

Association Intelligence.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be holden in Torquay, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd days of August.

President—JAMES R. W. VOSE, M.D., F.R.C.P., Liverpool.

President-elect—C. RADCLIFFE HALL, M.D., F.R.C.P.L. and E., Torquay.

It is requested that all members who propose to read papers will communicate with

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *General Secretary*.

Worcester, March 20th, 1860.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
YORKSHIRE. [Annual Meeting.]	Sheffield.	Thursday, June 7th.
SOUTH EASTERN. [Annual Meeting.]	Town Hall, Maidstone.	Wednesday, June 13th, 12½ o'clock.
MIDLAND. [Annual Meeting.]	The Exchange Rooms, Nottingham.	Thursday, June 14.
LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE. [Annual Meeting.]	Manchester.	Thursday, June 28th.
NORTH WALES. [Annual Meeting.]	Royal Hotel, Rhyl.	Tues., July 3rd, 1 p.m.

[To prevent delay, Reports of Branch Meetings should be sent direct to the office, 37, Great Queen Street.]

EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Fourth Annual Meeting of this Branch was held at the Hull Infirmary, on Thursday, May 24th, at half-past one p.m. T. Sandwith, M.D., of Beverley, having left the Chair, it was taken by W. H. EDDIE, Esq., of Barton, the President for the ensuing year. There were also present: J. Bell, L.R.C.P.Ed. (Grimsby); J. P. Bell, M.D. (Hull); Sir H. Cooper, M.D. (Hull); R. M. Craven, Esq. (Hull); J. Dix, Esq. (Hull); H. Gibson, Esq. (Hull); R. Hardey, Esq. (Hull); J. Hill, Esq. (South Cave); J. F. Holden, Esq. (Hull); T. Jackson, Esq. (Welton); K. King, M.D. (Hull); J. A. Locking, Esq. (Hull); J. Morley, Esq. (Barton); H. Munroe, M.D. (Hull); H. Sandwith, M.D. (Hull); and as visitors Messrs. Arden, Brownridge, Kevern, H.M.S. Cornwallis, and Dr. McMillan.

New Members. H. Munroe, M.D., and R. L. Slight, Esq., both of Hull, were elected members of the Branch.

Officers for 1860-1. The officers appointed for the ensuing year are as follows: *President-Elect*, Sir H. Cooper, M.D. *Representative in the General Council*, J. P. Bell, M.D., Hull. *Honorary Secretary*, H. Munroe, M.D., Hull. *Committee*, R. M. Craven, Esq.; J. A. Locking, Esq.; H. Sandwith, M.D.; R. Hardey, Esq.; J. P. Bell, M.D.; J. Dix, Esq.; and O. Daly, M.D.—all of Hull.

The late Secretary. A vote of thanks was presented to the late Honorary Secretary, Mr. J. A. Locking, for the services rendered by him to the Branch.

Next General Meeting. It was decided to hold the next general meeting at Barton.

Papers. The following communications were made:—

1. Case of Abnormal Gestation. By R. Hardey, Esq.
2. On Rigor Mortis of the Fœtus in Utero. By J. Dix, Esq.
3. Two Cases of Irregular Distribution of the Internal Circumflex Branch of the Arteria Profunda Femoris. By K. King, M.D.

4. Case of Tetanus. By J. Hill, Esq.

Above twenty members of the Branch and their friends, including Messrs. Anderson (Hessle), Keetley (Grimsby), Hobson (Kirk Ella), Anningson and Henley (Hull), dined together at Glover's Hotel; Mr. Eddie acted as Chairman, and Dr. Sandwith of Beverley as Vice-Chairman.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE PRESENT YEAR.

Dr. WILLIAMS regrets that the following names were inadvertently omitted from the second list—

Banning, T. H., M.D., Liverpool.
Pritchard, H., Esq., Fairfield, Liverpool.
Skinner, T., M.D., Liverpool.

Worcester, May, 1860.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE twenty-fourth annual meeting of this Branch will be held at Manchester, on Thursday, June 28th, under the presidency of M. A. EASON WILKINSON, M.D.

Gentlemen who intend to bring forward cases or communications are requested to send notice to the Honorary Secretary as early as possible.

