

hold a foremost rank in the world of medical science, may yet derive great profit.

We hear that the disputed election of a surgeon to the Queen's Hospital in Birmingham is likely to be settled by the appointment of both Mr. Gamgee and Mr. West. So far, we are well pleased at the prospect of harmony being once more restored; but, in a letter addressed by Mr. Gamgee to the Principal of Queen's College, and published at p. 78 of this number, a new question is started—Which of the two is to be senior? This is, Mr. Gamgee points out, not an unimportant matter; for to the senior surgeonry are attached duties and privileges of a responsible nature. Mr. Gamgee proposes that the question be left undecided for six or twelve months—then to be settled by the Council of Queen's College, or by arbiters. This is a fair proposal. If the point really cannot be settled at once, let this proposal be acted on; let each of the newly appointed surgeons have full opportunities either of increasing or of marring his present reputation; and let him who emerges from the probation the best man be the successor-elect of Mr. Sands Cox.

At the sittings at *Nisi Prius* in the Bail Court, before Mr. Justice Erle, on Wednesday last, an action for damages was brought by Dr. Cronin against Viscount Powerscourt. On July 30th, the plaintiff was crossing the top of Bond Street, when he was suddenly knocked down by a cab which the defendant was driving. He was much bruised; and one of his legs was severely injured. He had been compelled to go to Dunkirk for a time, and to relinquish active practice; he had, however, seen some of his patients in his room. He estimated his professional loss at £217; and his expenses at Dunkirk were from £28 to £30. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff—damages £250.

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:

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.

Reports of Societies.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9TH, 1858.

FRANCIS HIRD, Esq., President, in the Chair.

UNUNITED FRACTURE OF THE PATELLA. BY W. HARVEY, ESQ.

THE specimen was taken from a patient who died from rheumatism and gout affecting the structures of the ear. The patient had suffered from rheumatic deafness and headache for years. The case was of interest, inasmuch as each time the fractured surfaces were brought into apposition, the limb was shortly after seized with severe rheumatic inflammation. All apparatus was obliged to be removed forthwith, and the fractured surfaces were in consequence left several inches apart. A question arose as to whether, when rheumatism or gout was prevalent in the system, it formed any difficulty to the ordinary union of this kind of fracture? This specimen of Mr. HARVEY's seemed to indicate that it did.

Mr. CANTON related a case of fracture of the patella in which absorption of the uniting medium took place, followed by symptoms of ulceration of the cartilages. This was the result of a blow received at the time of the fracture. Under a slight mercurial course the joint improved, and union was hoped for of the divided bone by the pursuance of steady pressure and rest.

Mr. GAMGEE remarked that the treatment of fracture of the patella was often regarded as very simple, but there were more cases of cripples from fracture of this than from any other bone.

SARCINE OBTAINED FROM URINE. BY J. L. W. THUDICHUM, M.D.

The sarcine was precipitated by acetate of copper, from urine rendered alkaline by milk of lime. He had found sarcine in very large quantities in the urine of a patient affected by Bright's disease.

CASES OF LITHOTOMY. BY J. S. GAMGEE, ESQ.

Mr. GAMGEE related two cases of stone, for which he performed lithotomy at the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham. One was a child; the other a young man. In both cases the operator held the staff for himself. The operation was the lateral one. In the first case the stone was easily removed; in the other, after searching for the stone for seven minutes, and having it in the forceps, he called on Mr. Sands Cox to assist him. This Mr. Cox did, and the stone was removed by that gentleman in about ten minutes from the time he made his first attempt. Both patients did well.

FATTY DEGENERATION, CONSIDERED IN ITS BEARINGS ON SURGERY. BY E. CANTON, ESQ.

The author stated that he intended his observations to apply more especially to those instances where fatty degeneration, in occurring idiopathically, took place prematurely: he passed, however, in review, those changes which were to be found in the bodies of elderly persons, and referred particularly to the circulatory system. Cases were brought forward to show how the practice of the surgeon might be complicated where such changes took place in persons who had passed the middle period of life. Some notice, too, was taken of alterations, which the author had, very generally, found in the cartilages of the ribs and the larynx, at the same time, and a close analogy was drawn between the fatty and calcareous degeneration of these parts with the co-existent changes in the vascular system. Remarks succeeded the above in considering the effect of the employment of chloroform where fatty degeneration of the heart existed; and both in the old and young subject stress was laid upon the presence of the arcus or circulus senilis.

