

## Association Intelligence.

### VACANCY IN THE EDITORSHIP OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

As the office of Editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL will become vacant on the 31st of December next, it is requested that all candidates for the appointment will communicate, not later than the 17th of November, with Dr. Williams of Worcester, and forward to him, with their testimonials, the scheme they propose for conducting the JOURNAL.

CHARLES HASTINGS, KNT., M.D., ETC.,

President of Council.

Worcester, October 23rd, 1860.

## Reports of Societies.

### MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22ND, 1860.

PETER MARSHALL, ESQ., in the Chair.

#### CLINICAL DISCUSSION.

*Curious Malformation of the Anal Region.* Mr. CANTON related the case of a child brought to him with the skin at the posterior margin of the anus turned forwards, and attached along the raphe of the perineum as far as the scrotum. The child had never been able to retain its fæces. The anus was not so covered completely but that an opening was left on each side. The malformation might be compared to a sort of dog's tail turned up between the legs. Mr. Canton had not seen any similar recorded instances.

Dr. SALTER asked if the growth was examined, and especially the coccyx.

Mr. CANTON has found nothing wrong, except perhaps an imperfect development of the sphincter ani.

*Indiscriminate Use of Opium.* Dr. STOCKER made a communication referring to the necessity of legislative interference in the sale of poisons. He had been attending a lady aged 35, who suffered much pain, for which, it was said, opium plaisters were applied. Dr. Stocker found out, however, that large quantities of opium had been procured from a druggist, and taken at the rate of four hundred and eighty grains a month. The motor power of the upper limbs was impaired; but it had improved on her leaving off the use of the drug.

*Is Mercury an Hepatic Specific?* Dr. THUDICHUM said that since he touched upon this question, in his recent paper, a communication had been published by Dr. Inman, of Liverpool, which so clearly exposed the fallacy of the current notions about the relationship between mercurials and the liver, that he was induced specially to draw attention to it. Dr. Inman has spoken Dr. Thudichum's ideas of the subject, but on some points he was enabled to correct or amplify his information.

1. That mercury does not make its appearance in the bile when given in the form of calomel, has been proved by Mosler (Virchow's *Archiv*, vol. xii, p. 29). Doses of from twenty-two to fifty-two grains produced no appearance of mercury in the bile, neither was the quantity of bile secreted thereby augmented. If Dr. Thudichum recollected right, an author in India, writing in the *Lancet*, attempted to controvert the facts of Mosler, and stated that he had found mercury in the bile. Even if that should be so in some cases, there remains the fact, nevertheless, that the quantity of bile is not increased by that agent.

2. H. Nasse, Kölliker, and H. Müller found that the addition of calomel to food, which under ordinary circumstances produced a certain and normal quantity of bile in dogs, diminished the quantity of bile.

3. Taking into consideration three experiments of Kölliker and four of Scott's, related in Beale's *Archives*, Dr. Inman comes to the conclusion, that the chances are six to one that calomel will diminish the hepatic secretion. The facts Dr. Thudichum had stated made the proportions worse. In nine cases out of ten, calomel, whether it purges or not, will diminish the quantity of bile secreted. Where it acts as a purgative, the diminution is most conspicuous.

4. Dr. Thudichum had allowed that mercurials, particularly calomel, by their purging action, might relieve some disorders of the liver or other organs, or of the general system. This effect could be purchased at less cost by other purgatives, because the specific action of mercury was always hurtful, excepting, of course, in cases of syphilis. The mere fact, therefore, of cases of liver disease having been improved by the action of mercurials, is no proof of their specific advantage.

