

with a good working staff, and that its labours may deserve and obtain the hearty support of the profession, is our earnest wish. There is plenty of work for it to do; and all medical literates will watch its proceedings with interest and with hope.

Dr. Rigby has published in the *Times* a letter to the Earl of Galloway, President of the General Lying-in Hospital, setting forth his reasons for resigning the office of physician to that institution. The facts of the case, as we gather them from this letter, are, that Dr. Rigby has for nearly twenty years been attempting to have Dr. Reid's system of ventilation introduced into the hospital; that when he was successful in having the plan properly carried out, the mortality was greatly reduced; that on the stopping the ventilation, or rendering the apparatus useless, the mortality greatly increased; that, in consequence of a recurrence of puerperal fever last summer, Dr. Rigby requested Dr. Odling, Medical Officer of Health for Lambeth, to inspect the hospital; that he received the censure of the hospital committee for so doing; and that he has resigned in disgust. If the figures given be correct, they certainly show immensely in favour of the benefits of ventilation, as will be seen from the following summary:—

Date.	State of Hospital.	Deliveries.	Deaths.	Deaths per 1000.
January 1837 to				
August 1841 .	No ventilation ..	802 ..	61 ..	76.05
April 1842 to ..	Apparatus wilfully			
March 1843 . ..	rendered useless ..	209 ..	10 ..	90.00
April 1843 to	Ventilation car-			
April 1850 . ..	ried out. ..	1661 ..	8 ..	4.81
April 1850 to				
May 1855 . ..	No ventilation ..	1158 ..	30 ..	25.9

There may be two sides to this question, and as yet we have heard only one. But we think that no one, except ærophobic Sairey Gamps and Betsey Prigs, will dare to gainsay the assertion of Dr. Rigby, that—"Such overpowering facts establish the certainty that a great number of women will die at the General Lying-in Hospital if this system of ventilation be stopped, and that a most unusual healthiness of the patients and singularly few deaths occur when it is in action." Nor will any rational man be surprised to find Dr. Rigby denouncing the wilful destruction of the ventilation in the face of such evidence, as an act closely verging on criminality, and refusing to have anything to do with aught of the kind.

## Association Intelligence.

### SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH:

SOCIAL AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS RESIDENT IN ROCHESTER, MAIDSTONE, GRAVESEND, AND THEIR VICINITIES.

SCIENTIFIC and social meetings of members of the South-Eastern Branch resident in Rochester, Maidstone, Gravesend, and their vicinities, will be held on the under mentioned days:

Friday, February 12th, 1858, at 4.30 P.M., at the Guildhall, Maidstone.

Friday, March 12th, 1858, at 3.30 P.M., at the Guildhall, Gravesend.

The members resident in this district will be gratified by the attendance and assistance of any of the members of the British Medical Association.

All members of the South-Eastern Branch may attend these meetings, and be at liberty to introduce any professional friends.

Any member of the profession may, by permission of the Chairman, attend one of these meetings, subject to the rules of the Parent Society.

JAMES DULVEY, *Local Sec. pro tem.*

Brompton, Chatham:

## Reports of Societies.

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MONDAY, JANUARY 4TH, 1858.

JOHN SNOW, M.D., in the Chair.

CAUSES WHICH INFLUENCE THE ARREST OR SPREAD OF CHOLERA.  
BY F. H. JOHNSON, ESQ., BISHOPSWEARMOUTH.

[Read by Dr. McWILLIAM.]

THE author commenced his paper by expressing the opinion that if cholera did not become a disease indigenous to this country, it was at least probable that the intervals between its visitations would be shortened, and that on each occasion it would disseminate more widely its influence upon the bills of mortality. It was therefore desirable, as a question of pathological interest, and as one upon the settling of which some groundwork for the establishment of definite sanitary laws might be raised; that more harmonious opinions should prevail among the profession than at present exist regarding the origin and propagation of cholera. The facts upon which Mr. JOHNSON'S paper was based, were stated to be the result of observations made at Sunderland during the three occasions on which that seaport was invaded by cholera; viz., in 1831-2; 1848-9; and 1853-4.

