

Association Intelligence.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be holden in Liverpool, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 27th, 28th and 29th days of July.

President—W. P. ALISON, M.D., F.R.S.E., Edinburgh.

President-Elect—JAMES R. W. VOSE, M.D., Liverpool.

The Address in Medicine will be delivered by EDWARD WATERS, M.D., Chester, President-elect of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch.

The Address in Physiology will be delivered by A. T. H. WATERS, Esq., Liverpool, Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology in the Royal Infirmary School of Medicine.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *General Secretary*.

Worcester, April 26th, 1859.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE Twenty-third Annual Meeting of this Branch will be held on Wednesday, June 8th, at the Town Hall, Chester, at Twelve o'clock at noon, under the presidency of E. WATERS, M.D.

The members and their friends will dine together after the meeting, at the Albion Hotel.

Gentlemen who intend to bring forward cases or communications are requested to send notice to the Secretary as early as possible.

A. T. H. WATERS,

Honorary Secretary.

Liverpool, May 11th, 1859.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
SOUTH MIDLAND. [Annual Meeting.]	Infirmary, Northampton.	Monday, May 30th, 1 P.M.
LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE. [Annual Meeting.]	Town Hall, Chester.	Wednesday, June 8th, 12 noon.
BIRMINGHAM AND MID- LAND COUNTIES. [Annual Meeting.]	Hen and Chickens Hotel, Birmingham.	Friday, June 10th, 3½ P.M.

[To prevent delay, Reports of Branch Meetings should be sent direct to the office, 37, Great Queen Street.]

ROCHESTER, MAIDSTONE, GRAVESEND, AND DART- FORD DISTRICT MEETINGS, IN CONNEXION WITH THE SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

THE last of the series of meetings for the present session was held at the Bull Inn, Dartford, on Friday, May 20th, at 3.30 P.M.; J. CORDY BURROWS, Esq. (Brighton), President of the Branch, in the Chair. There were also present: John Armstrong, M.D. (Gravesend); F. J. Brown, M.D. (Chatham); J. E. Crook, M.D. (Northfleet); Daniel Culhane, Esq. (Dartford); James Dulvey, Esq. (Brompton, Chatham); Frederick Fry, Esq. (Maidstone); J. H. Gramshaw, Esq. (Gravesend); Adam Martin, M.D. (Rochester); C. J. Pinching, Esq. (Gravesend); Thomas Hextall Smith, Esq. (St. Mary Cray); Flaxman Spurrell, Esq. (Bexley Heath); and John W. Woodfall, M.D. (Maidstone); with the following gentlemen as visitors: Wm. Camps, M.D. (Park Street, Grosvenor Square); Joseph C. Martin, Esq. (Dartford); Ebenezer Moore, Esq. (Dartford); and John Grantham, Esq. (Crayford).

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the President delivered an appropriate address.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following gentlemen were then elected members of the Association and of the Branch, each having been duly proposed, seconded, and supported:—Ebenezer Moore, Esq. (Dartford); Joseph C. Martin, Esq. (Dartford); John Grantham, Esq. (Crayford); Jarman Patrick, Esq. (New Brompton).

PAPERS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

The following communications were then read:—

1. On the Nature and Treatment of Diphtheria. By T. Hextall Smith, Esq. (St. Mary Cray).

2. On a Case of Neuralgia. By A. Martin, M.D. (Rochester).

3. On Acute Hydrocephalus. By J. E. Crook, M.D. (Northfleet).

4. Mr. SPURRELL, of Bexley Heath, exhibited several interesting preparations, with the aid of a good microscope. There was also a great variety of surgical apparatus on the side-tables.

The thanks of the meeting were unanimously and heartily voted to those gentlemen who had thus contributed so materially to the pleasure of those assembled; and Mr. Smith, Dr. Martin, and Dr. Crook, were requested to allow their communications to be published in the JOURNAL of the Association.

