

Wandsworth and Clapham—have, as they state, no complaints to make on their own account; but they have long ago joined the ranks of Mr. Griffin's Association, merely from that right good *esprit de corps* which we should greatly rejoice to see much more extensively manifested than it has been.

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Medical Benevolent College took place on Wednesday last, at the Office in Soho Square; the Right Hon. the Earl Manvers, President of the College, in the Chair. It appeared from the Report, that the Institution was making most satisfactory progress, and was receiving cordial support on all hands. The annual subscriptions during the past year amounted to £2,769; the ordinary donations to £2,876; and the special donations to the chapel fund to £2,760. At the close of the ordinary business, the meeting was made special, for the purpose of confirming an agreement entered into between the Council of the College and the Devon and Exeter Benevolent Medical Society, for the transfer to the College of £1000 stock, on very favourable terms. The proceedings, which were throughout of the most friendly character, terminated with a vote of thanks to the noble President of the College, who occupied the Chair.

A second visitation of apothecaries' shops in the City was made on Thursday, May 7th, by the Censors of the Royal College of Physicians, assisted by the Wardens of the Society of Apothecaries. The Censors report that the shops present a generally improved condition; and they have found occasion to express their approval in nearly every instance. Especial care was manifested by nearly all the proprietors of shops to avoid chances of accident when dispensing poisonous drugs. Cautious and ingenious contrivances and devices were observed by the Censors, which, though various in the different shops, all tend to the prevention of accidental poisoning through careless dispensing. They also state that adequate measures to obviate the purchase of poisons for criminal purposes are yet wanting, and are greatly to be desired.

A recent discussion in the University of Oxford, on the new Examination Statute, has brought into collision the antagonistic elements—stagnancy and progress in education. Some years ago, it was determined that a candidate should be examined on the subjects in two schools—the classical one being made compulsory, while of the others there was a choice. This being found to work inconveniently, it was lately proposed that one school only should be required, and that the classical school should be but one of four of which candidates might take their choice. Here, then, comes the clash of "the ancient Oxford curriculum *versus* modern information and science".

"The Master of University (Dr. Plumtre) was opposed to Moderation honours, and to the requisition of a second final school. He was also opposed to the free choice among the final schools which the statute would enact, and would have a final classical examination from all. *The other studies gave useful information, but did not serve as a training to the mind.* Professor Daubeny rose in consequence of a remark made by the Master of University, that physical studies were not a good training to the mind. His opinion was that they were so."

It will be remembered that at the commencement of the attack of the allied fleet on Petropaulovski, the Russian military settlement on the coast of the Pacific, Admiral Price, the officer in command, shot himself in a fit of temporary insanity. The

Indian mail brings us intelligence that two of the commanders of the Persian expedition have put an end to their existence under somewhat similar circumstances. General Stalker, commander of the forces, it appears, shot himself whilst labouring under great anxiety lest his troops should fall the victims of disease; and Commodore Etheridge destroyed himself while suffering mental aberration brought about by long continued anxiety connected with the duties of his command. The occurrence of three such remarkable suicides is profoundly interesting to the psychologist. It would seem to show that the peace so long enjoyed by this country has temporarily impaired the minds of our military leaders, and rendered them unequal to bear the burthen of those tremendous responsibilities which fall upon them in time of war.

Association Intelligence.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION will be holden at Nottingham, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 28th, 29th, and 30th of July next.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, *General Secretary.*

Worcester, May 1857.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OF THE EDITOR.

ALL letters or communications for the JOURNAL should in future be addressed to Dr. WYNTER, Coleherne Court, Old Brompton, S.W.

Letters regarding the business department of the JOURNAL, and corrected proofs, should be sent to 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS, AND PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE General Secretary of the British Medical Association begs to call the attention of members to the LAWS regarding the ADMISSION of MEMBERS, and the PAYMENT of their SUBSCRIPTIONS.

"Admission of Members. Any qualified medical practitioner, not disqualified by any bye-law, who shall be recommended as eligible by any *three* members, shall be admitted a member at any time by the Committee of Council, or by the Council of any Branch."

"Subscriptions. The subscription to the Association shall be One Guinea annually; and each member, on paying his subscription, shall be entitled to receive the publications of the Association for the current year. The subscription shall date from the 1st January in each year, and shall be considered as due unless notice of withdrawal be given in writing to the Secretary on or before the 25th of December previous."

Either of the following modes of payment may be adopted:—

1. Payment by Post-Office Order to the Treasurer (Sir C. Hastings, M.D., Worcester), or to the undersigned.
2. Payment to the Secretary of the Branch to which the member belongs.
3. Members residing in the Metropolis and vicinity can make their payments through the publisher of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, Mr. Thomas John Honeyman, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W. C.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, *General Secretary.*

Worcester, May 1857.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

| NAME OF BRANCH. | PLACE OF MEETING. | DATE. |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| METROP. COUNTIES. [Adjourned Meeting.] | 37, Soho Square, London. | Mon., May 18, 4 P.M. |
| SOUTH MIDLAND. [Annual Meeting.] | George Hotel, Northampton. | Thurs., May 21, 2 P.M. |
| EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN. [General Meeting.] | Infirmary, Hull. | Tuesday, May 26th, 4 P.M. |
| EAST ANGLIAN. [Annual Meeting.] | Norfolk Hotel, Norwich. | Friday, June 12, 1 P.M. |

NOTICE OF ADDITION TO LAW VIII, TO BE PROPOSED AT THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING.

