

that our profession will gain in the public admiration when the effigy of one of its foremost men is placed amongst the busy haunts of men, as a testimony of the blessings conferred by medicine upon humanity.

We are glad to hear that our suffering associate, Mr. Tucker, has not been forgotten by our members or by the profession. In directing attention to the announcement of the Committee, which will be seen in our advertising columns, we can only express our cordial hope that, when the time comes to publish the list of subscribers, we shall not be disappointed either in the amount subscribed, or in the share which the Association has taken in this good work.

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.

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS, AND PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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

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

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

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

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

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, *General Secretary.*

Worcester, July 1857.

Editor's Letter Box.

COLNEY HATCH ASYLUM AND THE NON-RESTRAINT SYSTEM.

LETTER FROM JOHN HITCHMAN, M.D.

SIR,—I rejoice, that after reading your article on "The Lunatic Asylum at Colney Hatch," I immediately wrote to you the letter which you are pleased to call "a very angry" one, because it has drawn from you a clear and eloquent enunciation of those great principles which ought to guide us in the treat-

ment of the insane. I rejoice at this, although you have (of course unintentionally) misrepresented the purport of the "angry" letter in question. I felt, and still feel, that a wrong had been inflicted upon an earnest man by improperly connecting his name with "a house of detention of the most dismal kind;" improper, because Mr. Gardiner Hill would be as ready to condemn the use of "huge bastiles," and asylums "conducted on the self-same plan as the neighbouring workhouse, or jail," as you yourself would be; and I am sure that the system known as the "non-restraint system" requires neither "dismal airing courts," or "huge bastiles," for its proper elucidation. It is hostile to all of these things. It is the *germ* of all the improvements which are daily going on, in this and other lands, in the treatment of the insane; and we have only to compare Esquirol's account of the insane colony at Gheel, with that of our able countryman Dr. Webster, to perceive that its influence has been felt, even in that insalubrious spot, although in connection therewith, one reads with sorrow of *chains* "still used to restrain violent maniacs," and of "an old man peeling potatoes" whose legs and arms were restrained by leathern thongs and hobbles. How many more may have been still worse manacled in those far off places, where "disturbances and menaces have scarcely an echo"—where "the lunatic meets no person"—where there is "nothing but silence or solitude around"—there is no evidence in Dr. Webster's paper to determine. But I have no wish now to enter upon the merits or demerits of the insane colony at Gheel. I hope, for the sake of the patients, that the system may be as good, and may be carried out as kindly as you would wish it to be; but I think, sir, that you are not in possession of facts enough to be justified in eulogising Gheel at the expense of the English asylums—in writing of the former as an "interesting colony holding out a light which we shall be constrained to follow," and of the latter, as places in which "the man becomes a cog in the ever-turning wheel; and all the little healthy spring and play of mind which it is so necessary to foster in the lunatic is hopelessly crushed out of him." I know, sir, that "distance lends enchantment to the view," and, therefore, hope that the land in which Tuke and Ellis, and Charlesworth and Conolly, have lived and laboured, will bear comparison with Belgium in the treatment of her insane; and that that fearful description of yours does *not* apply "more or less to *all* the asylums throughout this country," but is rather to be reckoned as the eloquent wailing of a feeling heart shocked by the sight of some individual and exceptional establishment, than as the judicial conclusion of a clear mind after a careful investigation into all the facts of the case.

I cannot close this letter, without assuring you, Mr. Editor, that I did not intend anything discourteous towards you in using the word "compiled" in reference to the able article in the *Quarterly Review*. The graphic power, the kindly spirit, and the comprehensive information of that article pleased me much, but I imagined it was written by a man who had gained his information from books rather than from personal knowledge, and in my haste I used the word which I now feel to have been incorrect; in no journal had I seen your name associated with the article, and even if I had, I should have regarded it as an error, because in the *Quarterly Review* Colney Hatch is described as one of the places in which "the feelings of desperation are almost immediately succeeded by the inspirited dawns of hope," whereas in the JOURNAL it is designated as a "huge bastile"—"a place of detention of the most dismal kind." I did not think the same pen, which gave us the glowing description of Colney Hatch and Hanwell—which had borrowed the poetry of Gray to unfold the "blue-eyed pleasures" which were to be found therein, was the same pen which made one shudder at the recital of "caging poor people in the dismal airing courts" and "monotonous wards" of those "huge bastiles" where "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."

