

whose fame is world-wide, and whose ability is unquestioned by all competent judges. We quite admit the perfect competency of the members of the profession in the West Riding to give instruction in physiology to the people; and it is gratifying to be assured that the diffusion of this important branch of knowledge has not been neglected by them. We cannot, however, but think that there is still much room for well directed exertion in this direction; that there is necessity for vigorous and steady action, to sow with the good seed of sound knowledge that field of ignorance from which men like as Harrison, Rushworth, and their wizard brethren, reap so rich a harvest. As for the subjects which should be taught, we imagine that neither the Society of Arts, nor ourselves—nor any other sensible person—would think it requisite or proper to teach clerks and shopboys the details of “secretion, excretion, the development of the embryo, and the physiology of generation.” But still we think that a sufficient amount of the principles of the doctrines of respiration, circulation, the functions of the brain and senses, and a few other points, might be taught *systematically*, in a few lectures, with great advantage. And, after all, this would only be putting into more regular order the list of important subjects which Mr. Ikin has given in his postscript. With Mr. Ikin's condemnation of the paid lecture system we cannot at all agree; and we cannot endorse his insinuation that popular lecturing, for gain, is taken up as a resource only by men who are “hard up” and unable to provide for themselves in any other way. We make these remarks in the best feeling towards Mr. Ikin; for we believe that both he, and the learned society whose proceedings he criticises, and ourselves, all have the same object in view, though we may appear to hold somewhat different opinions as to the best plan of carrying it out.

A few weeks ago, we called attention to the valuable influence exercised by a due system of physical training in promoting the development of national vigour: and we quoted from an American paper some excellent comments on the manner in which the mind is developed at the expense of the body in the western continent. Since that time, there has come before us, in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* for July, an extract from the biennial Reports of the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane, which is so much to the purpose, that we quote it without comment. The reporter, remarking on solitary indulgence as a cause of insanity, observes that it is unfrequent in Europe among the higher classes, because of the athletic sports in which they are accustomed to indulge. He then says:—

“So long as we have no national amusements whatever; so long as mirth and sport are considered exclusively as puerilities; so long as the college is without its gymnasium and its traditional sports, and the school-house has no well trodden playground; so long as we are in an iron-bound and close rivetted dollar-grinding automaton, which bends every moment at some false shrine of morality or respectability; just so long will the wards of American institutions for the insane be thronged with such subjects as we have described. If society will constantly wear its Sunday dress of enforced restraint, it must pay for the privilege in such coin as violated nature chooses to exact.”

Association Intelligence.

LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Letters or communications for the JOURNAL should be addressed to Dr. WYNTER, Coleherne Court, South Kensington, 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.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION : ANNUAL MEETING.

THE twenty-fifth annual meeting of the British Medical Association was held at Nottingham, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, of the present week. A full report of the proceedings will be given in the next number of the JOURNAL.

The first general meeting for the transaction of business was held in the Assembly Room, on Tuesday, at 8 p.m.

The retiring President, Dr. James Johnstone, having taken the Chair, addressed the meeting, and introduced his successor, BOOTH EDDISON, Esq., who delivered an address.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Report of the Council was read by the General Secretary, Dr. Williams: and was ordered to be received and entered on the minutes.

VOTE OF THANKS TO DR. JOHNSTONE.

It was unanimously resolved:—

“That the most cordial thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. James Johnstone, the retiring President; and that he be appointed a Vice-President of the Association.”

A vote of thanks was also given to the Council.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.

Dr. J. B. Melson and Mr. J. J. Hadley, both of Birmingham, were elected to audit the accounts of the Association for the present year.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY.

On the motion of Sir C. Hastings, Dr. P. H. Williams, of Worcester, was unanimously re-elected General Secretary to the Association.

ARMY AND NAVY MEDICAL REFORM.

It was resolved, in accordance with a recommendation made by the Council:—

“That a Committee be appointed to draw up such resolution or memorial as they may think proper, to carry out the recommendation of the Council on the subject of Army and Navy Medical Reform; and that Mr. Flint, Mr. Soden, Dr. Budd, Dr. Wynter, Mr. Tidmas, and Mr. Nunneley, be such Committee.”

On Wednesday morning, the Committee brought forward a memorial, which was adopted, and ordered to be forwarded to Lord Panmure, Sir C. Wood, and the Royal Commissioners for inquiring into the Medical Department of the Army.

