

## Association Intelligence.

### BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE ordinary quarterly meeting of this Branch was held at the York House, Bath, November 29th; JOHN SODEN, Esq., President, in the chair. There were also present: C. S. Barter, Esq. (Bath); J. S. Bartrum, Esq. (Bath); J. Beddoe, M.D. (Clifton); R. N. Boodle, Esq. (Chilcompton); E. Boulton, Esq. (Bath); W. Budd, M.D. (Clifton); George Burder, M.D. (Clifton); W. Bush, Esq. (Bath); W. J. Church, Esq. (Bath); C. Coates, M.D. (Bath); E. Cockey, Esq. (Frome); J. G. Davey, M.D. (Northwoods); R. S. Fowler, Esq. (Bath); Jas. Godfrey, Esq. (Bristol); T. Green, Esq. (Bristol); C. Harper, Esq. (Bathaston); Wm. Henderson, M.D. (Clifton); W. R. Hill, M.D. (Bath); J. Hinton, Esq. (Charterhouse Hinton); J. Lawrence, Esq. (Bath); C. Leonard, Esq. (Bristol); S. Martyn, M.D. (Bristol); F. Mason, Esq. (Bath); E. S. Mayor, Esq. (Bristol); D. Michael, Esq. (Bath); G. Norman, Esq. (Bath); H. Ormerod, Esq. (Bristol); J. Parsons, Esq. (Beckington); A. Prichard, Esq. (Clifton); E. Skeate, Esq. (Bath); G. Skinner, Esq. (Bath); J. K. Spender (Bath); R. N. Stone, Esq. (Bath); J. Tunstall, M.D. (Bath); W. C. Walker (Shepton Mallet); W. A. White, Esq. (Frome); and J. Wybrants, M.D. (Shepton Mallet).

*Communication.* 1. Mr. GODFREY exhibited a specimen of the Eupatorium Nervosum vel Vellosum, the Bitter Bush of Jamaica. He had been informed that this plant is used with marked success in cholera and in fevers of low type by the natives and by medical practitioners in that land.

2. Disease of the Liver: illustrated by Microscopic Specimens and Drawings. By S. MARTYN, M.D. [This paper has been reserved for publication.]

3. The Morbid Anatomy of Tubercle, and the Value of Cod-liver Oil in Phthisis. By W. R. HILL, M.D.

4. A number of cases of Renal Calculi were related, and several calculi exhibited by Mr. SODEN, Dr. BUDD, and others, which will probably form the subject of a paper for publication.

5. Mr. SODEN related a case of rapidly fatal gangrene in a middle-aged gentleman supervening on a slight excoriation of the thigh by the saddle after a long day's hunting. Mr. PRICHARD, Mr. STONE, and Mr. BOODLE, all narrated similar cases which had occurred in their practice.

### BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: GENERAL MEETING.

A GENERAL meeting of the members was held in the medical department of the Birmingham Library, Union Street, on December 13, 1860; EDWARD MOORE, Esq. (Hales Owen), in the chair. There were also present: H. Adkins, Esq. (Meriden); T. Boisragon, M.D. (Birmingham); W. Downes, Esq. (Handsworth); A. Fleming, M.D., (Birmingham); J. J. Hadley, Esq. (Birmingham); W. Hinds, M.D. (Birmingham); J. L. Hobbes, Esq. (Belbroughton); F. Jordan, Esq. (Birmingham); G. H. Marshall, M.D. (Birmingham); J. B. Melson, M.D. (Birmingham); D. Nelson, M.D. (Birmingham); O. Pemberton, Esq. (Birmingham); J. V. Solomon, Esq. (Birmingham); T. W. Williams, Esq. (Birmingham); G. Yates, Esq. (Birmingham); C. Yarwood, Esq. (Birmingham).

*Business.* It was proposed by Mr. PEMBERTON, and seconded by Mr. HADLEY—

"That all general meetings of the Branch shall be called for six o'clock, and that discussions of matters of business shall not be prolonged after half-past six, but by the vote of the majority of the members present."