A. T. H. WATERS, M.R.C.P., *Honorary Secretary*.

Liverpool, May 22nd, 1860.

Reports of Societies.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, MAY 8TH, 1860.

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

ON THE CONDITION OF THE BLOOD IN MANIA.

BY W. CHARLES HOOD, M.D., L.R.C.P.

DURING the last few years, the attention of many scientific investigators has been directed to the condition of the blood in disease, and the discovery of some valuable facts has been the result. These have accumulated, and amongst them are instances which furnish support to the belief that there is some equivalent change in the blood in all diseases; and that the blood in *acute mania* forms no exception to the general rule, may be gathered from the writings of Drs. Hittorf and Erlendmeyer. Much remains to be done before we can have any exact knowledge of the state of the blood in insanity, and the author, with the able assistance of his friend Dr. Marcet, has been induced to make careful analyses of the blood of six maniacal patients, during the paroxysm and in a state of convalescence, which induce him to think that the facts arrived at (not before indicated) show, that *there is a marked deficiency of fibrine during the period of maniacal excitement, and a correction of this deficiency during convalescence*. The blood was drawn by cupping at the nape of the neck to the same amount in each case, and immediately collected in earthenware pots containing about two ounces each; and it was in every instance within a few hours of extraction subjected to the same method of analysis. The six cases selected were three of "acute" and three of "recurrent mania".

CASE I. Acute Mania. W. G., aged twenty-one, admitted into Bethlehem Hospital in December 1856, became maniacal one month before admission. Hereditary tendency was traceable in both his father and paternal grandfather. There was no apparent bodily disease. The patient was of spare habit and an excitable temperament, and had not been subject to any medical treatment previous to his admission. Nourishing diet was prescribed, and the following sedative mixture:—acetate of morphia, half a grain; tincture of hyoscyamus, one drachm; camphor mixture, eleven drachms—three times a day. At the end of a fortnight, the morphia was increased to one grain, three times a day. In September 1857, he was discharged cured.

Analysis of the Blood.

During maniacal excitement.	When discharged cured.
Water	777.39
Red particles	149.74
Fibrine	1.74
Albumen, etc.	63.28
Inorganic salts	7.85
Fatty matter.....	0.00
1000.00	1000.00

CASE II. Acute Mania. W. T. G., a drum-major in the Guards, admitted into Bethlehem Hospital in March 1857; was married, and had lived a temperate life. He was very excited, noisy, mischievous, and incessantly talking. Morphia

Editor's Letter Box.

SUDDEN DEATH WITHOUT POST MORTEM APPEARANCES.

LETTER FROM J. Z. LAURENCE, ESQ.

SIR,—In answer to Dr. T. O. Ward's note on my case of "Sudden Death", I beg to say that (as already detailed in my paper) "the larynx, trachea, and œsophagus were healthy, and contained no traces of any food in them"; that, further, Dr. Randall, who assisted me in the *post mortem* examination, introduced his finger from the lower part of the pharynx to the root of the tongue, without meeting with any obstruction. On account of the enormous rigidity of the clenched lower jaw, it was found impossible to open the mouth sufficiently wide to see the fauces. I may add that, aware of the possibility of the girl's having died from choking, Drs. Randall, Rowdon, and myself, specially directed our attention to this circumstance, and convinced ourselves that such was *not* the case.

I am, etc., J. ZACHARIAH LAURENCE.

30, Devonshire Street, Portland Place, May 26th, 1860.

THE WORKING OF THE MEDICAL ACT.

LETTER FROM A. B. STEELE, ESQ.

SIR,—Your leader of Saturday, certainly bears out your position, that the 40th section of the Medical Act has not proved a dead letter; but I question if this is so much a matter for congratulation as you seem to infer.

It is perfectly true that illegal practitioners may and have been convicted under that clause; but these results have depended far more upon the light in which justices of the peace have happened to view quackery and the rights of the profession than upon the clearness and stringency of the Act. Indeed, in a case which was referred to a higher court, one of the judges declared that "the magistrates might have decided either way—*i.e.*, either for or against the pretender—so conveniently vague and indefinite is the wording of this section. Infinitely better would it have been to have made the clause so decidedly and unmistakably a dead letter, that no one could have been allured by its apparent meaning and intention into the doubtful and dangerous paths of legislation.

