

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday, August 4th, 1859.

THE MEDICAL ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

On the motion for committing this Bill—

Mr. COWPER moved, as an amendment, that the Bill be committed that day three months.

Mr. WHITESIDE resisted the amendment, which he contended would be an act of injustice to the University of Dublin.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL FOR IRELAND concurred in the opinion expressed by Mr. Whiteside; and added that the Bill was simply intended to remedy a clerical error in the Medical Act of last year.

Mr. DUNLOP denied that there was any clerical in the Medical Act, which was passed in its present shape intentionally.

After some discussion, the amendment was negatived without a division, and the House went into Committee.

On Clause 1 being proposed—

Mr. C. EWING moved that the Chairman should report progress.

The Committee divided, and the numbers were :

Ayes	-	-	-	-	-	19
Noes	-	-	-	-	-	97

Majority against the motion - - - - - 78

The clause was ordered to stand part of the Bill. Clause 2 was omitted. The other clauses were then agreed to, and the Bill reported to the House.

THE SERPENTINE.

On the vote of £17,000 for cleansing the Serpentine river, Hyde Park,

Mr. FITZROY said, he had obtained the assistance of Mr. Hawksley, an engineer of established reputation, who had submitted to him a plan which had been approved by Sir S. M. Peto, and Mr. Stephenson, as safe, practical, and economical. Mr. Hawksley said,—

“I propose to establish at the head of the Serpentine, in such manner as to be no detriment to its beauty, a proper filtering apparatus, similar in most particulars to those used by waterworks companies, and to draw from the lower end of the lake, by means of a small concealed steam-engine and pipe, about 2,000,000 gallons of water daily, which quantity of water, after passing through the filter-bed, would fall in a perfectly pellucid cascade into the lake at its head. By these means the whole volume of the water of the Serpentine would be passed through the apparatus once in every month, and be thereby rendered not merely perfectly free from all floating matter, but also perfectly clear and colourless. If small quantities of quick lime were also occasionally scattered along the shallow margins of the lake to destroy the conferva adhering to the pebbles of the beach, all grounds of just complaint against the condition of the water would be effectually removed.”

It was computed, on a liberal estimate, that the expense of this plan would not exceed £16,500, for which amount it was believed that the proposed works could be successfully completed by the commencement of next May.

After a discussion, in which several members advocated the levelling of the bed of the Serpentine, and covering it with concrete, the vote was agreed to.

Monday, August 8th.

INSPECTORS OF HOSPITALS.

Colonel SYKES asked the Secretary for India upon what grounds deputy inspectors-general of hospitals in the British forces of less than five years service, doing duty at home or in the colonies, with the relative army rank of lieutenant-colonel, were to have the local rank of colonel while serving in India from the date of their arrival in that country, agreeably to Her Majesty's warrant of the 1st of February, 1859, in supercession of surgeon-majors and deputy-inspectors of hospitals of Her Majesty's Indian forces, who rank as lieutenant-colonels only, although of 20 to 30 years service.

Sir C. WOOD defended the order referred to by the gallant colonel, but said he despaired of making the matter intelligible to the House without too great a trespass on their time.

MILITARY SURGEONS.

Colonel DUNNE asked the Secretary for War why men who had received the legal right to practise surgery and medicine from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland were excluded

from becoming candidates for medical appointments in the army; why the surgeons of cavalry were charged forage money for their horses, while those of infantry were exempted from that charge; and whether there would be any objection to grant to those deserving medical officers who had retired from the service the same additional rank which would be given to those who were at present serving on their retirement.

Mr. S. HERBERT replied that, in consequence of the increased pay given to medical officers, and the increased acquirements expected from them, it had been decided that before admission to the army they should be furnished not only with the diploma of a College of Surgeons, but with a diploma of some other body, as a guarantee of their knowledge of medicine. He believed that the forage money of cavalry and infantry surgeons was regulated by the rules of their respective services. He did not think it would be prudent to grant additional rank to the medical officers who had retired. If every new regulation had to be made retrospective, it would be impossible to carry out reforms in the army.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

Of sons, the wives of—

BABER, John, M.D., 18, Brompton Row, on July 29.
BARNATTINE, R., M.D., at Old Cumnock, N.B., on July 27.
*MC EWEN, William, M.D., Chester, on August 8.
MARSHALL, Edward, Esq., Mitcham, on August 3.
WITTEN, E. W., Esq., 72, St. John Street Road, on July 31.

