

must cause the dullest wight to inquire whether all is true that he hears trumpeted forth by the Protean proprietors of Free Ear Infirmaries and such like institutions. "Dr." Watters and his coadjutor Edwards have been committed for trial before a superior court. We trust that they will there receive the reward they deserve; and that they will soon be joined by such other members of their fraternity, as still give this metropolis the benefit of their wisdom and experience.

The following papers, received lately by the Secretary of State for India, and published in the *London Gazette* of June 28th, do not, we think, require comment. Every member of the medical profession who reads them must derive the highest gratification from their perusal.

"No. 1. *General Order.*

"Fort William, March 29.

"No. 423.

"His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has much satisfaction in publishing the accompanying letter from the Right Hon. the Commander-in-Chief, in which Lord Clyde warmly recommends the Medical and Commissariat Departments to the notice of the Government of India.

"The Governor-General in Council desires to express to the Director-General, Dr. Forsyth; to the Inspector-General of Her Majesty's Hospitals, Dr. Linton, C.B.; to Colonel Ramsay, late Commissary-General; and to Lieutenant-Colonel Thomson, C.B., the present Commissary-General of the Bengal Army; and to all the officers of the Medical and Commissariat Departments who have been employed in the field, or who have elsewhere furthered the service by their exertions in providing for the welfare and the wants of the troops; the cordial acknowledgments of the Government of India for the important services they have rendered."

"No. 2. *The Commander-in-Chief in India to the Governor-General.*

"Lucknow, February 21.

"My Lord,—The military operations in the Presidency of Bengal which ensued on the great mutiny of 1857, having happily been now brought to a close, I have the greatest satisfaction in recommending warmly to your Excellency's protection two great departments of the military administration to which the troops, and the officers who have commanded them in their long campaigns, are under real and great obligations. I allude to the Medical and Commissariat Departments.

"The former, being composed of officers belonging to the two services, has shone equally in the matters of general organisation and of regimental arrangements. The Director-General, Dr. Forsyth, and the Inspector-General of Her Majesty's forces, Dr. Linton, C.B., in Calcutta, have worked successfully to meet the great requirements made on them; and the staff and regimental medical officers have well maintained the credit of their noble profession and the reputation for self-sacrifice which belongs to the surgeons of Her Majesty's armies—a reputation which is maintained in the field on all occasions, as well as in the most trying circumstances of the hospital.

"It has been remarked throughout the army that, from the time of the slender forces taking the field against Delhi, and from Allahabad, in the summer of 1857, the system of the Indian Commissariat has been found equal to the tasks imposed upon it, in spite of the extraordinary circumstances in which it was suddenly placed, and of the actual loss of the resources—viz., the great contractors and agents, with which it had been the custom to work.

"For this system the army is in great measure indebted to the late Commissary-General Colonel Ramsay, and his

successor, Colonel Thomson. The latter officer, being in personal charge, supplied the field force of Delhi under unexampled circumstances, when Sir A. Wilson stood before that city, almost cut off from the rest of India.

"The Commissary-General has been nobly supported by his subordinates; and I do but speak the truth when I affirm that no department has ever possessed a more efficient staff of officers than those forming the establishment of the Bengal Commissariat. I have, etc., CLYDE,

"General, Commander-in-Chief, East Indies."

## 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 Committee of Council will meet at one o'clock on Wednesday, at the Medical Institution, Mount Pleasant.

The General Council of the Association will meet at half-past two.

*Wednesday, 27th. 7 o'clock, P.M.* First General Meeting of the Association. The retiring President will make a few remarks. The new President will deliver an address. The Report of Council will be presented, and other business transacted.

*Thursday, 28th. Morning, 8.30.* Public Breakfast at the Adelphi Hotel.

10 o'clock. Meeting of the members of the new Council. At 11, the Address in Medicine will be delivered by Dr. E. WATERS of Chester. Cases and Papers will be read.

The meeting will adjourn at 1, and reassemble at 2. The Report of the Benevolent Fund will be received. Cases and Papers will be read.

*Evening.* There will be a *Soirée* at the Royal Institution, in Colquitt Street.

*Friday, 29th. 11 A.M.* The Address in Physiology will be delivered by A. T. H. WATERS, Esq., Liverpool. Papers and Cases will be read.

6 P.M. Dinner. Tickets a Guinea each.

Members are requested to enter, on arrival, their names and addresses in the Reception Room in the Medical Institution, Mount Pleasant, where all the meetings will take place, and where cards will be supplied which will secure admission to all the proceedings, and contain such information as may be useful to those who are strangers to the town.

Members who wish for previous information may communicate with A. T. H. WATERS, Esq., 27, Hope Street, Liverpool.

It is particularly requested that all Members who propose to read Papers will communicate with the General Secretary without delay. Arrangements will be made for the Sectional Reading of Papers, if a sufficient number be promised to render such a plan desirable.

Among the principal Hotels are:—the Adelphi, Ranelagh Place; the Waterloo, Ranelagh Street; the Angel, Dale Street; the Feathers, Clayton Square; the George, Dale Street; the Grecian, Dale Street; the Neptune, Clayton Square; the Queen's, Lime Street; the Royal, Moorfields; the Stork, Queen's Square; the Union, Parker Street; the Victoria, St. John's Lane; the Wellington, Dale Street.

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

Worcester, June 30th, 1859.

## BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
CAMBRIDGE AND HUNTINGDON. [Annual Meeting.]	George Hotel, Bishop Stortford.	Tuesday, July 5th, 2 P.M.
EAST ANGLIAN. [Annual Meeting.]	Royal Hotel, Lowestoft.	Friday, July 8th, 2 P.M.
READING. [Annual Meeting.]	Council Chamber, Reading.	Wed., July 13, 4 P.M.
BATH AND BRISTOL. [Annual Meeting.]	The Institution, Bristol.	Thurs., July 14th, 3 P.M.
METROP. COUNTIES. [Annual Meeting.]	32a, George Street, Hanover Square.	Tuesday, July 19th, 8 P.M.
NORTH WALES. [Annual Meeting.]	Royal Hotel, Rhyl.	Tues., July 19th, 1 P.M.

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

## Reports of Societies.

### ROYAL SOCIETY.

MAY 26TH, 1859.

ON THE MODE IN WHICH SONOROUS UNDULATIONS ARE CONDUCTED FROM THE MEMBRANA TYMPANI TO THE LABYRINTH IN THE HUMAN EAR. BY JOSEPH TOYNBEE, ESQ., F.R.S., F.R.C.S.

THE opinion usually entertained by physiologists is, that two channels are requisite for the transmission of sonorous undulations to the labyrinth from the membrana tympani; viz., the air in the tympanic cavity which transmits these undulations to the membrane of the fenestra rotunda and the cochlea; and, secondly, the chain of ossicles which conducts them to the vestibule. This opinion is, however, far from being universally received. Thus one writer on the Physiology of Hearing (Mr. Wharton Jones) has contended that "the integrity of one fenestra may suffice for the exercise of hearing" (*Cyclopædia of Surgery*, article "Diseases of the Ear," p. 23); another (Mr. Brooke) has expressed his conviction that "the transmission of sound cannot take place through the ossicula" (*Lancet*, 1843, p. 380); while Sir John Herschell, in speaking of the ossicles, says, "they are so far from being essential to hearing, that when the tympanum is destroyed, and the chain in consequence hangs loose, deafness does not follow" (*Encyclopædia Metropolitana*, article "Sound," p. 810).

The object of this paper was to decide by experiment how far the ossicles are requisite for the performance of the function of hearing. The subject was considered under two heads; viz.—1. Can sonorous undulations from the external meatus reach the labyrinth without having the ossicles for a medium? and 2. Does any peculiarity in the conformation of the chain of ossicles preclude the passage of sonorous undulations through it?

1. *Can Sonorous Undulations reach the Labyrinth from the External Meatus without the aid of the Ossicles as a Medium?* This question had often been answered in the affirmative, apparently because it had been ascertained that in cases where two bones of the chain had been removed by disease, the hearing power was but slightly diminished. But the absence of the stapes or even its fixed condition (ankylosis) was always followed by total or nearly total deafness; and the following experiments, which demonstrated the great facility with which sonorous undulations pass from the air to a solid body, indicated that the stapes, even when isolated from the other bones of the chain, might still be a medium for the transmission of sound to the vestibule.

EXPERIMENT I. Both ears having been closed, a piece of wood, five inches long and half an inch in diameter, was held between the teeth, and a vibrating tuning fork, C, having been brought within the eighth of an inch of its free extremity, its sound was distinctly heard, and continued to be heard for between five and six seconds.

EXPERIMENT II. One end of the piece of wood used in the previous experiment being pressed gently against the outer surface of the tragus, so as just to close the external meatus without compressing the air contained within it, a vibrating

tuning fork, C, placed within a quarter of an inch from its free extremity, was heard very distinctly at first, and it did not cease to be heard for fifteen seconds.

EXPERIMENT III. Three portions of wood, of the same length and thickness as that used in the previous experiments, were glued together so as to form a triangle, somewhat of the shape of the stapes. The base of this triangle being placed against the outer surface of the tragus, as in the previous experiment, the tuning fork, C, vibrating within a quarter of an inch from its apex, was heard for twelve seconds.

Considering, as shown by the above experiments, the great facility with which sonorous undulations pass from the air to a solid body, it might, Mr. Toynbee thought, be assumed that the undulations on the tympanic cavity might be conveyed to the stapes, even when this bone was isolated from the rest of the chain, and conducted by it to the vestibule; and when it was also considered that the absence of the ossicles on the fixed condition of the stapes is productive of deafness, there was strong evidence in favour of the opinion that sounds from the external meatus cannot reach the labyrinth without the medium of the ossicles.

2. *Is there any peculiarity in the construction of this chain of ossicles to prevent the passage of sonorous vibrations through it?* This question had also been answered in the affirmative, on account of the various planes existing in this chain, and of the joints between the several bones composing it. (Mr. Brooke, *loc. cit.*) The following experiments indicated that neither the variety of planes, nor the several joints in the chain, will prevent the passage of sonorous vibrations through it.

#### A.—Experiments respecting the Influence of the variety of Planes in the Chain.

EXPERIMENT I. Three pieces of wood, each five inches in length and half an inch in thickness, were glued together so as to represent the planes in which the malleus, incus, and stapes are arranged, while three similar portions were glued end to end so as to form a straight rod. A watch was placed in contact with one end of the straight rod, while the other was pressed gently against the tragus, so as to shut the external meatus. The result was that the watch was heard nearly as distinctly as when in contact with the ear. When a similar experiment was performed with the angular portion of wood representing the chain of bones, the watch was also heard; but less distinctly than through the straight portion.

EXPERIMENT II. A vibrating tuning fork, C, was placed in contact with one extremity of the angular piece of wood, the other end being placed against the tragus of the ear. As soon as the sound ceased to be heard, the straight portion was substituted, when the tuning fork was again heard, and continued to be heard for about three seconds.

EXPERIMENT III. A vibrating tuning fork, C, was placed at one extremity of the angular piece of wood, the other extremity being held between the teeth. The fork was at first heard very distinctly, and when its sound ceased to be heard the straight piece was substituted, and it was again heard for the space of two seconds.