5. The stools which are passed after the use of purging mercurials, particularly calomel, are supposed to contain more bile than usual. This assumption rests upon the observation that these stools are mostly green—a fact which appears to me to be at the bottom of the entire tissue of errors. The green colour of calomel stools is due to subsulphide of mercury, just as the black colour of stools following the use of preparations of iron is due to subsulphide of iron. The subsulphide of mercury can be easily obtained from those stools by levigation, or chemical proceedings. So much is proved. On the contrary, it is not proved that calomel stools contain any increased quantity of either bile or biliary colouring matter (cholochrome.) From the experiments quoted above, the reverse of this unproved hypothesis will probably be found to be true—namely, that the green calomel stools contain a smaller amount of biliary colouring matter than an equal amount of solid matter from healthy fæces. When the fæces passed after a dose of calomel or blue pill become green, they also begin to scald the anus. This sensation has been ascribed to the bile, which was then believed to be passing. It is only reasonable to ascribe this scalding, not to bile, which is not present, but to the subsulphide of mercury, which has been proved to be present.

6. Dr. Inman adopts the estimate of the quantity of bile discharged by a man of 160 lbs. weight, in twenty-four hours, as sixty-six ounces. The most accurate calculations from experiments upon animals permit me to assume that an adult person secretes between 195 and 675 grains of solid matter through the biliary channels. The amount of solid matter contained in human bile varies between eight and sixteen per cent. It therefore follows that the amount of average bile secreted by an adult in twenty-four hours fluctuates between 1200 and 9000 grains; or 2 oz. 240 grs., and 18 oz. 360 grs.—a vast difference from 66 oz. But substituting these figures for those given by Dr. Inman, and assuming the fæces to weigh half a pound instead of a pound (the dry residue of a healthy man's fæces does not usually exceed two ounces), Dr. Inman's subsequent conclusions become still more correct.

7. Dr. Inman assumes that the clayey, white stools of persons suffering from jaundice, might contain the ingredients of bile minus only the colouring matter. This has not been proved to obtain. As, on the other hand, it has been proved that the healthy fæces contain no biliary matter except a derivate of cholochrome, Dr. Inman's assumption becomes very improbable, and the reverse opinion gains ground, that the clayey, white stools of the jaundiced contain neither bile, acids, nor cholochrome. Dr. Thudichum was far from admitting, as a reliable fact, that the liver may secrete colourless bile. He would not admit that in jaundice the colourless part of the bile could go into the intestines, while the coloured part passes into the blood. With regard to these points, he differed entirely from Dr. Inman, not because he thought that such might not occur, but simply because no such occurrence has been proved.

8. He took the opportunity to point out that the question of the discharge of any modified biliary matter besides cholochrome in the fæces requires further study. The ordinary biliary salts are certainly not present; the fæces contain little soda. But some modified cholic acid might still be contained, and escape observation, as it had hitherto done in gall-stones. According to Berzelius, five ounces of fresh excrements contained twenty-one grains of a matter similar to bile. Considering that 675 grains is the maximum, and 195 grains the minimum of solid bile, any modified cholic acid in the fæces could not be less than three, nor more than ten per cent. of the bile secreted in twenty-four hours.

Dr. SALTER supposed that Dr. Thudichum was aware how far his estimate of the daily quantity of bile fell short of other analyses—as that of Bidder and Schmidt.

Dr. THUDICHUM replied, that the quantity of the solid biliary matter must be estimated, and not merely the quantity of bile, which varied in its density in different localities. He had consulted all authorities on the subject of the quantity of bile, besides making observations for himself. The former estimates have been all very much overstated.

## 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—

- \*DILL, Richard, M.D., Brighton, on October 18.  
DUNCAN, Thomas, M.D., Richmond, on October 17.  
\*GILLARD, Richard, Esq., Hovingham, Yorkshire, on Oct. 21.  
HORNER, Thomas, L.R.C.P.Ed., at Stoke Newington, on October 21.

Of daughters, the wives of—

- BREMNER, Bruce A., M.D., at Bridge of Earn, Perthshire, on October 22.  
CROFT, Robert C., M.D., Camden Road Villas, on October 20.  
DAVIES, John, Esq., Surgeon-Major Royal Army, at Reading, on October 23.  
MARSHALL, Peter, Esq., Surgeon, Bedford Square, on Oct. 17.  
MUNRO, William, M.D., Surgeon 93rd Highlanders, at Rawell Pindoe, India, on September 4.  
\*ORMEROD, Edward L., M.D., Brighton, on October 17.  
SMITH, Charles S., Esq., Surgeon, Burbage, Wilts, on Oct. 14.  
THOMPSON, Charles T., M.D., Sussex Gardens, on October 18.

