

therefore, a great satisfaction to them to find that the new building will not only afford space for a greatly enlarged collection, but, will form an admirable lecture-room, and will also permit the addition of two smaller rooms; one for microscopic demonstration and the other for chemical analysis."

It is highly satisfactory to know that the recommendations, both of the medical officers and of the sub-committee appointed to inquire into the subject, were adopted at a special general meeting of the subscribers held on February 10th. Dr. William Budd, one of the physicians, made an effective speech in support of the project. A subscription was at once entered into, the chairman (J. S. Harford, Esq.) heading the list with £200, and putting down another name for a like sum.

Colonel Ouseley, the unfortunate lunatic who caused summonses to be taken out last week against the two medical men who signed his certificate, has been again committed to an asylum. After wandering about, and getting into more than one workhouse, he was at last discovered, in the garb of a pauper, in the Whitechapel Union Workhouse, whence he was taken to Dr. Wood's establishment at Kensington. The case will, we trust, lead the public to believe, that the signing of a certificate of lunacy by a medical man is not a mere exercise of arbitrary power, as some people are too apt to believe, but an act as necessary, in the vast majority of cases, for the protection of the public as for that of the individual.

Association Intelligence.

NUMBERS OF THE JOURNAL WANTED.

THE numbers of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for February 13th and 20th (LIX and LX) are out of print. As several copies of these have been already asked for, and as others will be required to complete the sets for new members, those associates who have no further use for their Journals of the above dates are respectfully requested to return them to the publisher (prepaid by one stamp), at 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. Postage stamps will be sent in return, to the amount of sixpence for each number.

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.

ROCHESTER, CHATHAM, AND GRAVESEND DISTRICT MEETINGS, IN CONNEXION WITH THE SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

THE third of the present series of meetings was held at Gravesend, on Friday, March 12th, at 3.30 P.M.: JOHN ARMSTRONG, M.D., of Gravesend, in the Chair. There were also present: W. Addison, M.D. (Maidstone); John J. D. Burns, M.D. (Chatham); W. Burton, Esq. (Brompton, Chatham); F. Barham, Esq. (Maidstone); F. J. Brown, M.D. (Chatham); D. Culhane, Esq. (Dartford); J. Dulvey, Esq. (Brompton, Chatham); F. Fry, Esq. (Maidstone); H. M. Gould, Esq. (Wateringbury); W. T. Keddell, Esq. (Maidstone); Adam Martin, M.D. (Rochester); C. J. Pinching, Esq. (Gravesend); F. Plomley, M.D. (Maidstone); J. C. Seecombe, Esq. (Greenhithe); C. Robert Thompson, Esq. (Westerham); and the following gentlemen as visitors: C. Bateman, Esq. (Gravesend); J. E. Crook, M.D. (Northfleet); Samuel Gould, Esq. (Northfleet); S. Norton, M.D. (West Malling); J. H. Gramshaw, Esq. (Gravesend); W. H. Flight, Esq. (Gravesend); D. D. McDonald, Esq. (Staff-Surgeon, Gravesend); C. H. Leet, Esq. (Assistant Staff-Surgeon, Gravesend); and S. Prall, Esq. (Rochester).

Dr. F. J. BROWN, in the temporary absence of Mr. Dulvey, the Honorary Secretary, read the minutes of the proceedings of the meeting which was held at Maidstone, in February.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following gentlemen were admitted members of the Branch, each having been duly proposed, seconded, and supported in accordance with the Laws of the Association:—Samuel Gould, Esq. (Northfleet); J. H. Gramshaw, Esq. (Gravesend); Samuel Prall, Esq. (Rochester); George John Vine, Esq. (Hadlow).

COMMUNICATIONS.

The following papers were read:—

Case of Irritation of the Spinal Marrow and Phrenic Nerves. By ADAM MARTIN, M.D., Rochester.

Two Cases of Severe Injury, with Recovery. By FREDERICK FRY, Esq., F.R.C.S., senior-surgeon to the West Kent Infirmary, Maidstone.

C. R. THOMPSON, Esq., exhibited an instrument for the operation of paracentesis thoracis (his own invention), consisting of a trocar and canula, with an elastic tube depending from the canula. He showed clearly that fluid can be removed from the thorax by this instrument without the risk of the admission of air. It would be equally available in cases of ascites and ovarian dropsy.

