

THE
BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL,

BEING THE

JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

EDITED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY

ANDREW WYNTER, M.D.

VOLUME FOR 1860.

London:

PUBLISHED FOR THE ASSOCIATION BY THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN, AT THE OFFICE,
37, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

M.DCCC.LX.

also setting before them such information, as it is in my power, as Treasurer, shortly to give. This shows, that the statement of the Committee, that the debt of the Association during the three years 1856, 1857, and 1858, has been reduced, is strictly correct.

A few words will be sufficient to show this.

On the 1st of January, 1856, the debt due to the Treasurer was nearly £700.

On the 1st of January, 1859, the debt due to the Treasurer was reduced to less than £300.

On the 1st of January, 1856, and on the 1st of January, 1859, the other liabilities of the Association did not materially differ, therefore the financial position of the Association January 1st, 1859, was clearly more favourable than it was January 1st, 1856.

All that I further request is, that every associate will suspend his judgment until the financial statement for 1859 is published.

I am, etc.,

CHARLES HASTINGS, *Treasurer.*

Worcester, January 3rd, 1860.

IS THE NEW MEDICAL ACT A DEAD LETTER?

LETTER FROM A. B. STEELE, Esq.

SIR,—I wish to direct attention to the case under the Medical Act, reported in your columns, which was heard before Mr. Mansfield, stipendiary magistrate for the borough of Liverpool, in which it was proved that the defendant, Hamilton, had signed a medical certificate of the cause of death, adding to his name the title "Surgeon of the College of Boston, U. S.," also that he had acted as a surgeon, by visiting and giving medicine, etc., for which he was paid; and, although these facts were not contradicted, the case was dismissed on the ground that the defendant did not pretend he was registered under the Act, but, on the contrary, that he had guarded himself against such an assumption by the addition of the title "College of Boston". If Mr. Mansfield's interpretation of the Medical Act is sound, then that measure becomes a dead letter, so far as quacks and unqualified persons are concerned, inasmuch as they can, in the easiest possible manner, evade the provisions of Sec. XL. No act of practice, no assumption of title, renders them amenable to the law, unless they expressly imply that they are registered under the Act.

Contrasting the decision in this case with that in *Fitzpatrick v. Hallows*, it appears that the operation of the Medical Act is to restrict the privileges heretofore enjoyed by qualified practitioners; while, on the other hand, it affords protection to quacks and unqualified persons, permitting them to practise, and use any titles they please, so long as they do not pretend to be on the *Register*. Surely this anomaly cannot be suffered to continue. Unless the appeal which will be made to the court above reverses Mr. Mansfield's decision, no time should be lost in urging upon the Government the importance of so amending the Act that the intention of its framers can no longer be evaded by a mere legal quibble. If this case is a fair interpretation of the law, the public and the profession would be far better without any Medical Act at all, than with such an anomalous and vaguely worded statute.

I am, etc., A. B. STEELE,

Hon. Sec. Liverpool Medical Registration Association.

January 1860.

ENFORCEMENT OF PENALTIES UNDER THE MEDICAL ACT.

LETTER FROM H. M. WILLIAMSON, Esq., AND J. THORBURN, M.D.

SIR,—At a meeting of the Committee of the Manchester District Medical Registration Association, it was determined to seek the cooperation of other kindred Associations in the appointment of a deputation to wait upon the Home Secretary, the object being to express their great disappointment that the enforcement of penalties under the Medical Act has not as yet been undertaken by the Registrar or Medical Council. We shall be happy to correspond with any Associations that may be favourable to the project, and, in the meantime, will feel greatly obliged if you will afford this a place in your columns.

We are, etc. H. M. WILLIAMSON, } *Hon. Secs.*
J. THORBURN, }

184, Oxford Street, Manchester, Dec. 27th, 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—

*BIRCH, S. B., M.D., Upper Kensington Gore, on Dec. 24, 1859.
BROWN, Richard, M.D., Brighton, on Dec. 29, 1859.
McDONALD, D. D. McC., M.D., Surgeon-Major, at Cork, on December 30th, 1859.
PANTON, Patrick, M.D., of Rodmersham, Kent, on Dec. 28, 1859.
*THOMSON, George W., M.D., Hawick, on Dec. 21, 1859.