Dr. THUDICHUM remarked that in cases of fatty degeneration the result of the change was different in different organs. In the heart, there was less than a normal quantity of fat; in the liver, the proportion of fat was very great.

Mr. GAMGEE had been surprised to find that in three of the provincial hospitals he had lately visited, the use of chloroform had been nearly discontinued, in consequence of accidents which occurred in its administration.

Mr. JABEZ HOGG had seen chloroform administered in many cases of old people with cataract, without any bad effects.

STUDENTS' BRANCH OF THE POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM ASSOCIATION.

LETTER FROM M. MACKENZIE, ESQ. AND W. T. FOX, M.B.

SIR,—We shall feel obliged by your allowing us, through the medium of your JOURNAL, to inform the Students of the Metropolitan and Provincial Schools and others interested in Poor-law Medical Reform, that since the general meeting held at St. Martin's Hall, petitions, having received the signatures of nearly all the medical students of England, were presented to Parliament at the close of last session.

The treasurer's statement, as seen below, shows that he has a balance in hand of £21:14:10. We have now, as far as practicable, carried out the resolutions of the general meeting, and it remains with the students to propose any further proceedings in the movement. We are, etc.,

MORELL MACKENZIE (London Hospital).

WM. TILBURY FOX, M.B. (University College).

Hon. Secretaries.

January 18th, 1858.

Treasurer's Statement.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENSES.	£	s.	d.
London Hospital ..	5	17	6	St. Martin's Hall, etc.	17	3	6
University College	6	6	6	Cab-hire, postage, etc.	3	9	4
Guy's	5	0	0	Printing, stationery	4	19	4
St. Bartholomew's	5	0	0	Advertising	0	14	6
King's	5	10	0				
St. George's	4	10	0				
St. Mary's	4	0	0				
York	3	10	0				
St. Thomas'	3	3	0				
Middlesex	2	6	6				
Westminster	1	13	0				
Charing Cross	1	5	0	Balance in hand	21	14	10
	£48	1	6		£48	1	6

A BONE-SETTER'S DISLOCATION OF ENGLISH ORTHOGRAPHY.

SIR,—Ridicule may occasionally effect something when sober reasoning fails in doing so; and, with this hope, I send you a copy of a certificate given by one of those banes of the profession—a bone-setter. His orthography is vile; and his practice, in more than one case I have met with, no less so. The particular instance this brilliant composition refers to I am not acquainted with. The specimen, indeed, fell into my hands by accident; it is as follows:—

"1858. Jan. 11 ———"

"Mr John Sendes A Plyd to Me Been Lame of is Left Leeg thre a Scartin Seney Injered Wich I redust—this Man Must Rest of it. (Signed) MR MASTIN Bone

Setter and Sergen
Billingshay."

This man, and others of his class, hold high sway in this county. They treat sprained ankle as dislocation; strumous disease of carpus, arrested by careful treatment, as dislocation; they turn out fractured thighs two inches short; and crown all by descanting to their patients about the ignorance of country surgeons.

I inclose my card, though not for publication.

I am, etc.,

A LINCOLNSHIRE SURGEON.

January 18th, 1858.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

BIANCHI. On January 12th, at 43, Stamford Street, the wife of Robert Bianchi, Esq., Surgeon, prematurely, of a daughter, stillborn.

SQUIRE. On January 14th, at Brightlingsea, Essex, the wife of Samuel N. Squire, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

SYMES. On January 8th, at Bridgewater, the wife of Henry Symes, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

DAVIDSON—THOMPSON. DAVIDSON, Madgwick Spicer, Esq., of Avenue Road, London, to Emily, eldest daughter of *C. M. Thompson, Esq., Surgeon, of Westerham, Kent, on January 14th.

STEWART—TAYLOR. STEWART, John, M.D., R.N., of Perth, to Georgina Taylor, only daughter of David Martin, Esq., Kinmouth, Bridge of Earn, at Edinburgh, on January 19th.

DEATHS.

