

Association Intelligence.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES. [Ordinary Meeting.]	Hen and Chickens Hotel, Birmingham.	Thursday, Feb. 9th, 6 P.M.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the Metropolitan Counties Branch was held in the rooms of the Medical Society of London, George Street, Hanover Square, on Tuesday last, at 8 P.M.; E. W. MURPHY, M.D., President, in the Chair.

The Journal. Dr. STEWART brought forward the following resolutions, of which he had given notice.—

"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 representative 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."

Dr. Stewart urged that the subject of the JOURNAL was of vital importance and general interest to the Association. It had been discussed at the Liverpool meeting, and also subsequently. He regretted, however, that the discussion had lately taken the form of a dispute on pounds, shillings, and pence. These were doubtless very important; but to judge the JOURNAL by the money question only, would be a great injustice. He had therefore determined to bring the subject of the JOURNAL before the Branch, that it might be discussed on its true basis. Some, both within and without the Association, had represented it as an act of folly for the Association to maintain a JOURNAL, which could never compete with other periodical publications. He dissented entirely from this opinion. So far from the publication of a JOURNAL being no business of the Association, it was the most effective possible plan for carrying out its objects. Without a JOURNAL, the Association would be shorn of its strength; and, considering the great power of the press, it was not to be expected that the Association could fulfil its mission in any other way than through this power, and by having an independent representative organ of its own. It was for the interest of the Association then, to have a JOURNAL—and he would say a *weekly* JOURNAL. A fortnightly publication was neither "fish, flesh, nor good red-herring." A periodical published less often would be better; but there was no doubt whatever that a *weekly* publication is the thing absolutely required. Besides, the relative effects of a weekly and a fortnightly publication on the numbers of the members had been conclusively shewn in the JOURNAL. He then went on to urge that a due expenditure of money was necessary in order to maintain the JOURNAL in a high professional and scientific position. It would be well for the Association to set the example of paying medical writers, perhaps not largely, but fairly, for their contributions. By a judicious expenditure, a staff might be secured, who would materially aid the editor, and introduce variety into the JOURNAL. With regard to the method of obtaining funds, he expressed his opinion that if those who did not contribute to the call-fund in 1856 would now pay, many of the former contributors would be ready to come forward with an additional voluntary subscription, the proceeds of which might be applied as a JOURNAL fund. It was important that the matter should be urged on the attention of the Council and Committee of Council. He believed that it would occupy much of the attention of the Association; and he hoped that the result would be to make the JOURNAL the medical journal of the kingdom. If men could be tempted to write, the JOURNAL would be the best, and hundreds of members would probably soon be added to the Association.

A discussion followed, which was shared in by Drs. Routh, Richardson, Camps, Wynter, and Joseph Seaton.

At 10 o'clock, the meeting was, on the motion of Dr. ROUTH, seconded by Dr. SEATON, adjourned to Friday, Feb. 24th.

On the motion of Dr. STEWART, seconded by Dr. LANKESTER, a vote of thanks was given to the Council of the Medical Society for the loan of the rooms.

Reports of Societies.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 1860.

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

THE STUDY OF DISEASE BY SYNTHESIS.

BY B. W. RICHARDSON, M.D.

THE first part of the paper was devoted to a description of the mode in which synthesis might be applied in medicine, together with the history of the manner in which it had already proved useful, although directed by no systematic line of research. The author then indicated a systematic course for such inquiry, and divided diseases for this object into six great classes: viz., the parasitic diseases; the zymotics; diseases having their origin in the nervous system; diseases where, from disordered chemistry, a new growth is evolved out of the materials of the body, *i.e.*, malignant diseases; diseases of simple degeneration or of misplacement of natural constituents of the organism; and inflammation. He pointed out carefully the animals which might be properly subjected to synthetical experiment, *i.e.*, to the induction of disease; and he then narrated the results of his own experiments in the production of endocarditis by the introduction of lactic acid into, and its generation in, the system.

The following were the three inductions with which Dr. RICHARDSON concluded his paper.

1. The results of his experiments taught, as fully as experiment could teach, that the hypothesis of Dr. Prout as to the cause of rheumatic inflammation, was essentially correct. In course of time, Dr. Richardson thought, some modification of view may probably be offered as to the nature of lactic acid and its relationship to the economy. But the broad fact of the origin of the local disease under the influence of an acid poison will remain as ever. If the question should be asked, Why, on the supposition of such a cause for a specific disease, the so called predisposing and exciting causes play so important a part? Dr. Richardson's reply would be, that the results obtained give an insight into the meaning of these terms, *predisposing* and *exciting*, which they never had before. A man may absolutely live on a diet which is predisposing to the disorder. He may have an error in digestion which shall predispose him to the disorder. But such a man may live on, and may suffer no acute mischief, so long as his excretory functions are perfect; so long as he can burn off the poison in the respiratory changes, or eliminate it in fluid excretions. The excretions of this man being checked, however, in the skin, in the lungs, in the kidneys, and therewith more or less in all these organs, the poison accumulates, floats round with the arterial blood, and wherever it finds a favouring point, excites the local change—*inflammation*.

