

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.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BIRMINGHAM AND MID- LAND COUNTIES. [General Meeting.]	Hen and Chickens Hotel, Birmingham.	Thursday, Feb. 10th, 6 P.M.

MEDICAL REGISTRATION.

REGISTRATION OF POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Medical Registration Office, 32, Soho Square, London, W.
January 20th, 1859.

THE Medical Registrar presents his compliments to the Editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, and would feel obliged by the publication of a letter which he has recently addressed to the Poor-law Board. He has written it with the hope of averting serious inconvenience from many of the Poor-law medical officers through difficulties which do not seem to have been sufficiently considered when the disabling clauses of the Medical Act were framed.

"Medical Registration Office, 32, Soho Square, W.,
January 17th, 1859.

"SIR,—I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 13th instant (No. 47,562), conveying a copy of the circular issued by the Poor-law Board on the 23rd December, respecting medical registration, which shall be laid before the Medical Council. This circular has greatly promoted medical registration. But I am most anxious to submit respectfully to the Poor-law Board that very great difficulty has arisen from the shortness and inadequacy of the time allowed for complying with the provisions of the Medical Act, 21 and 22 Vict., c. 90.

"By the twenty-sixth section of that Act, the Registrar is required to enter no one on the register unless he be satisfied by the proper evidence that the person claiming is entitled to be registered; and, by the fifteenth section, the Registrar is referred for the proper evidence to the certified lists of the bodies empowered to grant medical qualifications.

"But the process of verifying the qualifications of candidates by reference to these lists requires considerable time, especially since most of the claimants demand to be registered on several qualifications.

"The Medical Council was not appointed by the Secretary of State to hold its first meeting until nearly the end of November; and some days more were consumed before a Registrar could be appointed, who was unable, with the utmost diligence, to obtain most of the certified lists until within a fortnight of the close of last year. Some thousands of persons have since applied, and are still applying, to be registered; and many demand certificates of their registration, which cannot be given to them without much time and labour, and interruption of the business of making the register.

"Under these circumstances, would it be asking too much of the Poor-law Board to request that another circular should be issued, directing the guardians not to press for proof that their medical officers are registered until the Medical Council shall be enabled to direct that the register shall be published, as required by the twenty-seventh section of the Act, which will not probably be for three or four months?

"I am desirous also of mentioning that the Medical Registration Office is now at 32, Soho Square, W.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,

"FRANCIS HAWKINS, Registrar.

"W. G. Lumley, Esq., Assistant-Secretary, Poor-law Board, Whitehall."

Reports of Societies.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

MONDAY, DEC. 13TH, 1858.

W. H. WILLSHIRE, M.D., President, in the Chair.

PARTIAL OR INCOMPLETE FRACTURE OF THE ULNA.

BY E. CANTON, ESQ.

THE accident had happened to a boy, aged 14, under the following circumstances:—The boy, whose employment was that of removing sheets from a printing machine, had his jacket caught by the socket of the roller, and whilst striving to take off the former, so as to extricate himself, his hand was dragged in between the tympan and platen of the machine. When admitted into hospital, the outer side of the hand and forearm were found to be extensively lacerated; the radial artery was torn through, and the lower articular part of the radius was separated from its shaft. The hand was perfectly cold. Mr. Canton amputated the forearm at a short distance below the elbow-joint, although the apparent mischief was confined to the hand, wrist, and an extent of two inches above the latter, inasmuch as he conceived that there might be additional and hidden injury to the soft parts higher up, even though there was not the slightest external mark to warrant the suspicion. On dissection of the part removed, however, the extent of concealed injury became apparent, and the larger and smaller bundles of muscular fibre were infiltrated with blood. The carpal end of the ulna was torn from its shaft. This latter presented a fracture which extended through three-fourths of its thickness, but had left the remaining portion bowed, but intact.

Mr. DE MÉRIC thought that the observation of Mr. Canton, that it was desirable in some of these cases to amputate at a point beyond the seat of injury, was a judicious one; and related a case in which a young girl had both legs crushed by a railway engine, and it was found necessary to amputate one of the legs just below the knee. The injury to the other extremity appeared to be confined entirely to the foot, and the second amputation was performed forty-eight hours after the first, just above the ankle-joint. There was not the slightest evidence of any injury beyond this point, but sloughing commenced, and extended up to the knee. Sloughing also took place on the other side, but this might be explained by a little stretching of the posterior flap, as Mr. De Méric was anxious to give the girl a good knee-stump, although the sound soft parts were rather scanty for the purpose. The girl eventually died of tetanus. It would be interesting, in these cases, to inquire what was the exact nature of the injury which called for amputation at some distance from the seat of the mischief?

Mr. CANTON was unable to answer the question satisfactorily; but in the case which he related, he had been induced to operate higher up in consequence of the great extravasation of blood in the injured part, which was, in fact, universal. He was fortunate, in this instance, in having hit on the exact point at which to perform the operation.

Mr. W. ADAMS considered that in Mr. De Méric's case the sloughing must have been produced from some constitutional condition of the patient. During the siege of Lucknow, it was found that slightly-contused wounds often terminated fatally, from extensive sloughing, which was, doubtless, caused by a deteriorated condition of the constitution consequent upon the privations to which the sufferers had been exposed.

