

## Association Intelligence.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
METROP. COUNTIES. [Special General Meeting.]	32a, George Street, Hanover Square.	Tuesday, Jan. 31st, 8 P.M.

## Reports of Societies.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MONDAY, JANUARY 2ND, 1860.

B. G. BABINGTON, M.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

SUGGESTIONS FOR UTILISING THE STATISTICS OF DISEASE AMONG THE PAUPER POPULATION. BY GAVIN MILROY, M.D.

For the care of the 14,963 parishes and unions in England and Wales, there are upwards of three thousand medical officers employed, under the general superintendence of the Poor-law Board; and the yearly public expenses for the relief thus afforded to the poor are estimated at a quarter of a million sterling. The entire number of paupers three months ago\* was, in round figures, 850,000, of whom 111,500 were inmates of workhouses, and the rest were receiving outdoor relief, and consequently living in their own dwellings.

New, supposing that there is little more than a single attack of illness in the course of a twelvemonth to each pauper—an estimate very much below the probable mark—we have at once an annual register (for every case is required to be entered) of a million recorded cases of sickness, among that very portion of the population, too, whose condition it is most important for the public welfare to ascertain. Moreover, besides the regular paupers, a large proportion of the poorer labouring classes are in sickness treated by the parochial medical officers.

Hitherto the immense mass of statistical information in the returns made by these gentlemen has never been explored or turned to any account; nor can it be, until some system be adopted to tabulate and collect the leading facts. We know nothing, as we ought to know, as to the most frequent disabling diseases in different towns, villages, and rural districts, among the poor; nor the influence of age, sex, condition, and employment, in their production. And yet most valuable data upon all these points might be obtained from the returns which the medical officers are required to make for boards of guardians, and which thenceforth most unfortunately cease to exist.

The mortuary returns afford a very imperfect idea of the suffering, disablement, and wretchedness, occasioned by any malady. Take an example. On an average, sixteen thousand persons die yearly in England and Wales from continued fever. This number of deaths probably represents little short of two hundred thousand cases, of a disease, too, which experience has proved to be all but under direct control and prevention as regards its causation, and which is also one of the most frequent occasions of pauperism among the families of the poor.

If we suppose that there are between twenty and thirty cases of sickness for every death,—knowing, moreover, that from fifty to sixty thousand annual deaths in this country may be regarded as premature and avoidable,—there must be, at the very lowest estimate, more than a million attacks of illness every year which might be prevented by greater attention to the *hygienic* condition of the labouring classes more especially. No wonder, then, that three-fourths of all the actual paupers in the country have been made paupers, directly or indirectly, by disease.

The public interest demands that all authentic means of elucidating this great social problem should be brought into requisition; and no plan can be better than that which has been followed with such good results in other departments of the public service. Five-and-twenty years ago, no use was made of the constantly accumulating medical returns of our army and navy in reference to the average annual amount of sickness, mortality, and disablement, among our soldiers and

sailors, although it had been long suspected that the rates were excessively high. The statistical returns and reports since published have afforded the groundwork for almost all the salutary changes which have been already effected, or which still remain to be effected, in both services.

Were something of the same sort done with the mass of instructive details contained in the returns and reports of the parochial medical officers, equally beneficent results would ensue to the poorer classes, who suffer a disproportionate amount of sickness and death from circumstances not inevitable or inseparable from mere poverty, but which is super-added to it from either the ignorance or the criminal neglect of those who have it in their power to prevent its production. An annual report, founded upon an examination of these documents—or rather of a simple tabulated register of their leading results, according to a form submitted to the meeting—could not fail, in conjunction with the admirable yearly report of the Registrar-General, to be of the highest value to the science of public hygiene and topographical medicine. The tabulated returns would, of course, have all to be transmitted to the Poor-law Board, and there examined and digested by a competent authority. This scheme could only be successfully carried out, it is obvious, by securing the willing cooperation of the parochial medical officers throughout the kingdom. These gentlemen have, however, always shown themselves among the most active promoters of every rational proposal for improving the social condition of the poor, and for advancing the best and highest aims of the healing art. If it were as easy, Dr. Milroy observed, to overcome official inertia and the unwillingness of governmental departments to introduce any change in established procedures, as it would be to enlist the sympathy and assistance of our professional brethren to the measure suggested, the prospect of something being done would probably not be very remote. It will not be from the medical officers that the chief obstacle to the project being entertained is to be looked for. Their cooperation has to be but solicited in the right channel, and that cooperation will be ere long very generally accorded, on grounds purely beneficent and scientific. The sanitary inquiries instituted twenty years ago, at the instance of the Poor-law Board, and which issued in obtaining the authentic information respecting the domiciliary and general condition of the working classes on which all the recent legislation on public hygiene has been in a great measure founded, owed most of their value to the important evidence of parochial medical officers in different parts of the country.

