

To be made the subject of such a leader as appeared in your JOURNAL of Friday last—a journal presumed to be managed by a business-like man—is so gross a libel as to astonish even its best and warmest friends.

The statement of Hargreaves' mental incapability is a clever trick of his advisers: such an opinion having never entered the minds of four medical men who saw him at various hours up to the time of this transaction. I am positively convinced that he was as capable of making a pecuniary arrangement as you are; and I have no reason to alter my opinion, that I had every reasonable expectation that he would be capable of resuming his employment long before the twelve months had expired; presuming at that time that he was under the care of an experienced surgeon who was paid liberally for his services.

I have still to learn that the reduction of a simple fracture of the thigh must naturally be attended with unconsciousness, and that nearly three inches of shortening must be expected when it occurs in the upper third.

Your cunning observations upon the use of lithographic receipts are not in accordance with the facts, as this man signed a receipt (written at the time) with a pen given him by Mr. Smithells. He certainly made his mark, because he could not write his name.

This brief reply is not intended to provoke controversy, and I consequently decline any further notice of the subject, leaving myself, as I have done for the last thirty years, in the hands of my professional friends to judge of me as they feel disposed.

I am, etc., JOHN G. HARRISON.

East Lancashire Railway, 4, Piccadilly, Manchester, Aug. 25th, 1857.

[Our strictures upon Dr. Harrison's conduct in striking a bargain with a man whilst writhing under the pain of a severe accident may have been "unbusiness-like", but they certainly were not unjust. Dr. Harrison does not deny that he carries about with him, as the agent of the East Lancashire and other railways, printed forms of receipts in order to take his patients "whilst they are in the humour". This practice we shall call "sharp practice", however "libellous" we may be in doing so. It strikes us very forcibly that Dr. Harrison has placed himself in a false position in becoming the agent of a company in pecuniary transactions; it is his business as a medical man to cure the victims of his paymasters' neglects and errors, not to higgler with them—that task should be left to the lawyers.—*EDITOR.*]

#### ALLARTON'S OPERATION.

LETTER FROM JOSEPH HINTON, ESQ.

SIR,—Last week's JOURNAL contained three cases of stone removed by this operation; and I am glad to find that Mr. Prichard speaks so favourably of it, even though he has to offer us a fatal case. I cannot but think that in the course of a few years it will be a commoner operation than the lateral, and that then the mortality after operation will be considerably diminished. As Mr. Prichard remarks:—"The risk of extravasation of urine, the cause of death in the majority of fatal lithotomy cases, is in this operation reduced to a minimum."

In the case which I communicated to the Bath and Bristol Branch, and which, I believe, was one of the earliest, excepting those of Mr. Allarton himself, the wound is, I think, still open; at least, it was open a few months since, when I left the Blaina Works. The man was a miner, and although the wound healed most rapidly, and appeared perfectly sound, yet when he resumed his underground occupation, but not before, the strain which the perinæum receives in their peculiar positions, a great portion of their labour being carried on in a stooping or rather "sitting on thin air" posture, seemed to tear open the cicatrix, and by degrees a regular fistula formed. When I left, the quantity of urine that passed was most trivial, he being scarcely conscious of it; but so great was his aversion to any instrumental interference, that I never could induce him to let me heal it. I mention the circumstance, as it may be as well to bear it in mind when the subject of the intended operation is a miner or collier.

I still am anxious to learn whether any experiments have been made to discover the extent of dilatation which the healthy prostate will bear without lesion. The *post mortem* rooms of our hospitals might speedily settle the doubt.

I am, etc., JOSEPH HINTON.

Hinton, near Bath, August 31st, 1857.

