

system as to give such fatal force to the narcotic; the already failing heart was an additional source of depression; and thus, in all probability, was produced that anæmic condition of the brain found after death.

We regret exceedingly the occurrence of this untoward affair, as we fear that its tendency will be to produce a certain mistrust in the mind of the public against provincial practitioners—a most unfounded and unjust mistrust, for we believe that no better practitioners in the world can be found than in the provinces of the United Kingdom. The occurrence, unfortunate as it is, however, will not be without its use—it will teach the practitioner to be more than ever cautious in the use of the lancet, which, indiscriminately applied, is of late years as fatal as the dart of the King of Terrors himself.

With regard to the loss of the late Mr. Stafford himself, no section of the community will feel it more acutely than the medical profession. His generous evidence on the behalf of the medical officers in the Crimea, given before the Sebastopol Committee, will be remembered with gratitude by our profession, and his honesty in denouncing the shortcomings of the Medical Department of the army, will be long missed by those reformers who reckoned upon his aid in putting that paralysed and incompetent department once more in a position of dignity and power.

THE WEEK.

WE rejoice to find that our associate, Mr. Delves, has received the sympathy of the members of the South Eastern Branch, in the late very disagreeable and trying situation in which he has been placed. We know full well how easy it is to bring a charge of an attempt to procure abortion against a professional man, and the difficulty there sometimes is in repelling the charge; we also know how fearful is the injury which a false charge of this kind is calculated to produce upon a man's professional prospects, if not at once openly met and repelled. The mere dismissal of the case by the magistrate was not sufficient to completely re-establish the accused in the eyes of the public and the profession; such a termination to the charge might still have left a section of the public doubtful and hesitating in their belief of his innocence; but the spontaneous opinion of his medical brethren, given at a Special Meeting of the Branch, at once dispels the last fragment of doubt, even in the minds of those who are habitually inclined to be credulous when the character of a medical man is called in question. The report of this meeting will be found in another portion of the JOURNAL; but we cannot resist the pleasure of giving the resolution which so amply exonerates Mr. Delves from a charge which was, we believe, the offspring of a foul conspiracy.

"That this meeting, having considered the evidence produced in the proceedings taken against Mr. Delves of Tunbridge, on a charge of having criminally procured abortion, is of opinion that this charge is not sustained either by the general or professional testimony adduced; and that, whilst the members of the Branch congratulate Mr. Delves on the fact of the magistrates having on two separate occasions dismissed the charge, they desire to express their sympathy with him on the occasion, and their conviction that no stain whatever remains on the character of Mr. Delves."

We cannot help remarking that if some of the physicians who gave their opinion upon an abstract point, without being

at all aware of the use to which their opinions would be put, had acted with a little more reserve, the charge would never for a moment have assumed the consistency it did. We cannot dismiss the matter without expressing our opinion of the admirable use to which the Branches of our noble Association are put in thus reassuring a traduced brother, and in affording him their strong moral support. In all such cases they afford a true court medical for the neighbourhood, in which the offender cannot escape with impunity, nor the offended retire without redress. Long may our Branches flourish, on whose boughs hang such golden fruit!

We are among those who look with no favour on the indiscriminate giving of testimonials and erection of memorials to men during their lives. Posterity, we think, are generally the best judges of merit. Nevertheless, there are occasions on which either a brilliant achievement, or a long continued course of good action, is so striking in its merits as to call for some acknowledgment at once. An occasion of this kind has recently been afforded by the retirement of Mr. Norman, of Bath, from the surgeons'hip of the United Hospital of that city; and we congratulate our worthy associate on the interesting proceedings of which an account is given in another part of this number. We congratulate him, that his bust has been placed in the hall of the Bath United Hospital; but still more that he has, in a half century's connection with the Bath medical charities, evoked from the public, of all classes, such a genuine admiration of his worth as has manifested itself not only in the erection of his bust, but also in the presentation to him of a testimonial from the poor. In all the good wishes expressed by the donors of the bust towards Mr. Norman, we most heartily join.

A case has recently occurred in France, illustrating the value of the combined aid of the profession when one of its members suffers injustice. A practitioner, Dr. Robouam, was fined fifteen hundred francs by the tribunal of Senlis for having refused professional aid to a woman in her confinement, who died during labour. The Medical Association of the Seine took up the matter; and, on making inquiry, they found, in the first place, that Dr. Robouam was legally entitled to refuse his services; and further, that his state of health was such as to justify his refusal, he having had an attack of hemiplegia four years ago, and being subject to symptoms of relapse after excitement or fatigue. An appeal was made to the Imperial Court of Amiens; and M. Paillard de Villeneuve, the legal adviser of the Association of the Seine, undertook to conduct the case in favour of M. Robouam. The result has been, that the decision of the tribunal of Senlis has been quashed, and M. Robouam has been entirely exonerated.

Association Intelligence.

LIST OF MEMBERS: NOTICE.

IN accordance with Law 24, a list of members of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION will shortly be published. Gentlemen whose designations or addresses are incorrectly given in the last list, or on the wrappers of their Journals, will oblige by at once forwarding the necessary corrections to the Editor of the JOURNAL, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.

TO THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE BRANCHES.

THE General Secretary will feel particularly obliged if the Honorary Secretaries will inform him, with as little delay as possible, of any subscriptions for the current year received by them since their last lists were forwarded to Worcester.

November, 1857.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BATH AND BRISTOL. [Ordinary Meeting.]	White Lion, Bristol.	Thurs., Dec. 3rd, 8 P.M.
BIRMINGHAM AND MID- LAND COUNTIES. [Ordinary Meeting.]	Hen and Chickens Hotel, Birmingham.	Thursday, Dec. 10th, 6 o'clock.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING ON THE CASE OF MR. DELVES OF TUNBRIDGE.

ON November 18th, a Special Meeting of the South-Eastern Branch was held at the Junction Hotel, Redhill, for the purpose of considering the evidence taken before magistrates at Tunbridge on the charge preferred against Mr. Delves, surgeon, of that town, of having criminally produced abortion. C. M. THOMPSON, Esq., of Westerham, President of the Branch, took the Chair. There were also present: J. Milner Barry, M.D. (Tunbridge Wells); John Blaxland, Esq. (Tunbridge Wells); George Bottomley, Esq. (Croydon); Richard Gravely, Esq. (Newick); Henry Harris, Esq. (Reigate); C. Holman, M.D. (Reigate); Peter Martin, Esq. (Reigate); Lewis Newnham, M.D. (Camberwell); Andrew Sisson, Esq. (Reigate); Thos. H. Smith, Esq. (St. Mary Cray); Henry L. Sopwith, Esq. (Tunbridge Wells); James Stedman, Esq. (Guildford); John Sisson Steele, Esq. (Reigate); George Stilwell, Esq. (Epsom); William Street, Esq. (Reigate); Charles Trustram, Esq. (Tunbridge Wells); Wm. Wallis, Esq. (Hartfield); and J. Lucas Worship, Esq. (Riverhead).

Mr. SOPWITH (Tunbridge Wells) rose to protest against the meeting entertaining the matter at all, on the ground that civil proceedings at law were likely to arise out of the case.