Besides the duty of preparing the annual report on the sickness, etc., among the poor throughout the kingdom, the services of a competent officer in connexion with the Poor-law Board might be signally useful in various ways. The state of many of the workhouses calls for inquiry, and no one obviously could do this so efficiently as a gentleman who would have to make himself acquainted with the state of all of them. The single fact that the number of deaths in the metropolitan workhouses has constituted the eleventh or twelfth part of the whole mortality of this great metropolis, will suffice to show the magnitude and importance of the interests involved in such an investigation.

A discussion followed, in which Dr. J. Bird, Dr. Camps, Dr. Babington, Dr. Aldis, Mr. Radcliffe, and Dr. WeWilliam, took part.

### ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 1860.

F. C. SKEY, Esq., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

THE INFLUENCE OF TROPICAL CLIMATES ON THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF INFLAMMATORY AFFECTIONS OF THE WOMB.

BY E. J. TILT, M.D.

The scantiness of our information upon this point was first noticed by Dr. Tilt, whose attention had been drawn to it by having had to attend, during the last ten years, patients invalidated by uterine inflammation, in the East or West Indies, in China, and Brazil. Proceeding to investigate the etiology of uterine disease amongst Europeans in tropical climates, Dr. Tilt took India as an example, and pointed out how, even if the menstrual function had been previously regular in young women going out to India, it became irregular from travelling and the sea voyage; how, without passing through a period of repose, on arriving in India, and before the menstrual function had had time to "right it itself," these emigrants were launched into the fatigues and gaieties of society, often marrying at too

\* The paper was written in the early part of 1858, and submitted at the time to the consideration of the Poor-law Board, who undertook to give it due attention.

one concerned in this dispute; and I wish the Association, and every member of it, an uninterrupted course of prosperity and peace.  
I am, etc. T. HERBERT BARKER.

Bedford, January 12th, 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—

BLOXAM, Wm., Esq., Surgeon, Mount Street, W., on Jan. 9.

GULL, W. W., M.D., Finsbury Square, on Jan. 6.

HILLIER, Thomas, M.D., Upper Gower Street, on Jan. 12.

Of daughters, the wives of—

\*BARCLAY, John, M.D., Leicester, on January 12.

GRIGGS, W., Esq., Surgeon, Upper Tachbrook Street, on January 9. (Prematurely.)

\*NICHOLAS, G. E., Esq., Wandsworth, on Jan. 13.

#### MARRIAGES.

DOHERTY, Hugh, M.D., of 2, Westbourne Park Place, to Elizabeth, widow of the late William DAKIN, Esq., at the British Embassy, Paris, on Jan. 12th.

\*JONES, Charles S., Esq., Chichester, to Anne, second daughter of Thomas BARBER, Esq., Tulse Hill, at Brighton, on January 12.

\*LAKIN, J. H., M.B., Kineton, to Hannah, daughter of the late Josiah ROBINS, Esq., of Aston Brook, Birmingham, at Allesley, on January 17th.

MACDONALD, Allan, M.D., Gallarie, Canterbury, New Zealand, to Mary A. F., youngest daughter of the late Alexander GRANT, Esq., Dellachaple, Garmouth, N.B., on Jan. 14.

MAY, Frank, Esq., of Bristol, to Mary I. J., second daughter of James BOYD, Esq., late Superintending Surgeon Bombay Presidency, at St. Mary's, Bryanstone Square, on Jan. 14.

SHEPPARD, Walter G., Esq., South Street, Thurloe Square, to Hannah, widow of the late Rev. C. H. BENNET, rector of Ousden, Suffolk, at Brompton, on Jan. 4.

#### DEATHS.

AYRE, Joseph, M.D., at Hull, aged 78, on January 15.

\*BLACKALL, John, M.D., at Exeter, aged 88, on Jan. 10.

BRADY. On January 12th, at Brighton, aged 34, Sarah L., wife of John Brady, Esq., M.P.

COULTHREED, James, Esq., Surgeon R.N., at 4, Mornington Crescent, aged 73, on January 12th.