Mr. DE MÉRIC said that in his case the patient was a girl, aged about 14, who had been a general servant, and it was probable that she had been ill-fed and over-worked.

PATHOLOGICAL APPEARANCES IN DIPHTHERIA.

BY W. R. ROGERS, M.D.

Dr. ROGERS exhibited the parts taken from a child who had died of diphtheria. The disease had commenced insidiously, and appeared at first to be a case of simple tonsillitis. Caustic was freely applied, but symptoms of a more severe character set in, and the child died from asphyxia at the end of eight days. After death, the whole of the fauces were found covered by an adventitious membrane, with the exception of the anterior portion of the epiglottis. There was no sign of any ulceration underneath the exudation. Dr. Rogers stated that the disease had been very prevalent in some parts of the country; and a practitioner in the neighbourhood of Tunbridge Wells had stated that he had had four hundred cases, all of which had terminated favourably.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

SIR,—Will you allow me sufficient space in your pages to make a few observations on the proposed scheme of Poor-law medical reform?

I agree with the greater part of the letter written by Mr. West in your JOURNAL of the 8th inst. But, at the same time, there is no rule without an exception; and I think that, in some districts, a fresh division of the parishes is badly wanted. In this district, for instance, the medical officer lives four miles out of this parish. The consequence is, that poor men lose a day's work in going to him. Rather than do this when any of their families are ill, many of them come to me; and, though I know that many cannot possibly pay me a farthing for my attendance, yet I cannot allow people, as it were, to die at one's door. The guardians some months ago passed a resolution to make this parish and the two adjoining ones into a separate district. The present medical officer (upon the principle, I fear, of the dog in the manger) refused to agree to it; though the guardians at the same time agreed to give him two other parishes nearer his own house, and also make his salary equal to what it was as it then stood. The Poor-law Board was appealed to, but could do nothing, because the medical officer objected to the arrangement. Now, in such cases as this (and I have no doubt there are several such), I think the first article of the scheme is called for.

I am, etc.,
A PARISH DOCTOR.

January 18th, 1859.

TAUNTON AND SOMERSET HOSPITAL.

LETTER FROM HENRY ALFORD, ESQ.

SIR,—In the last number of the JOURNAL you have inserted a strong leading article on the recent events at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital, at the conclusion of which you denounce any medical men who should come forward to fill the vacant offices, and, by implication, those who have complied with the new rule, and retain their posts at the hospital.

As I have entered my name and the date of my visits in the book provided for that purpose, from the time it was requested by the governors at their annual meeting more than two years since, long before it was made an absolute law, and as I have continued to do so since the law was passed, and intend to continue my compliance for the future, I am, of course, at issue with you, and with three of my late colleagues, as to the effect and bearing of that rule on my professional status and character; so far from considering it in any degree derogatory or offensive, I look upon it as a desirable arrangement to have a record of the amount of my time and services devoted to a public charity; and as every hospital must have some check upon the attendance of its medical and surgical staff, I had much rather keep a record myself than be subject to any mode of espionage or inquiry, as is the practice of some hospitals I know.

The plea, that because we are honorary officers, therefore we are not to be tied down to the duties of the office, or to comply with the rules for regulating those duties, is futile. Every man who takes an office, whether he receive a salary for his services or not, is bound in honour to conform to all the rules, and perform all the duties of that office.

The question, whether the medical and surgical officers of hospitals should not be paid, is quite another matter, and wholly irrelevant to the present question. That the recording in a book the fact of our visits to the hospital is, or can be, in any sense injurious or derogatory to our professional character, is so far from true that I believe the refusal is much more likely to injure our status with the public; and I think this extreme sensitiveness on trifling matters, and excessive jealousy of every interference from without, shows an unworthy distrust of the real honour, dignity, and usefulness of the profession.

What is done constantly in every part of the kingdom by magistrate members of various Boards, and a variety of other unsalaried as well as salaried officers, may surely be done without offence or degradation by medical men.

The fact of being paid for services cannot make that necessary and honourable which is degrading without a salary; and I presume all the salaried medical officers in the kingdom, whether in the army, navy, public boards or poor-law unions, have to make some record of the regular performance of their duties.

The rule in question was first proposed in a friendly and

courteous manner, and arose out of a discrepancy of statement as to the regularity of the attendance of one of the surgical staff. On this occasion it was suggested by the committee that a record should be kept by the officers themselves, from which there could be no appeal. The surgeon in question at once availed himself of it, and I followed his example as soon as the governors of the hospital, at a general meeting, had expressed a wish to that effect.

To imply that such a record would be made without the duties being performed, is such a slanderous imputation on the honour and veracity of the medical officers, that it deserves and requires no refutation.

I can see no reason why, under existing circumstances, other medical men should not come forward to fill the vacancies in our hospital; nor do I believe the profession, as a body, will endorse your fierce denunciation of those who will most assuredly do so.

I am, etc., HENRY ALFORD,

Surgeon to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

Taunton, January 18th, 1859.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

SHARPIN. On January 14th, at Bedford, the wife of H. W. Sharpin, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
WARDEN. On January 15th, at 9, Cherry Street, Birmingham, the wife of *Charles Warden, M.D., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

BOND—GILBERT. *Bond, Charles, M.D., of Lutterworth, to Annie, eldest daughter of Thomas Gilbert, Esq., of Swinford Lodge, on January 18th.