Thanks were with equal unanimity and heartiness accorded to the President of the Branch, for his kindness in having come from so great a distance, and for his ability in the chair; after which, at 6 P.M., the members present adjourned to dinner. Soon after 9 P.M., the meeting broke up, having passed an evening of great enjoyment.

Reports of Societies.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, MAY 10TH, 1859.

F. C. SKEY, Esq., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

PRACTICAL DEDUCTIONS FROM AN EXPERIMENTAL INQUIRY INTO THE INFLUENCE OF FOOD. BY E. SMITH, M.D., LL.B., ETC.

THE author, in some preliminary remarks, referred to the large amount of vital action which is necessary to maintain life, and mentioned the various circumstances which he had noted during the continuance of a prolonged fast. He stated that the practice of administering arrow-root, or other fashionable foods, consisting of starch, with water, under the impression that it was more nutritious and easier of assimilation than wheat-flour, was indefensible, since it did not sustain the vital action to a degree capable of maintaining life; and that Nature has not provided starch, as food, altogether apart from nitrogenous substances. He contrasted the action (or rather want of action) of starch with that of the cereals, and showed that the latter is nearly as great as that of any substances with which we are acquainted. He drew the distinction between an action which increases the existing amount of vital force, and that which only tends to prevent loss of vital power—two circumstances which, in practice, are commonly confounded; and showed that beef-tea, wines, and brandy, can act only in the latter mode, whilst the cereals act in the first named manner. Hence, in cases of prolonged exhaustion, where there has long been more waste than supply, the former is not sufficient, and it is essential that the cereals be added or substituted.

The action of milk is exceedingly analogous to that of the cereals, both in extent and duration; and the combination of the two appeared to be the most perfect kind of food. The casein is to the milk what gluten is to bread; and the oil in milk is associated with substances (respiratory excitants) which call it into action in a manner quite analogous to the common combination of bread and butter, or of a mixture of fat and lean flesh. He showed that milk and flesh are the best and most natural modes of exhibiting fat, and altogether preferable to the administration of separated oils. He referred to the frequent use of skimmed milk in Germany as a medicinal agent, and of sour milk in Greece and America as a part of food; and explained the action of the former by its casein and sugar as respiratory excitants, and that of the latter by the advantage of administering lactic and other acids in that combination in the summer season, and at other times when the blood, by tending to undue alkalinity, is less capable of carrying on the oxygenating process. He showed that, in fevers, skimmed milk is preferable to new milk.

As fats lessen the respiratory changes, they ought to be, and are, combined with other articles of food which increase them. He referred to the importance of determining the reasons for the administration of both fat and starch, and showed that there is less difference in the relative amount of these two substances used in different climates, than has been commonly be-

it grew again; so that in March 1858, a second ligature was required. The lady, however, died from exhaustion before the tumour came away.

Dr. RIGBY said that the cases detailed were such as gave rise to great anxiety in their treatment. He had had a patient under his care whose history partly resembled Dr. Elkington's fifth case, and from whom he had removed upwards of forty pounds weight of tissue, at different operations with the ligature.

Dr. WALLER had had a similar case under his care at St. Thomas's Hospital. He showed the instrument which he generally used for applying the ligature, and which consisted of Gooch's cannula, slightly modified.

Dr. KOUTH feared that he might be deemed guilty of some presumption in criticising Dr. Elkington's paper; but still he felt it right to state that, in his opinion, the plan of treatment adopted had not been so good as he had frequently seen practised by continental surgeons. He thought that in most instances of polypus uteri the tumour might be cut off without any fear of hemorrhage; a proceeding which was far preferable to the ligature, since by it all risk of purulent absorption was avoided. Supposing, however, that the practitioner was in dread of much bleeding, he might safely employ the *écraseur*; the wire or chain of which could even be passed round the tumour while it was still in the uterus.

Dr. TYLER SMITH did not consider that any blame attached to Dr. Elkington for the course he had pursued, especially as the cases had occurred before the *écraseur* was resorted to as much as it is now. Moreover, he had found it difficult to apply this instrument, except when the polypus was small. He was in the habit, however, of passing a wire round the tumour by means of Gooch's cannula; and then, by tightening the wire at once with the aid of a small winch, he could cut off and remove the polypus in a few minutes. Dr. Smith stated also that he had lately seen a patient, with Sir Charles Locock, in whom the tumour was so large that only half of it could be removed at the first operation; and there was still a large mass to get away.