I GIVE notice, in compliance with the request of the Committee of Council, that I shall, at the next Annual Meeting, propose that the President of the British Medical Association be, ex officio, a member of the Committee of Council.

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

Worcester, May 12th, 1857.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

AN ordinary meeting of the Metropolitan Counties Branch was held at 37, Soho Square, on Tuesday, May 12th; GEORGE WEBSTER, M.D., President, in the chair.

NEW MEMBER.

MR. W. WEBBER, on the nomination of Dr. Ward, seconded by Dr. Henry, was admitted a member of the Branch.

PETITION AGAINST THE SALE OF POISONS.

The following petition was submitted to the meeting for adoption.

"To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

"The humble petition of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of the British Medical Association, agreed to at a meeting of the Branch held on May 12th, 1857,

"SHEWETH—

"That, in consequence of the present unrestricted sale of poisons, serious accidents and loss of life frequently occur, and great facility is afforded to the commission of suicide and murder.

"Your petitioners therefore pray your Honourable House to pass a Bill which shall place the sale of poisons under proper restrictions.

"And your petitioners will ever pray, etc."

DR. LANKESTER inquired whether the petition was intended to embrace a reference to the sale of poisons with articles of food, such as children's sweetmeats, etc.

DR. MURPHY was of opinion that, although it was most proper that notice should be taken of the matters referred to by Dr. Lankester, the introduction of them would open a very wide field. The subject of diseased meat was one which would have to come under consideration.

DR. EDWARD SMITH believed it best to keep the subjects distinct.

MR. WEBBER said that the best plan was to adhere to a general principle, as the object of the petition would be better gained thereby than by entering on the consideration of special subjects.

MR. JAMES BIRD suggested that, when the Bill which is about to be introduced into Parliament has been printed, there will be an opportunity of examining its special provisions.

On the motion of DR. MURPHY, seconded by MR. WEBBER, the petition was adopted, and ordered to be signed by the President and Secretary.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL SECRETARY.

DR. HENRY proposed the following motion, of which he had given notice at the preceding ordinary meeting:—

"That the present laws of the Branch be so altered, as to allow the appointment of two honorary secretaries in place of one."

The reasons in favour of this arrangement were, he believed, so obvious, that it would be unnecessary to enter on them at any length. He (Dr. Henry) considered that the appointment of a colleague to Dr. Ward would be of great advantage both to

the Branch and to the Association. A single secretary could not be expected to give that extension to the Branch which it ought to possess; and even if he could do so, it was almost impossible for him to keep it in activity. He referred to the fact that the business of several other large Branches of the Association was carried on by means of two secretaries.

DR. OGIER WARD seconded the resolution. He had been secretary to the Branch from the time of its establishment; and he had all along felt that the utility of the Branch might be much increased by his having a coadjutor. The want of efficient aid had been especially felt by him since the retirement of Dr. Cormack from taking an active part in the business of the Branch. Dr. Cormack had spared no opportunity of adding to the members of the Branch; and it was to his exertions that the names of many of the members on the roll were due. The Branch, however, was not now so flourishing as it ought to be; but Dr. Ward believed that, by means of an active secretary in London, not only might the Branch be extended, but the Association be greatly benefited.

The resolution, on being put to the vote, was carried unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BRANCH.

Some conversation took place on the question whether all members of the Association residing within the limits of a Branch ought to belong to the latter. The general opinion was, that although it was desirable that the Branches should be the medium through which new members were admitted to the Association; still, as they could be admitted in another way, the membership of the Branch must be voluntary. MR. WEBBER urged the importance of extending the Branch and Association, so as to support a JOURNAL which was the property of the profession. DR. MURPHY coincided; and approved highly of the gentlemanly tone and freedom from personalities which at present characterised the JOURNAL: he thought, however, that the introduction of a little more "gossip" might be an improvement. It was important, he said, that the JOURNAL should co-operate with the Branches in extending the usefulness of the Association. After further remarks, the subject dropped.

A CIVIL SERVICE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

MR. JAMES BIRD made a communication on this subject. His remarks are published below in the form of a letter.

The meeting then adjourned to Monday, May 18th, for the purpose of taking into consideration the Medical Reform Bill introduced into Parliament by Mr. Headlam.

Editor's Letter Box.

A CIVIL SERVICE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

LETTER FROM JAMES BIRD, ESQ.

SIR,—The Government has decided upon abolishing the General Board of Health as a separate and independent department of the public service, and a Bill is at this moment before Parliament, having for its object to transfer the duties hitherto performed by the Board, to the supervision of a department of the Privy Council. Would it not be, therefore, well to inquire at this particular juncture, whether the interests of the profession, and those of the public at large, would not be best promoted by the formation of a new department of the public service, to be entitled "THE CIVIL SERVICE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT", for the regulation, supervision, and appointment of medical officers in all those branches of the public service at present held by medical men, upon some uniform system as respects their duties and emoluments?

The numerous, diversified, and all important public services rendered by the medical profession in every part of the kingdom; the extensive use made of their scientific and special acquirements; and the vast aid and cordial co-operation which its members have at all times afforded in carrying out any scheme for the promotion of health or for combating disease, have rendered a continuance of those services a public necessity, and in every respect deserving of a state recognition.