DR. HORNER AND HOMEOPATHY.

It was unanimously resolved:—

“That the name of Dr. F. R. HORNER, of Hull, be erased from the list of Vice-Presidents of the Association.”

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

On Wednesday morning, the newly elected Council met, and chose the following ten members of their body, to form, in conjunction with the President, the President of Council, the General Secretary, and one Secretary from each Branch, the Committee of Council:—P. Cartwright, Esq. (Oswestry); T. T. Griffith, Esq. (Wrexham); J. Heygate, M.D. (Derby); W. D. Husband, Esq. (York); James Johnstone, M.D. (Birmingham); Ellis Jones, Esq. (Liverpool); E. Lankester, M.D. (London); E. Lyon, M.D. (Manchester); J. S. Soden, Esq. (Bath); T. Watkin Williams, Esq. (Birmingham).

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL REFORM COMMITTEE.

Dr. HENRY, one of the Secretaries to the Medical Reform Committee, read the Report of the Committee, which will appear next week.

It was resolved, after some discussion—

“That the proceedings of the Medical Reform Committee be approved; that the Report now presented by them be adopted; and that they be requested to continue their services for the ensuing year, with the addition of the following members:—W.

Budd, M.D. (Bristol); W. Davies, M.D. (Bath); A. Prichard, Esq. (Clifton); B. W. Richardson, M.D. (London); and J. Vose, M.D. (Liverpool)."

It was also resolved—

"That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Headlam, for his ability and zeal in promoting the passing of a Medical Bill; and also to the 230 members of the House of Commons who formed the majority by which the second reading of the Bill (No. 1) was carried."

ADDRESS IN SURGERY.

The Address in Surgery was read by G. SOUTHAM, Esq.

ADDRESS IN PHYSIOLOGY.

The Address in Physiology was read by E. LANKESTER, M.D., F.R.S.

Votes of thanks were unanimously given to Mr. Southam and Dr. Lankester.

MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND.

The Report of the Medical Benevolent Fund was read by WILLIAM NEWMHAM, Esq.

Reports of Societies.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE READING PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

By JOHN MCINTYRE, M.D.

[Read before the Reading Branch, July 8th, 1857.]

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

IN presenting a narrative of the year's proceedings, I beg you will consider as understood, all that might be said as to the advantages that attach to such retrospects, all that might be said as to the importance of the duty that devolves upon him to whom their preparation is intrusted, and all that could with truthfulness be uttered as to the deficiencies of the individual to whom it has been committed on the present occasion. By your doing so, I shall be enabled to proceed at once to the consideration of the subjects that have engaged your attention, with the simple announcement, that I have adopted a *regional* classification of them, and have reserved a few general remarks for the conclusion of the paper.

The Head.

SOFTENING OF THE CEREBELLUM: DISTENSION AND RUPTURE OF A VEIN. BY I. HARRINSON, ESQ.

MR. HARRINSON presented the brain of a man, aged 54, a coach trimmer, who, on Friday, October 3rd, retired to bed in his usual health after his day's work. He awoke at his usual hour in the morning to resume his avocations, when he complained to his wife that "his head was bad," and that he feared a return of his old bilious attacks. At 9 A.M. he began and continued to vomit large quantities of bilious matter till 1 P.M., complaining that his head was *distracted*. At this hour Mr. Harrinson found him in a state of restlessness and jactitation, pointing to the back part of his head, and saying "it was all there." He was talking incoherently, with strange visions before his eyes of ten thousand people. A calomel pill and a black draught were ordered. He became comatose, and died two hours afterwards. On examining the head four hours after death, at least a pint and a half of blood escaped on dividing the membranes posteriorly; and there was a large quantity of coagulated blood at the base of the brain, extending down the spinal chord. On turning up the brain, a large vein was seen plugged, and enlarged to the size of a writing quill. On tracing it into the left side of the cerebellum, it was found ruptured, and the centre of the cerebellum filled with coagulated blood. The adjacent brain substance was diffuent; the rest was healthy. There was no ear disease.

Mr. Harrinson remarked, that it was difficult to explain the relation of the enlarged, plugged, and ruptured vein to the softened cerebellum. The most plausible explanation he could offer was, that the cerebellum became diseased—softened—from some unknown cause; that accidentally the vein became plugged, enlarged, varicose behind, and then ruptured; that extravasation necessarily occurred into the cerebellum and the neighbouring medulla oblongata, producing pressure and death.