In the first period there died 202; or 1 in 200 of population.  
" second " 359 " 1 " 185 " "  
" third " 28 " 1 " 2230 " "

Mr. JOHNSON was of opinion that on each of these occasions the first case of the disease was imported by shipping, and that the subject of the disease had first arrived in port from Ham-burgh. The main object of this paper being to show how far personal intercourse influences the propagation of cholera, Mr. JOHNSON observed that in every instance at Sunderland a case has been imported from a remote infected district, and proved more or less fatal to persons in direct communication with it; but that an interval always existed during which the cases were more or less solitary before the epidemic or spontaneous eruption took place; that the course of the epidemic was gradual, acquiring a maximum intensity, and then frequently resolving itself into the scattered groups with which it commenced; and that not unfrequently during the decline of the disease the seizures were solitary and unconnected. Numerous examples were furnished in the course of these epidemics, in which the transmission of the malady could only be explained on the supposition of its contagious nature. The author then related a series of outbreaks of cholera in isolated groups, where, on every occasion, the cause was traceable to the agency of immediate or intermediate contagion. So far as his personal experience had gone, with the exception of one solitary instance, where the subject was of imbecile intellect, he had never had a case of cholera brought under his notice, in which he was not able to refer the cause, more or less circumstantially, to pollution from personal communication. He offered some instructive remarks on the effect of density of population, and on drainage, in influencing the mortality of cholera and other epidemics; and concluded by an interesting account of the precautionary measures he adopted against cholera whilst in the sanitary charge of the River Wear and its shipping during the epidemic of 1853, and also of the means of prevention to which recourse had been had on the same occasion in the town of Sunderland, by a united and unanimous Board of Health, composed of the Town Council and the Board of Guardians.

A discussion followed, in which Dr. Snow, Dr. W. Lewis, Mr. Spencer Wells, Dr. Camps, and Dr. McWilliam took part. The speakers unanimously expressed a strong opinion in favour of medical inspection of steamers and other vessels trading between this and other countries, more especially during the prevalence of epidemic disorders.

THE CHAIRMAN announced that at the next meeting of the Society, to be held on Monday, February 1st, a paper "On Drainage and Water Supply in Connection with Public Health" will be read by Dr. Snow.

the shell and weed of harlotdom? Let us by all means carry out a strict protecting supervision over order and decency. Let us also, at the same time, protect the helpless and pitiable girl against the vampires that hedge round her sorrowful path, and prevent her from leaving it. Let us rear our youth in a knowledge of the innate purity of woman, and inculcate a chivalrous regard for woman's virtue. I am, etc.,

A FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

January 11th, 1858.

### THE MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND AND THE ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

LETTER FROM CHARLES COTTON, M.D.

SIR,—A note of Mr. Toynbee's, in the JOURNAL of January 2nd, leads me very unwillingly to intrude a line of hope that the public and the profession will refrain from drawing a "comparison" between the Medical Benevolent Fund and any other kindred society. From the moment the claims of the Medical Benevolent College were urged, I believe I am right in stating, the resources of the Benevolent Fund have steadily increased; and sure I am that the secret of success to either institution will not be found in prejudicial comparison or miserable rivalry.

With all becoming respect, I sincerely wish our now excellent and active Treasurer to the Medical Benevolent Fund had confined himself to the appeal of the Committee, and had restrained himself to "say no more than the minutes say", as I fear his note may do mischief to the excellent society he is trying to serve, and to the Medical Benevolent College also, by dissuading the lukewarm, and by encouraging the spirit which but too often frames ingenious objections and excuses, merely to evade a charitable subscription. Let both schemes rest on their own merits, and their further usefulness by all practicable means be promoted. The cause of the helplessly destitute, which we all wish to serve, cannot be strengthened by the expression of any unhappy differences of opinion.

I am, etc., CHARLES COTTON.

King's Lynn, January 8th, 1858.

### MEDICAL FEES.

LETTER FROM JOSEPH TOYNBEE, ESQ.

SIR,—As I have lately taken part in a discussion on the subject of the physician's and surgeon's fee, permit me, if you please, through the medium of your JOURNAL, to say that I think the ordinary fee of a guinea is an ample fee in *ordinary* cases, even when the patients are seen for the first time. My view is, that in some cases, very long consultations for instance, the medical man ought to be at liberty to name a higher fee than a guinea. I am, etc.,

JOSEPH TOYNBEE.

18, Savile Row, Burlington Gardens, W., January 12th, 1858.

### PRACTICAL METEOROLOGY.

LETTER FROM C. B. GARRETT, M.D.

SIR,—A letter of mine having appeared in the *Times* of the 2nd instant, relating to the climate of Hastings, I have received a whole volley of meteorological *notes and observations* from those who are weatherwise, and some who are otherwise. Surely the inclosed gigantic conception should not be lost to the profession and society! Comment could not do justice to the brilliance of that stupendous imagination which has devised means of "averting the excess of wreck by sea and excess of disease". I am, etc., C. B. GARRETT.

Hastings, January 9th, 1858.

"Laboratory of Science and Health.

"101 Old Street, St. Lukes, City Road

"J Day Health Engineer at J Fairbanks Civil Engineer.

