board by the end of the month.

"The 'Scheme' at first sight has appeared to many as most objectionable, particularly that part which annihilates all our appointments 'at a given period', and makes our successors only triennial officers. This part I have amended; and, if it meet your views, I trust it will be yielded to us by the Poor-law Board. The reasons why it should be so are recorded in the pamphlet entitled *The Grievances of the Poor-law Medical Officers*, p. 16; and also in the circular of the Poor-law Board dated February 15th, 1855.

"Clause 3, I am aware, will not be agreeable to the majority of us; but I am disposed to recommend that we should yield on this point, if we get permanency of appointment, for both will not be granted. This clause will not act so stringently as it may at first sight appear, as in country districts, if it be possible to appoint a neighbour to each of our parishes, we in return shall be appointed to his. Of course there will be exceptions; and in towns an addition to the medical staff will undoubtedly be made, which will be of advantage to the profession as a body, though perhaps not to us individually; but the increase of pay for each case will be some compensation for the loss in numbers.

"The salary of the medical officer will naturally demand our closest scrutiny; and if we can obtain two shillings and sixpence per case, in addition to the one shilling and sixpence upon the average number of persons in the parish in receipt of relief, with mileage and extras, let us, by all means, yield some points, as it will be a great boon to a body of hard-worked and ill-paid medical men, although not so large a sum as we hoped to obtain; but I strongly counsel moderation in our requests, now that we have a Poor-law Board disposed to assist us.

"I have introduced a clause relative to the appointment of a Medical Commissioner at the Poor-law Board, as the immense medical department of the Poor-law, involving annually the treatment of upwards of a million persons, requires to be presided over by a medical man. Frequent communications will doubtless be required with the Medical Council, whose members, from their high position, are not conversant with the details of our office; and therefore it is the more necessary that the man who consults them should be practically acquainted with the subject. Other reasons are recorded in my Commentary, in the pamphlet, p. 25. I trust this will meet with your approbation.

"I need scarcely remind you that the Guardians, as a body, are opposed to their medical officers having an increase of stipend. We must, therefore, be prepared for a powerful opposition, which cannot be met without ample funds: it will, there-

fore, depend upon you individually whether we shall act with vigour, or allow ourselves to be defeated after a fairly sustained struggle of three years.

"Those gentlemen who have not sent any subscription for the last twelve months, or decline to join the Association, after this notice, must not complain if they do not receive any further account of our proceedings, as the expense of printing and postage is too heavy to be incurred for those who refrain from affording us any assistance.

"I am, dear sirs, faithfully yours,

"RICHARD GRIFFIN, *Chairman*.

"To the Poor-law Medical Officers:

"Subscriptions for 10s. and under may be forwarded in stamps, or by post-office order.

"Should there be any gentleman who has not received a copy, and will write to me to that effect, I will forward one immediately."

*Heads of a Scheme for a suggested New Arrangement of Medical Relief, by the President of the Poor-law Board, dated November 30th, 1858; amended by Mr. Griffin.*

[The parts of the original scheme omitted by Mr. Griffin are included in brackets: Mr. Griffin's additions are printed in *italics*.]

1. *Appointments of present and future medical officers shall be permanent, with power to resign on giving a reasonable notice, as is the case now; but existing contracts [and appointments], and existing division of unions and parishes into medical districts, shall cease at a given period, when those parishes now held by each medical officer shall again be allotted to him, provided it does not entail upon the guardians more expense for mileage than the appointment of another medical man; and a triennial reallocation shall be made on the same principle.*

2. The qualification of medical officers shall remain the same as at present, except in regard to residence; but registration under the new Medical Act will be required in addition.

3. Guardians shall appoint (if possible) two medical officers: for each parish in their union, between whom the poor, when sick, shall be allowed to make choice, subject to this condition,—that a poor person who has been attended by one of the medical officers of the parish shall not change to another whilst his order is in force, or for a period of twelve months [after any such attendance] if on the permanent relief list.

4. \*The [appointment and] contract with a medical officer shall be made for a period of three years, renewable, if both parties are willing, on a fresh calculation of the three preceding years.