Of a daughter, the wife of—

THOMSON, J. B., Esq., Surgeon, Ramsgate, on Dec. 26, 1859.

MARRIAGES.

ARDAGH, the Rev. S. B., M.A., to Helena, fourth daughter of Wm. DURIE, Esq., K.H., late Inspector of Hospitals, Ordnance Medical Department, at Toronto, on Dec. 6th, 1859.
BOOTH, J. G. Esq., Surgeon, Padiham, to Jane, youngest daughter of the late R. TURNER, Esq., Shuttleworth Hall, near Burnley, on December 22nd, 1859.
DAVIDSON, Wm. A., M.D., King's Dragoon Guards, to Mary, eldest daughter of the late Wm. SOWTER, Esq., at Derby, on December 22nd, 1859.
KITCHENER, Thomas, M.D., London, to Isabel E., younger daughter of the late Hugh DE CARTERET, Esq., of Colomberie, Jersey, on December 20th, 1859.
LOCOCK, Charles B., Esq., Barrister, eldest son of Sir Charles Locock, M.D., to Fanny Bird, second daughter of the Rev. THOS. PITMAN, Vicar of Eastbourne, on Dec. 27th, 1859.
SMITH, Charles S. Esq., Surgeon, of Burbage, Wilts, to Margaret T., youngest daughter of the Rev. F. TEBBUTT, of Hove, Brighton, on December 27th, 1859.
*WATKINS, John W., M.D., Newton-le-Willows, to Harriett B., eldest daughter of the late Richard HAYES, Esq., Mornington Road, Regent's Park, on December 28th, 1859.

DEATHS.

BEDDOME, John R., M.D., at Romsey, on December 26, 1859.
COUCH. On December 27th, 1859, aged 10 months, William O., infant son of W. O. Couch, Esq., Surgeon, Islington.
EVANS. On December 21, 1859, Alfred W. A., eldest surviving son of B. Evans, Esq., Surgeon, Brixton.
FURBER. On Dec. 25th, 1859, aged 22, Mary Eliza, youngest daughter of George Furber, Esq., Surgeon, late of Malpas.
HAWKINS. On December 27th, 1859, at 10, Montague Place, Bryanstone Square, aged 84, Jane, widow of Anthony M. Hawkins, M.D., of Upper Brook Street.
KANE. On December 23rd, 1859, at Lower Norwood, aged 3, Ella Marcia, youngest daughter of Matthew Kane, M.D., Madras Army.
KENNY, Bernard, M.D., at Hong Kong, on Nov. 2, 1859.
MONTGOMERY, William F., M.D., in Dublin, on Dec. 31, 1859.
RYAN, Samuel, Esq., Surgeon, at 91, Leman Street, aged 50, on December 31st, 1859.
SCOTT, James, M.D., Deputy-Inspector of Hospitals and Fleets, at Musselburg, on December 20th, 1859.
STEELE. On January 1st, aged 3 years, Edward, second son of *H. B. Steele, Esq., Stoke Ferry, Norfolk.
WILLS, W., Esq., Rotherhithe, aged 59, on Dec. 26, 1859.

APPOINTMENTS.

BROWN-SÉQUARD, E., M.D. } as Physicians to the National Hos-
RAMSKILL, J. S., M.D. } pital for the Paralysed & Epileptic.
DOWN, J. Langdon H., M.D., as Assistant-Physician to the London Hospital.
SANDERSON, J. B., M.D., as Assistant-Physician to the Hospital for Consumption, Brompton.
SCURRAH, John D., M.D., as Physician to the Islington Dispensary.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. At the Comitia Majora, held on Dec. 22nd, 1859, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, were admitted members of the College:—

BRIDGES, John Henry, M.B., Victoria Square, Pimlico
DE GRAVE, John Francis, M.D., Fetcham
LIVEING, Edward, M.B., Park Terrace, Highbury