EXPERIMENT IV. Instead of the horizontal portion of wood, representing the stapes, three portions of the same size were made into a triangle, and this was glued to the anterior extremity of the piece, representing the incus. The previous experiment was then repeated, with the substitution of this apparatus for the angular one, and with nearly the same result; viz., the fork was heard through the straight piece about three seconds after it had ceased to be heard by the apparatus representing the chain of bones.

#### B.—Experiments Illustrative of the Influence of the Articulation in the Chain of Ossicles.

EXPERIMENT I. Three pieces of wood, each about five inches long and half an inch in thickness, were separated from each other by pieces of India rubber as thick as ordinary writing paper. They were then fastened together so as to assume the angular form possessed by the chain of ossicles. The tuning fork, C, being placed at the free extremity of the chain, the other extremity being held between the teeth, it was found that the sound was heard as distinctly, and for as long a time as when it passed through the chain formed of three portions of wood glued together.

EXPERIMENT II. When eight layers of the India rubber were placed between each piece of wood, the intensity of the sound was still nearly the same as when it passed through the portions of wood glued together.

The inference from the two series of experiments was that neither the variation of the plane existing in the chain of os-

sicles, nor the presence of the articulations, is sufficient to prevent the progress of sonorous undulations through the chain to the vestibule. The experiments, dissections, and observations, detailed in the paper, led to the following conclusions:—

1. The commonly received opinion in favour of the sonorous undulations passing to the vestibule through the chain of ossicles is correct.

2. The stapes, when disconnected from the incus, can still conduct sonorous undulations to the vestibule from the air.

3. So far as our present experience extends, it appears that in the human ear sound always travels to the labyrinth through two media: viz., the air in the tympanic cavity to the cochlea, and through one or more of the ossicles to the vestibule.

#### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MONDAY, JUNE 6TH, 1859.

B. G. BABINGTON, M.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

PRACTICAL REMARKS ON CHOLERA MORBUS: ITS ORIGIN, NATURE, AND TREATMENT: WITH CASES. BY A. CAMERON, ESQ., SURGEON FIRST BATTALION ARTILLERY, H.M. INDIAN FORCES.

[Read by Dr. McWILLIAM.]

THE author, after adverting to the multiplicity of views entertained by the profession with reference to the causes, nature, and treatment of cholera, advanced the opinion that this disease was caused by a poison existing in the atmosphere; and that it was not contagious, but that it required a certain condition of the system to be influenced by the poison. He considered that the great source of error, in theorising upon the nature of cholera, was mistaking the effect for the cause of the disorder. Vomiting and purging were present, and caused by cholera, it was true; but they were not cholera itself, any more than were the peculiar state of the blood and the cramps which characterised this disease. Cholera was considered by Mr. CAMERON a disease in which the nervous system alone was engaged, the cholera poison acting on it so as to produce spasm and the other symptoms of cholera. In support of this view, he said that *post mortem* investigations had revealed no morbid appearances of the viscera; and that it was only by microscopic examination that the phenomenon of the minute vessels of the intestines being open-mouthed, from having lost their contractile power, had been discovered, accounting for the absence of serum in the blood, and the peculiar appearance observed in the choleraic motions. If it were admitted that the nervous system was really the seat of the disease, one great step had been taken in the inquiry, which would lead to a rational method of treatment. The tremendous shock which the nervous system had sustained was to be met and combated, and its effects remedied; and vitality, which was at its lowest ebb, restored. Mr. Cameron considered that chloroform by inhalation was capable of effecting these ends. He also recommended the internal administration of chloroform with camphor mixture and ammonia; but his chief reliance was on chloroform by inhalation.

A discussion followed the reading of this paper, in which Dr. Babington, Dr. Murchison, Dr. Greenhow, Dr. Camps, and Dr. McWilliam, took part.

### Editor's Letter Box.

#### NORWICH UNION LIFE OFFICE AND MEDICAL FEES.

LETTER FROM W. H. RANKING, M.D.

SIR,—I have, as one of the directors of the Norwich Union Life Office, much pleasure in announcing the following resolution of the Board, with reference to the payment of medical fees:—

“At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Norwich Union Life Office, held on the 23rd inst., it was unanimously resolved—That all medical fees required, be from this time paid by the office.” I am, etc.

W. H. RANKING, M.D.

Norwich, June 21th, 1859.

#### THE READING OF PAPERS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

LETTER FROM EDWARD SMITH, M.D.

SIR,—Can you give us any information as to the arrangements which are made for the convenient reading of papers at the approaching annual meeting at Liverpool? The associates are again invited to prepare papers; and you know that every year loud complaints are made as to the uncertainty when each paper will be read. No doubt the associates care less for the reading of papers than for the opportunity of seeing friends and becoming acquainted with the locality; and the more so, that they think they shall have the opportunity of reading them quietly in the pages of the JOURNAL. But it certainly is due to all parties, either that papers should not be invited, or that, when prepared, they should be read at a known time, and to an audience of more than half a dozen members. There is a grievance; and where there is an evil, there should be a remedy. I would commend the subject to the careful consideration of the Council, with a view to the abolition of the present plan of reading papers, or to the rigid appointment of fixed periods for each address and paper. If original matter is desirable in papers, time must be expended in obtaining it; and some courtesy is due to those who give it.

I am, etc., EDWARD SMITH.

6, Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square, W.

#### RESULTS OF OVARIOTOMY.

SIR,—Mr. Baker Brown publishes in the JOURNAL five cases of ovariectomy. Three of these cases ended in death. In his book he published seven other cases. Five of these cases were fatal. Am I to understand that Mr. Brown's practice in ovariectomy shews eight deaths out of twelve cases? Or will he favour us with his actual experience.