Mr. SMITH (St. Mary Cray) observed, that the business to-day had no reference to any civil proceedings which might be taken hereafter; but to criminal proceedings which had been taken against a member of the Branch, and which were now entirely concluded.

The meeting decided at once to entertain the matter.

The shorthand writer's minutes of evidence were laid before the meeting.

After discussion, it was proposed by Mr. JAMES STEDMAN (Guildford), seconded by Dr. MILNER BARRY (Tunbridge Wells), and resolved unanimously—

"That this meeting, having considered the evidence produced in the proceedings taken against Mr. Delves of Tunbridge, on a charge of having criminally produced abortion, is of opinion that this charge is not sustained either by the general or professional testimony adduced; and that, whilst the members of the Branch congratulate Mr. Delves on the fact of the magistrates having on two separate occasions dismissed the charge, they desire to express their sympathy with him on the occasion, and their conviction that no stain whatever remains on the character of Mr. Delves."

It was proposed by Mr. THOMAS SMITH (St. Mary Cray), seconded by Mr. WALLIS (Hartfield), and resolved unanimously—

"That the best thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Trustram, for the pains he has taken in bringing this matter before the Branch; and that he be congratulated on the satisfactory conclusion of this case, in which he has, both here and during its progress, shown so much intelligence and zeal."

It was resolved—

"That copies of these resolutions be sent for publication to the London medical journals, and to the local newspapers."

Thanks were voted by acclamation to the President, and the meeting adjourned.

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.

Editor's Letter Box.

THE RESIGNATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, MANCHESTER.

LETTER FROM THOMAS SOUTHAM, LL.D.

SIR,—I am directed by the Board of Management of St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, to send you, for insertion in your forthcoming number, the following brief summary of answers to the objections published in your issue of the 21st of November instant, and made by the medical officers who have resigned their functions at this institution. I inclose also the *Manchester Examiner and Times* of the 22nd of October last, containing a report of the special general meeting of the subscribers, called by the Board, after the resignations of the medical officers had been received, in order to take their sense upon this matter. This report, it is thought, will throw full light upon the subject.

I am also to call your attention to the fact that no complaint had been made to the Board by the medical officers who resigned against the Rules referred to, until the meeting of which you have the above named report, and which meeting took place fully one month after the resignations had been received.

For greater perspicuity, I quote the objections *seriatim* contained in your JOURNAL from the *Manchester Guardian*, and supply the answers by order of the Board of Management.

"1. That, having been deprived by the Board of Management of our privileges as trustees *ex officio*, and as members of the Board of Management, we were thereby prevented from being present at any weekly or special meeting of the Board of Management, or any annual or special general meeting of the trustees, although, at any such meeting, the medical affairs of the hospital might have come under consideration—affairs which the non-medical members of the Board of Management were totally incompetent to understand."

1. The constitution of the Board of Management, when the alteration was made, included the whole medical staff, or, in other words, the medical officers were individually members of the Board of Management, none of whom made any objection to the exclusion of the medical men. All approved of it except two.

By Rules 65, 66, and 67, which are still rules of the Hospital, the medical officers constitute a medical Board for the consideration of medical questions, and of any alterations which may tend to the advantage of the Hospital. This Board is also a Board of approval, or otherwise of medical testimonials of candidates.

"2. That by Rules 2 and 172, we should, in future, have been compelled to attend children of any age, and in any disease, whether infectious or otherwise, at any time, during day or night, and at any distance within the extreme hospital boundaries,—with which boundaries the subscriber may acquaint himself by referring to the back of the recommendation papers, including a population of nearly 300,000."

2. Rules 2 and 172 have never yet been put into operation. When they were suggested, it was proposed that not less than six assistant-surgeons should be additionally elected for this extra work. The opposition of the medical staff has prevented the working of this rule altogether. They have so far, by opposing the increase of the staff, prevented the extension of the blessings of this charity to the poor. The Board is waiting anxiously to meet the wants of the infant population by the appointment of additional medical officers, the necessity for which is shown by your leading article.

"3. That by Rule 53, in all cases of disease which do not appear to yield to a plan of treatment pursued for fourteen days, the surgeon in attendance must summon a consultation. This rule is a direct reflection upon the professional ability of the surgeon, and Rule 78 appears equally objectionable."

3. This Rule was made for the good of the patients, and for

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

- CARPENTER. On November 23rd, at Croydon, the wife of *Alfred Carpenter, M.B., of a son.
 KING. On November 20th, at Savile Row, the wife of Richard King, M.D., of a son.
 LAVIES. On November 24th, at 72, Warwick Square, Belgrave Road, the wife of — Lavies, M.D., of a son.
 MORGAN. On November 19th, at Albion Place, Hyde Park Square, the wife of John Morgan, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
 NODD. On November 18th, at Wokingham, Berks, the wife of George William Nodd, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
 SIMPSON. On November 18th, at 17, Mount Street, Westminster Road, the wife of George Simpson, jun., Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

- HEWSON—OTWAY. HEWSON, George F., M.D., of Cheltenham, to Martha, younger daughter of the late Reverend S. Jocelyn Otway, of Portland Place, at Leamington Priors, on November 18th.
 MACAULAY—WILKINSON. MACAULAY, Thomas, jun., Esq., of Kibworth Beauchamp, Leicestershire, third son of *Thomas Macaulay, Esq., Surgeon, of Leicester, to Louisa, third daughter of Nelson Wilkinson, Esq., of Peterborough, on November 18th.
 PORTER—WYER. PORTER, Nicholas Ellis, Esq., to Mary Anne, youngest daughter of John Wyer, Esq., Surgeon (half pay) 19th Regiment, at Leamington, on November 17th.
 WILSON—O'SHAUGHNESSY. WILSON, Charles C. W., Esq., Civil Assistant-Surgeon, Roorkee, to Nina Margaret, third daughter of Sir William B. O'Shaughnessy, M.D., F.R.S., Superintendent of Electric Telegraphs in India, at Christchurch, Massoorie, Bengal, on September 24th.
 WORKMAN—COATES. WORKMAN, Walter, Esq., of Queen's College, Oxford, youngest son of the late *Thomas Workman, Esq., Surgeon, of Bayswater, to Maria Woodd, eldest daughter of Edward Coates, Esq., Park Place Villas, at Paddington, on November 17th.

DEATHS.

- BOSTOCK. On November 19th, at Horsham, Sussex, Emma, wife of J. S. Bostock, Esq., Surgeon.
 ELKINGTON. On September 7th, before Delhi, from wounds received in the engagement of Nujuffghur, aged 21, Samuel Bucknill Elkington, Esq., Lieut. H.M. 61st Regiment, third son of *F. Elkington, M.D., Birmingham.
 MARTIN. On May 17th, at Akaroa, New Zealand, of consumption, Mary Louisa, wife of James Henry Martin, Esq., Surgeon, late of Bridgnorth.
 *THOMAS, James P., Esq., Surgeon, Pont-y-pridd, Glamorgan-shire, lately.

APPOINTMENTS.