APOTHECARIES' HALL. LICENTIATES admitted on Thursday, December 22nd, 1859:—

CUMPSTONE, W., Market Rason	PROUT, Frank, Yalding
FIRTH, J. T. F., Bermondsey	PUGH, Hugh L., Dolgellau
HAYWARD, John R. S., Lodway,	TEBAY, Michael J., Eastwell,
Bristol	Melton Mowbray
HOYLE, R. E., Heighington	TROTTER, C. J., Holmfirth
LUMSDEN, William, Hull	WIGG, Thomas C., London

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

FULLER, Wm. F., Bridgewater	TANNER, Robert, Ledbury
LOMAS, H. W., Swinton Street	WILLIAMS, John, Doncaster
OWENS, Henry, Croydon	
As assistants—	
BARKWAY, Walter F., St. Bartholomew's Hospital	LOWE, John, Greenwich

PROSECUTION UNDER THE MEDICAL ACT.

THE following case was tried at the Liverpool Police Court on December 21st, 1859, before J. S. Mansfield, Esq., Stipendiary Magistrate. Mr. A. B. Steele, Secretary to the Liverpool Medical Registration Association, was the prosecutor; and Mr. John Hamilton the defendant. Mr. Deighton, barrister, appeared for the prosecution, and opened the case. It appeared that on the 29th November, 1859, a woman, named Margaret Caldwell, was ill, and her husband proceeded to the residence of the defendant, and his place of business, to ask him to visit her. He (defendant) told her husband he would come, and he went to his house. He charged 1s. 6d. for the visit. He told Caldwell he was surgeon. Having looked at the woman, he gave instructions, and said he would call again. The woman died that night. Next day, her husband called upon him in relation to the burial, and the defendant undertook to give him a "medical certificate" of the cause of death, which was in these terms:—"I hereby certify that I attended Margaret Caldwell, late of Grafton-street, that died the twenty-ninth day of November. Immediate cause: *Effusion of blood on the brain, produced by excess in drinking rum.* Signed—J. Hamilton. Profession—Surgeon of the Medical College, Boston, U.S. Residence—94, Mill Street. 30th day of November, 1859." There was no doubt the defendant had assumed a name and description implying that he was registered under the Act referred to; that he falsely called himself a surgeon, and had incurred a penalty of £20.

Mr. A. B. STEELE said: I am Hon. Secretary to the Liverpool Medical Registration Association; I produce a copy of the *Medical Register*. I have carefully examined it, and I do not find the name of John Hamilton (the defendant) on it. The witness was not cross-examined.

JAMES CALDWELL: I am a boiler-maker, and reside at 167, Grafton Street, in Liverpool. I know Mr. Hamilton (the defendant); I called at his shop, in Mill Street, to ask him to see my wife; he attended her the same day; he charged 1s. 6d. for going to see her; I got medicine from him; I paid him, for attendance and medicine, 7s. 6d.; he told me what to do, and she died at 11 on the same night (the 29th November); I went to him again; I got a paper from him; I went to him about the burial; I did not look at the paper, but I took it and folded it up, and went to the registrar of deaths; I handed him the same paper I got from the defendant; he told me he was a surgeon; I heard him say he was a Surgeon of the College of Boston, United States. The certificate was produced.

HENRY BUCKMASTER, registrar of deaths for Toxteth Park district, in which Grafton Street is situated, identified the certificate.

Mr. MANSFIELD: It appears to me doubtful whether this paper sustains a charge of having violated the Act. The section seems loose, though its intention may be plain enough. The question is: has he implied that he is registered under the Act.

Mr. HUSBAND (who appeared for the defendant): That is what we say.

Mr. DEIGHTON: I think, myself, the Act is very loose, and my opinion on reading it was like yours. But there is evidence of his calling himself a surgeon.

Mr. MANSFIELD: He calls himself a surgeon; but he does not hold out that he is registered under this Act; this certificate rather negatives the inference. Mr. Thomas, the bone-setter, and others not registered, do certain things, and no doubt many do good; but they do not violate the law.

Mr. DEIGHTON: The section says that no one shall hold himself out to be a physician or doctor of medicine, or licentiate in medicine, or surgeon or bachelor in medicine, or general practitioner, or any name implying—

Mr. MANSFIELD: The only disqualification seems to be that the person practising is not registered, and shall not imply that he is. Does the evidence show he has?