Dr. MURPHY had received a great deal of instruction from the paper, though he rather regarded the treatment adopted as belonging to a past age. He thought that most if not all polypi might be drawn down and cut off at once, without any injurious loss of blood. He was generally in the habit of applying a ligature, which was allowed to remain on for twenty-four hours. By the aid of this the tumour was then drawn down to the orifice of the vulva, and the pedicle snipped through with a pair of scissors. By this plan there was not the slightest risk of hemorrhage; and as there was no offensive discharges, there could be no fear of purulent infection. At the same time, he was well aware that many difficult cases were met with, in practice, where resort could not be had to this measure; in many of which he would recommend dilatation of the os uteri, and then the drawing down of the tumour by means of forceps.

Dr. ELKINGTON having replied, the Society adjourned.

Editor's Letter Box.

POTASSA FUSA TO THE URETHRA.

SIR,—I read with interest the "New Mode of Relieving Retention of Urine", by Mr. Langston Parker, in your last number.

Though I have never used potassa fusa for the purpose of relieving retention, I can bear testimony to its power of overcoming urethral obstruction; but it is possible to produce an almost alarming amount of hemorrhage with potassa fusa, even when cautiously applied. I had been treating an obstinate stricture for some time, without making any satisfactory progress, when I determined to apply the caustic potass. A small piece was inserted into the end of a wax bougie, which was well oiled and passed down to the stricture, against which it was held for two or three seconds. On withdrawing the instrument, some blood escaped: the bleeding continued, gradually increasing in quantity, for three or four hours. While waiting in a chemist's shop for some gallic acid which I had prescribed, my patient was advised to apply to another surgeon, who, ignorant of what had been done, immediately proved its efficacy by passing a good sized catheter with the utmost ease.

I am, etc., F.R.C.S.

Brighton, May 32rd, 1859:

POST MORTEM EXAMINATIONS.

LETTER FROM WILLIAM SANKEY, Esq., F.R.C.S.

SIR,—I observe with regret, in the returns of cases of diphtheria, that, in the majority of fatal cases, no *post mortem* examination has taken place. Every medical man has now an opportunity of obtaining, if not enforcing, the same, by refusing to give a certificate of the cause of death, which, strictly speaking, he can never give, or at least in very few cases, without such evidence.

I fear the fault does not rest so much with the friends or relatives of the patient, as with the medical man himself. I have now been nearly fifty years engaged in the duties of a general practitioner in the country, and can conscientiously aver that I have never neglected an opportunity of making a *post mortem* examination in cases where the same could elucidate an obscure case, or confirm or refute the previous opinions of the cause of death. The present rising generation are, I am sorry to say, more zealous in filling their coffers than in adding to their own and the public knowledge, and avoid, instead of seeking, *post mortem* examinations, unless remunerated for the same.

I am, etc.,

WILLIAM SANKEY.

Dover, May 18th, 1859.

LARA AND WALTERS v. WARD.

LETTER FROM MESSRS. LARA AND WALTERS.

SIR,—As you have permitted Dr. Ward, to our possible detriment, to give in your columns his own version of the above trial, in opposition to the published report, will you allow us to state,

That our case did not break down, but that judgment was given against us solely on the novel ground that we had rescinded our whole contract with the defendant by permitting him to withdraw his practice from our books, which he did, stating that he was resolved to remain in Kensington, two or three days only before he sold it to Dr. Williams.

That, having furnished full particulars of the practice to Dr. Williams, our "extraordinary demand", £25:5:6, would otherwise most certainly have been awarded us by the judge, in accordance with our express and unequivocal terms, to which the defendant had agreed.

That, though this is immaterial, Dr. Williams did not give us the slightest intimation of having previously heard of the matter.