- *BELL, John, Esq., elected Mayor of Grimsby for the ensuing year.
 DUCHEK, Professor, of Heidelberg, appointed Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Imperial Joseph's Academy at Vienna.
 DUNCAN, Peter M., M.B., elected Mayor of Colchester for the ensuing year.
 GILCHRIST, J., M.D., late Superintendent of the Montrose Lunatic Asylum, appointed Medical Superintendent of the Crichton Institution, Dumfries, in the room of Dr. W. A. F. Browne.
 HUNTER, G. Y., Esq., Surgeon, elected Mayor of Margate for the ensuing year.
 PITHA, Professor, of Prague, appointed Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Imperial Joseph's Academy at Vienna.
 ROLLESTON, George, M.B., appointed Lee's Reader in Anatomy in the University of Oxford.

SPRY, E. J., Esq., Surgeon, elected Mayor of Truro for the ensuing year.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, November 20th, 1857:—

BLENNERHASSETT, Edward, Killarney
 BURNS, William McGregor, Glasgow
 KELLAND, Charles Theophilus, Plaistow, Essex
 MANNING, Joseph, Northampton
 POOL, William Brooks, Canterbury
 ROBINSON, John, Frodsham, near Liverpool
 TOTHILL, John Henry Halhed, Topsham, Devon

At the same meeting of the Court:—

SYMONS, Croft George, of Haslar Hospital, passed his examination for Naval Surgeon. This gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the College: his diploma bearing date April 7th, 1854.

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 21st, 1857.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE present return furnishes an unfavourable indication of the state of the public health. The weekly number of deaths registered in London was in October about 1000; in the first half of the present month it was about 1160; and in the last week that ended on Saturday (November 21st), the deaths rose to 1382. During the seven weeks, to which reference is here made, the mean weekly temperature has fallen from 55° to 44°; latterly, this depression of temperature has been rapid, whilst other observations on the atmosphere have shown that it was humid in a high degree.

In the ten years 1847-56, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1101. But population has increased; and for the purpose of comparison, it is necessary to raise the average in proportion to the increase. With this correction, the average will become 1211; and it will appear that 171 persons died last week above the number that would have died under the average rate of mortality.

Of the 1382 deaths now returned, 390, or more than a fourth part, were produced by bronchial and pulmonary diseases. In addition to these, phthisis (or consumption) was fatal in 159 cases; and hooping-cough carried off 53 children; croup 17. The progress of bronchitis and pneumonia in the last four weeks is shown in the following numbers:—from the former disease, the deaths were successively 87, 116, 152, and (last week) 227; from the latter they were 77, 115, 108, and 127. Last week, bronchitis exceeded the corrected average by 124; pneumonia by only 23. In the present returns, the number of deaths recorded specially under influenza is only 9.

That persons of advanced age are the principal sufferers will appear from comparing the results of last week with those of the last week of October; for while the deaths of young persons (under 20 years) have increased from 503 to 635, those of persons who had attained the age of 60 years and upwards have risen from 184 to 332, showing a much greater proportional increase. The deaths of no fewer than 13 nonagenarians are now returned; all of these aged individuals were women, except two: two of them had reached the age of 94 years, and two the still riper age of 97.

A mate in the merchant service, aged 45 years, died on the 13th instant, on board the *Dreadnought* hospital ship, of cholera. This is the only case of that disease reported in the week. Two children, aged about one year, died of croup in different families, but in the same house, 42, Long Alley, in the Shoreditch district. One died on the 12th, the other on the 13th instant; the duration of illness was in one case one day, in the other two days. Three children died of measles at Plumstead: of eleven deaths in the sub-district of this name, six were from diseases of the zymotic character.

Last week the births of 886 boys and 864 girls, in all 1750 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1468.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 30.125 in. The mean daily barometrical reading rose above 30 in. on November 7th, and has continued above it during the whole of the last two weeks. The highest reading last week was 30.22 in., which occurred on Sunday. The mean temperature of the week was 44.2°, which is 1.8° above the average of the same week in 43 years

(as determined by Mr. Glaisher). On Wednesday, the range of temperature was 15.4° ; on the two following days it was only about 6° . The mean dew-point temperature was 42.4° , and the difference between this and the mean temperature of the air was 1.8° . The mean degree of humidity in the week was 93; and on Friday the humidity was equal to 100, which represents complete saturation. The mean daily temperature in the week of the water of the Thames was 48.3° . The wind was generally in the east or south-east. There was no rain during the week; but on Friday there were thick wetting fogs, and great darkness frequently prevailed.

INQUEST ON THE LATE MR. AUGUSTUS STAFFORD, M.P.

An inquest upon the late Mr. Augustus Stafford, M.P., was held on Wednesday, November 18th, at Morrison's Hotel, Dublin, by Mr. J. E. Hyndman, city coroner. Mr. P. Blake, Q.C., with Mr. A. R. Todd, appeared on behalf of the next of kin. Dr. Griffin, of Limerick, who had been in medical attendance upon the deceased, was likewise present, but had no counsel acting on his behalf.

MICHAEL NAUGHTEN deposed that he had been for twenty-three years in the employment of the deceased as travelling servant. About a month ago, Mr. Stafford arrived at Cratloe in very good health. About the 4th of November, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, he complained of a pain in the lower part of the stomach; this pain he had first about twelve months ago, and again in the course of the past summer. On the former occasion, he was ill about an hour and a half or two hours; and when he was again attacked in the summer, the pain only lasted about half an hour. On November 4th, when he found the pain continuing up to 5 o'clock, and that he was gradually getting worse, he sent witness for Dr. Griffin to Limerick, from which Cratloe is distant about five miles. Dr. Griffin arrived at Cratloe at half-past 6 o'clock. The deceased was in bed, suffering much more than he did at 5 o'clock. The doctor left Cratloe between 8 and 9 o'clock. He gave deceased two bottles, as witness believes, before he bled him. Having seen Dr. Cutler (who attended deceased in London when attacked in the same way) administer warm water to act as an emetic, witness gave some to Mr. Stafford, and succeeded in making his stomach sick previous to starting for Limerick; thinks Dr. Griffin also gave warm water before the bottles, but is unable to say whether or not it made the stomach again sick. Witness could not tell whether Dr. Griffin administered any more medicine than the two bottles. Deceased was bled in about half an hour after the arrival of Dr. Griffin. Mr. Stafford asked Dr. Griffin for some laudanum to give him rest, and the latter replied that he had given him some in the medicine which he had taken. About 11 o'clock, witness found his master sleeping, and breathing very heavily; this was unusual, for he was a very light sleeper, and was so easily awakened that the entrance of any person into the room was sufficient to rouse him. Dr. Griffin had left witness a powder, which he desired him to mix with a little sugar, and place on the tongue of deceased in the morning; he was also to get a wineglassful from a bottle which the doctor left. The next time witness saw deceased was about 2 o'clock in the morning, when he was still sleeping heavily, and lying upon his back. His breathing was more heavy than before. At 5 o'clock, Mr. Stafford tapped at witness's bedroom door, which closely adjoined his own sleeping apartment, and said, "My arm is bleeding; get up." Witness got up and followed him with a lighted candle; he bandaged the cut, and stopped the bleeding. Finding the bed to have been soiled by the blood, witness asked deceased to go into his (witness's) bed. This he did. Witness then called up the other servants, and desired them to get some new milk. This having been procured, witness returned to the room, and found his master again sleeping. Witness sent at once for the doctor. It was very difficult to awaken deceased when witness was about to give him the milk. He appeared then to be very heavy and shaky in his conversation. Witness asked him whether he should send for the doctor, but he said he thought he did not require him. Dr. Griffin arrived at Cratloe between 7 and 8 o'clock; and, on seeing deceased, said he should at once get out of bed. The latter demurred to this, and asked to be left there. The doctor, with the assistance of witness and a working man, had to drag him out of bed—not that he offered any resistance, more than evincing a strong inclination to lean back, but that he was so heavy as not to be able to render himself any assistance—the head drooped very much, and, notwith-