Mr. DEIGHTON: The question is whether he is not acting as a surgeon by giving that certificate. He is not registered under the Act.

Mr. MANSFIELD: Does he say so? I think not.

Mr. DEIGHTON: There is another case against him.

ELIZABETH KENYON: I know Hamilton (the defendant); my husband was ill on the 8th of December instant, and I went to defendant's shop, to ask him to come and see him; he came, and ordered me what to do; he said he was a surgeon; he gave a certificate (paper handed to witness, who identified it); he said he was a surgeon of Boston College; he charged for his visits (certificate not put in; the following is a literal copy:—December 8, 1859. "I certify that J. Kenyon is unable to attend his *employment*, in consequence of an *inflamation* of the *plura*".)

Mr. HUSBAND: It is the same case. He called himself a surgeon; he did not kill anybody?

WITNESS: I believe he would have killed me, had I taken his medicine. (*Laughter.*) I took one dose, and was laid up in bed from it, several people knows that. (*More laughter.*) Witness was not further examined. The summonses were dismissed.

Mr. DEIGHTON: I am instructed to ask your worship to grant me a case in this matter, to have the opinion of a higher tribunal.

Mr. MANSFIELD: Certainly, there seems no doubt that the Act has been evaded; and the opinion of a higher court should be taken.

Mr. HUSBAND: Not at all.

Mr. MANSFIELD: The intentions of the framers of the Act seem to be evaded.

Mr. HUSBAND: There is much misapprehension as to the intention of the Act. There has been no evasion; it all arises from not properly reading the Act.

Mr. DEIGHTON: If my friend shows me any section of the Act, such as he seems to find in it, I shall be obliged. I have not found any.

Mr. HUSBAND: The intention of the Act is not at all what it is said to be. People mistake it. (*Laughter.*)

Case granted, as required.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE: WRITTEN EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 1859.

In determining the relative merits of the candidates, so far as they can be ascertained from answers to printed questions, regard will be had both to the number of questions answered, and to the accuracy and completeness of each answer. But it is not expected that all the questions will be fully answered by every candidate. For they are not only intended for ascertaining whether each candidate is qualified for an appointment, but for testing, by both their number and their difficulty, the relative abilities of the best candidates,—a design which is essential to a competitive examination, and which cannot be fulfilled unless some questions are asked to which only the best candidates can give good and complete answers.

Natural History, etc. Monday, December 12, 1859.—10 to 1 o'clock. Dr. HOOKER. Answer five or more of the following questions:—1. Enumerate the vegetable anthelmintics, their scientific names, natural orders, and the countries whence they are obtained. 2. What are the principal substitutes for tea? Give their respective qualities and properties. 3. Enumerate the principal plants from which fermented drinks are prepared in various parts of the world. 4. What are the medical properties of the officinal plants in the natural order *compositæ*? Give their names, and the tribes to which they belong. 5. What are the chief modifications of the flowers

of grasses? 6. What natural orders of plants are characterised by an irregular monopetalous corolla with two to four epipetalous stamens? 7. Enumerate the integuments and contents of a dicotyledonous seed; and describe the process of germination. 8. What is meant by rotation of crops? and upon what physiological principles is it based? 9. What are the tribes of the class aves? and how do they differ in structure and habits? 10. Describe the poison-apparatus of the adder, bee, wasp, and scorpion, and their mode of action. 11. Enumerate the orders of mollusca, giving an example of each. 12. What is chalk, chemically, structurally, and geologically? 13. Define tersely and accurately the terms fracture, articulation, intussusception, introversion, extrusion, adnate, polyhedral, elliptical, parabolic,—giving the derivation of each. 14. Give briefly the character and properties of proteine, fibrine, gluten, starch, caseine, elaine, stearine, and legumine. 15. What gases are given off from urinals and water-closets? and how should the evils dependent on them be avoided in hospitals?