I wish, moreover, emphatically to state, that I have not written to the JOURNAL, nor do I write now, as the advocate of large asylums like Colney Hatch—you are doing a good work in pointing out their evils—but I write to complain of the improper use of Mr. Gardiner Hill's name, and to protest against the inference, that the system which he has advocated is inseparably associated with huge "bastiles," and "with a treatment upon which men will look with feelings of disgust, differing only slightly in degree from those with which we read of the treatment of madmen in old Bedlam."

I am, etc., JOHN HITCHMAN.

Mickleover, near Derby, August 22nd, 1857.

—a number that implies something seriously wrong in the administration of the medical department of your service, and claims redress at your hands, in virtue of your oath. I live in a town, and my patients all reside there. I pray you, therefore, to fix my salary at such a sum that it may be regarded as a criterion for other officers who may be similarly situated.

"I have the honour to be, etc.,

"RICHARD GRIFFIN.

"The Poor-Law Board."

"12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, July 20th, 1857:

"SIR,—I am informed by Mr. Lithgow that he has offered himself as a candidate for the appointment of medical officer to the union house. Should the Board of Guardians elect him to that office, I shall feel obliged by their allowing me to exchange the Weymouth for the Melcombe District, which, I presume, he would be required to resign. In most public institutions, it is usual for one officer to be permitted to take the post of another who vacates for a better. I trust, in this instance, the guardians will be kind enough not to depart from the rule, but allow Mr. Lithgow to have Dr. Boyd's appointment, and to give Mr. Lithgow's to me—an arrangement which would place Mr. Lithgow and myself each in a situation where he would receive far higher pay than at present, in proportion to the duties to be performed. In the event of my being elected to the Melcombe District, that of Weymouth would be at the disposal of the guardians. I should think an exchange would be sanctioned by the Poor-Law Board, without requiring the guardians to be put to the expense and trouble of a fresh election.

"I am, sir, etc.,

"RICHARD GRIFFIN.

"The Clerk to the Board of Guardians, Weymouth Union."

"12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, August 3rd, 1857.

"SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your considering this note as a postscript to my letter of July 20th, and by your reading it with that to the Board of Guardians, on Thursday next, Aug. 4th. Should the Board not consent to my having the Melcombe District, then I trust they will at once proceed to take into their serious consideration my repeated complaints as to the inadequacy of my salary, and vote me such an addition to it as will make it commensurate with the duties I am required to perform. The payment I now receive, on an average of two years, is *ls. 4½d.* per order; whilst the Melcombe surgeon has *2s. 6½d.*, and the Wyke surgeon *16s. 3½d.*

"I am, sir, etc.,

"RICHARD GRIFFIN.

"The Clerk of the Board of Guardians, Weymouth Union."

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

- BISSHOPP. On August 16th, at 1, Lawn Place, South Lambeth, the wife of James Bisshopp, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
 CALLENDER. On July 31st, at Winlaton, the wife of Edward E. Callender, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
 DRUITT. On August 15th, at Wimborne Minster, Dorset, the wife of William Druitt, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
 LATHAM. On August 20th, at Greenford, the wife of R. G. Latham, M.D., of a son.
 MANFOLD. On August 13th, at Templemore, Tipperary, the wife of M. Fenton Manifold, Esq., Staff-Surgeon, of a son.
 NEWINGTON. On August 17th, at Ticehurst, Sussex, the wife of Charles Hayes Newington, M.D., of a son.
 POPHAM. On August 16th, at Caledonian Place, Islington, the wife of Robert Honner Popham, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
 ROSS. On August 19th, at 10, Commercial Place, Commercial Road East, the wife of Daniel Ross, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

- BIRD—STONE. BIRD, William, Esq., Surgeon, of Albemarle Street, to Mary Hannah, eldest daughter of the late Orlando Stone, Esq., of Richmond, Surrey, at Richmond, on August 20th.

- HILL—PENNEL. HILL, James Turner, Esq., 14th Bengal N.I., to Agnes Jane, second daughter of R. L. Pennell, M.D., of Venbridge, Devon, at Cheriton Bishop, on August 13th.
 MONRO—DUFFIN. MONRO, James, M.D., Surgeon-Major Coldstream Guards, to Maria, third daughter of the late Colonel Duffin, of the Bengal Light Cavalry, at Bath, on Aug. 18th.
 LOVEGROVE—HEANE. LOVEGROVE, George H., Esq., Surgeon, of Gloucester, to Mary Elizabeth Anne, eldest daughter of Mr. Alderman Heane, of Gloucester, lately.
 STEDMAN—DULLEY. *STEDMAN, Robert Savignac, Esq., Surgeon, of Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire, to Fanny, eldest daughter of *Benjamin Dulley, Esq., Surgeon, of Wellingborough, on August 18th.
 TAYLOR—GAMMELL. *TAYLOR, James, Esq., Surgeon, of Wargrave, Berks, to Rosa Ann, widow of the late Ernest Gammell, Esq., of Portlethen, Kincardineshire, and Twyford, Berks, at St. Saviour's, South Hampstead, on August 20th.
 WALKER—CAMPBELL. WALKER, George, M.D., second son of J. D. Walker, Esq., Surgeon, Hurworth-on-Tees, to Selina Georgina, second daughter of Francis Campbell, M.D., Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Jarban, by the Rev. G. E. Turner, at Ryde, near Sydney, N.S.W., on May 16th.

