

the notice of the public press. Several letters in the *Times* have within the last few days drawn attention to the fact that small-pox is greatly on the increase throughout the country, and that there are signs of a degeneration of vaccine lymph, in consequence of its continued circulation through the human frame. This is a subject so fraught with interest to every class of the community, that we trust the Medical Council will speedily see the necessity of moving in the matter, more effectually than the Board of Health have yet done. Dr. Letheby, in an interesting communication to the *Times*, says :

" In the city of London the mortality from small-pox has risen during the last year from an annual proportion of 18 to 47; and during the last nine months the quarterly returns of death from it have been 4, 11, and 26—showing a very serious increase in the spread of the disease; and I believe that is very general throughout the country. The conclusions from it are, either that the protective power of the vaccine lymph is not so complete as it hitherto has been, or that the effect of it in the individual wears out after a few years, or that the operation of applying it is not properly performed. Since July last I have made especial inquiries into the particulars of 93 cases of the disease which have occurred in the city, and of which 34 were fatal; and the results are, that in 13 of the fatal cases, and 14 of the recoveries, vaccination had not been performed. In seven cases it had been done within a year of the attack, and in several within a month, the statement being that the arm had risen well. In eight cases the operation was not successful, and in many others it had been performed in early life—that is, some years before the attack. These facts would seem to show that vaccination is not protective; but there is great reason for believing that the operation is not always properly performed. It can never be considered successful unless the vesicles (three or four in number) are well developed, and go fully through their time of maturation and decay. The mere presence of a little pain and irritation in the arm, with even a slight formation of a vesicle, is no safeguard to the disease.

" At the same time, it is possible that the lymph has degenerated and has become modified by frequent transmission through the human subject; and it might be that an occasional renewal of the vaccine matter from the cow would be advantageous. It is very probable, also, that the *materia morbi* which renders an individual susceptible of small-pox is regenerated in the system after its destruction by the vaccine virus; and therefore it may be necessary, as well as prudent, to protect the system by a second, or even a third vaccination, at intervals of a few years."

The fact of partial failures of this kind occurring throughout the country, has been seized hold of by such persons as Dr. Michell, of Bodmin, to denounce in the House of Commons the greatest medical discovery of the present century, not only as a delusion and a snare, but also a means of introducing the most loathsome diseases, before unknown, into the human frame. Unless the medical profession are willing to allow such statements as these to sink into the credulous mind of the public, it should turn its attention seriously to solve the difficulties which lie in the way of the successful application of Jenner's great discovery.

The somewhat frequent occurrence at Oxford, during late years, of fatal boat accidents on the Cherwell and the Isis, has roused the members of the University to endeavour to solve the problem, how to render a health-giving exercise innocent of the charge of being an occasional minister of death. On November 18th, a meeting, composed of about three hundred members, principally undergraduates, was held in the Radcliffe Library, for the purpose of taking the subject into consideration. Dr. Acland presided, and pointed out that the number of deaths from drowning was much smaller than is generally supposed, there having been only fifteen since 1828; and that the means of preventing fatal accidents lay in learning to swim.

The meeting ultimately passed the following resolutions, with others:—

" That whereas the means for learning to swim in Oxford are inconvenient or insufficient, the Hebdomadal Council be requested to take into consideration the construction, and, if necessary, to undertake the management of a proper swimming bath, fit for daily use during the two winter terms, and conveniently placed.

" That the Council be requested also to consider whether they can obtain, and, if necessary, undertake the management of a good open swimming pool in the river, with a proper swimming master in attendance at certain hours of the day during the summer term.

" That the meeting offers the above resolutions to the attention of the Council, not only from the desire to diminish accidents, but from a wish to keep alive the English love of aquatic exercises, and to promote, as far as they can, the healthy as well as useful art of swimming for its own sake."

MEDICAL REGISTRATION.

NOTICE.

THE Medical Registrar presents his compliments to the Editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, and would be much obliged if attention could be drawn to an advertisement sent herewith, in order that qualified persons who are still unregistered, those especially who have obtained their qualifications in the course of the present year, may not lose their opportunity of appearing in the *General Register* for 1860.

Medical Registration Office, 32, Soho Square, London, W.
November 21st, 1859.