Surgery. Monday, December 12, 1859.—2 to 5 o'clock. Mr. PAGET. 1. Describe the states named respectively "shock" and "reaction," as seen in such a case as that of a crushed limb. 2. Enumerate the chief varieties of inflammation of the testicle; and state the distinctive characters of each. 3. Give an account of secondary hæmorrhages, such as may occur after amputation, and of the best modes of treating them. 4. What ill consequences may follow dissection wounds? and what are the best means of treatment, preventive and curative? 5. What are the chief means by which, in the reduction of herniæ, the " taxis " may be assisted? and in what conditions is each of them most useful? 6. Describe the process of repair of a tendon after subcutaneous section. 7. Describe the several diseases of the eye that are connected with syphilis and gonorrhœa. 8. A man, 53 years old, while under treatment for slight stricture of the urethra, was exposed to cold damp weather, and next day had a severe rigor, followed by heat and sweating, and completely lost the power of passing urine. On each of the next two days he had similar rigors; and on the third day he was not only still unable to pass urine, but had constant straining and extreme pain in his attempts to do so. During three days more, these symptoms continued, with rigors; and there were gradually added to them, pain in the perineum and about the anus, tenderness on deep pressure in front of the anus, and heavy forcing pain referred to the lower part of the rectum. The bladder was regularly emptied with a catheter, and was not painful on pressure: the urine was generally healthy. What would you suspect to be the disease in this case? and how would you prove and treat it?

Anatomy and Physiology. Tuesday, December 13, 1859.—10 to 1 o'clock. Mr. BUSK. 1. Give a general description of the spinal column, and of the course of its ossification. 2. Describe the mode of development of a vertebra in general, indicating the exceptional cases (exclusive of the sacrum and coccyx). 3. Enumerate the various muscles, and describe their respective actions, by which the deformity witnessed in the following fractures is probably caused:—(a) Fracture of the neck of the femur. (b) Fracture of the lower end of the femur immediately above the condyles. (c) Fracture of the lower end of the radius (Colles's fracture). 4. Describe the arch of the aorta, the relations of its various portions, and the dissection necessary to examine it; mention also the principal variations in the position of its branches. 5. Describe the parts contained in the space bounded in front by the posterior border of sterno-mastoid, behind by the anterior border of the trapezius, and below by the clavicle. 6. Give a general account of the lymphatic and lacteal system, including the minute structure of the lymphatic vessels and glands. 7. Describe the physiological effects of the division of the vagi nerves. 8. Mention the parts in other vertebrate animals which are homologous with the human hand, or parts of it.

Medicine. Tuesday, December 13, 1859.—2 to 5 o'clock. Dr. PARKES. 1. Describe the symptoms and post mortem appearances of tubercular meningitis in children under 5 years of age. 2. Describe the alterations to which the cerebral arteries are liable: and state the possible consequences of such alterations. 3. What is the treatment of extensive double capillary bronchitis in children and adults? 4. What are the symptoms, anatomical appearances, and treatment of cirrhosis of the liver? 5. A woman, aged 56, was admitted into hospital with great œdema of the face and the upper extremities, and with immense turgescence of the cervical veins. The body and legs were entirely free from anasarca, and there was no evidence of renal disease. The heart's sounds were

feeble but without murmur. There was very decided dulness, with slight pulsation, without murmur, under the first bone of the sternum. The pulsations of the radial arteries were equal in both wrists. Comment on these symptoms, and state what diseases would afford a reasonable explanation of them. Mention also any symptoms (not given above) which you suppose may have been present. 6. Describe the various forms of polypus of the uterus, their diagnosis and treatment.