*New Members.* Mr. M. H. Clayton, Dr. T. H. Bartleet, Mr. T. W. Bullock (Warwick), Mr. Ashby G. Osborn (Stourbridge), and Dr. David Nelson, members of the Association, were elected members of the Branch.

*Papers.* The following papers were read:—

1. Aural Cases and Instruments, etc. By F. Jordan, Esq.

2. A Case of Varicose Aneurism: illustrated by Drawings. By O. Pemberton, Esq.

## Reports of Societies.

### OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 1860.

W. TYLER SMITH, M.D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

THE VALUE OF ANÆSTHETIC AID IN MIDWIFERY.

BY CHARLES KIDD, M.D., M.R.C.S.

IN obstetric practice, the instances where Dr. KIDD had found the inhalation of ether or chloroform to be called for in an especial degree, and where anæsthetic aid had proved decidedly useful, had been cases of version, forceps, twins, convulsions, and crotchet operations. He had known chloroform used in puerperal mania, but its apparent effect was perhaps a coincidence, and not of a curative nature. The author referred to his work on *Anæsthetics*, where the result of 360 cases of midwifery treated under ether, and 1700 under chloroform, without accident from fatty heart, were described. Of these two agents (though there had been twenty-five deaths from ether in general surgery), he believed ether was superior to chloroform in relaxing rigid perinæum in labour, and otherwise acting on the muscle of the uterus, in version cases particularly. There had been no accidents from chloroform in about 30,000 cases of midwifery conducted with the aid of these agents. The mode of applying chloroform in the lying-in chamber recommended was that adopted now by all the chief obstetric practitioners in Europe and America, with whom the author had personally communicated on the subject. In midwifery practice, the error of using "mixtures" of ether and chloroform was explained, as a patient supposed to be inhaling a mixture was in reality inhaling pure ether, and there was danger of confusion arising in mistaking one anæsthetic for the other. A new anæsthetic of chloroform and ergot mixed was mentioned.

Cases of twins, where the second child presents with an upper extremity, "the pains severe and continuous, so that it is next to impossible for the accoucheur to introduce his hand to turn the child", were first described; here chloroform was invaluable, if there were no contraindication of diseased heart, etc. The several indications in undilated os uteri for tartar emetic, liquor opii, or chloroform, from the result in actual practice, were explained. Next, those cases of twins were pointed out, where at one particular stage it was judicious to allow an interval of rest to the uterus; here ammonia and ergot acted like a charm; chloroform required to be given before or after ergot, and not at the same time.

As in some cases of twins, so in some cases of "tedious labour," the patient required an interval of rest to renew reflex action and remove the effect of exhaustion, false pains, emotion of a depressing kind, sleeplessness, etc. Thus, an inexperienced or constitutionally delicate young woman; with her first or second child, became alarmed, sleepless, etc., during her labour. Some, indigestion, diarrhœa, or fright, had hastened her labour before its time. The first stage of labour had been attended with suffering, followed by fatigue. Here the pains were ineffectual in advancing the labour; but if there were no diseased heart or other contraindication to anæsthetics, the author strongly advocated their administration.

Sleep, according to the author, occurred only where there was exhaustion of sensorial or muscular power; anæsthesia was best where there was no exhaustion; it was independent of sleep. The reflex power of Marshall Hall was the limiting line between sleep and anæsthesia; in sleep it was active, in anæsthesia absent. In tedious labour, the agony and pain would not permit the woman to sleep. Even opium was followed but by a tedious intoxication, without sleep, for hours; but chloroform was not an intoxicant, and acted at once, and quite as safely. A patient in ordinary anæsthesia might be said to be doubly asleep. This was what was wanted for a short time in this class of labours, as thus reflex, sensorial, and muscular power are renewed. Emotion was also removed by chloroform sleep; and by a confident, cheerful demeanour on the part of the accoucheur, he might effect as much in two or three hours by chloroform as he might in almost as many days by delay, and opium, and waiting for nature.