That the report which appeared in your paper, and comprised these facts, was not a mere statement of counsel, but contained Mr. Lara's sworn testimony; and that if, from want of memory, Dr. Williams had contradicted this, it could have been confirmed in every particular, from the latter's own lips, by a gentleman with whom we were personally acquainted, but perfectly well known both to him and to Dr. Ward.

We are, etc., LARA AND WALTERS.

Temple, May 21st, 1859.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

- GARDINER. On May 20th, at Bristol, the wife of George Gardiner, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
- JEAFFERSON. On May 20th, at Finsbury Square, the wife of Henry Jeafferson, M.D., of a daughter.
- JENNER. On May 24th, at 8, Harley Street, Cavendish Square, the wife of William Jenner, M.D., of a daughter.
- MARTYN. On May 17th, at Bristol, the wife of *Samuel Martyn, M.D., of a daughter.
- MONRO. On May 20th, at Churton House, Belgrave Road, the wife of James Monro, M.D., Surgeon-Major Coldstream Guards, of a son.
- MURRAY. On May 21st, at 17, Green Street, Grosvenor Square, the wife of *Gustavus C. P. Murray, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
- STEVENS. On May 23rd, at Hoddesdon, Herts, the wife of Robert Ingram Stevens, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

- CROSBY—RYAN. Crosby, Thomas B., Esq., Surgeon, of 23, Finsbury Place, to Annie, only child of Joseph Ryan, Esq., of Gordon Place, Tavistock Square, at St. Pancras Church, on May 24th.
- EASTON—MARSHALL. Easton, Thomas Ogilvy, Esq., youngest son of the late John Easton, M.D., of Cowrance Hill, Dumfriesshire, to Elizabeth Agnes, eldest daughter of the late Rev. James Marshall, of Clifton, on May 19th.
- INMAN—MACKAY. Inman, Robert Matthews, Esq., Surgeon, to Rose Munro, widow of the late Robert Mackay, Esq., of Williamstown, Australia, at Cyderhall, Sutherlandshire, on May 3rd.
- PEREN—SYLVESTER. Peren, Robert B., Esq., solicitor, of South Petherton, Somerset, to Mary, only daughter of Thomas Sylvester, Esq., Surgeon, of Highbridge, Somerset, at Burnham, on May 13th.
- PETERS—STILWELL. Peters, Joseph, Esq., of Wouldham Hall, Rochester, to Jane Catherine, eldest daughter of George Stilwell, Esq., Surgeon, of Epsom, at St. James's, Paddington, on May 21st.
- SHUTTLEWORTH—KEAN. Shuttleworth, Charles, Esq., Lieutenant 14th Royal Highlanders, to Caroline Janette Sybella, second daughter of the late Archibald Kean, M.D., Civil Surgeon of Moorshedabad, at Berhampore, Lower Bengal, on March 29th.
- SOMERVILLE—WARD. *Somerville, Charles, M.D., of Bloxwich, to Jane, youngest daughter of the late John Ward, Esq., of Stafford, at Lichfield, on May 17th.
- TROTTER—ELLIOT. Trotter, James, Esq., Surgeon of the Durham Artillery Militia, to Mary, youngest daughter of the late John Elliot, Esq., banker, Carlisle, at Staindrop, Durham, on May 21st.

DEATHS.

