

In medical circles it is so well known that lamentable examples of sepooy cruelty have arrived in this country, and have passed through the consulting-rooms of our leading physicians, that we are lost in astonishment at this denial. We may state that we have been told by a friend that Sir Charles Locock had informed him that he himself had lately been consulted by a lady whose nose and ears had been cut off, and whose child had been deprived of its feet and hands by the mutineers; this very lady and child, if we mistake not, afterwards visited Clifton, and were for a time under the care of our respected associate Dr. Symonds. If we are wrong in this particular instance we shall, perhaps, be corrected, as it is of the utmost importance that the truth should be known in a matter which has so excited the passions of all classes of the community.

Inventions and Appliances

IN
MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

BOURJEAURD'S ABDOMINAL BELT FOR PARACENTESIS.

In an article on the surgical adaptations of compression by elastic material, published by him in the *Bulletin Général de Thérapeutique* for June 15th, 1857, M. BOURJEAURD has described an apparatus which he has devised for use in cases of paracentesis of the abdomen. We extract his description of the apparatus and its advantages.

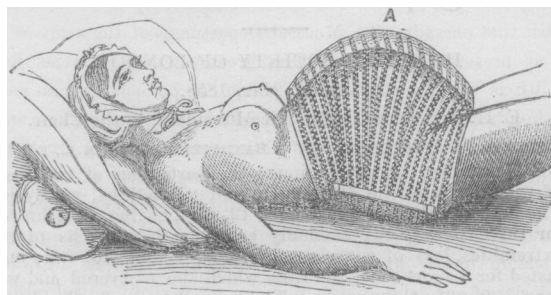
The evacuation of serous, purulent, or sanguineous fluid by puncture through the abdominal walls, as in ascites, ovarian dropsy, etc., is not always either so easy or so complete as the surgeon desires. The condition of the walls of the cavity containing the fluid; their relations with the adjacent parts; the nature itself of the contained fluid; may more or less neutralise the effect of the atmospheric pressure and of the elasticity of the muscular, aponeurotic, and cutaneous coverings. Hence, in most cases, in order to hasten and ensure the evacuation of the fluid, the surgeon is obliged to press with his hands in various directions. But this process, however carefully performed, is always more or less painful; and moreover, acting only by jerks and locally, produces its object but imperfectly.

[The objection pointed out by M. Bourjeaurd to pressure with the hand applies also, though in a less degree, to the plan commonly adopted in England of producing pressure by means of a gradually tightened flannel band. This, it is true, acts in the direction of the *circumference* of the abdomen; but above and below there must be, even when great care is taken, portions which receive less of the pressure.]

To obviate the inconveniences pointed out, M. Bourjeaurd has devised an apparatus the action of which is constant and equal, and which both favours the evacuation of fluid, and afterwards compresses the walls of the cavity better than the ordinary bandages.

The apparatus consists of a belt of silk or cotton and caoutchouc, without seams; elastic laterally; large enough to reach from the sternum to the pubis; and capable of pressing powerfully, when once in place, on the entire surface of the parts to which it is applied. The circumference of the belt must be regulated by that of the abdomen, measured at the most prominent part. It ought to be tighter, the more the abdomen is distended with fluid, so that its compressing action may continue after complete evacuation. The difference between the dimension of the belt and that of the parts to be compressed can scarcely be determined precisely. It may be, according to the case, 8, 12, or 15 inches.

The belt is passed over the feet up to the body. When once in place, it exercises on the whole abdomen a pressure which



is equal, constant, powerful, and plainly felt by the patient. The sensation produced by it, more inconvenient than painful, diminishes as soon as the fluid, an opening being made by the trocar, begins to escape, which it does in a full and continued stream until entirely evacuated. When the fluid is all evacuated, the retractile force of the belt is sufficient to compress the abdominal walls, thus obviating the necessity of any other bandage.

The first application of this apparatus to ovarian dropsy was made some years ago in England, in a patient operated on by the late Mr. Bransby Cooper. M. Bourjeaurd was led to propose it in this case by the success which he had obtained in a number of cases of paracentesis for ascites. Since that time, he says, he has employed it often enough to have no doubt of its harmlessness and efficacy. The apparatus has been applied in Paris, to the entire satisfaction of the surgeons. In one case in the Charité hospital, operated on by M. Giralès, the quantity of fluid was so large, that the elastic reaction of the belt was not sufficient to maintain pressure after the evacuation of the cyst. A fold was accordingly made in the anterior part of the belt (as represented in the figure) and narrowed daily.

