

sent to the lungs and consumed in the respiratory process: and, according to M. Bernard, the occurrence of diabetes was to be explained rather by supposing an excessive formation of sugar in the liver, or by a defect in the eliminative power of the lungs. His deductions, however, were founded on examinations of the liver and blood of animals after death; and thus, it seems, he has been led into physiological error of the greatest importance. Dr. Pavy of Guy's Hospital, who has just delivered the Lettsomian lectures at the Medical Society, has, in investigating the subject, met with facts which have led him to the conclusion that the occurrence of sugar in the healthy liver is entirely the result of the *post mortem* transformation of an amyloid substance which exists in the organ; while the presence of sugar in diabetes results from the liver being in some way deprived of its power of resisting the saccharine transformation. The arguments adduced by Dr. Pavy, and his experiments, which bear the mark of great care, seem thoroughly to establish his point. We are now evidently much more advanced on the right road towards understanding the pathology of diabetes than we were a few years ago: nevertheless, much remains to be done, and it is to be hoped that Dr. Pavy and other physiologists—especially those who have also the opportunities afforded by hospital appointments—will continue to work at the subject as its importance deserves and as its difficulty requires.

At a recent meeting of the Branch Medical Council for Scotland, a correspondence was read which had taken place between the Branch Registrar, Dr. Robertson, and the Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland, and his Secretary. On August 11th, Dr. Robertson called the attention of the Registrar of Births, etc., to a certificate which had been filled up by a person styling himself a "medical botanist", but who was not registered as a qualified practitioner; and he argued that such certificate was rendered invalid by Clause xxxvii of the Medical Act. To this the reply was, that the Registrar of Births and Deaths was of opinion that he was bound to receive all certificates in the form of the one referred to, that might be transmitted to him by persons professing to be engaged in the practice of medicine. This interpretation was persisted in; and, on September 22nd, Drs. Alexander and Andrew Wood, by direction of the Branch Council, addressed a letter in which they refuted the objections raised against the enforcement of the provisions of the Medical Act. The reply to this was an offer to submit the matter to the Home Secretary; and we hear that his decision is to the effect that certificates of death cannot properly be received unless they are signed by a person duly registered under the Medical Act.

An action was tried a few days ago, at the Brompton County Court, which afforded an instance of the obstacles often placed in the way of medical men in obtaining the settlement of disputed accounts. The plaintiff, Dr. Ogier Ward, formerly residing at Kensington, but now near Windsor, had to leave his patients, and travel to Brompton to recover a bill of £7:19 from a wealthy tradesman residing at Kensington, named Cooper, who adopted the usual defence to medical men's claims, "overcharge, and medicines charged for not supplied". Dr. Ward stated that, in January of this year, five children be-

longing to the defendant were attacked with scarlet fever, and from that time up to March he paid unremitting attention to the patients. In the interim, three of his patients died, and two recovered. He had no hesitation in rejecting an offer of defendant to pay five pounds; firstly, upon principle, and a duty he owed to the profession at large; and secondly, the charges were so moderate, under the circumstances, that if he made a deduction, he should be a positive loser for drugs. The defendant said, that part of the medicine supplied was charged for the three children after they had died; and he considered the bill a most unreasonable one, and that five pounds would be ample payment. Dr. Ward contended that the medicine alluded to was not intended for the three dead children, but for the two that survived. The defendant might as easily have urged that his attendance was for the deceased after they were buried. The judge thought the defendant had so recently met with a calamity, that Dr. Ward should make some allowance; and directed a short adjournment, which ended in the plaintiff's positive refusal to come to any other arrangement than give two months time to pay the bill. Ordinary costs only were allowed.

## Association Intelligence.

### NOTE FROM THE TREASURER.

THE Treasurer acknowledges the receipt of fifteen pounds from the Bath and Bristol Branch of the Association, towards the liquidation of the debt due to the Treasurer; also the sum of one pound from Dr. Birch of Piccadilly; ten shillings in payment of the call made in 1856, and ten shillings for the call agreed to at the Liverpool meeting.

Worcester, December 8th, 1859.

### BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE ordinary meeting was held at the White Lion Hotel, on Thursday, December 1st, at 6½ p.m. J. G. DAVEY, M.D., President, in the chair. Members present:—C. S. Barter, Esq. (Bath); J. S. Bartrum, Esq. (Bath); John Beddoe, M.D. (Clifton); William Budd, M.D. (Clifton); S. Bryant, Esq. (Bristol); C. E. Bernard, M.D. (Weston-super-Mare); W. T. Church, Esq. (Bath); Henry Clark, Esq. (Bristol); W. M. Clarke, Esq. (Clifton); G. C. Corbould, Esq. (Bristol); Edw. Crossman, Esq. (Hambrook); Charles Collins, Esq. (Chew Magna); Wm. Davies, M.D. (Bath); E. L. Fox, M.D. (Bristol); R. S. Fowler, Esq. (Bath); H. E. Fripp, M.D. (Clifton); J. Godfrey, Esq. (Bristol); Wm. Granville, Esq. (Bristol); W. B. Herapath, M.D. (Bristol); Wm. Henderson, M.D. (Clifton); H. A. Hore, Esq. (Bristol); W. Hutchins, Esq. (Keynsham); J. Lawrence, Esq. (Bath); C. Leonard, Esq. (Bristol); E. S. Mayor, Esq. (Bristol); J. S. Melford, Esq. (Clifton); E. Norman, Esq. (Bath); A. Prichard, Esq. (Clifton); J. N. Spender, Esq. (Bath); R. M. Stone, Esq. (Bath); J. G. Swayne, M.D. (Clifton); S. H. Swayne, Esq. (Clifton); George Terry, Esq. (Wells); G. Vicary, Esq. (Warminster); M. Willett, Esq. (Bristol); and as visitors, Dr. Whytehead, of York, and Messrs. Talbot, Wilson, jun., and Quarrell.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

