

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, April 19th, 6 P.M.

ROCHESTER, MAIDSTONE, GRAVESEND, AND DARTFORD DISTRICT MEETINGS, IN CONNEXION WITH THE SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

THE third of the present series of meetings was held on Friday, March 30th, at 3.30 P.M., at the Town Hall, Gravesend. Present: W. SANKEY, Esq., (Dover), President of the Branch, in the Chair; J. Armstrong, M.D. (Gravesend); F. J. Brown, M.D. (Rochester); John J. D. Burns, M.D. (Chatham); J. M. Burton, Esq. (Lee Park); J. E. Crook, M.D. (Northfleet); James Dulvey, Esq. (Brompton, Chatham); F. Fry, Esq. (Maidstone); W. J. Keddel, Esq. (Aylesford); F. Plomley, M.D. (Maidstone); Flaxman Spurrell, Esq. (Bexley Heath); E. Moore, Esq. (Dartford); with W. H. Flight, Esq. (Gravesend), as visitor.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

New Member. Henry Barnett, Esq., of Blackheath, was unanimously elected a member of the Association and of the Branch.

Papers. The following papers were then read:—

1. On the Diagnosis of Phthisis by the Microscope. By F. J. Brown, M.D.
2. Report of Two Cases of Narcotic Poisoning. By J. E. Crook, M.D.
3. Report of a Case of Congenital Malformation of the Heart. By J. J. D. Burns, M.D.
4. The President communicated the details of Three Cases of Placenta Prævia, which had occurred in his practice within the last twelve months.

Votes of Thanks. The thanks of the meeting were unanimously given to those gentlemen who had read the papers, and they were requested to allow them to be published in the JOURNAL of the Association; also to the President, for having kindly come from so great a distance to take the Chair; and to the Mayor of Gravesend, for his courtesy in having granted to the profession the use of the Town Hall.

Dinner. At 5.30, the members adjourned to dinner, and passed a most agreeable evening.

Reports of Societies.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MONDAY, MARCH 5TH, 1860.

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

REPORT OF A COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE YORK MEDICAL SOCIETY, TO INVESTIGATE THE QUESTION OF THE DISINFECTING POWERS OF HEAT.

[Read by J. O. McWILLIAM, M.D.]

THE Committee had endeavoured, by means of written inquiries, to obtain the best information on the following points:—1. As to what was already considered to be known and determined in relation to this question; 2. As to the extent to which a belief in the truth of the affirmative proposition had been entertained and acted on; and 3. What had been the practical conclusions arrived at in those cases in which the principle had been admitted into practical application?

The late Dr. Henry of Manchester, at the solicitation of a merchant of that town, made a series of experiments with the view of devising some certain and effectual method of disinfecting cotton of the contagion of plague, without impairing the tenacity of the fibre, or rendering it in any way unfit for the purposes of manufacture.

That heat might possess disinfectant power, suggested itself to Dr. Henry from reflecting on the observations of Dr. Russell

and other writers on the plague, that this disease appears to lose its contagious property during the prevalence of very high degrees of atmospherical temperature. Chemical reasoning also appeared to strengthen the probability that a temperature raised to no great extent would suffice for the decomposition of infectious matter, as being products of organic life, and consequently of a complex nature, and owing their existence to affinities which are nicely balanced and easily disturbed, and ready, under the influence of heat, to have their atomic arrangements modified, and their character and properties disturbed.

Dr. Henry ascertained: first, that cotton, silk, and wool, may be exposed for several hours to any temperature under 212° Fahr., without being in the slightest degree damaged; secondly, that vaccine lymph does not lose its characteristic properties by exposure to a temperature below 120° Fahr., but that it is rendered totally inert by exposure to a temperature of 140° Fahr.; and, thirdly, that four children, between the age of six and thirteen years, who were well ascertained not to have had scarlet fever, wore with impunity jackets worn during the height of the eruption by scarlet fever patients, and afterwards corked up in bottles, and exposed to a dry heat, varying from 200° to 206°, for a period varying from two to four hours. Dr. Henry likewise tried some experiments on his own person, with the infection of typhus fever, flannel waistcoats being similarly employed with negative results; but on these he did not lay much stress.

