

Association Intelligence.

LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Letters or communications for the JOURNAL should be addressed to Dr. WYNTER, Coleherne Court, Old Brompton, S.W.

Letters regarding the business department of the JOURNAL, and corrected proofs, should be sent to 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE JOURNAL.

At a meeting of the Council of this Branch, held on Tuesday last, it was determined to summon a general meeting of the members of the Branch, for the purpose of taking into consideration the following propositions respecting the JOURNAL.

1. That the British Medical Association, having for its objects "the promotion of medical science and the maintenance of the honour and interests of the medical profession", cannot efficiently fulfil its mission without a weekly organ of its own.

2. That it is not only the duty but the interest of the Association, to maintain a JOURNAL having a high professional position and scientific character.

3. That this Branch would earnestly urge on the attention of the Council and Committee of Council of the Association, the propriety of devising and adopting such measures as shall place the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL in that commanding professional and scientific position which should distinguish the representative of so important a body.

It was resolved—"That the foregoing propositions be published in the next number of the JOURNAL."

A. P. STEWART, M.D. } *Honorary*
ALEXANDER HENRY, M.D. } *Secretaries.*

Reports of Societies.

OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4TH, 1860.

EDWARD RIGBY, M.D., President, in the Chair.

This was the first annual meeting of the Society, and a large number of Fellows and visitors were present. Twelve gentlemen, who were proposed for the fellowship on December 7th last, were duly elected; and the names and qualifications of ten candidates for admission into the Society were read.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Encephaloid Tumour in an Infant. Mr. SPENCER WELLS exhibited the plaster cast of a child's head, with a large encephaloid tumour growing from the side of the face and neck. The case was interesting, as showing what a large mass might pass through the pelvis without injury. The child died a few days after birth. The mother was healthy, but the grandmother died of cancer of the uterus.

Intrauterine Tumour. Dr. J. HALL DAVIS communicated the history of a case of intrauterine fibro-plastic tumour, extensively adherent, removed by enucleation.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

Auditors' Report. After payment of all the expenses incurred by the Society up to the 31st of December, 1859, a balance remained in the treasurer's hands of £159:9:4. This report was received and adopted, and a vote of thanks to Dr. Tyler Smith, the treasurer, was carried unanimously.

Laws of the Society. Certain alterations and additions were submitted by the Council for consideration. The following were adopted:—(1.) Chap. I., Sect. III., to stand thus:—"III. All medical practitioners, registered or, if practising abroad, possessing a British qualification, shall be eligible for election as Fellows of the Society." (2.) Chap. VI., at the end of Sect. III., the following to be inserted:—"In the selection of members of Council to remain in office, a preference shall be given to those who have attended the largest number of meetings of the Council." (3.) Chap. XI., the following addition

to be made:—"Sect. IV. That a committee of twelve referees shall be appointed by the Council annually, to examine any papers which the president may think ought to be referred to a committee previously to being read before the Society. The referees so appointed shall also examine all papers read before the Society, and report thereon to the Council, before their publication in the *Transactions*. If a paper be refused for reading or publication by one referee, it shall then be submitted to a second, and, in case of disagreement, to a third referee, whose decision shall be final. Any writer of a paper shall have a right to object to one or more names on the list of referees to whom he may not be willing to have his paper submitted."

Election of Officers for 1860. The result of the ballot was read, and the following gentlemen were declared elected:—*Honorary President:* Sir Charles Locock, Bart., M.D.—*President:* Edward Rigby, M.D.—*Vice-Presidents:* R. Barnes, M.D.; F. Elkington, M.D., Birmingham; A. B. Granville, M.D., F.R.S.; E. W. Murphy, M.D.; W. Tyler Smith, M.D.; R. Uvedale West, M.D.—*Treasurer:* W. Tyler Smith, M.D.—*Honorary Secretaries:* Graily Hewitt, M.D.; T. H. Tanner, M.D.—*Other Members of Council:* James Allen, Esq., York; Edward Batty, Esq., Liverpool; C. M. S. Babington, F.R.C.P.; W. Bloxam, M.D.; W. D. Chawner, M.D.; Joseph Cholmondeley, Esq.; Robert Dunn, Esq.; R. Druitt, M.R.C.P.; G. D. Gibb, M.D.; Robert Hardey, Esq., Hull; S. W. J. Merriman, M.D.; J. T. Musgrave, Esq.; H. Oldham, M.D.; W. O. Priestley, M.D.; C. H. F. Routh, M.D.; Samuel Smith, Esq., Leeds; J. G. Swayne, M.D., Bristol; J. Whitehead, M.D., Manchester.