"To Dr C B Garrett

"MY DEAR SIR—on reading your article in the *Times* paper on the weather of the 2nd inst. I beg leave to respectfully inform you that as a practical meteorologist and having now been Connected with that Science 36 years I am wishful to be assisted on very reasonable terms in the founding of a practical meteorological Society to receive all accounts of phenomena happening in order to investigate the Cause and law by which they may be governed. Dr Lloyd said as the presdnt of the

British association held in Dublin of the so Called Science of meteorology as yet it had led to no results because not studied aright to time and phenomena. I have sent papers to that Society when held in Hull Liverpool Glasgow Cheltenham and Dublin showing how it ought to be studied I presented to the Honble the House of Commons on the 5 august 1853 by Sir R H Inglis Late MP for Oxford University what is ever was ever will be meterology. I supply means to the medical profession by which to make a true diagnosis of all phenomena happening at a moderate price.

Pathological register per year . . . . . 2s. 2d.

Meterological . . . . . 2 8

Detectors to Shew the diagnosis of disease for ever

and the time for surgical operations . . . . . 2 0

"Instruments for analysis of every kind supplyd at a moderate price.

"I intend supplying results for what has happened for the last 58 years in regard to the sequence of disease more especially periods of fever cholera asiatica 1817 32 49 54 58 for 3 shillings per post office order on the City Road post office I supply a superior Set of meteorological Instruments for 11 Guineas per post office order. I have been connected with the G B Health since the 10 July 1849 when I laid before that Board the only reliable means of treating Cholera and fever. As an Health Engineer I have proposed to His R H Prince Albert the Establishment of a practical meterological Society for the United Kingdom subscription to be 21s. per year to send to any part of the United Kingdom results for the averting the excess of wreck by Sea and excess of disease. Should you please to approve of such an association, and forward your name as a subscriber it will afford my Committee some assistance in carrying out our proposition. A reply will be esteemed an honour by the Council of the National association of Health Engineers. Faithfully yours, JAMES DAY.

"Dr C B Garrett Hastings."

## Medical News.

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

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

#### BIRTHS.

CHADWICK. On December 29th, 1857, at Leeds, the wife of \*Charles Chadwick, M.D., of a daughter.

HENNING. On January 6th, at Tunbridge Wells, the wife of Richard S. Henning, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

LAWRENCE. On January 3rd, at Montrose, the wife of Samuel Lawrence, M.D., of a son.

MOORE. On January 19th, at 16, Old Burlington Street, the wife of Charles Frederick Moore, M.D., of a daughter.

NOYCE. On January 9th, the wife of R. Noyce, Esq., Surgeon, of Camden Town, of a daughter.

#### MARRIAGES.

BEVAN—HAGAN. BEVAN, Philip, M.D., T.C.D., to Anna Maria, eldest surviving daughter of Captain Sir Robert Hagan, R.N., at St. Peter's Church, Dublin, on January 5th.

BUCK—ROBARTS. BUCK, Edward Hancock, Esq., late commanding H.M.S. *Myrmidon*, to Maria Elizabeth, only daughter of Charles Roberts, Esq., Surgeon, of Hammer-smith, at St. George's, Hanover Square, on January 9th.

#### DEATHS.

ALLEN, John Stewart, L.R.C.P., Physician and Superintendent of the Counties Lunatic Asylum, Abergavenny, on Jan. 9th.

CHADWICK. On July 7th, at Park Square, Leeds, Lucy Helen, wife of \*Charles Chadwick, M.D.

LEGENDRE, M., Physician to the Hôpital Ste.-Eugénie in Paris, aged 45, on January 9th.

LODGE. On January 8th, at St. Asaph, of scarlet fever, Lucy Ann, youngest child of \*Llewelyn Lodge, Esq., Surgeon.

\*REDDING, Francis Henry, Esq., Surgeon, at Cromlech, Anglesea, aged 49, on October 19th, 1857.

WHITE, Stephen Elworthy, Esq., Surgeon, of Bromley, in consequence of a fall from his horse, on January 6th.

## APPOINTMENTS.

\*GIDLEY, Gustavus, M.D., appointed a Magistrate for the County of Kent.

## PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, January 8th, 1858:—

ALLEN, John, Malta  
BEALE, George Bewsher, Finsbury Square  
BROOKS, Arthur D'Oyley, Henley-on-Thames  
COLAHAN, John Joseph Aloysius, Dominick Street, Galway  
CRAWFORD, Michael Richard Rothery, Hon. East India Company's Service, Calcutta  
LATHAM, Alfred William, Nantwyth, Cheshire  
McIVER, John, Silver Bridge, co. Armagh  
MEDCALF, George, Balls Pond Road, Islington  
NEEDHAM, Frederick, York  
SMITH, William Henry, Houghton-le-Spring  
STOCKER, Edward Clement, Congleton, Cheshire  
TAYLOR, John, Woodstock, Oxfordshire  
THOMPSON, James Charles, Army

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING  
JANUARY 9TH, 1858.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE total number of deaths in London in the week that ended on Saturday (January 9th) was 1327. In the ten years 1848-57 the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1230, and if this is raised by a tenth part, as a correction for increased population, it will become 1353. Hence it appears that the number returned last week is not much less than that which the average rate of mortality for the first week of the year would have produced.