DEATHS.

- ALLSOP, Robert, Esq., many years Superintending Surgeon of Her Majesty's Emigration Shipping, at 25, Castle Street, Falcon Square, aged 36, on August 23rd.
 CAMPBELL, John, M.D., Surgeon Royal Navy, at Portsmouth, on August 15th.
 DARDEN, Miles, Esq., at Henderson County, Tennessee, U.S., recently. Deceased was seven feet six inches in height, and weighed above one thousand pounds.
 FEW. On August 17th, at Scarborough, from scarlet fever, aged 5 years, Arthur, only child of *W. Few, Esq., Surgeon, Ramsey, Huntingdonshire.
 MALDEN, Francis C. F., Esq., Surgeon, of Worcester, son of *Jonas Malden, M.D., aged 32, on August 13th.
 MARSHALL. On August 12th, at Mitcham, Surrey, aged seven months, the infant daughter of Edward Marshall, Esq., Surgeon.
 MUSGRAVE. On August 18th, at 1, Pembroke Place, Finchley Road, aged 14 months, Helen, youngest daughter of Johnson T. Musgrave, Esq., Surgeon.
 ORSBORN. On August 22nd, at Bitterne, near Southampton, aged 40, Agnes Clayton, wife of John Orsborn, M.D.
 THOMAS, Henry C. A. C., Esq., Surgeon, of Lower Norwood, Surrey, aged 27, on August 22nd.
 WHITING, J. B., Esq., Surgeon, of King's Lynn, aged 56, suddenly, on August 11th.
 WOOLLEY, Edward, M.D., at Wright's Corner, Indiana, U.S., aged 40, on July 31st.

APPOINTMENTS.

- JONES, Sydney, M.B., appointed Surgeon to the Surrey Dispensary.
 REID, J. Seaton, M.D., appointed Professor of Materia Medica in Queen's College, Belfast.

PASS LISTS.

- APOTHECARIES' HALL. Members admitted on Thursday, August 20th, 1857:—
 BUCHANAN, Albert, Myddelton Square
 FURSE, Robert, South Molton, Devonshire
 HOPKINS, Edward, Llandelo
 MARRIOTT, Charles William, Leamington
 MARTIN, John, Great George Street, Liverpool

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING AUGUST 22ND, 1857.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE deaths registered in London, which in the last week of July rose to 1238, and in the first and second weeks of August were respectively 1224 and 1187, exhibit a very decided decrease in the week that ended last Saturday (August 22nd), the number being 1091. The heavy thunder storms and rains of the preceding week have doubtless been powerful agents in producing this result. It can also be shown that the deaths of last week were rather less than the number which the average rate of mortality in corresponding weeks of ten years (1847-56) would have produced, if, for better comparison,

the deaths from cholera in two epidemic years are excluded from the calculation.

Since the last week of July there has been a constant decrease in the deaths from diarrhoea. In the week referred to, they were 302; thereafter they were successively 258, 244, and (in the present return) 215. In the same periods, the numbers returned as caused by cholera (in most instances "cholera infantum" and "choleraic diarrhoea") were 24, 30, 21, and 12. Eight deaths from diarrhoea (including cholera) occurred last week in the sub-district of St. John, Westminster; seven in that of St. Margaret, Westminster; five in Brompton; five in the Hackney sub-district; five in Goodman's Fields; five in Bow; five in Trinity, Newington; five in Lambeth Church sub-district (second part); and five in Plumstead. Scarlatina exhibits an increase, for the deaths from it, which were in the two previous weeks 32 and 16, rose last week to 40. It appears to have prevailed chiefly in the north and east districts, for more than half of the fatal cases occurred in these two divisions. The registrar of Somers' Town records the deaths of three children from "scarlatina anginosa", all within four days, in a family at 8, Johnson Street. The parents, a fourth child, three lodgers in the same house, and a person who was sent to the Fever Hospital, have all suffered from the disease. Typhus and common fever were fatal in 41 cases; measles in 13; and small-pox in 4.

