

ecome so putrescent that many feared a frightful outbreak of cholera. Happily, the return of a comparatively cool atmosphere has dispelled those fears. The heat appears to have been even greater on the Continent than on this island; in Paris, on the 4th of August, the thermometer in the shade marked as high as 95½° Fahrenheit, and in Brussels it even reached the fearful height of 98° in the shade. It is remarkable that, notwithstanding the existence of this tremendous heat, the weather has been singularly free from thunder-storms. Inland situations appear to have suffered more than those situated on the sea-shore, even on the south coast; for it appears that while the thermometer in London was at 92° in June last, it only marked 75° at Torquay and Sidmouth. This act seems to contradict the generally received notion, that the south coast is unbearably hot in the summer months.

We were scarcely prepared to see the mouth-piece of the War Department obliged to admit in the House of Commons that he had deceived members (unintentionally, of course) as to the issue of proper clothing for the troops proceeding to the East. It now turns out that they are to receive their summer clothing *in India*, and that it is not even pretended that the covers are even ready *there* for the black shakos of the troops. The 97th, the 20th, and a part of the 42nd Highlanders have embarked in the same clothing in which they left Aldershot and Shorncliff. This is the old story of the green coffee over again. Whom shall we hang? We ask this question almost in earnest; for there cannot be any doubt whatever, that those authorities who have charge of the soldier's clothing are deliberately murdering far greater numbers of those poor fellows than the revolted Sepoys ever will dispatch. We repeat what we have often before said, that the nature of the clothing and the food of the troops should, in some measure, be under the control of the Medical Department of the Army. The Director General or the Medical Board should settle the kind of clothing necessary for every climate in which British soldiers are called upon to serve; and that department should direct the necessary kind of dress to be served out as occasion required. As it is, the Medical Department says it has nothing to do with those matters; or if it has, it neglects its duty in a very reprehensible manner. We trust that we shall find in the Report of the Royal Commission on the Army Medical Department about to be published, some recommendation for giving to the Medical Department real power and responsibility; for at present it is so miserably inefficient, that our science is disgraced in the eyes of the public.

We have before called attention to the fact, that it was in contemplation to further increase the monstrously overgrown Lunatic Asylum at Colney Hatch. It is now settled to erect a new wing, capable of holding 140 patients, at a cost of £40,000. When this is completed, there will be a lunatic population within those walls of nearly 1,400 persons, all of whom are under the care of two medical men! We cannot without shame chronicle this disgraceful state of things. To talk of treatment with such a paucity of medical aid, is simply absurd. Colney Hatch is a house of detention of the most dismal kind, and Mr. Gardner Hill need not talk any more about the authorship of the non-restraint system, as long as this huge bastille is appro-

priated to the incarceration of such a little army of helpless beings. The day will come—we say it advisedly—when we shall look upon our present treatment of the insane poor with feelings of disgust, differing only slightly in degree from those with which we read of the treatment of madmen in old Bedlam. The artificial system of caging these poor people in dismal airing courts and in monotonous wards has now, we believe, reached its height; and we trust that, with this new addition to Colney Hatch, we shall see the last of county asylums built and conducted on the selfsame plan as the neighbouring workhouse and jail. The day is assuredly at hand when we shall be constrained to follow the light held out to us so long by the interesting colony at Gheel, in Belgium, where bars, bolts, high walls, and deep ditches are unknown, but where, nevertheless, the percentage of cures is far higher than the metropolitan asylums can show, notwithstanding the fearful expense they annually cause to the ratepayer. As long as Pauper Lunatic Asylums on the model of Colney Hatch—the last triumph of the art of asylum building—are in full work, we need make no boast about our non-restraint system—for there restraint exists, as wounding to the spirit and as depressing to the mind, as when hobbles, strait waistcoats, and chains were the favoured instruments of repression.

It is with very great regret that we find some failure has taken place in laying the Atlantic electric cable. On Friday, August 7th, the squadron sailed with the line along which the electric spark would leap from the Old to the New World. The undertaking was, however, doomed to misfortune from the very commencement, for the cable broke when not more than four miles from the shore. It was, however, repaired, and the squadron steamed again westward. On Monday upwards of two hundred miles had been "paid out", and the vessels telegraphed through the submerged portion that they had reached the deep water, soundings of 1,500 fathoms having been obtained. Up to four o'clock on the morning of Tuesday the wires acted perfectly, and signals were constantly passed from the ships to the shore; but at that time the signals suddenly ceased, and none have since been received. It is supposed that some accident has happened to the cable at about 350 miles distance from Valentia; but this is only a matter of conjecture, as the delicate clue which before gave exact information of all that was going on in the ships has now been lost. There is still a hope that the loss of insulation has been caused by some damage to the cable whilst in the act of being paid out—a damage, however, which has not dis severed it. If this be the case, those on board will, perhaps, be able to haul in the required portion, and repair it in the same manner as they did the end near the shore.

Association Intelligence.

LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Letters or communications for the JOURNAL should 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.

MONMOUTHSHIRE AND SOUTH WALES BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE sixth annual meeting of this Branch was held at Llandilo, on Thursday, July 23rd; DAVID PROTHERO, M.D., President, in the chair. There were also present: D. Davies, Esq. (Aberdare); T. Essery, Esq. (Swansea); J. G. Hall, Esq. (Swansea); J. Jenkins, Esq. (Ty Gwyn); J. Jones, Esq. (Bryn Amman); W. H. Michael, Esq. (Swansea); J. Paddon, M.B. (Swansea); J. Rogers, Esq. (Ystalyfera); W. Rowland, M.D. (Swansea); W. Samuel, Esq. (Llandilo); B. Thomas, Esq. (Llanely); D. Thomas, Esq. (Llandoverly); J. Thomas, Esq. (Llaneigwad); and C. Vachell, M.D. (Cardiff), retiring President.