### NEW MEMBERS.

David Michael, Esq., of Bath, and Dr. Bernard, of Weston super Mare, were elected members of the Branch.

### COMMUNICATIONS.

1. Case of Salivary Calculus. By W. Budd, M.D.  
Dr. Budd also exhibited a series of Photographs, illustrating the effects of Typhoid Fever upon the Intestines.

2. *Diphtheria*. Dr. Davies detailed the communications he had received on the subject of diphtheria, with remarks upon them.

3. Case of Injury of the Head, attended with rupture of the Membrana Tympani. By W. M. Clarke, Esq.

The papers will be published in the JOURNAL.

## 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.

## Reports of Societies.

## MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH, 1859.

JOHN HILTON, Esq., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

ON VESICO-VAGINAL FISTULA; ILLUSTRATING A NEW MODE OF OPERATION. BY I. BAKER BROWN, ESQ.

Mr. BROWN commenced his paper by stating that he had already recorded twenty cases of perfect cure, and then gave the particulars of seven more cases. Case XXI was of two years duration; two operations were performed, and a cure was effected. Case XXII was of six months duration; four operations were followed by cure. Case XXIII was of thirteen years duration; three operations were performed, with a successful result. In Case XXIV, of three years duration, an operation was followed by cure. Case XXV was of six years duration; the operation was followed by cure. In Case XXVI, of twenty years duration, death followed the operation. Case XXVII was of three years duration; one operation was followed by cure.

Mr. Brown then proceeded to make some remarks.

1. *Position of the Patient during the Operation.* Three positions had been recommended; viz., on the hands and knees, by Dr. Bozeman; the semiprone position, by Dr. Simms; and the lithotomy position, by Mr. Brown himself. He (Mr. Brown) still considered this last position as the best, both for the patient whilst under the influence of chloroform, and for the surgeon, who can sit down before the patient in an easy position. Occasionally, however, cases occur where, from peculiarity in the position of the lesion or of the female organs themselves, it may be advisable not to administer chloroform; and where the opening can be better seen and reached on the hands and knees than in the lithotomy position.

2. *Modes of Operating.* Mr. Brown mentioned four modes: simple suture, as recommended by Hayward; metallic sutures, as practised by Gossett in 1854, and more fully placed before the profession by Simms of New York; metallic sutures, guarded by clamp, as practised by Simms, or by button, as recommended and practised by Bozeman; and the plan recommended by Mr. Brown himself, viz., metallic sutures, with a separate bar-clamp to each. The sutures might be either silver wire, or galvanised iron wire as prepared by Cocker Brothers of Sheffield. In this plan, the patient being placed in the lithotomy position, the edges of the fistula are pared with three knives of different shapes. [These knives were designed and publicly used by Mr. Brown himself many years before Dr. Bozeman came to England, at which time it appeared that Dr. Bozeman, feeling the necessity for such instruments, had also designed them.] The edges being pared, a needle is passed, as practised by Dr. Simpson; and through it either a silver or galvanised iron wire suture. As many sutures as may be necessary having been passed, the two ends of the first suture are passed through the eyelet-hole of the simple bar-clamp, which is slightly curved, and has a perforated nipple projecting from its back. The ends of the wire are then held with the left hand; and, the nipple of the clamp being seized with a pair of long forceps, it is pressed back until the edges of the fistula are seen to be in perfect contact. The nipple is then firmly squeezed. This has the effect of partially straightening the clamp, and of securing the wires. Each suture is treated in the same way until all are closed. The advantages of this plan are—*a.* Its celerity, as compared with

others; *b.* The certainty that the edges are in contact all along the fistula; *c.* However irregular the opening may be, its tortuosity can be followed without the slightest difficulty; *d.* Should the opening be very large, the edges are kept perfectly together, whilst the vagina is not stretched out as it would be under a large button. Each suture is also well guarded by the clamp; and there is no trouble in removing them. The anterior side of each suture is cut under the clamp; and, this being seized with a pair of forceps, and slight traction made upon it, the wire is easily withdrawn. By this mode, the duration of the operation is reduced to a quarter of an hour in the slight cases, and to three-quarters of an hour in the worst cases, instead of two or three hours, or even a much longer time.