2. The results related by Dr. Richardson were, he said, of interest as indicating new lines of inquiry for every other form of local inflammatory change. It may be that every local inflammation we know of as due to internal causes is the result of an agent similar in character to the one used by him; an agent not absolutely foreign to the body and not hurtful to the body when present in the normal proportions, (for lactic acid is innocent enough as a natural constituent of muscle,) but poisonous truly, when accumulating, it pervades tissues to which it is foreign. It would be fair science indeed, with so distinct a suggestion before us as to take an empirical survey of the action of all the organic acids of the economy; but it would be most direct as a primary step to ascertain the nature of the various products eliminated in locally inflamed parts, and to test the effects of such products in quantity, on the economy. For an example, in the fluid matter excreted under the epidermis in erysipelas, what is there present? The fluid has an acid reaction and excoriates the parts over which it flows. Dr. Richardson

of the pamphlet, I shall be happy to forward him one on application. I am, etc., RICHARD GRIFFIN.

12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, January 28th, 1860.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday, January 26th, 1860.

POOR LAW. Mr. PIGOTT gave notice that on an early day he would ask leave to bring in a Bill on the subject of Poor-Law Medical Relief, with a view to improve the position of the medical officers, and to secure more efficient relief to the poorer classes.

Tuesday, January 31st.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD. Mr. SCHOLEFIELD obtained leave to bring in a Bill for preventing the Adulteration of articles of Food or Drink. The Bill was read the first time.

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—

HEWITSON, William, Esq., Surgeon, Allenheads, on Jan. 25.

* MATTHEWS, W. C., Esq., Longsight, Manchester, on Jan. 28.

Of daughters, the wives of—

ARMSTRONG, H., M.D., Peckham, on Jan. 31.

* GRAMSHAW, J. H., Esq., Gravesend, on Jan. 31.

* LODGE, Llewelyn, L.R.C.P.Ed., St. Asaph, on Jan. 27.

DEATHS.

ALEXANDER, Thomas, Esq., C.B., Director-General of the Army Medical Department, on Jan. 31.

DAVIES. On January 24th, at 11, Leonard Place, Kensington, aged 74, Frances C., widow of the late R. L. Davies, Esq., Surgeon Bengal Army.

THOMSON, F. Hale, Esq., Surgeon, at 4, Clarges Street, aged 60, on January 22nd.

TODD, Robert B., M.D., F.R.S., at 26, Brook Street, on Jan. 30.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. Fellows admitted at the Comitia Majora, held on Wednesday, Feb. 1:—

BLACK, James, M.D., Edinburgh

SMITH, Sir Andrew, K.C.B., M.D., Thurlow Square

At the same Comitia, the following gentlemen were admitted members of the College under the temporary bye-laws:—

BELL, H., M.D., Aberystwith M'NICOLL, David H., M.D.,

BLACK, C., M.D., Chesterfield Southport

BLACK, Glass, M.D., Torquay ROBERTS, Wm., M.D., Man-

DAY, Henry, M.D., Stafford chester

FEARNSIDE, H., M.B., Preston WILSON, Edward T., M.B., Hen

HALL, W., M.D., Exeter Castle, Pembrokeshire

HODGES, E., M.D., Bath YORK, James, M.D., Market

LUND, George, M.D., Madeira Harborough

MACTURK, W., M.D., Bradford

APOTHECARIES' HALL. LICENTIATES admitted on Thursday, January 19th, 1860:—

GRIFFITH, Alfred Leete

Thursday, January 26th.

BRADDON, Charles H., Upton- HICKS, Charles, Smethwick

on-Severn HUDSON, G., Newport, York-

BULLOCK, Thomas W., Stow- shire

on-the-Wold MURPHY, J. B., West Ella

CULLING, R., West Lyford WARBURTON, C. W., Betley

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

ECCLES, Edmund, St. George's Hospital HARRIS, William J., Worthing

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

A DRAFT of a new Poor-Law Medical Bill has just been issued by Mr. Griffin. As it is of great length, we are obliged to abridge certain portions; but we insert sufficient to enable its provisions to be understood.

i. Relieving officers, overseers or assistant-overseers, guardians, or justices of the peace, to grant orders for medical attendance: the orders to remain in force until the next quarter-day, unless the board of guardians direct to the contrary, or the patient's name be struck off as not requiring further medical aid.

ii. Guardians to examine the books of the medical officers, and strike off the names of those persons who appear capable of paying for medical relief. The relief already granted to be paid for as an ordinary case of illness; or by half the fee under certain conditions; or by two-thirds in cases of operation. The entire fee to be paid for midwifery cases. The payment may be considered as a loan, and recoverable as already provided for.

iii. Books to be examined on the board-day preceding each quarter-day.

iv. If a poor person is attended in emergency or difficulty without an order, the medical officer shall not be required to repeat his attendance without an order; but should he do so, and the patient's right to an order not be objected to by the board of guardians, he shall be remunerated as if an order had been obtained at first. The holder of an order for relief shall be thereby entitled to attendance in childbirth; for which the medical officer shall be paid an additional fee, as provided in section 17.