Bronchitis was fatal last week: the deaths from it rose to 181, the corrected average being 142. Nine deaths were referred to influenza. Measles is on the increase, and carried off 60 children. Of 8 nonagenarians included in the return, one was 90 years of age, one 91, one 93, two 94, one 95, one 97, one 98. Besides these, a silk-weaver died in the Bethnal-green Workhouse, who is reported to have reached the age of 101 years.

In the improved nosological arrangement all the causes of death are distributed in five classes. Of the class of zymotic diseases 263 persons died; of the constitutional diseases (including consumption) 243 persons died; of local diseases, including inflammations, 618 persons died; of developmental diseases, including the diseases peculiar to the young, the puerperal and critical periods of life, and the aged, 156 persons died; and of violent deaths 20 cases were registered. The last class, namely, the violent deaths, is subdivided so as now to show separately the deaths: (1) by accident or negligence 17; (2) by homicide 1; (3) by suicide 2; (4) by public execution none. The deaths in battle form a fifth order, which is fortunately not required in the London tables.

Dr. R. D. Thomson has analysed the waters which were supplied by eight London companies during the months of November and December. Such analyses supply the best tests of the quality of the water with which the people of London are supplied. It will be observed that the waters are much less impure than they were formerly; but that there are still great differences, and still room for further improvement. Four grains of organic matter were once detected in a gallon of the water of one company.

Last week the births of 890 boys and 810 girls, in all 1700 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1848-57 the average number was 1529.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 30.148 in. The mean daily reading rose above 30 in. on Tuesday, the 22nd ult, and continued above it till the 9th inst., a period of eighteen days. The highest reading last week was 30.39 in. on Sunday (the 3rd). The mean temperature of the week was 34.5°, which is 1.5° below the average of the same week in 43 years. The variation of temperature was great; for on Wednesday the mean temperature was 25.4°, which is 10.6° below the average, and on that day the lowest temperature was 20.9°; and on Friday the mean rose to 44.6°, which is 9.1° above the average. The highest temperature occurred on Saturday, and was 51.9°; and on that day the lowest was 41.5°. On Tuesday the range of

temperature was so small as 3.8°; on Friday it was 17.3°. The difference between the mean dew point temperature and mean air temperature was 2.8°. The mean degree of humidity was 89. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 41.3. On the last three days the wind was mostly in the south-west, having been previously in the north-east. The rain measured was 0.09 in., which fell chiefly on Friday. Friday and Saturday were unseasonably warm.

## HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE QUARTER.

In the fourteen weeks that ended January 2nd, 1858, the deaths registered in London were 16,546. The mortality was comparatively high; for, after reducing it to the proportion of the 13 weeks which form a quarter, it will be seen that the deaths exceeded those of the last quarter of 1855 by 1,500, and those of the same quarter of 1856 by 1,200. The diarrhoea, which destroyed children in summer, was succeeded by the influenza, which carried off old persons, when a lower temperature, damp, and fogs set in with the last months of the year. Pulmonary complaints predominated; for the deaths referred to this class were 3,732, besides 1,964 caused by phthisis (consumption), whilst those from zymotic diseases were 3,313. Bronchitis (1,950) was much more prevalent and fatal than usual last quarter, and phthisis was also more fatal, though its increase was less considerable; the two diseases carried off very nearly the same number of persons, and with pneumonia, which numbered 1,406, they exhibited a great preponderance, as compared with other special diseases in the list. That the sickness of the season did not derive its prevailing character from inclemency of the atmosphere, is shown by the fact that the mean weekly temperature was below the average in only one of the fourteen weeks.

Out of 583 deaths from hooping-cough, only 76 occurred in the West districts; in the North districts the number was 138, and in the South 119, though the latter are considerably more populous. In the Central districts the complaint was fatal in 123 cases, and in the East in 127. Measles had chiefly prevailed in the Central and East divisions, for out of 408 deaths from it in London, 218 occurred in the parts mentioned. Fever was most fatal in the East districts. Small-pox was returned in 26 cases, being not more than two in a week.

Of 2,599 deaths in 117 Public Institutions during the quarter, 1,478 occurred in workhouses, 26 in prisons, 71 in Military and Naval Asylums, 766 in General Hospitals, 68 in hospitals for special diseases, 3 (of women) and 8 (of children) in Lying-in-Hospitals, 58 in Military and Naval Hospitals, 14 in hospitals and asylums for foreigners, and 107 in Lunatic Asylums.