3. *Causes of the Lesion.* In nearly every case, it arises from long protracted labour. The head pressing upon the bladder and soft parts generally, produces that state of parts which leads to the fistulous opening being established.

4. *Causes of Failure after the Operation.* Failure may arise from not carefully denuding the edges; from not introducing the needle deeply enough through the tissues; from want of care in bringing together the edges of the fistula; from neglect of position of the patient after operation (this should always be upon the side); from neglecting to keep the bladder empty, either by the catheter being left in, or by its frequent introduction. Occasionally, the general health may be so much impaired as to predispose the patient to pyæmia, or to prevent healthy plastic matter from being thrown out sufficiently early to ensure union. The general health should therefore be attended to before operation. Another not unfrequent cause of failure arises from the condition of the parts induced by frequent operations, especially cauterisation: the parts become almost cartilaginous, and unable to throw out plastic matter.

5. *After Treatment.* Mr. Brown considers that on the free use of opium and generous diet, with strict attention to the bladder, depends the success of the operation, however well performed in the first instance.

Dr. HALL DAVIS had been much gratified at the introduction of the operation for vesico-vaginal fistula, and at the success which had attended it. The objection to Bozeman's operation, notwithstanding its simplicity and success, was the time which it occupied. He had seen an operation of this kind requiring upwards of one hour. Shortening of the time occupied was desirable, especially as it diminished risk. He had been surprised at the extreme facility with which the clamps could be applied in Mr. Brown's operation. As to the position, he had seen the operation done both on the hands and knees and in the lithotomy position; and he thought that preference was obviously to be given to the latter; but the position on the hands and knees was required in some rare cases. He believed that the lesion was in most cases caused by the long continued pressure of the head of the child in cases of impaction.

Mr. MAUNDER inquired as to the success attending the operation in cases where the anterior lip of the cervix uteri had been implicated in the operation. Was any impediment produced in subsequent labours? If so, should premature labour be induced, to obviate the risk of bringing on the fistula again?

Dr. ROGERS was in favour of the button; but if the clamp were proved better, it would be a benefit. He knew two cases of pregnancy after successful operation for vesico-vaginal fistula. In one case, the os uteri appeared obliterated; but the whole parts opened out, and the labour proceeded successfully. In the other case, also, there was no injury from labour.

Mr. BRYANT said that, in a case on which he had operated some months ago, he found that, though the lithotomy position was most convenient for the patient, it was impossible to get a view of the fistula. He therefore placed the patient in the semireclined position. The fistula was quite in the upper part of the vagina. He attempted to operate with a needle formed on the plan described by Mr. Brown. But there was difficulty in using it; it could be passed through the lower lip, but not the upper; and he found the common curved needle on a handle to answer every purpose. The parts were readily held together with twisted wire sutures, without clamps. The patient was a poor emaciated woman, with a fistula an inch and a half long: two-thirds of it had united, and another operation would probably be performed. He thought well of the clamps exhibited by Mr. Brown, and would probably employ them in his next operation. Was there any means of bringing a fistula in the upper part of the vagina into view during the operation?

is denied the protection afforded by vaccination. Disinterested as has been the course pursued by the great body of the medical profession, in giving all the assistance they could towards the eradication of a disease, which, as I suspect to have been the case with small-pox, brought more gain into the pockets of medical practitioners, in days when all were unprotected from its attacks, than any other disease requiring medical care, I cannot but regret the opposite line of conduct which some medical men think it right to adopt.

I am, etc., THOMAS WALKER, M.D.

Peterborough, November 26th, 1859.

#### OUGHT NOT THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND TO BE CAREFUL IN THE ADMISSION OF MEMBERS?

SIR,—Will you permit me, through the medium of the JOURNAL, respectfully to point out what I and many others regard as a most degrading and mischievous line of proceeding pursued by the College of Surgeons of London towards the educated and enlightened members of its body?

To my utter disgust and sorrow, the painful reality of this state of things has been recently forced upon us in this neighbourhood, of having to be associated (through the medium of the College) in professional brotherhood with men hoary in the service of the humblest and meanest callings of necessitous existence, utterly devoid of everything that appertains to education of mind or dignity of character, practising the most unblushing quackery even up to the very moment when the College of Surgeons was embracing them as brothers.

When, therefore, sir, I behold a distinguished corporation, like the Royal College of Surgeons, thus giving the sanction of its high name to characters such as I have but imperfectly portrayed, by enrolling them as fellow members with some of the most distinguished names that ever adorned the temple of science, I should be doing violence to my feelings as a surgeon and a gentleman, were I to refrain raising my humble voice in depreciation of such a course of proceeding.

The College, moreover, by giving to these people its diploma, furnishes them with that spurious *locus standi*, and halo of false importance, which deceives other scientific bodies into admitting them into their ranks; as, *horresco referens*, I observe to have been done by the British Medical Association.

Now, feeling, as I do most keenly, the vital importance to the dignity and character of the Colleges generally, and the profession at large, that early and vigilant steps should be taken to stop the admission of any candidate who cannot produce satisfactory testimony of his fitness both by general education and high moral character, I will, by your permission, venture to suggest what, to my humble judgment, may stay this gangrenous mischief.