"A Civil Service Medical Department" for regulating and securing efficiency in the medical officers attending the poor and the police; in those appointed to gaols, prisons, and reformatories; to public lunatic asylums; to national schools and free emigrant ships; to the public offices; and to public works and establishments; and probably, hereafter, to free hospitals and dispensaries; could not fail to prove of great public utility, if conducted with ordinary care and prudence.

The service should embrace preventive as well as curative medicine, by paid officers of various grades of rank, acting under a code of rules and regulations uniform in character for the whole kingdom, and devoting their whole time to the public service. It should also be responsible for the due and efficient performance of their duties to one properly constituted authority, and the pay and retiring allowance should be fixed by act of Parliament, as in the case of the army and navy.

I am desirous of submitting these views for consideration, as I believe them calculated to promote feelings of independence and self-respect among the members of the medical profession by having their public services duly recognised and appreciated, and because I am fully persuaded that the public interests would be promoted by their being carried into effect. The money expended under the present system, although it amounts to a good round sum, would require to be considerably augmented to carry out this scheme effectually; and there may be some difficulty in inducing some parties to forego the patronage they enjoy at present: but these are difficulties of detail that would be disposed of in due time, and which, I doubt not, would speedily vanish under a free and candid ventilation of the subject.

I am, etc.,

JAMES BIRD.

6, Seymour Street West, Connaught Square, May 12th, 1857.

PROXY VOTES AT ELECTIONS FOR ADMISSION INTO THE "ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE."

LETTER FROM W. ALLISON, ESQ.

SIR,—At page 398 of your number for May 9th, Mr. Barber, of Stamford, has called your attention to the usurped, unfair reciprocity amongst the more wealthy and influential friends of candidates for admission into the College, which reciprocity is sanctioned and tolerated by the council. Is it not a question whether or not that license is un-English, because contrary to the spirit of "a fair field and no favour"—because one competitor is allowed the advantage of means which another cannot obtain?

The friendless orphan of a deceased governor who had long paid to the College fund might be excluded from a foundation scholarship, or compelled to incur another year's expenses of canvassing, etc., by parties, the parents of whose less destitute candidate had never subscribed one penny to that fund. Are such combinations allowed in a simple trial of skill, or should they be tolerated for enabling the stronger to oppress the weaker? Does not that unfair reciprocity tarnish the term "royal", alloy "benevolence", and sully the pure stream of charity? Would not the benevolent objects of the charity be more fully exercised and better accomplished by the appointment of a committee to scrutinise; to receive (instead of the council) all applications from the representatives of parties desiring admission into the College; to obtain necessary information in reference to the payments which their late parents had made to the fund, and to give candidates a preference, accordingly, over others who were but equally deserving in other respects; and in reference to the circumstances of all new candidates, to place their names (not alphabetically, but) from one upwards, in proportion to the extent of their claims upon the College—not in proportion to the wealth and influence of their friends, but in accordance with the extent of their poverty and helplessness in the opinion of the committee?

The council might, as usual, just before an election, send to each governor a balloting paper, with a notice that each paper must be filled by the individual receiving it *only*, who must return it *by post* to the general office in Soho Square before the day of election, with a caution "that no proxies would be allowed, and that a discovery of any selfish reciprocal additions of votes upon the papers would render all the votes invalid, and would render the balloting papers inadmissible."

I am, etc.,

W. ALLISON.

East Retford, May 9th.

MEDICAL REFORM.

LETTER FROM GEORGE KING, ESQ.

SIR,—Before the next JOURNAL is published, or this meets the eye of your readers, another Medical Reform Bill will be before the House of Commons. Mr. Headlam has certainly done his duty by giving timely notice; and if we expect and wish the Bill to be passed this session, we must do ours, and this is to be done, as you say, "by a general application of all

shoulders to the wheel, and a hearty and unanimous push in one direction." That direction is, to the House of Commons. Mr. Headlam must be supported; and the only way of doing this, is by sending him petitions from every Branch of our Association: and individuals should also petition. It is the *number of petitions* that influence the House, more than the number of signatures to a single petition. We must not forget that it is a new House of Commons, and we must make them acquainted with our wants and our grievances before we can expect them to advocate a Medical Reform Bill. Many hundreds of the members of the present House never heard of medical reform. We are already told by Lord Palmerston that this is to be a short session. There will therefore be but little time for discussing the subject out of doors. However tired of the subject we may be, the legislators will have to begin afresh, and we must assist them by all legitimate means in our power. We must speak out and meet too; each member of the Association can explain the subject to his representative, and thus do good service. If we want the laws regulating the medical profession altered and amended, we must support those who have the power to do it. If we can but agree among ourselves as to what we want, and are sure the Government will help us, as the session is to be short, no time should be lost. Petitions to Parliament must be signed and forwarded to members immediately. Much is expected by the public from the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, and I am anxious that they should not be disappointed. We must support Mr. Headlam.

I am, etc.,

GEORGE KING.

Bath, May 9th, 1857.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday, May 11th.

THE SALE OF POISONS.