THE PREACHING MANIA OF SWEDEN. In a recent number of the *Morning Post* we find the following interesting description of an extending epidemic, which is known to be from the pen of a London physician, interested in psychological medicine. "About the middle of summer, in the year 1841, an unusual mental or nervous malady began to first show itself among the youth of several districts verging towards Lake Wener, but gradually spread over other localities in the central portion of Sweden. By Swedish medical authors it was called '*Pre-dikosjukan*, or *epidemiska religiosa ecstas*,' which signifies 'preaching mania,' or 'epidemic religious ecstasy.' Since the period when the dancing mania prevailed in Germany, about 1374. Tarantism in Italy, during 1565, or the dance of St. Medard—the *convulsionnaires* of Paris—towards the middle of the last century, and continued till the Revolution, nothing analogous to the epidemic which so recently raged in Sweden has been observed in modern Europe, with perhaps the exception of the fantastic movements exhibited by the Jumpers in Wales, chiefly about the middle of the last century. Such being the case, a brief outline of the affection just named may not seem uninteresting to general readers, especially as the existence of such abnormal psychological phenomena as those about to be described are very little known in England, even by professional persons. The preaching epidemic of Sweden prevailed to its greatest extent in the province of Elsborg, being very common in the parish of Björsäter, as also in the commune of Scaraborg, on the south side of the Wener Lake, already mentioned. It chiefly affected young persons and mostly females from twelve to fifteen years old, although sometimes even children, and occasionally women beyond their twentieth year. Several thousand persons are said to have been attacked, and some authorities report upwards of 5000 during the period of about sixteen months, or while the malady

continued. The first symptom noticed was generally the young person seized falling down as if in a trance—this being followed by tremblings and shakings, but particularly by quakings of the arms and legs, and a sensation as if something were crawling on the limbs. The parties attacked always fell backwards when the trembling fit began, and they then knocked their heads against the floor, often with much violence. Subsequently they were affected with strong and vehement movements, and catching at the hands of bystanders. Afterwards the sufferer, if a girl, seemed engaged in dressing herself like going out to a party. Occasionally they become so violently convulsed that their bodies were bent backwards in a circular form, whereby the head and feet nearly came into contact. In other examples, the sufferers appeared like being engaged in a pugilistic combat with themselves, and in tearing their hair, or as if hitting another combatant. These symptoms usually marked the malady's first stage, when the patient now became quiet and calm, having the hands almost constantly folded over the chest. Very soon they began to speak or preach; sometimes in a recumbent position with their eyes shut, and apparently senseless or entirely unconscious; but in other instances the eyes were open, while the party stood bolt upright. The address now made, or sermon, often so designated, was short and generally on religious questions. Sometimes where several persons became simultaneously affected as above described they were often joined by idle passengers, and then groups of people rambled through the village or town singing hymns, whereby they caused great uproar and confusion, which required the police to interfere. In the spring of 1842 this epidemic spread so widely, and created such an impression where it prevailed, that government was obliged to make inquiry, and so forth. It, however, ceased almost entirely about autumn; and since that period only solitary cases have occurred. Medical authors in Sweden considered the extraordinary complaint now succinctly noticed as originally a bodily disease peculiarly affecting the mind, and that it was very frequently influenced by imitation, while young females were almost constantly its special victims."

THE WEATHER OF CHRISTMAS 1857. A plate of raspberries was gathered on Christmas eve, in the open air, in the garden of Mr. John Wood, of Kingsthorpe, near Northampton. In Durham, we hear from our rural friends of simple birds that have built their nests in the hedgerows. An old farmer, who had four ploughs at work in one field on December 28th, said he had never known such weather; his land was in April order. On Saturday, a brown linnet's nest was found at Newbiggin wagon-way with four young ones; and on Monday a sparrow's nest was found with four eggs in it. Whinbushes are everywhere in golden flower. Pansies and polyanthus are reported by our Sunderland correspondent to be in full blow in his locality. On December 29th, wild strawberries were gathered between Shildon and Sedgfield. Women were gathering "wicksens" on the 30th near Durham. A hedge-sparrow's nest, with four eggs, and the old bird sitting on them, was found on a farm at Barlow a few days ago; and at the same time the polyanthus was blooming at Ryton, and roses and woodbines were ready to blow. A picnic party left Gateshead in an open conveyance on the last morning of the old year. At night there came a nipping frost, and the earth was hoar on New Year's morn; but the day was delightful—at once sharp and summery. (*Gateshead Observer*.)