5. The contract with each medical officer shall be to this effect: that he will attend, when applied to, any poor person in the parish for which the contract is made; viz.:

WITHOUT AN ORDER, in the class of—

1. Those who are on the permanent relief list.

2. Those who are in receipt of temporary relief, either for the head of the family, or any member of it.

3. Urgent cases, whether of resident or casual poor.

WITH AN ORDER—

4. Any poor person named in such order.

6. Orders for medical relief may be given by each guardian of the parish, as well as the relieving officer, in all cases; and by the overseer in urgent cases.

7. If, in any of the three first named classes, the medical officer has grounds for doubting whether the applicant has not sufficient means to provide medical attendance at his own cost, he may require such applicant to produce an order before he gives his attendance, or he may discontinue his attendance unless an order be procured, if he have so informed the patient.

8. If the medical officer shall have attended a case, and the guardians shall afterwards determine that the further attendance of the medical officer at the charge of the parish ought not to be given, such case shall, notwithstanding, be reckoned as one case in the yearly total.

9. Each medical officer shall make a weekly report to the guardians of the cases under his care, and shall attend the Board when summoned, as at present.

10. Medical officers shall discontinue a practice which exists in many Unions, of ordering a specific quantity of nourishing food or drink. They shall order the kind of treatment or

\* "Contracts" and "appointments", it must be observed, are different things.

nourishment which, in their opinion, the case requires, but not the quantity, except in special cases.

#### Remuneration.

11. FOR WORKHOUSES. A salary shall be fixed [as at present] on a uniform and definite system, with mileage where the distance of the house is above one mile from the residence of the medical officer, and it shall be revised every three years, and a fresh contract made on the same principle.

12. FOR PARISHES. A salary shall be fixed by the guardians, with the sanction of the Poor-law Board, for a period of three years, upon the following basis:—

1. Not less than one shilling and sixpence per head upon the average number of persons in the parish in receipt of relief, in the first week of January and the first week of July in each year.

2. Not less than one shilling and sixpence per case upon the number of cases attended in the parish upon an average of the last three years, where the guardians find the medicines, and two shillings and sixpence per case where the medical officer finds the medicines.

3. An additional sum per case to be fixed by the guardians, with the sanction of the Poor-law Board, of not less than one shilling for each mile the patient may live from the residence of the medical officer, as a remuneration in respect of the distance which the medical officer may have to travel in attending the sick poor, or in respect of other local circumstances.

13. When two medical officers shall have been appointed to attend any parish, the salary computed upon the foregoing three elements, and which shall be fixed in the contract, shall be divided between them, in proportion to the number of cases attended by each during the last twelve months.

14. A table of fees for midwifery and surgical operations, and a list of more expensive drugs and appliances, shall be drawn up by the Poor-law Board with the advice of the Medical Council appointed under the new Medical Act. Every medical officer appointed to attend any workhouse, town, or country parish, shall, in addition to his salary or other remuneration, be entitled to his fee according to such table, after attending a case included in it; and any such medical officer shall be at liberty to direct any drug or surgical appliance included in such list, to be made up and supplied by some chemist approved by the guardians, or at their own dispensary, if they shall have established one.

15. The clerk of the Union shall keep a record of the number of cases reported weekly in the journal of each medical officer, and his share of the salary shall be determined according to such record.

16. In cases of attendance upon continuous sickness, extending beyond three months, and not being on the permanent relief list, each of such cases shall be considered, after every three months attendance, as a fresh case.

17. A medical man, having been in Union practice at some period of his life, shall be appointed a Medical Commissioner to the Poor-law Board, and have especial control over the medical department, subject, however, to the opinion of the Poor-law Board in all matters of importance.

**SUICIDE OF DR. ENGLEDEUE.** On Friday, Dec. 31st, 1858, an inquest was held at Southsea, touching the death of Dr. W. C. Engledue. Dr. R. P. Sparrow had known the deceased for seven or eight years. He was forty-five years of age. In the months of April, May, and June, he had a very severe attack of erysipelas, followed by abscess, and he had occasion during its continuance to take large doses of opium. As he got better he gradually abandoned the use of it. He went into the country, and returned to active practice in the month of July, but he had not thoroughly recovered his strength. He continued to practise to the 20th December, when he requested witness to assist him. Witness found him labouring under general derangement of the liver and digestive organs. From that time witness attended him, with Mr. Case and Mr. Garrington. Deceased had lost his usual vivacity of manner, and assumed the despondency of a hypochondriac. This hypochondriacal feeling daily increased up to the 26th, when he appeared to rally a little. Witness visited him on Monday the 27th. He was still depressed, but not quite so moody in his manner; he was totally unlike himself. Mr. Garrington had also visited the deceased on that day, and remarked that his manner was so changed that, had he not been a great friend, he should have left him with the feeling that there was great want of cordiality and kindly feeling. The last time witness saw the deceased