Three persons died of disease the effect of intemperance: 13 children from want of breast-milk. The deaths of five nonagenarians are returned: one at the age of 90 years, two at 93, one at 94, in Wild Street, St. Giles, and one at 98, at Putney. With one exception (a man, who was the youngest of the five), these old persons were all widows.

Last week the births of 860 boys and 832 girls, in all 1692 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1460.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.887 in. The highest reading occurred on Wednesday, and was 30 in. The mean temperature of the week was 65.1°, which is 4.2° above the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The highest temperature occurred on Sunday (the 16th), and was 83°. The lowest was 51.7°, on Tuesday. The range of the week was 31.3°. The temperature rose towards the end of the week, and on Saturday the mean was about 9° above the average. The wind blew almost constantly from the north-east, till the end of the week, when it changed to east. The mean dew-point temperature was 57.3°; and the difference between this and the mean temperature of the air was 7.8°. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 67° 5. Rain fell to the amount of 0.32 in., nearly all of which fell early in the morning of Sunday.

THE SALE OF POISONS.

We have already given an abstract of the Sale of Poisons Bill in its amended form, the modified measure, however, being only printed for the consideration of the public during the approaching recess. A blue-book of 140 pages has just been published, containing the interesting evidence adduced before the select committee of the House of Lords by the following witnesses—viz., Mr. J. Bell, Mr. T. N. R. Morson, Mr. G. Waugh, Mr. P. Squire, Mr. Lionel Bird, Mr. H. Denne, Mr. J. Abraham, Mr. J. Baker Edwards, Mr. William Herapath, Mr. Hammill, Mr. F. C. Calvert, Mr. Walter Wilson, Dr. W. T. Brande, F.R.S., Mr. S. J. Burch, M.R.C., Dr. A. Swaine Taylor (the toxicologist), and Dr. Moore Neligan. The evidence of Mr. Herapath and other witnesses points to legislative enactments as utterly impotent to prevent suicide by poisons. "If a suicide," observes this witness, "cannot have recourse to one mode of destroying his life he will to another." Even the Bill restricting the sale of arsenic has not been altogether successful. Mr. Herapath conceives that any "Poisons" Bill must have three objects in view:—1. Secret poisoning. 2. Suicide; and, 3. Chance-medley. He does not believe that any one system can be introduced to check the whole of these; and as to suicide he thinks "it will be totally impossible, under any circumstances, to prevent it." As regards intentional poisoning, he thinks registration in a book might do something to check it. Mr. Herapath objected to the absurdity of including in the schedule of poisons prohibited so large a number of Pharmacopœial preparations, all of them being used more or less for medical purposes. He thinks the list should be confined to drugs that may be used for secret poisoning, as those which are tasteless or not to be recognised by the victim are