After a few words from Dr. Vachell, the retiring President, Dr. PROTHERO took the chair, and delivered the following

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN,—Allow me in the first place to thank you for the distinguished honour you have conferred upon me, in having elected me to the position I now occupy—an honour which I should most unquestionably have declined, from a consciousness of my inability, and from a feeling that there are other members of our Association in this county far more qualified to have succeeded our retiring worthy President. A few days, however, before our last annual meeting at Cardiff, I received a letter from our active and honoured Secretary, in which he stated that it was the wish of several members that a meeting should be held in this town; and that I should accept the presidency. On consideration, I felt I had no right to consult my own inclinations; and as our great object is to meet for the purpose of imparting to one another the results of our own experience and researches, and more particularly to cultivate a friendly and social feeling among members of a truly enlightened and honourable, but unfortunately a proverbially divided profession, I accepted the post. I throw myself with confidence on your kind consideration, and feel assured that you will overlook any deficiencies that may occur in the discharge of the duties that may devolve upon me.

In the name of my professional brethren in this neighbourhood, I beg to offer those who have honoured us with their presence a hearty welcome; and I trust that, as we are now more accessible than in former years, many of you who may have seen this beautiful district for the first time may be induced again to visit it. Within an easy walk you may arrive at the summit of the neighbouring hills, whence you will not only derive an invigorating and bracing air, but also some of the finest scenery that South Wales can boast of. To the geologist this district offers the means of prosecuting his studies with more advantage than any other with which I am acquainted. Nor is it deficient in what would interest the archaeologist; and I need only refer to the ancient British encampment at Gornagoch, which was an object of great interest to the members of the Cambrian Archaeological Society, who visited this place two years ago.

It is with no little pride that I have watched the increased interest taken in the advancement of our Association, and have seen that it has enrolled amongst its members many of the most eminent and distinguished of our profession—men who from their learning and position must give it such a standing that, without incurring the risk of being considered visionary or utopian, I may safely prognosticate a bright future looming in the distance, when we shall see added to its list the names of every man who would wish to cultivate the friendship of his brethren, and who practises his profession with those feelings of honour and rectitude which ought to characterise a liberal profession. In what way, I would ask, can these feelings be better cultivated than in frequently meeting together; in forming real friendships among the learned of our own profession; and by these means extending our information; and learning that, unless we are true to ourselves, unless we treat the faults of a brother with generosity, unless we be careful of his character as well as of our own, we are not worthy the profession which we have entered? If we look back to the lives of the great and illustrious individuals who exist no longer among us, but who, while they did exist, contributed to adorn the character of the medical profession, we shall find that, while they were revered for their attainments, they were universally beloved and respected for the uprightness of their conduct to their less favoured brethren. I could refer to the conduct of many who are now living amongst us; but it cannot be doubted that it is more useful for us to follow the example of those whose reputation has stood the test of a long series of years, than of those by whom we are actually surrounded, who are

actors in the drama with ourselves. For those of the past, there is no private friendship to raise them above their proper level; no jealousy of competitors to detract from their real merits; they stand forth as the subject of history, in an atmosphere free from the mist of human passions. The same light shines upon their excellences and upon their defects; and the stamp of time has fixed the real value of their characters. The only way to attain this character for our profession is, in the words of Dr. Ranking, by the examining bodies requiring such a standard of general education as shall ensure that every aspirant to medical practice has had the education, and therefore the chances of acquiring the feelings, or I might say, the instincts of a gentleman; by every one when once enrolled in our ranks remembering that he has entered an honourable and dignified profession, and not in a trade; by each offering to the other a highminded and fraternal regard, and avoiding every unworthy artifice to elevate himself at the expense of his neighbour.

Next to the moral conduct and honourable principles of its members, is there anything which so eminently tends to raise our profession in the estimation of the public as its connexion with philosophical pursuits? Is it not an advantage in any profession to have some object which may engage the attention beyond the drudgery of professional practice; to which the mind may turn with delight as a relaxation from severer duties, to which it may retreat as a refuge in the hour of anxiety and disappointment? The wards of the hospital and the dissecting-room will enable the diligent student to obtain an adequate knowledge of what has been already done in surgery and medicine, and to become a good practical medical man; but those who would earn for themselves preeminence, by adding to our stores of knowledge and improving the science of their profession, must carry their views further, contemplating the phenomena and laws of life generally; not as they are exhibited in our own species only, but as they exist in the whole animal creation. If John Hunter had confined himself to a knowledge of human anatomy, however minute, and to mere clinical studies, his treatise on the blood and inflammation could never have existed. This indisputable fact alone is sufficient to convict those of ignorance and error, who hold that medicine and surgery are but empirical arts, and that physiological researches and scientific views of disease are of little importance to the practical physician and surgeon. I would ask, moreover, if there be any department of human knowledge more worthy the attention of the philosopher? Are there any sciences which offer to us a greater number and diversity of facts calculated at once to awaken and to gratify curiosity, or to excite in the reflecting mind feelings of a sublimer nature? Everywhere around us, in the air, in the waters, on the surface, and even in the deep dark caves in the recesses of the earth, we recognise the operation of that mighty principle which animates the universe; we trace it by means of the microscope, where the effects which it produces are imperceptible to our unassisted vision; we lose sight of it only at that point at which the power of lenses will carry us no further: and geology exhibits it to us in the various forms which life assumed in those remote and mysterious ages which were antecedent to all human history. A boundless field is open to our observation; and whatever part of it we explore, we discover objects of admiration not inferior to those which are presented to the astronomer when he looks to the starry heavens. It is in this part of the creation, more than in any other, that we discover the manifestations of the Creator. In the history and structure of individual animals, we find marks of intelligence, power, and benevolence, beyond what our minds can measure; while the uniformity of the design which pervades the whole system affords an unanswerable argument in favour of the unity of the cause in which it has had its origin.

With regard to medical reform, I shall make no remark; the subject is one which has engrossed the attention of men of the greatest talent; and even among them there appears to be such a diversity of opinion, that I fear we are as far off as ever from having a Bill which will give satisfaction to the profession.