BODDY, Walter T., M.D., of Windsor, at Beaconsfield, Bucks, aged 35, on January 10th.

*BYWATER, William, Esq., Surgeon, at Knottingley, Yorkshire, aged 67, on January 2nd. He had been in practice at Knottingley upwards of forty-five years.

CHICHESTER. On January 12th, at Cheltenham, Mary Beatrix, widow of the late John Chichester, M.D.

DUKE. On January 18th, at Harleyford Place, Kennington Park, aged 42, Catherine, wife of Thomas Oliver Duke, Esq., Surgeon.

FORSHALL. On January 13th, at Sheffield, Bedfordshire, aged 29, Martha Mary, daughter of Thomas Forshall, Esq., Surgeon, of Acton Place, Kingsland Road.

FULLER. On January 17th, at 13, Manchester Square, aged 14 months, Bertha Catherine, youngest daughter of *Henry William Fuller, M.D.

HODGSON, Joseph, Esq., Surgeon, at 1, Spital Square, on January 18th.

MOORE, Thomas, M.D., Assistant-Surgeon Bengal Army, massacred by the sepoys between Cuttack and Sumbulpore, aged 39, on November 17th, 1857.

PRICHARD. On January 3rd, at 9, Berkeley Square, Bristol, Anna Maria, relict of the late *James Cowles Prichard, M.D., F.R.S.

TAYLOR. On January 13th, in Oxford Street, aged 55, Jane Wright, widow of the late John James Taylor, Esq., Surgeon, formerly of Kennington.

PASS LISTS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. Members admitted on Thursday, January 14th, 1858:—

DEVAROUX, Daniel, Bromyard, Hereford

FINCH, William Corbin, Salisbury

PRITCHETT, Henry, York

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING JANUARY 16TH, 1858.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

IN the second week of the year the total number of deaths registered in London was 1289, of which 637 were deaths of males, 652 those of females. In the ten years 1848-57 the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1232; but as the deaths included in the present return occurred in an increased population, the average, to admit of comparison, should be raised in proportion to the increase, in which case it will become 1355. The returns for last week are, therefore, so far satisfactory as to show that the deaths were less by 66 than the number which the average rate of mortality in the second week of January would have produced.

The 1289 deaths are classed under five general heads: 261, of which number 210 are the deaths of young persons, are referred to zymotic diseases; 259 to constitutional diseases; 605 to local diseases; 142 to developmental diseases; 13 are the results of burns, drowning, wounds, or other injury. Nine deaths are not assigned to any of the above classes, because the fatal disease or injury is not described,—a defect in the returns which is not unavoidable in some cases, but will necessarily arise in others, where a coroner's jury, who have been summoned to investigate the cause of death, have not been able to ascertain it.

In the miasmatic order of diseases measles has taken the most prominent place; since the middle of December it has increased in the following weekly numbers: 41, 45, 60, and 65. Of the 65 deaths of last week 5 occurred in the West districts, 10 in the Central, 13 in the South, 17 in the North, and 20 in the East districts. Five children died of measles in the sub-district of Camden Town, and the same number in that of Rotherhithe. Hooping-cough was fatal in 41 cases; scarlatina in 39, among which latter are one or two cases in which

diphtheria is mentioned as the cause of death,—a common complaint at the present time in London, and also in the country, in some parts of which it appears to be known as “the throat disease.” Last week bronchitis carried off 197 persons, pneumonia 101, laryngeal affections, spasm of the glottis, etc., 11. The mortality from pneumonia is less than its usual amount; but the degree in which bronchitis is prevalent and fatal appears from the fact that the average number of deaths from it raised for increase of population is 150, while the actual number is close on 200. Seven nonagenarians (of whom six were women) died last week: the three oldest were aged respectively 94, 95, and 96 years.

Last week the births of 902 boys and 861 girls, in all 1763 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1848-57 the average number was 1571.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 30.209 in. The mean daily reading rose above 30 in. on the 22nd ult., and continued above it on the twenty-five days following, with the exception of one day, the 9th inst. The greatest barometric pressure of last week occurred on Tuesday, and was 30.46 in. The mean temperature of last week was 39.8°, which is 4.2° above the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). On Sunday (the 10th) the mean temperature was 46.4°, which is 16.7° above the average of the same day. It fell to 35.3° on Thursday, which is rather below the average. The highest temperature in the week was 50.9° on Sunday; the lowest was 29.4° on Tuesday. The mean daily range was 13.8°. The difference between the mean dew point temperature and air temperature was 3.2°. The mean degree of humidity was 89. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 39.8°, the same as that of the air. The wind blew with great regularity from the south-west. The rain-fall measured was only 0.06 in.