MR. G. MAY said, there were two theories by which he thought the phenomena of the case might be explained:—
1. That, as there were evident marks of inflammation of the vein at its junction with the sinus, the obstruction had led to the softening of the cerebellum and rupture of the vein.
2. That softening of the cerebellum had led to inflammation of the vein and subsequent rupture.

MR. WALFORD thought that the vein had become varicose before softening of the cerebellum took place, which last condition involved rupture, sooner or later, and extravasation.

As, at present, we only know of two causes of softening, viz. inflammation and starvation, it appears to me, in the absence of evidence of disease in the arterial coats, that we must in this case put it down to inflammation. In consequence of the softening, the vein lost the support of the brain substance from without. The repeated bilious attacks, accompanied with vomiting, by causing at the time turgescence of the intracranial veins, occasioned dilatation; the inflammation by degrees involved the vein itself nearer the sinus; the vein became blocked up by the effused lymph, and, in consequence of the last attack of vomiting causing fresh engorgement of the vein, through anastomosing channels behind the blocked up portion, its coats gave way at, or soon after, the commencement of the present attack, and the effusion, being increased by the renewal of the vomiting, ended in death.

SOFTENING OF THE BRAIN IN A CHILD. BY I. HARRINSON, ESQ.

THE patient was a pale, thin-faced, irritable boy, aged seven years. Two days before being visited, he had had improper food, felt sick, and vomited. When visited, he complained principally of his head. The seat of the pain then and afterwards was invariably stated to be the forepart of the head. There was no morbid heat, and no fever. The pupils were large, but obedient to light. He had occasional pain in the stomach, but there was no fulness nor tenderness. For the first few days the symptoms and treatment were those of an ordinary bilious attack. His tongue was coated; the bowels were obstinate; the stools foul; the urine loaded. A powder given him on the first day of treatment made him sick,—the only time he vomited during his illness, except on the occasion mentioned. He took his food, milk and beef-tea, eagerly. Sleep—at times sound—was frequently interrupted by cries of pain in his head. There was nothing significant in his aspect. His intellect was perfect. He had, however, a peculiar whining tone of voice, fitful impatience, and an irregular catching movement of his hands. At times he was slightly delirious. There was no intolerance of light, some of sound; he had no convulsion nor paralysis; the action of the sphincters was perfect. Mr. HARRINSON'S diagnosis was divided between the stomach and head, though it was evident he was labouring under some depressing influence; grave, if not profound,—without power and without reaction. The treatment, consisting of aperients, with calomel or grey powder (as his bowels were very inactive), enemata, blisters, mustard, etc., was continued for eleven days, without benefit. On the twelfth day he had, for the first time, unmistakable signs of cerebral mischief. There was, for the first time, an expression of hebetude. There was ptosis of the right eyelid. The right pupil was dilated and fixed; the left pupil was dilated, but sluggishly obedient. He answered questions with hesitation. The pulse was quick and feeble. There was catching of his hands. He whistled and grated his teeth. From the twelfth to the sixteenth day, the day of his death, his progress was retrograde. The signs and symptoms of cerebral effusion became developed, and he died by coma. On the twelfth day, he had one grain of calomel every four hours, and a blister on the forehead. In the evening, Dr. Cowan saw him. The same treatment was continued, and, in addition, he was cupped behind the ear. Dr. Cowan thought that the boy had meningitis, and softening of the central white portion of the brain. Next day, leeches, blisters, and calomel, were persevered in, but with no apparent benefit: his mouth was made sore. On the morning of the fifteenth day, he was apparently dying. In the evening, however, he roused up, became sensible, took food, and then soon lapsed into irrecoverable coma.

At the *post mortem* examination, the head only was examined. Nothing was found, but that the central white portions of the brain, the septum lucidum, and the fornix, to the very base, were in a state of diffuence.

Mr. Harrinson was unable to define the nature of the softening, and referred to a case published by Dr. Churchill of Dublin, presenting many features of resemblance to his own. Mr. Harrinson thought there was not, at any time, any indica-

Permit me, then, to supply "A Member" with formula for a morphiaed lozenge of a very manageable strength—a lozenge typical, in my opinion, of what an official preparation bearing the same name should be—and, withal, one which can be *extemporaneously* prepared by the dispenser, on whose accuracy, in a matter of this nature, it would obviously be much safer to rely than on that of the mere confectioner.

Trochisci Morphiæ.