As to the advances made in medical and surgical literature and practice during the past year, I have not the vanity to suppose that I can add to your knowledge or information; and shall therefore not further trespass on your time.

Dr. VACHELL proposed, Mr. ROGERS seconded, and it was resolved:—

“That the best thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. Prothero for his able address, and that he be requested to allow it to be published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.”

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING PRESIDENT.

Dr. ROWLAND proposed, Mr. ROGERS seconded, and it was resolved:—

"That the best thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. Vachell for his valuable services as President during the past year."

REPORT OF COUNCIL.

Mr. MICHAEL read the following Report:—

"The Council of the Monmouthshire and South Wales Branch of the British Medical Association, in making their sixth annual report, regret that they cannot point to any increase in the number of members during their year of office. Owing to deaths, resignations, and removals, the present number of members amounts to only eighty-three, which is less than 50 per cent. of the qualified members of the profession living in the districts included in the Branch. Your Council have always believed that it would tend to promote the usefulness and improve the position of the practitioners of medicine, were all the medical men living in any portion of the United Kingdom brought together by being united in the Branch of their district; for, while your Council accept with gratitude the efforts made to procure medical reform by legislative enactments which would tend to ensure uniformity of qualification and reciprocity of practice, they cannot but believe that true and radical improvement in the status and condition of the profession must arise from their own efforts and influence; and they know of no means so likely to accomplish this end as a feeling of community of interest and a firm bond of union existing between those already within the pale of the profession. Whether their attention be directed to the army or navy medical staff, to the care of the public health by those devoted to sanitary science, or to that useful and hardworking, but ill paid branch of our profession, the Poor-law medical officers, your Council are led to believe that many of the evils which press upon their various branches have arisen, to a great extent, from the absence of that mutual support which members of our profession have been slow to afford to each other, and to that eager competition for posts of public employment which has induced in boards and governments the belief that, as a profession, we are so disunited as with impunity to have our just claims disregarded and disallowed; and that any amount of burden might be placed upon practitioners of medicine, with the certainty that, if one member refused to perform the duties demanded, another would be found to fill the vacant place. It is upon this principle that boards of guardians, assurance offices, and the successive governments of the day, have uniformly acted; and it is to the fact that we have not been true to our profession and ourselves that the evils of which we have so long and so loudly complained have been allowed to remain so long neglected and unredressed. Acts of Parliament may indeed provide the body of improvement; but the moving, living spirit, must be found in the extended idea of members of the profession of their duties, responsibility, and powers. Legislative enactments are but the *Deus ex machina*. Improvement, with or without legislation, is ever lying within our grasp, waiting but our own will for its full and due development and action.

"The recent discussions in Parliament on the question of the duties and remuneration of Poor-law medical officers—a subject which has been prominently brought forward by the labours of Mr. Griffin and his coadjutors—prove how little we may as a profession hope, under present circumstances, to obtain from even a liberal government; and they conclusively show the truth of the remarks urged upon your attention by the Council at the last anniversary meeting, as to the serious evils which would be inflicted on the scientific and social status of the medical profession, were its future destinies entrusted to a Council exclusively selected by Government. Yet such was the proposition in the Bill for Medical Reform introduced by the Select Committee into the House of Commons. Your Council see much matter for gratulation in the fact that so large a majority of members of Parliament voted in favour of the principle of representation as embodied in Mr. Headlam's Bill; but they cannot disguise the fact that the provisions of that Bill were in this respect faulty, inadequate, and much below that standard which every practitioner of medicine has a right to demand, as it merely transferred the powers of the Council from the Government to those various corporate bodies against the constitution of which so much complaint has justly been made. And your Council believe that no Bill for Medical Reform will be thoroughly acceptable to the profession, and therefore thoroughly successful, which does not carry the representative

principle to its fullest limits, and allow to each member of a liberal and highly cultivated profession a voice in the election of members of a Council to which is to be confided the regulation of the future of the profession. Your Council believe that, had the British Medical Association, and the Reform Committee of that body, started with this as a general principle from which there was to be no departure, and with which there was to be no compromise, the position of medical reform in Parliament would, if not at this time actually obtained, have stood upon a much firmer and sounder basis than it can now be said to occupy.

"Your Council have during the past year been called upon to decide upon two charges of unprofessional conduct brought by Mr. Edgar Batt, of Abergavenny, against Mr. R. Smythe, of the same town. After very careful inquiry into the facts, your Council passed the two following resolutions:—

"1. That this Committee, having heard the evidence now adduced by Mr. E. Batt, and the statement made by Mr. R. Smythe, that he regretted not having exercised due caution in visiting Mr. Price, and would not so act in any future case,—resolved, that the apology now made by Mr. R. Smythe be considered satisfactory.

"2. That this Committee, having carefully considered the case of Mrs. Turner, are of opinion that, acting strictly in accordance with the rules of the Association, Mr. Smythe should have caused Mr. Batt to have been informed of his proposed attendance on the case previously to undertaking its charge, on or about the 19th of April; but they acquit Mr. Smythe of any intention to act hostilely or in an offensive manner to Mr. Batt."

"Since these resolutions were passed, Mr. Batt has signified to the Honorary Secretary his intention to withdraw from the Association at the close of the current year.

"In accordance with the rules, voting papers have been sent to every member of the Branch. Twenty-one have been returned; and the following gentlemen have been elected as members of Council:—*President*—David Prothero, M.D. (Llan-dilo). *President Elect*—J. Essex, Esq. (Pontypool). *Council of Branch*—G. G. Bird, M.D. (Swansea); J. Brewer, Esq. (Newport); E. Evans, Esq. (Cardiff); J. French, Esq. (Neath); T. C. Jones, Esq. (Pembroke); T. King, Esq. (Chepstow); H. Lawrence, M.D. (Carmarthen); W. Rowland, M.D. (Swansea); E. Y. Steel, Esq. (Abergavenny); B. Thomas, Esq. (Llanelly); C. Vachell, M.D. (Cardiff); J. L. White, Esq. (Dowlais); J. Williams, Esq. (Brecon). *Representatives in the General Council*—G. G. Bird, M.D. (Swansea); E. Y. Steele, Esq. (Abergavenny); J. L. White, Esq. (Dowlais).