DEATH FROM MALARIA. A good deal of excitement has been occasioned at Box, a village about six miles from Bath, owing to the almost sudden death of two ladies, one being Mrs. Elizabeth Horlock, the wife of the Rev. Dr. Horlock, the vicar of the parish; and the other her sister, Miss Alice Sudell, of Ashley House, near Box. The real cause of death appears to have been a malaria arising either from the churchyard which adjoins the vicarage, or from the drains of the house, into which the contents of the graveyard, it is believed, filter. It seems, also, that a grave in which a lad who died of fever had been interred was opened to allow of the interment of his mother, who died from the same disease a few days afterwards, only a short time before Mrs. Horlock was first seized with illness; and that she had passed through the churchyard at the time, and complained of the effluvia. From the evidence of the various witnesses who were examined, it appears that on Sunday, December 27th, Mrs. Horlock, while at dinner, was taken suddenly ill. She was very sick, and continued so until the following day, when Dr. Bowie was sent for from Bath, and prescribed for her and saw her every day. On Tuesday, the 29th, her sister, Miss Sudell, came to the vicarage from Ashley House to see her. At this time all the inmates of the house were in their usual health, except Mrs. Horlock; but, in the course of that day, Miss Sudell, her sister, Elizabeth Shell, the housemaid, Emily Horn, the cook, James Page, the footman, and Sarah Wotton, a charwoman, were all taken with sickness and vomiting. Miss Sudell was the first who was attacked, her sickness commencing immediately after breakfast. They all gradually recovered, except Mrs. Horlock and Miss Sudell, both of whom were confined to their beds. On Saturday, about noon, they both became much worse, and in the evening of that day Miss Sudell died. Mr. Horlock, however, lingered on until Sunday morning, when she also expired. During their illness neither of the ladies took any solid food, and vitality had to be maintained principally by brandy. The medical gentlemen were of opinion that the death had arisen from low gastric fever, caused by some malaria in or near the house. The jury therefore returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, accompanying it with a recommendation to Dr. Horlock that he would make a searching examination of the drains and watercourses of his house and premises, and that the same investigation and inquiry should be made as to the churchyard, and a report sent to the churchwardens and other proper authorities as to the propriety of discontinuing to bury the dead there. A special local interest was attached to the case, as some threatening letters were recently sent to the house, threatening the ladies with violent deaths; but there is no doubt that the malaria was the sole cause.

THE SURGEONSHIP OF QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM.

MR. GAMGEE has addressed the following letter to the Principal of Queen's College:

“Dear Sir,—The happily proposed basis of arrangement of the late controversy would dispense with the necessity of my again trespassing upon you, but that one point yet remains unsettled.

“It appears substantially agreed that the Queen's Hospital is to have the benefit of Mr. West's services as Surgeon—that we are to be on an equal footing. It is not settled which of us is to be considered senior. Although apparently a nominal matter, this is not in reality such; upon its settlement depends which of us is to be in the course of time senior-surgeon to the Queen's Hospital—an office by charter endowed with special privileges—which of us is to enjoy the honour of aspiring to be the successor to the founder of the Institution, Mr. Sands Cox. I confess myself very far from indifferent on these points. I think I should have some right to submit that the question should be settled after full and impartial consideration of professional claims—scientific and practical—as considered by academical career, public positions held, original investigations conducted, and works published.

“I can but repeat what I have frequently said and written—I only pray for a fair decision on the grounds originally stipulated and publicly advertised by the Council of Queen's College. I am only anxious for the honour of my profession, for the dignity of truth, and for the safety of the public principles involved in awards of merit and in the distribution of patronage; not with regard to private or party interests, but with sole reference to the public good.