We recommend the apparatus here described to the attention of surgeons. It appears excellently adapted for its purpose; and what would give greater confidence in using it, is the fact, that the inventor is himself a member of the medical profession, and brings anatomical knowledge to bear on his surgical applications of elastic materials.

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:

can also testify with what slight inconvenience to the patients such a novel remedy is borne, how soon they get accustomed to it, and how very frequently it comes to be regarded ultimately as an habitual luxury. Trusting that these remarks may not be considered uncalled for, seeing that they are made with the view of removing an erroneous impression apt to be widely circulated through the medium of your valuable columns, I am, etc., JOHN G. S. COGHILL, M.D.

52, Queen Street, Edinburgh, 1st February, 1858.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

GIBSON. On February 1st, at Edinburgh, the wife of John Gibson, Esq., Surgeon R.N., of Doune, of a son.
HOWELL. On January 26th, at Wandsworth, the wife of Thomas Symonds Howell, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
STEGGALL. On January 27th, at 3, Queen Square, the wife of John W. B. Steggall, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
STEVENS. On January 31st, at 26, Bloomsbury Square, the wife of James Stevens, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

CHRISTIE—CARSTAIRS. CHRISTIE, Alexander, Esq., of Hawk Hill, Edinburgh, to Margaret Isabella Durham, eldest daughter of William Carstairs, Esq., H.E.I.C.S., on January 27th, at Westport, Cupar, Fife.
COW—HATFULL. Cow, Charles Billing, Esq., to Jane, third daughter of Robert Hatfull, Esq., Surgeon, of Deptford, on January 28th.

DEATHS.

ALDERSON, John Septimus, Esq., Medical Superintendent of the West Riding Lunatic Asylum, at Wakefield, aged 41, on January 28th.
BROOKS. On December 14th, 1857, at St. Andrew's, Jamaica, of yellow fever, aged 22, Caroline Broughton, wife of the Rev. G. B. Brooks, and daughter of J. G. K. Burt, M.D., of Harwich.
BROWN, George Barron, Esq., of Bolon, Anatolia, eldest son of *I. Baker Brown, Esq., of Connaught Square, at Constantinople, on January 11th.
CAMPBELL, Donald, Esq., Surgeon H.E.I.C.S., at Jermyn Street, suddenly, on January 28th.
FULFORD. On January 27th, at 6, Carey Street, Lincoln's Inn, aged 3 years, Percy Edmund William, eldest son of William Fulford, Esq., Surgeon.
HAMILTON. On January 26th, at Martin Rectory, near Skipton, Anna Mary, wife of the Rev. W. H. Hamilton, and daughter of *Thomas Turner, Esq., Surgeon, of Manchester.
KINGSFORD. On January 31st, at Sunbury, Middlesex, aged 4 years, Evelyn Bessie, youngest daughter of *Edward Kingsford, Esq., Surgeon.
MASON. On January 27th, at Surbiton, Surrey, aged 6 months, Charles Edward, only son of Chas. J. Mason, Esq., Surgeon.
TURNER. On January 31st, at 81, Curzon Street, Emma, youngest daughter of Thomas Turner, F.R.C.P.
YELLOLY. On January 26th, at Cavendish Hall, Suffolk, Harriet Yelloly, daughter of the late John Yelloly, M.D., F.R.S.

APPOINTMENTS.

LIVINGSTONE, David, M.D., LL.D., the celebrated African explorer, has been appointed by the Queen to be Her Majesty's Consul in the district of Quillimane, Senna, and Tête, on the eastern coast of Africa.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, January 29th, 1858:—

BRADLEY, Frederick, Tipton, Staffordshire
DIXON, Frederick, Brighton

ELLIS, William, Morley, near Leeds
EVANS, George Henry, Manchester
MAYSMOR, Humphrey Leverington, London
MEDD, John, Stockport, Cheshire
WILKINSON, Frederick Eachus, Sydenham
WILLIAMS, John, Pen y bryn, Wrexham, North Wales

APOTHECARIES' HALL. Members admitted on Thursday, January 28th, 1858:—

BACON, George Mackenzie, Lewes
CHEVES, Alexander Bruce, Aberdeen
DUCHESNE, Richard, London
GRAY, Edward Benjamin, Oxford
LAWRENCE, Arthur Garnon, Carmarthen
WALKER, Henry, Lynn, Norfolk

And, as an assistant—

MILSON, Richard Henry, St. Mary's Hospital

HONOURABLE EAST INDIA COMPANY'S SERVICE. Successful candidates at the Competitive Examination, January 11th and 16th, 1858:—

COLLES, J. A. Purefoy, M.D.
HAIG, William James, M.D.
CAMPBELL, Alexander D., M.D.
COURTNEY, S. C., M.D.
PRENTIS, Charles
CHANDRA, Rajendra Chandra, M.D.
MCCOY, John, M.D.
SIDDERSDALE, Robert, M.D.
ATTCHESON, J. S. E., M.D.
LEES, S. H., M.D.
VEALE, Thomas S.
SWITZER, B. W.
CARTER, H. V., M.D.
DANIEL, Cyrus, M.D.
BEACH, H. J.