\*DOVE, Harry, M.D., Tombland, Norwich, aged 41, on Jan. 5.

EDMAN, George A., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon Essex Rifles, and Medical Officer in the Royal Mail Steam Packet's Company ship *Solent*, at Colon, British Columbia, aged 42, on December 18th, 1859.

GRIGGS. On January 14th, at Upper Tachbrook Street, aged 35, the wife of Wm. Griggs, Esq., Surgeon.

HELSHAM. On January 9th, at Park Place, E., aged 6, Elizabeth, wife of A. Helsham, M.D.

LADD. On January 15th, at Lambeth, aged 2 years and 8 months, Clara Edith, daughter of Theodore E. Ladd, M.D.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

\*HASTINGS, Sir Charles, M.D., D.C.L., appointed Deputy-Lieutenant for the county of Worcester.

#### PASS LISTS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. LICENTIATES admitted on Thursday, January 12th, 1860:—

CATT, Alfred, Brighton	IRVINE, J. W., Lancaster
COLLINS, John B., Yapton	STARKE, A. G. H., Honiton
JESSOP, T. R., Brighouse	THOMSON, W. T., Guisborough
JONES, Thomas, Brecon	

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

STILLWELL, James, London WATERSON, John, Birmingham

### SENTENCES ON TWO CANCER-CURERS IN FRANCE.

SENTENCE was passed on Vriès, the "Black Doctor", by the Tribunal of Correctional Police in Paris, on the 11th instant. We give in full a translation of the judgment pronounced:

"As regards the accusation of swindling—

"Considering that it results from the investigation and pleadings that Vriès, by assuming the false quality of doctor of the faculty of Leyden, while he is devoid of even the most elementary notions of medical science, came to France after having made vain attempts to impose upon public credulity in England; that, after having profusely distributed prospectuses which announced that he had received supernatural revelations, and having thus acquired a notoriety favourable to the realisation of his plans, he, under the name of the 'Black Doctor', caused to be announced by a great number of publications that he had discovered in the tropical regions an infallible antidote, which he called 'the quinquina of cancer', and also other specifics against asthma, dysentery, and against the most serious maladies that afflict the human species; that, having succeeded by these means in procuring patients, he negotiated by contract for considerable sums of money, of which he caused a portion to be paid before the treatment, either with the patients themselves, or with their relations, causing them to entertain the chimerical hope of a complete cure, of which he energetically affirmed the certainty;

"Considering that it results from the evidence of the medical men who have been heard, that Vriès is profoundly ignorant of the healing art; from that of druggists (*pharmacien*), that the medicines he ordered them to prepare in large quantity were nearly all of a powerless and insignificant nature, and that thus he audaciously deceived the public by announcing and causing himself to be announced by all his confidants as a regenerator of medical science and a benefactor of mankind;

"Considering that there is no swindling more dangerous nor more deserving of the severity of justice than that which, speculating on human life, addresses itself either to the fear which suffering and death cause to the sick, or to the feelings of affection which animate their families, to obtain considerable pecuniary sacrifices by raising in them the chimerical hope that the sums paid in advance will be restored to them in case of failure—a restitution which in no one was made, except in one single instance, where Vriès affirmed the cure of one of his patients, who died;

"Considering that by these means Vriès has in less than three years caused to be given to him sums of money of greater or lesser amount by various persons, and notably by Carrigury, 10,000f.; by Capelman, 7,666f.; by Mignot, 3,000f.; by Rougemont, 6,666f.; by Chardin, 1,600f., etc.;

"Considering, especially, that by falsely persuading the widow Riffet that he was instructed by M. and Madame Buch, to ask her to advance him on their account the sum of 1,000f., the price for the complete cure of their daughter, while she was not cured, and while her relatives refused consequently to pay to Vriès a sum for which they did not hold themselves debtors, he procured from the said widow Riffet the above-mentioned sum, and thus swindled a portion of the fortune of another:

"As regards the accusation of illegal practice of medicine and pharmacy and the sale of secret remedies—

"Considering that it is established that during nearly three years Vriès has illegally practised medicine, with the circumstance that he assumed the title of doctor, to which he had no right; that he likewise offended against the laws on pharmacy, by selling and distributing medicines without being provided with a *pharmacien's diploma*; that at the same time, he has prepared and sold substances not inscribed in the *Codex*, and having the character of secret remedies;

"Considering, consequently, that Vriès has rendered himself guilty of the offences provided for by articles 35 and 36 of the law of the 19 Ventose, year XI, 6 of the ordonnance of the 25th of April, 1777, 36 of the law of the 21 Germinal, year XI, and 405 of the Penal Code;

"For these reasons, it sentences Vriès to 15 months imprisonment and 500f. fine."