“Lest it should be thought that circumstances might in the proposed basis of arrangement for the senior position be at present unduly in my favour, I suggest that the point be left unsettled for six or twelve months, then to be decided by the Council of Queen's College, or by arbiters appointed by it; such decision or arbitration to be final.

“If it be true, as I believe it is, that trials to institutions as to individuals, however painful, are eventually productive of good, I pray that such may be the end in this instance, and that I may be permitted earnestly to labour for so desirable a consummation.

“Believe me, dear Sir,

“Yours very faithfully, J. SAMPSON GAMGEE.

“January 16th, 1858.”

THE PROFESSION IN SYDNEY. As illustrative of the value of the services of labourers over medical men, the *Sydney Morning Herald* of November 10th, contains three advertisements, the first from a “labourer five weeks out of work: will gladly accept employment at 5s. per day.” This is followed by a public company offering a qualified medical man precisely the same remuneration; and a messenger, in another public institution, is offered £150 per annum, or nearly double the sum at which the services of the medical man are valued.

BENEFACTENCE. Miss Eleanor Kemp, of Newcastle-upon-Trent, has bequeathed the following legacies to the charities of that town:—Female Penitentiary Dispensary, £100; Benefit Society for Married Women in their Confinement, £100; Indigent Sick Society, £50. Sir C. M. Clarke, Bart., has bequeathed to the Army Medical Benevolent Society £500; the Society for the Relief of the Widows and Orphans of Medical Men, £500; Royal Medical Benevolent College, £50; the Asylum for Idiots, £50; the St. Albans Medical Club, £100; St. George's Hospital, £200, the dividends thereof to be paid to the student educated in that institution whose good conduct during the preceding year the Trustees shall consider deserving of it, and to be called “The Prize of Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, Bart., for good conduct.” Mr. Denton, of Lincoln's Inn Fields, who died a few weeks since, has bequeathed £500 to St. Luke's Hospital for Lunatics.

DEATHS FROM MALPRACTICE IN AUSTRALIA. It is to be regretted that the number of coroner's inquests in the different sections of the Australian colonies, to determine the cause of death in cases where parties have died in consequence of the malpractices of reckless and ignorant pretenders in medicine and surgery, is steadily on the increase. The newspapers abound with the startling details. We hope the different governments will feel the paramount necessity of remedying this state of things by proper legal restraint. (*Australian Medical Journal*, July 1857.)

IMPORTANCE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING OF THE BODY TO MEDICAL MEN. Dr. Richardson, in his Lecture on The Medical Pilgrim's Progress, delivered at the opening of the present session at the Grosvenor Place School, and published in the January number of the *Sanitary Review*, recommends to students simplicity of living, carried to the boundary of abstemiousness. He then thus urges the importance of active exertion:—"Connected with the physical training of the body, I recommend to you strongly the continued and systematic strengthening of the muscular power. Our profession, lending itself too readily to the Old Wife's stereotype of a doctor, makes a grand and universal mistake in this respect. A doctor may pipe a sentimental song in an elegant carbonic acid depôt, called a drawing-room. Yes; that is allowable, although a hearty laugh, which is the most healthy exercise in nature, is forbidden by prim society. The doctor may play a rubber at whist, with a whining old maid for a partner; that is excusable, unavoidable sometimes. He may mildly go through a dance; but he must not romp or polka; certainly not. He may drink wine after dinner till his head swims; that is essential. He may, in fact, do everything of this kind that is effeminate and enervating; but Heaven protect the man if he ventures to play tennis, cricket, or any other game that shall call into unwonted play his elegant, half-useless, mute-at-a-funeral-clad limbs. Gentlemen, without encouraging you to any injurious pursuits, I call upon you as the coming representatives of medicine, to disobey the old woman oracle, which dictates these absurd conventionalities. Innocent, active pleasures are the salt of life; and the more vigorous the man, the more vigorous the mind. I take it that much of the namby-pambyism, vapidity, and anæmic conceit, which too much characterise all the learned professions, are due to this slow progress of effemination, this undermining of the soul. Go to the British Association for the Advancement of Science—that parliament of intellect! and observe there who are the Science-Hercules. You will find them amongst the men who are most genial, best body-built, least conventional. As another means of strengthening the physical organism, and of securing therewith the development of mental power, I urge on you strongly, as an amusement, the practical study of mechanical laws. Every lesson here learned is a lesson in practical mathematics; and the manufacture of a mere wheelbarrow by an educated man is worth a dozen problems of Euclid. In addition, the Esculapian has, throughout the whole of his career, to study and treat the most beautifully constructed of all machines; so that the more he knows of practical mechanics, the more he knows of man. And yet another valuable process arises out of the practice of physical exercise; I mean promptitude in action; readiness, without the feeling of drudgery, to do at once, and to the best advantage, every work that has to be done. 'Procrastination is the thief of time'—and nothing so surely produces procrastination as inertia of body. Mental labours in the development of their full force require inevitably some amount of physical industry; and you will find, if ever you come to the exercise of the purest labours of mind, that the preparatory step to each section of work is to throw off an indescribable sensation of physical idleness. My belief, indeed, is, that the mind is never idle in a strict sense; and that, although brain has to do all the thinking, it is muscle that has to do all the wearying. Physiologically, indeed, this is explained. For, as every art, physical or mental, is a tax levied upon the respiration and circulation; and as the functions of respiration and circulation are functions dependent on the energy of muscle, so is muscle a prime mover of mind, and so must it the more carefully be kept in full and vigorous force. The men who measure intellect by mere size of head and brain, comprehend but half the physical problem. A finely balanced brain is unquestionably a grand acquisition; but, like a splendidly built bank *minus* an in-going capital, the brain is a poor concern without a good chest and stomach to feed it with its full complement of oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, water, and other brain-bullion."

