

Association Intelligence.

REPORT OF SPECIAL MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

Held in Birmingham, on the 20th instant.

PRESENT:—Sir C. Hastings (in the Chair); Mr. Bartleet; Dr. Bryan; Mr. Cartwright; Mr. Fowler; Dr. Radclyffe Hall; Mr. Husband; Dr. Lankester; Mr. Norman; Mr. Pemberton; Dr. Richardson; Mr. Southam; Dr. A. T. H. Waters; Mr. Watkin Williams; and Dr. P. H. Williams.

Resolutions for the improvement and future management of the JOURNAL were agreed to.

CHARLES HASTINGS.

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

Worcester, September 21st, 1860.

BRANCH MEETING TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BIRMINGHAM AND MID-LAND COUNTIES.	Hen and Chickens Hotel,	Thursday, October 11th,
[General Meeting.]	Birmingham.	6 P.M.

THIRD LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

DR. WILLIAMS will feel obliged if the Honorary Secretaries will forward any subscriptions they may have in hand, either to Sir Charles Hastings or himself, without delay, so that they may be published in the JOURNAL.

Worcester, September 4th, 1860.

CORNWALL MEDICAL SOCIETY: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the Cornwall Medical Society was held on September 18th, at Webb's Hotel, Liskeard; R. W. P. KERSWILL, Esq., in the Chair. There were also present: H. Andrew, Esq. (Truro); C. Barham, M.D. (Truro); J. L. Clark, Esq. (Saltash); S. Clogg, Esq. (Looe); T. Q. Couch, Esq. (Bodmin); A. Hingston, Esq. (Liskeard); J. Jagoe, Esq. (Liskeard); J. Kempthorne, Esq. (Callington); T. Littleton, M.B. (Saltash); W. Littleton, Esq. (Saltash); W. Marrack, Esq. (Liskeard); F. T. Nicholas, Esq. (Liskeard); A. Prideaux, Esq. (Liskeard); Dr. Sanderson; D. Thompson, Esq. (Launceston).

Election of Officers. Dr. Barham was elected President for the ensuing year, to act conjointly for this Society and the South-Western Branch of the British Medical Association at the annual meeting to be held at Truro in June 1861.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Council of the Society for East Cornwall during the ensuing year:—D. Thompson, Esq. (Launceston); T. Q. Couch, Esq. (Bodmin); F. T. Nicholas, Esq. (Liskeard); and C. W. Chubb, Esq. (Torpoint).

New Members of the Association. Dr. Felce; G. B. Rosewall, Esq.; H. Andrew, Esq.; Alexander Paul, Esq.; and — Hill, Esq., were duly recommended as members of the British Medical Association.

Resignations of Membership of the Association were read from A. A. Davis, Esq., and W. T. H. Pattison, Esq.

The Audit of the Society's Accounts was entrusted to the care of A. Prideaux, Esq.

The Terms of the future Connexion of the Cornwall Medical Society with the South-Western Branch of the British Medical Association were then considered. The resolution No. 3, passed at the late meeting at Torquay, and printed at p. 654 of the JOURNAL, was read to the members. C. Barham, M.D. (Truro); H. Andrew, Esq. (Truro); R. Q. Couch, Esq. (Penzance); R. W. P. Kerswill, Esq. (St. Germans); and Thomas Littleton, M.B. (Saltash), were appointed as a Committee to make the necessary arrangements with the South-Western Branch at Truro next year, subject to the following main conditions; viz., that an annual meeting of members be held in Cornwall; that the other arrangements shall, as nearly as may be compatible with connexion with the South-Western Branch, be made in accordance with the present laws of the

Cornwall Medical Society and those of the South-Eastern Branch of the British Medical Association; that all associates of the Cornwall Medical Society shall have continued to them the local privileges at present enjoyed; but, in future, all new members must be members of the British Medical Association; that henceforth members of the British Medical Association do not pay the additional yearly 2s. 6d. for local expenses; and that such shall be due alone from associates.

Case. A Case of Diabetes Mellitus in a Child two years and a quarter old was brought to the notice of the members present.

The Medical Diaconate. On the subject of the medical diaconate, recently mooted at Torquay, the Secretary brought to the notice of the Society an advertisement printed in recommendation of chlorodyne, by J. T. Davenport, operative chemist, of 33, Great Russell Street, London, and said to be from the Rev. C. S. Aitkin, of Cornwall; which concluded by stating that he (the reverend gentleman) had found very great benefit from its use himself, and that he was now able to take duty as usual, after his life had been despaired of from apparently developed phthisis. Whereon it was remarked by a gentleman present, to whom the reverend gentleman's personal appearance was well known, that the Rev. C. S. Aitkin was one of the last men in the world he should have expected to have heard of as suffering in the manner described in the advertisement, as he was broad chested, and of an Herculean figure.