The sentence pronounced on another cancer-curer, who had carried on his practices at Toulouse, is given in the *Union Médicale* for January 12th. The accused was a man named Martinez, an *officier de santé*, and therefore a legally qualified

professional man in France. We give a translation of the judgment:

"Considering that, in regard to the acts of swindling attributed to Martinez, it appears from the investigation and the pleadings that, having been established seven or eight years at Toulouse, he has represented himself and announced himself in the newspapers as having a special power of healing or extirpating cancer, and has promised a radical cure to persons who have applied to him, although their disease had been declared incurable; considering that these false promises are doubtless insufficient in themselves alone to constitute the offence of swindling, but that they have always been preceded, accompanied, and followed, by fraudulent manoeuvres, with the object of obtaining from the patients—first, the promise of important sums, and then their payment into his hands;

"Considering that, in fact, the investigation and pleadings have established—1, That Martinez, after having visited his patients, sought to terrify them, so as to force them to entrust themselves to his treatment, by telling them that their disease was incurable, that no other medical man could do anything, that he alone was sure of curing them, that he had an infallible remedy, a secret which he was on the point of selling to the Government; 2, that he represented himself as having performed numerous cures, the number of which, according to certain witnesses, he stated to be one hundred and ninety-two; 3, that he represented himself as medical attendant to the Queen of Spain, and a doctor of medicine, while he was merely a simple *officier de santé* recognised in France; 4, that, after having exacted from his patients the promise of large sums, sometimes amounting to 4000 francs (£160), he always caused half of the promised sum to be paid before commencing treatment, and stipulated that the second half should be paid on the performance of the cure which he promised; 5, that he took care, in the receipts which he gave, to mention that the second payment should be made on the extirpation of the cancer, thus preparing new manoeuvres to obtain the second payment, even though the patients had not obtained the promised cure; 6, that the treatment which he caused to be undergone by the patients who had the misfortune to entrust themselves to him, consisted in the application of violent caustics to the affected part, causing them to suffer long and terrible agony, and destroying and hardening the flesh; 7, that he surrounded himself in mystery when he dressed the patients, desiring no person, not even their nearest relations, to be present—not wishing, as he said, that they should become acquainted with his secret; and that after some months of treatment, he simulated the removal of a cancer by lifting out a piece of the flesh of the part, or of the eschars, which he represented as the cancer itself, assuring the patients that all was completed, that the wound had only to cicatrize, that the process of cicatrization was tedious, but that the cure was complete.

"Considering that in one instance (that of Madame Biane), doubts having been raised as to the pretended extraction of the cancer, Martinez rendered all verification impossible by making away with the bottle containing the substance which he had removed from the patient's breast; that he also threatened such patients as made an objection to paying because they did not consider themselves cured, that he would cease from his attendance on them;

"Considering that all the preceding facts constitute fraudulent means employed by Martinez, by the aid of which he caused to be paid to him, and endeavoured to obtain, considerable sums of money, and that he has thus committed the crime of swindling with which he is charged;

"Considering that the acts of swindling were committed to the prejudice of Mesdames Barrau, Thibaut, Biane, Roux, Bedousson, Brachit, Calages, Pégourier, Prévost, Lamothe, Sabatier, Chartron, Laya, Bidou, and sisters Alexandrina and St. Louis, nuns;

"Considering that, although the facts relative to Mesdames Lamothe and Pégourier are of old date, yet those relative to all the other persons named above have been committed within three years, and fall within the application of the penal law;

"Considering, with regard to the accusation against Martinez of having committed acts of homicide, as having caused wounds by imprudence or neglect of rules, that it is ascertained that the treatment employed by him, in the cases of persons named above, caused them to experience unheard of and insupportable suffering, which must of necessity have an injurious influence on the health of the patients, of whom some have died, and others have survived, uncured; but that it is

not sufficiently established that the treatment they received from Martinez produced death or wounds;