- BAIRD, John, M.D., at 45, Southampton Row, Russell Square, on May 18th.
- BELLINGHAM, Francis James, Esq., Surgeon, of Bourne, Lincolnshire, at Torquay, aged 41, on May 19th.
- *BLACK, James, M.D., Surgeon to the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital, at King's Lynn, suddenly, aged 31, on May 21st.
- HARDEY. On May 20th, at 2, Earl Street, Blackfriars, Sarah, wife of Key Hardey, Esq., Surgeon.
- HOWLETT, Henry, Esq., Surgeon, late of Cambridge Terrace, Hyde Park, at Castlemaine, Australia, on March 1st.
- KNAPP. On April 12th, at Farnham, Mary Olive, wife of James M. Knapp, Esq., Surgeon Bombay Medical Service.
- LITCHFIELD. On April 12th, at Dholia, Khandeish, India, after a short illness, from an accident while on field-service, Lieutenant Robert Litchfield, 30th Regiment Bombay Native Infantry, sixth son of Thomas Litchfield, Esq., Surgeon, Twickenham, aged 28.
- MACKINTOSH, John, M.D., late Royal Artillery, near Dundee, on May 14th.
- MENZIES, Robert, Esq., Surgeon, at 86, Upper Stamford Street, aged 64, on May 17th.
- ROBERTSON, Archibald, Esq., Surgeon Royal Navy, at Twickenham, aged 74, on May 20th.
- SILLEY, Robert, M.D., of Dover, late Surgeon Royal Army, and for many years Senior Physician to the Military Lunatic Asylum, in London, on May 20th.
- THOMPSON. On May 22nd, at 42, Sussex Gardens, Hyde Park, Helena Augusta, youngest daughter of Charles T. Thompson, M.D., aged 3 years and 4 months.

APPOINTMENTS.

- TURNER, G. B., M.D., elected Assistant-Surgeon to the East Sussex, Hastings, and St. Leonard's Infirmary, in the room of the late Walter Duke, Esq.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS. At the Comitia Majora, held on Friday, May 13th, 1859,

WALLER, AUGUSTUS VOLNEY, M.D., Birmingham, was admitted a Licentiate of the College, under the new bye-laws.

Also, at the Comitia, on May 23rd,

SUTTON, JOHN MAULE, M.D., Tenby, Pembrokeshire, was admitted a Licentiate under the same bye-laws.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, May 13th, 1859:—

ALCOCK, Daniel Robert, Eccles Street, Dublin
BARR, Joseph Henry, Stockport
BOWSTEAD, Rowland Mounsey, Caistor, Lincolnshire
FERNIE, Henry Mortlock, Yelden, Bedfordshire
GOODING, John Callender, Barbadoes
HEWLETT, Richard Whitfield, Harrow
JAY, Frederick Fitzherbert, Acle, Norfolk
LLOYD, Francis, Bedford Row
MITCHINSON, Charles Calthrop, Boston, Lincolnshire
PARKER, Albany John Etherington, Usk, Monmouthshire
SKARDON, Thomas Gray, Dadbrook Maker, Devon
SPENCER, Charles, Bury, Lancashire
SPOUNCER, Frederick Charles, Gainsborough
STAFFORD, Patrick Walter, Dublin
TUCK, Buckmaster Joseph, Blackheath
WATKIN, John, Aberystwyth

Monday, May 16th:—

ARMSTRONG, John Christopher, Gravesend
ASH, William, Lansdown Villas, Chelsea
BREND, William, Bideford, Devon
BRIDE, John, Liverpool
BRUNTON, Linton Bennett, Waterloo Place, Limehouse
CULLEN, Peter, Calcutta
EMANUEL, Leonard, St. John's Wood Place
HALL, Robert Arnold, Grantham, Lincolnshire
HAWKINS, Thomas Henry, Reading, Berkshire
HOCKEN, Thomas Morland, Dublin
HUTCHINSON, Francis Blake, Bridge Street, Blackfriars
ILLINGWORTH, John Alfred, Newport, Monmouthshire
JAMESON, George William, Caistor, Lincolnshire
MACKENZIE, Walter Fawkes, Wigan, Lancashire
McMORRIS, Robert James, Tyrone, Ireland
ORMEROD, William George, Bristol
REID, John, Calcutta
STEDMAN, James Henry, Norwich
THOMAS, John Lloyd, Pwllheli, Caernarvonshire
TREVOR, James Ebenezer, Plymouth
TURTON, Frederic, Wolverhampton
UTTERSON, Edward Vernon, Winchester
WATSON, John, Newcastle-on-Tyne
WHITE, Francis Thomas, Rawreth, Essex
WHITGRAVE, Vincent, Walsall, Staffordshire
WICKHAM, William, Tetbury, Gloucestershire

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREW'S. The following gentlemen, having previously obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine, have been placed on the list of Honours.