Dr. F. J. BROWN exhibited a Philosophical Instrument, invented by Mr. Reeves, surgeon, of Carlisle. It consisted of a field compass and bar magnet, and is adapted to measure the intensity of the magnetic force of the atmosphere. Mr. Reeves conceives that there is a relation between the intensity of the magnetic force and the nature of the diseases prevalent in the neighbourhood. Thus, with high intensity, diseases of high type prevail, and *vice versa*; and with fluctuations in the intensity, diseases like diarrhoea and cholera.

ADDITIONAL MEETING.

The subject of the additional meeting was then discussed, when it was unanimously resolved—

"That the fourth and concluding meeting for the present Winter Session be held at the Town Hall, Dartford, on Friday, April 9th, at 3.45."

The thanks of the meeting were then given to those gentlemen who had read the papers, and they were requested to allow them to be published in the JOURNAL of the Association. Thanks also were given to C. R. Thompson, Esq., and Dr. Brown, for their kindness in showing their respective instruments, and to Dr. Armstrong for the ability with which he had presided on the occasion. Refreshments were introduced as usual, and a most interesting meeting was concluded at half-past six.

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS, AND PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE General Secretary of the British Medical Association begs to call the attention of members 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 for 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.

3. 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, M.D., General Secretary.

Worcester, March 1858.

the exhibition of steel, it seemed to produce some beneficial effects. In rheumatism, he had very rarely seen any good done by galvanism. The cases said to be relieved by this agent ought to be classified; and the mode of applying the instruments should be most distinctly indicated.

Mr. BALLARD wished to know if the author had seen any mineral (lead or mercury) deposited from the body in the electric bath. Certain advertisements pronounced that such effects were obtained.

Dr. HUTCHINSON POWELL thought that without other internal remedies electricity was at present of little avail.

Dr. HANDFIELD JONES had seen life probably saved by galvanism in spasm of the heart. In a case of opium-poisoning, galvanism was used, and the patient recovered. In atonic affections of the uterus good was likewise effected,

Dr. GRAILY HEWITT referred to a case of hemiplegia, the result of acute softening or clot, in which much improvement was effected; and thought that the introduction of needles to the deep-seated muscles was a desirable improvement in the application of this agent.

Mr. WEEDEN COOKE wished to know if there were really two different actions produced by galvanic agency; viz., a tonic or stimulating action, and an absorbent sedative action. If it were so, the kind of cases to which electro-galvanism was applicable would be clear. The interrupted current was said to produce the tonic effect, and the continuous current the absorbent effect. He instanced the benefit derived from the use of the interrupted current, by relating the case of a gentleman who, at forty years of age, from residence in India, and having been attacked by some of the diseases of that climate, returned to England with his virile powers greatly impaired, so that he feared to marry, as he wished to do. By means of electro-galvanism, and acid given internally to arrest a discharge of phosphates in the urine, which was said by some notorious quacks to be seminal fluid, he was quite restored.

Editor's Letter Box.

IS FALSE MEMBRANE ESSENTIAL TO DIPHThERITE?

LETTER FROM F. NEEDHAM, Esq.

SIR,—May I ask through the medium of your JOURNAL if any of your readers have observed, during the prevalence of "Diphtherite," a peculiar modification of that disease? I refer to an epidemic or endemic contagious sore throat, occurring without the formation of the false membrane (considered essential to diphtherite proper), but possessing all the other local and general symptoms, though in a much less intense degree, viz. inflamed throat, great febrile disturbance of an exceedingly asthenic type, with quick, feeble pulse, and great prostration of the vital powers. The two seem to be equally contagious, and the milder form appears capable of giving rise, in another individual, to the more severe variety of the affection, so that, while one person in a house may be attacked by the former, a second, after the expiration of a certain time (probably of incubation), may suffer from the latter in its worst phase. The one would not unreasonably be supposed to bear the same relation to the other, that scarlatina, without sore throat, does to scarlatina *anginosa*, or rubeola *sine catarrho* to rubeola proper. Moreover, both forms are alike frequently followed by eruptions on the face, etc., and occasionally even by branny desquamation of the cuticle; and the same treatment is applicable to, and answers in both, viz. topical stimulation with nitrate of silver, etc., and to general administration of chlorate of potass, or other remedies containing much oxygen.

That the two varieties are concomitant is not merely a supposition, for I have carefully noted it in many instances. Thus a whole family has been attacked by the affection, one after the other, and in some it has simply assumed the mild, in others the more severe form.

If the relationship between the two can be proved, it will, at all events, remove the idea that the ash-coloured false membrane is an essential for the existence of the diphtheritic affection.