These experiments afford the chief ground, and the only scientific basis, of a belief in the disinfecting power of heat; and they derive great weight from the well known scientific accuracy of Dr. Henry as an observer and experimenter, and the philosophic caution by which he was distinguished.

After seeking and obtaining information from various sources, the Committee arrived at the following inferences and conclusions.

1. The experiments of Dr. Henry, although insufficient for the purpose of scientific demonstration, afford strong presumptive evidence that heat, near the boiling temperature, does possess the property of destroying infection claimed for it by the discoverer.

2. Although no carefully conducted experiments on this subject appear to have been instituted since those of Dr. Henry, yet, so far as the inquiry has extended, wherever the principle has been acted on, the result has been satisfactory. The argument being in its nature cumulative, this theme gained additional force, since first propounded, though, from lack of observation, it has not made that progress which the friends of science and humanity might hope for.

3. Nothing has been added to the literature of the subject since the very able original papers were published; and the professional mind has shewn too great indifference, and has not realised the great sanitary importance of the discovery.

4. The credit of the profession is involved, and it is incumbent on its members, who alone possess the means and opportunities of accumulating evidence, not to allow this question to continue in its present unsatisfactory condition, but to take measures for its practical solution.

5. The required proof and public confidence in its sufficiency, can only be attained by a widely extended trial of the power of heat as a disinfectant, under the recommendation and observation of the members of the medical profession.

6. It would tend greatly to insure the accomplishment of this object, if the Epidemiological Society could be induced to take up the inquiry, and recommend it to the consideration of its members. It would be for this—the York Medical—Society to consider whether it might not be desirable to report their proceedings to the President of that Society.

7. Measures should be taken to induce the members of the profession generally to give their attention to the subject, in order to insure a numerous and widely extended series of observations, conducted under the supervision of medical men, which may be made available as evidence.

8. As nothing would be so likely to facilitate every other measure which it might be considered desirable to adopt for the furtherance of this inquiry as the being able to recommend to the profession and the public some simple and inexpensive apparatus, it would therefore be desirable, as a first step, to appoint a Committee to consider the best construction of an apparatus for conducting the process of disinfection by heat.

A discussion followed, in which Dr. Lewis, Mr. Radcliffe, Dr. Camps, Mr. Lord, Mr. Burge, Dr. Milroy, Dr. Babington, and Dr. McWilliam took part.

large majority of both political parties; and there is every probability that this important subject will be a leading, if not a determining question, at the next election.

It should not be forgotten that the Budget of 1853 embodied the modification we are now seeking; and that it was defeated by Mr. Gladstone, on the ground that the entire was immoral, and that nothing should be done to render it permanent. If, under these altered circumstances, professional gentlemen of liberal politics will aid in opposing the Income Tax in its present form, there will be little difficulty in obtaining the desired modification. The law journals are advocating the formation of a central committee in London. If the medical profession can be induced to cooperate cordially in this movement, we may indulge a reasonable hope of success.

I am, etc., GEORGE MAY, JUN.

Reading, April 3rd, 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 a son, the wife of—

*GIBBON, Septimus, M.D., Finsbury Square, on March 31.

Of daughters, the wives of—

*FLETCHER, J. W., Esq., Bengal Medical Service (widow of the late), at 13, Hill Street, on March 29.

KING, Richard, M.D., Savile Row, on March 30.

MARRIAGES.

CAREY, Lauger, M.D., Royal Artillery, to Caroline C., youngest daughter of the late Captain John WILSON, R.N., at Bath, on March 24.

KINKEL, Gottfried, Ph.D., of Eastbourne Terrace, to Minna, daughter of the late Julius C. WERNER, M.D., of Königsberg, on March 31.

MOSENTHAL, Hermann, Esq., of Murraysburg, Cape of Good Hope, to Elise, second daughter of J. H. STEINAU, M.D., Aliwal North, Cape of Good Hope, on January 10.

*THORBURN, John, M.D., Manchester, to Annie Pollok, eldest daughter of John ANDERSON, Esq., Manchester, on March 28.

DEATHS.

BARNES. On April 1st, Harry Wykeham, second son of *J. W. Barnes, Esq., of Islington.

*BRAID, James, Esq., Surgeon, of Manchester, on March 25.

HALAHAN. On March 21st, in Guernsey, aged 23, Mary, daughter of J. H. Halahan, M.D., Inspector-General of Hospitals.