R Morphiæ hydrochloratis puræ gr. iss; sacchari in pulverem subtilissimum redacti, pulvis acaciæ, aa ℥iiss; olei limoni vel cinnamomi, gtt. iij; misce optime, dein adjuce mucilaginis acaciæ q. s. Contunde in massam omnia. Hanc divide in *pilulas* quatuor et viginti; denique singulas pistillo leviter feri, ut fiant trochisci.

One of these is to be taken four or five times a day, by holding it in the mouth till it be slowly dissolved.

I am, etc., WALTER GARSTANG.

Blackburn, July 21st, 1857.

THE BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH AND MR. HEADLAM'S BILL.

LETTER FROM GEORGE F. BURDER, M.D.

SIR.—In your report of the recent meeting of the Bath and Bristol Branch, it is stated that a petition to the House of Commons in favour of Mr. Headlam's Bill was "unanimously signed".

As this statement compromises all whose names appear in the list of members present, and as I, in common with many others, regarded the Bill as an extremely complex, clumsy, deceptive, unjust, and otherwise objectionable measure, I trust you will allow me, on my own part, to disclaim having signed any petition in its favour.

Discussion upon this particular measure is now, happily, unnecessary; but I cannot forbear expressing a hope that, when the subject is next brought forward, the profession may have become more generally alive to the fact that the interests of the medical corporations are not necessarily those of the profession at large, nor yet of the public.

I am, etc., GEORGE F. BURDER.

Clifton, July 28th, 1857.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

- ACTON. On July 24th, in Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square, the wife of William Acton, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
- CLARK. On July 25th, at Twickenham, the wife of Alfred Clark, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
- HALDANE. On July 28th, at 12, Manor Place, Edinburgh, the wife of D. R. Haldane, M.D., of a daughter.
- HENDERSON. On July 24th, at the Vale, Ramsgate, the wife of T. A. Henderson, M.D., of a daughter.
- LANE. On July 24th, at 1, Grosvenor Place, the wife of James R. Lane, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
- NOYES. On July 24th, at Lee, Kent, the wife of H. G. Noyes, M.D., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

- CALL—BRABANT. CALL, Wathen Mark Wilks, Esq., of Bideford, to Elizabeth Rebecca Hennell, daughter of R. H. Brabant, M.D., of Bath, at St. Pancras Church, on July 23rd.
- GIFKINS—RUMBALL. GIFKINS, Henry G., Esq., of Milton-next-Sittingbourne, to Selina, third daughter of J. Q. Rumball, Esq., Surgeon, of Harpenden, Herts, on July 22nd.
- JOHNSON—BOROUGH. JOHNSON, the Rev. William, M.A., one of the assistant masters of Repton School, to Penelope Marian, eldest daughter of Charles Borough, Esq., Surgeon, of Derby, at All Saints Church, Derby, on July 21st.
- PACKMAN—ALDERSEY. PACKMAN, Alfred W. K., M.D., of Puckeridge, Herts, to Mary Anna, only surviving daughter of H. S. Aldersey, Esq., of the same place, on July 23rd.

655

PHILIPS—BROWNING. PHILIPS, William P. T., only son of Benjamin Philips, Esq., F.R.S., Surgeon, of Hendon, Middlesex, to Clara Matilda, eldest daughter of Henry Browning, Esq., of Grosvenor Street, Grosvenor Square, at St. George's, Hanover Square, on July 23rd.

DEATHS.

- BRIGHT. On July 12th, at Civita Vecchia, Italy, Louisa Eliza, the wife of Joseph Bright, Esq., and only child of George Bateman, M.D., of Leamington, Warwickshire.
- HEWARD. On July 23rd, at Walthamstow, Charlotte Florence Emily, infant daughter of T. Spencer Heward, Esq., Surgeon, of Grosvenor Street, Grosvenor Square.
- HOLYOAKE. On July 22nd, aged 18, George Frederick, eldest son of *Thomas Holyoake, Esq., Surgeon, Kinver, Staffordshire.
- KIPLING, William, Esq., Surgeon, of Barnard Castle, at Howgill, near Sedburgh, on July 9th.
- LEACHMAN, Frederick, Esq., Surgeon, at New York, on board the *Victoria*, aged 25, on June 8th.
- PICKESS, George, Esq., Surgeon, at 13, Caledonian Place, King's Cross, aged 34, on July 14th.
- SCRATCHLEY. On July 18th, at Kensington, Maria, widow of James Scratchley, M.D., late of Paris, and of the Royal Artillery.