There were thirty-nine candidates in all.

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING JANUARY 30TH, 1858.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

In the week that ended on Saturday (January 30th), the total number of deaths registered in London was 1363, showing a small increase on the rather high mortality of the previous week. In the ten years 1848-57, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1171; but as the deaths in the present return occurred in an increased population, they should be compared with the average raised in proportion to the increase, when the comparison will show that the number of persons who died last week exceeded by 75 the number who would have died if only the average rate of mortality had prevailed.

Of the 1363 deaths, 248 are referred to the zymotic class of diseases; 260 to the constitutional; 650 to the local; 164 to the developmental; 19 to violence. The remaining 22 are sudden and other deaths, the causes of which are not stated, or not defined sufficiently for classification. The 19 violent deaths include one by suicide.

The deaths referred to the miasmatic order of diseases number 222, while the corrected average is 260. This reduction of mortality indicates a satisfactory state of health amongst children, who are the chief sufferers by the diseases of which this order is composed. Only 5 cases of diarrhoea were fatal, and the mortality of small-pox continues low, not more than 2 fatal cases being returned last week. Whooping-cough, which carried off 54 children, was more fatal than any other miasmatic disease; three children died of it within a week in a family in Euston Road; measles was fatal in 50 cases, scarlatina in 42.

On the other hand, the deaths due to diseases of the organs of respiration numbered 380, whilst the corrected average of corresponding weeks does not exceed 284. The excess is caused by bronchitis, which is fatal much beyond its usual amount; 227 deaths are the results of this complaint, 104 of pneumonia, 32 of asthma; only 4 are returned under the specific designation of influenza. The two oldest persons whose deaths are recorded were women aged respectively 91 and 92 years.

Last week, the births of 880 boys and 870 girls, in all 1750 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1848-57, the average number was 1611.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 30.104 in. The mean temperature

of the week was 37·5°, which is near the average of the same week in forty-three years. On Saturday (the 30th), the temperature rose to 51°, which was the highest in the week. On Monday (the 25th) the temperature fell to 21·4°, having ranged 21° in the twenty-four hours. The mean daily range was 13·9°. The difference between the mean dew-point temperature and air temperature was 4·4°. The mean degree of humidity was 82. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 38°, slightly exceeding that of the air. The wind was variable, but chiefly from the south and west. The rain-fall measured 0·22 in., which occurred on Saturday.

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. M'WILLIAM, R.N., F.R.S., MEDICAL INSPECTOR H.M. CUSTOMS.

On Saturday last, a Committee of gentlemen, headed by Sir John Forbes, M.D., F.R.S., Dr. Andrew Clark, Dr. F. J. Brown, and others, waited upon Dr. M'William, in behalf of the Medical Officers of the Royal Navy, for the purpose of presenting him with a magnificent service of plate, as a token of respect for his distinguished character and services, and as an expression of gratitude for his long, disinterested, and finally successful advocacy of the claims of naval assistant-surgeons to ward-room rank.

In detailing the circumstances which had more immediately led to this presentation, Sir John Forbes alluded in eloquent and touching terms to the histories of the Niger expedition, and the fever at Boa Vista, in the Cape de Verds; and cited Dr. M'William's conduct in the former as one of the noblest illustrations of civil heroism on record. Sir John concluded by saying he felt honoured by having been made the medium of conveying such a testimonial to such a man, and expressed the hope that Dr. M'William would long be spared to witness the ripe fruit of his arduous labour, and enjoy the universal applause of his fellow-men.

In his reply, Dr. M'William described the condition of naval assistant-surgeons when he began his efforts for its amelioration; pictured the evils which that condition inflicted on the individual, the profession, the service, and society at large; illustrated the peculiar difficulties he had to contend with in asserting the acknowledged rights of his junior brethren; and said that, but for the noble and disinterested representation of the cause by the general and professional press, and its powerful and unflinching advocacy by Boldero, Hume, Wakley, and others, in the House of Commons, and by Lord Campbell, Lord Brougham, the Duke of Richmond, and others, in the Lords,—the success which they now celebrated would have been deferred to a very distant day. Dr. M'William concluded a manly and modest speech by expressing his gratification with so generous an appreciation of his services, gratitude for so splendid an acknowledgment of them, and hearty thanks to those who had helped him to achieve the triumph of principle over prejudice.