First, I would require, in addition to professional acquirements, a high standard of classical and general attainments, from every candidate, whether for medical or surgical degrees.

Secondly, I would insist upon testimonials of moral character being furnished from either two members of the medical profession, or the clergy of the place where the candidate resided.

If such were adopted, the examining bodies would then place themselves in a safe position of judging of the general fitness of the applicant.

I am, etc., ALIQUIS.

Leigh, November 28th, 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—

BULLEID, G., Esq., Surgeon, Connaught Terrace, on Dec. 1.  
COOPER, George, Esq., Surgeon, Croydon, on Nov. 30.  
GUY, William, M.D., Biddenden, on Dec. 3.  
\*HARRISON, J. Bower, M.D., Manchester, on Dec. 4.  
RODEN, William, M.D., Kidderminster, on Dec. 2.

#### MARRIAGES.

- \*BROWN, Frederick James, M.D., of St. Margaret's Banks, Rochester, to Harriet Landels, youngest daughter of John SHEPHERD, Esq., Deputy Storekeeper, Military Store Department, Upnor Castle, near Rochester, on Dec. 1st.
- CARROLL, John G., Esq., barrister, of Woodstock, Canada West to Mary L., second daughter of Francis Badgley, M.D., of 43 Albion Street, W., at Quebec, on November 2nd.
- ENGLEHEART, S. P., Esq., surgeon, Springfield, Reigate, to Lydia Jane, youngest daughter of Henry THOMPSON, Esq., of Tunbridge Wells, on December 3rd.
- JARRATT, George, Esq., of Elmfield House, Yorkshire, to Alice, second daughter of George DUNN, M.D., Doncaster, on November 20th.
- KELLY, J. H., M.D., Queenstown, Cork, to Susan, eldest daughter of Josiah JONES, Esq., of Wavertree, on Dec. 1st.

#### DEATHS.

- ANDREW, James, M.D., in Edinburgh, on December 1st.
- BLACK. On December 3rd, in Southgate Road, aged 2, Eliza M., youngest child of R. J. Black, M.D.
- DAVIS. On November 30th, in London, aged 52, the Rev. H. Hall Davis, eldest son of the late David D. Davis, M.D.
- ENGLAND. On November 30th, at Ipswich, aged 44, Margaret E., wife of William England, M.D.
- \*FLETCHER, John William, Esq., late Bengal Army, aged 41, on December 2nd.
- PESKETT, H., M.D., at Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, on Dec. 2.
- ROOTS, William, M.D., at Kingston-on-Thames, aged 83, on December 2nd.
- SUCH, Edward J., Esq., Surgeon, 19, Euston Road, aged 43, on November 29th.
- TRENCH, John P., Esq., Staff-Surgeon, aged 40, on Dec. 1.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

- \*WARDEN, Charles, M.D., elected Surgeon to the Birmingham Ear Infirmary, in place of W. Dufton, Esq., deceased.

#### PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. Fellows elected at the meeting of the Comitia Majora, held on Nov. 21st:—

MACLACHLAN, Daniel, Royal Hospital, Chelsea  
SHAPTER, Thomas, Exeter  
SMITH, W. Tyler, Upper Grosvenor Street, London

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. M.B. Examination for Honours.

*Physiology and Comparative Anatomy.*

CROWFOOT, W. M. (Scholarship and Gold Medal), St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
GASQUET, Joseph R. (Gold Medal), University College  
THOMPSON, Edmund Symes, King's College  
MOXON, Walter, Guy's Hospital  
ROBBS, William Edward, King's College

*Surgery.*

CROWFOOT, W. M. (Scholarship and Gold Medal), St. Bartholomew's Hospital

HILL, Matthew B. (Gold Medal), University College  
THOMPSON, Edmund Symes, King's College

MOXON, Walter, Guy's Hospital

MARRIOTT, Charles Hayes, University College

JONES, Philip Sydney, University College

} Equal.

LIDDON, William, King's College

*Medicine.*

THOMPSON, E. S. (Scholarship and Gold Medal), King's College

ROBBS, William E. (Gold Medal), King's College

GASQUET, J. Raymond, University College

} Equal.

MARRIOTT, C. Hayes, University College

MOXON, Walter, Guy's Hospital

JONES, Philip Sydney, University College

HILL, Matthew Berkeley, University College

CROWFOOT, William Miller, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

*Midwifery.*

CROWFOOT, Wm. M. (Gold Medal), St. Bartholomew's Hospital

JONES, Philip Sydney, University College

THOMPSON, Edmund Symes, King's College

MOXON, Walter, Guy's Hospital

ROBBS, William Edward, King's College

## M.D. Examination, 1859.

## First Division.

CARPENTER, Alfred, St. Thomas's Hospital  
 COUSINS, John Ward, St. Thomas's Hospital  
 DOWN, John Langdon Haydon, London Hospital  
 FOSTER, Michael, B.A., University College  
 GILES, Samuel, B.A., Guy's Hospital  
 HARDWICK, Robert G., Leeds School of Medicine  
 LAWRENCE, George William, King's College  
 LEWIS, Thomas, University College  
 MEERES, Edward Evan, King's College  
 NEWMAN, William, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
 WILKINSON, Richard, King's College