standing that witness, by the doctor's directions, kept deceased walking up and down for a quarter of an hour, he could only be kept awake for a moment or so by repeated shakings. He could speak two words quite sensibly, but before he had time to articulate a third he was asleep. When it was impossible to keep him awake any longer by walking him, he was placed upon a chair, and afterwards upon the bed, for the purpose of having the soles of his feet beaten to keep him awake. Dr. Griffin, the witness, and other men, beat his feet, first with a razor-strop and then with battledores, continuously from about half-past 8 A.M. till between 8 and 9 P.M. He was beaten on the feet until the skin blistered and came off; he used occasionally, when struck very hard, to rouse himself for a second, but always fell off again; he was struck on the palms of the hands and the calves of the legs, but ineffectually. When they left off beating, he appeared more lively and animated than when they began, and during the last half-hour he was more easily awakened, and cast off drowsiness more successfully; he sometimes rose from his chair, but soon fell back again. When the beating commenced, the feet appeared to have their natural heat; when the beating ceased, and Mr. Stafford was awakened, he was put into bed by Dr. Griffin's directions. Witness did not give deceased the powder or medicine which the doctor had left, and the latter said he was very glad he had not given them. About the middle of the day, Dr. Griffin called in Dr. Wilkinson of Limerick, who made one visit of about two hours duration. Dr. Griffin remained during the night until 9 o'clock next morning; deceased was still heavy and inclined to sleep, and continued so until his death, which took place at twenty minutes to 7 o'clock on Sunday evening, November 15th. He breathed and snored very hard, and used occasionally to start up suddenly. On Tuesday, the 10th inst., deceased left Cratloe, and on the following day he came to Dublin. On two occasions, Dr. Geary called at Cratloe with Dr. Griffin. After the beating had continued for three hours, Mr. Stafford's arm began again to bleed; during the progress of the beating, Dr. Griffin several times told witness that, if Mr. Stafford was allowed to sleep half an hour, he would never open his eyes again. Deceased said repeatedly that Dr. Griffin ought to be ashamed of himself for administering such a quantity of laudanum; he also said that, if Dr. Griffin "were not licensed, he would be transported." To witness's knowledge, Mr. Stafford did not speak about the laudanum to Dr. Griffin. Witness asked Dr. Griffin whether he thought going out in the air would injure Mr. Stafford: the doctor said he was of opinion it would do him good. He wrote immediately to Mr. Rynd, but he being in the country, he sent for Sir Henry Marsh. On the night that Mr. Stafford arrived in Limerick, he was seen there by Drs. Griffin and Geary.

SIR HENRY MARSH, M.D., was acquainted with Mr. Stafford, and prescribed for him a long time ago. On Wednesday, November 11, witness saw him about seven o'clock. He was up, but in a state of extreme debility. He had great difficulty in getting upstairs. Witness became aware from Mr. Stafford himself that he had been attended by Dr. Griffin, and afterwards from a letter which he received from Dr. Griffin. That letter he enclosed by permission of Dr. Griffin to Colonel Herbert, the Chief Secretary. From the contents of that letter, and from Mr. Stafford's own communication to witness, as well as from the result of the *post mortem* examination, the witness had a strong impression that the violent pain complained of in the original attack arose from gall-stones. He suspected it during the lifetime of Mr. Stafford, but had no proof of it until the *post mortem* examination. The gall-stones were in the bladder, and witness believed that one had commenced to get into the duct, and caused the great pain. One symptom of gall-stones was wanting. The deceased was not jaundiced. That is generally the case; exceptions are rare. Laudanum is the usual remedy in case of gall-stones. In fact it is the sheet anchor. If the complaint had been gall-stones, Dr. Griffin's line of treatment would have been correct; of course generally. The effect of an emetic in the first instance is depressing, but it passes away. A mixture of laudanum, hyoscyamus, or henbane and ether, fifty drops of each, is a full dose; but it depends upon the amount of pain. Witness thought that the stomach being emptied by an emetic would increase the effect of the dose. A second dose similar to the first in all respects, and a third dose resembling the other two, with the exception of the ether, he should consider a very large quantity to be administered within two hours, unless the pain were excessive. Nothing else could justify it. He should consider that the pain should be such as to endanger life to justify the giving of such a quantity; but excessive pain long

continued does endanger life. Witness could scarcely conceive that any circumstances would justify the giving of a fourth dose similar in quantity within two hours. There are some persons so strong and so vigorous that they will take a much larger dose; but to a person unaccustomed to laudanum he should consider the quantity excessive. In the judgment of witness, bleeding would tend to increase the narcotic powers of these medicines on the constitution; but there are cases of very violent bleeding, where opium given in large quantities has not that effect, and where laudanum may be given in full dose without mischievous results. He could not call to memory any case of hæmorrhage in which the quantities of narcotic medicine that have been mentioned were given to subdue intense pain; but he had seen other cases of excessive pain, and of *delirium tremens*, in which the same amount was administered. The cases of hæmorrhage he alluded to were cases of parturition, which he only knew from hearsay. Witness believed that Mr. Stafford had recovered from the effects of the narcotic medicine when he saw him; and, save so far as it debilitated him, it did not contribute to his death. Bleeding and narcotic medicines unquestionably did debilitate him. If he had had a perfectly strong sound heart he would have recovered. Extreme inanition or debility was the cause of his death. After frequent examinations witness discovered that the action of the heart was extremely feeble, and also that of his pulse; the origin of that debility he believed to have been from a soft, weak, fatty heart, and thinness of the blood. The debility of his heart was instrumental in causing his death; and he believed that for about thirty-eight hours there was an almost total suppression of urine. Instruments ascertained that the bladder was empty, but he was relieved by diuretics. Witness thought the state of his kidneys had a share in his death. The state of the heart could not be clearly ascertained during the time that the remedies were being administered. Witness had known opium to produce suppression, but he had not known it to produce albumen in urine. From the letter that he got from Dr. Griffin he would not say there was a mistake in the treatment. It appeared to be very strong, but he would not form an opinion of its necessity in a case in which he was not present. He would consider the stertorous breathing during the night, and the necessity of flogging the soles of Mr. Stafford's feet to arouse him from lethargy during the whole of the next day, as decided evidences of his having been completely narcotised. The reopening of the wound and the secondary bleeding, superadded to the other causes, had a powerful influence in increasing the ultimate danger. In his opinion, that second bleeding was very instrumental in bringing about the fatal result.