LEETE. On March 26th, at Newton-le-Willows, aged 2½ years, Edward N., youngest child of Edward S. Leete, Esq., Surgeon.

LUPTON, Bew, Esq., Surgeon, Cheadle, aged 64, on March 29.

MACGOWAN, Edward, M.D., at Jerusalem, on February 6.

ROBERTS, Charles, Esq., Surgeon, at Hammersmith, aged 65, on March 30.

HULL MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION.

THE following is a copy of a memorial from the members of the above Association resident in Hull to the General Council of Medical Education.

"To the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom.

"The memorial of the undersigned, being members of the Hull Medical Registration Association,—

"Showeth,—That your memorialists observe with regret that, at a time when the most strenuous efforts are being made to raise the status of the medical profession of the United Kingdom, the Royal College of Surgeons of England should so far have neglected its duty as a guardian of the interests of the profession as to have admitted to the honour of its membership men who have not followed any regular course of medical education.

"Your memorialists therefore respectfully request that you will exercise the powers vested in you for the purpose of

putting a stop to proceedings so calculated to lower the position of legally qualified medical practitioners."

The petition is signed by twenty-six of the members of the Association, including the names of Sir Henry Cooper, M.D.; Owen Daly, M.D.; Drs. Lunn and King; and Mr. Craven, etc.; and has been forwarded to the Registrar, for presentation to the Council.

The Secretary of the Hull Registration Association (Mr. Carnley) has also forwarded to the Secretaries of the College of Dentists a protest (signed by thirty medical men of Hull) against the granting of diplomas in dentistry by the College of Surgeons.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

THE following is a summary of the Draft Bill for the amendment of the system of Poor-Law Medical Relief, as finally amended by Mr. Griffin before its introduction into Parliament by Mr. Pigott. On comparing it with the abstract given in the JOURNAL for February 4th, it will be seen that several modifications have been made, of which the principal are an alteration of the scale of payment in Section XVI, and the omission of the clauses relating to vaccination.

i. Facilitates the obtaining of Medical Orders by the poor, as the Overseers of each parish, and the Magistrates, in a Union, will have power to grant them, as well as the Relieving Officer.

ii. Empowers the Guardians to strike off the books the names of all persons who are capable of paying for Medical Relief, but the Guardians must pay the 3s. 6d., or the 2s. 6d., as the case may be, to the Medical Officer for his past attendance, or the whole or part of the fee for certain accidents and operations therein described; which payment they may, if they think desirable, declare to be a loan.

iii. Fixes a quarter of a year as the period a patient may remain on the books of a Medical Officer; after which, he shall be counted as a fresh patient, excepting in the case of a person whose order has been received only one week before the expiration of the quarter, or where a fee has been claimed, when the case shall remain on the books until the subsequent quarter day, unless struck off before, by the Medical Officer.

iv. Allows a Medical Officer to decline to continue an attendance on a sick person unless an order be procured; but should he continue to attend, and the Guardians at their next meeting do not object to the sick person's right to have an order, then the medical man shall be remunerated. The holder of an order for Medical Relief shall be entitled to medical assistance during child-birth.

v. Relates to the appointment of Medical Officers, and makes it compulsory on them to perform the duties required by this Act, and by the rules of the Poor-Law Board; it also makes it compulsory on Guardians to elect a doubly-qualified man, in preference to one with a single qualification; it also compels the Poor-Law Board to annul appointments not made in conformity with this Act.

vi. Compels the Guardians to advertise all medical vacancies in a newspaper of the County in which the Union is situate; it declares that the assistant of a medical man shall not be appointed; that all Medical Officers, not registered, shall forfeit office; that tenders for medical advice shall not be invited, but the estimated amount of salary, in accordance with this Act, shall be named.

vii. Makes it compulsory on the Poor-Law Board to accept the services of all registered medical men, provided they hold both a Medical and Surgical Qualification. The exceptions to the rule are, Medical Officers holding commissions in the Army and Navy, dated prior to the passing of this Act; or Surgeons or Assistant-Surgeons of the East India Company, whose commissions bear date prior to August 1826, and the Apothecary in practice prior to 1815, who may be elected although they have no other qualifications than their commissions. Officers elected with but one qualification shall remain in office for one year only, when the vacancy must again be advertised.