LORD CAMPBELL wished to call the attention of the House to the necessity of further regulations with respect to the sale of poisons. He knew that the Secretary of State for the Home Department had been actively employed for some time past in obtaining information upon the subject; and he believed the right honourable gentleman had collected a great deal of very valuable information upon which some measure might be introduced. Legislation ought to be directed, not only against the administration of poison by design, which had received a salutary check, but against the administration of poison by accident. Some precautions were absolutely necessary to prevent the recurrence of cases of poisoning by mistake.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said that the subject had received not only the most careful investigation from his right honourable friend (Sir G. Grey), but that a Bill had actually been prepared, and would, he believed, in a few days be introduced in the other House, for the purpose of putting down that offence. The difficulties of that subject were hardly to be estimated, because the moment certain poisons were enumerated, the ingenuity of chemists immediately invented others. Then the line which separated poisons from medicines was extremely difficult to define. The Bill to be brought in would guard not only against the evil of selling poison to persons who intended to make a bad use of them, but there was also a clause guarding, as far as possible, against the sale of poisons by which persons were injured in their health. If the Bill was not likely to remove altogether, he hoped it would materially mitigate, the evil.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Friday, May 8th.

CHAIR OF MILITARY SURGERY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

MR. BLACK asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if it was the intention of the Government to make an appointment to the Chair of Military Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, which had been vacant for more than twelve months.

SIR G. GREY said that the appointment lay in the hands of his noble friend the Secretary for War, who had selected an officer for the purpose. That gentleman would, he believed, enter upon the discharge of his duties on the 15th instant.

Monday, May 11th.

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

Sir G. GREY moved for leave to introduce a Bill to make better provision for the exercise of the powers of the General Board of Health. The right hon. baronet in doing so took occasion to observe that the Board had originally been created in the year 1848; its members having then consisted of the First Commissioner of Woods and Forests, and two other gentlemen appointed by the Crown, one of whom was in the receipt of a salary. The original Board had, however, been dissolved in the year 1854, and a new Board had been constituted, having at its head a president who received a salary of £2,000 per annum, he being the only paid member of the Board. By virtue of the Act under which the department had been instituted its powers were to continue until the 29th day of July next, and until the end of the next ensuing session of Parliament. Paying regard, however, to the ordinary duties which the Board had to perform, the Government had come to the conclusion, instead of proposing a renewal of the existing Board, to dispense with it as a separate department, and that such portion of its present duties as it was desirable should continue to be discharged should be transferred to the Council-office to be performed by the Lord President, with the aid of a committee of the Council. If the House should agree to that proposal an immediate reduction of £3,000 or £4,000 per annum in the expenses of the department would be the result, while a still greater reduction might after some experience of the working of the new system be effected. Leave was then given to bring in the Bill.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS (SCOTLAND).

In answer to Mr. E. ELLICE,

Sir G. GREY stated that the report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the state of Lunatic Asylums in Scotland, would be printed in the course of a few days.

CONSUMPTION OF SMOKE.

Mr. BOWYER asked the Secretary for the Home Department whether the Government would take measures to enforce the law that required manufacturers in London to consume their own smoke.

Sir G. GREY replied that during the last six months there had been fifty-four convictions in London for violations of the law; but these convictions by no means represented the whole of the steps taken by the authorities; because, when the police found that parties were disposed to make the alterations which the Act required, they abstained from taking further measures; so that much more was done in the way of enforcing the law than appeared from the number of convictions.

Wednesday, May 13th.

MEDICAL PROFESSION BILL.

Mr. HEADLAM moved for leave to bring in a Bill to alter and amend the laws regulating the medical profession. In doing so the hon. member stated, that its general character was the same as that of the measure which he had introduced upon the same subject last session. Its main object was to insure uniformity of education throughout the whole kingdom in the case of medical men. It further provided that persons who had passed the required examination in one portion of the country should possess the right to practise their profession in any other portion of it; and also, that there should be a perfect system of registration, so that the public might be enabled to ascertain, with as small an amount of trouble as possible, whether any particular person was or was not a legally qualified medical practitioner. These were the three principal provisions of the Bill; and he should only add, that the machinery by which he proposed to carry them into effect had met with the general approval of the profession.

Mr. COWPER admitted that the subject of the Bill was one of great importance, and was glad to hear that it had met with the approbation of the medical profession. The State had taken upon itself to prescribe what should be the qualification of medical practitioners, but the laws by which the nature of that qualification was regulated were chiefly derived from old charters, and the whole subject was, as a consequence, in a somewhat anomalous condition. The qualifications required were as various as was the area over which those qualifications could be exercised. There were, for instance, the College of Physicians and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, both of which held different views upon the matter. There was again the University of St. Andrew's, in which a system of