v. Appointment of Medical Officers. The guardians shall, whenever it may be requisite, or whenever a vacancy may occur, appoint a fit person to hold the office of medical officer, and to perform such duties as may be required of him by this Act, and by the rules and regulations of the Poor-Law Board. Every regulation applying to an officer elected after the passing of this Act, shall apply to every officer already elected by the guardians. Every medical officer to be appointed under this Act shall be appointed by a majority of the guardians present at a meeting of the board, consisting of more than three guardians, or by three guardians, if no more be present; and where there are two or more candidates for the office, the guardians shall choose one of those who is doubly qualified in accordance with sec. 7 of this Act, in preference to one who is only singly qualified. Every such appointment shall, as soon as the same has been made, be reported by the clerk to the Poor-Law Board.

vi. No appointment of medical officer shall be made unless advertised in one or two newspapers of the county in which the union is situate, at least seven days before the day on which such appointment is made. No advertisement shall be necessary for the appointment of an assistant or temporary substitute to an officer already appointed. No medical officer shall be elected to any district or workhouse who is the paid assistant of another medical man, and who is not practising *bonâ fide* on his own account, neither shall any medical officer continue to hold his appointment after the passing of this Act, unless he be a registered medical man. The guardians shall not invite tenders for the supply of medicines, or for the medical attendance on the paupers of the union.

vii. No person shall hold the office of medical officer under this Act, unless he be registered as a Fellow, Member, Licentiate, or extra Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of London; or, Fellow, Member, or Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh; or, Fellow or Licentiate of the King and Queen's College of Physicians of Ireland; or, Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, London; or, Licentiate of the Apothecaries' Hall, Dublin; or, Doctor, or Bachelor, or Licentiate of Medicine of any University of the United Kingdom; or, Doctor of Medicine of any foreign or colonial University or College; and also registered as a Fellow or Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; or, Fellow or Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh; or, Fellow or Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland; or, Fellow or Licentiate of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow; or, Master in Surgery of any University in the United Kingdom; or holds a commission as medical officer in the army or navy, dated prior to the passing of this Act; or as surgeon or assistant-surgeon in the service of the Hon. East

India Company, dated previous to the first day of August, 1836; or was in practice as an apothecary on the twelfth day of August, 1816. Provided always that if it be impracticable for the guardians to procure a person doubly qualified to attend on the poor, or that the only person so qualified shall have been dismissed from office by the Commissioners or Poor-Law Board; then, and in such case, the guardians shall cause a special minute to be made, stating the reasons which make it necessary to employ a person not doubly qualified; and the Poor-Law Board may permit the employment by such guardians of any person if registered to practise as a medical man, although such person be not doubly qualified, or has been dismissed from office by the Commissioners or Poor-Law Board. But nothing herein contained shall authorise the guardians to continue for a longer period than from year to year any medical officer *hereafter* to be appointed, who at the time of his appointment shall not be doubly qualified, or shall not, during the period of his office, become so qualified.

VIII. Every medical officer *already appointed*, whatever his qualifications may be, or hereafter to be appointed, if doubly qualified, shall continue, if registered, to hold his appointment according to the regulations of the Poor-Law Board then in force until he shall die, or resign, or be proved to be insane, or become legally disqualified to hold such office, or be removed by the Poor-Law Board for non-fulfilment of his duties. Should any medical officer be incapacitated by sickness, accident, or other sufficient reason, he shall appoint a registered medical man to act as his temporary substitute, subject to the approval of the guardians, failing which, the guardians shall appoint a substitute, and pay him the proportion of the salary that would have been payable to the officer whose duty he performs.

IX. Permits changes in the arrangement of districts by guardians, with consent of Poor-Law Board.

X. When any district medical officer shall cease to hold his office, or shall give notice of his intention to do so on a certain day, the guardians shall proceed to make a new appointment, unless the guardians, with the consent of the Poor-Law Board, shall divide the said district amongst the other districts.

XI. The guardians shall not assign to any medical officer hereafter to be elected a district which extends beyond six miles from his residence, or if at the time of his appointment this distance has been exceeded, the appointment to that part of the district beyond the six miles shall only be continued as a yearly office, and so long only as it may be found impracticable to obtain the services of a qualified medical man living within the prescribed distance. Whenever any medical officer shall have had more than one thousand five hundred patients on his list in any one year, excepting in the case of an epidemic, it shall be the duty of the guardians to reduce the size of the district, or to appoint an additional medical officer thereto. Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the guardians, in any case of emergency or under any special circumstances, from appointing one or more registered medical officers to act temporarily for such time and upon such terms as the Poor-Law Board shall approve.

XII. Public vaccinators shall be registered medical men, and have the same qualifications as union medical officers.

XIII. *Duties of a Medical Officer.*

XIV. *Duties of a District Medical Officer.*

XV. *Duties of Medical Officer for the Workhouse.*

[These clauses are founded on the consolidated order of the Poor-Law Board.]