A case now pending, and in which the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench will shortly be given, may perhaps throw further light upon the correct interpretation of the clause in question; in the mean time, the success or failure of a prosecution very much depends upon the widely differing opinions of the magistrates, lay or stipendiary, as the case may be, and upon the tact, spirit, and purse-strings, of the offender. It is doubtful whether any of the cases you cite would bear the test of an appeal to a higher court.

I am one of those who regard the passing of the Medical Act as an important epoch in the history of the profession, and on that account desire that its imperfections should be, with a view to their removal, clearly pointed out.

A critical review of the various clauses of the Act must satisfy those who have paid much attention to the subject, that they afford an example of crude legislation; and that in many instances the wording is extremely vague and illdefined; and that, in short, an amended Act is imperatively called for.

As this subject will probably, as you suggest, be fully discussed at the ensuing Branch meetings, I abstain from entering into details. I merely wish to keep in view the necessity which exists for an improvement in the Act, and in furtherance of that object to neutralise (what, you must pardon my saying, appears to me) a somewhat too flattering representation of the present position of medical legislation.

The second clause, quoted in your article as emanating from the Northamptonshire Association, if enacted, would render registration compulsory upon all persons in actual practice, and thus decide a point upon which some difference of opinion now exists; this would, in my opinion, be a great advantage; the suggestion is therefore valuable beyond any effect which it might have upon the practices of prescribing druggists.

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

Liverpool, May 26th, 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—

CHARTRES, J. S., M.A., M.D., Staff Assistant-Surgeon, at Seacombe, on May 23.

*ELLIS, Henry W. T., L.R.C.P.Ed., at Crowle, on May 28.

EVANS, U. W., M.D., 2nd Battalion 15th Regiment, at Malta, on May 16.

HOOKE, Joseph D., M.D., F.R.S., at Kew, on May 27.

STOKES, Henry J., M.D., at Canonbury Square, on May 24.

Of daughters, the wives of—

*BROWN, John, Esq., Whitechurch, Salop, on May 18.

WEBB, Edward L., M.D., St. George's Road, on May 20.

MARRIAGES.

SANDWITH, Humphry, Esq., C.B., D.C.L., Colonial Secretary of Mauritius, to Lucy Ann, youngest daughter of the late Robert HARGREAVES, Esq., Accrington, at Paddington, on May 29.

TAYLOR, Alfred A., Esq., Surgeon, Queen Street, Cheapside, to Elizabeth Ann, third daughter of William SHELBOURNE, Esq., Highbury Crescent, at Highbury, on May 22.

WILLIAMS, Joseph, Esq., Surgeon, New Brentford, to Honor, youngest daughter of the late G. W. NEWTON, Esq., Hampton Court, at Ealing, on May 26.

DEATHS.

COBBOLD. On May 22, at 39, Norland Square, aged 2 months, Edith C., fifth daughter of T. S. Cobbold, M.D., F.L.S.

COOPER. On May 23rd, at Croydon, aged 6 months, James, youngest son of G. Cooper, Esq., Surgeon.

HOBSON. On May 24th, at Kelvedon Hatch, Essex, aged 17, Edward G., second son of the late E. C., Hobson, M.D., of Melbourne, Australia.

SMITH, Albert, Esq., at Northend Lodge, Fulham, aged 43, on May 23.

APPOINTMENTS.

BADER, Charles, Esq., appointed Second Assistant in the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons.

INGRAM, Charles P., B.A., M.B., elected Physician to the Royal General Dispensary, Aldersgate.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on May 30th:—

BAINES, Charles W., Bradford-on-Avon	PEDGRIFF, Harry, Laxfield
BECHER, Emil W. R., Army	ROBERTS, William, Lingards, Yorkshire
DUNN, Christopher B. N., Auckland, New Zealand	TEMPLE, T. B., Edinburgh
HUXLEY, James U., Hart Street	THOMPSON, S., Knottingley
JONES, Thomas E., Trefriw	TUCKER, Anthony C., Sheepwash, Devon
LONG, Alexander, Liverpool	WALKER, George C., Kirkdale, Liverpool
MACKERTICH, S. N., Calcutta	WALLIS, A. W., Orsett, Essex
MOORE, Robert W., Clifton-on-Teme, Worcester	WALLIS, William, Hindley
NORRIS, Richard, Birmingham	WATKINS, Walter, Brecon