ANNUAL ADDRESS.

Dr. RIGBY commenced by saying that it was with feelings of no ordinary gratification and pride that he looked back upon the year just passed. From the earliest announcement of the formation of the Obstetrical Society of London, success was a matter of certainty; but it was impossible to anticipate such a prosperous career as the Society had already run. In eleven months 350 gentlemen—not a few of them of the highest standing in the profession—had been elected Fellows; and to many of these the Society was indebted for some most valuable contributions, which in a few weeks would be in the hands of every member. These papers would constitute the first volume of *The Transactions of the Obstetrical Society of London*. The Council also had not been idle. An immense mass of work had been done in the way of drawing up the laws, and regulating the general affairs. Then a very important and carefully drawn-up memorial had been presented to the General Council of Medical Education and Registration, praying for a revision of the laws existing in the various examining bodies as respects the obstetric education of medical students. And lastly, a useful form had been drawn up by the Secretaries for the registration of midwifery cases. If each Fellow would use this form, statistical papers containing the most valuable information must in a few years accumulate, which one or two clear heads and willing hands could easily sift and rearrange, so that important points, now subjects of dispute, would be cleared up, and definitely settled.

Three Fellows who took a warm interest in the success of these meetings had died—viz., Dr. Lever, Mr. Squibb, and Dr. Griffith. One honorary Fellow, Dr. Montgomery, had also been removed.

The career of Dr. Lever afforded a striking instance of the success in professional life which may be achieved by indefatigable industry combined with moderate opportunities. He was born at Woolwich, where he served his apprenticeship to Mr. Butler. In due course he became a student at Guy's Hospital, at which time his physical strength was so great, that he walked daily from Woolwich to London and back. His close attention to his studies, moreover, attracted the favourable notice of the medical officers of the institution, and he gained many honourable distinctions at the annual competitive examinations. Having finished his hospital studies in 1834, and become a member of the College of Surgeons, he commenced general practice in the Borough, while residing in which locality he took an active part in organising the obstetrical department of Guy's Hospital. Shortly afterwards Dr. Lever obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the University of Giessen; and in 1842 he was admitted a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and at the same time became a lecturer at the medical school of Guy's. The subsequent career of Dr. Lever is known to most medical men. His consultation practice was large, and he contributed to medical literature an important essay on the *Organic Diseases of the Uterus*, as well as

partial; and the same, I think, applies still more to the view of the adhesions. Surely, in the cases of acute inflammation for which we leech, no vascularisation of adhesions can have taken place; this process, coincident with the absorption of the lymph, belongs altogether to a later date. The opinion of Dr. Struthers, to which you have kindly referred us, seems to me inconsistent with the fact above related, of local leeching proving successful after venesection had failed.

In conclusion, I can only say that I feel indebted both to Dr. Markham and T. H. for the discussions to which their communications have given rise. It is by such sifting and testing of our knowledge that we get rid of error, and come to clearer apprehension of truth.

I am, etc.,

C. HANDFIELD JONES.

London, January 1860.

PHYSIOLOGICAL ACTION OF DIGITALIS.

SIR,—Permit me, through the medium of your pages, to thank Dr. H. Jones for his courteous reply to my note, and to assure him that I shall not fail at the earliest opportunity to examine the papers relating to the medicinal properties of digitalis, to which he refers in your number for December 31st.

My attention having been turned to the subject, it has occurred to me that, many years ago, I frequently saw the tincture of digitalis, with nitrate of potash and infusion of roses, prescribed in threatened miscarriages with sanguineous discharge, and hæmorrhagic pulse; but I must confess that, in my ignorance, I then thought it was simply given for pretty much the same reason that one prescribes tartarised antimony in inflamed testicle; namely, to diminish the impetus with which the vessels of the part are injected.

To one patient, a young female, who had lost much blood from a wound in the foot, and in whom a very loud anæmic murmur, with characteristic pulse, was presented,—I remember seeing powdered digitalis given, combined with compound galbanum pill—a form in which, on account of the insolubility and tenacity of the galbanum, it must be admitted that the digitalis had not a fair trial. At the end of three or four days, there was not the slightest improvement, and the patient had afterwards to attribute her recovery to beef-steaks, with a liberal allowance of London stout.