alive was at ten o'clock on the evening of Wednesday the 29th. He seemed better and more cheerful than he had been for some time. On the morning of the 30th December, a little after nine o'clock, witness was summoned to visit Dr. Engledue. He attended immediately, and on his arrival found him dead. He was lying on his back on his bed, partially dressed, his drawers and stockings being on, and covered with the bed-clothes. There was no peculiar appearance of the body, and he had but just ceased to breathe. Witness noticed a slight odour of prussic acid from his mouth. Miss Margaret Engledue, sister of the deceased, told witness she had been summoned hurriedly to her brother's chamber, in consequence of some noise having issued therefrom, and on entering the room she observed him make two or three convulsive gasps, and being alarmed, she sought his (Dr. Sparrow's) aid. She handed him a bottle, labelled "Acid—Hydrocyanic," which, she stated, she had taken from the chamber utensil, which was at the right hand of the deceased by the side of the bed. She also gave him a tumbler, which she said she had found on the bed, in a situation as if had fallen from the right hand of the deceased. It appeared to have contained a liquid like water, but no odour arose from it. The bottle contained about two drachms of fluid, and emitted a strong odour of prussic acid. Witness firmly believed that the cause of death was prussic acid. Mr. Garrington, surgeon, of Portsea, corroborated the previous evidence. He said that, when he last saw deceased, he appeared to be unusually taciturn; he answered witness constantly in monosyllables, and left him to lead all the conversation, which was very unusual. Witness believed that he was labouring under functional derangement of the liver and digestive organs. He was of opinion that the deceased's mental faculties were very much impaired. His impression was, that he was the last person who would commit suicide; but he feared that his mind was giving way, and that he was in a very different condition from what he had been in all his life before. Witness was fearful rather of permanent insanity than of any act of this kind, yet he was not in that condition which would induce him to recommend his friends to keep a strict watch over him. Major Vallancy, and Mr. Case, surgeon, of Fareham, corroborated the testimony of the previous witnesses. The jury returned a verdict:—"That the deceased died from the effect of prussic acid, taken while in a state of unsound mind."

**THE BURIAL PITS OF THE SLAIN AT MARSTON MOOR.** The following are extracts from a letter which has appeared in the *Morning Post*:—"Without another word of preface, let me, in these days of sanatorial progression, state 'facts, which are stubborn things,' namely, that the mal-odorous debris of animal matter, and especially of human bodies, may be subterraneanly bottled up and hermetically sealed for more than a couple of centuries in a clay soil, and afterwards let loose, as from Pandora's box, upon the world. In confirmation whereof I turn at once to the burial-pits of the slain at Marston-moor, in the Ainsty of the county of York, and, without touching upon the tug of war between Old Noll with his Roundheads and Rupert with his Cavaliers, A.D. 1644, I shall simply mention that once upon a time (213 years after the battle, consequently little more than one year ago), with a view to relieve a large waterlogged district, it became pre-eminently necessary to drive a large leading drain at a considerable depth right through Marston-moor. Instructions were given to avoid, not only the tumuli as indicated in the old maps of the district, but also the legendary localities of sepulture. However, long before the completion of the work the navvies came upon the Golgotha of the battlefield. There was nothing for it but to go ahead. To make a *détour* in the drainage either to the right or left would certainly have been 'to go further,' and probably 'to fare worse.' I quote from the statement (confirmed by numerous witnesses) of the intelligent foreman of the work;—"We cut twelve yards long and about eight feet wide, through the grave, and found most bodies about four feet from the surface, but I consider that we got to the bottom of it, as we took two 'draws' (diggings through it after, and the ground below seemed untouched. At one place bodies, about twenty or twenty-five of them, were laid one over the other in all directions and postures; the forms of many were left in the clay. At this place there was much of a sort of deposit that looked like soot, not slime, but damp; the smell at first was intolerable, and could be felt at some distance; it was so bad the men could only work short spells.' The skulls had preserved their shape, but crumbled away when exposed to the air. One poor fellow's passport to eternity was picked up by the foreman. He says, 'There was a bullet in one skull, which