First Class.

(The names are arranged in order of merit.)

HEWITT, Frederick Hughes, Guy's Hospital
DRYSDALE, Charles R., University College

Second Class.

BANCROFT, Joseph, Manchester Medical School

APOTHECARIES' HALL. Members admitted on Thursday, May 19th, 1859:—

HUTCHESON, Robert William, Bahamas
PLOWMAN, Thomas, North Curry, Somersetshire
TAYLOR, William, Cardiff, Glamorganshire
THOMAS, John Lloyd, Pwllheli, Caernarvonshire

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING
MAY 21st, 1859.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE total deaths registered in London, which were 1207 in the last week of April, have constantly decreased in the three weeks of the current month, and in the week that ended last Saturday, they were 1057. In the ten years 1849-58, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1041; but as the deaths returned for last week occurred in a population which has increased, they should be compared with the average raised in proportion to that increase; namely, with 1145. The comparison shows that the deaths that occurred last week were less by 88 than the number that would have occurred if a mortality equal to the average rate for the third week of May had prevailed.

The births of last week exceeded the deaths of the same period by 612.

The present returns, in connexion with those of previous

weeks, show the deaths from small-pox in several sub-districts, and a certain though not strong or uniform tendency of this disease to increase. Last week, it was fatal in 23 cases: 19 of which occurred to children under ten years of age; 9 occurred to infants less than a year old. Four children died from it in the sub-district of Bethnal Green; and the Registrar of St. Mary, Newington, who returns two cases, states that it is very prevalent in his sub-district. The deaths from scarlatina, which were 57, 55, and 47, respectively in three previous weeks, declined last week to 39, of which six occurred in Lambeth, and three in Plumstead. Besides the 39 cases of scarlatina, there were 16 of diphtheria, which has not declined concurrently with the former disease. The deaths from diphtheria occurred as follows:—one in Ladbroke Villas, Kensington; one at 8, Thayer Street, Marylebone; one in Upper Avenue Road, Hampstead; one at 34, London Street, Pancras; one at 9, Cambridge Row, Camden Town; one at 10, Anderson's Road, Homerton; one at 42, King Street (St. Anne, Soho); one at 30, Ann's Place, Hackney Road; two in one family at 35, Coventry Street, Bethnal Green; one at 8, Worship Square, Shoreditch; one at 1, Martha Street, Haggerstone East; one at 18, Price's Street, St. Saviour; one at 67, Nelson Square; one at 36, Felix Street, Lambeth; and one at 13, Vauxhall Place. There were eight deaths in the week from erysipelas, three of which occurred to infants. Three children and two adults died from syphilis. Two persons died of ischuria. Of 47 violent deaths, 39 were by accident or negligence, four by murder (three of these infanticide), and four by suicide. A widow died on the 19th inst., at 15, Wellington Street, Shoreditch, at the age, as stated, of 100 years.

Last week the births of 859 boys and 810 girls, in all 1,669 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1849-58, the average number was 1,574.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.668 in. The barometer fell from 29.92 in. on Sunday to 29.55 in. on Thursday, those points being the highest and lowest in the week. The mean temperature of the week was 52.6°, which is 0.4° below the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The thermometer in the shade attained its lowest point, 39.7°, on Sunday, and its highest, 67.9°, on Thursday. The range of the week was therefore 28.2°; the mean daily range was 13.9°. On Sunday the range was 24.3°; on Tuesday it was only 4°. The difference between the mean dew-point temperature and air temperature was 4.4°. The mean degree of humidity of the air was 88; on Wednesday, the humidity was 99, approaching complete saturation. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 55.9°. The wind blew invariably from the north-east, which has also been the prevailing direction since the beginning of the month. Rain fell to the amount of 1.60 in., the proportion of which that fell on Friday was 0.77 in. There was a thunder-storm on the evening of Thursday.