In a similar case, that of a middle aged man, who had lost a large quantity of blood from an attack of hæmatemesis, and in whom also an anæmic murmur, but not nearly so loud as in the former patient, with rapid pulse, was present,—digitalis with a low diet, as might have been predicated, failed altogether to mitigate the symptoms; and a dietary, somewhat less generous than that enjoined in the former case, was attended with a like result.

I am, etc.,

T. H.

Cambridgeshire, January 1860.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS AND BLACK SHEEP.

SIR,—A letter appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, a week or two back, on the subject of the College of Surgeons admitting men to their examining tables who were ill calculated to support the dignity or even respectability of the profession.

It must be a most difficult thing to draw the line; and yet it becomes a question if the College are disposed to ignore the immediate antecedents of any candidate for their diploma.

A short time since, a connexion of my own (in consequence of ill health) petitioned the College to allow him to present himself for examination rather earlier than their curriculum of study would otherwise have allowed. This student was able to produce first class testimonials; and his request was most graciously complied with. Here, then, good character had an influence on the decision of the Council.

I am sorry to say that, since the passing of the new Medical Act, certain quacks have made vigorous efforts to gain admittance into our ranks—not intending to relinquish their empirical practices, but simply ambitious to “stand amongst us, though not of us”. At the present time, in my own immediate vicinity, I am subject to the periodical visitations of a man reared in a hotbed of quackery. It seems to have entered his bone and marrow. His father was a charlatan; his brothers are itinerant charlatans (against whom a prosecution has recently taken place); and he himself is a man who is a vilifier of the profession generally, and whose associates are of the lowest class in morals. Yet am I led to believe that he is shortly to be a visitor at Lincoln's Inn Fields, preparatory to his taking up a permanent residence amongst us.

Surely it is the duty of the College to demand something like moderate proof of the character and respectability of the candidates for their diploma; and, whilst they guard against being swayed by vindictive or malicious representations on the one hand, yet I hope, on the other, they are jealous for the honour of the profession, and would warn away an impudent charlatan with the rebuke—

“Thou wear a lion's hide!—doff it for shame,
And hang a calf's skin on those recreant limbs.”

I am, etc.,

M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

And a Member of the British Medical Association.

January 1860.

VACCINATION.

SIR,—You have recently noticed the subject of vaccination in your leading articles; and through you I should like to ask the opinion of my brother vaccinators on a point connected with the subject, and affecting the professional etiquette.

Formerly, I was disposed to think that the holder of the district registrarship ought, in every case, to be a *professional* person. I have, however, noticed some exceptional cases, which make me waver in that opinion.

If my memory is not treacherous, some little time ago we heard of a medical registrar commenting to the persons bringing certificates of death, and professing never to have lost a case in the disease in question. I hope this is merely a dream of my own imagination; if so, so much the better. Now, I am coming to fact, in the matter of vaccination.

I state a case for the opinion of my fellow-vaccinators.

A has a district No. 1 of a Union. B has district No. 3, while he is the registrar for districts No. 1 to 4 inclusive. A attends a respectable person in her confinement in B's district No. 3. On taking leave, he reminds her that the babe must be vaccinated, telling her at the same time that she can have the operation performed gratuitously by B, at his appointed place of vaccination, or that he (A) is willing to perform it, only, in that case, she will have to pay a fee. Her reply is, that Mr. B, the registrar, has already been to register the child, and has offered to come to *her house* to do it, and so save her the trouble of going down a mile or so. Of course, this “extreme kindness” and so forth tells in favour of B, and if he calls again to see the infant, he has perhaps been as often at the patient's house as A; with a little soft palaver, the patient is won over, and A is astonished to hear that B attended her in her second confinement.

I should like to hear the opinion of my brethren on this matter. The law provides that the infant *shall be brought to the public vaccinator*; there is, therefore, no excuse for such actions.

My own plan, when I do attend a patient in another surgeon's district, is always to charge for vaccination, stating always that it can be done gratuitously.

I am, etc.,

A PUBLIC VACCINATOR.

January, 1860.

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—

ANDERSON, John, M.D., Old Kent Road, on Dec. 28, 1859.
CARTE, J. E., M.B., Surgeon 14th Regt., in Dublin, on Jan. 1.
PINNIGER, B., Esq., Ryde, Isle of Wight, on Jan. 3.
TIMES, H. G., Esq., Surgeon, Thayer Street, W., on Jan. 10.