XVI. *Remuneration of Medical Officers.* From and after the 24th day of June next, the salary of a district medical officer shall be fixed in accordance with the number of statute acres contained in his district, the number of paupers in receipt of relief on an average in the first week in January, and the first week in July of each year on an average of the last three years, and the number of patients attended by him, or his predecessor in office, on an average of the last three years; and annually for three years, a fresh calculation shall be made on an average of the three preceding years, after which time a triennial calculation shall be made. But should any dispute arise as to the number of cases attended during the last three years, then the Poor-Law Board shall settle such dispute, or may direct that the payments shall be made in accordance with the number of cases the medical officers may in future attend, but after three years, the salary shall be fixed upon a triennial calculation, in the manner already described. (1.) The salary shall be calculated at one penny per acre for each acre contained in the district, together with (2.) 1s. 6d. per head upon the average number of persons in the receipt of relief in the

district, in the first week in January and the first week in July in each year, on an average of the three preceding years, together with (3.) 2s. 6d. for each patient attended by the medical officer on an average of each year during the last three years, when the medical officer finds the medicines, and 1s. 6d. for each patient when the Guardians or Poor-Law Board find the medicines. The salary of the medical officer of a workhouse shall be fixed on the same basis as that of the district medical officer, but instead of the acreage payment he shall receive per head for those in receipt of relief on an average in the first week in January, and the first week in July of each year, 1s. in addition, for each mile beyond the first mile, and 2s. for each mile beyond the first three miles the union house may be situated from his residence.

XVII. *Medical Fees.* A table of fees for midwifery and surgical operations shall be drawn up by the Poor-Law Board, with the advice of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom, and revised every seven years; and every medical officer, whether of a workhouse or district, after attending a case included in that table, shall, in addition to his salary, be entitled to his fee accordingly; and on no account shall the guardians be allowed to compound for the same; or should the case be sent to an hospital, by order of the board of guardians, relieving officer, or overseer, the treasurer for the time being of such hospital shall be entitled to receive the said fee for the benefit of the funds of the hospital. All the fees shall include the payment for the supply of such medicines as may be required, and of apparatus and splints, excepting wooden legs, crutches, trusses, elastic bandages, or any apparatus which will require to be worn after the medical officer has ceased to attend the case. Provided that if several of the fees specified in this section become payable with respect to the same person, at the same time, and in consequence of the same cause of injury, the medical officer shall be entitled only to one of such fees; and if they be unequal, to the highest. But in the case of fractures and dislocations of separate limbs, and amputations of more than one limb, each shall be paid for in full, if the patient survives the injury more than thirty-six hours, if not, then only one such fee shall be paid. Provided also, that in the case of a patient who has been under treatment only a short time before being removed into the district of another medical officer, or into the workhouse, then the fee payable in accordance with the table of fees, to one of the medical officers, shall be divided between them in such proportion as is fair; or should the patient be removed into an hospital within one week after his application to the medical officer, and without any operation having been performed, then the case shall be considered as an ordinary order, excepting in the case of fractures, where half the fee shall be payable, or dislocations, which, if reduced, shall be paid for in full. In case of dispute as to the actual sum due to the medical officer, the Poor Law Board shall decide the question.

XVIII. In any serious surgical case not enumerated in the table of fees, and for which an operation shall be performed, the guardians shall make to the said officer such reasonable extra allowance as the Poor-Law Board may think fit.

XIX. In any case where it is necessary, a consultation may be held, and be paid for by the guardians, if the medical man called in be registered, after the following rates:—When the patient resides within one mile of the medical man consulted, who must be a registered medical man, 10s.; if more than one mile, and less than three miles, £1; if more than three miles, £2. The guardians shall in no case be called upon to pay for the advice of more than three medical men; and not even that number, unless satisfactory proof be given of their absolute necessity.

XX. Except in cases of sudden accident, or other cause immediately threatening life, no medical officer shall be entitled to receive remuneration for any operation, the payment for which is £5, unless he shall have obtained the advice of a registered medical man before performing such operation, and unless he shall produce a certificate from such registered medical man, that in his opinion it was proper to perform such operation.

XXI. In all urgent cases, in which a registered medical man, not an union officer, or if an union officer, not appointed to the district or parish where the patient may be, shall render important service in the absence of the medical officer of the union or his substitute, the guardians shall pay him a reasonable fee, and the same shall be charged to the account of the common fund of the union; but his services shall not be con-

tinued longer than is sufficient to procure the attendance of the appointed medical officer.

XXII. The relieving officer shall provide for the conveyance of the medical officer's book to and from the board each board-day.

XXIII. Where there is a dispensary established by the guardians, it shall not be lawful for the guardians to compel the poor living more than six miles from the dispensary, to visit the medical officer there, or send that distance for their medicines; neither shall they permit a medical officer to have a district extending beyond six miles from his residence, if there is a registered medical man living nearer, who is willing to attend them on the terms of this Act.

XXIV. In case of the employment of a medical officer who is debarred private practice by the guardians, his salary shall be fixed in accordance with this Act, and not less than at the rates set out in it.

XXV. In no case shall the guardians be allowed to enter into a contract with a druggist for the supply of medicines and dispensing them to the poor; but shall either find them through the medium of their own medical officers, or purchase the drugs and have them dispensed at a dispensary belonging to the union, by a dispenser resident at the dispensary, who shall not be a visiting medical officer, but shall make up the medicines in accordance with the orders of the medical officers.

XXVI. The salary of every medical officer shall be payable up to the day on which he shall cease to hold such office, and no longer.

XXVII. An officer who may be suspended, and who may, without the previous removal of such suspension, be dismissed by the Poor-Law Board, shall not be entitled to any salary from the date of such suspension.