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.** MEMBERS admitted at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on December 2nd:—

ANDERSON, A., Manchester KNIGHT, Thomas, Brill  
 BLACKBURN, J., Barnsley LANE, W. B., Kinsale  
 DRURY, J. T. C., Doncaster MITCHELL, Thos. C., Bedford  
 EDEY, Stonard, Exeter MORGAN, Cosby W., Australia  
 FOX, Allan N., Dublin SMYTH, Brice, Dublin  
 GODWIN, C. H. Y., Bishopstoke THOMPSON, H., Westerham  
 HESLOP, A., Kirkby Stephen WINKFIELD, A., Bedford

Monday, December 5th:—

ADDISON, Wm. J., Wigton HORTON, H. J., Fulham  
 ATTWELL, G. H., Kensington HUNT, Thos. junr., Alfred Place  
 BENNETT, Geo. J., Gateshead KITCHENER, T., Trinity Square  
 BERNARD, John C., Trinidad MAWLEY, Aug., Gower Street  
 BOWEN, David, Haverfordwest MAYOU, George, Monmouth  
 COOK, John, Kentish Town SHELDON, Thos., Stratford-on-Avon  
 COPP, H. B. P., Bedford SIMMONS, Benj., Hatfield, Yorks  
 DAWSON, G., Bishop Auckland SMITH, William, Aberdeen  
 DICKINS, Fred. V., Manchester TERRY, Joseph G., Wittersham  
 FRANKS, John, Sevenoaks FREEMAN, William, Maldon  
 GREENWOOD, Newton, Truro WILLIAMS, Robert, Liverpool  
 HORNIBLOW, Wm. R., Ships-ton-on-Stour WOODHEAD, Wm. C., York

At the same meeting of the Court—

RYAN, Edward Tenison, H.M. EUSTACE, Richard, Haslar Hospital  
 ship *Pembroke*  
 Passed their examinations for Naval Surgeons. These gentlemen had previously been admitted members of the College: their diplomas bearing date respectively August 9th, 1852, and Oct. 28th, 1853.

Tuesday, December 6th:—

BOARD, Edmund C., Bristol MEWNIECE, James, Belfast  
 BOOTH, Samuel, Huddersfield MURRAY, William, Durham  
 BROSTER, John, Chester MOORE, Thomas, Hales Owen  
 FOSTER, T. S., Carnarvon NEESAM, Joseph, Bradford  
 HORSLEY, Henry, Croydon PELL, Walton N., Northampton  
 HUTCHEAN, H. S., Aberdeen POUT, Frank, Yalding  
 IRVINE, George R. Portsmouth RICKARD, Henry, Plymouth  
 KEARNEY, Daniel, Madras THOMAS, John R., Dublin  
 LEE, Leonard J., London TROTTER, Charles J., Holmfirth  
 LLOYD, Albert, Bristol WALLIS, R. S., Birmingham  
 MICHELL, Thomas, Redmouth WITHER, Fras. O. B. Madras  
 MILLER, Thomas, Boyton

## HEALTH OF LONDON—DECEMBER 3RD, 1859.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

## Births. Deaths.

During week ..... { Boys .. 915 } 1827 .. 1304  
                           { Girls .. 912 }                   1827 .. 1304

Average of corresponding weeks 1849-58.. 1609 .. 1356

Among the causes of death were—bronchitis, 167; small-pox, 39; scarlatina, 87; diphtheria, 13.

## Barometer:

Highest (Sat.) 30°01'; lowest (Wed.) 29°41'; mean 29°741 in.

## Thermometer:

In sun—highest (Sat.) 40°8°; lowest (Sat.) 36°0°.

In shade—highest (Sun.) 48°0°; lowest (Sat.) 29°0°.

Mean—37°3°; difference from mean of 43 yrs.—4.3°.

Range—during week, 19°0°; mean daily, 8°1°.

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

Mean direction of wind, variable.—Rain in inches, 1.18.

## PUBLIC VACCINATION.

THE following order was issued by the Privy Council on December 1st.