DEATHS.

APPLETON. On January 14th, at Stokesley, Yorkshire, Ann, widow of the late Richard Appleton, Esq., Surgeon.
DOWNES. On January 8th, at the Beeches, Handsworth, Horace Blythe, son of *Wm. Downes, Esq., Surgeon.
ESDAILE, James, M.D., late Presidency Surgeon, Calcutta, aged 50, at Sydenham, on January 10th.
PITCAIRN, Sir James, M.D., Inspector-General of Hospitals, at Dublin, aged 82, on January 12th. He was born at Little Bedwin, Wilts, in 1776. He entered the army as hospital assistant on the 19th June, 1798, and served on the medical staff as surgeon to the forces in Holland in 1799, and at the whole of the Egyptian campaigns of 1801, for which he received the silver war medal with one clasp. He received the honour of knighthood for his professional services in 1837.
RICHARDSON. On January 14th, at Weymouth Street, Portland Place, aged 37, Catherine Georgina Tregent, youngest daughter of the late Robert Richardson, Esq., of the Madras Medical Service.
*SCOTT, John, M.D., F.R.C.P., Examining Physician to the Secretary of State for India in Council, at 13, Stratton Street, Piccadilly, aged 61, on January 18th.
*SMYTH, William, Esq., Surgeon, of Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Essex, lately.
*SQUIBB, George James, Esq., Surgeon, President of the Metropolitan Counties Branch, at 11, Montague Place, Bryanstone Square, aged 60, on January 15th.
TEALE. On January 17th, at Leeds, Caroline, second daughter of *Thomas P. Teale, Esq., Surgeon.
WARREN. On September 11th, 1858, in Australia, Alfred John, son of the late George Warren, Esq., Surgeon.

APPOINTMENTS.

KENDRICK, James, M.D., of Warrington, appointed a Magistrate for the county of Lancaster.
WATSON, Thomas, M.D., appointed Physician-Extraordinary to Her Majesty, in the room of the late Richard Bright, M.D.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. FELLOWS admitted at a meeting of the Council, on Thursday, January 13th, 1859:—

AIKIN, Charles Arthur, Southwick Street: diploma of membership dated February 3rd, 1843

AMBLER, Edward Holland, Hemel Hempstead: August 18th, 1843

ARCHER, John, Birmingham: July 2nd, 1830

BRADY, George Fraser, Falcarragh: May 17th, 1839

COLES, James, Weymouth: June 3rd, 1825

CONDELL, William, Bastow, Derbyshire: Jan. 22nd, 1830

GUNN, Theophilus Miller, Langham Street: April 8th, 1842

HEARNE, Edwin, Southampton: April 29th, 1842

O'BRIEN, Peter, Bengal Presidency: June 9th, 1843

ROWDON, Henry Mortimer, Nottingham Place: April 16th, 1841

TINKER, Frederick, Hyde, Cheshire: May 12th, 1843

MEMBERS admitted at a meeting of the Court of Examiners on Friday, January 14th, 1859:—

BLANC, Henry Jules, Sedan, France

COATES, Matthew, Clifton, near Bristol

EPPS, Richard, Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury

GREGORY, James, Sheffield

GRIFFITH, Robert, Carnarvon

HELM, George Frederick, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge

HORTON, Henry, Wednesbury

JONES, John Lewis, Carnarvon

LEACH, James, Shaw, near Oldham, Lancashire

MORGAN, William Taylor, Carnarvon

NEWTON, Isaac, Scarborough

PARTRIDGE, Thomas, Birmingham

PERREAN, Montague, Peckham Rye

SADLER, Joseph, Winterton, near Brigg, Lincolnshire

SPOFFORTH, William Fairfax, Lichfield

Wednesday, January 19th:—

AUBIN, Thomas John, Jersey

BRISLEY, Charles, Huntingdon Street, Barnsbury

FISHER, Henry, Cape of Good Hope

GWYNNE, Thomas, West Indies

HAWKINS, Thomas, Cape of Good Hope

HAY, John, Savile Row

HUMPAGE, Benjamin Hill, Judd Street, Brunswick Square

LEVER, Reginald Croft, Tavistock Square

LODGE, Samuel, Bradford, Yorkshire

MCARDLE, Charles, Newport, Monmouthshire

SMITH, Henry Bennett, Staines

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING JANUARY 15TH, 1859.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE London returns again exhibit a high rate of mortality. In the second week of the year (ending last Saturday) the deaths from all causes rose to 1429, having been 1338 in the first week of the year. In the ten years 1849-58, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1215; but as the number in the present return occurred in a population which has increased, it can only be compared with the average raised in proportion to the increase, namely, 1337. Hence it appears that the deaths of last week exceed by nearly 100 the number which would have occurred if a rate of mortality equal to the calculated average had prevailed.