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

London, June 25th, 1859.

### Medical News.

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

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

##### BIRTHS.

BLACKMAN. On June 26th, at 129, High Street, Whitechapel, the wife of Charles T. Blackman, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.  
HARDING. On June 26th, at Stourbridge, the wife of \*Thomas Massey Harding, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.  
KIRBY. On June 22nd, at 1, Taviton Street, Gordon Square, the wife of E. A. Kirby, M.D., of a son.  
LEGGE. On June 28th, the wife of \*William Legge, Esq., Surgeon, Wiveliscombe, of a daughter.  
MOFFAT. At King's Kettle, Fifeshire, the wife of \*Robert Moffat, M.D., of a daughter, lately.  
OLIVER. On June 24th, at Harleyford Place, Kensington Park, the wife of J. R. Oliver, M.D., of a daughter.

##### MARRIAGES.

AXFORD—MITCHELL. Axford, John B., Esq., of King Street, Finsbury Square, to Mary, daughter of the late Thomas Mitchell, Esq., Surgeon, of Whitehaven, at Islington, on June 23rd.  
BEAZELEY—MARTIN. Beazeley, Michael, Esq., son of Commander Beazeley, R.N., to Janet, third daughter of \*Adam Martin, M.D., of Rochester, on June 23rd.  
BRATTON—ALLEN. \*Bratton, James, Esq., Surgeon, of Shrewsbury, to Mary, younger daughter of John Allen, Esq., of Herne Hill, Surrey, on June 28th.  
BURRELL—TOWNE. Burrell, Joseph, Esq., of 48, Old 'Change, London, to Lucy, only daughter of the late Leonard Towne, M.D., of New York, at Mansfield, on June 27th.  
CAYZER—ROLLS. \*Cayzer, Thos., Esq., Surgeon, of Aigburth, near Liverpool, to Alice Ann, youngest daughter of the late Samuel P. Rolls, Esq., at Hornsey, on June 23rd.

- CHANDLER—KIRK.** Chandler, A. H., M.D., of Dorchester, New Brunswick, to Elspeth R., daughter of James Kirk, Esq., Regent's Park, London, at St. Pancras Church, on June 25th.
- ELMSLIE—TATHAM.** Elmslie, James Aberdour, Esq., to Mary Ann, second surviving daughter of Christopher Tatham, Esq., Surgeon, Poplar, on June 28th.
- GOLDIE—KENRICK.** Goldie, the Rev. George, B.A., to Julia, eldest daughter of \*George C. Kenrick, Esq., Surgeon, of Melksham, Wilts, on June 22nd.
- HILLIARD—SAUNDERS.** Hilliard, George B., Esq., eldest son of \*G. R. Hilliard, L.R.C.P., of Chelmsford, to Fanny Isabella, eldest daughter of Edward Saunders, Esq., of Brunswick Square, and Whitelands, Kent, at St. Pancras Church, on June 25th.
- MARSHALL—BACKHOUSE.** Marshall, John, Esq., Surgeon, to Sarah, younger daughter of Benjamin Backhouse, Esq., of Ipswich, at Lewisham, on June 21st.
- PACOTTA—WOODFORDE.** Pacotta, Monsieur, of Paris, to Helen Maria, youngest daughter of the late James Woodforde, M.D., of the Honourable East India Company's Service, at Paris, on June 23rd.
- RAYNER—FRANKS.** Rayner, T., M.D., of Great Malvern, to Mary Sophia, youngest daughter of the late George A. Franks, Esq., of Chester, at Charlbury, Oxon, on June 16th.
- WALLACE—WHISTLER.** Wallace, Alexander, M.A., B.M.Oxon., of Clerkenwell, to Anne, eldest daughter of Edward Webster Whistler, Esq., of Bembridge, Isle of Wight, of June 21st.
- WOLSTENHOLME—WILLIAMS.** Wolstenholme, John H., Esq., Surgeon, to Lucy, second daughter of the late \*Peter Williams, M.D., of Holywell, Flintshire, on June 23rd.

## DEATHS.

- BODINGTON.** On May 12th, at Bura Ghat, on the river Ner-buddah, in India, aged 29, Richard Bodington, Esq., Assistant-Engineer in the Great Indian Peninsular Railway Company's Service, second son of \*George Bodington, Esq., Surgeon, of Sutton Coldfield.
- \***EDWARDES,** George, Esq., Surgeon, at Wolverhampton, of diphtheria, aged 51, on May 29th.
- \***GRIFFITH,** Samuel, M.D., Physician-Accoucheur to St. Thomas's Hospital, at Torquay, on June 23rd.
- WHITE.** On June 21st, at Storey's Gate, Westminster, aged 9, Peter Llewelyn, fourth son of John White, Esq., Surgeon.

## APPOINTMENTS.

- \***BOND,** Francis T., M.B., elected Physician to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham
- \***GIBSON,** W. L., M.D., elected Attending Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Dundee.
- GREGG,** David, M.D., elected Attending Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Dundee.
- WALLER,** Augustus, M.D., F.R.S., elected Physician to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.

## PASS LISTS.

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.** At the Comitia Majora, held on Saturday, June 25th, the following gentlemen, having undergone the usual examination, were admitted Licentiates of the College:—

**DYSTER,** Frederick Daniel, M.D., Tenby  
**HARVEY,** Edward Robinson, M.D., Clarges Street  
**INGRAM,** Charles Penfold, M.D., Guildford Street

Also, at the same Comitia, the following gentlemen were admitted Licentiates under the recently enacted temporary bye-laws:—

**ELLIOT,** Robert, M.D., Carlisle  
**WALL,** Cavendish Lister, M.D., Kensington

[The election of New Fellows which was to have taken place was adjourned to Saturday, October 22nd.]