The subjoined extract from a recent communication by a gentleman at Penzance was read to the members:—"I am glad you did not favourably entertain the clerical proposals at Torquay. In the first place, the clergy are too apt even now to interfere with medical duties, and dictate for the poor of their parishes; and if they knew a little of medicine, they would dictate more; and lastly, they are addicted to vague theories, homœopathy, etc. *One-half of a large committee of a homœopathic dispensary in this town is formed of the clergy of the district.* They are Mesmerists, etc., all of which would render them unfit for duties proposed. As the subject was not countenanced, it was well, perhaps, it was dismissed as it was."

After some further business, the members adjourned to an excellent dinner.

Editor's Letter Box.

CHLOROFORM ACCIDENTS AND THE LATE COLNEY HATCH TRIAL.

LETTER FROM CHARLES KIDD, M.D.

SIR,—I have to thank you for your very full notice of my imperfect paper on chloroform read at Oxford; but there is one little typographical error, page 748, half-way down, that may be corrected; it regards delirium tremens and chloroform. I said, "Of thirty-five deaths collected by me, I found nine probably due to intoxication or delirium tremens" (it is printed forty-five deaths). This is a very large proportion—nine in thirty-five; but nine in forty-five might be simply accidental. And, moreover, I had not, at the period of the Oxford meeting, collected so many as forty-five deaths; though, I am sorry to say, five more deaths from chloroform have appeared in the newspapers since then, and have been added to my list.

It grows to be a very serious and a very thankless question, this one of death from chloroform. My esteemed friend Dr. Richardson told us, at the Dentists' College, that he believed there have been three hundred deaths from chloroform. This, I fancy, is overstated. I think I have seen, however, about that number (300), during ten years steady attention to the subject, as hospital reporter, in the hospitals, restored to life, or rescued after they had been pronounced dead. I saw chloroform also extensively used in Paris, whither I was sent by the *Medical Times*, amongst 1,600 gun-shot wounds, in the Revolution, 1848-9. There is a good deal to be learned yet about chloroform; but it is by some quiet physician, who can carefully analyse, with Brown-Séquard, the crowd of nervous symptoms as they occur in accidents. We want the profession also to assist a good observer or two, or a good book on anæsthetics, with notes of cases of accident. The hospital reporter in a leading journal recently, who superseded me in this difficult study, and of course abused my book, was a flashy,

so-called brilliant practising barrister, who, it was thought, could write attractive popular articles on fatty heart and chloroform; but, unfortunately, did not understand the A B C of physiology. It is Whewell who has made the observation, that in the inductive philosophy, every induction requires some special phrase or word, and, once entangled in that word, it is next to impossible to dissociate the two. Hence gravitation and its induction; hence the secret of the word "phlogiston" in the inductions of the early chemists; hence the mischief that mercury every year works, and the horrible mutilations of mercury in syphilis, syphilis and mercury having been tied together in one of these unfortunate inductions. Not less mischievous does it now appear also in the general philosophy of the flashy aforesaid annotationists, who, in spite of all the best observers, upheld the induction that all deaths from chloroform arise from fatty heart or diseased valves. There is scarcely a particle of truth in it; but the general public believe it, and are frightened; and it will take years and years to disprove it. Chloroform, or anæsthetics—in fact, the most universal, and open, and glorious gift to science of the present century—is accordingly in journals now a sort of *bête noir*, that every one more or less abuses or undervalues. Morton lives in obscurity; but no glorification or praise are thought too great or too laudatory for chloroform in the shape of a secret patent medicine.

The subject of anæsthesia is a very much larger one than may appear to persons outside the profession. In the recent trial as to the alleged cruelty to lunatics at Colney Hatch, the point chiefly under discussion was, whether lunatics are different from other people, subject to "want of feeling", or anæsthesia, which was denied by the prosecution; the fact being, that the continental "alienist" journals have teemed of late with experiments to show that the inmates of lunatic asylums, cretins, idiots, imbeciles, lunatics, etc., examined with powerful galvanic batteries, exhibit a large proportion, about one-third (twenty-two in seventy-six cases at the lunatic asylum of Marseilles, for instance), who live and move about as totally anæsthetic as if under chloroform; and all these seventy-six patients exhibit more or less anæsthesia, due, no doubt, to congenital deficiency of the sensory ganglia. The jury in the Colney Hatch case arrived at the fact by a sort of instinct, and very properly found the prisoners not guilty.

I am, etc.,

CHARLES KIDD.

Sackville Street, September 24th, 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—

CROFT, Thomas, M.D., at Bracknell, on September 18.
HOME, A. G., M.D., Edinburgh, at Portobello, on Sept. 18.
MARSHALL, Joseph, M.D., Southampton, on September 18.
MAWER, —, L.R.C.P., Bucharest, on September 8th.
*MOFFAT, Robert, M.D., Thornhill, Polmont, on Sept. 25.
MURIEL, Charles E., Esq., Surgeon, Norwich, on Sept. 21.
PHILSON, William, M.D., Cheltenham, on September 14.
*TUKER, Harrington, M.D., Chiswick, on September 20.