Though scarlatina continues to show a decrease, the deaths from it in the last two weeks having been respectively 119 and 102, the fatal cases of zymotic diseases taken in the aggregate have increased. These rose from 317 to 348; and under this head measles increased from 43 to 49, whooping-cough from 45 to 67, typhus from 31 to 41, diarrhoea from 6 to 11, rheumatism from 5 to 14. In the class of "local diseases", the deaths rose from 585 in the previous week to 626 last week; but those from pulmonary diseases in this class were stationary (323 and 322); and the increase was derived from apoplexy, which was fatal in 19 and 33 cases; and paralysis, which was fatal in 18 and 28. Part of the increase in the "local" class was also from diseases of the digestive organs, the deaths from which in the two weeks were respectively 41 and 56. In the present return, 7 deaths are referred to gastritis, 24 to diphtheria. Many persons at an advanced stage of life have succumbed to fate; 319 are recorded who had at-

tained the age of 60 years and upwards, and of these one female was 90 years old, and four widows were 90, 99, 99, and 101 years. The centenarian died in the Strand workhouse, but no evidence of her age could be procured except her own statement at the time she was admitted. A woman aged 53 years died from intemperance; she is stated to have been "a confirmed opium-eater". The widow of a weaver, aged 70 years, died at 44 Sebright Street, Bethnal Green, from "the want of proper nourishment".

Last week, the births of 933 boys and 897 girls, in all 1830 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1849-58, the average number was 1604.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 30.384 in. The barometrical readings varied from 30.64 in. on Sunday to 30.14 on Saturday. The mean daily reading was above 30 in. on every day from December 31st to January 15th, both days included. The mean temperature of the air in the week was 39.1°, which is 3.5° above the average of the same week in forty-three years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). On Tuesday and Wednesday, the mean temperature was about 9° above the average. The thermometer in the shade fell to its lowest point, 28.5°, on Sunday, and rose to its highest, 49.8°, on Tuesday. The range of the week was therefore 21.3°. The mean daily range was 9.8°. The difference between the mean dew-point temperature and air temperature was 4°. The mean degree of humidity of the air was 86. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 39.7°. The wind blew generally from the south-west. There was no rain.

FATAL CASES OF ANÆSTHESIA. There are in London fifteen hospitals where surgical operations are being frequently performed. Some of these are small; we will, therefore, confine our attention to the ten largest metropolitan hospitals. St. Bartholomew's is immensely large; at the lesser Hospital of University College 4,440, and at Charing Cross Hospital 1,600 operations have been performed under chloroform during the last ten years. St. George's, though larger than University College, is probably of medium size, and may therefore be fairly taken as representing the average number of operations which are performed in each of the other nine. In this hospital 3,000 operations are said to have been performed within the period just mentioned. If we multiply this number by ten, which is the number of the principal hospitals in London, it appears that at least 30,000 operations have been performed in the metropolis during the ten years in which chloroform has been used. We are aware that, according to the statistical statements respecting the surgical operations performed in London which have been published in the *Medical Times and Gazette* during the last four years, and which we have carefully examined, not more than 10,000 operations have been performed in London during the last ten years. But those statements only comprise the "principal operations," and must exclude, as indeed we know they do, and, as is proved by the data obtained from St. George's, University College, and Charing Cross, an immense number of cases in which chloroform is given. Now, if, without considering the upper classes, who do not resort to hospitals, we regard the hospitals of London as affording surgical aid to all who require it out of a population of, say 3,000,000; if we suppose that the rest of the population of the United Kingdom, and the population of France, Germany, and the United States demand surgical aid in the same numerical proportion as the people in and around London seem to do; and if we estimate the total population of these countries at 120,000,000, we arrive at the conclusion that during the last ten years the number of surgical operations which have been performed in the United Kingdom, the United States, France, and Germany collectively is 1,200,000. We have confined ourselves to these countries because it is from them mainly, though not exclusively, that the reports of deaths from anæsthetic agents have been collected. Among the deaths ascribed to chloroform there are seven the cause of which is uncertain. Assuming four of these to be due to chloroform, the following is a statement of all the deaths which we have been able to learn of, as having occurred either in Europe or America from the inhalation of anæsthetic vapours.—Deaths from chloroform, 68; from ether, 2; from mixture of chloroform and ether, 1; from mixture of chloroform and alcohol, 1; from amylene, 2. Total, 74.—[*Westminster Review* for January.]

HARVEIAN SOCIETY. On Thursday, January 20th, Mr. Ernest Hart will read a paper "On the Successful Treatment of Popliteal Aneurism by Flexion of the Knee."

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Poor-Law Medical Reform Association, held on January 14th, 1859, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, several metropolitan as well as provincial Poor-law Medical Officers being present, the following resolution was unanimously carried:—

"That the thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby given, to the Right Hon. the President of the Poor-Law Board, for his submission to the medical officers for their opinion of a new 'Scheme for Medical Relief'; but this meeting considers the plan, in its present form, does not meet the views of the medical officers, and will not be conducive to the interests of the poor—the meeting therefore resolves that the following amendments be made to the plan."

1. Appointments of medical officers shall be permanent to those parishes now held by them, subject to the general order of the Poor-Law Board, dated May 25th, 1857, (see Circular of Poor-Law Board, 6th June, 1857, art. 5), and to the rules now in force as to good conduct, but they shall have power to resign on giving a reasonable notice, as is the case at present.

2. Existing contracts and existing division of unions and parishes into medical districts, shall cease at a given period.

3. The qualification of future medical officers shall be double (medical and surgical) and of the class laid down in the 21st and 22nd Vict. cap. 90, but none of the present medical officers shall be removed for want of those qualifications.