Cases of versional delivery, with and without chloroform, were next minutely described and compared; cases especially of excessive sensibility of the os uteri and vagina, where the waters had long come away, and the uterus had closed with spasmodic force over the fetal hand and arm. One well-known obstetrician had had three hundred such cases; and he was every

generally, it must be especially applicable in the case of *depôt* battalions, which are, as it were, the very essence and embodiment of those elements that are supposed to be peculiarly susceptible of and liable to the indulgence of habits of vice and intemperance. They consist of the very young and the very old; and we have to combat the impulsive proneness of the one towards vice, and of the other towards intemperance. Judging from the hospital returns of the *depôt* to which I have the honour of being attached, and which consists of the old and young soldiers of six different regiments, I think I may say that the latter are almost as much a source of public loss and expenditure as the former. We are rarely without some cases of delirium tremens in one shape or another.

But to return to the subject of treatment: I accept at once, and with scarcely any modification, the conclusion arrived at by Dr. Wade of Birmingham, "that bed and diluents will cure many, I would say most, cases of delirium tremens, without antimony, digitalis, opium, calomel, alcohol, or ether;" and if asked what course or plan of treatment I would myself commend or select, I would emphatically name rest and abstinence as the two great levers wherewith nature asserts her dignity, and paves the way for the curative influence of that "profoundly pleasing power," sleep, without which our other efforts are fruitless. It is sometimes morally wrong, and often physically impossible, to procure sleep in the early stages of delirium tremens; and it is equally extraordinary what an amount of tolerance of opium the system contracts from protracted alcoholic stimulation.

I have seen twenty-three grains of that drug given to a patient labouring under the effects of intemperance in less than three hours; and I have known another consume more than two ounces of the tincture within twenty-four hours; the only perceptible result in each case being a short hurried unrefreshing sleep, and several days of gastric uneasiness, moping hebetude, and listless stupidity. Whether it is that habits of discipline and submission to the voice of authority are so habitual with the soldier as to become part and parcel of his nature, and supersedes the necessity of active interference, or that, however debased by drink, he still retains some glimmering recollection of his former obligations and present helplessness dependency, I cannot venture to say, but we never experience any difficulty in restraining his wildest manifestations of fury, and I scarcely remember having been ever compelled to resort to the use of the straight waistcoat. Should there be, however, much restlessness and delirium, half a dozen or more leeches, according to age and appearance, to either temple, followed by a few whiffs of chloroform, or small and frequent doses of the liq. opii sed. combined with the liq. antim. tart.—a combination which was, I believe, strongly recommended by the late Dr. Graves of Dublin, and which I saw for the first time in the practice of my old teacher, Dr. Barham—will often lead to the most satisfactory results. Of course, the bowels should be attended to, and any unusual foulness of the tongue or tendency to vomiting should be regarded as a favourable indication for the exhibition of a little mustard, salt, or other equally accessible emetic.

Lime-juice, or lemonade, soda, barley, or rice water, may be allowed *ad libitum*; and I see no objection to giving my patients free access to the use of nature's own diaphoretic, the much abused aqua pomaginis. I have also derived much benefit from a combination of bicarbonate of potash, chloric ether, ipecacuan wine, and tincture of opium, which I call MacNamara's mixture, in compliment to an old sergeant of that name, and which, if I mistake not, is much the same as that I have seen employed by Dr. Brinton at the Royal Free Hospital. Time and patience will be always found valuable auxiliaries; and it is almost needless to observe that the cold, tepid, or sponging bath will often materially favour the progress of convalescence.