*To the Guardians of the Poor of all Unions and Parishes, to the Churchwardens and Overseers of all Parishes, Townships, and places in which the Relief to the Poor is not administered by Guardians, in England and Wales, and to all Medical Practitioners.*

WHEREAS by the Public Health Act, 1858, and by an Act since passed to perpetuate the same, it is enacted that the Privy Council may from time to time issue such regulations as they think fit, for securing the due qualification of persons to be thereafter contracted with by guardians and overseers of unions and parishes in England for the vaccination of persons resident in such unions and parishes, and for securing the efficient performance of vaccination by the persons already or thereafter to be contracted with as aforesaid:—

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered, by the Lords and others of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council (of whom the Vice-President of the Committee of the said Privy Council on Education is one) that on and after the first day of January, 1860, the following Regulations shall be in force; viz.:—

1. Except where the Privy Council, for reasons brought to their notice, see fit in particular cases otherwise to allow, no person shall in future be admitted as a contractor for vaccination, unless he possess the same qualifications as are required by the orders of the Poor-law Commissioners as qualifications for a district medical officer, and produce a special certificate, given, under such conditions as the Privy Council from time to time fix, by some public vaccinator whom the Privy Council authorise to act for the purpose, and by whom he has been duly instructed or examined in the practice of vaccination, and all that relates thereto:—but the production of this special certificate on occasion of the contract being made may be dispensed with, if the certificate, or some other which the Privy Council judge to be of like effect, have been among the certificates or testimonials necessary for obtaining any diploma, licence or degree, which the candidate possesses;—and also, in respect of persons legally admitted to practise before this regulation comes into effect, the special certificate may be dispensed with, on condition that the contract, during one year from its making, continue subject to the approval of the Poor-law Board;—and all persons now contracted with shall be deemed to be qualified to be again contracted with.

2. Under the same conditions as are appointed for the admission of a contractor, any person qualified to be a contractor may, on the contractor's application, be admitted by the guardians or overseers to act as his occasional deputy:—but, if this admission be not part of the original contract, it must be notified by indorsement upon the contract; and at least fifteen days before it is intended to take effect, a copy of the proposed indorsement, together with all requisite evidence of the qualification of the person whom it is proposed to admit, must be transmitted to the Poor Law Board.

3. All vaccinations and inspections under contract shall be performed by the contractor in person, or by some other contractor of the same union or parish acting for him, or by a deputy, duly admitted as above:—but at any station where the contractor is authorised (as above) to grant certificates, pupils and other candidates, aged not less than eighteen years, may, in his presence and under his direction, take part in vaccinating. All vaccinations and inspections under contract shall be performed in accordance with the annexed "Instructions for Vaccinators under contract."

4. Until some new form of vaccination-register be duly prescribed, the person who performs any vaccination under contract shall, on the day when he performs it, legibly write in his register (as now provided) the letter R (for revaccination) against the name of every person, adult or adolescent, who, having in early life been successfully vaccinated, is revaccinated: and shall also enter in some column, or in the margin of the register, the source whence the lymph used in the vaccination was obtained:—thus: the name, or number, (if any) in the register, of the subject from whom the lymph was taken; or "N.V.E.", if the lymph was sent by the National Vaccine Establishment; or the name or description of any other source:—and where the vaccination or the inspection is done by a person acting as deputy for the contractor the deputy shall write the initials of his name in the register side by side with the entry of the case, viz., in the left margin of the

page, if it be the vaccination which he performs, or in the right margin of the page, if it be an inspection which he performs.

5. Guardians and overseers, in their respective unions and parishes, shall forthwith take measures to bring the performance of public vaccination into conformity with these regulations.

#### BRISTOL AND BATH MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION.

A GENERAL MEETING of the members of this Association was held on Thursday, Dec. 1st, in the Lecture Hall of the Bristol Institution, Park Street; Dr. SYMONDS, of Bristol, President of the Association, was in the Chair; and, in opening the business of the meeting, said that the objects of the Association, as he apprehended them, were to protect both the public and the profession: or rather, perhaps, it might be said, to maintain a due relation between the public, the profession, and the law: to see that the law protects, as it is intended to do, both the public and the profession. It would seem that, unless there be a cooperation with the legislature by such bodies as these, there is a strong probability that the law, like so many others still on our statute-books, will become inefficient, and at last obsolete. He would trust that by the efforts of bodies like this, the public will in time become informed about the sort of persons to whom they confide their health. If, after this system of legislature has been carried out, the public still selects persons for the charge of their health who have on their foreheads the brand of incompetency and ignorant pretensions, such as will be signified by the term "unregistered," the responsibility will rest with them, and they must stand the consequences. He had no doubt that many useful suggestions would be thrown out by the members of the Association; and he trusted they would agree in carrying out its objects in a liberal spirit; that while they maintained an aspect of stern justice towards the profession, they should not incur the reproach of carrying out the law in anything like a persecuting spirit. They had a right to appear before the public and say—"The legislature has made certain requirements of us: we have endeavoured to comply with them, at the cost of much toil, much anxiety, and much pecuniary outlay; and we therefore expect that in reciprocation of our duty, you will draw a distinction between those who have complied with the wishes of the legislature and those who have not."

Mr. R. S. FOWLER then read the minutes of the last meeting. The names of about fifty gentlemen who had signified their wish to become Members of the Association were submitted to the meeting, and the whole were unanimously elected by ballot.

Drs. TUNSTALL, HENDERSON, and PARSONS, and Mr. J. J. EVANS, were appointed scrutineers of the voting lists of officers of the Association.

The following were adopted as the rules of the Association:

1. This Society shall be called the "Bristol and Bath Medical Registration Association."

2. The objects of this Association shall be to watch the workings of the Medical Act, to suppress illegal practice, and to assist the Registrar under the Medical Act to secure a correct Registration, and such other matters as may be deemed advisable by the Council.