Of daughters, the wives of—

CAMPBELL, John, M.D., R.N., at Lewes, on Jan. 3.
LITTLEJOHN, H. D., M.D., in Edinburgh, on Jan. 7.
PARSONS, W. D., Esq., Surgeon, Liverpool, on Jan. 3.
SERCOMBE, E., Esq., Surgeon, Brook Street, W., on Jan. 3.
WATTS, Wm. H., Esq., Surgeon, 5, Baker Street, W., on Jan. 7.

MARRIAGES.

BARCLAY, the Rev. H. A., M.A., to Lucinda C., eldest daughter of *H. J. MACY, Esq., Surgeon, West Town, near Bristol, on January 5th.

HOLLAND, Joseph, Esq., Surgeon, Prestwich, Manchester, to Lizzie, youngest daughter of John JAMES, Esq., of Walsall, on January 3rd.
IMAGE, the Rev. John, M.A., to Sarah B., second daughter of *John LAWRENCE, Esq., of Brighton, on January 3rd.
SANDLAND, Henry, Esq., of Lyons, to Sarah Ann, eldest daughter of George FURBER, Esq., Surgeon, of Melville Terrace, at St. Pancras, on January 8th.
SMART, Wm. R. E., M.D., K.L.H., Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets, to Emily, youngest daughter of James ADAMS, Esq., of Stockwell, at North Brixton, on January 5th.
TAIT, Greville, Esq., Medical Staff Rifle Depot Battalion, Winchester, to Antoniette R., youngest daughter of the Rev. A. S. ARCHESON, rector of Teigh, Rutland, on Jan. 4th.

DEATHS.

ALLINSON, Edward D., Esq., Staff-Surgeon, at Dhawar, Bombay, aged 33, on December 3rd, 1859.
BORLAND, Archibald, M.D., at Newington Place, aged 63, on January 4th.
DONNELLAN, John, M.D., in Paris, on Dec. 12th, 1859.
GILLUM, R., M.D., at Clifton, aged 90, on January 4th.
GRIFFITH. On January 8th, at 39, Oakley Square, N.W., aged 8, Catherine J., only daughter of E. Griffith, Esq., Surgeon.
MORRIS, J. P., M.D., on board the *La Plata*, on Dec. 23, 1859.
MOYLE, John G., Esq., Surgeon, at Blomfield Terrace, W., on January 3rd.
OLIVER. On January 3rd, at St. John's Wood, Fanny, widow of the late J. W. Oliver, Esq., Surgeon, of Stilton.
SAUNDERS. On December 25th, at 4, Dorset Square, aged one day, Henry; and on January 5th, aged 12 days, Lionel George, infant children of G. Saunders, Esq., Surgeon Bengal Army.
WELCH. On January 8th, at Dawlish, Mary, wife of J. G. Welch, M.D.

APPOINTMENTS.

***LEONARD, C., Esq., Surgeon to the Bristol Royal Infirmary.**

JOHN HUNTER'S MANUSCRIPTS.

THE recent numbers of the *Lancet* contain matter which will be read with interest by the admirers of John Hunter. In its number of December 31st, our contemporary gives publicity to a charge insinuated against Professor Owen, of having, while Hunterian Professor, and during the printing of the *Catalogue of Fossils*, kept out of sight a valuable manuscript on geology by the illustrious surgeon and physiologist. The paragraph, from the Preface by the Council of the College, implying or insinuating the above charge, is as follows:—"This manuscript, on which Mr. Hunter had bestowed so much thought and labour to within a short time of his death, revising and correcting it from time to time, was not prefixed, as he had intended, to the catalogue of his Collection of Fossils, and is neither mentioned nor alluded to in either of the three volumes of the *Descriptive Catalogue of the Fossil Organic Remains* in the College Museum, published respectively in 1845, 1854, and 1856. It is greatly to be regretted that it was not brought under the notice either of the Museum Committee or of the Council of the College. The attention of the Council was, however, unexpectedly drawn to it in 1856, when it was read from the chair by the then Hunterian Professor."