MR. GEORGE PORTER made a *post mortem* examination of the body of the late Mr. Stafford, assisted by Professor Robert Smith; Sir H. Marsh was present for a few moments, and after seeing the heart he went away; Mr. Cusack and Mr. Rynd were also present for a short time. The following are the notes of the result of the *post mortem* :—

"The only external marks of violence on the body were a slight abrasion of the left leg, and the incision of the operation for venesection performed on the right arm. Signs of decomposition were well marked on the upper part of the chest and arms, which had a greenish appearance; the veins in this situation looked dark, and contained air; liver well marked on posterior aspect of the body; pupils of eyes natural in size; some of the superficial veins of forehead were somewhat distended. On opening the thorax I found the lungs healthy, with the exception of a few old adhesions of the right pleura; both sides of the chest contained about five ounces of bloody serum; the heart was larger than natural, very soft, and felt emphysematous; its parietes greatly thinned, and its substance easily torn: it contained very little blood, and a fibrinous clot lay in the right ventricle. There was a large quantity of fat on the right side of the heart, and on placing it in a basin of water it floated. On the front of the trachea, about the bifurcation, a tumour was found about the size of a walnut; it consisted of a cyst containing a soft white substance resembling putty. On opening the abdomen a layer of fat was divided an inch thick; the cavity contained a small quantity of bloody serum; the liver was larger than natural, and two tubercles were found developed in it; the gall bladder contained numerous biliary calculi; the stomach a little fluid, and was rapidly undergoing decomposition; the kidneys were somewhat larger than natural; the bladder was nearly empty; the intestines generally appeared normal. On examining the head I found some slight subarachnoid effusion, but no congestion of the membranes or substance of the brain. On cutting into the brain scarcely a

drop of blood was visible, and its ventricles contained no serum; at the base, about the origin of the olfactory nerves, there was some slight fulness of the vessels, but not to any considerable extent."

From the result of the *post mortem* examination, the witness would say that Mr. Stafford died of fatty degeneration of the heart. The loss of even a small quantity of blood would be highly injurious and dangerous to a man affected with fatty degeneration of the heart. The administration of any narcotics would be highly injurious. A man labouring under fatty degeneration disease would be more easily affected by a narcotic than a man with a healthy heart. Witness did not think the beating of the soles of the feet conducted in any degree to the debility spoken of by Sir H. Marsh as the cause of death. To a man completely narcotised it was absolutely necessary. He did not believe that to any physician or surgeon, however accomplished, it is possible to discover the existence of fatty degeneration of the heart in the early stages. His opinion was that the excessive pain described was produced by the gall-stones; there were nineteen in the bladder, but none in the duct.

DR. ROBERT SMITH, Professor of Surgery in the University of Dublin, assisted Surgeon Porter in the *post mortem* examination. The heart was far advanced in disease. It could not have been in a sound state a fortnight or three weeks previous to his death. It had been going on in that state probably for years. It was quite possible that a competent medical man making a careful examination of Mr. Stafford during life might have, without culpable oversight or negligence, failed to discover the existence of fatty degeneration. There was no other disease of the heart. In witness's opinion, fatty degeneration was the immediate cause of his death. Bleeding would aggravate the attendant debility, and hasten death. The second bleeding, in his opinion, increased the debility and impeded the heart's action. The violent pain from the gall-stones would increase the debility, and consequently impede the action of the heart, but would not increase the disease. The presence of very violent pain not in the region of the heart would tend to prevent the discovery of the disease of the heart.

The Right Hon. HENRY ARTHUR HERBERT, M.P., Chief Secretary for Ireland, was a very intimate friend for many years of the late Mr. Stafford, and visited him daily during his recent illness in Dublin. The witness explained the circumstances which had led to the institution of the inquest on Mr. Stafford. He said, in conclusion, that what had taken place showed the advisability of having an inquest, inasmuch as the regret he felt for the loss of his friend had been, to a certain extent, softened by the evidence given of his having been afflicted with affection of the heart.

A discussion ensued with reference to the reading of letters written by Dr. Griffin to Sir Henry Marsh and Mr. Rynd.

DR. GRIFFIN had not the smallest objection.

The letters addressed to Sir H. Marsh and Dr. Rynd were then read at length; they contained a singularly minute and accurate description of the symptoms and treatment of the deceased, and in the opinion of those present established satisfactorily that every possible precaution had been taken by Dr. Griffin.

At the request of Dr. Griffin, Professor SMITH was recalled, and stated,—The interval of eleven hours between the giving of a full dose of laudanum and the manifestation of its narcotic effects is most unusual. I think the only rational explanation that can be given of their appearance in this case after so long an interval is the additional loss of blood consequent upon the accidental slipping of the bandage in the course of the night. (Mr. Porter agreed in this opinion.) He would say the narcotic effects were not postponed for eleven hours, but they did not come on with full severity until after the bleeding was renewed. A person able to feel himself bleeding, get up, walk into another room, and give notice to a servant, could not at the time be dangerously narcotised.

MR. HYNDMAN then inquired whether Dr. Griffin had any evidence which he was desirous to produce, or whether he wished himself to be examined?

DR. GRIFFIN wished merely to state that he could not charge himself with having acted rashly or improperly. He did not know how any man could withhold relief from a patient in excruciating agony, where the pain still continued, and where he still cried out for relief, the first dose not being effectual; he believed that any man in the same circumstances that he was in would have exercised the same discretion. As the jury had been told by Sir H. Marsh, it was by the intensity of the pain only that a man could judge of the remedies that were to be applied. On yesterday (Tuesday) evening he got a telegram

stating that an inquest was to be held. He had previously written to say that he had not the least objection to his letters being placed in the hands of the Chief Secretary, and that the case should receive full investigation. Upon learning that the inquest would be held that day, he came up by the night mail; and he could only now say that if the coroner or any of the jury had any question to ask respecting the case he was quite willing to put himself under examination with the same freedom with which he had delivered up the letters, and asked to have them read.

Mr. HYNDMAN then proceeded to charge the jury. He did not consider that Dr. Griffin could be held accountable for the death of Mr. Stafford, unless he ignorantly, with gross ignorance, committed some act or administered certain medicines which were the immediate cause of his death. It was for the jury to say, after the evidence that had been given by Professor Smith, Surgeon Porter, and Sir Henry Marsh, whether, after the *post mortem* examination exhibiting the diseased state of Mr. Stafford's heart, and considering that that disease had been in progress for many years, and that it is one most difficult, and in its earliest stages almost impossible of discovery,—whether, under the excruciating agony that he was suffering, which must, of course, have rendered discovery of the existing disease still more difficult, Dr. Griffin did adopt a correct or incorrect system of treatment under the circumstances. If they should be of opinion that he did not do anything by mistake or through gross ignorance, such as a competent medical man in the exercise of his discretion ought to avoid, it will be their duty to include that opinion in the verdict. There was no doubt that the immediate cause of death was the great debility consequent upon the fatty degeneration of the heart.