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.** MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, June 24th, 1859:—

**BARTON,** Henry Thomas, Newcastle-on-Tyne  
**BYLES,** James Cotton, Victoria Park Road, Hackney  
**DAVIES,** Edward, Llansilin, Denbighshire  
**DEAN,** Thomas, Slaithwaite, Yorkshire  
**GOODE,** Henry, Derby  
**HADLOW,** Henry, George Street, Minories

**HARRIS,** Herbert Roby, Swan River, Australia  
**RICKEY,** Joseph, Clones, co. Monaghan  
**SCARD,** Thomas, Army

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING  
JUNE 25TH, 1859.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE total deaths in London, which had fallen to 913 in the previous week, rose to 970 in the week ending last Saturday. In the ten years, 1849-58, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week, was a thousand; but as the deaths that are returned for last week occurred in a population that has increased, they can only be compared with the average raised in proportion to that increase, namely, with 1,100. The comparison shows that the deaths of last week were less by 130 than the number which would have occurred if the average rate of mortality for the third week of June had prevailed.

The returns of mortality in former years have shown that the season now passing is, for London, the healthiest in the circle of the months; but there is already indication that the complaint peculiar to summer, and which is so fatal to children, has begun to prevail. Diarrhœa was fatal in two previous weeks in six and twenty cases respectively; last week the number rose to thirty-four, of which all except five occurred to children. Besides these, a child died at 8, Bird Street, Marylebone, from "choleraic diarrhœa." Twenty-three deaths occurred last week from small-pox, three of which, on the 18th and 19th inst., were in one family, at 3, Charles Court, Southwark. Another death from the same disease occurred a short time previously in the same family. Scarletina was fatal in thirty-nine cases, diphtheria in twelve. Five children and two adults died from syphilis; nine infants from inanition and want of breast milk; also seventeen who had been born prematurely. Five persons were registered who had attained the age of ninety years or upwards, one of whom was a woman, 98 years old; and there was also a centenarian, the widow of a labourer, who died on the 20th instant, at 1, Whitehind Alley, Southwark, and whose age is stated to have been 105 years.

Last week the births of 936 boys, and 829 girls, in all 1,765 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1849-58, the average number was 1555.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.840 in. The barometer rose from 29.67 in. on Tuesday, to 29.97 in. on Friday, being the lowest and highest readings in the week. The mean temperature of the week was 60°, which is just equal to the average of the same week in forty-three years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The *highest* and *lowest* readings of the thermometer in the shade were obtained on the same day, viz., Saturday, and were respectively 78.8° and 43.5°. The extreme range of temperature of that day, and also of the week, was therefore 35.3°. The mean daily range was 20.8°. The difference between the mean dew-point temperature and air temperature was 9.3°. The mean degree of humidity of the air was 72; the humidity on Thursday was only 60. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 64.8°. The wind blew most frequently from the south-west. The rain measured was 0.16 in., which fell on Monday.

**MEDICAL AUTOGRAPHS.** At the sale of the manuscript library of the late Dawson Turner, Esq., many of which lots were purchased for the British Museum, there were some very interesting medical autographs. Lot 657 was the *Album* of Philip de Montigny de Glarges, containing the extremely rare autograph of William Harvey, the discoverer of the circulation of the blood. This *Album* was purchased by Mr. Turner for £17, from the Van Sypestein Collection, and now fetched £20. The literary and scientific correspondence, in eight volumes, of Henry Baker, author of the *Microscope made Easy*, realised £10. A Medical Treatise, entitled *Purgantia*, by HESMAN Boerhaave, fetched only 6s. Dr. Cheyne's letters to Richardson fetched £1:7. All the medical autographs were sold at low sums, considering their great interest. The five days sale of this extraordinary collection realised the large sum of £6558:8, through the energy of Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, to whom all autograph collectors are much indebted for the most elaborately compiled and descriptive catalogue we have ever seen. The same firm is about to dispose of the interesting library, etc., of the late George James Squibb, Esq., F.R.C.S., the owner of one of the finest collections of medical portraits in the kingdom.

## ACTION AGAINST THE PROPRIETOR OF A PRIVATE ASYLUM.

RUCK VERSUS STILWELL.

IN August, 1858, a Commission of Lunacy was held for the purpose of ascertaining the state of mind of Lawrence Ruck, Esq., of Sittingbourne, in Kent, and Montgomeryshire. An account of the inquiry was given in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* for September 4th, 1858, to which we refer our readers for the particulars of the case. It will be sufficient to state here that the principal question was, whether the aberration of mind which Mr. Ruck had exhibited was of a permanent or a temporary nature. The jury, at the conclusion of the inquiry, returned a verdict in favour of Mr. Ruck's sanity.

Lately, an action has been brought, in the Queen's Bench, by Mr. Ruck, against Dr. Stilwell, the proprietor of the Asylum in which he had been lodged, and Dr. Conolly. The case was tried in the *Nisi Prius* Court, before Mr. JUSTICE HILL, on June 21st, 22nd, and 23rd.