"Your Council, anxious to see the benefits of the British Medical Association extended in the principality, and believing that many of the members of our profession have not joined its ranks because unaware of its peculiar claims to their support, venture to recommend that three social meetings be held during the next year, to which all qualified members of the profession living in the immediate neighbourhood should be invited; that these meetings should be held in Swansea, Cardiff, and Merthyr; and that gentlemen should be selected to read papers at these meetings, on subjects of interest, to be followed by discussions. Your Council believe that, by adopting means for making members of the profession better known to each other in the districts in which they live, a higher tone of feeling and mutual esteem will pervade the body; that science, by mutual intercourse and the comparison of experiences, will be aided, extended, and furthered; and that, by so doing, the public, to whom we render our services, will derive increased benefit; for whatever ensures a better understanding between individual members of the profession—whatever tends to enlarge our views of disease, or provide us with improved or new methods of cure—whatever elevates our status or increases our power in the general community,—is not to be sought for solely with a view to our own selfish ends of profit, aggrandisement, or honour, but, by every well regulated mind, will chiefly be valued as an additional and more valued means of relieving suffering and misery, and warding off disease and death."

Mr. ROGERS proposed, Dr. ROWLAND seconded, and it was resolved:—

"That the Report of the Council now read be received and adopted."

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL.

It was proposed by Mr. B. THOMAS, seconded by Mr. DAVIES, and resolved:—

"That the gentlemen whose names have been read be the

representatives of the Branch to the General Council, also the Branch Council for the ensuing year."

It was proposed by Mr. T. A. ESSERY, seconded by Dr. VACHELL, and resolved:—

"That the next annual meeting of the Branch be held at Pontypool; and that J. ESSEX, Esq., be the President-elect."

Mr. J. THOMAS (Llanegwad) proposed, Dr. ROWLAND seconded, and it was resolved:—

"That Mr. W. H. Michael be the Honorary Secretary for the ensuing year; and that the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Michael for his services during the past year."

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

A petition in favour of Poor-Law Medical Officers having been brought forward,

It was proposed by Mr. T. A. ESSERY, seconded by Mr. J. JENKINS, and resolved:—

"That the petition now read, in favour of Poor-Law Medical Officers, be signed by the members of the Branch, and forwarded to L. L. Dillwyn, Esq., M.P., for presentation to the House of Commons."

SOCIAL MEETINGS OF THE BRANCH.

It was proposed by Dr. PADDON, seconded by Mr. HALL, and resolved:—

"That, in order to make the advantages of the Association more generally known, three conversaciones be held during the next year; and that they be held in Swansea, Cardiff, and Merthyr, in the months of November, February, and May, respectively."

COMMUNICATION.

Mr. MICHAEL read the history of two cases of poisoning.

NEW MEMBER.

W. DAVIES, Esq. (Hirwain), was elected a member of the Branch.

At 5 o'clock, about thirty-five gentlemen sat down to dinner at the Cawdor Arms, under the presidency of Dr. Prothero.

Reports of Societies.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE READING PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

By JOHN MCINTYRE, M.D.

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

[Continued from page 651.]

Surgical Diseases and Injuries.

LAMINATED FATTY TUMOUR. BY G. MAY, JUN., ESQ.

MR. GEORGE MAY presented a tumour, excised from the buttock of a patient, which appeared to be encysted; but which Dr. Beale of London pronounced to be a very rare form of tumour called cholesteatoma, or laminated fatty tumour. It was filled with plates of cholestearine, mixed with fat, the plates appearing like exfoliations of the lining membrane. Mr. Paget describes it as a rare disease, and says, the most frequent seats of well marked specimens are in ovarian cysts and in connexion with the membranes of the brain. He believes the contents of such tumours to be a combination of layers of epidermal scales, with crystals of cholestearine.

OSTEOID CANCER OF THE KNEE-JOINT. BY W. W. MOXHAY, ESQ.

MR. MOXHAY presented a specimen of disease of the knee-joint, amputated in the Royal Berkshire hospital, which proved to be osteosarcoma, or, as called by Müller, "osteoid cancer." Mr. May diagnosed the disease to be malignant, from the swelling being confined to the condyles, especially the inner; from the absence of signs of general disease of the joint, beginning in the synovial membrane; from the absence of struma in the boy's family; and from the small amount of pain endured. The history in this case bears out, in some points, the history of the disease as far as it has been ascertained. It occurred in a male, in youth, and in the lower extremity of the femur—its most favourite site; but it differed in this, that there was very little pain, and that of short duration. In such cases it is usually severe in and around the part implicated.

FRACTURE OF SCAPULA. BY G. MAY, JUN., ESQ.

MR. G. MAY presented a fractured scapula taken from a man who had been run over by a waggon, and who died in the hos-

pital from inflammation of the lungs. The scapula was crushed into several pieces: the lower jaw was fractured, and the upper jaw was pressed in.

TREATMENT OF INJURIES OF CHEST BY OPIUM: CASE OF AVULSION OF A RIB. BY T. W. JESTON, ESQ.

The treatment of chest-injuries by opium was remarked upon by the Society as being now the recognised method of cure; and I cannot give you a more graphic illustration of its beneficial influences in such cases, its power of tranquillising the nervous system, relieving pain, diminishing the frequency of the heart's action and the respiration, than by giving you a summary of a case of avulsion of a rib, reported by Mr. JESTON.