Association Intelligence.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

THE Committee will meet at the Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, on Tuesday, December 6th, at 1 o'clock.

The state of the Finances, particularly with reference to the publication of the JOURNAL, will be considered; the Readers of the Addresses at the next Annual Meeting will be appointed; and other business will be transacted.

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

Worcester, November 22nd, 1859.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BATH AND BRISTOL. [General Meeting.]	White Lion, Bristol.	Thurs., Dec. 1st, 6.30 P.M.
BIRMINGHAM AND MID- LAND COUNTIES. [Ordinary Meeting.]	Hen and Chickens Hotel, Birmingham.	Thursday, Dec. 8th, 6 P.M.
MIDLAND. [Quarterly Meeting.]	Board Room, Infir- mary, Derby.	Thurs., Dec. 8th, 3 P.M.

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

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

DIPHTHERIA.

At the last Quarterly Meeting of the Bath and Bristol Branch, it was resolved that an inquiry should be set on foot with reference to diphtheria. Dr. William Davies, of Bath, will be obliged by answers to the following queries: the replies being numbered according to the questions.

1. Number of cases, ; age, ; sex, ; and general condition of patients.—2. Condition of throat, especially as regards the presence of false membrane, etc.—3. Mode of treatment; local and general.—4. Number of deaths.—5. Cause of death in fatal cases.—6. *Post mortem* appearances.—7. General remarks.

cases he had related, there had been no dysentery, or other bowel irritation.

Excision of the Hip-Joint. Mr. P. C. PRICE exhibited a little boy, whose case was referred to at p. 208 of the JOURNAL for April 10th, 1858. The head of the femur and a portion of the acetabulum had been removed, on account of strumous disease. Two years ago, the child was brought to Mr. Price with extensive disease of the joint, with diarrhoea, night-sweats, etc., and altogether in a very hopeless state. He was now able to move about without a crutch, and play with other boys. There was still a sinus remaining. The difference in the length of the two limbs did not seem greater than would unavoidably result from the removal of the head of the bone below the trochanters. He also related a case which had been under the care of Mr. Jones of Jersey, of a servant girl who had strumous disease of the hip-joint. Mr. Jones removed the diseased parts. In three months, the girl was walking about, and had since resumed her duties as a servant. Mr. Price observed that, in his experience, complete dislocation of the head of the femur was very rare in chronic disease of the hip-joint, although often supposed to exist; he had seen but two cases of it.

Obstinate Ulcer from a Bite. Mr. GAY related the case of a young woman who had been under his care with an obstinate ulcer on the back of the hand, which had, for about two years, resisted all treatment. Its edges were defined; the surrounding skin was elevated and hard; and its surface, which was of about the extent of three peas, discharged a thin matter. At last, Mr. Gay cut out the ulcer, and healing took place. The patient had been bitten in the situation of the ulcer by a child a year and a half old, who had at the time an eczematous eruption.

Editor's Letter Box.

PUBLIC VACCINATION.

LETTER FROM HENRY TERRY, JUN., ESQ.

SIR,—An anonymous correspondent, in the JOURNAL of Nov. 12, writing on the above head, complains of the *injustice* of the present arrangement “to more than half the medical men”. May I, in reply, ask him to refer to the JOURNAL for October 28th and December 9th, 1853, where I have attempted to answer some of the objections that were then raised against the Act?

Your correspondent complains that some persons, “between their dislike to the parish doctor and their objection to pay their own”, neglect vaccination altogether. This seems to me to divide the children vaccinated into two classes, *viz.*, private and parish; and I cannot discover in it so great a grievance as your correspondent appears to do. However, the chief cause of complaint appears to be, that “some who are not patients of the parish doctor, do have their children vaccinated by him; and that is the thin edge of a wedge to split off the former medical attendant;” etc.