few in number. He would prohibit for secret poisoning, arsenic, Fowler's solution (or the liquor potassa arsenitis), prussic acid, strychnia, and nux vomica; for hocussing, cocculus indicus; and for procuring abortion, ergot of rye and savina. It would be impossible, or very difficult, to legislate as regards opium. Mr. Hammill, the police-magistrate, appears to object to compel persons wanting to buy poisonous drugs to go before a magistrate; he thinks "it would be a great impediment to the administration of medicines in proper cases, because there are few medicines that are not, in large doses, poisonous." He does not think you could legislate for the sale of laudanum, because a poor man, although "dressed" in appearance, might want it for the toothache as well as a rich man. Any medical man, too, will bear testimony to the immense value of opium, both in the solid and liquid form, as a check to choleraic diarrhoea and other alarming affections of the intestinal canal. Dr. Taylor, the toxicologist, thinks that legislation would have the effect, not of doing away with poisoning in any form, but of considerably reducing the number of accidents from poison, and also rendering it more easy to trace out crime where poison has been obtained for improper purposes. It is impossible, he adds, to prevent the use of poison for suicidal purposes. Dr. Taylor was asked how he could meet the case of opium where labouring men came to the extent of 200 or 300 a-day for that seductive drug. He answers that there ought to be "some limit" to that; but even now there is a difficulty. A gentleman in the city was refused the other day a drachm of laudanum for the toothache, he being unknown; and at a second shop he was only supplied with 25 drops, and no more. Dr. Taylor suggests that in these cases the dose might be swallowed in the presence of the druggist. It is certain that opium is consumed to a large extent in the manufacturing towns, and Dr. Taylor says that it causes 37 per cent. of deaths annually. The sale of opium he thinks it would be difficult to stop, as a smuggled trade would inevitably supervene on the supersession of the regular business of the druggist. About 20 to 25 drops of laudanum may even be obtained for a penny, and this for an adult is a safe dose, although a fatal one if administered to an infant as a *quietus*. It is further shown that if the sale of poisons by the regular druggists were restricted, sundry subtle poisons, such as hemlock and henbane, might be procured, and for improper purposes, from the herbalists of Covent-garden and elsewhere; and Dr. Taylor suggests whether those (often ignorant) herbalists ought not to be included with the druggists when they deal in any particular poisons. Here a curious anecdote is related. A gentleman living in Portland Place was ordered by his physician to take the well-known infusion of ash leaves. On taking the prescribed dose he was seized with very alarming symptoms, and was soon in a state of narcotism and convulsions. The physician was sent for, examined the infusion, and drank a wineglassful himself, but with the same alarming consequences. It turned out that the herbalist (of Covent-garden) had sold belladonna (the deadly nightshade) instead of the ash leaves. In another case a druggist's apprentice took the liberty of dispensing, instead of black dose (the well-known purgative preparation of senna), the "black drop," or acetate of opium, a deadly narcotic poison; and in another case, strychnia was dispensed with fatal effect in the place of salicine, a tonic prepared from the bark of the willow-tree. Such are a few points of the evidence which a cursory perusal of it has afforded us an opportunity of extracting. (*Times*.)

The following letter has been addressed to the editor of the *Times* in reference to the concluding part of the above paragraph:—

To the Editor of the Times.

SIR,—In your paper of yesterday there appears an article upon "The Sale of Poisons," which contains a misstatement that you will doubtless be willing to correct. The following is an exact quotation from the article referred to:—

"A gentleman living in Portland-place was ordered by his physician to take the well-known infusion of ash-leaves; on taking the prescribed dose he was seized with very alarming symptoms, and was soon in a state of narcotism and convulsions. The physician was sent for, examined the infusion, and drank a wineglassful himself, but with the same alarming consequences. It turned out that the herbalist (of Covent-garden) had sold belladonna (the deadly nightshade) instead of the ash-leaves."

The facts of the case are, that Dr. Garrod recommended the patient referred to in the above statement to us for the purchase of ash-leaves. We supplied him with two or three

parcels, but he afterwards found that he could obtain some at a lower price in Farringdon-market, and he therefore ceased to buy of us. One evening a gentleman called upon us in a state of great excitement, and producing a sample of leaves, asked us what they were. We immediately pronounced them to be belladonna leaves, upon which he exclaimed, "Then I fear my friend is dead," and told us that the leaves had been obtained from Farringdon-market.

The above explanation is due to us, as our firm has been established more than 100 years, and we have no doubt that Dr. Garrod will confirm our explanation.

We remain, your obedient servants,

BUTLER and McCULLOCH.

Covent-garden, August 21st.