The jury unanimously agreed to the following verdict:—“We find that the said Stafford Augustus O'Brien Stafford died from natural causes; and that there is no blame to be attached to Dr. Griffin for the treatment which deceased received while at Limerick under his care.”

Mr. KEMMIS, the Crown Solicitor, was happy to add that he had arrived, in his own mind, at the same conclusion as the jury; but he had not done so until he had heard the evidence throughout.

The proceedings then terminated, having been prolonged from about half-past 11 A.M. until 7 o'clock P.M.

The following letter regarding this case has been sent by Dr. Griffin to the *Times*.

“SIR,—Will you grant me space for a few remarks on your article of Saturday last in reference to the late Mr. Stafford, in which the following passage occurs?—

“‘A quantity of laudanum was also administered to alleviate the excessive pain. From that time he became gradually worse, and, though everything was done to relieve him from the deep sleep into which he had fallen, it was useless. Mr. Stafford died on Sunday last, and the circumstances of his death made it necessary to hold a coroner's inquest. The result has been to acquit the medical man, Dr. Griffin, of blame, and to establish that Mr. Stafford died from natural causes, though there cannot be a doubt that the opiates administered were unprecedently large in quantity, and might, without an excess of suspicion, be thought to have been fatal to the patient.’

“The first part of this statement seems to have been founded upon an assertion made by his servant, that from the time of the administration of the laudanum ‘he was always nodding asleep and snoring up to the time of his death.’ There were many facts not brought out at the inquest, as the public and the profession shall see clearly yet, which might have been brought out had I been disposed to place myself in the position of the defendant before any charge was established against me; but this statement of the servant is so wholly false, that I am anxious the public should be no further misled by it. The fact is, that on Friday morning—the narcotism from the opiate having passed off entirely the evening before—Mr. Stafford, though weak, looked on himself as convalescent, and only requiring a little time. He insisted on getting out of bed on Saturday against my strongest remonstrances, came down to the drawing-room, and spent the day there, read the papers, saw such of his friends and acquaintances as came to visit him, ate some wild fowl each day for his dinner, and on Tuesday at Cruise's Hotel, the eve of his departure for Dublin, ate as hearty a dinner as could be wished, and drank some porter. It was from this period forward he decidedly fell off, and the exhausting effect of the journey to Dublin—a journey undertaken on his own inflexible determination—had a good deal to

do with the rapid and melancholy course his disorder took subsequently.

“As to the second statement, that ‘there cannot be a doubt that the opiates administered were unprecedently large in quantity,’ I maintain boldly that they were not so. I say, without fear of contradiction, that they were justified by the circumstances; that as large, and far larger, doses are safely given every day in the profession under a similar state of symptoms; and that in this case, even with the doses given, the world would never have heard of narcotism at all if it was not for the state of Mr. Stafford's heart—a state undiscoverable at the time. I go further, and I say boldly and without fear, and I call on the profession to say if the assertion be not true, that when life is endangered by acute pain there is almost no limit to the endurance of this medicine by persons in severe suffering, if the pain be taken as a guide; and that it is excruciating and unendurable. I have had several communications from medical men since the inquest, directing my attention to records of cases in which they had given far larger quantities than any administered here, and with the most complete safety and advantage. Of these I shall only call your attention to the following, which seems peculiarly apposite, though by no means the strongest of them; and you may judge of the feeling of the profession on this question of doses, when I mention that I received the notice of it this morning from a gentleman in England with whom I have not the least acquaintance:—

“‘But, of all the sedatives known to our art, opium, when it does not from some peculiarity of system derange, is the most powerful.

“‘It is well known that, during the acute pain arising from the passage of gall-stones, or the similarly acute pain of a calculus passing down the ureter on either side, a great quantity of this medicine may be given without the smallest danger, the relief of pain showing the period for leaving off.

“‘I have seen, in a paroxysm of gall-stones, 300 drops of laudanum given in two hours, without any effect except the relief of pain. The patient drove and dined out on the next day, without suffering from headache, nausea, or any of the usual effects from this drug which would have occurred under other circumstances.’—Dr. Seymour on *Severe Diseases of the Human Body*, vol. i, p. 249.

“I am, sir, your obedient servant,

“DANIEL GRIFFIN.

“56, George Street, Limerick, Nov. 24.”

BATH UNITED HOSPITAL: INAUGURATION OF A BUST OF GEORGE NORMAN, ESQ.

A FEW weeks ago, a testimonial was presented to our esteemed associate and Vice-President, Mr. Norman, of Bath, from the working classes of that city. On Wednesday, November 18th, a meeting was held for the purpose of inaugurating a marble bust of that gentleman, to be placed in the hall of the United Hospital. Mr. Norman resigned the office of surgeon to that institution in March, 1856; and the following circular was thereupon issued:

“Mr. Norman having resigned the office of Surgeon to the Bath United Hospital, after a service of most distinguished usefulness of nearly half a century, the President, Trustees, and Committee of the Hospital consider that the occasion should not be allowed to pass by without offering to that gentleman some substantial and lasting memorial of the great esteem and respect in which he is held by all classes of his fellow citizens, in consideration of the eminent ability and benevolence he has so long displayed in the discharge of his important duties.

“The Trustees and Committee of the Hospital therefore request the co-operation of the public generally in order to obtain such a fund as will be worthy of the object proposed. With this view subscription lists will be opened at the various Banks and public Libraries. It is not desired to limit the amount of the subscription; this much, however, may be safely stated, that no sum will be considered insignificant when offered as a mark of gratitude and respect.

“The form which the proposed testimonial should take, must depend somewhat upon the amount subscribed. It is, however, thought that something which should permanently connect Mr. Norman's name with the United Hospital would be most gratifying to him, as it could, at the same time, be made to advance the usefulness of the Hospital itself, an object that has always been among the foremost of Mr. Norman's life. This is

a matter for future consideration, in which the wishes of the subscribers must be the guide.

"P. B. DUNCAN, D.C.L., *President*; WILLIAM BUSH, *Mayor of Bath*; T. H. KING, GEORGE MONKLAND, W. JACKSON, C. D. BAILEY, J. S. SODEN; WILLIAM DAVIES, M.D., *Secretary and Treasurer*."

The above gentlemen were appointed a sub-Committee to initiate a testimonial to Mr. Norman at a special meeting of the Trustees and Committee of the Hospital, called together with that object; and a very handsome sum having been subscribed, it was resolved that the memorial should consist of a marble bust of Mr. Norman to be placed in the Hospital.

The memorial was entrusted to Mr. Behnes, of London, who has produced a bust which is in every respect a most faithful likeness of Mr. Norman.

The bust, which is of white marble, bears the following inscription—"George Norman. A Vice-President and Consulting Surgeon of the Bath United Hospital. This Bust has been placed here by Mr. Norman's friends, as a public and lasting testimony of their admiration and gratitude for the eminent services rendered by him to the poor of this city as surgeon, first to the Bath Casualty Hospital, and subsequently to the Bath United Hospital, during a period of fifty years."