3. All practitioners who are to be registered under the Medical Act, shall be eligible to become Members of this Association. Admission shall be by ballot in any meeting of the general Council, and the affirmation of two-thirds of the members voting shall be necessary to secure the election: but any candidate rejected by the Council may have the right of appeal to the next General Meeting of the Association.

4. Each member shall pay five shillings annually, in advance, on the first day of January.

5. The same division of districts shall hold in the Registration Association as now exists in the Bath and Bristol branch of the British Medical Association.

6. The affairs of the Association shall be conducted by a President, two Vice-Presidents, two Treasurers, two Secretaries, and a Committee or Council of twenty members. The President shall be elected annually, alternately from the Bath and Bristol districts. The Vice-Presidents and officers shall be elected annually, by ballot, one from each district. The President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurers and Secretaries shall be *ex officio* members of Council: five to form a quorum. The

members of Council to be chosen by ballot, ten from each district, five of whom are to retire annually, eligible to re-election. The first retiring five in each district to be chosen by lot.

7. There shall be an annual meeting of the Association, and at least one quarterly meeting of the Council; the latter of which shall correspond, both as to day and place, with the meeting of the Bath and Bristol branch of the British Medical Association.

8. A special general meeting of the Association may be convened by a written requisition, signed by ten members, and presented to the President, or to one of the Secretaries, who shall summon such meeting within fourteen days from the receipt of the requisition.

9. The officers and council elected by each district separately, shall be called the local Council, and shall meet for the transaction of the business of that district as often as may be necessary in the intervals of the quarterly meetings of the general Council, forty-eight hours notice being given to each member. Three members to form a quorum.

10. Any four members of the Council shall have the power of convening a special meeting of that body, by presenting a written requisition of their wish to the President, or one of the Secretaries, who shall summon such meeting; to be held eight days after the receipt of such notice.

11. No prosecution involving expense to this Association shall be undertaken without the sanction of the general council.

12. The rules and bye-laws of this Association shall be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose; and the signatures of members, in that book, shall be deemed to imply consent thereto.

13. At special or adjourned meetings, no subjects shall be discussed but those for which such meetings shall have been convened.

14. All prosecutions shall be undertaken in the name of the Secretary of the district.

15. No new rule and that no alteration of rule be made except at an annual meeting of the Association; notice of such alteration of rule having been given in the summons convening the meeting at least one fortnight before such meeting.

The Secretaries then reported that the following members had been elected officers of the Society:—

BRISTOL DISTRICT. *Vice-President*: H. Clark, Esq. *Treasurer*: J. J. Evans, Esq. *Secretary*: J. P. McDonald, L.R.C.P.E. *Council*: F. Brittan, M.D.; W. Budd, M.D.; Jas. Godfrey, Esq.; T. Green, Esq.; W. B. Herapath, M.D.; H. A. Hore, Esq.; C. Leonard, Esq.; W. F. Morgan, Esq.; A. Prichard, Esq.; J. G. Swayne, M.D.

BATH DISTRICT. *Vice-President*: G. Norman, Esq. *Treasurer*: J. S. Bartrum, Esq. *Secretary*: R. S. Fowler, Esq. *Council*: E. L. Bagshawe, Esq.; W. J. Church, Esq.; W. Davies, M.D.; Farnham Flower, Esq. (Chilcompton); E. Hodges, M.D.; F. Mason, L.R.C.P.E.; J. Soden, Esq.; R. N. Stone, L.R.C.P.E.; J. Tunstall, M.D.; G. Vicary, Esq. (Warminster).

Dr. J. P. McDONALD read the report of the Bristol Registration Association, which, on the motion of Dr. TUNSTALL, was ordered to be entered on the minutes of the meeting.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Sub-Committee and Secretaries of the Bath and Bristol branch of the British Medical Association, for the labour which the construction of the Association had entailed upon them; to Dr. Symonds for his kindness in presiding; and to the Committee of the Institution, for the use of the Lecture Hall, for the uses of the meeting.

#### PORTRUSH, PORTSEA, AND GOSPORT MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION.

At a large meeting of the medical profession of Portsmouth and its neighbourhood, held November 17th, it was determined to form a society called "The Portsmouth, Portsea, and Gosport Medical Registration Association." The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—*President*—The Worshipful the Mayor of Portsmouth, W. H. Garrington, Esq. *Vice-Presidents*—Richard White, Esq., and Samuel Irvine, M.D. *Hon. Treasurer*—George I. Scale, Esq. *Hon. Secretary*—James Greetham, Esq.

The meeting then adjourned until December 1st, when rules and bye-laws were adopted similar to those of the London Association, with which this society intends affiliating itself. Above fifty members have already joined the society.