4. Guardians may, where parishes are very large, appoint two or more medical officers to each, and divide the parish in such manner as they may think desirable, subject to the approbation of the Poor-Law Board.

5. The contract with a medical officer shall be made for a period of three years, renewable on a fresh calculation of the three preceding years. The payments to be quarterly as at present.

6. The contract with each medical officer shall be to this effect: that he will attend, when applied to, without an order, any poor person in the parish named in the list which shall be furnished to him half yearly or oftener, by the relieving officer of all persons in the receipt of relief, or who have been so within the last six months.

WITH AN ORDER—Any poor person named in such order.

7. Orders for medical relief may be given by each guardian of the parish, as well as the relieving officer in all cases where a poor person is unable to procure medical aid at his own charge, and by the overseer in urgent cases.

8. If the medical officer shall have attended a case represented to be of emergency and too poor to procure medical aid, 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 and paid for according to the scale laid down.

9. Each medical officer shall make a report to the guardians, at each of their relief days, of the cases under his care.

10. Medical officers shall discontinue a practice which exists in many unions, of ordering a specific quantity of nourishing food or drink to those who are feeble from old age only, but they shall order the kind of treatment or nourishment which in their opinion the case requires. To those really ill they shall, however, specify the particular kind of nourishment required, as well as the quantity.

Remuneration.

11. FOR WORKHOUSES:—A salary shall be fixed on a uniform and definite system, with mileage of not less than 1s. per mile, where the distance of the house is above one mile from the residence of the medical officer, and the salary 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 find 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; also extras, as specified in No. 13.

WITH AN ORDER—For all other cases requiring medical assistance, and for which an order may be granted, not less than five shillings per case with an additional sum for mileage, as in No. 12,—3s.

13. 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.

14. The clerk of the union shall keep a record of the number of cases reported weekly in the Journal of each medical officer, where orders have been obtained, and the medical officer shall be paid in accordance with the number of orders he produces.

15. 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.

16. 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.

RICHARD GRIFFIN, *Chairman.*

Mr. Griffin has circulated the above document among the poor-law medical officers, with a series of comments, from which the subjoined are extracts:—

Clause 1, relating to permanency of appointment, will, I trust, be satisfactory to every medical officer, and also to the Guardians and to the Poor-Law Board, who have already full power to divide the districts in any way they may think desirable, by giving six months notice to any officer, be he permanently appointed or not, who refuses his consent to a change in the size of his district.

Clause 2, relating to contracts, requires explanation. By the present law our appointments are to certain districts, houses, or parishes, but our contract is to perform the work for a specific amount of money. If the existing division of unions and parishes into districts be annulled, which it must necessarily be if our appointments in future be parochial, and our mode of payment be changed, then the contract will in future be to do the work for each of the parishes now held by us, at a fixed salary, based on the average number of paupers in receipt of relief in January and July, and in addition to this, a per case payment for those who may be ill, and for orders for those not in receipt of relief, with mileage and extras in both cases.

Clause 3, relating to the qualification of medical officers, is so modified as to render our Scotch and Irish brethren eligible for poor-law medical appointments; at the same time it protects the present medical officers, who do not possess the double qualification, from being displaced.

Clause 4, relating to the appointment of two medical officers to each parish, has been materially altered, and in its present shape will, I trust, meet the views of all. In many large parishes, as Birmingham and other places, especially in the north, there are now several medical men employed, which must necessarily be the case under all circumstances where parishes are very large.

Clause 5, relating to the periodical readjustment of the contracts with the medical officers, is actually necessary, as in many localities the population varies considerably in the course of a few years, and therefore a triennial revision of the salary is but fair to all parties.

Clause 10, relating to the quantity of nourishment to be ordered, is one of vital import to the poor. . . . I have so modified the clause that the system of indiscriminate orders will be discontinued, but in all legitimate cases of illness we shall, as heretofore, recommend, for order we never could, the quan-

tity as well as the kind of nourishment required; for it would be folly to leave the amount unfixed, as how could a relieving officer on a sudden emergency, or even the Board of Guardians at their usual meeting, ignorant of the case, decide upon the quantity of wine, brandy, porter, or meat necessary for a particular illness?

Clause 11. From 156 of the returns of medical officers having union houses, I find their salaries vary from £7:10 to £150, the average being £36; and the average number of cases attended by each medical officer 290, or after the rate of 2s. 5½d. per case. Thus, if there be 627 union houses, as there are unions, the number of paupers in receipt of medical relief, annually, will be 181,830, or half as many again as the number of in-door poor at one time in receipt of relief, which were, in 1857, 122,845. These figures will enable us to form an estimate of the sum each medical officer attending union houses ought to receive, though there are many local circumstances which will require to be taken into consideration when Mr. Estcourt names the mode of payment.

Clause 12, relating to the remuneration of parish medical officers, requires our closest attention, as the present unjust mode of payment has been the principal origin of the Association. The mode suggested by Mr. Estcourt is very imperfectly understood by a great many medical men as well as Guardians, and therefore requires elucidation.

