

## Association Intelligence.

### MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

A MEETING of the Committee of Council was held in Birmingham, on March 19th.

Present:—Sir C. Hastings (in the Chair); Mr. Cartwright; Dr. Johnstone; Mr. Martin; Mr. Solomon; Mr. Watkin Williams; and Dr. P. H. Williams.

The Financial Report for the year 1857 was read by the Treasurer.

The following resolutions were adopted:—

1. That the Report be received, and published in the JOURNAL.

2. That, in future, a copy of the Financial Report to be submitted to the meeting shall be previously sent to each member of the Committee of Council.

3. That a sub-Committee, consisting of Sir C. Hastings and Dr. Williams, be appointed to co-operate with the Committee formed in Edinburgh, for the purpose of making arrangements for the next Annual Meeting.

CHARLES HASTINGS,  
PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D.

Worcester, March 1858.

### FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1857.

PRESENTED BY THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL.

THE Committee have much gratification in submitting the Annual Financial Statement of the Association to the members, as they feel assured it will be very satisfactory to find that the receipts for the year have exceeded the payments, and that the liabilities, which amounted at the end of the year 1856 to £1003:11:5, at the end of the year 1857 were only £838:18:10.

#### Receipts to December 31st, 1857.

	£.	s.	d.
Subscriptions and arrears .....	2005	7	3
Advertisements, etc. ....	674	15	0
	2680	2	3

#### Payments to December 31st, 1857.

Richards (Printing, etc.) .....	1660	19	0
Honeyman, for Sundries .....	90	0	0
Salaries of Officers .....	513	0	0
Davidson (Commission) .....	74	14	7
Secretaries (Sundries) .....	15	6	6
O. Smith (Wood Engraver) .....	18	1	6
Nottingham Reporters .....	8	8	0
Reform Committee .....	50	0	0
Interest at Banker's .....	14	10	9
Secretary's Clerk .....	12	0	0
Berrow's Printing Account .....	11	3	6
District expenses; Post-office orders, Stamped envelopes; Travelling ex- penses; Collecting; and error in ad- vertisement account .....	36	10	6
	2504	14	4

#### Liabilities, December 31st, 1857.

Balance due to Treasurer, January 1857....	475	11	5½
Expenditure from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st ....	2504	14	4
Total .....	2980	5	9½
Receipts from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1857 ..	2680	2	3
Due to Treasurer, January 1858 .....	300	3	6½
Due to Richards, for Printing .....	408	6	6
Due to Richards, Publishing Accounts ....	116	16	0
Due to Honeyman, for Sundries .....	13	12	9½
Total Liabilities due 1857 .....	838	18	10
Liabilities, December 31st, 1856 .....	1003	11	5

#### Assets, January 1st, 1858.

Subscriptions of 2000 members .....	2100	0	0
Arrears, about .....	300	0	0
Advertisements, about .....	300	0	0
	2700	0	0
Assets brought down .....	2700	0	0
Liabilities brought down .....	838	18	10
Balance .....	1869	1	2

CHARLES HASTINGS, *Chairman*.

### SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH:

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

A scientific and social meeting of members of the South-Eastern Branch resident in Rochester, Maidstone, Gravesend, and their vicinities, will be held on

Friday, April 9th, 1858, at 3.45 P.M., at the Town Hall, Dartford.

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.

### HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH, 1858.

E. H. SIEVEKING, M.D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

FALLOPIAN DROPSY. BY W. O. PRIESTLEY, M.D.

DR. PRIESTLEY exhibited the fluid from a Fallopiian dropsy. The case was that of a lady who was supposed to be suffering from retroflexion of the uterus. Dr. Priestley found, on examination, that there were two tumours behind the uterus, one of which, of a spindle shape, was the Fallopiian tube, distended with fluid; the other, an ovarian tumour. Great discomfort was experienced by the patient after walking, the enlarged Fallopiian tube becoming impacted behind the uterus. A small canula and trocar was passed into the tumour through the upper part of the vagina, and the fluid drawn off. The patient did well.

THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS IN ITS PRIMARY FORMS. BY HENRY THOMPSON, F.R.C.S., M.B.