**IMPROVEMENT IN THE VOLTAIC PILE.** It is well known that Bunsen's pile, which is but a modification of Grove's, consists of a glazed vessel, containing a cylindrical element of zinc, which surrounds a porous vessel filled with strong nitric acid, into which a charcoal cylinder has been introduced, the liquid in the outermost vessel consisting of water acidulated with about ten parts of sulphuric acid. Now, although this is a most powerful combination, and in general use, it has two great inconveniences: first, the quantity of nitrous vapour it evolves is highly unpleasant, and may become dangerous; and, secondly, the current produced is not of constant intensity. M. Thomas has just communicated to the Academy of Sciences a modification which he has effected in this kind of pile, and which would seem to be quite free from the inconvenience alluded to. M. Thomas, in fact, shows that the development of nitrous vapour is one of the chief causes which interfere with the constancy of the current, inasmuch as they attack the copper ribs forming the electrodes, and effect certain chemical combinations, which give rise to counter-currents, and thus impair the principal one. He therefore causes these gases, as they are evolved, to pass into a porous vessel, where they are decomposed. In this process, a secondary current is produced, which, by the peculiar construction of the apparatus, is turned to account, and tends to correct the inequalities of the principal current. This arrangement also prevents the pile from becoming dirty, as is the case with Bunsen's pile.

**ACTION FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT.** In the Vice-Chancellor's Court, on Dec. 2nd, an action was tried before Vice-Chancellor Sir J. Stuart, in which the plaintiff, Mr. Giles, surgeon, of Great Coggeshall, in Essex, sought an injunction to restrain Mr. Hart, the defendant, from practising as a surgeon and apothecary, or surgeon, or from acting as a physician, in the said town, or within five miles thereof, during the plaintiff's life. In April 1854, the plaintiff, then and now a general practitioner at Great Coggeshall, engaged the defendant as his assistant, at a salary of £80 per annum; and, by an indenture which was then entered into, the defendant covenanted that he would during such time as the plaintiff should carry on his business, or until the indenture should be determined by notice, act as the plaintiff's assistant; and that he (the defendant) would not, "whether such indenture should be in other respects determined or not", act as the assistant of any other medical practitioner, or either by himself or in partnership practise medicine or surgery in Great Coggeshall, or within five miles. The deed contained a power for the plaintiff or defendant to determine the indenture by giving one calendar month's notice in writing. The defendant had acted as the plaintiff's assistant up to the 11th of November, when he left, a month's notice having been given; since which time he had, as alleged by the plaintiff, set up on his own account in Great Coggeshall. The Vice-Chancellor granted an injunction until further order.

**THE PROSECUTION OF THE BENNETT GANG.** At the Lambeth Police Court on Saturday, Mr. Samuel Smith, surgeon, of Langham Place West, waited on the Honourable Mr. Norton regarding the case of Mr. Jones, who had been the prosecutor against the notorious quack impostors, Watters, Edwards, and Allen, a portion of the Bennett gang, and who had been put to an expense of upwards of £60, an amount which placed him in the most straitened circumstances. Mr. Smith handed a list of subscriptions, amounting altogether to £22 5s., which was headed with a subscription of £5 5s., from the London Medical Registration Association, and the second item was one of £5 5s. from Mr. Smith himself. Mr. Norton, on looking over the list, expressed much regret that the sum received by the poor man was so small, not more than a third of the amount which he was actually out of pocket. The Medical Registration Association, he understood, had at its disposal a very large sum of money; and, as Mr. Smith had already taken so kind an interest in the poor man's case, he (Mr. Norton) thought it would be desirable that he should wait on the Medical Association, and say it was his (Mr. Norton's) opinion that the case was one in which they should extend their liberality, and not leave Jones a loser.

**EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.** The number of students at the university is considerably larger than it was last year. On the 23rd November, 1856 students had been enrolled; last year the total number who matriculated was 1296. The increase is chiefly in the literary faculty; but the number of medical students (486) shows an increase of 10.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

### POSTAGE OF MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED MATTER.

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**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.

**AN ASSOCIATE.** Yes.

*Communications have been received from:—ALIQUIS; MR. ROBT. JONES; MR. RD. FAIRCLOTH; DR. F. J. BROWN; AN ASSOCIATE; DR. SEDGWICK; DR. WALKER; MR. C. B. GARRATT; DR. W. O. MARKHAM; DR. SEATON; MR. R. S. FOWLER; MR. F. J. SANDFORD; THE SECRETARY OF THE HARVEIAN SOCIETY; DR. WILLIAM CAMPS; MR. H. GRANGER EARNSHAW; MR. FREDERICK FRY; DR. JOHN ARMSTRONG; DR. JAS. RUSSELL; MR. CROSBY LEONARD; MR. HAYNES WALTON; THE SECRETARY OF THE PORTSMOUTH, PORTSEA, AND GOSPORT MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION; MR. T. HOLMES; MR. OLIVER PEMBERTON; DR. C. H. JONES; and MR. W. M. CLARKE.*

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

[\* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]  
1. Descriptive Catalogue of the Preparations in the Museum of St. Thomas's Hospital. Printed by Order of the Governors. Volumes II and III. Pathological Anatomy. Compiled and Edited by Sydney Jones, F.R.C.S., M.B. London: H. Renshaw. 1859.

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