No. 1 fixes a permanent salary for three years at 1s. 6d. per head upon the average number of persons in receipt of relief in the first week of January and the first week of July in each year. On referring to the Tenth Annual Report of the Poor-law Board, 1857-8, pages 11 to 13, it will be seen that the average number of all classes, including *children*, at one time in receipt of relief was—In-door, 122,845; out-door, 762,165; total, 885,010; which at 1s. 6d. per head, will give, as our fixed salaries, £66,375 per annum.

No. 2, as amended by us, proposes 2s. 6d. per case upon the number of cases attended in the parish upon an average of the last three years, when the medical officer finds the medicines.

No. 3, relating to mileage, we have next to consider; and from the data before me I feel confident that four-fifths of the whole of the poor live in cities, towns, and parishes, situate within one mile of the residence of the medical officer, and therefore no mileage will have to be paid for them. I firmly believe that, with due exercise of judgment on the part of the Guardians in assigning the more distant parishes to nearer medical men, the remaining fifth, as far as an average payment is concerned, may be brought within two miles of the residence of the medical officer, which will be of immense advantage to the poor, who have, in some instances, to travel nine miles out and as many home again for a bottle of medicine. The amount for mileage will then be only £30,000, which, added to the £252,561 already accounted for, will give £282,561.

Clause 16, recommending a Medical Commissioner to the Poor-law Board is not in Mr. Estcourt's Scheme, but is introduced here at the desire of a large body of professional men, who regard it as most important to the interests of the poor and to the medical officers, as none but a medical man conversant with union practice can properly carry out duties which involve the welfare of a million and a half of sick poor who annually apply for parochial medical relief.

CHICHESTER MEDICAL REGISTRATION COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the legally qualified Medical Practitioners of West Sussex, held at the Council Chamber, Chichester, on Thursday, January 6th, 1859—Dr. M'Carogher in the chair—the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

1. That a committee be formed, and named the "Chichester Medical Registration Committee" in connection with the South Eastern Branch of the British Medical Association, (as proposed at a meeting of that body, held at Brighton, on December 3rd, 1858), and in accordance with rules then agreed upon.
2. That Mr. C. Sturges Jones, Surgeon, Chichester, be appointed Secretary and Treasurer of the Committee.
3. That the object of the Committee be to assist the Medical Registrar in effectively carrying out the Medical Registration Act.
4. That a sub-committee be formed for the purpose of transacting the business of the Committee, and to consist of the following gentlemen:—Dr. M'Carogher, Dr. Tyacke, E. Leech, Esq., F. A. B. Bonney, Esq., and Dr. Ryding; the Secretary being an *ex-officio* member.
5. That each member pay a subscription of 2s. 6d. annually.

BEDFORDSHIRE MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the medical practitioners in the county of Bedford was held at the George Hotel, Bedford, on Thursday, January 6th, 1859. There were present:—Dr. Evans, Dr. Wharton, Dr. Barker, Dr. Prior, H. W. Sharpin, Esq., W. E. Johnson, Esq., W. Thurnall, Esq., W. Deane, Esq. (Bedford); Dr. Webster (Northampton); T. Farr, Esq. (Dunstable); W. Landell, Esq. (Potton); W. Collingwood, Esq. (Amphill); N. Godfrey, Esq. (Turvey); J. Gregory, Esq., and J. Gregory, jun., Esq. (Risely); R. S. Stedman, Esq. (Sharnbrook).

Dr. Evans, of Bedford, was unanimously elected as the chairman.

The following resolutions were passed:—

1. That with a view to secure the efficient operation of the New Medical Act, and to afford assistance to the Registrar appointed under the Act in the execution of his important duties, it is in the opinion of this meeting expedient that a Medical Registration Association be now formed, and that it be styled the Bedfordshire Medical Registration Association.

2. That the managing Committee of the Bedford division of the South Midland Branch of the British Medical Association, viz., Dr. Barker, Mr. T. W. Thurnall (Bedford), Mr. Veasey (Woburn), with power to add to their number, be a Committee to receive applications and fees for Registration under the New Medical Act.

The following gentlemen were then elected on the Committee:—H. W. Sharpin, Esq., Dr. Evans, and Dr. Prior.

3. That, for the purpose of defraying the necessary expenses of the Association, a subscription of two shillings and sixpence be levied upon each member.

Mr. Stedman was requested to act as Secretary and Treasurer to the Association.

In accordance with the above resolutions, it was decided that the Committee (three of whom might form a quorum) should meet at the George Hotel, Bedford, on Thursday, January 13th, at two o'clock, and the two following Thursdays, to examine applications and diplomas, and receive fees, to be forwarded, with certificates of such examinations, to the Registrar.

The Secretary was ordered to transmit a notice to this effect, and a copy of the resolutions passed, to every medical practitioner in the county.

CHARGE OF CONSPIRACY TO OBTAIN A DIPLOMA.

On Saturday, January 15th, at the College Street Police Office, in Dublin, two medical men, named John Edward Protheroe and Charles Evans Reeves, were charged by Dr. Steele, registrar of the King and Queen's College of Surgeons, with conspiracy under extraordinary circumstances.

Mr. J. E. Walshe, Q.C., and Mr. William Ryan, appeared as counsel for the College of Physicians, with Messrs. Smith and Whitestone, solicitors; Mr. Charles Fitzgerald, junior, appeared for the prisoners.