"Considering, with regard to the accusations of having violated the prescriptions of the code of medical police, that Martinez supplied the caustics which he applied to his patients, but that it is not established that he prepared them himself, and that he might have obtained them from druggists, as he has alleged; that, moreover, he did not sell them to the patients, and did not receive payment for them in addition to his charges for treatment; that, finally, it has not been proved he performed any surgical operation in violation of the law, since he confined himself to removing the masses of flesh that had been burned by the caustics which he used;

"For these reasons, the tribunal acquits Martinez of the accusations of involuntary homicide, or wounding by imprudence or neglect of rules, and of violating the regulations of the code of medical police;

"Finds him guilty of having, within three years, committed sundry acts of swindling, to the prejudice of the persons already named, by persuading them that he was a great physician, the possessor of a secret or an infallible remedy for extirpating and healing the most intractable cancers, which secret he even alleged he was about to sell to the Government; by causing them to believe in a cure, though impossible, and thus raising in them the hope of success or of chimerical event; and by also persuading them, in the course of the treatment to which he subjected them, that their cure was accomplished by a pretended extirpation of the cancer; and, finally, finds him guilty of having, by fraudulent means, caused to be delivered to him various sums of money, of which he has thus swindled the above-named persons, to their prejudice;

"In consequence, condemns Martinez to five years imprisonment, and a fine of one thousand francs."

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. On Monday evening next, a paper will be read upon the Natural History, Properties, and Medical Uses of Sanguinaria Canadensis, by Dr. Gibb.

HEALTH OF LONDON—JANUARY 14TH, 1860.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

Births. Deaths.

During week ..... Boys.. 985 } Girls.. 953 } 1988 .. 1344

Average of corresponding weeks 1849-58 ..... 1645 .. 1394

Among the causes of death were—bronchitis, 188; pneumonia, 120; phthisis, 140; small-pox, 41; scarlatina, 62; measles, 23; diphtheria, 7; hooping-cough, 31. The deaths from pulmonary diseases (exclusive of phthisis) were 346, being 36 above the corrected average. Of persons who died at the age of 80 and upwards, 9 were nonagenarians, and one a centenarian. Of bricklayers, 3 died in the week, of bricklayers' wives, 4, of bricklayers' children, 3; of carpenters, 6 died, of carpenters' wives, 5, of carpenters' children, 19; of masons, 1 died, of masons' wives, 2, of masons' children, 1; of painters, 10 died, of painters' wives, 2, of painters' children, 11; of plasterers' wives, 1 died, of plasterers' children, 8.

Barometer:

Highest (Sun.) 30°19'; lowest (Sat.) 29°89'; mean 30°032 in.

Thermometer:

In sun—highest (Wed.) 60°0 degrees; lowest (Tues.) 42°0 degrees.

In shade—highest (Sun. Th. and Sat.) 46 degs.; lowest (Mon.) 30°3 degs.

Mean—37°4 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs. + 2.3 degrees.

Range—during week, 15°7 degrees; mean daily, 10°2 degrees.

Mean humidity of air (saturation=100, 93.

Mean direction of wind, S.W. and S.E.—Rain in inches, 0.07.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from:—MR. ROBT. WYNNE JONES; DR. A. T. H. WATERS; MR. ATHOL A. JOHNSON; DR. T. INMAN; DR. W. V. BIRD; MR. GEO. MALLETT; DR. B. W. RICHARDSON; MR. THOMAS HUNT; MR. T. HOLMES; DR. COCKLE; MR. WILLIAM MARTIN; MR. C. J. EVANS; DR. W. B. CARPENTER; DR. AGAR; and A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

[\* An Asterisk is prefixed to the Names of Members of the Association.]  
 1. On the Coagulation of the Blood in the Venous System during Life. By \*George Murray Humphry, M.D., F.R.S. Cambridge: Macmillan and Co. 1850.  
 2. On Chronic Alcoholic Intoxication; or Alcoholic Stimulants in connection with the Nervous System. With a Syoptical Table of Cases. By W. Marect, M.D., F.R.S. London: Churchill. 1860.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

**H. Silverlock's Medical Label Warehouse.** LETTER-PRESS, COPPER-PLATE, & LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING OFFICES, Wardrobe Terrace, Doctors' Commons, London, E.C. H. SILVERLOCK's stock of Labels for DISPENSING purposes having been recently revised and enlarged, now consists of upwards of 800 different kinds. Yellow and Green Labels for Drug Bottles, Drawers, etc., at per book or dozen; a Book containing a selection in general use in Surgeon's or Dispensaries, 10s. 6d. Priced Catalogues of the above may be had, post-free on application.

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