XXVIII. Cod-liver oil, leeches, bread, linseed-meal, and other requisites for poultices, cotton-wool and calico, and a list of more expensive drugs and appliances, as shall be drawn up by the Poor-Law Board with the advice of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration, shall not be considered as included in any contract by the guardians with their medical officers, but shall be found by the guardians, through the medium of the relieving officers or master of a workhouse, whenever ordered.

XXIX. The Poor-Law medical officer shall be free from all tolls between his residence and the furthest part of the district of the union for which he is appointed to act, while on duty.

XXX. The Poor-Law medical officer shall be free of the tax assessed on one horse, carriage, and man-servant.

XXXI. The medical officer may direct in writing such diet for any individual sick person as he may deem necessary, and the relieving officer or master of the workhouse shall obey such directions until ordered to the contrary by the board of guardians; and all meat, wine, brandy (which shall be South African wine or Colonial brandy, unless ordered to the contrary), and British gin so ordered, shall be kept at the workhouse, and given out by the master of the workhouse, provided the patient for whom they are ordered does not live more than three miles from the union house; if at a greater distance, then in such manner as may be more convenient for the poor; but in no case shall a daily allowance of meat be given at one time for a longer term than three, or at most four days, under ordinary circumstances, but the medical officer shall not be required to give an order each time, if he has previously stated the period for which the meat or wine is to be continued.

XXXII. Medical relief received under this Act, if unaccompanied by other relief, shall not be deemed parochial relief, alms, or charitable allowance to such person; and no such person shall by reason of such medical relief or assistance, be deprived of any right or privilege, or be subject to any disability, or any disqualification whatsoever.

XXXIII. All payments for medical assistance shall be a union charge, excepting those named in Sec. XVI. (3), which shall be paid for out of the consolidated fund, and the Poor-Law Board shall have the power to order dispensaries to be established under their management, subject to the control of the Poor-Law Board. The expenses of the same shall be paid out of the consolidated fund. Dispensers must be registered as medical men, or be members of the Pharmaceutical Society.

XXXIV. It shall be the duty of the relieving officers to mark with red ink, every week, all fresh patients recorded in the medical officers' books who are not in the receipt of other than medical relief.

XXXV. It shall be the duty of the Poor-Law Board to appoint an additional commissioner or secretary, who shall be a re-

gistered medical man, and possessed of both a medical and surgical diploma, license, or degree, in accordance with Section 7 of this Act, and have been an union medical officer of not less than three years standing [and shall be nominated by the union medical officers on one month's notice being given by the Poor-Law Board, in two or more of the weekly medical journals, published in London, that such appointment will be made on a certain day; the nomination to be by letter sent to the Poor-Law Board; should there be more than one candidate, that candidate shall be chosen who has a majority of votes, and should there be an equality of votes, the president of the Poor-Law Board shall give the casting vote]. The duty of the said commissioner or secretary shall be to conduct the medical correspondence, and prepare the medical report to be laid before Parliament annually, and adjudicate in all matters having reference to the union medical officers, subject to the confirmation of the Poor-Law Board. The said commissioner or secretary shall be awarded such salary as the Lord High Treasurer or the Commissioners of the Treasury, or any three of them may direct, with a superannuation allowance after not less than ten years service, of one-third at least of the said income, or such higher sum as the Lord High Treasurer or Commissioners may direct.

XXXVI. *Vaccination.* From and after the 24th day of June next, it shall be the duty of every registrar of births to deliver to the person registering the birth of a child, a form of vaccination certificate, according to the schedule hereinafter annexed, marked (A), the blanks for the name of the child, the date of its registration or birth, its parent's name, the number of the house, street, or other locality, parish and county in which resident, number on the register, name of the public vaccinator of the district, his place of residence, or other house in which he vaccinates, with the days and hours on which he attends for that purpose, to be filled up by the registrar previous to his delivery of it; which form of certificate it shall be the duty of the father or mother of the child, or in the event of death, illness, absence, or inability of the father or mother, then the person who shall have the care, nurture, or custody of the said child, to deliver within twelve months after the registration of its birth to a registered medical man or the appointed public vaccinator of the district in which the child is then resident, who shall, after vaccination of the said child, and inspection on the eighth day therefrom, or later, fill up the blanks therein with his own name, residence, and day of the month and year, and strike his pen through the words not required to be retained, as "successfully vaccinated," or "is unsuceptible of vaccination," or "is not in a fit state to be vaccinated," as the case may be, and deliver or cause to be delivered, the said certificate to the registrar of the district, who shall then append his name and die of office to the certificate, and give it to the parents, etc., of the child on their applying for the same, or a copy thereof, and record in his books that the child has been successfully vaccinated or is insuceptible of vaccination, or is not in a fit state of health to be vaccinated, according as the vaccinator may have declared. A copy of the blank form, if lost, or otherwise required, to be furnished, free of charge, by the registrar.