Of daughters, the wives of—

FREER, Alfred, Esq., Stourbridge, on August 6.
GORE, W. R. O., M.D., 25, Chesham Street, on July 25.
MAUND, Henry, Esq., at Ashford, on August 5.
PECK, F. M., Esq., Grassdale, Australia, on April 13.
RIMINGTON, Joseph S., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, Bombay Army at Brixton, on July 30.

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING JULY 30TH, 1859.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.	Deaths.
During week	{ Boys .. 881 Girls .. 992 }	1803 .. 1419
Average of corresponding weeks 1849-58..	1485 ..	1262

The deaths from diarrhoea, as compared with those of the previous week, decreased from 415 to 382; the deaths referred to “cholera” and “choleraic diarrhoea” were 39 in the previous week, and last week 19. Out of 382 cases in which diarrhoea is recorded, 356 occurred to children. In the east districts, 109 deaths from it:—29 in Shoreditch; 27 in Bethnal Green; 12 in Whitechapel; 9 in St. George-in-the-East; 20 in Stepney and Mile End Old Town; and 12 in Poplar. There were 14 in Westminster; 20 in Marylebone; 33 in Pancras; and 16 in Islington. Of the 19 deaths referred to cholera, 5 were those of adults. Scarlatina was fatal in 36 cases; diphtheria in 16; and small-pox in 23.

Barometer :

Highest (Mon.) 30; lowest (Sat.) 29.68; mean 29.909 in.

Thermometer :

In sun—highest 104°; lowest 91°.

In shade—highest 85°; lowest 46.5.

Mean—67°; difference from mean of 43 yrs.+48.

Range—during week, 38.5°; mean daily, 20.8°.

Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 70.

Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.03.

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 6TH.

	Births.	Deaths.
During week	{ Boys .. 860 Girls .. 858 }	1718 .. 1337
Average of corresponding weeks 1849-58..	1530 ..	1306

The deaths caused by diarrhoea fell last week to 312. In Shoreditch 19 deaths from it occurred; in Bethnal Green, 10; in Whitechapel, 8; in St. George-in-the-East, 16; in Stepney

and Mile End Old Town, 19; and in Poplar, 12. On the south side of the river 13 occurred in the sub-district of St. Peter, Walworth. Amongst northern districts, Marylebone returned 22 and Pancras 21 deaths from diarrhoea. There are also 24 deaths recorded as due to "cholera" and "choleraic diarrhoea", 14 of which were amongst children. Small-pox was fatal in 20 cases; diphtheria also in 20; scarlatina in 63; and syphilis in 8. Three infants and an adult died by murder or manslaughter. Five nonagenarians are returned, the three oldest of whom died at the respective ages 94, 95, and 97. A girl, aged 14 months, died on the 29th ult., of *coup-de-soleil*, and on the day following a widow, aged 83 years, died of "cerebral congestion from exposure to intense sunlight".

Barometer:

Highest (Sat.) 29.06; lowest (Sun.) 29.51; mean 29.803.

Thermometer:

In sun—highest 100.3°; lowest 84.7°.

In shade—highest 80°; lowest 48.9°.

Mean—63.8°; difference from mean of 43 years.+1.5°.

Range—during week, 31.1°; mean daily, 22.2°.

Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 64.

Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.13.

OBSTETRIC EDUCATION.

THE following Memorial has been presented to the General Council of Medical Education and Registration, by the Council of the Obstetrical Society of London:—

"The Council of the Obstetrical Society of London desire, respectfully, to call the attention of the Council of Medical Education and Registration to the generally defective condition of medical education and examination in the Obstetric department of the profession; and they beg especially to remark upon the regulations of the various metropolitan examining bodies, with respect to this branch of practice.

"UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. Candidates for the degree of M.B. may attend a single course of Lectures on Midwifery, but this is not compulsory. They are required to produce a certificate of having conducted six labours. They are examined in Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Infants at the second M.B. examination, in writing and *vivâ voce*,—for the degree of M.D., no additional certificates are required. At this examination, a commentary is required either on a case of Medicine, Surgery, or Midwifery, at the option of the candidate.

"ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS. Candidates for the Licence are directed to study the Obstetric Art, but no regulations are laid down respecting attendance on Lectures or Practical Instruction in this department. In the examinations, no provision is made for testing the Obstetric acquirements of candidates. It is well known that, with one or two exceptions, none of the Censors, who are the examiners, have ever been selected from among those Fellows of the College engaged in the practice of Obstetric Medicine.

"ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. Candidates for the Diploma of Membership are required to have attended one three months' course of Lectures on Midwifery. No attendance on cases is

enjoined. In the examination, Midwifery is excluded. This is also the case with regard to the examination for the Fellowship. The College of Surgeons examines candidates, and grants special certificates of qualification in Midwifery to the Fellows and Members, and to others possessing no previous qualification; but the examination is altogether optional. Before obtaining these certificates, candidates must attend one three months' course of Lectures, and conduct thirty cases of labour.

"SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES. Candidates for the Licence are required to attend one three months' course of Lectures on Midwifery, and to conduct twenty cases of labour. The examination includes Midwifery, and the Diseases of Women and Children.

"The insufficient attendance required on Obstetric Lectures and Practice, and the slender provision made for examinations in this department of Medicine, stand in strong contrast with the requirements of the various examining bodies in all that relates to Lectures on Medicine and Surgery, and attendance on Medical and Surgical Hospital practice.

"The University of London requires one year's Medical, and one year's Surgical practice, in separate years, for the M.B. degree; and two additional years of Practical Medicine for the M.D. degree. The College of Physicians requires for its Licence, three years attendance on the Medical practice of a recognised hospital. The College of Surgeons requires for its Membership, attendance on Surgical practice in a recognised hospital during three winter and two summer sessions; and on Medical practice during one winter and one summer session. The College also requires, for the same examination, attendance during two winter sessions on Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Surgery. For the Fellowship, attendance is required during four years upon the Surgical, and during one year upon the Medical practice of a recognised hospital. Candidates are also required to have attended Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Surgery and on Clinical Surgery; as well as on the Theory and Practice of Medicine and on Clinical Medicine, during two sessions, each of six months duration. The Society of Apothecaries requires for its Licence, attendance on the Medical practice of a recognised hospital during eighteen months; attendance on one course of Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Medicine, and on one course of Lectures on Clinical Medicine.

"With regard to the required attendance upon Lectures on Medicine and Surgery, it deserves to be remarked that the courses on Medicine and Surgery are winter courses of six months duration; while the single course of Midwifery, required by the most stringent of the examining bodies, is a summer course, of three months duration only. Until within the last few years, the Lectures on Midwifery formed a winter course, when it was of six months duration; and, up to a comparatively recent period, the Apothecaries' Society required two six months' courses of Lectures on this subject. Thus, of late years, the provisions for Obstetric education have greatly diminished. The following Table gives a comparative view of the requirements of the several examining bodies, as regards attendance on Lectures and Hospital Practice in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery, respectively.

DIPLOMAS.	Hospital Medical Practice.	Hospital Surgical Practice.	Obstetric Practice.	Lectures on the Practice of Medicine.	Lectures on the Practice of Surgery.	Lectures on the Practice of Midwifery.	Lectures on Clinical Medicine.	Lectures on Clinical Surgery.	Lectures on Clinical Midwifery.
M.D.Lond.	Two years.	—	None.	—	—	None.	—	—	None.
M.B.Lond.	One year.	One year.	Six cases of labour.	—	—	Optional.	Some: number not specified.	Some: number not specified.	None.
L.R.C.P.L.	Three years.	—	None.	—	—	None.	—	—	None.
F.R.C.S.E.	One year.	Four years.	None.	Two sessions of six months each.	Two sessions of six months each.	None.	Two sessions of six months each.	Two sessions of six months each.	None.
M.R.C.S.E.	One winter and one summer session.	Three winter and two summer sessions.	None.	—	Two sessions of six months each.	One session of three months.	One winter and one summer session.	Three winter and two summer sessions.	None.
Licentiate in Midwifery.	—	—	Thirty cases of labour.	—	—	One session of 3 months.	—	—	None.
L.S.A.	One year and six months.	—	Twenty cases of labour.	One session of six months.	—	One session of 3 months.	One session of six months.	—	None.