a character distinct from the institutions which he had just mentioned prevailed. With respect to the area, also, a very great anomaly existed. The College of Physicians, for example, were enabled to give a license to practise medicine within the metropolis and for seven miles around it only, while those who obtained licences at the Universities might practise throughout the whole kingdom. There were sixteen colleges in the United Kingdom, the diplomas of which entitled holders by law and usage to practise only medicine. With respect to surgeons, he might observe that, legally speaking, there existed in their case no distinct qualification. What was, generally speaking, meant by the word "surgeon", was a member of the College of Surgeons, but that was not the legal definition of the term; and it was, in his opinion, extremely desirable that the State, having the power to grant licenses to surgeons as well as to physicians, should do it effectually, and should not allow anybody to practise that profession without having given proof of competent skill in his art, as well as that he had received a fair general education. [*Hear, hear.*] As things at present stood, there were to be found among licensed practitioners men who were incompetent, not alone so far as related to matters connected with their profession, but who possessed but a very small acquaintance with general subjects. The reason which was alleged by way of accounting for that fact was, that the demand for general practitioners was so great that, if a high standard of competency were fixed as necessary before they could obtain a license, the supply would not be equal to the demand, and the rural districts would, to a great extent, be deprived of the services of medical men. Experience, however, in his opinion, tended to show that such would not be the case, inasmuch as it was quite clear that what he might term over-competition now prevailed in the profession, as was clearly shown by the circumstance that medical men were, in many instances, found to be ready to take, under the Poor-law Board, salaries which the authorities themselves regarded as being scarcely a sufficient remuneration for their services. With reference to the Bill before the House, he could only say that he was disposed to look upon it with favour, introduced as it had been under such favourable auspices, as emanating from an hon. member who had taken great pains with the subject. [*Hear, hear.*] The views of the committee, which had sat some time ago, and of which he (Mr. Cowper) was a member, embraced the necessity of uniformity of qualification, and of fixing a *minimum* standard, without having attained to which no one could obtain a license to practise. In order to come up to that standard it was necessary that a surgeon should know something of medicine, and that a physician should be, in some degree, acquainted with surgery, while it was left to the medical colleges to adopt a higher standard in reference to the particular knowledge appertaining to any one branch of the profession. These were the objects which he thought it was desirable to carry into effect in any legislation upon the subject, and in so far as the Bill of his hon. friend tended to that end he should give it his cordial support. [*Hear, hear.*]

Lord ELCHO said, it had been remarked by the late Sir R. Peel that there was scarcely a session without a Salmon Bill, and in his (Lord Elcho's) opinion the same observation might very well be applied to the Bill before the House. He, however, did not rise to offer any opposition to the Bill, but simply to put a question to his hon. friend, by the answer to which his course with respect to the subsequent progress of the measure would be guided. Before he put the question he should say a few words in explanation of its nature. His hon. friend had introduced a bill in the last session but one of the last Parliament which had been committed, but which in committee had been found to require so much amendment that it had been deemed desirable to have it withdrawn for further consideration. It entirely ignored the position of an M.D. of one of the Universities, and had been characterised by the hon. member for Surrey as a Bill to provide for certain bodies corporate at the expense of our corporations. (A laugh.) Well, the Bill had subsequently been referred to a select committee, which had sat several weeks, and which had effected so great an alteration in the provisions of the measure that scarcely a line of the original remained. The Bill thus changed had come down from the committee, and their report had received the unanimous assent of the House. Now, he thought the most practical step which the House could adopt would be to take up that Bill again and to pass it into a law. The question he had to ask was whether this Bill was *bonâ fide* the Bill of the committee? It was possible enough that there might be a unanimous feeling among the medical corporations in favour of

this Bill, without a corresponding unanimity among the great body of the profession; and he was very much afraid that the tendency of the hon. and learned member's Bill was to benefit the corporations at the expense of the Universities. Now, the medical education given in the Universities of Scotland and in the University of London was about the best in the United Kingdom, and their degrees were a far better test of a medical man's qualification than the examination before any of the colleges. The degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London carried more weight with it than that of M.D. of the College of Physicians, yet an M.D. of the University of London was prohibited from practising within seven miles of the metropolis. If the Bill were *bond fide* the Bill of the committee he was ready to give the hon. and learned member his humble support; but if it differed in any essential respect he should ask leave of the House to lay upon the table to-morrow the Bill recommended by the committee.

Mr. HEADLAM said, his former Bill was not brought forward by the medical Colleges, but originated with a number of medical gentlemen, having Sir C. Hastings at their head. These gentlemen, so far from being friendly to the Colleges, were rather antagonistic to them. When the Bill was coming on, the College of Physicians went to the Home Secretary and induced him to offer objections to the Bill going into committee. In one material point—namely, in the appointments which the Bill of the committee proposed to vest in the Government—the present Bill, he admitted, differed from that of the committee. The noble lord could, however, move any amendments when the House went into committee on the Bill.

Mr. NAPIER hoped that every facility would be given to the passing of this measure. It was clear that, in order to frame a good practical measure, there must be a good deal of concession on the part of opposing interests. Ireland had long been particularly proud of her medical education; and Trinity College, Dublin, the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons in Ireland, and the Queen's University were agreed in favour of the present measure. The Bill, therefore, had a fair chance of being accepted by the profession, and by securing a uniform system of medical education it would do much to elevate the character of the medical profession. [*Hear.*]

After a few words from Mr. CRAUFURD,

Mr. BLACK, as a member of the committee, said, he regretted that the measure they had recommended had not been laid on the table as the foundation of any legislation on this subject.

Lord ELCHO did not suppose that the intention of the hon. and learned member had been to favour the medical corporations, although he feared his Bill would have that effect. He should ask leave to-morrow to bring in a Bill on the subject. [*Hear.*]

Leave was given to bring in the Bill, which was read a 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.

- *BOWMAN. On May 9th, at Archerfield House, Highbury New Park, the wife of Edward B. Bowman, M.D., of a daughter.
- CAMPBELL. On May 7th, at Maryon Cottage, Woolwich, the wife of John Campbell, M.D., R.N., of a daughter.
- *HENRY. On May 7th, at 5, Harley Street, the wife of Mitchell Henry, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, of a son.
- MATHEWS. On May 8th, at 1, Winterslow Place, North Brixton, the wife of Robert Mathews, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter, prematurely.
- SHARPIN. On May 9th, at Bedford, the wife of Henry W. Sharpin, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
- TYSER. On May 6th, at Blackheath, the wife of Henry Tyser, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
- WEBB. On May 6th, at 7, Elizabeth Street, Eaton Square, the wife of Edward L. Webb, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

- BUCHANAN—MURPHY. BUCHANAN, George, M.D., of 75, Gower Street, to Mary Anne, eldest daughter of George Murphy, Esq., of the Crescent, Camden Road, at St. Pancras Church, on May 7th.