XXXVII. In the months of March and September of each year a list of all persons born since August 1, 1858, and above the age of twelve months, and under that of sixteen years of age, and then living in each registration district, and not registered as successfully vaccinated, be made out by the registrar and delivered to one of the public vaccinators of the district in which the child resides, whose duty it shall then be to call upon the parents or other persons having the custody of the said child, and offer to vaccinate it at the public expense, if it be in a fit state to be vaccinated, and does not appear insuceptible of vaccination in consequence of having been previously successfully vaccinated, or having had the small-pox: it shall then be the duty of the public vaccinator to make his report accordingly to the registrar, who shall enter the same in his book, and if the parents or other persons having the custody of the said child have refused to have it vaccinated, it being at the time in a fit state to be vaccinated, the registrar shall immediately sue the father or mother, or other person having the care, nurture, or custody of the said child for a penalty of ten shillings and costs of the prosecution, or in default of payment thereof, to be imprisoned in the common gaol or house of correction for any term not exceeding one month, nor less than one week, which penalty shall be incurred annually until a certificate be furnished that the child has been vaccinated, or is insuceptible of vaccination, or is sixteen years of age.

XXXVIII. Should the said child be vaccinated in some other union or district of an union than that in which it was born, the certificate of the successful vaccination, insusceptibility, or that it is not in a fit state to be vaccinated, shall be delivered to the registrar of births of the district in which the child then resides, and it shall be the duty of the said registrar immediately to forward by post a copy of the said certificate to the registrar of its birth, and append his name and die of office to the original certificate, and return it to the parents, or other persons having the care or custody of the said child, on application, and shall record the same in a book, to be specially provided for such purpose.

XXXIX. A certificate of the postponement of vaccination in consequence of the ill state of health of the said child shall only continue in force six months, and must at the end of that time be renewed if required.

XL. The vaccinators appointed by the boards of guardians shall be entitled to the following fees:—1. For every vaccination, if successful, up to one hundred in number, annually performed, 2s. 6d. 2. For every vaccination, if successful, beyond one hundred and less than four hundred in number, annually performed, 2s. 3. For every vaccination, if successful, beyond four hundred in number, annually performed, 1s. 6d. 4. For each certificate as to the state of a child on the half-yearly list furnished by the registrars, 2s. 6d. In addition to these several fees of 2s. 6d., 2s., and 1s. 6d., there shall be paid an additional fee of 1s. for each case vaccinated beyond one mile from the residence of the public vaccinator, and 2s. for each case of vaccination beyond four miles from the residence of the public vaccinator. No case of vaccination shall be paid for a second time unless the person vaccinated be above the age of 15 years, or an order being given for the vaccination by the board of guardians or privy council.

XLI. Every registered medical man, whether he be appointed a public vaccinator or not, who shall deliver to the registrar of the district in which he resides one of the printed forms, filled up in accordance with No. 36 of this Act, shall be entitled to a fee of 1s.

XLII. All the above fees for vaccination and vaccination certificates shall be paid by the registrars, who shall be repaid the same quarterly by the boards of guardians, on their being furnished with a receipt from the vaccinators or certifiers that the money has been paid to them.

XLIII. Every child under the age of 16 years, and above that of twelve months, who dies of small-pox, at a later period than twelve months after passing this Act, who has not been registered as vaccinated, or insusceptible of vaccination, or of unfitness for vaccination, shall subject the father, mother, or other person having the custody of the said child, to a penalty not exceeding five pounds, nor less than one pound, and costs of the prosecution, or in default of payment thereof, to be imprisoned for a term not exceeding three months nor less than one month, unless it shall be proved that the child had been vaccinated by a registered medical man previous to the appearance of small-pox on it, or the justices before whom the case may be tried, shall consider there are sufficient reasons why the penalty should not be enforced.

XLIV. Forbids attempts to produce small-pox by inoculation or otherwise, under a penalty of £5 or imprisonment for any term not exceeding two months, nor less than one month, with hard labour.

XLV. No case of vaccination shall be deemed successful unless a decided vesicle be formed, from which lymph might be taken, if desired, on the eighth day, or later, capable of producing the vaccine disease in other persons, if vaccinated with it.

XLVI. A medical man or other person giving a certificate that a child has been successfully vaccinated, without having ascertained the fact by inspection on the eighth day or later after vaccination, or refusing to give a certificate that a child has been successfully vaccinated by him, shall be subject to a fine of five pounds.

XLVII. All penalties, by this Act imposed, shall be enforced by the registrar of the district in which the child or other person infringing this law is residing, before two justices of the peace.

XLVIII. Half of all penalties under this Act shall be awarded to the registrar, and the other half shall be applied in aid of the funds applicable to the relief of the poor in the place where the offence may have been committed; and all expenses incurred in enforcing the penalties under this Act shall be a charge upon the union, parish, or place in which the child may at the time be residing.

XLIX. Should a registrar fail to enforce the penalties under

this Act within six months after their occurrence, he shall, on proof being afforded to the Poor-Law Board, be dismissed from his office.

L. Repeal of so much of the Act of the 3 and 4 Victoria, cap. 29, 4 and 5 Victoria, cap. 32, and the 16 and 17 Victoria, cap. 100, as is incompatible with this Act, shall be, and is hereby repealed and annulled.

LI. Justices of the peace for boroughs and towns shall have the right to act as *ex officio* guardians.

LII. Where medical officers of health have not been appointed, and when vacancies in these appointments shall occur, the district medical officers of the several unions, parishes, and incorporations, shall be the medical officers of health for their respective districts.