APPOINTMENTS.

- POPE, J. J., Esq., elected Senior House-Surgeon to the Liverpool Southern Hospital.
- WELFORD, George, Esq., elected Surgeon to the Sunderland Infirmary.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, July 24th, 1857:—

- ALBERT, George Pascal, Sevenoaks
BARKER, Samuel, Ramsgate
CAREY, Francis Edward, Guernsey
DUCHESNE, Robert, London
GRAVES, Frederick George, Southam, Warwickshire
HARLEY, Thomas, Cleobury Mortimer, Salop
HARRIES, John Davies, Shrewsbury
HERDSON, Robert, The Grange, Edinburgh
THOMAS, Richard, Seacombe

EAST INDIA COMPANY: MEDICAL SERVICE. The following are the names of the successful candidates at the recent examination for appointments in the Honourable East India Company's Medical Service. The names are arranged in order of merit:—

- PLAYFAIR, William S., M.D.Ed., M.R.C.S.Ed.
CLARK, Hugh, M.D.Ed., M.R.C.S.Ed.
SUTHERLAND, George, L.R.C.S.Ed.
GRYLLS, William R., M.D.St.And., M.R.C.S.E.
CAIRD, William E., M.R.C.S.E.
BANBURY, Richard, M.R.C.S.E.
BREMNER, James, M.D.Aber., M.R.C.S.Ed.
BONAIRA, Emmanuel, M.D.Malta, M.R.C.S.E.
MOTT, Albert A., M.R.C.S.E.
TAYLOR, Adam, M.R.C.S.E.
DOYLE, James T. J., M.R.C.S.I.
DICKSON, Lindsay F., M.D.St.And., M.R.C.S.E.
DALY, Denis B., M.D.St.And., M.R.C.S.I.&E.
RIDDELL, Andrew N. E., M.R.C.S.E.
MARSHALL, Alfred, M.R.C.S.E.

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING JULY 25TH, 1857.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE mortality of the metropolitan districts exhibits an increase. The deaths registered in London were in two preceding weeks 988 and 1061; in the week that ended on Saturday (July 25th), they rose to 1209. In the ten years 1847-56, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1102; but the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, and, for the purpose of comparison, the average must be raised in proportion to the increase, by which it will become 1212. The rate of mortality now prevailing is therefore as high as the average rate, although the period from which the latter is derived includes the last week of July in

1849, when epidemic cholera had spread to a considerable extent, and was fatal in 783 cases.

In the last two weeks, the mean temperature of the air has been 68°, and on seven of the fourteen days the thermometer has risen above 84°. In London, diarrhoea, or the complaint now known as "the summer cholera", is the result of a high temperature; and, as the heat is greater than usual, the disease has developed itself with more than its usual vigour. The following numbers of deaths from diarrhoea exhibit its progress during the present month: in the week that ended July 4th they were 65, in the two following weeks 133 and 150, and last week 259. Last year, in one week, the deaths from diarrhoea rose to 253 under a mean temperature of 67°, but at a period when the summer was three weeks more in advance. In a very large majority of the 259 cases, young children are the victims; 206 occurred in the first year of life, 26 at the age of one year and less than two, 11 at ages varying from two years to ten, and 16 at the age of twenty and upwards. Besides these, 28 cases are referred to cholera (comprising deaths by "English cholera", "choleraic diarrhoea", etc.), and under this head also a large proportion, viz., 23, occurred to children. In all fatal cases of cholera, it is desirable that the duration of the previous stage of diarrhoea, when it can be ascertained, should be stated by the medical attendant on his certificate.

Typhus and common fever were fatal in 44 cases; measles in 40; whooping-cough is now reduced to 37; and it is satisfactory to find that only 13 are due to scarlatina, and that not a single death from small-pox is returned. Three persons died from carbuncle; two from intemperance. Five nonagenarians are returned, the oldest of whom was a widow, and who died at the age of 96 years.

Last week the births of 779 boys and 852 girls, in all 1631 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1430.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.828 in. The mean temperature of the week was 68.3°, which is 6.7° above the average of the same week in forty-three years. On Thursday and Friday, the mean temperature was 71°, which is more than 9° above the average. The highest temperature in the week was 86° on Thursday in the shade; and the highest point in the sun (110°) was attained on the same day. The lowest was 51.7° on Tuesday. The range of the week was 34.3°. The mean dew-point temperature was 57.1°, and the difference between this and the mean temperature of the air (representing the dryness) is so great as 11.2°. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 69.5°. The direction of the wind was generally south-west. It blew strong on the last three days. There was no rain, excepting some in-driving showers on the evening of Tuesday.