His Worship the Mayor (Dr. Falconer) having been called to the chair, read a letter from W. Tite, Esq., M.P., regretting his inability to be present. His Worship also read the letter, dated March 31st, 1856, from Mr. Norman, tendering his resignation, and the reply of the Committee.

Dr. DAVIES stated that the bust had been executed at a cost of £150, and that there was still a surplus in hand of nearly £200, which he was prepared to hand over to Mr. Norman.

The MAYOR said that he very much regretted that the venerable President of the Hospital was not present to preside. Mr. Norman having been so long connected with the surgical profession of Bath, and having exercised his professional skill in an exceedingly humane manner, it must be to him, and to those connected with him, a source of considerable pride to find that the public had placed in the Hospital a permanent record of their feelings towards him. He trusted that Mr. Norman would, through him, accept the sincere wish of the subscribers to the memorial, that he might long live to look upon this record of his valuable services, and their gratitude to him for the manner in which he had rendered them. [*Applause*.]

Mr. NORMAN, after expressing his thanks to the Mayor and the President of the Hospital, said: My grateful thanks are due to those of my friends present, as well as to many who are absent. Their kindness in procuring the splendid memorial which is now in the hall of the Hospital (which, as a work of art, is much to be admired), is beyond all that I could expect. I felt greatly embarrassed and distressed when I sent in my resignation of the situation I had held for so many years. It appeared to me as though my life were sliding from me, and that by my own act; but the kindness of the President's letter, and the other kind acts of the committee restored me to myself, and I felt that I had acted rightly, in justice not only to myself but to the charity, and to my brethren in the profession. It is a very easy task to express sentiments, but a difficult, if not impracticable one to express feelings. I therefore trust that you all, in the kindness of your hearts, will supply that language which I am myself unable to express. I sincerely hope that the satisfaction which I am sure you all feel in this day's proceedings may be reflected on you individually in the form of health, happiness, and prosperity. You have placed this bust of me in the scene of my labours, and in a situation which is most dear to me. It is dear to me from the number of years I have spent in it, from the labours I have had to undergo, and from the kindness I have received from all who were connected with the institution. It is first endeared to me by the recollection of the Casualty Hospital—one of the two charities by the union of which this hospital was formed. That was first proposed, and afterwards assisted, and the surgical duties connected with it were performed, by my father. It is also endeared to me by the memory of the late Dr. Parry, who, for many years, was the only physician of the Casualty Hospital. From him I received instruction and kindness which I cannot attempt to express. I also feel the recollection of that hospital dear to me from the circumstance of its being the scene of all my early professional labours. It is dear to me also from the recollection of the gentlemen who have been my pupils. One of these has been for a long time one of my colleagues in this hospital; others are engaged in the medical and surgical practice in this town, others in various parts of the kingdom, and some abroad, and all have been my friends. The hospital

in which you have placed this honourable memorial of me is also very dear to me from the circumstance that I was appointed by the trustees of the Casualty Hospital to meet the late Mr. Hastings Elwin, who was appointed by the Trustees and Committee of the Bath City Infirmary and Dispensary, to discuss and suggest the terms on which the two hospitals should be united. From the result of our discussions arose the splendid establishment we are now in. This hospital is likewise dear to me from the number of years that I have been employed and from the anxieties and cares that I have undergone in it. It is endeared to me also from the fact that I was brought into association with the gentlemen who have had its management, from whom I have received an amount of kindness which I can scarcely express, and because the association which I have had with my colleagues has been of the most pleasant and harmonious kind. The bust which you, ladies and gentlemen, have been pleased to fix in the hall of this building—the highest honour that could be conferred on any one—to identify me with this hospital, is to me most gratifying, and I will venture to believe that my image may speak a language pleasing to the governors, to the medical staff, and other officials of the hospital, when the voice of him whom it represents shall be no more heard; and I sincerely hope that the hospital may continue to prosper; that no differences of opinion, no dissensions, no jealousies, and no adverse circumstances will ever arise to sully the whiteness of the marble of which that bust is formed, or to darken one page in the future history of the hospital. [*Cheers*.]

I will now, ladies and gentlemen, again thank you for your kindness from my heart, and will express my sincere hope that you may, each and all of you, be blessed with health, happiness, and prosperity, as long as you live. [*Loud cheers*.]

Mr. J. S. SODEN, having been for a lengthened period a colleague of Mr. Norman in the hospital, fully concurred in all that had been said and done in favour of Mr. Norman. There was one fact which ought ever to be remembered, namely, that the establishment of the United Hospital would never have taken place but for the great exertions of Mr. Norman. From his long acquaintance with Mr. Norman, he could with truthfulness say that no one had more cordially received the approbation of his professional brethren. [*Applause*.]

Mr. W. HUNT moved "that the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to the Chairman and Committee for their valuable services in connection with this testimonial." He said: The character and qualities of Mr. Norman are clear and distinct to us all. It would be needless for me to dilate upon Mr. Norman's estimable qualities, his operating skill, his pathological knowledge, and his almost intuitive faculty of discerning and dealing with injury and disease. A thousand—I might say ten thousand—that have been benefited by his talent might be called to prove this; and I may be allowed to say that the opportunity which I had the honour and advantage to enjoy as a student under him in the Hospital indelibly impressed my mind with his profound skill. Such a man is an ornament to his profession, an honour to his family, and a providential blessing to the community. For, besides the immediate advantage he has been to cases of disastrous casualty and disease, he has not been less so as a necessary, not ostentatious, example of intelligence, judgment, and skill; and in this way kindling a generous flame of emulation in the minds of others engaged in the same profession, he has served the science he loves, and mainly contributed to the men of excellence and talent we have now in the Hospital and in the city, and in this may satisfy himself that his usefulness will extend far beyond his own day and generation. And is it not an elevating and most grateful consideration that all this ability has for years, not ten or twenty, but hardly less than fifty, been devoted, through the Hospital, to the assistance of multitudes of the poorest of the poor? It is a most striking and honourable feature in the medical profession that the poorest of the community may obtain the advice and assistance of the most eminent medical man. This advantage is secured through our Hospitals, and in this way gives a most benevolent prominence to the medical world over other professions. To this work Mr. Norman has sedulously, heartily devoted himself. As far as his strength carried him, he never faltered in this gracious labour; nay, he took such pleasure in it, that, seeing him, one would think that he was the party relieved rather than he who performed the task of giving relief. Long may he live to enjoy the honour and esteem he has so well earned from the community; long may society continue to enjoy the advantage of his professional knowledge, which his health and strength so plainly enable him to give; and when time shall carry him, as indeed it must all of us, to the closing scene of this present

life, may it be only to open to him another, where he shall experience that imperishable happiness and honour which have been graciously promised to every "good and faithful servant." [*Loud Applause.*]

Mr. JEROM MURCH seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. NORMAN, a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the President of the Hospital, P. B. Duncan, Esq.

Dr. DAVIES, in the absence of the President, acknowledged the vote which had been passed to that gentleman, and to the Committee by whom the memorial had been got up. He could assure the meeting that the labour they had performed had afforded all who were engaged in it the utmost pleasure.