LIII. In case of sudden death, and where no registered medical man has attended a deceased person immediately preceding his death, it shall be the duty of the registrar of deaths for the district wherein the deceased is lying dead, to give an order to the district medical officer of the district in which the body is, to institute an inquiry; and should it appear to the said medical officer, after viewing the body externally, which by this Act he is authorised to do, and on inquiry, that the person died from natural causes, or, if from violence, that it was accidental, and blame did not appear to attach to any person, then he shall give a certificate to that effect to the registrar of the district; but should he have reason to believe that the death was not from natural causes, or that blame did attach to some person or persons, then he shall give a certificate accordingly, and also immediately give notice of the same to the coroner, who shall thereupon hold an inquest. The district medical officer for such service shall be entitled to a fee of 5s., with 1s. per mile as travelling expenses, which the registrar is hereby required to pay, and charge the same to the Board of Guardians, who are hereby authorised to pay the fee and mileage so charged, and debit the same to the common fund of the union. Nothing in this Act, however, shall prevent a coroner holding an inquest on any case that he may think demands an inquiry.

LIV. Every registered medical man shall receive 1s. for every certificate of the cause of death which he furnishes to the registrar of deaths; and the registrar is hereby empowered to pay the same, and charge it to the Board of Guardians, who are to pay the fee so charged, and debit it to the account of the common fund of the union.

LV. The statutes now in force, or rules, orders, and regulations of the Poor-Law Commissioners or Poor-Law Board, or parts of either one or the other, which are contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, shall be repealed and rescinded, and from and after the twenty-fourth day of June next shall have no force or effect.

LVI. The Poor-law Board shall have full power to make all rules, orders, and regulations, in order effectually to carry out the true intent and meaning of this Act.

LVII. A copy of this Act shall be sent by the Poor-Law Board to every Poor-Law medical officer now in office, and to every one that may hereafter be appointed, as well as all rules, orders, and regulations of the Poor-Law Board, that have reference to the discharge of the duties of the medical officers, and are not repealed or rescinded by this statute, and all future rules, orders, and regulations that shall be made from time to time by the Poor-Law Board, relating to the medical officers, and also a copy of the official circular as often as it is published.

LVIII, LIX, and LX. Explanatory, etc.

THE COLLECTIONS OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM. Last week a very important decision was arrived at by the trustees of the British Museum. The separation of the natural history collections from the books and fine arts collections was carried by a majority of one. All the ministers, who are included among the trustees, voted on the question, and unanimously, I believe, for the separation. The old and unofficial trustees, as a general rule, voted against the separation. Thanks to this decision, we may at last hope to see both the natural history specimens and the fine art treasures of the Museum properly located. At this moment each of these collections incommoded and crowds on the other. There is about as much in the way of zoology and sculpture stowed away in damp, dark, and inaccessible vaults, holes, corners, cupboards, and cellars, as there is visible to the public, or rather to the students, for theirs is the interest to be mainly considered. (*Manchester Guardian*.)

THE GAS QUESTION. In a letter addressed to the *Times*, Dr. Challice, Medical Officer of Health, for Bermondsey, remarks that the summary dismissal of the proceedings taken by the Bermondsey Vestry against the Surrey Consumers' Gas Company for causing a public and dangerous nuisance by the distribution of deleterious gas for two days throughout a district containing a population of nearly 100,000 by Mr. Combe surely calls for reconsideration. As the question now stands, public comfort may be set at nought, health and life perilled with impunity. Upon the evidence of the engineer to the Company to the effect that this great nuisance (which so poisoned the atmosphere as to stay the worship of the congregations in our churches, was even more suffocating in private dwellings, and also injuriously pervaded the wards of the hospital) arose from "a screw loose," which when discovered was promptly remedied, the summons was at once dismissed. Thus the evidence of the person especially implicated, uncorroborated by any impartial testimony, was deemed sufficient for the past, and a satisfactory assurance for the future! Yet this is not the first occasion of a similar grievance in Southwark, in the district monopolized by this Company. The other gas companies have provision for the prompt prevention of such a serious danger to the public, should accident occur, as the supply of unpurified gas, which when burnt is pernicious, and, if breathed, is fatal. All who are not blinded by selfish interests will now see the necessity for legislative action on a question of such great public importance.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE OF THE RUSSIAN NAVY. In consequence of a recent decision of the Emperor of Russia, the principal medical officers of the navy of that country will be sent abroad for two years, during which time they will be required to visit not only the most celebrated hospitals and *cliniques* in Europe, but also foreign ports, especially those of France, England, and the Low Countries, for the purpose of thoroughly studying the hygienic and medical organisations of European fleets, the lodging and diet of men in barracks and on board-ship, the influence of climate and locality on disease, the organisation of naval hospitals and lazarettos, and other matters of importance. (*Gazette des Hôpitaux*; 26 Janvier, 1860.)

GRATITUDE. The following is a translation of a letter which has appeared in the *Moniteur de l'Armée*. The writer is G. Hruby, lieutenant in the 47th Regiment of Austrian Infantry. He appears to have been wounded and taken prisoner in the late war:—"Will you kindly insert in your excellent

journal the following act of thanks. The undersigned expresses his deep gratitude to M. de Vêrac, *médecin-major* of the first class, whose happy interference has saved him from amputation of his arm. He addresses also his warmest thanks to M. Lhonneur, *médecin aide-major*, for the good services which he lavished on him. Finally, he is happy to see, in the preservation of his arm, an additional proof of the high intelligence and scientific practice of French surgeons. Written at Cremona, 12th January, 1860."