BYRNE—FRANKLAND. BYRNE, James, Esq., Surgeon, to Lucy, only daughter of the late Thomas Frankland, Esq., formerly of Georgetown, Demerara, at St. George's Cathedral, Westminster Road, on May 7th.

MASON—MANSIR. MASON, George, Esq., Surgeon, of Lincoln, to Mary, relict of Robert Mansir, Esq., of Northampton Square, at St. Stephen's, Paddington, on May 12th.

SHEARMAN—HODGE. SHEARMAN, Chas. Jas., B.A., M.D.Lond., of Sheffield, to Tryphena Jane, second daughter of the late Richard Hodge, Esq., of the Green, Hampstead.

WRIGHT—WRIGHT. WRIGHT, Thomas Burslem, Esq., to Marianne, relict of the late Samuel Wright, M.D., at St. Saviour's, Paddington, on May 6th.

DEATHS.

BELLINGHAM, Francis, Esq., Surgeon, at Bourne, Lincolnshire, aged 74, on April 25th.

BEVERLY. On April 30th, at Margate, Alice Leila, younger daughter of the late Edward Parry Beverly, Esq., Surgeon, aged 11 months.

BROUSSONNET, M., *agregé* professor in the Faculty of Medicine, and chief physician of the hospital at Montpellier, aged 53, on March 24th.

DICKSON. On May 5th, at 16, Chester Terrace, Eaton Square, Agnes, widow of Sir David J. H. Dickson, Knt., M.D., late Inspector of Hospitals and Fleets.

FIFE, George, M.D., late Physician to the Queen's Hospital, and joint Professor of Materia Medica in Queen's College, Birmingham, at Surrey Street, Strand, on May 8th. Dr. Fife died from taking an overdose of morphia. At the inquest, it was proved that on the evening of Friday, May 8th, the deceased went to the shop of Mr. Burfield, chemist, Norfolk Street, Strand, and asked for some morphia, which, he said, he took in small doses, to procure sleep. Mr. Burfield's assistant gave the deceased some morphia in a phial; but said he should not have done so if he had not known him to be a medical man. A tonic medicine was also sold to the deceased at the same time. He then went to the Strand Theatre; and when he returned home to his lodgings in Surrey Street, Strand, he appeared to be in an excited state from drink. Next morning, he was found dead in bed. A surgeon, who was called in, said the deceased had undoubtedly died from the effects of morphia; and that, presuming the bottle which had contained it had been full, there was enough to kill four persons. According to one witness, the deceased had said that family matters preyed upon his mind. The jury returned a verdict—"That the deceased died from an overdose of morphia, he being at the time in a state of intoxication; but that he had no intention of wilfully destroying his life."

GEOFFROY, M., Chief Medical Officer of the Public Lunatic Asylum at Avignon, lately. While he was visiting the patients in the asylum, an epileptic, apparently of mild disposition, complained of a pain in his leg. M. Geoffroy stooped to examine it; and was immediately stabbed in the side by the patient, with a pair of scissors. He died in a short time.

GUÉNEAU DE MUSSY, M., M.D., member of the Academy of Medicine, Honorary Physician of the Parisian Hospitals, aged 83, lately.

HOLMAN. On May 11th, at Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, Frances, wife of Henry Holman, Esq., Surgeon, aged 55.

MARSHALL. On May 4th, at 10, Portland Street, Southampton, of scarlet fever, Thomas Hewett, only surviving son of Joseph Marshall, M.D., aged 4 years and 8 months.

MARSHALL, Robert, M.D., Surgeon H.E.I.C.S., at Allahabad, Bengal, aged 44, on March 21st.

SCOTT, Edward John, M.D., Senior Medical Officer to the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, at Southsea, suddenly, aged 44, on May 4th. Dr. Scott had been admitted to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons on April 8th.

SHAW. On May 11th, at Hampstead, Mary Elizabeth, second daughter of William Shaw, Esq., Surgeon, aged 8.

SMITH. On May 7th, at Bideford, Devon, Lucy Marsh, widow of the late William Smith, M.D., aged 82.

APPOINTMENTS.

BALFOUR, Thomas Graham, M.D., of the Royal Military Asylum, Chelsea, has been selected to be Secretary to the Royal Commission, appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the organisation, government, and direction of the Medical Department of the army.

*COATES, Charles, M.D., elected Physician to the Bath General Hospital.

COTTON, Charles, M.D., elected Surgeon to the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital. Dr. Cotton formerly held the same appointment, but resigned it in consequence of ill health about two years ago. A vacancy having lately occurred, he consented, on the request of his friends in Lynn, to be put in nomination, and was re-elected by a large majority. A homœopathic practitioner in the town offered himself also as a candidate, and canvassed vigorously, but without sufficient success to encourage him to be put in nomination.

FLEMING, Alexander, M.D., elected Physician to the Queen's Hospital, and joint Professor of Materia Medica in Queen's College, Birmingham, in the room of Dr. George Fife, resigned.