DISGRACEFUL CONDUCT OF A NAVAL COMMODORE. We have heard with no small regret that the ship now bearing the broad pendant of the senior officer on the Australian station, is more unpopular than the ship which the *Iris* relieved. We hoped better things of Commodore Loring; but presuming the accompanying extract from a private letter which has reached us, duly authenticated, to be true, the gallant officer in command would appear to be taking a very extraordinary course. The letter is dated October 9th:—"The surgeon of the *Cordelia*, D. H. Wright, M.D. (who was a very superior person and much esteemed by all), died, the night before last, from consumption, and was buried to-day. Commander Vernon, of the *Cordelia*, called on the Commodore yesterday, and acquainted him of the death of his surgeon, and was answered, 'Oh, never mind him, we can get a hearse and bury him after you are gone': and Commander Vernon received orders to sail the same evening for the Feejees. However, the officers of the Artillery heard of this; and, as the Commodore declined to do anything, they procured a gun-carriage and horses, and their band. The colonel of the 12th regiment sent a large firing party, and all the officers who were not on duty, from the colonel commanding the garrison down (about nineteen in all) attended. The naval Commodore in command "pooh-poohed" the whole thing, and actually went to a wedding party while the surgeon was being buried. Nor was this all. He would not allow both the surgeon and assistant-surgeon to attend their brother officer's funeral. He compelled one to remain on board, and would not send a single blue-jacket or mariner, or in any way take official or private notice of the funeral of the naval surgeon of a ship under his command. The artillery and 12th regiments *did everything*." (*United Service Gazette*, December 24th, 1859.)

HULL MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION. The annual meeting took place at the Hull Infirmary, on December 15, 1859. The report stated that on the 18th of February last, the medical men of this town determined almost unanimously to establish a registration association in Hull; and on the 15th of April, its bye-laws were fixed, and its organisation completed. All the orthodox qualified practitioners of the town and neighbourhood were urged by circular to join, and assist in its operation; 150 such circulars were sent out, and the result was the enrolment of 44 members. Many of those to whom circulars were sent in the country, had already joined other kindred associations. The committee, until lately, did not undertake any investigation of pretended or assumed titles. The committee much regretted to find the name of an individual on the register, respecting whom the Secretary had been instructed to communicate with the Registrar, when they understood that he was seeking registration. The correspondence respecting him, both with the Registrar and the Secretary of the Bristol Association, Dr. McDonald, was read. To the latter gentleman, the thanks of the association were justly due on account of his exertion in the matter. If unable to prosecute the individual alluded to, on the ground of fraudulent registration, the committee proposed doing so in consequence of his assumption of the title of surgeon and doctor. The Secretary has been instructed to warn two individuals in Hull, of their illegal assumption of medical titles; at the same time threatening legal proceedings. The parties in question, however, immediately removed such titles from their premises, etc. The Secretary was subsequently requested to advise them not to pretend, under any circumstances, to be qualified men, as the committee would certainly prosecute if any instance of the kind came under their notice. The case of a neighbouring medical practitioner, with an extensive practice (and whom some of the members had been in the habit of meeting in consultation), had been laid before your committee by the Secretary. This individual was not registered, and your committee intended thoroughly to investigate the case, and, if necessary, to prosecute him. Through the courtesy of the Registrar, their Secretary had been supplied with a monthly Appendix to the Register, so that the name of every individual registered within the month might be readily

found. The expenses of the past year had necessarily been large in the printing and stationery department, and consequently, there was a balance due to your Treasurer. The committee recommended that in future the subscription of the members be five shillings, instead of two shillings and sixpence annually. The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:—*President*, Robert Hardey, Esq.; *Vice-President*, J. P. Bell, M.D.; *Other Members of Committee*, R. M. Craven, Esq., J. H. Gibson, Esq., K. King, M.D., H. Munroe, M.D.; *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer*, H. Carnley, M.B.

HEALTH OF LONDON—DECEMBER 31st, 1859.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.	Deaths.
During week	{ Boys..1035 Girls.. 923 }	1958 .. 1677
Average of corresponding weeks 1849-58	1595 .. 1456	
Among the causes of death were—bronchitis, 278; pneumonia, 151; asthma, 21; phthisis, 154; small-pox, 46; scarlatina, 65; diphtheria, 12; hooping-cough, 50. The deaths from pulmonary diseases (exclusive of phthisis) were 470, being 176 above the corrected average. Of 66 persons who died at the age of 80 and upwards, 6 were nonagenarians. Of bricklayers, 4 died in the week, of bricklayers' wives, 0, of bricklayers' children, 8; of carpenters, 8 died, of carpenters' wives, 3, of carpenters' children, 14; of masons' wives, 1, of masons' children, 2; of painters, 9 died, of painters' wives, 5, of painters' children, 6; of plasterers, 3 died, of plasterers' wives, 3, of plasterers' children, 5.		
<i>Barometer:</i> Highest (Sat.) 29.580; lowest (Mon.) 28.799; mean 29.32 in.		
<i>Thermometer:</i> In sun—highest (Sat.) 56.5 degrees; lowest (Sun.) 43.0 degrees. In shade—highest (Sat.) 56.5 degrees; lowest (Tues.) 34.0 degrees. Mean—45.3 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs. +8.4 degrees. Range—during week, 22.5 degrees; mean daily, 8.8 degrees. Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 93. Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.97.		