In reply, Professor Owen has published the following letter in the *Lancet* of Saturday last:—

SIR,—In reference to the paragraph in your last number relating to the work published by the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, entitled "Observations and Reflections on Geology," by John Hunter, F.R.S., &c., 1859, I must admit your remarks to be fairly deduced from the allegations in the "Preface" which you have quoted. I have been engaged, since the perusal of that Preface, in searching for documents demonstrative of the true dates of some of the transactions therein referred to by the Council; which search, owing to the length of time that has been suffered to elapse before the publication of the charge, now for the first time preferred against me by the Council of the College, has been attended by much difficulty and some delay. But, if your readers will suspend their judgment for a short period, I shall be able fully to vindicate my character from the stain attempted by the Council to be cast on it. Meanwhile, I request the favour of insertion, in your next number, of the following statement

respecting the Hunterian MS.—the subject of the above volume, —in which I shall confine myself to facts which it may be in the power of any fellow or member of the College to verify.

In the minute book of the "Committee or Board of Curators," under date of April 2nd, 1839, is the following:—

"Mr. Clift laid before the committee, presented to the museum by Capt. Sir Everard Home, Bart., the manuscript of the first part of Mr. Hunter's Introduction to the Catalogue of his Collection of Extraneous Fossils, containing many of Mr. Hunter's corrections of the manuscript."

This minute was duly read in Council, and the "Minutes of Council" record the vote of thanks to the donor.

Thus was the manuscript in question brought under the notice of both the Museum Committee and of the Council of the College.

Being occupied with the third and concluding volume of the Catalogue of the Fossils in the winter of 1854-55, I studied with care this Hunterian manuscript, and made it the subject of three lectures delivered by me, in the theatre of the College, on the 6th, 8th, and 10th of March, 1855. I enclose a copy of the "Synopsis" of that Course of Lectures, published by the Council, and distributed by their order at the College. The subjects of the "Introductory Lectures" are therein defined as follows:—

"General view of the classes of organic remains, as illustrated by the Hunterian Collection. Steps made by HUNTER in quest of a knowledge of their nature. Ideas thereby gained of the changes and operations in the earth's crust during the imbedding and petrification of those organic remains. Relations of Hunter's ideas on these subjects to those previously and subsequently entertained in geology, or on the structure and changes of the earth's surface."

Some of your readers may have retained a copy of this synopsis. Thus was the Hunterian manuscript on Fossils a second time, in 1855, publicly and emphatically brought by me under the notice of the President and Council of the College. My study of that manuscript had chiefly reference, however to its appearance, with proper explanatory annotations in the General Preface to the Catalogue of Fossils, in which, as in that appended to the final volume of the "Physiological Catalogue," ought to have appeared a summary of all that Hunter had left on the subject. I quitted the service of the College early in the year 1856, leaving to my friend, Professor Morris, the completion of the description of the residuary fossil shells, corals, etc. Any Fellow or Member of the College who may apply to the Secretary, will doubtless be permitted to see the above-cited "minutes," and also the "minute" and the "date" of the approval by the Council of the "Advertisement" to the final volume of the Catalogue of Fossils, and the date of its issue by the College in 1856. It was with regret that I saw the erroneous and inadequate notice of the share which had been assigned to, and contributed by me, in the preparation of the Catalogue of the Hunterian and Collegiate Fossil Remains, in the preface to the concluding volume; but it was with still greater regret and surprise that I found no insertion, nor any notice, of the Hunterian manuscript, introductory to his Catalogue of Fossils, the nature and value of which had been brought under the notice of the Council more than a year before.

To the solution of your question, "Why the delay of so many years in giving that document to the world?" I am, at present, able only to contribute the following facts:—

Mr. Clift, at the period when he was left in charge of Hunter's Museum and manuscripts, from the years 1793 to 1799, made copies of the latter. In his examination before the Committee on Medical Education, of 1834, he says, in reply to Mr. Warburton's question, No. 5380, "Had you made any extracts from the manuscripts?" *Ans.* "I was not restricted in the least; and thinking there was a great deal of useful information in them, I made large extracts from some of them." 5390. "What proportion of the papers have you been instrumental in preserving, in substance, by means of these extracts?" *Ans.* "I hope nearly half."

Mr. Clift's chief occupation, after his retirement from the College, was the perusal, revision, and addition of notes to these his transcripts from the Hunterian manuscripts burnt by Home in 1825. Shortly before his decease, he confided to me the whole, in two thick volumes. I made transcripts of them, and have since devoted much of my leisure time to arranging and preparing them for the press. When I left the service of the College, I presented the two volumes of Mr. Clift's transcripts to the library of the College, for safety and for reference.

Having, in the present year, arrived at nearly the completion for publication of the first volume, including the papers on "Natural History," I sent a request to the President and Council of the College of Surgeons, to which I received the following reply:—

"Royal College of Surgeons, London, W.C.