APOTHECARIES' HALL. LICENTIATES admitted on Thursday, May 24th, 1860:—

BLUNDELL, Wm., Sherborne	RICHARDSON, Wm. H., Clifton, York
JONES, Thomas, Rhyl	WELCH, Francis H., Stansted
FEWKES, Joseph, Barrow	

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

HUTCHINSON, John Hanley, University College	MOORE, Daniel, St. Thomas's Hospital
KEEL, Charles F., St. Thomas's Hospital	STRUTT, George H., Tutbury
	THOMASON, Wm. J., St. Bartholomew's Hospital

ALLEGED INJURIOUS ATTACK ON THE CHARACTER OF AN INDIAN MEDICAL OFFICER.

In the JOURNAL for May 5th, at p. 343, we noticed briefly some proceedings that had arisen out of sundry apparently grave charges made by Dr. Macpherson, inspector of hospitals in the Madras Presidency, against Dr. Beetson, the superintending surgeon of Trichinopoly. We now intend to lay the details of the case more fully before our readers; deriving our information from the periodicals (*The Indian Lancet* and *Indian Statesman*) to which reference was made in our previous notice.

In January 1858, it is stated, Dr. Macpherson came to Trichinopoly, and met Dr. Beetson apparently in a friendly manner. Dr. Beetson had, according to authentic accounts, done able and efficient service in his profession for upwards of thirty-four years. Dr. Macpherson is represented as being a much younger man, and as owing his new appointment to his having been employed in the Crimea.

It would appear, however, that Dr. Macpherson had been sent to Trichinopoly to make inquiry and report upon the capacity, private and professional, of Dr. Beetson. With a view to obtain evidence, he called on the principal civil and military officials at Trichinopoly; and from statements of a most general description, he wrote a demi-official letter to the Director-General of the Medical Department (Dr. Magrath), putting the facts, or supposed facts, into the most damaging shape for the reputation of Dr. Beetson. Here is an extract from the letter.

"Dr. Beetson is the butt of Trichinopoly. He is held in no respect. He is quite the laughing-stock of every one in the place, from the judge to the lowest subordinate. He lives or did until very lately, I am told, in open concubinage with two sisters, who sometimes make their appearance at the band and public places; of late he has been giving large dinner parties and balls, and instead of, as formerly, being quite a recluse, he now goes out everywhere. He has thrown his house open to all the young fellows, and sits up drinking with them till dawn of day. He has taken to singing a nonsensical song, which he repeats over and over again, sometimes a dozen times in one night. The young lads pat him on the back, and make quite a fool of him; and to such an extent has his nonsensical conduct gone, that the general was obliged lately to take him to task. Thus, as you may believe, the tone of our department, which an officer in his position should do his utmost to elevate, is at this station lowered, and a pernicious example is set by him to all under him. The mode in which he conducts his public duties is puerile in the extreme; he neither looks into, nor does he trouble himself with professional qualifications. The state of the mortars and pestles—the broken spatulas—the old cumblies, the measuring and weighing out the drugs in the dispensary, etc., forms the extent of his inquiries at his inspections; and in carrying out these, he in the most childish way occupies the time of the medical man in a very foolish and unnecessary manner. From all I hear, I suspect the old man is quite in his dotage. It makes me quite angry to listen to remarks made of him in public society. He has of late become so fascinated with his song, that he has had it set to music, gets the cavalry band to play it, and presents copies to the ladies of the station. As I have already told you, he gives large dinners repeatedly; and on these occasions, the European women of the garrison are at the back door to take away with them what they can. I could occupy sheets with the absurd proceedings of this man—which have become a public scandal to our profession. He does not appear to have one redeeming point. You know better than I do the style in which he conducts his official correspondence with head quarters; and I have seen sufficient here to mark his utter incapacity in his communications with others: altogether he is a disgrace to us, and he tends to bring our profession to low repute. If you think proper, you are at liberty to make this communication a demi-official one, and act on it accordingly. I shall be rejoiced to learn that any proceedings which you may be pleased to adopt on this communication, may be the means of sparing me the pain of placing before you, in an official form, the discreditable conduct of this old officer."