MEDICAL RETURNS FROM THE BALTIC AND BLACK SEA FLEETS. Yesterday appeared a Parliamentary paper containing some interesting details relative to the mortality in the Baltic and Black Sea fleets in the years 1854 and 1855. It is shown that the total mortality from all causes, in both fleets, and in both years, amounted to 2,029 deaths, of which 1,574 were caused by disease, 228 by accidental injuries, suicide, and drowning, and 227 only by wounds received in action—a number extraordinarily low. The diseases most commonly prevalent in fleets and armies include three classes:—1. Those arising from privation and over-work. 2. Those arising from endemic or climatic causes; and, 3. Those arising from the inhalation of the germs of infectious diseases. The deaths from diseases of the first class, including typhoid fevers, scorbutic affections, dysentery, diarrhoea, and ulcer, were not numerous. The deaths from local or climatic causes were also few, for the crews of the ships were seldom exposed to miasmatic influences, and when they were landed in low swampy places, as in the Black Sea and Sea of Azof, quinine was almost invariably given as a protective against fever, and offensive exhalations in the holds of ships were got rid of by ventilation and the use of the solution of chloride of zinc. The mortality under the third head (infectious diseases) might indubitably have been lessened, it appearing that if the fleet in the Baltic had not anchored in Baro Sound during the summer of 1854, and if that in the Black Sea had shunned Baljik and Varna in July, August, and September of the same year, the mortality from cholera would have been greatly reduced. Cholera, like small-pox, yellow fever, and other infectious diseases propagated by a specific animal poison elaborated within the human system, and thrown from it into the atmosphere, is generally destructive among numbers in proportion to the force or concentration of the exciting poison and the poverty of the vital fluids of the patients. The mortality from consumption is much greater in the army than the navy. It appears that the proportion of wounds and injuries of all kinds to the 1,000 of mean force was greater in the Baltic than in the Black Sea fleet, but the reverse was the case as regards the rates of mortality. In the former, the total number of deaths, from all kinds of injuries and drowning, was 135, of which 21 were from wounds in action, 5 from gunshot wounds received during the infamous attack on the boat's crew at Hango, 57 from drowning, and 52 from falls from the rigging and other accidental hurts. In the Black Sea fleet, its total number of deaths, from external violence and drowning, was 286, of which 201 were killed in action, 40 were drowned, and 45 killed by external injuries. The medical evidence goes on to show, that sailors are more liable to rheumatic attacks than soldiers; but this will only hold good so long as the latter are comfortably lodged in cantonments or barracks. There is no evidence to show that the climate or soil on the bald steppes of the Crimea had the least effect in producing any form of bowel complaint, although the accumulation of filth and the effluvia arising from decay of organic matters were, doubtless, injurious to the general health, and so predisposed the weak and the anemic to be attacked by various forms of disease. Affections of the liver and jaundice were more numerous in the Black than in the Baltic Sea, by as much as 9·3 exceeds 3·4, but the mortality for both was nearly identical. Defective or erroneous diet, in connexion, possibly, with peculiar states of the weather, would appear to be the inducing causes of these liver complaints. The proportional number of catarrhal attacks was greater in the Baltic fleet by as much as 277 exceeds 215. Cholera was far more rife in the Black than in the Baltic Sea; for there, in one ship alone, the mortality exceeded by about one-half the total mortality in the whole force of the Baltic fleet for two years. The mortality from pulmonary complaints and diseases of the air-passages was nearly the same in both seas, but the proportion was greater in the Baltic.

Fevers were more common in the Black Sea, and also more fatal; in the two years there were 1,720 cases of continued and remitting fever, and 1,722 of the intermittent or agueish type. The mortality from cerebral diseases in the Baltic fleet was the same as in civil life; but in the Black Sea it was greater, probably owing to the indulgence of the seamen in bad spirits. (*Times*, August 20th.)

REPORT OF THE LUNACY COMMISSIONERS. A blue-book of 135 pages just issued from the warehouse of the Parliamentary printers contains the eleventh report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Lord High Chancellor of England. A large portion of the report is occupied with local details of no interest to the general public, but a few interesting points are presented to notice which may be briefly adverted to. The question of lunatic paupers has much occupied the attention of the Commissioners, and, although they are compelled to speak with strong regret and disapproval of the continued and obstinate avoidance by a large number of cities and boroughs of the provisions of the legislature in relation to it, and of duties in some cases imperfectly discharged by the county authorities also, it is satisfactory to discern, on the whole, a progress in the counties during the past year more considerable than for several years preceding. New buildings are in more active preparation, as well as additions to existing institutions. The Commissioners at the same time have always strongly objected to asylums exceeding a certain size, as they forfeit the advantage, which nothing can replace, of individual and responsible supervision, and the consequence is an accumulation of chronic cases in the larger asylums. Thus the proposition for the enlargement of Colney Hatch and Hanwell Lunatic Asylums was objected to by the Commissioners, but in vain; the committees, after a conference with the Commissioners, remained firm, and the latter reluctantly gave way. They still insist, however, on the necessity of more carefully classifying patients, separating recent and acute from chronic cases, and placing the latter in a less expensively-built asylum. The great increase of lunatic wards in workhouses is next adverted to, with the causes of such increase. In any case, it is obvious that the state of workhouses, as receptacles for the insane, is becoming daily a subject of greater importance. But lunatic wards generally are pronounced to be objectionable, as deteriorating the more harmless and imbecile cases, and rendering those that might have yielded to early care chronic and permanent. The irregular practice of sending lunatic paupers to workhouses in the first instance instead of to regular asylums is denounced by the Commissioners, as directly contravening the law applicable to insane paupers. An appeal has been made to the Poor-Law Board against lunatic wards, and in one case it is the intention of the Commissioners to appeal to the Secretary of State to require the local authorities (of Norwich) to provide for their lunatic poor according to the requirements of the statute. The consequences of the neglect of boroughs to provide for their insane poor has been often shown, and great exertions have been made to obviate the evil. The prosecution of Mr. Snape, the surgeon, for the manslaughter of the pauper lunatic Dolley, at the Surrey Asylum, and the details of the case, occupy a large space in the report, but, as the subject is now out of date, we forbear from dwelling upon it. Certain regulations for the use of the bath will be issued by the Commissioners for the guidance of medical officers, including one which abolishes the use of the bath as a mode of punishment. The grave structural defects of the criminal wards of Bethlehem Hospital are once more censured, but the resolution of the Government to provide a new State asylum, to accommodate six hundred criminal lunatics, will happily obviate the evil consequent on the neglect of the authorities of Bethlehem. The want of proper asylums for lunatic soldiers is pointed out, and attention is once more specially directed to the subject. It is sad to think that the vilest abuses still prevail, here and there, in the treatment of single patients, and still more so to be assured (by the Commissioners) that the provisions of the law are extensively evaded. The fact that one insane gentleman, near Exeter, was actually under the judicious care of a market gardener until his removal to an asylum was insisted on, may give some idea of the existing state of things; and as it was, notwithstanding the interference of the Commissioners, the cultivator of cabbages retained his office of mad doctor for a considerable time; at all events, "much delay took place." The great value of open air exercise and employment as a curative means is now fully established by experience. The statistical returns appended to the report show that on the 1st of January, 1857, there were 21,344 lunatics in durance (10,084