Having held a large Union district, with a vaccination appointment, for the last twelve or fourteen years, I hope I am not the only “parish doctor” who can altogether deny any such “mean” and “dishonourable” conduct as is here attributed to us. With equal truth I might imagine a *private* practitioner going round one of the parishes in my district, and persuading the poor not to take their children to Mr. — for vaccination, seeing that he was only the “parish doctor”. Will any one say that this has never been done? I feel satisfied that, with very few exceptions, and with an honourable man as public vaccinator, no man need be afraid of losing his patient *permanently* in the manner described by your correspondent, or even *temporarily*; and for this reason, that the usual plan of carrying out public vaccination is to cause the children to assemble together in the village school, or some other convenient place; and that it seems highly improbable that any respectable patients would submit to mix with the motley groups usually assembled there.

I am fully aware of the imperfections of the present Act; but I contend that, in any amendment of it, provision should be made that the children of all those who usually apply to the *union surgeon* in case of ordinary sickness, should be entitled to *gratuitous* vaccination from him only, leaving it optional with them (as it now is) to *pay* any other legally qualified man they may prefer.

I am, etc., H. TERRY, JUN.

Northampton, Nov. 15th, 1859.

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—
LAVIES, Joseph C., M.D., Warwick Road, on Nov. 17.
SPACKMAN, F. R., M.D., Harpenden, on Nov. 21. (Stillborn.)
SPEER, Stanhope T., M.D., Cheltenham, on Nov. 21.

Of daughters, the wives of—

ANDREWS, Henry C., M.D., Oakley Square, on Nov. 15.
DAUGLISH, J., M.D., Tunbridge Wells, on Nov. 9. (Stillborn.)

MARRIAGES.

HUNT, John, Esq., Surgeon, of Tachbrook Street, Pimlico, to Matilda J. C., third daughter of A. Goold, Esq., of Belle Vue, Forest of Dean, at St. John's, Westminster, on Nov. 15.
NEILL, James, Esq., Stone of Morphie, Montrose, to Victoria, daughter of *George WEBSTER, M.D., Dulwich, at St. Giles's, Camberwell, on Nov. 16.

STAUNTON, George, Lieut.-Col. Cape Mounted Rifles, to Henrietta, youngest daughter of the late Bransby B. COOPER, Esq., F.R.S., Surgeon, at Hemel Hempstead, on Nov. 15.

DEATHS.

CARNEGIE, John, M.D., at Wimborne Minster, on Nov. 16.
CLIFTON. On November 6th, at Freiburg, Baden, Anthony C. Clifton, Esq., late of Welwyn, eldest son of *N. Clifton, Esq., Islington.
LEONARD, Isaac, Esq., Surgeon, Bristol, aged 63, on Nov. 16.

APPOINTMENTS.

ALISON, Scott, M.D., elected Physician to the Consumption Hospital at Brompton, in the room of Theophilus Thompson, M.D., resigned.
BARRETT, Thomas, M.D., elected Mayor of Bath.
BREE, C. R., M.D., elected Physician to the Essex and Colchester Hospital.
GARRINGTON, W. H., Esq., Surgeon, elected Mayor of Portsmouth.
* McCAROGER, Joseph, M.D., elected Mayor of Chichester.

PASS LISTS.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. Second M.B. Examination, 1859. The following is a list of candidates who obtained the degree of Bachelor of Medicine at the recent examination:—

ADAMS, Samuel Hoppus, University College
CROWFOOT, William Miller, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
DAVIS, Theodore, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
GASQUET, Joseph Raymond, University College
HILL, Matthew Berkeley, University College
JONES, Philip Sydney, University College
LIDDON, William, King's College
MARRIOTT, Charles Hayes, University College
MOXON, Walter, Guy's Hospital
ROBBS, William Edward, King's College
SANSON, Arthur Ernest, King's College
SIMPSON, Henry, University College
THOMPSON, Edmund Symes, King's College

ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH. The following gentlemen, having completed the course of study, and undergone the examinations prescribed for obtaining the double qualification, were admitted as Licentiates of both Colleges, on November 18th:—

MACLAGAN, D. P., Edinburgh SHAW, John C., Ceylon
MOORE, Michael J., Belfast THOM, Alexander, Edinburgh
REID, Patrick R., Kildare

APOTHECARIES' HALL. LICENTIATES admitted on Thursday, November 17th, 1859:—

BANKART, James, Leicester MAWLEY, A., Birmingham
M'CANN, John, Tony, county TAYLOR, J., Emsworth, Hants
Longford, Ireland WHITE, E., Birmingham