I am, etc.,

F. NEEDHAM.

London, March 15th, 1858.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday, March 15th.

MEDICAL REFORM.

Lord TALBOT DE MALAHIDE gave notice that he would to-morrow put a question to the Government as to their intentions in respect to Medical Reform,

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Tuesday, March 16th.

MEDICAL REFORM.

1. Mr. W. COOPER gave notice of his intention to introduce a Bill on this subject.
2. Lord ELCHO obtained leave to bring in a Bill to amend the laws relating to the Medical Profession, which he said was identical with that which he had introduced last year. The Bill was brought in and read a first time.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

- BROWN. On March 11th, at Henley-on-Thames, the wife of *G. Drausfield Brown, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
- BUTLER. On March 16th, at 19, Chapel Street, Pentonville, the wife of *William Butler, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
- CORFE. On March 14th, at 59, Berners Street, Middlesex Hospital, the wife of George Corfe, M.D., of a daughter.
- DAY. On March 15th, at Norwich, the wife of William H. Day, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
- HENSLEY. On March 10th, at 5, Spring Gardens, the wife of Frederick John Hensley, M.D., of a son.
- HILL. On March 15th, at North End, Croydon, the wife of J. H. Hill, M.D., of a son.
- ROSS. On March 4th, at Clifton, the wife of J. Tyrell Ross, Esq., Surgeon, Bengal Army, of a daughter.
- VIDAL. On March 13th, at Aveley, Essex, the wife of W. Foot Vidal, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
- WEBER. On March 12th, at 44, Green Street, Grosvenor Square, the wife of Frederick Weber, M.D., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

- GIBSON—DAY. GIBSON, John, Esq., of Milton Abbey, Dorsetshire, to Jane Grace, only daughter of Henry Day, M.D., of Stafford, on March 9th.
- MACLEAN—BROWN. MACLEAN, John, M.D., of Upper Montagu Street, to Jane Ann, youngest daughter of Alexander Brown, Esq., of Perth, on March 13th.
- MONTEALEGRE—JOY. MONTEALEGRE, José Maria, M.D., to Sophia Matilda, youngest daughter of William Joy, Esq., of Fitzroy Square, at San José, Costa Rica, on January 1st.

DEATHS.

- CHIBNALL, Charles, Esq., Surgeon, at Cuba, West Indies, suddenly, on November 9th, 1857.
- FAITHFUL, John James, Esq., Surgeon Bombay Army, at Bombay, aged 39, on February 1st.
- GREENHILL. On March 14th, at Hastings, of pulmonary consumption, aged 14, Laura Mary Emily, elder daughter of *W. A. Greenhill, M.D.
- LANG, Charles Henry Christian, M.D., at 3, Howley Place Villas, Maida Hill, aged 75, on March 13th.
- SHEAN, Robert, M.D., late 7th Royal Fusiliers, at Southsea, aged 66, on March 11th.
- SIMMONS, Nicholas Frederick, Esq., for seventeen years Surgeon to the Royal Naval School, New Cross, at Hatcham, on March 7th.
- WALL, John Prichard, Esq., Surgeon, late of 6, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, of bronchitis, on March 4th.

APPOINTMENTS.

- COLLINGS, Joseph B. H., M.D., appointed by the Queen Auditor-General for the Island of Malta.
 HARLAND, William Aurelius, M.D., appointed by the Queen Colonial Surgeon for the Island of Hongkong.
 *WARDEN, Charles, M.D., elected Surgeon to the Birmingham General Dispensary.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, March 12th, 1858:—

BERKELEY, Richard William, Dartmouth Road, Blackheath
 CATTON, Richard Thomas Goltz, Army
 ELLIOTT, Charles Henry, Stroud, Gloucester
 HARGOOD, Charles Benjamin, Highbury Place
 OTTO, William James, Cape of Good Hope
 RAND, John, Hadleigh, Suffolk
 SMITH, Frederick Hodgkinson, H.E.I.C.S., Bombay
 WILLIAMS, David Mark, Liverpool
 WOAKES, Edward, Luton, Bedfordshire
 WORTS, Edwin, Colchester

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING MARCH 13TH, 1858.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE effect of the great and prolonged coldness of the atmosphere is now seen very perceptibly in the returns of mortality. During the last five weeks the mean daily temperature has been almost invariably below the average, on the first three days of March so much as 10° below it; and since the middle of February the weekly deaths in London, which had previously declined to 1105, have increased continuously, though at first slowly, until the number returned in the week that ended last Saturday was 1487. In the tenth week of each of the ten years 1848-57, which corresponds with last week, the deaths ranged from 875 to 1436, and the average was 1187; but as the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, they can only be compared with the average when the latter is raised in proportion to the increase, a correction which will make it 1305. The result is that 182 persons died last week more than would have died if the rate of mortality had not been higher than the average rate at this season.