Mr. Edwin James, Q.C., Mr. Serjeant Petersdorff, and Mr. Gordon Allan, appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. M. Chambers, Q.C., Mr. Serjeant Ballantine, and Mr. Honyman, for the defendants. The first count was for assaulting and imprisoning the plaintiff in a house, called Moorcroft House, in the parish of Hillingdon, and detaining him there, among lunatics and persons of unsound mind, for a period of ten months. The second count alleged that the defendants were the keepers of a house licensed for the reception of lunatics, and received the plaintiff upon an order, signed by one Mary Ann Ruck, as a private patient, and with two medical certificates; that while the defendants had such charge of this plaintiff he recovered; which the defendants well knew, and it was thereupon their duty to transmit notice of such recovery to the said Mary Ann Ruck; but that they neglected to do so, and they also wilfully neglected to transmit notice of his recovery to the Commissioners of Lunacy; but, under colour and pretence of the said order and certificates, kept the plaintiff in custody for ten months, etc. To these two counts the defendants pleaded several pleas, denying all the material allegations.

Mr. EDWIN JAMES said this was an action of trespass, brought by the plaintiff, Mr. Lawrence Ruck, against Dr. Stilwell, the proprietor of a private asylum for the reception of lunatics, at Moorcroft House, in the county of Middlesex. The plaintiff had been confined in the defendant's house from November 5th, 1857, down to August 27th, 1858, when he was discharged; and the questions would be as to the legal right of the defendant to detain him, and the validity of the medical certificates. The jury would find that the plaintiff was of sound mind, and that there was no justification for confining him, either in law or morality. The plaintiff, in August 1857, went down to Manchester, with his wife, to see the Exhibition, and there met a Mr. Barnett, who was one of the gentlemen who signed the medical certificate. After staying at Manchester some little time, he went to Wales, and there continued till the month of October. In consequence of some domestic circumstances, the plaintiff then gave way to great intoxication, and his mind became affected. He then went to Welchpool, and met with Mr. Barnett, and though it was well known to everybody that the plaintiff was not in a state of insanity, Mr. Barnett took him to Reading, where his wife was. There had been domestic differences; but he (Mr. James) made no charge against Mrs. Ruck, who had acted on the advice of Barnett and his attorney. There was no pretence whatever for charging the plaintiff with insanity; and yet, even after a jury had found that he was of sound mind, the defendant made an entry in his book to the effect that in his, the defendant's judgment, the plaintiff was still "a dangerous lunatic." His wife had slept with him at Reading the night previous to the day when Mr. Barnett and Dr. Conolly signed the medical certificates. The learned counsel referred to the sums which was sometimes paid to the keepers of private lunatic asylums—£300, £400, £500, a year, and, in one instance, as much as £2,000 a year. This was a great temptation, and therefore the legislature had interfered for the protection of the public by passing several enactments, one of which was the 16 and 17 Victoria, cap. 96. The fourth section of that statute enacted that no person should be received as a lunatic into any licensed house without an order, signed as di-

rected; nor without two certificates, signed by two persons, each of whom should be a physician, surgeon, or apothecary, who had respectively examined the person to whom the certificate related; and, by the 36th section, the physician, surgeon, or apothecary, must be one who was in actual practice. It would be shown that Barnett had not been in practice for years, and that both Dr. Conolly and the defendant (Dr. Stilwell) knew that fact. His certificate, therefore, had no legal weight at all; and the defendant (Dr. Stilwell), in receiving a patient on such a certificate, was guilty of a misdemeanour. The other certificate was signed by a gentleman, for whom he (Mr. James) personally, had great respect, and in whom the public had great confidence; but he was astonished to find, that with the knowledge of the Act of Parliament, Dr. Conolly should have put his hand to a certificate which confined the plaintiff in a lunatic asylum for ten months. The twelfth section of the statute enacted that "no physician, surgeon, or apothecary who, or whose father, brother, son, partner, or assistant, is wholly or partly the proprietor of, or a regular professional attendant in, a licensed house or hospital, shall sign a certificate for the reception of a patient into such house or hospital," etc. Notwithstanding that enactment, he (Mr. James) regretted to say, Dr. Conolly, who had signed one of these certificates, was actually a partner in the defendant's establishment. Dr. Conolly received fifteen per cent. of the profits of the establishment, and he had actually received his percentage of the profit of the detention of the plaintiff. The learned counsel here read an extract from the defendant's book, from which it appeared that in March 1858, Dr. Conolly had received a sum of £15 in respect of Mr. Ruck (the plaintiff). Dr. Conolly was to receive £60 a year out of Mr. Ruck's payments. He was the medical attendant at the asylum, and received as his salary fifteen per cent. on the payments of all confined in the asylum. Mr. James trusted the jury would express their opinion by vindicating the plaintiff for the imprisonment which he had suffered during ten months. The plaintiff ought to have been discharged within a few days of his admission; but, in consequence of his detention, he had been put to an expense of £1,100 in procuring his release.

The plaintiff, Mr. Ruck, was examined and cross-examined at considerable length: after which three ex-keepers of Dr. Stilwell's establishment deposed as to the absence of symptoms of insanity on the part of Mr. Ruck while he was in the asylum. They stated also that the asylum was visited from time to time by Dr. Conolly, and by Dr. James Stilwell, of Uxbridge, an uncle of the defendant.

The medical certificates, and order for the admission of Mr. Ruck into Moorcroft Asylum were put in and read.

Dr. Conolly's certificate, dated the 3rd of November, 1857, stated that he had examined the plaintiff, Lawrence Ruck, at Reading on that day, "separately from any other medical practitioner," and that he was a "person of unsound mind," etc., and he formed that opinion on the following grounds:—

"1. *Facts indicating insanity observed by myself.* A disposition to talk openly of his having had ocular proof of the infidelity of his wife, and speaking of it as if it would not interfere with their future comfort; and an exaggerated manner of talking of the value of quarries on his estate.