Dr. WILLIAM EDWARD STEELE was registrar of King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland. He had received a letter dated 12th March, 1857, which was as follows:—

"SIR,—I am anxious to present myself for examination for the license of the College of Physicians; but before forwarding my certificates, I should feel greatly obliged if you will inform me whether, from having studied at the Hunterian School of Medicine and in Paris, I am eligible, and the nature of the examination: whether a very large knowledge is expected in anatomy, physiology, chemistry, and botany. I ask these last questions, because a long absence from England and bad health prevented me keeping up a minute knowledge of them.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,

"Dr. Steele, etc."

"J. E. PROTHEROE, M.D.

"P.S.—You will also have the kindness to inform me whether the fees are to be sent with the certificates or not.

"18, Store Street, Bedford Square, London, 12th March, 1857."

Witness saw Dr. Reeves in Dublin subsequent to receiving the letter. He signed the documents in this country. Dr. Steele believed the letter to be in his handwriting—in the handwriting of the same gentleman who signed the college books as John Edward Protheroe. (Roll book of the college produced and signature identified.) He appeared before witness for the purpose of being examined for a licence to practise medicine; he presented himself in the name of John Edward

Protheroe. He was examined on the 6th, and again on the 9th of April, 1857. The result of that examination was most satisfactory. Previous to an applicant being examined he is obliged to sign a declaration that he will not practise as an apothecary. One of these declarations was signed "John Edward Protheroe." Two other letters referring to certificates of education and character, and signed "John Edward Protheroe," were also produced. They were as follows:—

"18, Store Street, Bedford Square, March 18, 1857.

"SIR,—I beg to forward you my certificates, and regret that they are, from having been thrown about in a dirty cellar, in such dirty and dilapidated condition. My diploma was lost with my luggage in the Black Sea in 1844. I have written to the Dryam Mens Caizarquer for a certificate, which, as soon as I receive, I will forward. I shall feel obliged by your appointing as early a day as possible for examination. I leave England the 1st of next month.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,
"Dr. Steele, etc." "JOHN EDWARD PROTHEROE."

"30th March, 1857.

"SIR,—I am so anxious to possess an English degree that I will delay my departure for a week. I beg, therefore, to enclose you the sum of £46:1, and certificate from my friend Dr. Reeves. I beg to refer you to Dr. Rigby, 36, Berkeley Square; to Dr. Smith, 7, Upper Grosvenor Street; and Dr. Pettigrew, 7, Chester Street. I shall esteem it a favour if the second examination can be made to take place on Saturday. I shall be in Dublin on Thursday morning.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,
"Dr. Steele, etc." "J. E. PROTHEROE."

Dr. Steele believed them to be in the handwriting of the person who represented himself as "John Edward Protheroe." There was a second signature entered in the college book by the person who called himself Dr. Protheroe; viz., the signature to the declaration of the admitted candidate that he will observe the bye-laws and statutes. It was signed in the name of John Edward Protheroe by Dr. Reeves. The diploma authorising John Edward Protheroe to practise medicine was produced and proved. It bore date 9th April, 1857; it was signed by Dr. Steele as an officer of the college. He gave that document to the gentleman who, he was informed, was Dr. Reeves, but who then passed examination as John Edward Protheroe. The other gentleman (Protheroe) witness never knew before. Witness had been eight years registrar to the college, and had been present at the admission of every licentiate, and his (Protheroe's) face was quite strange to him.

Dr. WILLIAM BARKER was one of the examiners in the year 1857. He remembered a gentleman under the name of Protheroe presenting himself for examination that year. Witness pointed out Dr. Reeves as the person who so represented himself. He never saw the other gentleman till now.

Dr. JOHN MOORE NELIGAN was one of the examiners in 1857. He examined Dr. Reeves on 9th of April, 1857. Dr. Reeves was the gentleman witness examined as Dr. Protheroe. He never saw the other gentleman before to his knowledge.

HENRY LOCKYER, a sergeant in the detective force in London, proved the apprehension of Dr. Evans Reeves and Dr. Protheroe, and the finding of the diploma in Protheroe's house.

Mr. WALSHÉ submitted that he had made a clear case. Mr. Fitzgerald, on the other hand, contended there was not a particle of evidence, except that the diploma was found in the house of Dr. Protheroe.

The Bench said that was a question for a jury, and at the request of Mr. Fitzgerald the case was remanded till half-past ten o'clock on Tuesday morning.

The prisoners were again brought up on Tuesday morning, January 18th.

HENRY LOCKYER, the London detective, had his information read to him, and desired the following addition to be made to it:—After he arrested Dr. Protheroe in London, he said he attended and passed his examination, and got his diploma at "Sir Patrick Dun's." Witness thought he said Dublin also. He asked Protheroe no questions, but stated the nature of the charge against him; he made the statement voluntarily. After he brought Dr. Protheroe to the station-house in London, Sergeant Keegan came in with Dr. Reeves, who called out, "Protheroe, old fellow, how are you?" and he said "Very well." [Laughter.] Witness found a cardcase in Protheroe's pocket, and took from it a card, on which was engraved "Dr. Protheroe."

Mr. WALSHÉ, Q.C.—That is very important, as showing that the prisoner styled himself "doctor."

Sergeant KEEGAN stated that, when Protheroe was arrested, he said he passed an examination at Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, but he was not sure whether the prisoner said "Dublin" or not.