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A QUESTION OF PRECEDENCE. The following case has been submitted to us. A.B. has been a *Member* of the Royal College of Surgeons since February 1826, and a *Licentiate of Apothecaries' Hall* since May 1825; he became a *Fellow* of the College in 1836 (*by payment*), and since then has practised exclusively as consulting surgeon.

C.D. became a *Member* of the Royal College of Surgeons and *Licentiate* of the Apothecaries' Hall in 1847, and is now in full general practice.

Is there any difference between the two gentlemen as to preference? Does the Fellowship take priority of standing, or rank before *Member*?

In answering these questions, we do not clearly see whether we are to regard the first both as applying to professional skill, or, as the second, to simple precedence in the profession. If the first question relates to professional skill, then, *a priori*, A.B. would have the first place: because, by his having been longer in the profession, he may be supposed to have enjoyed and profited by more opportunities than C.D. of acquiring practical knowledge. But it is possible that in this matter C.D. may be superior; and, therefore, as we know nothing of the relative merits of the parties, we can only give a qualified answer. As to the matter of precedence, a *Fellow* of a College takes rank before a *Member*, on the ground that his possession of the title of *Fellow* implies that he has obtained a recognition of professional attainments of a superior order. It is by no means to be supposed that all *Fellows* are absolutely superior to all *Members*, any more than that all *Doctors* of Medicine are superior in attainments to all *Bachelors* of Medicine. The fact, however, of having a title which *a priori* implies superior attainments gives precedence to the holder.

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

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, twopenny; above 8 ounces and not exceeding 1 pound, fourpence; for every additional half-pound or under, twopenny.

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.

Communications have been received from:—MR. ATHOL A. JOHNSON; MR. FRICHSEN; MR. F. H. HARTSHORNE; MR. PEARSON; SIR CHAS. HASTINGS; DR. B. W. RICHARDSON; DR. T. H. BARKER; MR. G. MALETT; DR. WM. BEED; MR. DIX; MR. HOLTHOUSE; DR. O'BRYEN; MR. W. M. CLARKE; MR. F. JORDAN; DR. C. H. JONES; DR. H. CARNLEY; MR. THOMPSON; DR. W. CAMPS; DR. J. W. WATKINS; MR. W. E. CASS; DR. PURSELL; MR. R. S. FOWLER; DR. WHITEHEAD; DR. J. B. GILBERTSON; MR. L. HARRISON; DR. J. B. PITT; DR. FAYE; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; MR. C. S., L.S.A., and a MEMBER OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION; and DR. BIRCH.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

1. On the Injurious Effects of Mercury in the Treatment of Disease. By S. O. Habershon, M.D. London: Churchill. 1860.
2. Essays in Medical Science. I. On the Nature of Inflammation. II. On the Encephalic Circulation, and its Relation to the Physiology of the Brain. By James Copple, M.D. Edinburgh: Sutherland and Knox. London: Simpkin, Marshall, & Co. 1859.
3. Religious Revivals in Relation to Nervous and Mental Disorders. By J. J. Stevenson Bushnan, M.D. London: Churchill. 1860.

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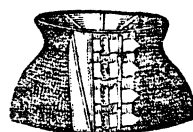
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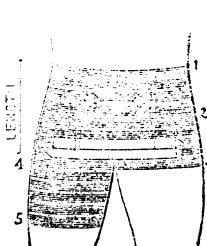
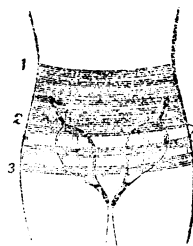
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