Of daughters, the wives of—

*BICKERSTETH, E. R., Esq., Liverpool, on September 21.
NASH, Joseph, M.D., Box, Wilts, on September 22.
SPARROW, George W. P., M.D., 60th Royal Rifles, at Wellington, East Indies, on July 27.

MARRIAGES.

ALFORD, Robt., Esq., Newington, Surrey, to Georgiana, youngest daughter of George GREENWOOD, Esq., Surgeon, Ossett, Wakefield, at Thornhill, on September 20.
CHAYASSE, the Rev. William L., only son of *Pye H. Chavasse, Esq., Birmingham, to Anna G., daughter of the late Vice-Admiral Sir Josiah C. COGHILL, Bart., of Belvedere, county Dublin, on September 19.
DICK, William, Esq., H.M. Customs, London, to Agnes G., only surviving daughter of the late George ESPIE, M.D., of Brousterland, Lanarkshire, on September 20.

KEAL, John Thomas, Esq., Surgeon, of Oakham, to Anne, eldest daughter of the Rev. H. HARRIS, of Horbling, Lincolnshire, on September 19.

SPARROW, Henry W., Esq., Edgbaston, to Gertrude, youngest daughter of the late *John G. CROSSE, M.D., of Norwich, on September 18.

*WILLIAMS, James, Esq., Surgeon, Holywell, to Charlotte S., daughter of William SCALES, Esq., Upper Holloway, on September 18.

DEATHS.

ALEXANDER, William, Esq., Staff Assistant-Surgeon, at Calcutta, aged 26, on August 7.

BARRY, Joseph, M.D., Middleton, Cork, on September 18.

BROWN. On September 10th, at Whitechurch, Salop, aged 8, John A.; and on September 16th, aged 6, Barbara D.; children of *John Brown, Esq.

CROFT, C. Ilderton, L.R.C.P.Ed., Lawrence Pountney Hill, aged 48, on September 20.

DYER. On September 12th, at Ringwood, aged 52, Susan Maria, widow of the late Thomas Dyer, Esq., Surgeon.

LARGE, Charles W. S., Esq., Surgeon, Islington, on Sept. 24.

PARKES, Thomas, jun., Esq., Surgeon, of Wood Eaton, near Stafford, aged 22, on August 28.

PRICE, Rees, M.D., at Ilford, aged 79, on September 19.

WESTON, E. J., Esq., Surgeon, at Camberwell, on Sept. 14.

*WOODMAN, James, M.D., East Leigh, Havant, aged 75, on September 25.

WILLIAMSON, Benjamin, M.B., Assistant Surgeon Hyderabad Contingent, to Charlotte J., eldest daughter of the Rev. B. O'Meara DEANE, Chaplain on the Madras Establishment, at Bellary, on August 7.

PASS LISTS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. LICENTIATES admitted on *Thursday, September 20th, 1860* :—

BENNETT, George J., Gateshead
TAYLOR, Daniel, Bury, Lancashire

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

BARHAM, H. F. H., Maidstone
HUGHES, Wm. H., Warrington
BARKER, Elijah, Sheffield
ILLIFFE, Robert, Coventry
GALE, Henry S., High Holborn
PITTS, William, Willenhall

INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL CONGRESS. A congress of chemists has just been held at Carlsruhe. It was summoned by invitation to meet on the morning of September 3rd, and to debate on the best method of expressing the composition of chemical substances in the symbolic notation. A large number of professors and others attached to chemical science responded to the invitation; they came not only from all parts of Germany, but also from France, Belgium, England, Scotland, Ireland, Russia, Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, and Mexico. During the continuance of the congress, about one hundred and forty assembled. The Grand Duke of Baden had placed at their disposal the Chamber of Representatives; and there the chemists met on the day appointed and on the two following days, and discussed in German, French, and English, the questions submitted to them. For the proper definition of these questions, a committee was appointed, who carried on their deliberations in the chemical lecture-room of the Polytechnic School. The sittings were presided over by Professor Weltzien of Carlsruhe, Professors Kopp and Erdmann, M. Boussingault, and M. Dumas. The Grand Duke gave the members of the congress a dinner in the museum, and free admission to the opera; and Professor Weltzien showed his hospitality in a more private manner. The public were admitted to the gallery of the Chamber of Representatives; and there was one small side gallery assigned to the few ladies who felt sufficient interest or curiosity to honour the assembly with their presence. During the course of the three days' discussion, it became evident that the time was not ripe for a general agreement among chemists on the principle of notation; but certain resolutions were passed, which, if generally conformed to, will cause any confusion to be avoided. It seemed to be the general feeling among those present at the close of the proceedings, that the International Chemical Congress had effected something in demonstrating this; but that its principal interest had been in bringing together for three days so many well known to each other by their scientific labours.