The following gentlemen also, on the same day, passed their first examination:—

BRADDON, Charles H., Upton-on-Severn, Worcestershire HAYNES, A. L., Evesham LOVEGROVE, J. F., Maidenhead

HEALTH OF LONDON—NOVEMBER 19TH, 1859.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.	Deaths.
During week	{ Boys .. 958 } Girls .. 902	1860 .. 1233

Average of corresponding weeks 1849-58.. 1526 .. 1225

The cold and fogs of the week attacked the respiratory organs. The deaths from bronchitis, were 138; from pneumonia, 64, principally among children; from phthisis, 157; from scarlatina, 96; from diphtheria, 9; from small-pox, 29. Eight nonagenarians are returned as having died. Of bricklayers, 5 died in the week, of bricklayers' wives, 5, of bricklayers' children, 5; of carpenters, 9 died, of carpenters' wives, 6, of carpenters' children, 22; of masons, 2 died, of masons' wives, 2, of masons' children, 3; of painters, 4 died, of painters' wives, 3, of painters' children, 13; of plasterers, 2 died, of plasterers' wives, 2, of plasterers' children, 2.

Barometer:

Highest (Sun.) 30.209; lowest (Wed.) 30.085; mean 30.150 in.

Thermometer:

In sun—highest (Sun. & Sat.) 58°; lowest (Tues.) 41°.

In shade—highest (Sat.) 49°; lowest (Mon.) 25.5°.

Mean—37.6°; difference from mean of 43 yrs.—5.1°.

Range—during week, 23.5°; mean daily, 15.9°.

Mean humidity of air (*saturation*=100), 89.

Mean direction of wind, variable.—Rain in inches, 0.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS. The following gentlemen have been elected as examiners for medical degrees for the year 1860, in addition to Dr. Day, the Chandos Professor of Anatomy and Medicine; and Mr. Connell, the Gray Professor of Chemistry (who is assisted by Dr. Heddle).

In Medicine: W. T. GARDNER, M.D., Lecturer on the Practice of Medicine, and on Clinical Medicine, Edinburgh; ALEXANDER WOOD, M.D., President of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

In Surgery: GEORGE BUCHANAN, M.D., Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow; JOHN STRUTHERS, M.D., Assistant-Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and Lecturer on Operative Surgery.

In *Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children*. A. ANDERSON, M.D., Professor of Medicine in the Andersonian University, Glasgow; J. MATTHEWS DUNCAN, M.D., Lecturer on Midwifery, Edinburgh.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. On Wednesday evening last, Dr. F. W. Pavy delivered the first of a course of three "Lettoman Lectures" on "Certain Points connected with Diabetes." The other two lectures will be given on November 30th and December 7th, at half-past eight P.M. The hour of the ordinary meetings of this Society has recently been changed from eight to half-past eight P.M.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

POSTAGE OF MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED MATTER.

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

*Communications have been received from:—*MR. LEONARD; DR. JAMES RUSSELL; MR. J. LANG; THIS MEDICAL REGISTRAR; DR. JOHN GARDNER; DR. GOODE; DR. F. NEEDHAM; MR. J. CAPE; DR. G. R. HILLIARD; DR. SKINNER; MR. HARRISON; MR. G. MAY, JUN.; DR. J. B. PIT; MR. W. COPNEY; DR. CROSBY; MR. HOLMES COOTE; DR. MAHOOD; MR. RUMSEY; PHILAETHES; MR. GIRVAN; DR. MULOCK; MR. T. HOLMES; DR. C. HANFIELD JONES; DR. C. M. DURRANT; DR. BEALE; and MR. J. V. SOLOMON.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

1. The Nature and Treatment of Gout and Rheumatic Gout. By Alfred Baring Garrod, M.D., F.R.S. London: Walton and Maberly. 1859.
2. Blood-Disease. By J. Vaughan Hughes, M.D. London: Churchill. 1859.
3. On the Curative Treatment of Paralysis and Neuralgia and other Affections of the Nervous System with the Aid of Galvanism. By H. W. Lobb. Second Edition. London: Baillière. 1859.
4. The Practice of Hiring Wet Nurses (especially those from the "Fallen") considered as it Affects Public Health and Public Morals. London: John Churchill. 1859.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

This day, cloth, illustrated, 5s.