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH. The following is an abstract of the daily register of patients admitted during the year from 1st Oct., 1856, to 1st Oct., 1857, showing the result of the cases:—

Patients remaining in the hospital at 1st Oct., 1856 - 293  
Patients admitted from 1st Oct., 1856, to 1st Oct., 1857 3358

Total number under treatment during the year - - 3651

Of these there were:—Dismissed cured, 1919; relieved, 757; with advice, or at their own desire, 128; as irregular or improper, 115; having received no benefit, 104; died in the hospital, 348; leaving in the hospital at 1st Oct., 1857, 280. Of the cases treated to a termination during the year, 132 were cases of fever, 1069 were ordinary medical cases other than fever, and 1570 were surgical cases. The average daily number of patients in the house throughout the year, according to the returns of the weekly census, was 326; the greatest number at any time, 366; the lowest, 288; and the average time during which each patient remained under treatment was 33.4 days. In the year immediately preceding, the total number of patients

under treatment was 4250; the average daily number, 395; the greatest number at any time, 458; the lowest, 259; and the average time during which each patient remained under treatment was 36.4 days, being an excess of three days over the mean period of residence during the past year. The ordinary income amounted to £11,063 : 3 : 7½, and the ordinary expenditure to £10,812 : 18 : 11½, leaving the surplus of £250 : 4 : 7½ on the transactions of the year. On the other hand, the ordinary expenditure of last year was £12,664 : 19 : 10, while the ordinary expenditure of the present year has been reduced to £10,812 : 18 : 11½. There was thus a deficiency of £927 : 19 : 8½ on the ordinary transactions of last year, as compared with a surplus of £250 : 4 : 7½ on the transactions of the present year. With reference to the ordinary subscriptions and church-door collections, and the sums received for paupers admitted into the institution, it appears that Edinburgh contributed in 1857, £4235 : 19 : 7½; Leith, £225 : 13 : 11; and the country generally, £1905 : 2 : 11; besides these sources of income, £431 : 15 : 6 was received on accounts of paupers, and £30 : 4 from patients—making the total income for 1857 from these sources £6828 : 15 : 11½, as compared with £6975 : 10 : 8½ in 1856.

POISONING BY BARLEY-SUGAR. M. Chevallier has recently published, in the *Journal de Chimie Médicale*, a note on the case of several persons in whom symptoms of poisoning appeared after eating barley-sugar, which had been purchased at a well known house in Paris. On examining it, M. Chevallier detected tartar emetic. How was this introduced—by mistake, or criminally? The shopkeeper who sold the sweetmeats, on being interrogated by M. Chevallier, stated that he did not make them himself, but obtained them from a wholesale manufacturer. This manufacturer acknowledged that he had been blamed, not only on account of the barley-sugar, but also on account of some articles made of gum, which he had prepared in a similar manner. On being asked to explain his process, he stated that, to prevent the sweetmeats from losing their transparency, he mixed with them a little cream of tartar. On examining the so-called cream of tartar, M. Chevallier found it to be tartar emetic. This mistake was the cause of very severe symptoms in seventeen persons. (*Journal de Médecine et de Chirurgie Pratiques*, Janvier 1858.)

ALLEGED ANTISUPPURATIVE PROPERTY OF CAMOMILE. At a meeting of the Academy of Sciences in Paris on December 28, M. Cloquet presented a communication from M. Ozanam, relative to a property of camomile (*anthesis nobilis*), which the latter gentleman claimed to have discovered. This virtue consists in preventing suppuration when the local disease is not too far advanced, and in gradually stopping it when it has existed for a long time. For this purpose it is administered in doses of 75, 150, and even 450 grains of the flower in a quart of water, the infusion to be drunk in the course of the day, and to be continued until the cure be effected. Compresses moistened with the infusion may be locally applied. They aid the action of the medicine; but this is developed even without them by the internal use of the infusion alone. M. Ozanam quotes the case of a man aged 33, labouring under phlegmous erysipelas of the face and head, with five enormous abscesses, denuding all the bones of the skull; a sixth abscess was being formed at the angle of the lower jaw. The patient had a violent fever, accompanied with unceasing delirium. On the twenty-eighth day camomile was administered in doses of 450 grains per day. During the first days the suppuration increased, whereupon the daily doses were reduced to 225 grains; the suppuration rapidly diminished, and on the twentieth day after the commencement of the treatment the patient was perfectly cured. Three other cases are mentioned by M. Ozanam; in one, amputation of the thigh was avoided by employing camomile in doses of 150 grains a day. The treatment lasted six weeks. In another, an abscess of the size of a child's head was first opened by incision, and camomile was administered as before. The treatment lasted three weeks. The last case was one of "ataxic typhoid" fever, with implication of the lungs and pleura, and purulent expectoration. Camomile was administered in doses of 75 grains a day; the cure was effected in twenty-five days.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY. At the meeting on Thursday, January 21st, a paper will be read by H. C. Stewart, Esq., "On the Epidemic Diarrhœa of the Past Season."

BENEFACTENCE. The late Sir Charles Mansfield Clark has bequeathed upwards of fifteen hundred pounds to medical and other charities.