viii. Makes the appointment of all the present Medical Officers permanent, provided they reside within two miles of their district.

ix. Enables the Guardians, with the consent of the Poor-Law Board, to reduce or enlarge the size of a district; and also to appoint additional Medical Officers to act therein.

x. Provides for the filling up of a vacancy, unless the district be divided amongst the other officers.

xi. Limits the permanency of appointment of a future Medical Officer to those parts of a district not more than six miles from his residence, beyond which the office shall be annual; it also limits the attendance on the sick poor to 1,500 annually.

xii. Public Vaccinators shall have the same qualifications as Union Medical Officers.

xiii, xiv, xv. Define the duties of a Medical Officer.

xvi. Provides for the payment of Medical Officers of Districts, on acreage, at 1*d.* per acre, and on cases of illness at 3*s.* 6*d.* each, when the Medical Officer finds the medicines, and 2*s.* 6*d.* each when the Guardians find the medicines; but in the case of the Medical Officer of a Workhouse, Infirmary, Lunatic Asylum, or School-house, he shall receive 2*s.* 6*d.* in addition, for each attendance at the Workhouse, etc., if the institution be situate more than one mile from his residence, and 5*s.* if more than two miles.

xvii. Provides that a Table of Fees shall be drawn up by the Poor Law Board, with the advice of the Privy Council; that the Guardians shall not compound for the fees; that if a patient requiring an operation be sent to a Hospital, the Guardians shall pay the Treasurer of the Hospital a similar fee to that they would pay the Medical Officer for its performance. It also provides for a division of a fee in case the patient shall have been attended consecutively by two Medical Officers, or be treated by one Medical Officer, and then go to a hospital.

xviii. Provides for serious surgical cases, not enumerated in the Table of Fees, and gives power to the Poor Law Board to award reasonable extra allowance.

xix. Provides for advice, assistance, and consultations, and fixes the fees at 10*s.*, £1, or £2, according to distance.

xx. Provides that the payment of a fee of £5 for an operation shall not be made unless the advice of a registered medical man be procured before its performance, and a certificate be produced of its necessity. It also permits the advice of a registered Medical man, instead of, as at present, confining it to those holding particular qualifications.

xxi. Provides for the payment of a reasonable fee to any registered Medical man, not a Union Officer of the district, who may render important services in a case of sudden accident, or other cause immediately threatening life.

xxii. Provides that the Relieving Officer shall arrange for the conveyance of the Medical Officer's books to the Board of Guardians each Board-day.

xxiii. Empowers Boards of Guardians to establish Dispensaries, but limits their power of compelling the poor to send more than six miles for their medicines, or a Medical Officer holding a district extending further than six miles from a Dispensary if it can be avoided.

xxiv. Fixes the salary of a Medical Officer, who is debarred private practice, on the same terms as other Medical Officers.

xxv. Prevents the Guardians contracting with a Druggist for medicines and dispensing them for the poor, but empowers them to find them through the medium of their own Medical Officers; or, to purchase the drugs and have them dispensed by a dispenser resident at the Dispensary, but who shall not be a visiting Medical Officer.

xxvi. Declares that a Medical Officer's salary shall be payable up to the day on which he shall cease to hold office, and no longer.

xxvii. The salary of an Officer who may be suspended and afterwards dismissed, shall be payable up to the day of his suspension only.

xxviii. Cod-liver oil, leeches, requisites for poultices, and a list of drugs and appliances, which shall be drawn up by the Poor Law Board, with the advice of the General Medical Council, shall not be included in any contract with Medical Officers.

xxix. A Medical Officer shall be free of toll when on duty visiting Union Patients in his own district.

xxx. The Poor Law Medical Officer shall be free of tax on one horse, carriage, and man servant.

xxxi. A medical officer may direct the kind of diet for the sick, and the relieving officer or master of the workhouse, as the case may be, shall obey such direction until ordered to the contrary by the Guardians; and that meat, wine, and spirits shall be kept at the workhouse, and given out by the master to all patients for whom they may be ordered, who live within three miles.

xxxii. Medical Relief only shall not be deemed parochial relief, nor subject the recipient of it to any disqualification whatsoever.