A boy, aged 15, on Dec. 3, 1854, whilst at plough, by the horses running away, was knocked down, and the ploughshare entered his right side, making a large transverse wound in a line with the ninth and tenth ribs: the tenth was fractured, torn out, and left attached to the body by its cartilaginous extremity only. The upper half of the liver was exposed to view; also the diaphragm, and a part of the right lung. At the lower part of the wound a portion of liver about the size of a shilling, with its peritoneal covering, was scooped out. There was also a second wound, in a line with the umbilicus, but not penetrating the abdomen. His head and face were severely contused, the body having been dragged several hundred yards whilst transfixed by the plough. When seen, his pulse was scarcely perceptible, his tongue was covered with dry fur, and his thirst was urgent. He was sensible when roused, and answered questions put to him. He moaned much, but did not complain of great pain. There was little hæmorrhage. The rib was removed at its sternal extremity; the edges of the wound brought together by numerous sutures and adhesive plaster; a compress was applied, and a bandage round the body. He was kept under the full influence of opium for ten days, and beef tea, and brandy in thin arrow-root, given as food. The pulse never assumed an inflammatory character. The wound only partly healed by the first dressing, but the opening in the chest was closed. As the sutures separated, a large suppurating surface was exposed, which was dressed with long strips of adhesive plaster and nitric acid lotion. In six weeks he was discharged cured. The quantity of opium given was one grain of solid opium every hour, for the first four or five hours, to get him, and afterwards sufficiently often to keep him, under its full influence. The quantity of brandy was at least four ounces a day, besides wine in his arrow-root.

EXCISION OF THE KNEE-JOINT. BY A. FERNIE, ESQ.

MR. FERNIE presented a knee-joint where excision had been performed. Extensive suppuration followed, the constitutional powers failed, and amputation, forty-one days after excision, was had recourse to. It was found that union was going on, which, had the secondary amputation not been required, would probably have become bone.

FRACTURE OF THE ACETABULUM AND OF THE CONDYLES OF THE HUMERUS: DISLOCATION OF THE HIP AND ELBOW-JOINTS. BY W. W. MOXHAY, ESQ.

A man, aged 64, was at work with a pickaxe, stooping forwards, when a mass of coal fell on the back of the pelvis, and a lump, striking his hip, threw him down. His elbow was dislocated (and reduced before admission to the hospital), and his hip-joint was rendered useless. The back of the hip, when examined by Mr. MOXHAY, was severely bruised, and a large tumour, full of fluid blood, occupied the same position. The limb was shortened about half an inch; the knee and foot were inverted,—the foot, however, could be brought to an upright position. The axis of the thigh was directed slightly inwards. There was great mobility of the limb: it could be flexed, extended, and rotated inwards. To outward rotation there was a bony check. The rotation caused great pain, and now and then an indistinct feeling of crepitus. The want of resistance, when pressure was made in front of the joint,—an important symptom,—was well marked. The trochanter was not so prominent as that of the other side, but the difference between it and the anterior spine of the ilium was scarcely, if at all, diminished. The head of the bone, in the very bruised and swollen state of the parts, could not be felt posteriorly. The general opinion formed of the nature of the injury, was dislocation into the sciatic notch. The man was chloroformed, and Reid's method of reduction—the manipulating—tried. When the thigh was brought to a right angle with the body, on rotating it, distinct crepitation could be felt, and a gliding sensation was communicated to the hand, as if the bone were

to have its action reversed, and to produce the same tendency which at first it counteracted. When Dr. Neligan shall have explained this discrepancy and freak of nature, we will enter a little more fully on his "fatty diseases" in which this wonderful bissectile alkali produces the satisfactory results. May they not cut the other way, with action reversed! This I wish sincerely.

Dr. Webster says, that "the most satisfactorily recognised function of the liver is the resolution of the saline constituents of the blood into their acids and alkaline bases; the first, to play their part in the digestive function; the latter, in the function of absorption." The rest of the world has been hitherto believing the reverse; namely, that the liver unites free alkali with some organic acids of its own formation, and does some other services, not so easily recognised, regarding sugar, cholesterine, and colouring matter. But, it seems, we must reform that notion. If any room for astonishment be left us after such announcements, we are startled by another; namely, that it is an adopted modern opinion that the soluble proteine compounds of fibrine, albumen, and caseine, are chiefly absorbed into the circulatory system at once from the stomach. Now, let anybody say that the stomach is not a goodnatured fellow; it digests and secretes an abundance of acid and pepsine. Covered as it is all over on its active surface by secretory glands, it nevertheless absorbs all meat, eggs, milk, and broth; and in that respect is like the liquor potassæ; and at the proper time has its action reversed—secretion into absorption. The chemistry of the hydrocarbons, and their alkaline solutions or saponifications, is also peculiar to Dr. Webster, whose accumulative tendency for new and startling ideas thus becomes almost as great as that of his patient for adipose depositions.

I hope this letter may not appear to him too caustic a ley, as I am very willing to dilute it with and envelope it in the lined vehicle of professional friendship. One thing I hope, that it may do him better service than the liquor potassæ does to lipomata and to people's stomachs: then I shall be gratified by the attainment of my object.

I am, etc., J. L. W. THUDICHUM.

9, Woburn Place, Russell Square, August 1st, 1857.

THE LONDON PHARMACOPŒIA.

SIR,—It appears, from Dr. Garstang's letter in the JOURNAL of August 1st, that my reply to your Barnsley correspondent, *ament* the trochees, has been misunderstood.

"A Member" having written what I thought a very funny letter, I attempted to show that, in trying to damage the reputation of the London *Pharmacopœia* and its formula for "brandy caudle", he was using a queer argument against it in saying it did not also contain one for something similar to sugar-plums! I had no objection to the homœopathic-like plan of giving sweets to the sweet; but, when the trochees he ordered were not to be had at the druggist's, I could not see why he should tell us all that he knew of no substitute for them.

The formula for trochisci morphis et ipecacuanhæ being to be found in Neligan's work on *Medicines*, in Thomson's *Conspectus*, and in any translation of the three *Pharmacopœias*, I did not think it necessary to send a substitute for them. Besides, "A Member" did not tell us what the "tickling cough" arose from. Among the most common causes of such a symptom are relaxation of the *uvula* and enlargement of the *tonsils*; and in such circumstances I should not use the trochees in preference to other remedies.