Mr. WALSHÉ, Q.C., said it was not intended to call up more witnesses. He apprehended there was a perfectly clear case of concert established between the prisoners. They found one gentleman of the name of Reeves writing no less than three letters in the name of Protheroe—then coming over from London to the College of Physicians, and passing an examination, under the same name, and finally getting a diploma for "Dr. Protheroe" to practise. Here was a plain case of forgery and personation. Then they found a gentleman in London of the name of Protheroe practising with the identical diploma so obtained by Reeves. Under those circumstances he thought that a jury would not hesitate a moment in saying that all this was done by pre-arrangement between the prisoners. If the certificate of character had been identified as the handwriting of Protheroe, the case would be placed beyond all doubt. There was, however, such a *prima facie* case established as warranted him, on behalf of the College of Physicians, who were discharging a public duty in prosecuting, to hold the prisoners to substantial bail, that they would abide their trial at the next commission. The College of Physicians did not desire to put the gentlemen to unnecessary trouble; but it was perfectly plain that gentlemen in the rank of life of the prisoners would not hesitate to pay £200 or £300 to avoid the exposure of a prosecution for the offence charged against them; and, therefore, the bench ought to enforce substantial bail.

Mr. CURRAN said the prisoners were bound, as honourable men, to appear and take their trial if the bench considered that there was a *prima facie* case made out against them. In the first place, he wished to ask his learned friend, Mr. Walshé, what indictable offence the prisoners were guilty of? His learned friend said the case amounted to a conspiracy. Conspiracy meant to preconcert an arrangement between two or more persons to commit an illegal act. He could understand a conspiracy amongst persons to commit a robbery, to defraud the revenue, or to perpetrate a murder; but how did the present case involve an offence known to the law? If the case was sent forward, he would ask that the gentlemen be allowed to stand out on their bail. They were well known in London, and it appeared upon the information that they were householders, and enjoyed good practice; so there was no reason whatever why they should expatriate themselves. But it might be impossible for them to get bail in Dublin, where they were unknown. The offence charged was clearly a bailable one.

Mr. STRONGE said, the bench were disposed to make the following rule of bail:—Two householders in £100 respectively for each prisoner, besides his personal recognisances in the sum of £300.

Mr. CURRAN suggested that two householders in £50 each should be taken; but the bench, after discussing the matter, refused to lessen the rule, unless with the consent of the prosecutors, which not being given, the rule mentioned by Mr. Stronge was settled. The prisoners were then removed.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT. Intelligence was received on Monday of the untimely death of Mr. Thornton J. Herapath, youngest son of Mr. W. Herapath, the eminent analytical chemist, of Bristol, and youngest brother of Dr. W. Bird Herapath. The deceased, who had for some time held the appointment of chief chemist to the Mexican and South American Smelting Company, was on his voyage in the *Annie Fisher*, bound for Swansea, from Herradura, Chili, on a visit home, and on the 9th of December, when in latitude 8° N., longitude 31° W., by some accident he fell overboard. A buoy was immediately thrown to him, and a boat lowered with a view of rescuing him, but unfortunately these efforts were unavailing, and he sank to rise no more. The deceased was a gentleman of high attainments in his profession. His contributions to scientific publications, and his lectures in his native city and elsewhere, had earned for him a foremost rank among the chemists of this country, and procured for him the appointment which is rendered vacant by his melancholy death.

SIR JAMES WYLIE. A monument is about to be erected in front of the Academy of Medicine, St. Petersburg (of which institution he was President) to the memory of this British physician, so long and intimately associated with the late Emperor of Russia.

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, twopenny; above 8 ounces and not exceeding 1 pound, fourpenny; for every additional half-pound or under, twopenny.

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.

DR. J. C. REID. The subject is a most important one, and we are willing to grant all the space to its consideration that we possibly can. But the article to which you have called our attention is over long for our limits.

Communications have been received from:—MR. T. HOLMES; DR. CHARLES BOND; DR. TORBOCK; MR. HENRY J. MACY; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; MR. HENRY ALFORD; DR. W. T. GAIRDNER; MR. HENRY GRAMSHAW; MR. WM. FEW; MR. WM. WATHEW; MR. RICHARD GRIFFIN; DR. C. E. BERNARD; DR. SKINNER; MR. W. EDDOWES; DR. J. C. REID; MR. G. B. KNOWLES; DR. HENRY JOHNSON; DR. CHARLES WARDEN; DR. J. R. HUGHES; MR. T. M. STONE; DR. W. B. MUSEHET; MR. W. MARTIN; MR. HENRY DUNCALFE; MR. SAMUEL SMITH; DR. F. HAWKINS; MR. B. GILPIN; MR. J. WEAVER; and MR. J. F. GRAY.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

1. Outlines of Human Osteology. By F. O. Ward. Second Edition. London: Renshaw. 1858.
2. Johann Müller. An Eloge pronounced in the Hall of the University of Berlin, by Professor Rudolph Virchow. Translated and edited by A. Mercer Adam, M.D. Edinburgh: Sutherland and Knox. 1859.
3. The Healing Art the Right Hand of the Church: or Practical Medicine an Essential Element in the Christian System. By Therapeutes. Edinburgh: Sutherland and Knox. London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co. 1859.

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