EXTRAMURAL INTERMENT IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY. The January number of the *Sanitary Review*, in an article on Metropolitan Hygiene in the Past, contains the following interesting paragraph connected with the history of the Charterhouse. "In what were the suburbs of ancient London, there is a district which still preserves something of its former air of solitude and quiet, amid the noise and tumult which have for five centuries been gradually gathering round it. In the reign of the third Edward, it was a piece of waste land belonging to the brethren of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and situated

outside the bars of Smithfield, at some distance from the city wall. When the black plague, after advancing with rapid strides over Europe, numbering in every community its victims by tens of thousands, had at length reached the sunny western shores of this island, there were in London two public spirited men who, foreseeing the fate that overhung the doomed city, determined to provide the means of extramural sepulture. These were Sir Walter Manny, the noble Hainault knight, companion-in-arms of Edward and the Black Prince, and Ralph Stratford, Bishop of London. Two pieces of land, adjoining each other, were purchased; that by the bishop in 1348 was called 'No Man's Land,' and in Stow's time was a fair garden, retaining the name of Pardon Church-yard; that by Sir Walter, in the following year, was named Spittle Croft, from its being the property of the hospital, and was in extent thirteen acres and a rod. Both these fields were duly consecrated for burial. In the latter, Stow adduces not only the charters of Edward III, but also an inscription on a stone-cross erected in the churchyard, to prove that fifty thousand persons, during that fearful epidemic, found their final resting-place. For twenty years the ground was used as a burying-place for poor people and travellers, according to the benevolent will of the purchaser, who built there a chapel, and afterwards founded a priory of Carthusian monks; adding to their possessions Pardon churchyard, long afterwards the last home of those who had forfeited their lives to the law, or had desperately ended them. After the dissolution of monasteries, the house, 'a very large and goodly mansion, beautified with spacious gardens, walks, orchards, and other pleasures, enriched with divers dependencies', was purchased of the Earl of Suffolk by Thomas Sutton, for the purpose of founding a hospital for eighty poor persons and forty scholars. Such, in few words, is the history of the Charterhouse, a locality endeared to every lover of modern English literature by the truthful fiction of Thackeray and the classic page of Washington Irving."