In a subsequent report, dated April 17, Dr. Macpherson writes:—

"I cannot conclude this report without adverting to one point more, it is one of peculiar delicacy. But I feel that I should

fail in my duty if I passed it in silence. Government, as a general rule, does not concern itself much with the private morality of its officers and servants, so long as the public service does not suffer. But I humbly conceive that the time has arrived when it is no longer to be tolerated that an officer at the head of a department at the Head Quarters of a Division of the Army should live in open concubinage in the centre of Cantonment, in the midst of officers' families; and this Mr. Beetson, until recently, has done to the discredit of his position and his profession. None, so far as I can learn, respect him, and I am sure the Director-General will sympathise with those of our profession who bitterly expressed to me the feeling of humiliation they experience when brought into official contact with him, and observe him made the butt of thoughtless young officers with whom he sits up at night, singing convivial songs."

On the reception of Dr. Macpherson's first letter, Dr. Magrath at once wrote to the Adjutant-General of the Army, "earnestly urging the propriety of removing this officer (Dr. Beetson) from the post he unworthily occupied." It seems scarcely credible that a letter founded on entirely *ex parte* third hand statements, should ever have been listened to. Nevertheless, Dr. Macpherson's assertions were not only at once received, but Dr. Beetson was suddenly and unexpectedly called on to tender his resignation. He was simply told that his proceedings, both in private and professional life, were such as would compel the commander-in-chief to get him removed from his appointment, unless he at once voluntarily resigned. He replied by asking for an opportunity of returning the charges against him, and in return was supplied with copies of letters by Drs. Magrath and Macpherson; and of a letter by General Budd, who, though he appears to have been the principal authority from whom the charges against Dr. Beetson's private character were drawn, did but in an extremely small degree confirm in his epistle the assertions of Dr. Macpherson. Dr. Beetson was further arbitrarily required to resign not only his appointment, but the service, on pain of the commander-in-chief dealing publicly with the case. But Dr. Beetson demanded a full and particular investigation of his character, public and private. This request was conceded; and a Court of Inquiry assembled at Trichinopoly on the 22nd April, 1858.

The charges against Dr. Beetson resolve themselves into those of immoral and unbecoming conduct, and of professional incapacity. The first of these charges was the one prominently brought forward; with what success the following extracts from the evidence will show.

Mr. W. C. Sim, Head Assistant Collector of the District, gave evidence from which the following is an extract:—

"In what estimation do you think Dr. Beetson is generally held by the private society in this station? I cannot answer for the society in general; but, as far as I am concerned, I consider him a gentleman in every respect, and I have met him four or five times in society, and have never seen him guilty of an impropriety."

"Have you at any places of public resort met any women, supposed to be, or pointed out to you as being, in the keeping of Dr. Beetson? No, neither in public nor in his own private house."

"Have you any knowledge or reason to suspect that Dr. Beetson is now, or was till very lately, living in open concubinage, and if so with whom? I have no personal knowledge of the fact, nor am I justified in suspecting it."

"Do you know of Dr. Beetson having given dinner parties and balls? Yes, and I have been at one dinner party and two balls given by Dr. Beetson."

"Has Dr. Beetson thrown his house open to all the fellows in this station, and does he sit up drinking with them till dawn? I fancy no young fellow will go to Dr. Beetson's house without a special invitation; at least I would not do so. I conclude he carries out the privilege of a host, but I must say that I have never seen him exceed in the slightest way."

"Have you heard Dr. Beetson sing a nonsensical song, and repeat it during the same night? I have heard Dr. Beetson sing a song which I have heard sung in England, and which he has repeated at the solicitation of his friends. It was a comic song, but there was nothing unseemly or objectionable in it."

"Have you, at any of the parties when you met him seen any of the young men pat him on the shoulder, or treat him with any undue familiarity, considering his position in society? I have never seen any officer pat Dr. Beetson on the back; I consider that there has been some slight familiarity between Dr. Beetson and young officers, but never carried to undue lengths."