dropped out when the skull fell to pieces; the bones, especially the large ones, did not crumble away, but were very brittle when touched with the spade. The teeth were quite perfect, and many of them taken away by the drainers.' This is true with regard to the teeth, which were sound at the time of death, but the carious teeth in many jaws gave unmistakable evidence that toothache was in the ascendant, and dental surgery at a discount in those days."

#### ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

DESIRING that the residents of the Royal Medical Benevolent College should participate in the festivities which are so appropriate to this particular season, the benevolent founder and treasurer of that noble institution, John Propert, Esq., of New Cavendish Street, London, gave a dinner to them, at half-past four o'clock, on Monday, January 3rd, at the Dining Hall attached to the establishment at Epsom. The refectory was tastefully and appropriately decorated for the occasion with flowers, evergreens, mottoes, etc., and about fifty guests sat down to a repast, which was excellent, abundant, and ably served up, consisting, as described by the kind donor, of good old English fare—turkeys, roast beef, and plum-pudding, comprising the substantial. The chair was taken by J. Propert, Esq.; and among the company were Mrs. and the Misses Propert, Dr. Webster, Dr. Wynter, Dr. Hancock, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Hird, Mr. Freeman (secretary), and the resident officers of the institution.

After dinner, the Chairman proposed the usual loyal, patriotic, and clerical toasts. These having been responded to, Mr. Propert gave the health of the President of the institution, Earl Manvers, and alluded to the liberality, kindness, and urbanity which had characterised the acts of his lordship in connexion with the college.

Dr. SHARP (one of the pensioners) proposed "The Founder of the Institution." On behalf of himself and his fellow-pensioners he tendered their heartfelt thanks to Mr. Propert, and alluded to the home he had founded for them, and the high classical education which was being imparted to the scholars.

The CHAIRMAN observed that the position in which he stood was both painful and gratifying to him—painful, inasmuch as he felt incompetent to express to them how delighted and pleased he was that they had been permitted to meet together on such an occasion—and gratifying, because Almighty God had blessed his efforts, and those who had so kindly and generously assisted him, in raising that noble and valuable institution. He also felt that he occupied a proud position to-day in being honoured at this festive board with the presence of those who had accepted the invitation and partaken of his humble hospitality. He trusted it might please Him who ruled all things to further bless their efforts, and permit them again to assemble for such a purpose. Sorry was he to think that those he saw around him were compelled to seek shelter in such an asylum, but he trusted that they might live there for many years in the enjoyment of comfort and happiness, and that their end would be everlasting peace. In conclusion, he begged to extend to them, one and all, right and left, the hand of good fellowship, and to implore Almighty God to grant them his mercy. [*Applause.*]

The "Medical Press" having been associated with the names of Dr. Wynter and Mr. Churchill, Dr. WYNTER, in returning thanks, said that he could conceive no prouder thing for a man to do than to plant on this barren down such an abode of love and benevolence as the Royal Medical Benevolent College; and he felt certain that the medical press of this country would always be found most willing to give wings to the record of such a noble deed.

Various other toasts followed, including "Long life, health, and happiness to the Residents," "the health of Mrs. and the Misses Propert," "the Council," "visitors," etc.

Even to those who have taken a less active part in the good work, it must have been interesting to witness the happy assemblage of so many men, who in past years bore the heat and burden of the day, and devoted their unremitting exertions to assuage human suffering, but are now compelled to seek refuge in a "harbour" provided for them by their more fortunate fellow-labourers. How truly satisfactory this sight must be to all the members of the noble profession, and more especially to those who have so generously devoted their best energies to establish an emporium of learning to the young, and an asylum of comfort and happiness to the old. Should there be a few members of this profession, who have not yet participated in

the happiness which naturally belongs to those by whose untiring exertions this noble work has been achieved, it is to be hoped they will no longer withhold their aid, but will lend a helping hand to the good cause, and constitute the Royal Medical Benevolent College the noblest of its kind in this country.