#### MARRIAGES.

- BARTLEET, Horace, Esq., of Adelaide, Australia, to Lucy, fourth daughter of \*John W. WILTON, Esq., of Gloucester, on October 16.  
\*BRONFIELD, John, Esq., Whitechurch, Salop, to Mary T., daughter of John BRISCOE, Esq., West Derby, Liverpool, on October 17.  
CARDUS, John, Esq., of Barwell Court, Kingston-on-Thames, to Caroline, eldest surviving daughter of James PART, M.D., of Camden Road Villas, at St. Pancras, on October 23.  
HODGKINSON, Fredk., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon Bombay Army, to Frances H., second daughter of the late William H. HUNT, Esq., of Norwood, at Paddington, on October 18.  
MORGAN, Henry, Esq., of the Goulburn River, Australia, to Lucy E., eldest daughter of Henry COWARD, M.D., Carranne, Ceres, Australia, on August 16.  
PAIN, James, Esq., Camden Cottages, Camden Road, to Jessie, daughter of Robert DAVIES, Esq., Surgeon, Holborn Hill, at St. Pancras Church, on October 18.  
PECK, Floyd M., Esq., Surgeon, Grassdale Sale, Australia, to Menie, daughter of Duncan CAMPBELL, Esq., late of Islay, Argyleshire, on August 15.  
STUART, Kenneth B., M.D., Calcutta, to Sarah M., daughter of William WOTHERSPOON, Esq., of Hillside, at Edinburgh, on October 17.  
SUTTON, John, Esq., eldest son of John Sutton, Esq., Surgeon, Finsbury, to Rebecca, fourth surviving daughter of James WHITMARSH, Esq., of Honiton, at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, on October 17.  
TURNER, Vincent J., Esq., Shipton-on-Cherwell, Oxon, to Agnes E., second daughter of Gilbert F. GIRDWOOD, M.D., of Howley Place, at Paddington, on October 23.

#### DEATHS.

- ADAMS, Robert E., Esq., Surgeon, at Sevenoaks, aged 54, on October 19.  
JOHNSON. On October 19, at 11, Savile Row, Charlotte Elizabeth, wife of \*George Johnson, M.D.  
SLOPER. On October 2, at Aberdare, aged 30, Margaret, wife of \*Richard Sloper, Esq.  
SULLIVAN. On October 16, at Brighton, Catherine, widow of the late Joseph S. Sullivan, Esq., Surgeon Bengal Army.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

- \*WOLLASTON, Robert, M.D., elected Physician to the South Staffordshire Hospital.

#### HEALTH OF LONDON—OCTOBER 20TH, 1860.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.	Deaths.
During week .....	{ Boys.. 339 Girls.. 861 }	1800 .. 1116
Average of corresponding weeks 1850-9 .....	1576 ..	1122
Among the causes of death were—	bronchitis, 86; pneumonia, 103; phthisis, 134; small-pox, 9; scarlatina, 49; measles, 50; diphtheria, 8; hooping-cough, 28. The deaths from pulmonary diseases (exclusive of phthisis) were 211, being 59 above the corrected average.	
Barometer:		
Highest (Sat.) 29.909; lowest (Tu.) 29.468; mean 29.612.		
Thermometer:		
In sun—highest (Fri.) 97.7 degs.; lowest (Mon.) 60.0 degs.		
In shade—highest (Fri.) 62.0 degs.; lowest (Mon.) 39.5 degs.		
Mean—50.0 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs. + 0.5 degrees.		
Range—during week, 22.5 degrees; mean daily, 18.0 degrees.		
Mean humidity of air (saturation = 100), 69.		
Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.56.		