## Medical News.

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

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

#### BIRTHS.

- HOFFMEISTER. On August 25th, at Cowes, the wife of W. C. Hoffmeister, M.D., of a son.  
 LOCKING. On August 27th, at Tealby, Lincolnshire, the wife of John Locking, M.D., of a son.  
 NIND. On August 15th, at Harbertonford, near Totnes, the wife of P. P. Nind, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.  
 TIMES. On August 30th, at 4, Thayer Street, Manchester Square, the wife of Henry G. Times, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

#### MARRIAGES.

- BLACKBURN—GRAVES. BLACKBURN, Edward, Esq., barrister, to Georgiana, daughter of the late Robert James Graves, M.D., F.R.S., at Dublin, on August 25th.  
 FEARNside—ROFE. FEARNside, Henry, M.B., of Preston, to Frances, only daughter of John Rofe, Esq., of the same place, on August 27th.  
 GALT—TAYLOR. \*GALT, John, Esq., Surgeon, of Ashton-under-Lyne, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Stephen Taylor, Esq., Oak Cottage, Ashton-under-Lyne, lately.  
 HOLBERTON—POUT. HOLBERTON, Vaughan, Esq., Surgeon, of Hampton, Middlesex, to Elizabeth Ann, second daughter of Henry Pout, Esq., Surgeon, of Yalding, Kent, on Aug. 26th.

#### DEATHS.

- GAMBLE. On August 25th, at Barnstaple, Anne, wife of Charles Hanlen Gamble, Esq., Surgeon, aged 28.  
 GRIFFITH. On August 25th, at Peckham, Henry John, infant son of \*John T. Griffith, Esq., Surgeon.  
 HURMAN. On August 25th, at Turnham Green, the wife of \*W. Hurman, Esq., Surgeon.  
 MARTIN. On August 25th, at Staines, Eva Beatrice, infant daughter of Robert E. Martin, Esq., Surgeon, aged 9 months.

### HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING AUGUST 29TH, 1857.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE deaths registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday (August 29th) were 1177; they exhibit an increase on the number of the previous week, which was 1091. In the ten years 1847-56, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1345, which if it be raised for comparison with the deaths of last week in proportion to increase of population, will become 1480. But the average is swelled beyond ordinary limits by cholera in the epidemic years 1849 and 1854; and if this disturbing element be withdrawn from the calculation, it will be found that the rate of mortality in last week exceeds, but only to a small extent, the average rate at the end of August.

The number of children born in the week exceeded the number of persons of all ages who died, by 479.

The total mortality of last week exceeded that of the week which preceded it, as has been stated above; but the increase does not arise from diseases of the zymotic character taken in the aggregate, for though typhus (with common fever) was fatal in more cases, the number having risen from 41 to 66, scarlatina and diarrhoea showed a decrease. The fatal cases of diarrhoea in the last three weeks were 244, 215, and 198; those referred to "cholera" in the same periods, 21, 12, and 15. The sub-districts of St. John, Marylebone, and St. Paul, Deptford, returned more deaths last week from diarrhoea than any other of the metropolitan sub-districts; there were 7 in St. John, and 8 in St. Paul. Eight fatal cases of small-pox are recorded, three of which occurred in the Small-Pox Hospital. Three persons died of intemperance; a child from "destitution"; 12 infants from want of breast-milk; and 13 women from diseases incidental to child-bearing. Six persons are returned who before they died had attained the age of 91 years

or more; of these, only one was a man, who died at the age of 95, at Lee; the rest were widows, at ages varying from 91 to 95, the oldest having died at Deptford.

Last week the births of 857 boys and 799 girls, in all 1656 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1470.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.943 in. The mean daily reading was above 30 in., on three days. The highest reading was 30.18 in., on Thursday. The mean temperature of the week was 66.9°, which is 7.1° above the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The mean temperature was above the average on every day of the week; and on Sunday and Monday the excess was respectively 12° and 13°. The temperature fell as the week advanced. The thermometer in the shade reached its highest point on Sunday (the 23rd), when it was 85.9°; the lowest point was 48.8°, on Friday. On Tuesday, the thermometer in the sun rose to 106.4°. The thermometrical range of the week was 37.1°. The mean dew-point temperature was 58.3°, and the difference between this and the mean temperature of the air, indicating its dryness, was 8.6°. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 69.1°. The air was calm during great part of the week: at the beginning the wind was in the south-east; at the end in the north-east. To rain was measured by the gauge.