TREATMENT OF DRUNKEN MANIACS. At a recent meeting of the Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical Society, Dr. Benjamin Bell in the chair, Dr. Alexander Peddie read a paper on the medico-legal relations of drunkenness, and the treatment of drunken maniacs. He entered into a lengthened argument to show that many victims of *dipsomania* or *oinomania* are fit subjects for restraint and control in reformatory asylums as lunatics. He believed that many cases of heartrending distress, endless annoyance, and sudden calamity would be saved to the public, by timely interference and restraint in such cases, and that it was the mere name of liberty, and not the thing, which presented difficulty to proper legislation on the subject. The plan which he suggested for the treatment and reformation of the dipsomaniac class was—1st, The opening of four separate institutions for this class, say in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dumfries, and Inverness, duly licensed, and under the management of public boards; 2nd, That each board be composed of at least one magistrate, one justice of the peace, one clergyman, and one physician, who should grant orders for reception and discharge of patients, and make regular visits; 3rd, That in all cases of complaint of treatment or undue detention, an appeal should be open to the Home Secretary, or to the new Lunacy Commission; 4th, That applications for admission might be voluntarily made by dipsomaniacs, or for compulsory restraint, through the Sheriff, by any friend, relative, or other person, or parochial board, willing to pay all expenses; 5th, That all applications for compulsory restraint should be made through the Sheriff, setting forth that for so long a period the dipsomaniac had suffered from this disease, that all ordinary means of cure had proved unavailing, that all power of self-control was gone, that peace was disturbed and life endangered by his being at liberty, etc.; 6th, That the principal statements of the petition should be attested by two witnesses, including the ordinary medical attendant, if any, the Sheriff to appoint another medical practitioner to inquire into the case. Professor Christison spoke in favour of the proposal, and was followed by Mr. Dunlop, M.P., who said that he had had a good deal of communication with the Lord Advocate on the subject, but they felt it was impossible, from the many difficulties that stood in their way, and from the delicacy required in adjusting the details, to attempt to take it up without exposing the Lunacy Bill to delay and possible failure. After some remarks from Professor Macdonald, of St. Andrews, Professor Laycock expressed his belief that a degree of discrimination as to the different forms of *oinomania* which had not been yet attained was required before it could be made a matter of legislation.

THE NEW SYDENHAM SOCIETY.

The inaugural meeting of this Society was held on Monday evening last, at the rooms of the Medical Society of London, George Street, Hanover Square. It was numerously attended: among those present were Dr. Watson, Dr. G. Budd, Dr. G. Johnson, Dr. R. Quain, Dr. Hodgkin, Mr. Spencer Wells, Dr. Richardson, Dr. Leared, etc. Dr. C. J. B. Williams, F.R.S., was called to the chair. The first resolution, providing for the formation of the Society, was proposed by Dr. Watson, and carried unanimously. The object of the Society was stated to be the translation and publication of modern works and essays on medicine, which are not easily accessible to the English reader. A code of laws was submitted to the meeting, and adopted; and the following gentlemen were elected office-bearers:—

President: C. J. B. Williams, M.D., F.R.S. *Vice-Presidents:* Sir Philip Crampton, Bart., F.R.S.; Thomas Addison, M.D.; H. W. Acland, M.D., F.R.S.; William P. Alison, M.D., F.R.S.E.; Thomas Mayo, M.D., F.R.S.; J. Y. Simpson, M.D.; William Stokes, M.D.; J. A. Symonds, M.D., F.R.S.E.; Thomas Watson, M.D.; W. Sands Cox, Esq., F.R.S.; J. H. James, Esq.; James Paget, Esq., F.R.S.; Samuel Solby, Esq., F.R.S.; Edward Stanley, Esq., F.R.S.; T. P. Teale, Esq., F.L.S. *Council:* Robert Barnes, M.D.; William Brinton, M.D.; Andrew Clark, M.D.; W. T. Gardner, M.D.; C. Radclyffe Hall, M.D.; Thomas Inman, M.D.; Charles Murehison, M.D.; John W. Ogle, M.D.; Thomas B. Peacock, M.D.; Richard Quain, M.D.; W. S. Saunders, M.D.; Allen Thomson, M.D.; William Bowman, Esq., F.R.S.; John E. Ericsson, Esq.; John Hilton, Esq., F.L.S.; George M. Humphry, Esq.; William B. Page, Esq.; H. Spencer Smith, Esq.; John S. Soden, Esq.; Henry Thompson, Esq.; T. Jolliffe Tufnell, Esq.; T. Spencer Wells, Esq. *Secretary:* Jonathan Hutchinson, Esq., 14, Finsbury Circus.

It was stated that about 250 members had already joined the new Society. The annual meetings will be held at the same times and places as the annual meetings of the British Medical Association.