## 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.

NOTICE.—DR. WYNTER will feel obliged if the Associates will address all Post Office Orders in payment of Subscriptions, to the Publisher, Mr. THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W. C., "Bloomsbury Branch"; and he would also feel obliged by their sending all communications respecting the non-receipt of the Journal, to the same address; as both these matters are out of the province of the Editor.

Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

Communications have been received from:—DR. CHARLES COTTON; MR. GRIFFIN; MR. T. JOHNSON; DR. W. CAMPS; MR. W. COULSON; DR. C. B. GARRETT; MR. W. B. KESTIVEN; DR. W. MACKENZIE; DR. GIDLEY; MR. NUTTALL; MR. STONE; DR. CHADWICK; MR. TOYNBEE; MR. F. H. WATTS; MR. BIRKETT; MR. F. FRY; DR. D. GREIG; MR. F. WALMSLEY; MR. HOLMES; DR. H. VERNON; DR. G. G. ROGERS; MR. H. WALTON; MR. LL. LLOYD; DR. ROUTH; DR. ARMSTRONG; MR. HOLMES COOTE; MR. THOMAS POPE; MR. WEEDEN COOKE; DR. BADER; and MR. J. HUTCHINSON.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

## Great Reduction in the Prices of

NEW MEDICAL GLASS BOTTLES and PHIALS, at the Islington Glass Bottle Works, Islington Place, Park Road. WAREHOUSE—2, Upper Copenhagen Street, Barnsbury Road, Islington, London, N. E. & H. HARRIS beg to submit the following prices for quantities not less than Six Gross, assorted to suit the convenience of the purchaser.

6 and 8 oz., any shape, plain, or graduated	8s. 0d. per gross.
3 and 4 oz. ditto	7s. 6d. "
1 oz. White Moulded Phials	4s. 6d. "
1 oz. ditto	5s. 6d. "
1½ oz. ditto	6s. 0d. "
2 oz. ditto	7s. 0d. "

No remittance required until the Goods are received. Packages free. Delivered free within seven miles. Immediate attention to country orders. Post-office Orders made payable to E. & H. HARRIS, at the Chief Office, London. Bankers—Union Bank of London.

## Society for Relief of Widows and

ORPHANS of MEDICAL MEN in LONDON and its VICINITY. Instituted 1788.

The ANNUAL DINNER of this Society will be held at the FREEMASONS' TAVERN, Great Queen Street, on WEDNESDAY, the 10th of FEBRUARY, THOMAS ARTHUR STONE, Esq., PRESIDENT, in the CHAIR.

## STEWARDS.

John Adams, Esq.  
C. J. B. Aldis, M.D.  
John Baer, Esq. (Vice-President)  
Henry Bleknarke, Esq. (Trustee)  
Richard Bright, M.D.  
William Cathrow, Esq.  
John Miles, Esq. (Treasurer)  
Harvey K. Owen, Esq.  
John Probert, Esq.  
Edward Ray, Esq.  
G. Hamilton Roe, M.D.

Jeron. Simoëns, Esq. (Master of the Society of Apothecaries)  
Edward Stanley, Esq. (President of the Royal College of Surgeons)  
Henry Sterry, Esq.  
T. Stone, Esq. (President & Trustee)  
R. L. Thorn, Esq.  
Robert B. Todd, M.D.  
D. H. Walne, Esq. (Vice-President)  
Martin Ware, Esq. ditto  
Thomas Watson, M.D.

Dinner to be on Table at half-past Six for Seven precisely. Tickets, One Guinea each, to be obtained of the Stewards, of the Secretary, and at the Tavern.

For the small sum of Two Guineas annually every Member of this Society of two years standing may prevent his Widow or Children from being in want. £1700 were given in relief last year by this Society.

Thirty-five Widows receiving from £35 to £40 each; 25 Orphans, from £12 to £25 each. Also 3 Orphans had grants "towards self-maintenance".

S. W. J. MERRIMAN, M.D., Secretary.

53, Berners Street, W.

## TO ADVERTISERS.

British Medical Journal.—Office,  
37, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS,  
LONDON, W.C.

The Journal of the British Medical Association is published every Saturday, and is transmitted direct from the Office to between Two and Three Thousand Members of the Association in all parts of the United Kingdom.

## SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Seven lines and under	£0 4 0
Every additional line	0 0 6
A whole column	2 15 0
A page	5 0 0

Advertisements ought to be delivered and paid for at the Office on the Thursday preceding publication; or if not paid for at the time should be accompanied by a respectable reference.

Post-Office Orders, "Bloomsbury Branch," are to be made payable to THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN (the Publisher), 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W. C.

## PURE SPIRITS FOR THE FACULTY.

S. V. R. 56 o.p., 17s. 6d. net Cash.

This quotation admits of neither credit nor discount, and 1s. per gallon must be added for packages, to be allowed on their return.