Paralysis and Neuralgia and other

Affections of the NERVOUS SYSTEM, their Curative Treatment with the Aid of GALVANISM. By HARRY LOBB, L.S.A., M.R.C.S.E., etc., Author of "On some of the more Obscure Forms of Nervous Affections," etc.

London: H. BAILLIERE, 219, Regent Street.

8vo, cloth, with numerous Tables, price 15s.

Practical Midwifery: comprising an

ACCOUNT of 13,748 DELIVERIES, which occurred in the DUBLIN LYING-IN HOSPITAL, during a Period of Seven Years, commencing November 1847.

By EDWARD B. SINCLAIR, A.B. T.C.D., Fellow of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland; Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Ex-Assistant Physician to the Dublin Lying-in Hospital; etc. etc.: and

GEORGE JOHNSTON, M.D. Edin., Licentiate of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland; Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Ex-Assistant Physician to the Dublin Lying-in Hospital; etc. etc.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"Drs. Johnston and Sinclair aim at putting the profession, as far as possible, in the same enviable possession of extensive experience as they have themselves. This they do by giving as complete an account as they can of all that they have seen and done, using the form of statistics to secure accuracy and brevity. This is a most useful work, and admirably done."—*Edinburgh Medical Journal*.

"We cannot withhold our conviction that, whether this work be viewed as a record of clinical experience, or as a depository of well-digested statistical data, it stands unequalled in obstetrics, or, we believe we may truly add, in medical literature."—*Dublin Medical Press*.

"Drs. Johnston and Sinclair have had no small field for close observation, and undoubtedly they have done very wisely in presenting the results of their experience to the profession."—*The Lancet*.

"We now leave this part of the Report (instrumental deliveries), of which, if we have not grievously failed in our purpose, we have said enough to make our readers anxious to study it for themselves; and we have no doubt but that those who do so will agree in pronouncing it one of the most important contributions that has ever been made to practical Midwifery, and one that will afford material for thought so long as obstetric science is cultivated. The anxious care with which the facts have been arranged, tabulated, and compared, so as to bring all into due prominence, must ever reflect credit on the authors, and will, without doubt, serve to advance obstetric medicine."—*Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science*.

"It is, in truth an inexhaustible mine of clinical and statistical information upon all subjects connected with practical midwifery. The details of practice are particular, without being tedious or unnecessarily minute."—*Dublin Hospital Gazette*.

London: JOHN CHURCHILL, New Burlington Street.

Dublin: MCGLASHAN & GILL, 50, Upper Sackville Street.

BENSON'S WATCHES.

"Perfection of mechanism."

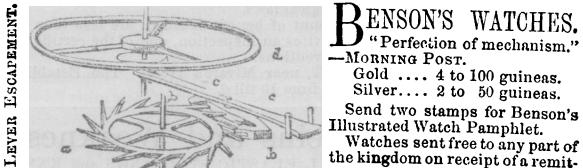
—*Morning Post*.

Gold 4 to 100 guineas.

Silver.... 2 to 50 guineas.

Send two stamps for Benson's Illustrated Watch Pamphlet.

Watches sent free to any part of the kingdom on receipt of a remittance.—38 & 34, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.—Established 1749.



ARTIFICIAL LEGS.

PARIS PRIZE MEDAL, 1855.

GROSSMITH'S

NEW ARTIFICIAL LEG, WITH PATENT ACTION, KNEE AND ANKLE JOINTS,



Enables the patient to walk, sit, or ride with ease and comfort wherever amputated. It is much lighter and less expensive than the old style of cork leg, will last a lifetime, and is the only leg yet invented that Ladies and Children can wear with safety. It was awarded the highest Medal at the recent PARIS EXPOSITION, although more than twenty other makers from different nations exhibited. Can be obtained only at

GROSSMITH'S ARTIFICIAL EYE, LEG, AND HAND MANUFACTORY,

175, FLEET STREET, LONDON (Established 1760), or of Messrs. FANNIN & CO., Dublin; KEMP & CO., Edinburgh; SALT & SON, Birmingham; or CHARRIERE & SON, Paris.