"2. *Other facts (if any) indicating insanity communicated to me by others.* An uncontrollable disposition at intervals to intemperance, acts of extravagance and fits of depression, in which he has spoken of suicide. He has also the habit of carrying firearms with him. (Communicated by one of his friends, Mr. Barnett, of Reading, and by Mrs. Ruck.)

"J. CONOLLY, M.D., Hanwell."

Mr. Barnett's certificate, dated the 5th of November, 1857, stated that, "being in actual practice as a surgeon and general practitioner," he, "separately from any other medical practitioner," had examined Mr. Ruck, and that he was a "person of unsound mind," etc., and that he formed that opinion on the following grounds:—

"1. *Facts indicating insanity observed by myself.* Charges of cruelty against others, which are false: restlessness, and a determination to wander forth, with complete infirmity of purpose; indulging in intemperance, and a profligate expenditure of money; taxing his wife with infidelity; inconsistent in alluding both to his agricultural operations and to the value of the land, from a supposition of immeasurable amounts of mines, lead, copper, and slate, contained therein.

"2. *Other facts (if any) indicating insanity communicated to me by others.* Going about with loaded pistols; threatening those who have always been in close bonds of friendship with him; building walls one day, and altering them the next; in

all his actions presenting the converse of his former self; excess of intemperance, or total abstinence; embarking money injudiciously or recklessly in speculations. (Mrs. Ruck.)

"11, Victoria Square, Reading. RICHARD BARNETT, M.R.C.S." The order for the plaintiff's reception, by Dr. Stilwell, at Moorcroft House, signed by Mrs. Ruck, was read.

Mr. JAMES called for extracts from one of Dr. Stilwell's books, headed "Dr. Conolly." They were produced and read, thus:—

"Mem. for Dr. Conolly, for  
Quarter ending the 30th of March, 1858.  
February 5th, Ruck - - - £15 0 0  
Mem. for Dr. Conolly, for  
Quarter ending June 1858.  
May 5th, 1858, Ruck - - - Qy. £15 0 0"

Mr. JAMES put in the entry made by Dr. Stilwell in his book after the close of the inquisition, as follows:—

"August 27. Mr. Ruck was discharged by the decision of the jury on his case, the full particulars of which are fully given in the morning papers. All that is necessary for me to state is, that I still adhere to my opinion that he is a most dangerous lunatic. "G. J. S."

Dr. GEORGE JOHNSON examined Ruck on the 11th and 12th of August, 1858. The symptoms of his disease were those of *delirium tremens* arising from intemperance. He did not consider that a person in such a state required detention. The safety of letting a man out of an asylum depends on the nature of his delusions. There are in our pauper asylums many who suffer from *delirium tremens*. That sometimes passes into insanity. The delusion as to the fidelity of one's wife is attended with risk.

Mr. SKEY examined Mr. Ruck on the 12th of August, and he appeared to be in a sound state of mind. The delusions which arise from *delirium tremens* generally pass off. Such cases are cases for detention, but not for detention in lunatic asylums. Such cases require watching; but he decidedly objected to such cases being sent to a lunatic asylum, unless there was a part of the asylum devoted to such cases. He saw nothing in Mr. Ruck to show that he was insane or dangerous. Some patients were better under individual observation, and kept alone; and some were better when placed in an establishment, such as a lunatic asylum. If a person had *delirium tremens*, he would place him under the eye or charge of a medical man, but also under a keeper. There was danger of violence in the early stages of *delirium tremens*. Delusions arising from *delirium tremens* soon vanish and pass away. In thirty years experience, he could not recollect any case of *delirium tremens* going out of the hospital to a lunatic asylum.

Mr. J. GAY gave similar evidence to the previous witnesses.

Mr. E. CANTON examined Mr. Ruck in August last, and believed him to be in a state of sound mental health. He attributed the delusions which he had when he entered the asylum to *delirium tremens*. It was not proper treatment to put such a person in a lunatic asylum.

Mr. CHAMBERS submitted that the order and certificates which had been put in established a defence to the first count, under the 99th section of the 8th and 9th Victoria, cap. 106, which enacted that any keeper of a licensed house receiving a patient under a "proper order" should be authorised to detain him until he died, or was removed or discharged by due authority. The order was sufficient, if it was good on the face of it, and accompanied with proper certificates. The second count was framed on the 19th section of the 16th and 17th of Victoria, cap. 93, which enacted that, when the patient recovered, the keeper of the asylum was bound to give notice to the person who signed the order for the admission. That was disproved by the evidence, for it appeared the defendant was always of opinion that the plaintiff was a dangerous lunatic.

After the counsel on both sides had addressed the jury, Mr. Justice HILL summed up the evidence. The questions left for the decision of the jury were, whether Dr. Conolly was partly the proprietor of, or a regular professional attendant in, Moorcroft House; whether Dr. Conolly examined the plaintiff separately and apart from Mr. Barnett; whether Mr. Barnett was in actual practice as a surgeon; whether the jury could rely on the plaintiff's evidence in contradiction of the certificates, which stated that the parties had examined him "separately from any other medical practitioner"; and whether Dr. Stilwell kept the plaintiff *bonâ fide*, or whether he kept him there for his own gain.

The jury retired to consider their verdict; and, on the return into court, found that, if receiving the money as shown in the

book made Dr. Conolly a part proprietor, they found the fact of receiving the money. They found that Dr. Conolly was the regular professional attendant. As to Barnett's not being in practice, the jury found they had not sufficient evidence that he was not; nor had they sufficient evidence to satisfy them that the plaintiff had not been examined separately by Mr. Barnett and Dr. Conolly.

Mr. Justice HILL then directed the jury to find their verdict for the plaintiff, with £500 damages, which was done accordingly.