It deserves to be noticed that the deaths increased from 1353 in the previous week to 1487 last week, and that this increase is derived from the mortality contributed by each class of disease except "local diseases," which include bronchial complaints. In the last two weeks the deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs decreased from 399 to 366. But whooping-cough, which stands in the zymotic class, rose from 59 to 69. The Registrar of St. Paul (St. George-in-the-East) states that it is very prevalent in his sub-district. Measles was fatal in 59 cases, small-pox in 7, scarlatina in 41. Nearly half of the deaths from measles occurred in the East districts. At 20 Danvers Street, Chelsea, a family has lost four children from malignant scarlatina within seven days, and two others are ill from the same complaint. "Diphtheria" is recorded as fatal in 13 cases, either as a primary or secondary disease. Bronchitis carried off 207 persons last week; pneumonia, 112; the corrected average of the former is 143, that of the latter 98. A drayman died after two hours' illness from eating mussels; 3 persons from intemperance, besides two from delirium tremens. A widow, aged 60 years, died in Union Buildings, Woolwich, from destitution. The two oldest persons recorded in the week were widows, aged respectively 92 and 96 years.

The number of births registered last week was unusually large—namely, 2007—and exceeded the deaths, though these were numerous, by 520. Of children born 1034 were boys and 964 girls. The average number of births in the corresponding weeks of ten previous years 1848-57 was 1683.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.526 in. The lowest barometrical reading was 28.86 in., on Monday; and the highest was 30.07 in., which occurred on Friday. The mean temperature of the air in the week was 34.7°, which is 5.7° below the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The mean daily temperature was below the average till Saturday; on five days it was from 7° to 9° below the average. With the exception of only one day, viz., February 13th, the mean daily temperature has been below the average

on every day, during the whole period from February 7th to March 12th, both days included. Last week the mean daily range of temperature was 15.3°. The lowest reading of the thermometer was obtained on Thursday, and was 23.6°, or 8.4° below the freezing point of water; the highest was 50.8° on Saturday; the range of the week was therefore 27.2°. The difference between the mean dew-point temperature and air temperature was 4.7°. The temperature of the water of the Thames was remarkably uniform; the highest and lowest readings of each day differed but little, and the mean of the highest in seven days was 35.2°, and that of the lowest 35.1°. The mean degree of humidity in the week was 80, complete saturation being represented by 100; the humidity of Thursday was only 64. The most frequent direction of the wind was north-west. There was no rain of appreciable amount till Saturday, and the quantity measured for that day was 0.25 in. A little snow fell on several days.

SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARIES. A meeting was held on Wednesday, March 10th, at the Grosvenor Place School of Medicine, to discuss the question of "Self-supporting Dispensaries". Earl Ducie presided. Mr. Smith of Southam read a paper, explaining his views as to the management of these institutions, pointing out their advantages under several heads. The plan had the most useful influences on the poor; it taught them to be provident, and to have self-confidence and self-respect; it enabled the upper and middle classes to assist with great success in the cause of improvement and progress. The plan was advantageous to the medical profession. Here Mr. Smith detailed the results of experiments on his scheme at Northampton, Coventry, and other places; showing, by reference to the returns of these institutions, that while the self-supporting dispensaries in no way interfere with the incomes of medical men from private patients, they bring in considerable sources of income to the profession derived from persons who can pay a small sum for professional services, but who would otherwise receive such professional services gratuitously and unjustly. In the conducting of these dispensaries, every medical man should take a part. Each head of a family, who, on being found a proper person for being enrolled, enters the society, should have the privilege of selecting his own medical man. Medical men should only prescribe for the dispensary patients. Mr. Smith stated, that with the sum of £10,000 he could originate in London twenty self-supporting dispensaries, each having twenty medical officers, each medical officer receiving £300 per annum. An animated debate took place, in which Lord Ducie, Dr. Ogle, Dr. Leared, Dr. Richardson, Dr. Powell, Dr. Chapman, Dr. Thudichum, Mr. Spencer Wells, and Mr. Propert, took part. Dr. Richardson, as honorary secretary of the Grosvenor Place School of Medicine, explained that the Faculty of Lectures, while they had been happy to hear in their theatre Mr. Smith's exposition of the self-supporting scheme, did not consider themselves pledged to support or oppose his views. The lecturers wished simply, in a liberal spirit, to give him the opportunity of explaining his plan to a London audience. Towards the end of the meeting, Mr. Spencer Wells moved, as an epitome of the feeling of the meeting, the following resolution: "That this meeting, having heard from Mr. Smith an explanation of his plan for self-supporting dispensaries, considers that the scheme admits of more extended trial, and suggests that medical men in different districts should meet to discuss the subject." The motion was seconded by Dr. Powell, and unanimously carried. Votes of thanks having been returned to Lord Ducie and Mr. Smith, the meeting separated.