These simple measures will in most cases, according to my experience, suffice to restore the balance of the circulation, to remove all confusion from the mind, and enable the troubled and overwrought brain to recover its pristine vigour and functional activity; but for mercy's sake abstain from the use of the "habitual stimulus;" do not add fuel to the fire, or prolong irritation by "applying hot and rebellious liquors to the blood;" and he, in my opinion, will best consult the requirements of science, and most diminish the fatality of delirium tremens, who will take nature for his handmaid, and remember that she can often safely dispense with a nursetender.

I am, etc., WM. CURRAN,  
Assist. Surgeon Army Staff.

8th *Depôt* Battalion. Pembroke Dock, Dec. 24th, 1880.

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## Medical News.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

\* In these lists, an asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.

#### BIRTHS.

- Of a son, the wife of—*  
WEBSTER, George, Esq., Surgeon, Peckham Rye, on Dec. 17.  
*Of daughters, the wives of—*  
ARMSTRONG, H., M.D., Peckham, on December 23.  
\*BARNES, J. W., Esq., Islington, on December 24.

#### MARRIAGES.

- PRENDERGAST, Robert K., Esq., Staff-Surgeon-Major, to Julia, eldest daughter of the Rev. John KINAHAN, of Belfast, on December 5.

#### DEATHS.

- \*ANDREWS, M. F. L., M.D., Birmingham, suddenly, on December 19.  
JOHNSON, Charles, Esq., Surgeon, Blackheath, aged 63, on December 21.  
\*LEGGE. On December 19, at Wiveliscombe, aged 18 months, Frances Laura, only daughter of William Legge, Esq.

#### PASS LISTS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. LICENTIATES admitted on Thursday, December 20th, 1880:—

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| BARTON, Henry T., Newcastle-on-Tyne  | HALL, Augustus R., Topsham      |
| BECKERDIKE, James B., York   | HAWKINS, F. R., Lynn Regis      |
| BECKETT, Arthur R., Whitchurch, Shropshire                                 | HOWELL, H. S., Cirencester      |
| FAWTHROP, John, Halifax  | LLOYD, Edwin, Llanrwst          |
| GARDNER, Sebastian C. T., Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company | SCHOLEFIELD, Wm. W., Manchester |
|  | WATSON, John, Newcastle         |

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

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| BAZELEY, William, Bideford | SPENCER, William H., St. Thomas's Hospital |
| HARRISON, Charles, Lincoln |  |
| HUNTER, Wm. F., Margate    | WRIGHT, Alfred, St. Thomas's Hospital      |
| PHILLIPS, Joseph Dudley    |  |

NEGRO HOSPITAL IN CHARLESTON. We (*Charleston Medical Journal*) are gratified to notice among the late improvements of our city, that a commodious hospital for slaves has recently been erected through the energy of two physicians, who have been for some time conducting a similar institution on a smaller scale. Dr. Chisolm, Professor of Surgery in Charleston Medical College, and Dr. D. J. Cain, Lecturer on Practice in the Charleston Preparatory Medical School, have put up a spacious and airy building in one of the healthiest portions of the city, within a few hundred yards of the Medical College, where they propose to offer surgical and medical attendance, together with careful nursing, regimen, etc., to any slaves whom their owners may think proper to place under their charge. The hospital will also be opened to all city physicians, who will have the right of sending to it any coloured patients for whom they may desire to ensure proper attention, and continue to treat them there as they would at their own homes. A fixed rate of charges will be established, as moderate as possible, for nursing and board. The hospital building is erected upon a high basement, and consists of two stories, both provided with piazzas, and divided interiorly into four rooms, each forty-five in length by twenty feet in width, with ceilings fourteen feet high. The utmost care has been taken to provide the most perfect ventilation, and the best of nurses will be provided. The hospital will be opened for patients about the middle of November.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

JOURNALS WANTED. A member of the Association, wishing to complete his sets of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, is desirous of obtaining the numbers for the following dates: May 30 and September 12, 1857; and August 7, 1858. Any gentleman having these numbers for disposal, may hear of a purchaser on applying by letter to T. B., 37, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.

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