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from:—MR. NATHANIEL CRISP; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; DR. S. W. J. MERRIMAN; MR. AUGUSTIN PRICHARD; DR. LIONEL BEALE; DR. G. M. HUMPHRY; MR. RICHARD GILLARD; MR. I. B. BROWN; DR. THUDICHUM; DR. WOLLASTON; MR. E. Y. STEELE; DR. WILLIAM ROBERTS; MR. J. FOX; MR. J. BROMFIELD; DR. SKINNER; DR. COPEMAN; DR. F. L. FOX; DR. W. ADDISON; MR. GRANTHAM; MR. H. ORMEROD; DR. W. R. HILL; MR. R. BELL; MR. H. HAILEY; MR. C. E. SLOPER; and MR. T. M. STONE.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

1. Chemistry in its Relations to Physiology and Medicine. By \*George E. Day, M.A. Cantab., M.D., F.R.S. With Five Plates, containing numerous engraved illustrations. London: Baillière. 1860.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

Just published, demy 8vo, price 7s. 6d.

**The Pathology and Treatment of**  
VENEREAL DISEASES, comprising the most Recent Doctrines on the Subject. By JOHN HARRISON, F.R.C.S.

##### CONTENTS:—

Pathology.	
1. Chancres.	13. Non-Identity of the Syphilitic Virus.
2. Constitutional Symptoms.	14. Buboes.
3. Syphilis in Infants.	15. Prognosis in Syphilis.
4. Inoculation.	
5. Transmission of Infection.	Treatment.
6. Poison of Syphilis.	1. General Remarks.
7. Induced Immunity of the System against new Constitutional Infection.	2. Treatment of Chancres.
8. Extinction of Syphilitic Diathesis by Syphilization.	3. Treatment of Constitutional Symptoms.
9. Influence of Climate, Age, and Sex.	4. Syphilis in Infants.
10. Non-Specific Sores, etc.	5. Non-Specific Sores, etc.
11. Gonorrhoea, etc.	6. Gonorrhoea, etc.
12. Discharges from the Urethra.	7. Discharges from the Urethra.
	8. Treatment of Buboes.
	9. Treatment of Phagedena.
	Conclusion.

"The claim to a scientific character which Mr. Harrison puts forward in favour of the subject of Venereal Diseases will be found amply justified by a perusal of this work. It contains much information. To the practitioner, who wants merely a view of the most recent doctrines on the subject, it is not too long; to the student, who wants practical instruction, it is not too short."—*Lancet*.

Also, by the same Author, demy 8vo, price 7s. 6d.

**The PATHOLOGY and TREATMENT of STRICTURE of the URETHRA.** Second Edition, with four Plates, illustrating some of the chief points alluded to in the Work.

London: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & Co., Stationers' Hall Court.

**Lewis's Medical Library,**  
15, GOWER STREET NORTH, W.C.  
(Two Doors from UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.)

A perusal of all the New Works and New Editions in Medicine and the Collateral Sciences, by every Member of the Profession in Town and Country. Subscription from One to Ten Guineas per Annum, commencing at any date.

The following are among recent additions.

Owen's Paleontology.	Beunett's Clinical Medicine.
Toynbee's Diseases of the Ear.	Bain's Emotions and Will.
Timms on Phthisis.	Garrod on Gout.
Whewell's Philosophy of Discovery.	Bennett's Pulmonary Consumption.
Hamilton's Fractures & Dislocations.	Todd's Acute Diseases.
Wade's Stricture of the Urethra.	Waters' Human Lung.
Ashton's Diseases of the Rectum.	Gibbs' Diseases of the Throat.
Darwin's Origin of Species.	Inman's New Theory.
Wilks' Pathological Anatomy.	Gosse's Sea Anemones.
Bryant's Injuries of Joints.	Walshe on the Lungs.
Heale's Vital Causes.	Pichot's Life of Sir C. Bell.
Cooper's Wounds, etc., of the Eye.	Fuller's Rheumatism. New ed.

Catalogue, gratis to Subscribers. Prospectus, on application.

NEW BOOKS SUPPLIED AT TWENTY PER CENT. DISCOUNT.