Captain G. W. Russell, Paymaster, "did not consider, from his own experience, that Dr. Beetson was the butt of Trichinopoly. For his own part, he had always esteemed him highly; and, as far as he could judge from the way in which he was treated by others, he was looked on by them in the same light. He certainly did not believe there was any truth in the report that Dr. Beetson lived, or had been living until lately, in open concubinage. He (witness) had been in the habit, until very lately, of attending bands on an evening; and never saw or heard of there being any woman or women said to be in the keeping of Dr. Beetson. Until within about the previous year, Dr. Beetson (he believed) kept entirely to himself, except occasionally, when witness might have met him at messes and elsewhere. Since then, he had given a few dinner parties, and entered into society generally. Since Dr. Beetson had gone into society, witness had certainly not observed any particular change in his manner or temper that would lead to the supposition that he was childish or in his dotage. If Dr. Beetson kept open house, and was 'hail fellow well met' with all the young men in the place, witness would certainly have heard of it. He had never seen him treated with disrespect or over familiarity by any one. Prior to the assembly of the Court of Inquiry, he was not aware that there were any rumours to the prejudice of Dr. Beetson. There was a vague report some years ago, which the witness had every reason to believe was false. He had heard Dr. Beetson sing a comic song, which he repeated once or twice on being pressed, but not more to the witness's knowledge. Witness did not consider that any ridicule attached to him in doing so. He did not think that Dr. Beetson's conduct had been such as to lower him in the opinion of society, or that he had been setting a pernicious example to the young men in the place. On the occasion of Dr. Beetson giving entertainments, amongst the younger guests, witness never observed any improper conduct or improper style of conversation. He never heard of the European women being in the habit of attending at Dr. Beetson's whenever he gave a party, although he had been invited to every party."

Captain Ritherden "did not think Dr. Beetson's manner and conduct such as to bring contempt upon his profession and station; nor did he consider his example pernicious to the junior members of society. From what he knew of Dr. Beetson, he would not consider him imbecile or in his dotage—rather the contrary. He had seen him show a great deal of mental activity; particularly some eight days after his (witness's) arrival, when he was a stranger to Dr. Beetson, when the latter was superintending the preparations for a ball, when witness was surprised at his activity for so old a man. If the European women attended his parties to see what they could get, witness would have known it, as the company generally retired after dinner into the garden at the back of the house to talk."

Similar evidence was given by Lieutenant Colonel Cherry, Lieutenants and Adjutants Wyse, Dyneley, and Workso. The following evidence is that of a witness specially called by Dr. Macpherson:—

"Up to what hour, at the latest, have you sat up with Dr. Beetson? Till 12 o'clock on one occasion, with other people."

"Have you heard him sing one or more songs on the same evening? One song."

"How many times have you heard him sing this song in the same evening? About half a dozen times, at the particular request of the people who were present."

"Was he importuned by the company generally to sing this song? Yes."

"Did he require much importunity? Not very much."

"What cognomen is Dr. Beetson known by, and generally spoken of, in connection with this song? I have heard him talked of, behind his back, by young men, as Tooraloo."

"Have you heard that the European women of the garrison receive *débris* of his feasts? I have heard on one occasion, when Dr. Beetson gave a ball at the Public Rooms, that the butler of some regiment permitted the women of the garrison to help themselves to the liquor that remained, against Dr. Beetson's consent, and much to his astonishment."

"Can you yourself vouch for the truth of this report? No, I was not in the cantonment."

"Have you on any occasion seen any of the young men in the cantonment pat Dr. Beetson on the back, or take any liberties with him? I have never seen any young man take any liberty with Dr. Beetson."

"From the way in which Dr. Beetson behaves and is treated in society, do you consider that he is looked on as a butt or object of ridicule? That is a matter of opinion, not evidence."