males and 11,260 females). Of these, 4,687 were in private asylums and 16,657 in pauper asylums, 276 were found lunatic by inquisition, and 581 were criminals. The proportion of lunatics and idiots to the population has risen from 1 in 847 (in 1852) to 1 in 701 in 1857. Such is the substance of the eleventh report. (*Times*.)

ASSUMED CHILDBIRTH. Mrs. Cunningham is determined not to be outdone by Madeline Smith. Dr. Burdell having been safely put in his grave, and herself acquitted, she turned her attention towards securing his property by establishing a marriage. The friends resisted, upon the ground that the alleged marriage never took place—the man representing the doctor being some unknown person. While this was going on, she gave out that she was with child; and from week to week and month to month exhibited the ordinary appearances of gestation. Last week was the time selected for the birth. To give an appearance of reality to her sufferings, the resolute woman ate cucumbers until she brought on a colic, and was in due time delivered of a fresh-born infant that had been brought from the lying-in-hospital for the purpose—so says the Government case, established by strong proof; for one of her physicians had played traitor, and the Government were aware of every step in the game. (*New York Paper*.)

ACCIDENTAL POISONING OF A LADY. An occurrence of a very painful character has taken place in Somersetshire, by the accidental poisoning of Mrs. B. Escott, a lady of large fortune. Mrs. Escott was the widow of B. Escott, Esq., a gentleman of ancient family, who, during his life-time, was very popular, on account of the leading part he took in political and other public matters connected with the county; and Mrs. Escott herself was greatly respected by all the residents of her neighbourhood. She had latterly been confined to her bed-room by a severe attack of low fever, for which she was under the professional care of Mr. Henry, a surgeon of considerable repute, residing at the neighbouring town of Stogumber. In the course of her illness, Mrs. Escott had been in the habit of taking occasional doses of acetate of morphia; and a preparation of that powerful drug was unfortunately kept on the mantel-shelf of her bed-room, where also was placed another phial containing some medicine of a different description, which Mr. Henry had prescribed for her. The doses were usually administered to Mrs. Escott by her lady's maid, who was in constant attendance on her; but that from which her death so unhappily resulted, was administered by her own hand. The lady's maid had occasion to leave the room for a few minutes, and on her return, her mistress called to her, and said, "Oh, I have taken the wrong medicine." The servant immediately called to Mr. Henry, who happened to be in the house conversing with Miss Escott, who immediately proceeded to the bedside of the unhappy lady. He found her with the phial labelled "Solution of acetate of morphia." He asked her what she had taken? and she replied, "I am afraid that I am poisoned. For God's sake do save me." He administered emetics, and tried to use the stomach-pump, but the spasms in her throat prevented his doing so. She died at about six o'clock.