As to the tinctura opii ammoniata, I think a substitute might easily be found for it; but perhaps the best way to remove all "A Member's" difficulties would be for us to have a NATIONAL *Pharmacopœia*, instead of three different ones.

If anything I have written in my former letter has given pain to "A Member", I am heartily sorry for it. It was merely a jest, and but a poor one; still I cannot altogether regret having penned it, inasmuch as it has drawn from Dr. Garstang that valuable bit of information "on anatomy and the rationale of therapeutics", which I hope will prove of as much use to the other elderly members of the Association as to

Yours, etc., A MEMBER.

August 5th, 1857.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Tuesday, August 11th.

SALE OF POISONS.

LORD CAMPBELL asked the Lord President of the Council whether the Government intended to do in reference to the Bill relative to the improper sale of poisons? The Bill had been referred to a select committee, who had laboriously investigated the subject, and obtained important information, founded on which certain amendments had been introduced into the Bill. He wished to know whether the noble earl intended to proceed with the Bill during the present session, or whether it would stand over for consideration until the next session?

EARL GRANVILLE said, that the select committee had given most patient attention to the Bill, and had amended it in several particulars. It would, however, be useless to attempt to proceed with it at that period of the session, and he thought some advantage would be gained by the Bill being printed and circulated in the country during the recess.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday, August 6th.

CLOTHING FOR THE TROOPS IN INDIA.

SIR H. WILLOUGHBY asked the Under-Secretary for War whether the troops that had been sent to India had been provided with clothing suitable to the heat of the climate to which they would be exposed; and, if so, if he had any objection to state what provision had been made on that subject.

SIR J. RAMSDEN said the most satisfactory way in which he could answer the question would be by reading, with the permission of the House, the list of articles issued to the troops on their arrival in India, in addition to the ordinary supply of necessities which they had in this country. They were as follows.—For the cavalry, four white jackets each, six pairs of white overalls, two pairs of Settringee overalls, six shirts, four pairs of cotton socks, and one pair of white braces. For foot soldiers, four white jackets, one pair of English summer trousers, five pairs of white trousers, five white shirts, two check shirts, and one pair of white braces. Those articles were not supplied in this country, but formed a part of the soldiers' necessities on his arrival in India, and were made of material made on the spot and best suited to the climate. During his stay in India, China, Ceylon, and at other hot stations, he was provided with a tunic and shell jacket in alternate years, and in the year in which the tunic was not issued the difference in the value of the two articles was paid to the soldier, to be expended, under the authority of the officer commanding, for his benefit in any articles suited to the climate of the station. In addition to these, the troops now going out to China and India had been provided with white cotton helmet and forage cap covers. In fact, the Government had taken every precaution to maintain the health and comfort of the troops.

Colonel NORTH asked whether the army in the field before Delhi were wearing the tunic, and also whether all those extra articles referred to by the hon. baronet were to be carried by the troops.

Mr. STAFFORD likewise asked whether the white head-dress was a substitute for or to be worn in addition to the ordinary one, for that made all the difference.

SIR J. RAMSDEN said, in reply to the gallant gentleman (Colonel North), he apprehended that the troops now in the field were in possession of the articles he had enumerated, because, under a general order of the late General Anson, which had been in force for some years, every soldier on his arrival in India, was provided with those articles of clothing, in addition to those which composed his kit in this country. He had to state, in reply to the hon. member for Northamptonshire (Mr. Stafford), that the white linen covers for the forage caps and helmets were to be in addition to what the troops already wore, otherwise they would be of no use.

LORD EBRINGTON wished to know whether the soldiers would be expected to carry this large additional weight themselves, or whether any arrangement would be made to carry it for them.

SIR J. RAMSDEN apprehended that such arrangements were left entirely to the discretion of the officer commanding on the station.

Monday, August 10th.

CLOTHING FOR THE TROOPS IN INDIA.

Mr. ROEBUCK wished to ask the Under-Secretary for War a question. It would be in the recollection of everybody that the hon. baronet the other night made a statement as to the manner in which our soldiers were prepared, when they got to India, to meet the exigencies of the climate. Among other things, he stated that our troops were provided with cotton covers for their helmets and foraging caps. Now, in that day's *Times* they were told that the information given by the hon. baronet was not correct; that no such cotton covers had been issued to our troops; and that they were going to India in heavy marching order. [*Hear, hear.*] Now, he wished to know whether it was true that the men had not received, as the hon. baronet had stated they had, coverings for their helmets and foraging caps; and, if not true, on whose authority the statement was made to the House. Of course he could not for a moment suppose that the hon. baronet made a statement which he did not believe, and he (Mr. Roebuck) put the question now in order that, if not correct, it should be brought home to the man who communicated it to the hon. baronet.

Sir J. RAMSDEN had observed the paragraph to which the hon. gentleman alluded. He found, on inquiry, that the state of the case was this:—The troops sent out to China had received cap covers, or materials for making them. The cavalry, artillery, and engineers sent to India took with them cap and helmet covers made up; but the infantry now proceeding to India did not take with them cap covers. The material, however, would be provided for them in India; and he was informed there would be no difficulty in getting any amount of material in the shortest possible period. Orders had been sent out by overland that no time should be lost in preparing the cap covers, so that they might be ready for the troops when they arrived. [*Hear, hear.*]

Tuesday, August 11th.

CROWDED DWELLINGS PREVENTION BILL.

Upon the question of the second reading of this Bill,

Mr. AYRTON opposed it, denouncing it as the most extravagant measure ever introduced into Parliament. Free access was to be given to the police at all times, and the house was to be cleaned at their instance, besides being registered and supplied with water. Who was to protect the people against the abuse of authority under this Bill? He moved that the Bill be read a second time that day three months.