ASPHYXIA. An extraordinary case of asphyxia occurred a few days ago in the Rue de Tracy, when a young man suddenly rushed into a chemist's shop, with evident signs of intense agony, uttering inarticulate sounds and convulsively putting his hand to his throat. He tore off his cravat, and taking a small pair of embroidery scissors from his pocket, thrust them several times into the region of the windpipe. All this took place very rapidly, so that there was hardly time to bring the sufferer to a chair, when he sank into it, and it was found that life had fled. It has since been ascertained that deceased was a sailor, and had suffered, at Marseilles, from an attack of *angina membranacea*, which had rendered the dangerous operation of tracheotomy inevitable. His life had been saved by the aid of a silver tube put into the wound; but some time afterwards a physician whom he consulted advised him to remove it, as his recovery seemed to admit of no doubt. This advice was, however, premature, and the unfortunate young man was suffocated, as above described, by the closing of the wound; the cuts he had inflicted upon himself in his agony, with a view to reopen the windpipe, being pronounced utterly insufficient to cause death.

LUNACY IN WORKHOUSES. A blue book of eighty pages contains a supplement to the twelfth report of the Commission of Lunacy to the Lord Chancellor. It refers to the condition, character, and treatment of lunatics in Workhouses. The large increase of lunatics in workhouses is noticed, in the first instance, as a phenomenon requiring explanation; the number having risen from 6,800 to 7,666 between January 1857, and

July 1858. The cases met with are those of persons suffering from chronic dementia, melancholia, and epilepsy; they comprise many who are idiotic or imbecile, and include none who are able to take care of their own interests or welfare, or to conduct themselves discreetly if left to themselves. The system of treatment in workhouses is so reprehensible as to surpass belief. The rules in force to check disorderly conduct in common paupers, are, most improperly, extended to the insane, who are, in effect, prisoners for life, incapable of asserting their rights, yet amenable to as much punishment as if they were quite sane. Of the metropolitan workhouses, the majority are of great size, old, badly constructed, and situate in the midst of dense populations; the same statement applies to the houses in large provincial towns. The deficiency of means of accommodation and exercise for lunatics is a source of infinite evil. The commissioners opine that the best mode of providing for the insane poor, who cannot be received into the present asylums, would be the erection of inexpensive buildings, adapted for the residence of idiotic, chronic, and harmless patients, in direct connection with, or at a convenient distance from, the existing institutions. These auxiliary asylums would be intermediate between union workhouses and the principal curative asylums. It is also suggested that the visiting justices of asylums have full power to visit workhouses, to order the removal of insane inmates therefrom to asylums at their discretion, and to order the removal into the asylum of pauper patients boarded with strangers. Various other suggestions are urged upon the attention of the Lord Chancellor to obviate the evils complained of.

THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL. The Governors of this Hospital have purchased an adjoining house, partly for the purpose of enlarging the out-patient department, but principally to obtain accommodation for the residence of three clinical assistants. These assistants will be selected from amongst the most deserving students of the Hospital; and they will, by the wise liberality of the Governors, be boarded and have their quarters free.

SUPERSTITION. For some time past, says the *Worcester Herald*, there has been a fatal malady, which has taken off great numbers of children in Studley, Coughton, and the neighbourhood. At Coughton, the people have been so far gulled by impostors as to believe that all the children who partook of wine out of the chalice from the Roman Catholic chapel would be cured of the disease at once. Such has been the want of common sense among the Protestants as well as Catholics, that great numbers flocked to the priest, and it became so much a nuisance that it had to be removed to a private residence in the village, where they could have their fill.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

DEVONSHIRE. You seem to be labouring under a mistake. Neither the Licentiate and Fellows of the London or of the Edinburgh College of Physicians have any legal right to the title of M.D. If they do affix this appellation to their names, it is granted by courtesy and custom only.

FOREIGN DEGREES. A correspondent asks whether a person can style himself Dr. who is M.D. of Erlangen, but was never there, nor passed an examination?—No.

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.

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.

POSTAGE OF MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED MATTER.

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