The next witness was Brigadier Wahab, one of the gentlemen on whom Dr. Macpherson had called when he was busied in getting up the case; but his testimony was favourable to Dr. Beetson. Only one witness, indeed, appeared to substantiate the charge that Dr. Beetson was made a butt of; and this was a certain Captain Nicholas, a gentleman who "never attended balls". From a passage in the evidence of the Deputy Judge Advocate General, it appears that, if indeed it were a crime on the part of Dr. Beetson to sing "Tooraloo", a very respectable lady and gentleman might have been charged as accessories before the fact. The following is the passage:—

"Colonel McCally intended to give two evening parties specially to introduce Dr. Beetson without restraint to the whole of the families in the station. I was at both these parties. On the first occasion, I heard that Dr. Beetson had been persuaded by the hostess to sing a song in character: during the evening, I know he was pressed to do so by her, and also Colonel McCally. He went out of the room, and returned dressed as a woman. I myself, at the time, thought it a bad joke to play on a man of his years; but, as the people who chiefly persuaded him were his old friends, and at the same time holding the highest position in the station, I considered it no business of mine to make any remark; and considering this was the first time Dr. Beetson had entered into ladies' society for many years, I made allowances for him which I could not have done for any other person of his years. This was not voluntary on his part, he simply yielded to the pressing request of the host, hostess, and others."

Dr. Macpherson founded his charges against Dr. Beetson in part on a letter of Major-General Budd—who was not called as a witness. The *Madras Daily Times*, which takes up the cudgels for Dr. Macpherson, inserts this letter in an article which is copied into the *Indian Lancet* for April 1. The *Madras Daily Times* regards the letter as "sufficiently establishing the charges alleged by the Inspector-General":—

"Trichinopoly, 11th February, 1858."

"MY DEAR MAGRATH,—I have just received your demiofficial of the day before yesterday about Dr. Beetson. I cannot speak to all Dr. Macpherson has written to you; he has made it his business to inquire, and I have both seen and heard enough to enable me to say that I observed with sincere regret that he really did not uphold the respect due to his position. I heard of his croaking a snatch of a song ten times over at a mess party, and sitting up till five o'clock in the morning, not that he drinks or cares for liquor at all: on the contrary, I believe he is an abstemious man. I have heard of other foolish things, quite unbecoming to a man of his years. He is a kind well meaning man, and, upon mature reflection, I deemed it my duty, though a very distasteful one, to give him a hint to drop his singing, and keep rational hours. I told him plainly that the youngsters were laughing at him, and he promised to give up his singing. He conducts all details satisfactorily, and appears to be wide awake in circulars and medical regulations. I know nothing of his amours. I had heard that he had broken up his establishment, whatever that might have consisted of. I doubt about the woman going to the band, but however that may be, I will venture to say it is not with his knowledge; of course, if the Brigadier or myself were cognisant of any such outrage, it would be at once noticed. If Dr. Beetson has any friends, I think they would do him a great kindness in advising him to withdraw from public life.—Believe me yours very sincerely, (Signed) R. BUDD."

"N.B. I gave the substance of the above in my Annual Confidential Report."

The result of the inquiry was to "exonerate Dr. Beetson from imputations against his moral character." His offence was reduced therefore by one half; but his punishment (his removal from his appointment, involving a pecuniary loss of 21,000 rupees) remained the same. His professional conduct was not made the subject of inquiry; but we find some evidence on this subject in the documents before us. Dr. Macpherson himself, writing from Trichinopoly, says that "most of the hospitals here are all that the best of us can desire to find—but that is due to the care and zeal of the executive officers in charge." General Budd, as has been already seen, says that "Dr. Beetson conducted all details satisfactorily, and appeared to be wide awake in circulars and medical regulations." Dr. Davids said that Dr. Beetson did not appear to have his mind impaired, and that he did not overlook essentials and take up the witness's time with trifles in an unnecessary manner. In his (Dr. Davids's) opinion, Dr. Beetson was very strict. Dr. Marrett, Zillah Surgeon of Salem, another of Dr. Beetson's subordinates, wrote as follows:—

"MY DEAR BEETSON,—I was very sorry indeed to see in the Gazette that you were removed from your appointment. It came like a thunderclap on me. It is not for me to inquire why you have been so dealt with, but all I can say is *we shall never have a better Superintending Surgeon*, nor one who gave more satisfaction to all the Medical Officers in the Division: however, I trust this cloud may soon blow over, and the horizon be bright and clear again."