MILITIA SURGEONS' MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE first annual meeting of the Militia Surgeons' Medical Society was held at Oxford on July 18th and 20th. It was well attended: and the greatest unanimity and good feeling prevailed. The members dined together on July 20th. The Society has been formed for the purpose of mutual co-operation and assistance in matters affecting the interests of the militia surgeons. One of the resolutions adopted at the meeting was to extend the advantages of the Society by forming a fund for the assistance of the members, and of their widows and orphans, in cases of necessity. A memorial, of which a copy is subjoined, was some time ago presented to Lord Panmure by a deputation of the Society.

"Copy of a memorial presented to the Right Honourable Lord Panmure, Secretary of State for the War Department."

"MY LORD,—1. We, the undersigned surgeons of the militia of England and Wales, on behalf of, and by the authority of, the other surgeons of England and Wales, respectfully solicit your lordship's gracious consideration of the following memorial:—

"2. Your memorialists have hitherto diligently performed the duties required of them, viz.: 'the examination of volunteers, and medical attendance upon militia regiments during the time of training.' They now furnish medicines and medical attendance, etc., to the permanent staff of the militia, their wives and families, in conformity with the Militia Acts and regulations. During the late war, they inspected many thousands of men for the line, and did not shrink from doing duty for the regular service in garrison, in camp, or on foreign service, including in many instances much anxious attendance

upon invalids from the Crimea; by which they were compelled to abandon their private practice, rendering it most difficult for them ever to regain their former position in their private calling.

"3. Your memorialists would also observe that the attendance upon their regiments, although generally at head-quarters, is not so at all times, and will probably be less so in future years; and being, for the most part, men engaged in private practice, they humbly submit that the attendance upon their duties during training, if away from head-quarters, in camp, or barracks, is necessarily attended not only with much expense, but with considerable and continual loss in their private practice. Moreover, their compulsory residence at head-quarters prevents their seeking a livelihood elsewhere, and the continual fear that they may be called upon even yearly to leave their private practice, materially depreciates them in the consideration of the public, as private practitioners.

"4. And as the permanent staff is composed of middle-aged men, who, from long service in different climates, are liable to disease, and as their wives and young families require almost constant attention, the remuneration granted by the militia regulations is found by your memorialists to be very inadequate to the time and attention they are obliged to devote to them; the sum of two-pence per head per week (to include attendance, medical, surgical, and obstetrical, with medicines and appliances) being scarcely sufficient to cover the expenses incurred.

"5. Your memorialists were moreover given to believe that, as some compensation, or equivalent for not being placed on the permanent staff, they would be allowed the privilege of discharging the duties of a military medical officer, wherever there was no such officer of the regular service stationed; and thus receive some slight additional remuneration, by the examination of recruits for the line, royal artillery, and royal marines, deserters, and sick upon furlough; but they however find in almost every instance that an entirely private practitioner has supplanted them; and, moreover, your memorialists can quote cases where medical attendance on militia staffs and the examination of militia recruits are given to private civil practitioners, to the exclusion of militia surgeons, who may be living at the head-quarters of regiments of militia.

"6. Your memorialists would also direct your lordship's attention to the difference of remuneration allowed for the examination of recruits for the line (£s. for each recruit), and that for the militia (2s. 6d. for each); as the same time and trouble are required in both cases, they respectfully solicit the same remuneration for the militia volunteer. Again, your memorialists would direct your attention to the remuneration granted to a private practitioner, and to a militia surgeon, for the examination of militia recruits; if beyond six are examined in one day, the militia surgeon receives but fifteen shillings; whilst the private practitioner receives two shillings and sixpence for the first eight, and one shilling extra for each volunteer above that number.

"7. Your memorialists had fully expected that when the militia was again made a permanent force, the surgeons would have been placed, as before, upon a permanent staff, with corresponding pay; especially as the duties they are called upon to perform are of a responsible, onerous, and continuous nature: and they cannot but view with dismay the risk they incur to their future means of gaining an honourable livelihood in private practice, by the calling out of the militia for yearly training, or the chance, however apparently remote, of any future national necessity for requiring the embodiment of their various corps.