Dr. LIVINGSTONE. This celebrated African discoverer intends to take his departure for the east coast of Africa about the middle of February, in a steamer bound for Ceylon, which will touch at the mouth of the Zambese River, and there leave the expedition.

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.

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

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.

TO CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others, would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that in future 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:—Mr. W. D. KESTIVEN; Mr. W. HONNER FITZPATRICK; Mr. GEORGE GILL; Dr. JOHN G. S. COGHILL; Dr. A. CLARK, AND Dr. F. J. BROWN; Mr. T. HOLMES; Dr. G. COFFEY; Mr. W. COULSON; Dr. F. BRITTAN; Dr. ROUTH; Dr. P. H. WILLIAMS; Mr. A. TROUSDALE; Mr. J. TARZEWEILL; Mr. R. W. DAVIES; Mr. F. W. DIX; M. LE DR. MÉRAN (Bordeaux); Mr. STONE; and Mr. R. O. BLYTHMAN.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

1. The Medical and Legal Relations of Madness: shewing a Cellular Theory of Mind, and of Nerve Force, and also of Vegetative Vital Force. By Joshua Burgess, M.D. London: John Churchill. 1858.
2. A Three Weeks' Scamper through the Spas of Germany and Belgium; with an Appendix on the Nature and Uses of Mineral Waters. By *Erasmus Wilson, F.R.S. London: John Churchill. 1858.
3. Lectures on Diseases of the Stomach and Indigestion. By Cathcart Lees, M.B., T.C.D. Dublin: Fannin and Co. 1857.
4. On Squinting, Paralytic Affections of the Eye, and certain Forms of Impaired Vision. By *Carsten Holthouse, F.R.C.S.E. London: John Churchill. 1858.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Part 49, illustrated with 2 Lithographs and some Woodcuts.

The Dublin Quarterly Journal of MEDICAL SCIENCE FOR FEBRUARY.

Subscription Twenty Shillings per Annum.

CONTENTS.

PART FIRST—ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

1. On the Rise of the Dublin School of Midwifery. By Dr. M'Clintock.
2. Report on an Operation for Carotid Aneurism. By Dr. S. H. Hobart.
3. On the Use of the Shower-bath in Delirium Tremens. By Dr. Law.
4. On the Relation of Gangrene to Gout. By Mr. Ledwich.
5. On the Therapeutic Uses of Strychnia. By Mr. De Ricci.
6. The Treatment of Chronic Abscess by Drainage Tubes. By Dr. Wilmot.
7. On the State of Medical Practice in Turkey. By Dr. Foote.
8. On Transfusion of Blood in Diseases of the Horse. By Mr. Farrall.

PART SECOND—REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

Adams on Rheumatic Gout.—Lees and Habershon on Diseases of the Digestive Organs.—Von Dübén's Pathological Anatomy.—Bellingham on Diseases of the Heart.—The English and French Armies Medically considered.—Robinson on the Circulation of the Blood.—Silbert on Blood-letting in Pregnancy.—Sieveking on Epilepsy.—Vogel on Disorders of the Blood.—The Marshall-Hall Method of Treating the Drowned.—Vaccination in 1857.—Churchill on the Diseases of Children.—Transactions of the Pathological Society of London.—Cameron on the Chemistry of Agriculture.

PART THIRD—MEDICAL MISCELLANY.

Transactions of the College of Physicians in Ireland.—Transactions of the County and City of Cork Medical and Surgical Society.—Transactions of the Belfast Medical Society.—Note on a New Preparation of Bark.—Verneuil on Metastatic Effusions into the Tunica Vaginalis.

All Communications and Books for Review to be forwarded to the Editor, care of Messrs. MCGILSHAN & GILL, 50, Upper Sackville Street, Dublin.

Dublin: MCGILSHAN & GILL, 50, Upper Sackville Street. London: LONGMAN & Co.; SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & Co. Edinburgh: JOHN MENZIES.

British Medical Association.

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS AND PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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

Admission of Members. Any qualified Medical Practitioner, not disqualified by any bye-law, who shall be recommended as eligible by any THREE Members, shall be admitted a Member at any time by the Committee of Council, or by the Council of any Branch.

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

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

1. Payment by Post-Office Order to the Treasurer (Sir C. Hastings, M.D., Worcester), or to the undersigned.
2. Payment to the Secretary of the Branch to which the Member belongs.

Members residing in the Metropolis and vicinity can make their payments through the Publisher of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, Mr. Thomas John Honeyman, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W. C.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, General Secretary

Worcester, January 7th, 1858.