Here is a communication from Dr. Clementson, Zillah Surgeon, Tinnevely:—

"MY DEAR DOCTOR,—With reference to your letter of the 15th ultimo, I beg to state, as far as one holding lately a subordinate position may be permitted to do so, that officially you have always been careful to see that both I and my subordinates conducted our duties efficiently, and according to the rules of the service; and, in the matter of periodical returns, any incorrections were immediately brought to our notice."

The *Madras Daily Times*, in an article quoted in the *Indian Lancet* for April 1st, takes the side of Dr. Macpherson; and informs us that "Mr. Beetson was removed from his appointment and allowed to remain out of employment, until he had served for the highest rate of pension, when he finally retired from the public service."

THE AFFINITIES OF VACCINE MATTER. The old question as to the identity of grease in horses with vaccine has lately been revived at Toulouse. Dr. Fontan, in a letter to the *Union Médicale* of last Tuesday, states that there has lately been in that city an epizootic of grease, characterised by the presence of pustules. At the veterinary school there, the udders of cows have been inoculated with the matter from these pustules, with the result of obtaining fine pustules of cow-pock. From these cows, thirty children have been vaccinated; in all the operation has succeeded, so far as regards the production of characteristic pustules, and in none have there been any constitutional symptoms. A public commission has been appointed to follow out these experiments.

PROSECUTION FOR ILLEGAL PRACTICE IN FRANCE. On February 9th Mlle. M. Bressac was condemned, for illegal practice, by the Tribunal of Correctional Police at Lyons, to pay two fines of 15 francs each, together with 1000 francs to the medical men who had brought the action, and to be imprisoned two days. Against this decision she appealed to the Imperial Court at Lyons; founding the appeal principally on the fact that her prescriptions had been fortified by the signature of a medical man. The Court, however, confirmed both the decisions of the tribunal.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY. On Monday, June 4th, a paper will be read, entitled "Suggestions towards a better method of observing Epidemics." By J. N. Radcliffe, Esq.

HEALTH OF LONDON—MAY 26TH, 1860.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.	Deaths.
During week	{ Boys.. 812 Girls.. 838 }	1680 .. 1087
Average of corresponding weeks 1840-58	1406 ..	1133
Among the causes of death were—	bronchitis, 81; pneumonia, 48; phthisis, 171; small-pox, 24; scarlatina, 26; measles, 51; diphtheria, 8; hooping-cough, 33. The deaths from pulmonary diseases (exclusive of phthisis) were 157, being 1·6 below the corrected average.	
Barometer:	Highest (Mon.) 30·208; lowest (Sat.) 29·208; mean 29·850.	
Thermometer:	In sun—highest (Wed.) 130·8 degrees; lowest (Fri.) 105·7 degrees. In shade—highest (Wed.) 70·5 degrees; lowest (Mon.) 45·3 degrees. Mean—50·0 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs. + 4·8 degrees. Range—during week, 31·2 degrees; mean daily, 24·7 degrees.	
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 67.		
Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0·20.		

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENTS should always enclose their names to the Editor; not for publication, but in token of good faith. No attention can be paid to communications not thus authenticated.

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

Communications have been received from:—DR. LIONEL BEALE; MR. J. V. SOLOMON; DR. GUY; MR. J. Z. LAURENCE; DR. STEWART; DR. BARNES; MR. D. KENT GUY; DR. C. M. BURNETT; MR. A. B. STEELE; MR. RD. HUGHES; MR. T. L. PRIDHAM; DR. BURRIDGE; MR. JAS. ROUSE; DR. F. J. HENSLEY; DR. W. H. HOLMAN; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; MR. J. A. LOCKING; DR. H. W. T. ELLIS; MR. W. L. WRATISLAW; MR. JONATHAN HUTCHINSON; MR. H. S. COX; MR. JOSEPH WHITE; MR. T. M. STONE; and DR. A. T. H. WATERS.

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The New Sydenham Society.—

THE first work (Vol. VI) for the current year is expected to be ready for issue in the last week of June, and will be followed very shortly by two others. Those of the Hon. Local Secretaries and Members who have not yet forwarded their Subscriptions, will oblige by doing so as early as convenient, as the Council has decided that in future the Society's Law requiring pre-payment shall be strictly acted upon. The Society now numbers 2,750, and there is every probability that the number required (3,000) for the issue of the Atlas of Skin Diseases will shortly be obtained.

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