"8. They cannot, therefore, refrain from expressing to your lordship their disappointment that the surgeon is the only individual permanently employed on the staff, who is not in the receipt of any permanent pay, or any adequate remuneration; especially as his services are always requisite and liable to be more so.

"9. In submitting these points to your lordship's consideration, your memorialists have every confidence that the above mentioned grievances and the general interest of the militia surgeons, will receive the kindest attention and consideration at your lordship's hands.

"And your memorialists will ever pray, etc."

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY. At the next meeting of this society, at 37, Soho Square, on Monday, August 3rd, at 8 P.M., the following paper will be read:—"On the Local Causes influencing the Diffusion and Type of Epidemics." By W. I. Cox, Esq.

TRIAL OF THOMAS FULLER BACON FOR POISONING HIS MOTHER.

THE trial of Thomas Fuller Bacon, for the alleged murder of his mother by poisoning her with arsenic, took place on Saturday, July 25th, at the Summer Assizes held in Lincoln, before Mr. Justice Erle. The prosecution was conducted by Mr. Mellor, Q.C., and Mr. Brewer. The prisoner was unprovided with counsel; but, at the request of the learned judge, Mr. Stephen undertook the defence. The counsel for the prosecution elected not to proceed on the indictment for murder, but on one charging him with twice administering to Ann Bacon, at Stamford, arsenic, with intent to murder. The principal features of the case appear in the statement made by the counsel for the prosecution.

The deceased Ann Bacon, the prisoner's mother, was 63 years of age at the time of her death. She lived in Stamford. On the 12th of May, 1855, she was in her usual state of health; and on the following day, Sunday, the 13th, she dined with the prisoner. During the dinner she was seized with sickness, and she suffered very much all that afternoon from vomiting and purging, accompanied with pain and thirst. Her medical attendant, Mr. Barber, was sent for, and she was removed to her own house. On the Monday morning she was better, and continued to improve during the whole of that day, but in the night she became much worse; fresh symptoms set in; she was unconscious on the Tuesday, and in the evening of that day she died. During that illness, the prisoner was constant in his attendance upon her, and behaved apparently as a son should. At the same time, from expressions used by him at the time, it appeared that he confidently anticipated her death; and, in the course of her illness, he had been observed to administer something to his mother out of a small square bottle, which was not one of those sent by the doctor, and which he himself took away after her death. Mr. Mellor did not, however, attribute much importance to that circumstance, because, looking at the other evidence, the jury would probably be of opinion that the real cause of the illness of the deceased was something which she took at the prisoner's house on the Sunday. It was true that, after the Sunday, the deceased got better, and a change in the symptoms took place before her death, not inconsistent with the administration of arsenic, but so far consistent with other causes that the medical men were not quite prepared to say that her death was occasioned by arsenic; and it was on that account that he had, with the sanction of the learned judge, elected to proceed upon the present charge instead of that of murder. When the body was exhumed and carefully examined, and certain portions subjected to chemical analysis, after the body had been buried nearly two years, about three-quarters of a grain of white arsenic was discovered in the body; and the medical testimony would establish beyond a doubt that not only had arsenic been taken by the deceased in her lifetime, but that it must have been taken recently before death. The deceased was taken ill at the house of the prisoner, immediately after dining there. She was the owner of some small houses, of which she was in the habit of collecting the rents for herself; but on the Monday the prisoner took possession of the rentbook; and it appeared that he expected to become entitled to the estate on her death. A week before his mother's death, the prisoner had sent his apprentice to purchase arsenic, telling him to say at the chemist's that it was wanted for the purpose of hardening iron. The druggist refused to let the apprentice have it; and the prisoner, being told of that, said, "Then I'll get it myself." Accordingly, on the 8th of May he went to another chemist's, and there bought an ounce of arsenic, which he said he wanted to poison rats in his cellar.

The medical evidence adduced was that of Mr. Barber, the medical attendant of the deceased; Mr. Jackson, who examined the body; and Professor Taylor. The evidence of the last two witnesses was substantially the same as that given by them at the inquest, and which was published at p. 162 of the JOURNAL for February 21st.

The jury found the prisoner *Guilty*. Sentence of death was recorded against him; with the intimation from the judge that the extreme penalty of the law would not be carried out.