"11th day of November, 1859.

"Sir,—In reply to your application to be allowed to have a copy made of the Hunterian manuscript on Geology for publication in a volume you are preparing for the press, which will include a selection from other Hunterian manuscripts copied by Mr. Clift from the originals, before they passed into the hands of Sir Everard Home, I am desirous to acquaint you that the question of the publication by this College of the said paper, together with the other unpublished Hunterian manuscripts, is under consideration, and that the Council does not consider it advisable, pending such consideration, that the paper on Geology should be published in the manner you propose.

"I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

"EDMUND BELFOUR, Sec."

"To Professor Owen."

On the 23rd of December, 1859, copies of the quarto volume, containing the manuscript in question, and the reasons assigned by the Council for its non-publication until that date, based upon their charge against me, on which you have fairly animadverted, were received by the College from their printer, and have been distributed.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

RICHARD OWEN.

Sheen Lodge, Richmond Park, Dec. 31st, 1859.

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. A full meeting of the above society was held at 53 Berners Street, on Tuesday evening, January 3rd, 1860, for the transaction of the annual business of the society. W. Fergusson, Esq., F.R.S., in the Chair. The ballot commenced at eight o'clock, and the following gentlemen were declared duly elected as the society's officers for the ensuing year. *President*—W. Fergusson, Esq., F.R.S. *Vice-Presidents*—J. M. Arnett, Esq., F.R.S.; G. H. Barlow, M.D.; John Birkett, Esq.; G. Busk, Esq., F.R.S.; James Dixon, Esq.; A. Shaw, Esq.; T. Watson, M.D., F.R.S.; C. J. B. Williams, M.D., F.R.S. *Treasurer*—Richard Quain, M.D. *Council*—T. Ballard, Esq.; A. W. Barclay, M.D.; J. H. Browne, M.D.; W. D. Chowne, M.D.; W. White Cooper, Esq.; T. B. Curling, Esq., F.R.S.; J. G. Forbes, Esq.; Mitchell Henry, Esq.; Jabez Hogg, Esq.; J. C. Langmore, Esq.; H. Lee, Esq.; W. O. Markham, M.D.; C. Murchison, M.D.; T. B. Peacock, M.D.; J. J. Purnell, Esq.; H. Hyde Salter, M.D., F.R.S.; E. C. Seaton, M.D.; R. H. Semple, M.D.; R. B. Todd, M.D., F.R.S.; S. Wilks, M.D. *Honorary Secretaries*—John W. Ogle, M.D.; Henry Thompson, Esq. The annual report was read by one of the Secretaries, Mr. Henry Thompson, from which it was gratifying to learn the prosperous condition of the society, which numbers more members, and possesses larger resources than at any previous time in its history. The present number of members is 364; and no less than 37 have joined during the past year. The receipts have amounted during the same time to £375:5:8, and the expenditure to £299:10:6, leaving a balance on this year's account in the Society's favour of £75:15:2. The volume is issued, and the demand for it among non-subscribers was held to be substantial evidence of the value of the society's labour, and of the estimation in which it is held by the profession. The reception and adoption of the report was moved by Mr. Curling, and seconded by Dr. Harley. The thanks of the meeting were moved by Dr. Armitage, and seconded by Mr. Hulke, to the retiring officers of the Council for their services to the society. The ordinary business of the society then commenced.

LONDON MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION. A meeting of the Committee was held at 5, Charing-cross, on Friday, January 6th. Mr. Fergusson, F.R.S., President of the Association, took the chair. The Report of the Vigilance Committee, in reference to their proceedings during the month of December last, stated that it had been recommended to the Devonport Medical Registration Association, from which a complaint had been received relative to the registration of an individual who was possessed only of an Erlangen degree, granted *in absentia*, to send a strong protest to the Medical Council against the exercise of the discretionary power which permitted the name of a person no further qualified to appear upon the Medical Register. Numerous communications relative to the practice of unqualified persons, and the steps