**COMMUNITY OF CONTAGION.** The great mortality in courts and alleys is made to suggest a diminution of life that does not really take place in the mansions of the rich. Well, but it does sometimes. Dr. Druitt is the medical officer of health for St. George's, Hanover-square. Smallpox appeared in his district. One of the places in which it appeared was the room of a journeyman who—in this room, surrounded by his sick children—was making coats for the customers of a fashionable tailor in a fashionable street. Another was the room of a laundress, employed in getting up gentlemen's white ties. Another was inhabited by the family of an upper servant in a house in Berkeley-square. That is a broad hint to the selfish; but God knows we are not selfish as a people in this matter. When we are told that Dulwich, where the high ground secures light and air, where money secures all the wants of life, and where the population is but at the rate of one person in one acre, there died last year only 13 persons in 1,000, two of them children, and not one from a preventible disease; while in Peckham, to go no further, there died 20 in 1,000, we do not fail to see the influence of a man's dwelling-place on the duration of his life. We are not blind to the meaning of a comparison like this between neighbour and neighbour. Between Hanover-square and Hyde Park are the 137 houses of Lower and Upper Brook-street, besides 13 mansions at the north of Grosvenor-square. The deaths in them all between the 1st of April last year and the same date this year, were nine. Shepherd's-court, in Upper Brook-street, contains nine houses, and there were as many deaths in those houses alone. We give some more of these comparisons, which carry their own lesson with them too distinctly, and appeal too surely to our hearts to need enforcement. In the West Ward of Mile-end, the deaths are at the rate of 32 in every 1,000; in the Centre Ward, which is not much less densely crowded, there die out of the 1,000 only 21. The medical officer of health for Mile-end, Mr. Freeman, looks for the cause of this excessive destruction of life in his West Ward, and finds that it takes place in a new town which has sprung up during the last few years at the rear of Castle Tavern, sometimes called the Rhodeswell Estate. These houses form a main part of the ward; they have been inhabited several years, yet the roads were not made up, and the district was undrained. Under recent laws the drainage of a new street is made before houses are built, instead of afterwards. (*Dickens's Household Words.*)

**GREENWICH ELECTION.** A vacancy being likely to occur in the representation of this important borough, a requisition is in the course of signature inviting Thomas Wakley, Esq., the ex-M.P. for Finsbury, to allow himself to be put in nomination as one of the representatives. And when we state that it is rumoured, Admiral Berkeley, the rejected of Gloucester, is coming forward, it behoves every member of the profession practising in this large borough, to use his interest to defeat this great enemy of Naval Medical Reform. Mr. Wakley always made himself a very useful representative, and obtained great weight in the House.

**EXTRAORDINARY FECUNDITY.** It is stated, in a recent number of the *Magazine of Natural History, etc., of Moscow*, that the peasant Kirilow was presented, along with his wife, to the Empress. This peasant was married, for the second time, at the age of 70. His first wife was delivered twenty-one times: four times of 4 infants at a birth; seven times of 3 infants; and ten times of twins: in all 57 children, then alive. The second wife had already been delivered seven times: once of triplets, and six times of twins: in all 15 living children. This astonishing fecundity has been observed in other cases in Russia. Thus the peasant Gastorowa, of the village of Dolgam, was delivered, on the 1st of March, 1854, of five infants, —two boys and three girls, who all died the same day. At Torgowa, the wife of a Kalmuck had a quadruple birth,—one of the children died the next day. In the village of Iwokina, a peasant was delivered on the 26th of May, 1854, of four children, all of whom survived. In the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons is a well authenticated case of a woman having been delivered of five children at a birth. The Russian journal above alluded to also gives some extraordinary cases of longevity; as for instance, in the year 1853 there were 2,181 persons died upwards of 90 years; 130 above 100 years; 7 from 125 to 130 years old; and, in the government of Pskow a man attained the age of 145 years.

**LOCUSTS.** Several specimens of that rare insect, the *Gryllus migratorius*, have been found during the last week in the neighbourhood of London, a very fine one was found feeding in Lincoln's Inn Fields, and immediately transferred to the Hunterian Museum; another flew into the shop of a picture dealer in the Strand, and was captured. Mr. Gaylard, M.R.C.S., of Plympton, Devon, has also secured a fine specimen for his entomological cabinet, one of the finest private collections in Devonshire.

**ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.** In addition to the resignation of Mr. Gamgee, we have now to announce the retirement of Mr. T. Carr Jackson from the surgical staff of the institution, with which he has been connected upwards of ten years. The committee has expressed its regret at losing the services of this deservedly popular surgeon.

**REPORTS OF THE INSPECTORS OF COAL MINES.** The reports of the various inspectors of coal mines to the Secretary of State were published yesterday. It appears that last year there occurred the following number of fatal accidents—viz., in the northern districts, 135; in the North and East Lancashire districts, 84; in the West Lancashire and North Wales district, 103; in the Yorkshire, 52; in the Midland district (Derby, Notts, Leicester, and Warwick), 46; in the Stafford, Worcester, and Salop district, 70; in the South Stafford and Worcestershire district, 156; and in the southern district, 65. In the western district of Scotland, 45 lives were lost during the year.

**LIVERPOOL ROYAL INFIRMARY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE: ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES, 1857.** *Surgery:* Medal—Mr. J. J. Flinn; Certificate—Mr. H. G. Rawdon. *Practice of Medicine:* Medal—Mr. F. P. Weaver; Certificate—Mr. C. F. Oldham. *Senior Anatomy:* Medal—Mr. J. Robinson. *Junior Anatomy:* Medal—Mr. A. B. George; Certificate—Mr. G. C. Walker, Mr. A. Warburton. *Chemistry:* Medal—Mr. George. *Midwifery:* Medal—Mr. Weaver; Certificate—Mr. D. Mackinlay. *Materia Medica:* 1st Prize Books—Mr. Walker, Mr. Warburton, equal. *Practical Chemistry:* 1st Prize Book—Mr. W. Miller; Certificate—Mr. J. Finegan. *Ophthalmic Surgery:* 1st Prize Books—Mr. J. H. T. King, Mr. Miller, equal. *Botany:* 1st Prize Book—Mr. King.

**SICKNESS IN THE CHINESE EXPEDITION.** The sickly season is doing its work. Of the 600 men who now form the strength of the 69th (a regiment sent here some eight years ago), there are 150 in hospital. The proportion is still greater among the blue-jackets and marines up the river. Happily, however, the Hongkong fever has not reappeared in its old terrible malignity. Although fever, dysentery, diarrhoea, and ague, are rife, deaths are not numerous. There is plenty of hospital room, and the surgeons can hold every case well in hand. Precautions also are multiplied with a praiseworthy minuteness. Every sentry has sherry and bitters given him, to fortify his stomach against the night miasma; the ships are alternately moved down to the healthy islands at the Bogue; and the expulsion of our old friend, the Mandarin of Chuenpee, was because his fort was wanted for sanitary purposes.

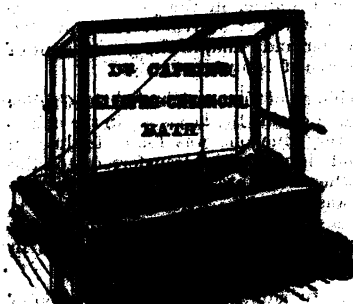
# TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

Communications have been received from:—Mr. JOHN YATES; Mr. JOSEPH HAYES; Mr. HENRY BRYAN; Dr. F. G. PROBERT; Dr. W. TINDAL ROBERTSON; Dr. JOHN G. HARRISON; Dr. THOMAS DUNN; Dr. T. HANNA JACKSON; Dr. GEORGE WOOLHAM; Dr. H. G. MAYNE; Mr. HENRY TROSBY; Dr. J. LLOYD; Mr. GEORGE POLLOCK; Mr. ARTHUR B. STEEL; Dr. G. HAMER; Mr. CHARLES HASTINGS; Mr. WM. COLLINS; Dr. CONWAY EVANS; Mr. CHARLES FREDERICK CHURCH; Mr. JAMES JELLEN; Mr. STONE; Dr. D. MACKINDER; Mr. J. HAYNES; Dr. STANFORD T. SPENCER; and Dr. B. NEVINS.

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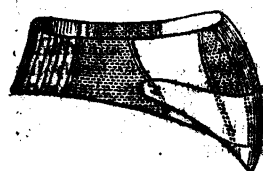
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