HENRY BRETT and CO., Old Farnival's Distillery, Holborn.

[ESTABLISHED 1841.]

## Medical, Invalid and General Life

OFFICE, 25, PALL MALL, LONDON.

Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.

By the Annual Report of 1853, it appeared that the number of Policies then in force was 3434, insuring £1,337,500, and yielding an income of £55,207.

At the SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, held on the 26th November, 1857, it was shown that on the 30th June last,—

The Number of Policies in force was .....6,255

The Amount Insured was.....£2,917,598 : 13 : 10

The Annual Income was .....£125,113 : 3 : 8

Two Bonuses have been declared (in 1843 and 1853) adding nearly 2 per cent. per annum on the average to sums Assured, and by which a Policy of £1,000, issued in 1842 on a healthy life, is now increased to £1,260.

Profits divided every five years—next division in 1858. The Society since its establishment has paid claims on 776 Policies amounting £312,584.

Assurances are effected at home or abroad on healthy lives at as moderate rates as the most recent data will allow.

Indian Assurances at very moderate rates, and great facilities given to assurers.

Invalid Lives Assured on scientifically constructed tables. Policies issued free of stamp-duty and every charge but the premiums.

Medical men are paid a guinea for each report, and receive the same advantages as Solicitors for any business they may introduce.

Active working Agents wanted for vacant places. Prospectuses, Forms of Proposals, and every other information, may be obtained of the Secretary at the Chief Office, or on application to any of the Society's Agents in the Country.

C. DOUGLAS SINGER, Secretary.

"NEMO SIBI VIVAT."

New Equitable Life Assurance  
COMPANY.

Offices—No. 449, Strand, Charing Cross.

## TRUSTEES:

G. H. Barlow, M.D., Union Street, Southwark.  
James Copland, M.D., F.R.S., 5, Old Burlington Street.  
Sir James Duke, Bart., Alderman, M.P. for the City of London.  
Sir Charles Hastings, M.D., D.C.L., Worcester.  
Richard Partridge, Esq., F.R.S., New Street, Spring Gardens.  
John Probert, Esq., 6, New Cavendish Street.

## DIRECTORS.

Chairman—GEORGE H. BARLOW, M.D., 5, Union Street, Southwark, Physician to Guy's Hospital.  
Deputy Chairman—JOHN WESTON, Esq., Hulme House, Hampton Wick.  
George Chapman, Esq., 23, New Street, Spring Gardens.  
Richard Jebb, Esq., 9, Old Square, Lincoln's Inn.  
Thomas B. Jones, Esq., Holland Road, Brixton.  
J. C. W. Lever, M.D., 12, Wellington Street, Southwark, Obstetric Physician to Guy's Hospital.  
W. J. Little, M.D., 34, Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, Physician to the London Hospital.  
Richard Partridge, Esq., F.R.S., 17, New Street, Spring Gardens, Surgeon to King's College Hospital.  
Samuel Richards, M.D., 36, Bedford Square.  
Robert Smith, Esq., 20, Endsleigh Street, Tavistock Square.  
W. Tyler Smith, M.D., 7, Upper Grosvenor Street, Grosvenor Square, Obstetric Physician to St. Mary's Hospital.  
J. Crace Stevens, Esq., 38, King Street, Covent Garden.

## CONSULTING PHYSICIANS.

Benjamin Guy Babington, M.D., F.R.S., 31, George Street, Hanover Square.  
James Copland, M.D., F.R.S., 5, Old Burlington Street.

## CONSULTING SURGEONS.

William Fergusson, Esq., F.R.S., 16, George Street, Hanover Square.  
J. Rauld Martin, Esq., F.R.S., 71, Grosvenor Street, Grosvenor Square.  
By a small annual payment, Life Assurance secures the following provisions:—

1. Policies at death of husband, father, or son, so that widows and children are not left destitute.
2. Settlements secured in marriage contracts.
3. Endowments to children; so that funds are provided for apprenticeships, etc.
4. Security to creditors to provide against the death of their debtors.
5. Security to the debtors themselves; so that at death their estate or business is unincumbered by debt.
6. Capital to meet the loss entailed by the falling in of annuities or reversions.
7. Funds to meet renewals of leases at increased rents.
8. Sums of money payable to the assured themselves on attaining a certain age.

The attention of the Medical Profession is called to the following scale of fees payable by the Company on business introduced by the medical attendant:—

Fee of £2 : 2s., for every assurance of £250 and upwards.

Fee of £1 : 1s., for every assurance of £100;

and, in addition, a commission of 10 per cent. on the premium of the first year, and 5 per cent. on subsequent payments.

Prospectuses and proposal forms may be obtained on application to

FREDERICK BIGG,  
Actuary and Secretary.

449, Strand, Charing Cross.