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY. On Monday, February 6, a paper will be read on "Quarantine in the East," by R. F. Foote, M.D.

HEALTH OF LONDON—JANUARY 28TH, 1860.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.	Deaths.
During week	{ Boys'...1089 } 2067 .. 1336	{ Girls'... 978 }
Average of corresponding weeks 1849-58	1691 .. 1291	
Among the causes of death were—bronchitis, 202; pneumonia, 127; phthisis, 137; small-pox, 26; scarlatina, 33; measles, 19; diphtheria, 11; hooping-cough, 50. The deaths from pulmonary diseases (exclusive of phthisis) were 308, being 78 above the corrected average.		
<i>Barometer:</i>		
Highest (Sat.) 29°301; lowest (Sun.) 29°148.		
<i>Thermometer:</i>		
In sun—highest (Mon.) 69°5 degrees; lowest (Thurs.) 46°0 degrees.		
In shade—highest (Fri.) 49°0 degrees; lowest (Sat.) 27°5 degrees.		
Mean—32°9 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs. + 0°5 degree.		
Range—during week, 21°5 degrees; mean daily, 11°5 degrees.		
Mean humidity of air (saturation = 100), 80.		
Mean direction of wind, S.W.—11ain in inches, 0·28.		

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. R. We have not heard that the Society of Apothecaries are likely to grant their license to the Members of the College of Surgeons, on the same terms as the diploma of the College is now being granted to the Licentiates of the Hall. We have received no positive news about the recognition by the Poor Law Board of degrees in medicine.

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

Communications have been received from:—DR. INMAN; DR. MARKHAM; DR. JAS. RUSSELL; DR. HEN. HANCOX; DR. RANKING; DR. COCKLE; MR. J. V. SOLOMON; DR. COWDELL; MR. L.L. LODGE; MR. J. H. GRAMSHAW; DR. SKINNER; MR. J. G. APPLETON; MR. CLARENCE MATTHEWS; M.D.; C. R.; DR. R. U. WEST; MR. RICHARD GRIFFIN; DR. SIEVEKING; M.D.; M.R.C.P.LOND.; MR. W. Y. SHEPPARD; MR. C. WILLIAMS; and MR. R. S. CROSS.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

(INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT.)

PATRON—HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

PRESIDENT—THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL MANVERS.

VISITOR—THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.

TREASURER—JOHN PROPERT, ESQ.

The Council of the ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE have the pleasure to inform the Governors and Friends of the Institution, that the EIGHTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL will take place at the FREEMASONS' TAVERN, on THURSDAY, the 26th of APRIL NEXT, when the RT. HON. THE LORD LEIGH has kindly consented to take the Chair.

The following Gentlemen have already undertaken to act as Stewards on the occasion, and a further List will be published shortly. Gentlemen who are desirous to serve, are requested to send their names to the Treasurer, or to the Secretary. There is no liability attached to the office of Steward.

Birkett, Edmund Lloyd, M.D., 48, Russell Square.
 Burlton, Colonel, Portland Place.
 Carr, William, Esq., Lee Grove, Blackheath.
 Chandler, James, Esq., Epsom.
 Churchill, John, Esq., New Burlington Street.
 Cory, C. Fred., M.D., 8, Nassau Place, Commercial Road.
 Dalton, William, Esq., Cheltenham.
 Fletcher, Bell, M.D., Waterloo Street, Birmingham.
 Forest, Robert, Esq., Montague Place, Clapham Road.
 France, John F., Esq., Bloomsbury Square.
 Gibney, Dr., Cheltenham.
 Greaves, Edward, Esq., M.P., Avonside, Barford, Warwick.
 Hammond, J. J., Esq., Jersey and Guernsey.
 Harcourt, George, Esq., Chertsey.
 Harrison, W. A., Esq., 10, Kepple Street, Russell Square.
 Hawkins, Bisset, M.D., 29, Upper Harley Street.
 Havers, John, Esq., 10 Bedford Place, Russell Square.

Hogg, Jabez, Esq., Gower Street, Bedford Square.
 Hayes, Rev. Sir J. W., Bart., Arberfield Rectory, Reading.
 Jones, Dr., Lower Seymour Street.
 Jones, William, Esq., 20, King's Arms Yard.
 Kendall, T. Masters, Esq., Lynn, Norfolk.
 Machin, John, Llington Lodge, Leamington.
 Manby, Frederick, Esq., East Rudham.
 Miles, Major, 6, Duke Street, Portland Place.
 Oxley, T., Esq., Boddington Manor, Cheltenham.
 Pilkington, Thomas, Esq., Cheltenham.
 Robertson, C. Lockhart, M.D., Hayward's Heath, Sussex.
 Smith, William Abbotts, M.D., 38, Doughty Street, W.C.
 Sparrow, Dr., Zetland Place, Southsea.
 Thorpe, Major-General, Guernsey.
 Watlington, F. W. Perry, Esq., M.P., Moor Hall, Harlow, Essex.
 Wyman, George, Esq., Alcester.

By order of the Council.

ROBERT FREEMAN, Secretary.

HERBERT WILLIAMS, Assistant-Secretary.

Office, 37, Soho Square, W., 2nd February, 1860.