DETECTION BY ETHER OF A SHAM IDIOT. The application of the process of etherisation has just been resorted to in Belgium as a means of acquiring judicial information. After a considerable robbery committed at Brussels in November last, two men, named Lorch and Daubner, were arrested and brought to

trial. The former was condemned to hard labour for life; but in consequence of the latter pretending to be dumb and idiotic, his trial was postponed, in order that a medical investigation should take place. It was found impossible to get even a sign of intelligence from him. As it was, however, known that he was not born dumb, and that he had spoken, when he said that he could speak no language but German, he was etherised, and while labouring under the effect of that application, he spoke perfectly, and in French. He was in consequence again brought before the tribunal, and condemned to ten years hard labour.

A NEW PREMONITORY SYMPTOM OF CHOLERA. The Academy of Sciences has received from Dr. Poznanski an important communication, in which it is stated—1. That during the prevalence of cholera it frequently happens that the pulse is extremely low, and reduced to 45 or even 42 in persons apparently in perfect health. 2. That this symptom is unaccompanied by any other denoting a morbid state. 3. That when the pulse is low, the blood becomes dark and viscous; while in persons whose pulse is in a normal state during the epidemic, the pulse is perfectly healthy. 4. The cholera only attacks those that have previously experienced a diminution in their pulse. 5. That this diminution, which often occurs weeks before the regular attack, may be considered a pathognomonic symptom of the approach of cholera. 6. That those who have experienced the diminution in question have always escaped the disease whenever they have followed a regimen calculated to accelerate the circulation. 7. That the falling off of the pulse, and therefore the predisposition to the disease, are in general proportional to the want of energy in the circulation of the blood and to the excess of atmospheric pressure. 8. That this diminution does not occur in healthy subjects when the epidemic has ceased.

A SHIP'S CREW POISONED BY MUSSELS. A few days ago, whilst the schooner *Olivia* was lying in the Victoria Dock, Hartlepool, the crew were suddenly seized with an illness which at once assumed an apparently dangerous character—the symptoms being somewhat similar to those produced by the action of an irritant poison. Medical assistance was procured, and the usual remedies for poisoning administered, which happily proved successful—the crew being enabled to proceed with their vessel in the course of three or four days. One man was an exception to this. His symptoms were from the first of a more violent character than those of the others, and he was seized with paralysis of the upper and lower extremities. It appears that the sudden illness came on shortly after the crew had eaten heartily of some common mussels, which they had fished up from the lower part of the dock wall, where they grow in great abundance. Large vessels, almost invariably copper sheathed, lie alongside this part of the wall; and it is surmised that the proximity of the copper to these shell-fish, and its action upon them, renders them unfit for human food.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

POSTAGE OF MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED MATTER.

Any amount of manuscript or printed matter, singly or together, provided it contains nothing in the form of a letter, is transmitted through the post, in packets *open at the ends*, at the following rates: not exceeding 4 ounces, one penny; above 4 and not exceeding 8 ounces, twopence; above 8 ounces and not exceeding 1 pound, fourpence; for every additional half-pound or under, twopence.

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

Communications have been received from:—MR. T. H. SMITH; MR. W. C. WILLIAMSON; MR. J. R. HUMPHREYS; MR. T. HOLMES; DR. JOHN SNOW; DR. J. MCINTYRE; DR. WALTER GARSTANG; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; DR. T. HAYES JACKSON; MR. BLOTH EDISON; DR. KIDD; DR. MC WILLIAM; DR. R. U. WEST; DR. H. H. VERNON; MR. J. L. IRVIN; MR. T. HOLYOAKE; DR. J. F. CHURCHILL; MR. W. D. HUBBARD; MR. STONE; MR. W. COLLINS; MR. T. G. GRAVES; and DR. G. F. BURDER.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

1. How to Work the Microscope. A Course of Lectures on Microscopical Manipulation, and the Practical Application of the Microscope to different Branches of Investigation. By Lionel S. Beale, M.B., F.R.S. London: John Churchill. 1857.
2. The Use of the Microscope in Clinical Medicine. Illustrated. By Lionel S. Beale, M.B., F.R.S. London: John Churchill. 1857.
3. Hydropathy: or, the Natural System of Medical Treatment. By Edward W. Lane, M.A., M.D. Edin. London: John Churchill. 1857.
4. Inquiry into the Opinions of the Commercial Classes of Great Britain on the Suez Ship Canal. By Ferdinand de Lesseps. London: John Weale. 1857.