SUPERSTITION IN FRANCE. A fresh example of the extraordinary credulity of the French peasantry was presented some days ago before the Tribunal of Correctional Police of Lisieux (Eure) in the trial of a married woman, named Marguerin, for swindling. This woman, who lived in the town, professed to be a sorceress, and to have the power of curing maladies by incantations. The wife of a man named Boutrin having fallen ill, he called the woman in, and she demanded for her services 100*fr.*, which were at once paid. The woman, producing a pack of cards, arranged them in a peculiar manner; then she called for a pound of nails, and placed them in the cover of a saucepan on the fire until they were red hot; then, with a variety of strange gestures, and muttering incomprehensible words, she cast water on the nails; and then, lastly, removing the sick woman from the bed, she made her plunge a fork into the bubbles created by the water. This done, she declared that the patient would be cured next day, as the fork had stabbed the spirits that bewitched her; but the next day the patient, to her own astonishment and that of her husband, was considerably worse. On this the pretended sorceress tried a new plan, which she represented to be infallible. She took a wreath of ivy, and attached to each leaf a piece of paper, on which was written "Our Lady of Deliverance", "Our Lady of Grace", or the name of some saint. Over each leaf she said an Ave and a Pater, and then plunged the wreath into water, and made sundry incantations over it. After a while she withdrew it, and, seeing that some of the leaves had become dark, declared that it was the saints whose name they bore who afflicted the woman, and that she must go on a pilgrimage to their chapels. That operation, however, though it cost some money, did not cure the woman. Several other persons were cheated out of different sums by the same or similar means, and one of them out of as much as 300*fr.* Sometimes her dupes, on seeing that her incantations failed, talked of calling in a doctor, but she declared solemnly that if they did so the sick person would instantly die. The consequence of this was, that her dupes were sometimes in serious danger, and one of them actually died in her hands. The tribunal sentenced her to thirteen months imprisonment and 50*fr.* fine.

TREATMENT OF FROST-BITE. An Equineman had his leg frozen above the knee, stiff, colourless, and to all appearance lifeless. He was placed in a snow-house, at a temperature of 20° below zero. The parts were bathed with ice-cold water for

about two hours, and then enveloped in furs for three or four hours. Then frictions were used, first with the feathery side of a bird-skin, then with snow, alternately wrapping the limb in furs, and rubbing it for nearly twenty-four hours. It was next carefully wrapped up, and the temperature of the snow-house raised by lamps above zero. On the third day, the patient was taken to his house (where there is often a temperature of 70° or 80°), and in seventy hours he was walking about, with only a slight frost-bite on one of his toes. (*American Journal.*)

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. WYSTER 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.

TO CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others, would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that hereafter no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers always deter the reader from commencing them, this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

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

Communications have been received from:—Dr. H. W. ACLAND; Mr. H. THARY, JUN.; Mr. H. WILKIN; Mr. H. WALTON; Dr. GOODE; Dr. CAMERON; Dr. P. H. WILLIAMS; Dr. C. H. F. BOUTH; Mr. T. HOLMES; Dr. G. G. ROGERS; Mr. TOYNBEE; Mr. W. HOAR; Mr. JENKINS; Mr. R. T. BEWATER; Dr. CAMPS; Mr. STONE; Mr. HENRY DAYMAN; A LANCASHIRE SURGEON; Mr. J. S. GAMGER; and Mr. JOSEPH POPE.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

1. The Journal of Psychological Medicine and Mental Pathology. Edited by *Forbes Winslow, M.D.
2. The Asylum Journal of Mental Science. Published by Authority of the Association.
3. On Dislocations and Fractures. By Joseph MacRae, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. Fasciculus I. London: John Churchill, 1883.
4. Transactions of the Pathological Society. Volume VIII. London: 1887.
5. A Sketch of the Principles and Practices of Subcutaneous Surgery, being the Oration delivered before the Medical Society of London, at the Eighty-fourth Anniversary, March 9, 1887. By *William Adams, F.R.C.S. London: John Churchill, 1887.
6. Directions for the Preservation of Health and the Prevention of the Spread of Catching or Infectious Diseases. By *E. Lankester, M.D., F.R.S. Pamphlet: 1888.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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