"The number of medical men engaged in Obstetric practice probably equals the number engaged in the practice of either Medicine or Surgery. They comprise a considerable number of the graduates of the University of London; of the fellows and licentiates of the College of Physicians, and fellows of the College of Surgeons; and the great body of members of the College of Surgeons and licentiates of the Society of Apothecaries. The M.B. degree of the University of London, and the licence of the Society of Apothecaries, are the only qualifications which offer any guarantee of the fitness of their possessors to practise in this department.

"The College of Surgeons has instituted a special examination in Midwifery, but the Medical Council cannot fail to observe that the possession of this licence is entirely voluntary, and that any fellow or member of the College may practise Midwifery without having passed any examination in this subject. On the other hand, the licence in Midwifery may be given to persons who are neither members of the College, nor possessed of any other qualification. Such licentiates in Midwifery may engage in general practice without any qualification in Medicine or Surgery. This special licence in Midwifery is derogatory to the position of the Obstetric practitioner, as tending to revive his supposed inferiority to the practitioner of Medicine and Surgery, which inferiority it has been the province of progressive science to remove. The social effect of the Midwifery licence is felt the more severely, since it has been proposed by the College of Surgeons to institute a special licence in Dentistry, with which it would in future be associated as apart from regular Medical qualifications.

"The Council of the Obstetrical Society believe that the interests of the profession, and the welfare of the public, demand that the standard of education and examination for those who are engaged in the practice of Midwifery, should be as high in this department, as that which obtains in Medicine and Surgery. Speaking of the large numbers occupied in the general practice of Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery, they venture to assert that in the actual responsibilities of the practitioner, Midwifery is equally important with Medicine or Surgery. The reputation of the medical attendant, and the safety of the patient, depend as often upon a knowledge of Midwifery, as upon an acquaintance with the sister branches of the healing art.

"The Council respectfully suggest that the attendance on Lectures on Midwifery by the student, should equal the attendance required on Medicine or Surgery. They beg to express their deliberate conviction that it is quite impossible to teach the principles of Midwifery in a single three months' course of lectures. As regards Practical Instruction, the Council suggest that Lying-in-Hospitals, the Maternity Departments of general hospitals, and other institutions be in future recognised as schools of instruction in Practical Midwifery, and that a specified and sufficient attendance upon them, similar to the attendance upon medical or surgical hospital practice, should be required from all students. As regards Examination for Licences, Diplomas, and Degrees, they further suggest that all candidates should, as in the Continental schools, be tested in Midwifery to the same extent as in Medicine and Surgery.

"Signed on behalf of the Council,
 CHARLES LOCOCK, *Honorary President.*
 EDWARD RIGBY, *President.*
 GRAILY HEWITT,
 THOS. H. TANNER, } *Honorary Secretaries.*

53, Berners Street, August 1st, 1859.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"JE LE PANSAY, DIEU LE GUARIT." A correspondent has objected that this sentence was incorrectly quoted in Dr. Vose's address, as the words "pansay" and "guarit" do not exist in French. Certainly they are not to be found in modern French; but the orthography of the quotation belongs to the sixteenth century, the period at which Paré flourished.

DEFERRED MATTER. Dr. Beale's Lecture, the Report of the Cornwall Medical Society, and various letters and other articles, are in type, but have been deferred in order to make room for the report of the proceedings of the Medical Council.

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.

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

Communications have been received from:—DR. FRANCIS HAWKINS; MR. T. HOLMES; DR. HYDE SALTER; DR. LIONEL BEALE; DR. G. M. HUMPHRY; DR. W. NEWMAN; DR. A. P. STEWART; MEDICUS; DR. MO EWEN; DR. HENRY PORTER; MR. R. M. CRAVEN; DR. KIDD; MR. HAYNES WALTON; DR. CHEVALLIER; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; DR. S. W. J. MERRIMAN; DR. J. B. NEVINS; DR. R. H. TAYLOR; DR. H. Y. WHYTEHEAD; and MR. J. B. CARTER.

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