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS: HARVEIAN ORATION.

THE annual oration in memory of the immortal Harvey was delivered at the Royal College of Physicians on Wednesday, June 29th, by Dr. Aldis, one of the Fellows of the College, and Medical Officer of Health for St. George's, Hanover Square. The chair was occupied by Dr. Mayo, President of the College, supported by the officers, numerous Fellows of the College, and many literary and scientific gentlemen.

The orator commenced by adverting to the honour due to those medical men who by their learning, counsel, and experience, had contributed so many and great things to the improvement of their profession. The art of healing might be considered as a legacy left to us by former ages, and enriched by ancient writers, and, no doubt, ordained by a benevolent Creator for the benefit of His creatures, who, being endowed with reason, were enabled to prosecute medicine and the collateral sciences with wonderful sagacity. The following topics were then eloquently alluded to in the course of the oration:—The origin of medicine, the impossibility of learning it properly by experience alone, and the necessity of studying both ancient and modern writers. But, in the words of Harvey, "men were not to swear such fealty to their mistress Antiquity, as openly, and in sight of all, to deny and desert their friend Truth". Medical history, unfortunately, afforded many examples of despisers of the mighty dead, and of eminent living authorities. Paracelsus burnt the writings of Galen and Avicenna before his pupils, and proclaimed himself the king of medicine. Hahnemann much resembled Paracelsus; for he despised the inspection of dead bodies, and preferred the homœopathic doctrine to pathology; but both had dared to do "aliquid Gyaris vel carcere dignum". Hahnemann's doctrine, that numerous chronic diseases originated in the itch, was neither new, safe, nor true. Dr. C. G. Zieger had many years before promulgated the same idea in a dissertation published at Leipzig in 1758, without boasting, as the other did, that he was engaged twelve years in the discovery. False theories, however, with scientific pretensions, had flourished through many ages. Hence arose homœopathy, kinesipathy, table-turning, and various despicable "isms" of the present day. But, happily for the poor, at least, such lies could not exist in the schools of Harvey, Baillie, and Hunter.

The low condition of medicine at the time of Linacre, and its improvement with the aid of Henry VIII and Cardinal Wolsey, were then mentioned. Linacre, the founder of the College, and Dean Colet, the founder of St. Paul's School, of grateful memory to the orator, were among the first to restore ancient learning to this island. The College of Physicians having been established, its members were separated from vulgar empirics; but by a new law homœo-empirics may be registered, which was nothing less than legal homicide, and strongly to be protested against. Notwithstanding this error, it was hoped that, under a Medical Council, the profession might arrive at that state of society which it eminently deserved. The advantages to society, social and otherwise, arising from medical science, were not to be disputed, but its rewards were few; nevertheless, its followers "went about doing good".

The election of Dr. Watson, as representative of the College in the new Medical Council, and the labours of Dr. Francis Hawkins, as registrar, were noticed. The remarks upon Harvey's grand discovery of the circulation of the blood appropriately introduced the consideration of those epidemic diseases which contaminate the vital fluid and destroy numbers of the population. Hence the vast importance of sanitary science, not as a specialty, but as a component part of medicine. This subject having been prominently brought forward, it was thought that the exertions of the Earl of Shaftesbury in improving the dwellings of the poor, and of the Earl of Carlisle in obtaining the enactment of the Nuisances' Removal and

Diseases' Prevention Acts, deserved the highest praise, as well as those of Drs. Southwood Smith and Arnott, who were the pioneers of preventive medicine. Honour had also been conferred upon the college by Dr. Robert Lee's discoveries of certain cardiac nerves. A well merited and feeling eulogium was then passed upon the late Drs. Bright, Hughes, and John Scott, with a notice of their lives and writings. Reference was made to the attention bestowed by the fellows on the formation of a new charter, by which it was intended to embrace within the college those physicians who had been too long dispersed and disunited. The college was now to be congratulated upon its increasing numbers and extending usefulness.

A statue had been erected to the honour of Jenner under the auspices of the Prince Consort; and if he deserved this tribute, surely Harvey, the fountain and origin of modern medical science, merited similar reverence. The remains of Harvey are now lying in a neglected state; but an inquiry had been commenced by the College with the view of removing such a scandal. The statue formerly placed by the Fellows of the College had unhappily perished by fire and had never been replaced. The orator concluded by expressing a strong wish that a grateful country would either erect another statue, or at least found a scholarship, in honour of the learning and genius of Harvey.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. Messrs. John Hilton, New Broad Street, City; James Luke, of Broad Street Buildings, City; and Frederick Carpenter Skey, Grosvenor Street, who are the three Fellows of the College, Members of the Council, going out of office by rotation, in accordance with the terms of the charter, have given notice to the secretary that they are candidates for re-election, as Members of the Council, at the annual election, which has been fixed for July 7th.

PRISON DISCIPLINE IN AMERICA. An ancient mode of punishment for the refractory has been revived at the Sing Sing Prison, consisting of a box about three feet square, and as high as the tallest man. The convict enters by a door and puts his head through a hole in the top, after which a sliding collar of wood is fastened around his neck and keeps him in his place. A false bottom in the box is raised or lowered, by means of a pulley, so that it may be adapted to the height of the man to be punished. This bottom is raised so that the convict's legs are bent as if about the knees. He cannot straighten up, nor can he kneel down without suspending himself by the neck,—he must bear his weight by his muscles alone, for his knees can touch nothing to sustain them in position. It is impossible to believe that anybody could endure this torture for more than a few minutes without great risk of life. Last week a tall stalwart negro was taken out of it, with animation so far suspended that resuscitation was for a long time doubtful. (*New York Police Gazette.*)

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