Mr. THOMPSON commenced by demonstrating the importance of deciding promptly upon the nature of the primary forms of syphilis, in relation to treatment and prognosis. He stated that our knowledge of syphilis had greatly advanced during the last few years, thanks to numerous observers in this country and abroad; but that to Ricord the merit is pre-eminently due of having defined the great laws which its phenomena exhibit. Without giving his adhesion in every respect to all the dicta of that illustrious observer, the author of the paper asserted that a careful examination of the subject compelled him to declare his conviction, that on almost, if not on all important points, his doctrines were supported by the phenomena of syphilis as presented in this country.

Primary syphilis was defined as a specific disease communicated by a virus of which the earliest manifestation is a chancre; and secondary syphilis, as a constitutional affection, which, excluding hereditary transmission, originates always from a chancre, and manifests itself by characteristic symptoms, which follow, with more or less regularity, a certain order of evolution.

Now, sir, under similar circumstances, I should not hesitate to act precisely as I then acted. As regards the subsequent *post mortem* examination, far be it from me to speak in any way disparagingly of a professional brother; but I do think that the gentlemen connected with it ought to have been so far mindful of professional etiquette as to send me an invitation to be present. As regards my name not appearing in the *Directory*, I know that I furnished the person with it who came round this part soliciting orders for copies of the same; but, as I did not order one, I presume that is the reason why I am omitted. The statement, that I used "great force", and that the woman exclaimed, "You are cutting me to pieces," are altogether incorrect.

Again, Mr. Hancox was not sent for, to my knowledge, after I entered the room; and the case was finished before 4 p.m.

I am, etc., JOHN SMITH, M.R.C.S.Eng.

Coseley, March 15th, 1858.

[While we have much pleasure in inserting Mr. Smith's explanation of the events to which he refers, we have, as he will perceive, omitted from his letter some portions which were totally unnecessary, and might even act to his prejudice. On referring to our article of March 6th, we find that we only stated the facts as reported to us: of course, Mr. Smith's denial puts the matter in a different light. We have again searched for his name in the *Medical Directory* without success; but in the last published list of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, he appears among the members of that body. The letter of Dr. Nelson, which we subjoin, will help to remove any doubt as to the qualification of Mr. Smith. EDITOR.]

#### A QUESTION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION.

LETTER FROM DAVID NELSON, M.D.

SIR,—I am requested by Mr. Smith, in my capacity of member of the British Medical Association, to testify to you that he is a qualified surgeon, residing about ten miles hence. Not only have I frequently met him in consultation, but I have seen his diploma framed and hung up on the wall of his study, as is the common custom of surgeons in the country, in order that it may be seen by all neighbours, professional or otherwise.

Besides these facts, I may add, that he was born, bred, and passed through his medical studies, in these parts, having sat to hear my own lectures at the Queen's College in 1851-52, and also acted as one of my clinical clerks while physician to the Queen's Hospital.

Taking all these facts into account, I must say that I think the conduct of your local correspondent, who must or ought to know such things, is highly blameable, and deserving of your censure. I have not the remotest idea as to who he may be, and only write now in bare justice to an old and esteemed college pupil.

I am, etc., DAVID NELSON.

Birmingham, March 16th, 1858.

#### A FICTITIOUS DIPLOMA.

LETTER FROM GEORGE E. DAY, M.D.

SIR—I have been requested by the University of St. Andrew's to beg that the following discreditable proceedings of a person falsely claiming to be a graduate of ours, may be made public through your pages.

Our Secretary recently received the following letter from one of the most eminent shipping houses connected with emigration to Australia:—

"SIR,—A Mr. O'Grady, now residing at New Market, in Fergus, Ireland, represents that he got a diploma as M.D. from your university in 1843. He has applied to us to go in the capacity of surgeon in one of the packets of this line to Australia; but, on presenting his diploma to the government medical officer, it was discovered that, in the body of the document, an erasure had been made, and the name 'Thos. O'Grady' inserted, it is believed, by the gentleman who says he is the person to whom the diploma was originally issued. Till this point is cleared, Mr. O'Grady cannot pass the government officer; and we shall feel greatly obliged if you will say whether, in the month of March or May 1843, a person of the name got a diploma, either as M.D. or surgeon, from the University of St. Andrew's.