HULME, E. C., Esq., appointed Surgeon to the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, May 8th, 1857:—

ALDRED, Henry, Manchester
ALLEN, Josiah, Kidderminster
BEADLES, Hubert, Broadway, Worcester
ELLIOT, John, Kingsbridge, Devon
MEACHAM, Edward, Manchester
PHILIPPS, Edward, Aberystwyth
RODGERS, Maxwell, Kilrea, co. Derry, Ireland

At the same meeting of the Court—

COGHLAN, Thomas
CALDWELL, John

Passed their examinations for Naval Surgeons. These gentlemen had previously been admitted members of the College: their diplomas bearing date respectively August 2nd, 1852, and May 23rd, 1854.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. Members admitted on Thursday, May 7th, 1857:—

BATESON, John Moses, Kirkby Lonsdale, Westmoreland
CLARK, John Marshall, London
GIRDLESTONE, William Theophilus, Wordsley, Staffordshire
INMAN, Robert Matthews, Carlisle, Cumberland
STILWELL, Henry, Uxbridge
WOOD, William, Siddington, Gloucestershire

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING MAY 9TH, 1857.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE number of deaths registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday is 1064, and exhibits a small increase on that of the previous week, which was 1038. In the ten years 1847-56, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1040. But as the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, the average, with a view to comparison, must be raised proportionally to the increase, in which case it will become 1144. Hence it appears that the deaths now returned were less by 80 than the number that would have occurred under the average rate of mortality.

The number of births recorded last week is 1846, and shows an excess of 782 on the deaths recorded in the same period.

The returns now contain indications of the effect of the cold north-east wind that has blown uninterruptedly for some time. During eighteen days from the 22nd ultimo to the 9th instant, both days included, the mean daily temperature of the air has been constantly below the average, and the extent of depression has been generally 7° or 8°, and on four nights last week the thermometer fell to 32°, or below that point. The result of this continued coldness is seen in the deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs, which had previously decreased, but which rose last week from 177 to 208; the special disease under which this increase is found being bronchitis, which rose from 84 to 116. The deaths due to pneumonia (or inflammation of the lungs) remained nearly the same, having been in the two weeks 74 and 70. Last week, bronchitis and pneumonia were fatal to the same number of young persons, viz., 52; but amongst persons of mature age the two diseases were fatal in very different proportions, for 64 persons, aged 20 years and upwards, died of bronchitis, and 18 of pneumonia. Hooping-cough declined last week to 44, a lower number than has been obtained for a long period. There were two deaths from

small-pox. Of 32 from measles, five occurred in the sub-district of Bethnal Green, and eight in that of Limehouse. There appears to have been a violent outbreak of measles in the workhouse situated in the latter sub-district, as all the eight deaths occurred in that institution, and nearly all of them within a few days.

Seven nonagenarians died in the week; the two oldest were women, aged 93 years, one of whom died in Brompton, the other in the Pancras Workhouse.

Last week the births of 924 boys and 922 girls, in all 1846 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56 the average number was 1550.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.962 in. The mean daily reading was above 30 in. on five days; and the highest reading in the week was 30.12 in., on Tuesday. The mean temperature of the week was 44.8°, which is 6.7° below the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The lowest temperature occurred on Monday, and was 31.5°; the highest on Saturday, and was 65.3°. The range of the week was 33.8°. The mean dew-point temperature was 38.2°, and the difference between this and the mean air temperature was 6.6°. The wind blew almost invariably from the north-east. There was scarcely any rain. The first five days were very cold.

GROSVENOR PLACE SCHOOL OF ANATOMY AND MEDICINE.

THE annual distribution of prizes took place on Friday, May 1st, when Alderman Salomons took the chair. Dr. Lankester read the annual report, from which it appeared that the School was in a flourishing condition. It referred to the fact that during the last three years no pupil had been sent back at his examinations. This gratifying result was attributed to the system of daily oral and monthly written examinations that had been adopted in most of the classes in the School. The report also referred to the return of Mr. Blenkins and Mr. Wells, two of the lecturers from the seat of war. Mr. Blenkins is now delivering a course of lectures on military surgery in the school. The following prizes were then distributed. *Anatomy*: Lecturer, Dr. Deville; Gold Medal, Mr. A. J. Bannister; Silver Medal, Mr. J. Adsetts; 1 Certificate, Mr. R. W. Clifton; 2 Certificate, Mr. W. Millar. *Junior Anatomy*: Medal, A. Herzen; Certificate, Mr. E. Davies. *Physiology*: Lecturer, Dr. Lankester; Prize, Mr. Edward Cook; Certificate, Mr. R. W. Clifton. *Junior Physiology*: 1 Certificate, Mr. E. Davies; 2 Certificate, Mr. A. Herzen; 3 Certificate, Mr. H. Bucknill. *Practice of Medicine*: Lecturer, Dr. Ballard; Prize, Mr. Edward Cook; 1 Certificate, Mr. W. Lomas; 2 Certificate, Mr. J. Adsetts. *Surgery*: Lecturers, Mr. Wells and Mr. Adams; Prize, Mr. W. Millar. *Chemistry*: Lecturer, Mr. J. E. D. Rodgers; Prize, Mr. Edward Davies; Certificates equal: Mr. E. Bucknill, Mr. H. Bucknill. *Medical Jurisprudence*: Lecturer, Dr. Richardson; Prize, Mr. A. J. Bannister; Certificate, Mr. Thomas Godrich. *Public Hygiene*: Lecturer, Dr. Richardson; Prize, Mr. A. J. Bannister. *Botany*: Lecturer, Dr. Lankester; Prize, Mr. Alfred P. Dowson. *Practical Chemistry*: Lecturer, Mr. Rodgers; Prize, Mr. A. J. Bannister. *Midwifery*: Lecturer, Mr. Bloxam; Senior Class—Prize, Mr. A. J. Bannister; Certificate, Mr. R. W. Clifton; Junior Class—Prize, Mr. W. Lomas; Certificate, Mr. E. Cook. *Materia Medica*: Dr. Ayres; 1 Prize, Mr. Edward Cook; 2 Prize, Mr. J. Adsetts; Clinical Prize for Reports of Medical Cases in St. George's Hospital, Mr. Edward Cook; Clinical Prize for Reports of Surgical Cases in St. George's Hospital, Mr. W. Lomas.