Mr. COWPER stated that the object of the Bill was to amend the Lodginghouse Act. That measure had been attended with the most beneficial results, but there were certain abuses which it did not meet. Lodginghouses were overcrowded, and the Act was evaded on the pretence that the lodgers were members of the same family. It was chiefly to remedy this evil that the Bill had been introduced; and in committee he would take care to provide that it should apply only to common lodginghouses, and not to private houses. He hoped, therefore, the hon. gentleman would not press his amendment against the Bill.

Mr. J. LOCKE was not entirely satisfied with the alterations suggested by the right hon. gentleman who had introduced the Bill. He was not sure that, even after they had been made, the Bill would not interfere with the interests and liberties of poor persons who were not lodginghouse-keepers. He therefore trusted that some further alterations would be made in the clauses of the Bill.

Sir G. GREY said that his right hon. friend had intended to move the amendment which he had sketched, even although no opposition had been raised to the Bill. He suggested that the hon. and learned gentleman should allow the Bill to be read a second time, and that it should be committed *pro forma*, in order that the amendments might be introduced.

Mr. AYRTON withdrew his opposition, and
The Bill was read a second time.

IRISH LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

Mr. COGAN asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether he could state when a report might be expected from the Lunatic Asylum Commissioners of Inquiry; and, further, whether it was intended to suspend or to prohibit all improvements or required alterations in the existing asylums until this expected report was published?

Mr. HERBERT replied, that he had received a letter from the secretary of the commission, stating that there was no proba-

bility of the report being ready before the close of the year. It was not intended to stop any necessary alterations or repairs in existing asylums, but no costly works would be allowed to be proceeded with.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

- BARCLAY. On August 7th, at Leicester, the wife of *John Barclay, M.D., of a daughter.
BARNES. On August 8th, at Aylesford, Kent, the wife of J. Wickham Barnes, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
EVEREST. On August 11th, at 15, Carlton Hill East, the wife of Henry Everest, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
HESS. On August 9th, at 7, Artillery Place, the wife of Augustus Hess, M.D., of a daughter.
LEAKE. On August 8th, at Kent Cottage, Old Kent Road, the wife of J. Leake, M.D., of a son.
MARSTON. On July 26th, at Malta, the wife of J. A. Marston, M.D., of a son.
OGLE. On August 3rd, at 13, Upper Brook Street, the wife of John W. Ogle, M.D., of a daughter.
PAGE. On August 6th, at 11, Queen Street, May Fair, the wife of W. E. Page, M.D., of a daughter, which survived only a few hours.

MARRIAGES.

- BRADY—CROSSING. BRADY, Henry, Esq., of Her Majesty's Dockyard, Devonport, to Ellen, third daughter of Thomas Crossing, Esq., Surgeon, of Morice Square, in the same town, on August 11th.
BRUSHFIELD—DAVIS. BRUSHFIELD, T. N., Esq., Medical Superintendent of the County Asylum, Chester, to Hannah, only daughter of John Davis, Esq., of Princes Street, Spitalfields, at Christ Church, Spitalfields, on August 5th.
COWAN—STOKES. *COWAN, John B., M.D., of Glasgow, to Mary Ann, second daughter of Professor Stokes, M.D., at Dublin, on July 29th.
HARRISON—WOOD. HARRISON, John Barton, M.D., Bengal Army, to Emilie Louise, youngest daughter of the late Rev. J. S. Wood, formerly Rector of Cranfield, Bedfordshire, and afterwards chaplain at Caen, at Walcot Church, Bath, on August 6th.
HATCHARD—BRIGHT. HATCHARD, Lieutenant J. H., R.N., to Mary Elizabeth, eldest daughter of *James Bright, M.D., of Cambridge Square, at St. James's Church, Paddington, on August 6th.
HEWITT—REES. HEWITT, John J., Esq., Surgeon, of Chalcut Villas, Haverstock Hill, to Caroline, third daughter of John Rees, Esq., Solicitor, High, at the Catholic Chapel, Somers Town, on August 5th.
KENDALL—BURT. KENDALL, the Rev. Walter, of Wool, Dorset, to Isabella Josephine, youngest daughter of T. M. Burt, M.D., H.E.I.C. Medical Service, at Wool, on August 5th.
LITTLEJOHN—HARVEY. LITTLEJOHN, Henry Duncan, M.D., of Edinburgh, to Isabella Jane, eldest daughter of Henry Harvey, Esq., Canonbury Square, Islington, at St. Mary's, Islington, on August 6th.
METCALFE—LAY. METCALFE, Robert, Esq., Surgeon, of London, to Alice, daughter of Mark Lay, Esq., of Pond House, Boxted, Essex, on July 30th.
ROWLAND—DEACON. ROWLAND, John T., M.D., to Harriet, daughter of Henry Deacon, Esq., of Hans Place, London, at the Chapel of the British Embassy in Paris, on August 4th.
STRUTHERS—ALEXANDER. STRUTHERS, John, M.D., of Edinburgh, to Christina, daughter of James Alexander, Esq., Surgeon, Wooler, Northumberland, at Wooler, on August 5th.
THOMPSON—PARNELL. THOMPSON, W., L.R.C.P., of Newark, to Grace, youngest daughter of the late John Parnell, Esq., of Waltham Abbey, Essex, at St. Marylebone Church, on August 11th.

DEATHS.