xxxiii. All payments for Medical assistance related in Sec. 16, shall be a charge upon the Rate of the County in which the Union, Parish, or Incorporation is situate, excepting the payment for Drugs, Dispensaries, and Dispensers, or the sum allowed the Medical Officers for the medicines, which shall be a charge upon the Consolidated Fund, and all other payments a Union charge.

xxxiv. The Relieving officer to affix a mark against the names of those in receipt of Medical Relief only, in order that a calculation may be made of the diseases affecting each class; this it is directed shall be laid before Parliament, together with a list of cases occurring in each Union, of diphtheria, cholera, diarrhoea, continued fever, scarlet fever, measles, hooping cough, and small-pox.

xxxv. Directs the appointment of a Medical Commissioner or Secretary to the Poor-Law Board, who it is proposed shall be nominated by the Poor-Law Medical Officers.

xxxvi. Justices of the Peace for Boroughs and Towns shall be ex-officio Guardians.

xxxvii. Poor-Law Medical Officers shall be Officers of Health, excepting in those places where Officers of Health have been already appointed; but even then, where vacancies occur, the Poor-Law Medical Officers shall occupy them, and their salaries, which shall be paid out of the Consolidated Fund or the Poor Rates, shall be such as the Privy Council may direct.

xxxviii. Directs the Registrar to order the District Medical officer, in all cases of sudden death, where no registered Medical man has attended the deceased, to make inquiries and give a certificate to the Registrar, and also to the Coroner, if necessary, as to the probable cause of death. The fee to the Medical Officer to be 5*s.*, with 1*s.* for mileage, which is to be paid for out of the common fund of the Union.

xxxix. One shilling shall be paid for every certificate of death, or successful vaccination, which is furnished to the Registrar by a registered Medical Man, the payment to be charged to the common fund of the Union.

xl. Repeals all Statutes or Rules, or Orders and Regulations of the Poor-Law Commissioners, or Poor-Law Board, which are contrary to this Act.

xli. Empowers the Poor-Law Board to make Rules, Orders, and Regulations, in order to carry out this Act.

xlii. A copy of this Act shall be sent to all Poor-Law Medical Officers, whether now in office, or hereafter to be appointed, and also all Rules, Orders, and Regulations in reference to their duties, and copies of the Official Circulars of the Poor-Law Board, as often as published.

xliii. Relates to the construction of this Act.

xliv. This Act shall embrace all Unions under the Poor-Law Board, Gilbert's Acts, or Local Acts, but it shall extend only to England and Wales.

xlv. This Act may be amended, or repealed, by any Act to be passed in this present Session of Parliament.

THE DEODORIZATION OF THE THAMES. The material which appears likely to be employed for the deodorization is perchloride of iron. Tenders are to be sent in on the 12th of April for the supply of quantities not exceeding 5,345 gallons a day at certain stations, at times to be appointed between the 1st of May and 31st of August next, besides further quantities on receipt of notice. These arrangements are designed, first, to combat the evil of the stench of the river, which is expected to recur from year to year till the main-drainage works are completed. The deodorizing stations are chiefly those which were in use last year. There will be 39 of them, for an estimated quantity of 4,095 gallons daily, together, on the north side of the river, and 15 of them (whereof five belong to the Earl sewer alone), for 1,250 gallons, on the south side. The Dufield sewer is expected to require as much as 414 gallons. The outlet of this sewer is in a district of Bermondsey where the deaths from cholera in 1853 and 1854 were 20.1 per thousand, nearly the largest number on that side the river. On the north side, the Fleet sewer may require 718 gallons daily; the London-bridge sewer, 544 gallons; the King's Scholars' Pond sewer, 497 gallons; and the Ranelagh sewer, 382 gallons. The quantities contracted for are to be subject to diminution or discontinuance on 14 days notice being given by the engineer. The perchloride delivered is to be tested by a chemist for the Board. Dr. Hofmann and Dr. Frankland stated that the deodorization of this, required all the year round, would not entail a greater outlay than that of £2,821 3*s.* for the disinfectant.—*Builder.*

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

POSTAGE OF MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED MATTER.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

London : T. RICHARDS, 37, Great Queen Street.

Foundation for a New Theory and
PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

London: JOHN CHURCHILL, 11, New Burlington Street.
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ADDRESS TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

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