THE LATE MR. TRAVERS. The remains of this distinguished surgeon were consigned to their last resting place at Hendon on Friday, March 12th. The funeral was strictly private, the family and a few attached friends, amongst whom was observed his esteemed collegiate colleague, Mr. Hodgson, only following.

THE VACANT EXAMINERSHIP AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. There is no truth in the statement of a contemporary that the vacancy at the College of Surgeons, caused by the death of Mr. Travers, will be filled by Mr. Tatum. According to the list, it appears that Mr. Wornald, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, one of the best anatomists in London, will fill the vacant chair. We hear that the serjeant-surgeoncy to Her Majesty will be conferred on Mr. Lawrence.

INSANITY FROM TABLE-TURNING AND SPIRIT-RAPPING. The *Gazette des Hôpitaux* states that there are, in the Zurich Lunatic Asylum, twenty-five persons who have lost their reason through table-turning and spirit-rapping.

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.

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.

NOTICE.—DR. WYTER 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.

Communications have been received from:—SIR CHARLES HASTINGS; MR. C. R. THOMPSON (with enclosure); MR. RICHARD GRIFFIN; MR. F. NEEDHAM; DR. T. INMAN; DR. W. O. MARKHAM; DR. C. WARDEN; MR. W. B. KESTIVEN; DR. JOHN SNOW; MR. J. DULVEY; MR. J. S. GANGE; MR. A. G. WALTER (Pittsburgh, America); MR. HAYNES WALTON; MR. T. HOLMES; MR. AUGUSTIN PUGHARD; DR. EDWARD SMITH; MR. JOHN WINDSOR; MR. STONE; MR. FITTOCK; DR. RANKING; DR. BADER; MR. T. EYTON JONES; MR. H. TERRY, JUN.; MR. R. T. TASKER; MR. WILLIAM MARTIN; MR. O. PEMBERTON; and MR. T. TROUSDALE.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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No. II will be published in April, and will contain Communications from the following Contributors:—Dr. Todd, Dr. Alison, Dr. Guy, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Handfield Jones, Dr. Marcet, Dr. Farre, Dr. Milner Harry, Dr. Munroe, Dr. Von Bose, H. Lee, Esq., J. W. Hulke, Esq., and others.

No. III will be published in October.

. Copies will be forwarded post free to gentlemen who send their names and addresses, accompanied with a remittance for 3s. 6d. for each Number, to H. A. BARNARD, 10, Grange Court, Carey Street, W. C.

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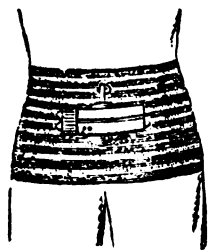
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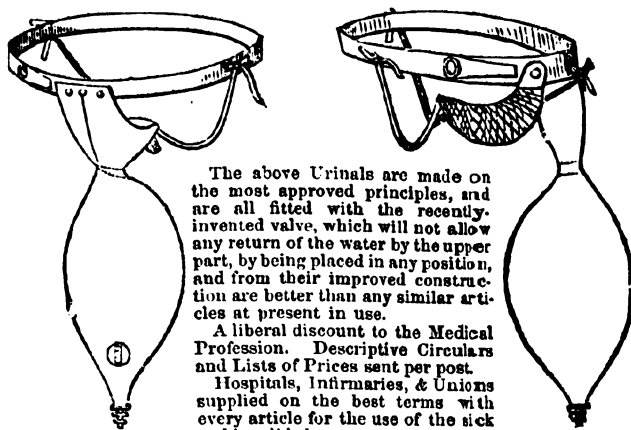
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