AYRE, John, M.D., at the Grove, Hackney, aged 78, on August 8th.
 BRUCE. On August 6th, at Brighton, aged 77, Ann, widow of the late Ninean Bruce, Esq., Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals.
 *BUDD, Robert, Esq., Surgeon, of Fawley, Hampshire, lately.
 GOULD. On August 4th, at Watlingbury, Kent, aged 55, Ann, wife of *Henry M. Gould, Esq., Surgeon.
 HALL, Marshall, M.D., F.R.S., at 37, King's Road, Brighton, aged 67, on August 11th.
 LEIGH. On August 10th, at Turnham Green, the wife of H. T. Leigh, Esq., Surgeon.
 MARTLAND, Robert Thomas, M.D., of Blackburn, Lancashire, suddenly, aged 33, on August 4th.
 SHEEHY. On August 9th, at 4, Claremont Square, aged 16 months, from hooping-cough, Fanny Patmore, daughter of W. H. Sheehy, Esq., Surgeon.
 WALKINSHAW. On August 7th, in Gower Street, Bedford Square, Julia Isabella, youngest daughter of the late William Walkinshaw, M.D., of Trinidad.
 WHITE. On August 15th, aged 24, Charles, youngest son of Edward White, Esq., of Lamb's Conduit Street.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, August 7th, 1857:—

ASBURY, Charles John, Enfield
 BODILLY, James Broad, Penzance, Cornwall
 BOOTH, Samuel, Huddersfield, Yorkshire
 BUCKMASTER, William, Middleton, Cork
 COOPER, Geoffrey Veel, Bristol
 CULVERWELL, Charles, Arundel Street, Strand
 HINDER, John, Calcutta
 KING, Richardson, Jersey
 NUNAN, James Casey, Croome, Limerick
 STACEY, George, Hornsey
 WEBB, Henry James, Cheadle, Staffordshire

Monday, August 10th:—

ALLEN, William Christopher, South Shields
 CURTIS, Albert, Staines
 ELLIS, William James, Calcutta
 JULOTT, Charles James, Manchester
 LEE, Newton Bolle Colborne, London
 McGRATH, Henry Francis, Jamaica
 PATER, William Thompson, Canterbury
 WOODS, John, Newry

UNIVERSITY AND KING'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN. The degree of M.D. was lately conferred on the following gentlemen after examination:—

BETTS, George Harvey, Watford
 COGAN, Joseph, London
 DAVIDSON, Samuel, Aberdeenshire
 DRAGE, Charles, Hatfield
 HATHERLY, Narcissus Collins, R.N., Plymouth
 HILTON, William Richard, Whitehaven
 LEYS, Robert, Ellon
 NORTON, Algernon Charles Wodehouse, London
 REEVE, John Foster, London
 STEPHENS, Alexander, Aberdeenshire
 WILSON, John, Whitby

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING

AUGUST 8TH, 1857.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

In the week that ended on Saturday (August 8th) the number of deaths registered in London was 1224. It differs little from those of the two previous weeks, which were 1209 and 1238. In the ten years 1847-56 the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1217; but as the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, the average, with a view to comparison, should be raised proportionally to the increase, in which case it will become 1339. The number now returned is therefore less by 115 than the average rate of mortality would have produced; but as the period from which the latter is derived includes two weeks, viz., those in 1849 and 1854, when cholera was extensively fatal, it will be seen, if due allowance is made for the increase in the average arising from that cause, that the mortality of

the present time is rather high for a season when the public health is not disturbed by any extraordinary epidemic.

The progress of diarrhoea appears to have received a check; for whereas during the six previous weeks the weekly number of deaths from that disease rose by degrees from 33 to 302, it fell last week to 258, which is almost the same as that of the week that ended July 25th. The air was considerably colder in the latter part of last week than it had been for a month, and was, in this respect, more favourable to the health of that part of the population which is peculiarly subject to fatal attacks of the disease. Of the 258 persons who died last week from diarrhoea, 222 were carried off in the first or second year of life, 12 were two years of age and less than 20, none died between the years 20 and 40, only 2 between 40 and 60; the next period exhibits an increase, 22 persons having died who were 60 years old and less than 80. The deaths referred to cholera, which were 24 in the preceding week, were 30 last week. Twenty out of the 30 occurred to infants. Adding together the numbers under diarrhoea and cholera, it appears that 8 deaths from these complaints occurred in the sub-district of St. Mary Paddington, 7 in that of Belgrave, 9 in St. Margaret Westminster, 8 in St. John Marylebone, 7 in Somers Town, 8 in Poplar, 7 in St. Paul Deptford, and smaller numbers in nearly all the other sub-districts.

The deaths from typhus and common fever were rather more than they had been for many previous weeks, having been 48. From small-pox there were 5, from measles 14, from scarlatina 32, and from hooping-cough 38. A man died of ulceration of the ilium from drinking chloride of zinc by mistake for gin. The deaths of five nonagenarians are returned, namely, of 3 men and 2 women. Two men were respectively 94 and 95 years of age; and a widow who died on August 6th, in the Workhouse, Wapping, is stated to have attained the great age of 106 years.

Last week the births of 736 boys and 753 girls, in all 1,489 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56 the average number was 1,455.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.704 in. The mean temperature was 65.2°, which is 3.1° above the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The mean temperature was nearly 73° on Monday and Tuesday, which is more than 10° above the average; on the last two days of the week it was below the average. The highest readings in the week occurred on Monday and Tuesday, and were 88° and 87.6°; the highest readings in the sun on the same days were 108° and 114°. The lowest reading of the thermometer occurred on Friday, and was 52.4°. The range of the week was 35.6°. The mean dew-point temperature was 56.3°, and the difference between this and the mean temperature of the air was 8.9°. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 69.4°. The wind blew from the south-west on every day except Wednesday. Rain fell to the amount of 0.85 in., the greater part of it on Thursday.

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.

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.

Communications have been received from:—MR. ROBERT METCALFE; DR. W. A. BRYDEN; MR. WILLIAM MARTLAND; MR. T. HOLMES; ANOTHER MEMBER; MR. W. COLLYNS; MR. HAYNES WALTON; DR. W. WEBB; MR. JOHN HARTON; DR. EDWARD SMITH; DR. THUDICHUM; MR. RICHARD GRIFFIN; MR. J. S. GANGE; MRS. E. BUDD; MR. MICHAEL; DR. GEORGE BUCHANAN; MR. C. BADER; MR. STREATFIELD; MR. W. F. MORGAN; MR. STONE; DR. C. HANDFIELD JONES; DR. MACKINDER; MR. H. HANCOCK (Exeter); and DR. R. U. WEST.