After a cordial vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding, the proceedings terminated.

THE QUARANTINE IN MADEIRA. A writer in a recent number of the *Times*, in a letter dated November 18th, says:—"It is not surprising that the people of Madeira, smarting under the remembrance that the dreadful visitation of cholera, from which they suffered in 1856, was caused by an inconsiderate transmission of troops from Lisbon, should vehemently demand the enforcement of the quarantine laws or something more, to guard themselves against the fever which is desolating that city. But it is just ground of complaint that these laws, vexatious in themselves, should be enforced in the most vexatious manner. I learn from a letter, dated from the Lazaretto at Funchal, that nearly sixty persons were crammed into a house not fit to accommodate more than twenty; that the term of quarantine was arbitrarily doubled; that, though the walls of the Lazaretto run down on both sides to the edge to the sea, the inmates were at first debarred from the beach altogether; that no articles of any kind were admitted into the Lazaretto, except at fixed hours, though there was a guard always on the spot; that in consequence, the inmates were left for the whole of one evening and night without water, and without milk for two nights, though both the water and the milk were lying at the gate from 4 P.M. till 9 A.M.; that one of the inmates who landed in a dying state prayed in vain for water to cool his parched mouth, and actually died without obtaining it; that no one was allowed to hold converse with the inmates, standing forty feet outside the wall, except at certain hours, some of which were at midday, when it was too hot to move; and that consequently persons who came from long distances to see their friends were sent back by the guard, according to orders received. I think it well that petty tyranny of this kind should be exposed, especially when inflicted by the officers of our ancient ally, the King of Portugal."

THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY: QUESTION OF EXEMPTION FROM POOR-RATES. In the Court of Queen's Bench, the opinion of the Court was taken some days ago as to whether the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London was liable to be assessed to the poor-rate in respect of the Society's house, situate at No. 53, Berners Street, Oxford Street. The Society occupied the whole of the house in question, with the exception of two rooms and a cellar and stables. The two rooms and cellar, with right of access through the street-door and staircase, were let off to the Society for the Relief of the Widows and Orphans of Medical Men in London and its Vicinity, at the annual rent of £52:10; and on the occasion of such letting, it was agreed between the two societies that the Widows and Orphans Society might place a brass-plate on the outer door; that they should be supplied with gas in the rooms so let to them; and that they might use for general meetings, if required, the first room on the first floor, which was otherwise occupied by the Medico-Chirurgical Society. The Society had been rated at a rateable value of £156 for the whole building, the rooms being let to the Widows and Orphans Society for £52:10, and the stables to other parties for £30 per annum. Exemption from rateability was claimed, upon the ground that the Society was established exclusively for the purposes of science, literature, or the fine arts, and so came within the 6th and 7th of Victoria, cap. 36. It was agreed that if the exemption existed as to the whole house, except the stables and rooms let, the rate should be reduced to £75; but if it existed, except as to the stables and rooms let, and also except as to the first room on the first floor, the rate should be reduced to £45.

Mr. HUDDLESTON Q.C., (with whom was Mr. Taylor), was heard for the respondents; and Mr. C. POLLOCK for the Society.

Lord CAMPBELL was of opinion that the Society came within the Act of Parliament, being established exclusively for purposes of science, literature, or the fine arts. It appeared that a part of the house was let off as a separate tenement. That might be rated separately; and where that was the case, it would not take away the exemption of the Society. But with regard to the room used for the general meetings of the Widows and Orphans Society, his Lordship thought the objection was fatal. It must be taken as part of the agreement of letting, that it was agreed that the Widows and Orphans Society might place a brass-plate on the outer door, that they should be supplied with gas in the rooms so let to them, and that they might use for general meetings, if required, the first room on the first-floor, which was otherwise occupied by the Medico-Chirurgical Society. The latter Society could not be considered as in the exclusive occupation of that room; and therefore he felt bound to give judgment against them. The Society was a very laudable one; and as the defect could be easily cured, it would be able to enjoy the exemption.

Mr. Justice COLERIDGE and Mr. Justice WIGHTMAN expressed themselves to the same effect, and thought that physic and surgery ought to be ranked among the "applied sciences".

Mr. HUDDLESTON asked that the rate should be confirmed, and with costs; but, after some discussion as to how the decision of the Court should be applied to the questions, submitted to it,

Lord CAMPBELL said the rate must be reduced to £75.

According to the practice of the Court, this would be without costs.

AN EXAMPLE OF BENEVOLENCE. The following advertisement has recently appeared in the *Times*. "A retired physician, whose sands of life have nearly run out, discovered while in the East Indies a certain cure for consumption, asthma, bronchitis, coughs, colds, etc. The remedy was discovered by him when his only child, a daughter, was given up to die. He had heard much of the wonderful restorative and healing qualities of preparations made from the East India Hemp, and the thought occurred to him that he might make a remedy for his child. He studied hard, and succeeded in realising his wishes. His child was cured, and is now alive and well. He has since administered the wonderful remedy to thousands of sufferers in all parts of the world, and he has never failed in making them completely healthy and happy. Wishing to do as much good as possible, he will send to such of his afflicted fellow-beings as request it this recipe, with full and explicit directions for making it up and successfully using it. He requires each applicant to enclose him six stamps—one to be returned as postage on the recipe, and the remainder to be applied to the payment of this advertisement. Address H. James, M.D., 14, Cecil Street, Strand." Our readers will doubtless join us in our profound admiration of the unfailing skill and philanthropic benevolence of the "retired physician". Really his name ought not to lie hidden beneath a pseudonym!

COMMITTAL OF A SERVANT FOR ADMINISTERING LAUDANUM. At the High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh, lately, Elizabeth Hamilton, domestic servant, pleaded guilty to culpable homicide, in so far as she administered about ten drops of laudanum to the infant son of Mr. Alexander Drysdale, in order to induce sleep, but which produced death. She was sentenced to eighteen months imprisonment.

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.

CANTRELL *versus* THE BOARD OF GUARDIANS OF THE BELPER UNION. The Report of this important trial shall appear in our next number.

Communications have been received from:—Mr. I. HARRINSON; Mr. W. W. MORGAN; Mr. E. L. HUSSEY; Mr. W. BRIGHAM; Mr. JOSEPH DELVES; Mr. PETER MARTIN; Dr. W. WEBB; Dr. A. P. STEWART; Dr. THOMAS SOUTHAM; Mr. A. PRICHARD; Dr. LOGAN; Mr. T. HOLMES; Mr. W. D. HUSBAND; Mr. J. V. SOLOMON; Dr. C. HANDFIELD JONES; Mr. W. WALKER; Mr. STONE; Mr. B. W. BROWN; Mr. J. W. FLETCHER; Dr. OWEN DALY; Dr. D. GREIG; Dr. P. H. WILLIAMS; Mr. G. F. BODINGTON; Mrs. LEWIS; Mr. P. C. PRICE; THE STUDENTS OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM; Mr. CHARLES THOMPSON; Mr. G. SOUTHAM; Mr. WALTER GARSTANG; Mr. W. J. MOORE; Mr. C. LEONARD; and Mr. I. B. BROWN.