COMMISSION ON THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY. The members of the Royal Commission on the Medical Department of the Army met for the first time on Monday, at No. 1, Whitehall-yard. Mr. Sidney Herbert, M.P., was the president. The other commissioners present were Mr. Augustus Stafford, M.P., Colonel Sir Henry K. Stoeke, K.C.B., Dr. Andrew Smith, Mr. Thomas Alexander, C.B., Sir Thomas Phillips, Mr. James R. Martin, Sir James Clarke, and Dr. John Sutherland. Dr. Balfour is selected as secretary to the commission.

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN. At the general monthly meeting, Monday, May 4th, 1857, the following professors were unanimously re-elected:—W. T. Brande, D.C.L., F.R.S., L. and E., as Honorary Professor of Chemistry; and J. Tyndall, Ph.D., F.R.S., as Professor of Natural Philosophy.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTICE.—DR. WYNTER will feel obliged if the Associates will address all Post Office Orders in payment of Subscriptions, to the Publisher, Mr. THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W. C., "Bloomsbury Branch"; and he would also feel obliged by their sending all communications respecting the non-receipt of the Journal, to the same address; as both these matters are out of the province of the Editor.

To CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others, would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that in future no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers *always* deter the reader from commencing them, this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

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

Communications have been received from:—DR. RADCLIFFE HALL; MR. L. OWEN FOX; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; DR. B. W. RICHARDSON; MR. RICHARD GRIFFIN; DR. THOMAS WILLIAMS (Swansea); DR. EDWARD SMITH; MR. J. A. LOCKING; MR. WILLIAM I. COX; DR. LANKESTER; MR. J. C. CLENDON; DR. MARKHAM; DR. JOHN WEBSTER; MR. ALLISON; MR. F. D. FLETCHER; MR. R. U. WEST; DR. C. HANDFIELD JONES; MR. G. M. HUMPHRY; DR. GARROD; MR. T. HOLMES; MR. H. OBRE; DR. G. G. ROGERS; MR. JAMES BIRD; MR. W. WEBBER; MR. STONE; MR. GEORGE KING; THE SECRETARY OF THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL; DR. C. COTTON; THE SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

1. The Midland Quarterly Journal of the Medical Sciences. May 1857. Birmingham: Cornish Brothers. London: Longman & Co.
2. A Popular Treatise on the Causes and Prevention of Diseases. By Samuel Fenwick, M.D. Vol. I. London: Churchill. 1857.
3. A Treatise on the Cause of Stammering. By James Hunt, Ph.D. Third Edition. London: Longman. 1857.
4. On the Prevention and Treatment of the Sheffield Grinders' Disease. By *J. C. Hall, M.D., Physician to the Sheffield Dispensary. With Six Illustrations. London: Longman. 1857.
5. The Gymnastic Polymachinon. Instructions for performing a Systematic Series of Exercises on the Gymnastic and Calisthenic Polymachinon. By Captain Chiosso. London: Walton & Maberley. 1857.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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 2. On the Radical Cure of Inguinal Hernia. By Holmes Coots, F.R.C.S.
 3. Case of Caesarian Section. By Dr. Charles Clay. (With Engravings.)
 4. Observations on Syphilitic Retinitis. By Dr. W. F. Wade.
 5. On Conservative Surgery. By F. C. Skey, F.R.S.
 6. On the Re-section of the Knee-joint. By Dr. Masfen.
 7. On Rational Therapeutics. By Dr. Jordan.
 8. Contributions to Surgery. By Evan Thomas, M.R.C.S.
 9. Case of Ligature of the External Iliac for Femoral Aneurism. By Professor W. S. Cox, F.R.S.
 10. On the Principles and Treatment of Chronic Phthisis. By Dr. Edward Smith. (With coloured Plates.)
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Poor Law Medical Reform Association.

A Public Meeting of the Poor Law Medical Officers of England and Wales, and of the Profession generally, will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Gt. Queen Street, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, on Thursday, May 28th, when a Petition to Parliament will be proposed for signature, and such other business transacted as may be thought desirable.

The Chair to be taken at Two o'Clock precisely, by the Right Hon. the EARL OF SHAFTESBURY.

A Meeting of the Committee will take place at half-past Twelve o'Clock, to make the necessary arrangements, prior to which (the 23rd instant at latest) gentlemen intending to bring forward motions, are requested to transmit copies to the Chairman, at his private residence, Weymouth, in order that arrangements may be made for their consideration.

May 16th, 1857.

RICHARD GRIFFIN, Chairman.

CHARLES F. J. LORD, Hon. Secretary.