**DEATH FROM POISONING BY MISTAKE.** On Friday, December 31, 1858, a coroner's inquest was held at Eckton Hall, near Moulton, in Northamptonshire, on view of the body of the Hon. Mrs. Anson, the widow of the late General Anson, Commander-in-Chief of India. The deceased lady was a visitor at Eckton Hall, the seat of Mr. Ambrose Isted. She had suffered considerably from gout, and was in the habit of taking draughts, and applying laudanum externally for the purpose of alleviating her suffering. On Wednesday evening she was in her chamber dressing for dinner, and, fearing an attack was coming on, she took from one of the drawers a bottle containing, as she supposed, one of the draughts, and, emptying the contents into a tumbler, she drank the whole off. Experiencing some few minutes afterwards a disagreeable sensation, she desired her maid to look at the bottle from which she had taken the liquid, when it was discovered that the unfortunate lady had taken the laudanum in mistake for the draught, although the bottle was properly labelled "Poison." Oil, salt and water, etc., were immediately administered in order to produce sickness, and several medical gentlemen of the district called in. Dr. Francis of Northampton, and Mr. Durham of Guy's Hospital, who was on a visit to Dr. Francis, were with the lady the whole night. The stomach-pump was applied, fresh emetics, then cold effusions, but with no satisfactory result. Galvanism was resorted to, and its powerful effect in rousing the patient justified some hope that eventually it would be successful. As a last resource, Dr. Marshall Hall's plan for restoring suspended animation was tried. All failed, however, to counteract the effect of the poison, and at half-past nine o'clock on the following (Thursday) morning the unfortunate lady breathed her last. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased lady died from the accidental administration of laudanum, in mistaking it for a draught.

**LONDON MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION.** A meeting of the General Committee of this Association took place at the British Coffee House, Cockspur Street, Charing Cross, on Wednesday evening last, when a Report brought up from the "Vigilance Committee" was read and adopted.

**NORTH LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETY.** The next meeting will take place at the Bedford School Room, Charrington Street, Oakley Square, on Wednesday, January 12th, at eight o'clock. Dr. Hillier will read a paper on Diphtherite. Officers for the ensuing year will be proposed for election. Fellows are requested to bring pathological specimens, as usual.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

##### POSTAGE OF MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED MATTER.

Any amount of manuscript or printed matter, singly or together, provided it contains nothing in the form of a written letter, is transmitted through the post, in packets open at the ends, at the following rates: not exceeding 4 ounces, one penny; above 4 and not exceeding 8 ounces, twopence; above 8 ounces and not exceeding 1 pound, fourpence; for every additional half-pound or under, twopence.

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

**NOTICE.**—Dr. WYNTER will feel obliged if the Associates will address all Post Office Orders in payment of Subscriptions, to the Publisher, Mr. THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W. C., "Bloomsbury Branch"; and he would also feel obliged by their sending all communications respecting the non-receipt of the Journal, to the same address; as both these matters are out of the province of the Editor.

**ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENTS** should always enclose their names to the Editor; not for publication, but in token of good faith. No attention can be paid to communications not thus authenticated.

**A UNION MEDICAL OFFICER.** 1. Your first query is answered under the head of "Week." 2. The registration fees under the Medical Act was never intended to be, and will not be, an annual tax: the fee once paid, it is paid for all time.

*Communications have been received from:*—Mr. T. M. KENDALL; Mr. W. H. CARY; Mr. T. HOPLEY; Mr. I. B. BROWN; Mr. G. M. HUMPHREY; Mr. T. HOLMES; Mr. J. BIRKETT; Dr. HARWOOD; Dr. GOODE; Dr. P. H. WILLIAMS; Mr. GRIFFIN; Mr. J. W. WEST; Mr. H. W. T. ELLIS; Dr. MACKINDER; Mr. HOLMES COOTE; Dr. T. HERBERT BARKER; Mr. STEPHEN S. ALFORD; Mr. HENRY JOHNSON; Mr. ROBERT APPLETON; Mr. S. SMITH; Mr. C. F. HODSON; Dr. J. R. HUGHES; Mr. A. T. H. WATERS; and a UNION MEDICAL OFFICER.