ESCAPE OF A CRIMINAL LUNATIC FROM BEDLAM. No little sensation has been created among the officials of Bethlehem Hospital in consequence of the escape of a criminal lunatic, under circumstances that approximate the daring exploits of the renowned Jack Sheppard. From the particulars obtained it appears that a man named Joseph King had been liberated on a ticket-of-leave, he having been convicted for felony. Since that he had been again apprehended for felony, tried at Exeter assizes in December 1856, and sentenced to fifteen years' transportation. After being incarcerated in Millbank prison some time, he was pronounced to be insane, and was in consequence removed to Bethlehem Hospital. On Friday, upon going to the man's dormitory, the keeper was astonished at finding that the prisoner had escaped, and a large hole made in the wall, which it was quite clear had been made by the prisoner, through which he had got out. A sheet and a blanket had been tied together, and by those means he succeeded in sliding down into the street, a distance considerably over twenty feet, and then got clear off. The authorities are of opinion that it must have taken the man nearly a week to bore the hole in the wall, and how he had succeeded in accomplishing his object without observation appears a perfect miracle. The police have been actively engaged in looking after the lunatic, but he has not yet been apprehended.

ATTEMPTED POISONING IN CHESTER BY A SERVANT. Fanny Stanley (15), was charged with having, on the 26th of April last, attempted to administer poison to her master's two children. She had been told to bring some bread and butter for the children who were in bed. After some time she carried it upstairs; but Mr. Dunn, the father, saw some blue powder on the butter. He went down stairs and found that the prisoner had spread some vermin poison on the butter. A chemist analysed the bread and butter, and found that the poison was strychnia; and two rabbits, to which the butter was given, died with the usual tetanic symptoms. The jury convicted the prisoner, and she was sentenced to be imprisoned for six weeks, and afterwards sent to a reformatory for four years.

ASSASSINATION OF THE AFRICAN TRAVELLERS VOGEL AND MAGUIRE. The official confirmation of the murder of Dr. Vogel, at Wara, the capital of Wadai, has just been received. He was beheaded by order of the Sultan. Corporal Maguire, R.E., was murdered by a party of Tuaricks some six marches to the north of Kuka. Apprehending danger, he had traced a few lines in pencil to our Vice-Consul at Murzuk, requesting him, in the event of his death, to discharge a small sum due to his people. The gallant fellow made a desperate defence, and despatched several of his murderers before he fell. The melancholy events tend strongly to confirm the opinion that no profitable commerce can be opened with Central Africa over the Desert from Tunis or Tripoli. The true way must be by means of its great rivers—the Nile, the Niger, and the Zambese.

THE HEAT IN BELGIUM. Mr. T. Forster, of Brussels, writes:—"I have registered the weather, and find that the average heat of this summer has already no parallel, and indeed exceeds every other by at least seven degrees."

BEGGING LETTER IMPOSTOR. The profession is cautioned against the visits of a notorious begging letter impostor, who for the last three years has subsisted almost entirely on the kindness of medical men; his name is John Spillan, a son of the late Dr. Spillan, and has just been released from a month's imprisonment and hard labour, to which he was sentenced by Mr. Henry, of Bow Street: he had on a former occasion appeared before the Marlborough Street magistrate, and was dismissed with a severe reprimand.

FOREIGN DEGREES. At the assizes just concluded at Oxford, William Stuart Farquharson, aged 43, was sentenced to be kept in penal servitude for a term of twelve years, for forgery on the Banbury bank. The prisoner had assumed the character of a clergyman at the village of Chacombe, near Banbury, and his whole career had been marked by a long series of forgeries of legal documents, certificates of character, and, for some time, of diplomas of German universities, some of which we have seen, and at the time suspected them to be forgeries, and now in the possession of men standing high in the profession. The prisoner called himself a D.C.L., and, exhibiting his diploma, obtained large sums of money under the pretence of procuring others for his clients. He was the author of a work entitled *The Pleasures of Home*.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. It may save our readers some little trouble by informing them, that the Library and Museum of the College will be closed during the month of September for the necessary dusting, etc.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL AND THE BEAUCHAMP LEGACY. A case has just been decided in the House of Lords, by which the trustees of St. George's Hospital lose a legacy of £60,000. It seems that the late Earl Beauchamp bequeathed that sum for the foundation of almshouses at a place called Newland, a small hamlet with a population of two or three hundred persons; but he provided no site for the erection, and left the money only on condition that some one would furnish a site within twelve months of his decease, which a benevolent gentleman accordingly did. From the nature of the bequest, however, some legal difficulties arose, and it was determined by the Master of the Rolls and the Lords Justices that the appropriation of the money to the building of almshouses was illegal, and judgment was given to pay it over to the trustees of St. George's Hospital, a provision in the will having been made to that effect. The case was then carried to the House of Lords, where the judgment of the other court was reversed, and the money was made to revert to its original destination. (*Medical Times and Gazette*.)