taken with the view of putting a stop to the same, were reported on by the Vigilance Committee, and others came under the immediate cognizance of the Committee then sitting. Upon the question of the conduct of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons as to the admission of Messrs. Horton and Meredith as members being brought under notice, it was moved, seconded, and carried, "That the recommendation of the Vigilance Committee, to the effect that a communication on the subject from this body be made to the Medical Council, be acted upon." The Vigilance Committee had recommended that a remonstrance should be forwarded to the President of the Medical Council by the President of the London Medical Registration Association, calling attention to the course pursued by the Council of the College of Surgeons, also to Clauses 20 and 21 of the new Medical Act, and to the injury which would be inflicted by a continuance of such procedures as those which the College Council had adopted. Resolutions providing for the drawing up of this remonstrance were passed, and the President, Mr. Fergusson, announced that he should feel it to be his duty, if called upon, as the chief officer of the Association, to sign and forward to the President of the Medical Council the document in question. A letter was read from the Hull Medical Registration Association, enclosing a subscription to the funds of the central body; and some other communications of a confidential nature were considered, after which the meeting terminated.

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY RIFLE CORPS. At a meeting of the members of the Edinburgh University Rifle Corps, held last Saturday, Professor Christison was chosen captain of the second company.

MEDICAL STUDENTS FROM MADAGASCAR. Three young men, natives of the capital of Madagascar, have recently arrived in France, having been sent by Prince Rakoton, eldest son of the Queen, and heir to the throne, to study medicine in Paris.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IN PARIS. At the meeting of the Academy, on December 26th, M. Chasles, Vice-President for the past year, succeeded to the presidential chair; and M. Milne-Edwards, the celebrated zoologist, was elected Vice-President for the coming year.

HEALTH OF LONDON—JANUARY 7TH, 1860.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

		Births.	Deaths.
During week		{ Boys...1003 } 2008 .. 1281	{ Girls...1006 }
Average of corresponding weeks 1849-58		1604 .. 1873	
Among the causes of death were—bronchitis, 139; pneumonia, 98; phthisis, 134; small-pox, 32; scarlatina, 48; measles, 32; diphtheria, 20; whooping-cough, 33. The deaths from pulmonary diseases (exclusive of phthisis) were 290, being 6 above the corrected average. Of 56 persons who died at the age of 80 and upwards, 8 were nonagenarians. Of bricklayers, 2 died in the week, of bricklayers' wives, 3, of bricklayers' children, 9; of carpenters, 6 died, of carpenters' wives, 7, of carpenters' children, 22; of masons, 1 died, of masons' children, 4; of painters, 5 died, of painters' wives, 2, of painters' children, 11; of plasterers, 2 died, of plasterers' wives, 1, of plasterers' children, 3.			
<i>Barometer:</i>			
Highest (Sat.) 30.067; lowest (Thurs.) 28.675; mean 29.294 in.			
<i>Thermometer:</i>			
In sun—highest (Mon.) 75.0 degrees; lowest (Thurs.) 46.0 degrees.			
In shade—highest (Tues.) 55.5 degrees; lowest (Sat.) 29.5 degrees.			
Mean—43.5 degrees; difference from mean of 49 yrs. +7.3 degrees.			
Range—during week, 26.0 degrees; mean daily, 8.5 degrees.			
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 85.			
Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.30.			

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MR. DIX AND THE ASSOCIATION FINANCES. We have received another letter from Mr. Dix in reply to the statement made by Sir Charles Hastings in our last week's impression. As Mr. Dix does not see the expediency of deferring to the Treasurer's recommendation of waiting until the publication of the financial statement for 1859, which will shortly appear, we regret to be obliged to decline inserting his letter, or any further communication touching the finances of the JOURNAL, until the official report appears.—Ed.

Communications have been received from:—MR. CHARLES ROW; MR. JNO. PROBERT; MR. PETER MARTIN; MR. CROSBY LEONARD; DR. LANKESTER; MR. DIX; MR. HINTON; MR. JONATHAN WILSON; MR. WILLIAM MARTIN; MR. JAS. REID; A PUBLIC VACCINATOR; MR. HARRISON; DR. T. INMAN; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; DR. J. MATTHEWS DUNCAN; MR. FREDK. NEEDHAM; T. H.; DR. C. HANDFIELD JONES; DR. B. W. RICHARDSON; DR. JOHN SLOANE; DR. HANCOX; MR. T. HUNT; DR. GRALY HEWITT; MR. A. JOHNSON; AND THE SECRETARY OF THE LONDON MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[* An Asterisk is prefixed to the Names of Members of the Association.]
1. Stricture of the Urethra: its Complications and Effects. A Practical Treatise on the Nature and Treatment of those Affections. By Robt. Wade, F.R.C.S. Fourth Edition (with Engravings), considerably enlarged. London: Churchill, 1860.