"We think it only fair to Mr. O'Grady to say, that he explained the erasure by saying the name, as originally written in the diploma, was obliterated by accident, and therefore he put it in so that the document might be perfect.

"We are, sir, yours obediently," etc., etc.

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On the receipt of this letter, our Secretary examined the minutes of the University, and found that no person named Thos. O'Grady had graduated at St. Andrew's since the year 1800. A person of the name of O'Grady presented himself for examination in the year 1844, but was rejected. It would appear, therefore, that Mr. Thos. O'Grady must have obtained a diploma belonging to some other person, who graduated in the year 1843, and, having erased the name, caused his own to be substituted in its place. It is gratifying to find that the zeal and energy of the government medical officer have at all events in this instance succeeded in leading to the exposure of a gross attempt at fraud.

I am, etc.,

GEORGE E. DAY.

St. Andrew's, March 23rd, 1858.

#### PAIN AS A SYMPTOM OF ULCERATION OF THE NECK OF THE BLADDER.

LETTER FROM T. EYTON JONES, ESQ.

SIR,—In the account of a case of lithotrity and subsequent death, related, in the last number of your JOURNAL, as having occurred in the practice of Mr. Stanley, mention is made of the autopsy having disclosed enlargement of the middle lobe of the prostate gland, and ulceration of the mucous membrane, overlying the enlargement; yet I find no allusion made in the appended remarks either to the presence or absence of pain.

Now, as severe excruciating pain is one of the most prominent symptoms in ulceration of the neck of the bladder, I am surprised that some comment was not made on the fact either of the pain as a prominent diagnostic symptom (if present), or of the non-existence of the pain—a peculiarity so strange (if absent).

I am, etc., T. EYTON JONES.

Wrexham, North Wales, March 16th, 1858.

## Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Thursday, March 18th, 1858.

#### MEDICAL REFORM.—SALE OF POISONS.

LORD TALBOT DE MALAHIDE, in rising to put a question upon Medical Reform to Her Majesty's Government, observed that it was one of vast social importance, and in which not only large classes of professional men, but the public itself, were concerned. In his own opinion, acting from the information he had received, the medical profession were better prepared for legislation at the present moment than they had been for many years past; and there were several important questions of Medical Reform which ought to be taken up by the Government, especially those which had reference to giving greater security for testing the capacity of members of the different branches of the profession, and putting all those who possessed the necessary attainments in an equally favourable position, while they removed all artificial difficulties in the way of the most talented and experienced men obtaining the highest possible status to which they could attain in the profession. It was also desirable to provide as far as possible against the evil arising from incompetent men, such as quacks and impostors, carrying on their practices under the shelter of the profession. No doubt there would be great difficulty in legislating upon this subject; but he thought some attempt should at least be made to obtain these objects, though the medical profession itself were not quite agreed as to what should be done. He would take the liberty of asking what were the intentions of the Government upon the subject. Their lordships were aware that two Bills were introduced last Session, but neither of them under the direct sanction of the Government; and he thought that unless the Bills, notice of the introduction of which had been given this Session, had the support of Government, there was little chance of their passing.

With reference to the Sale of Poisons, their lordships were aware that a Committee inquired into that question last Session, at which many witnesses were examined; and although there was some division of opinion upon the subject, he thought that evidence enough had been given to enable them to bring in a Bill upon it.

The Earl of DERBY fully admitted the importance of the question to which the noble lord had directed his attention. He reminded him, however, that there always existed a class of cases in which everybody concurred that it was necessary

something should be done; but whenever any attempt was made to do that something, so many difficulties presented themselves in detail, that there was no making a satisfactory change. Such was just the case of Medical Reform, with respect to which the noble lord had himself admitted the profession were not agreed as to what should be done. The difficulties which surrounded the subject were so many, that he almost despaired of seeing any measures passed which should place it upon a satisfactory footing. He recollected about twenty-two years ago, similar difficulties surrounded the salmon fishery question; and year after year it was the subject of discussion in Parliament. At length, some enthusiastic members did actually succeed in getting a Bill introduced for the regulating of the fishery; but so sure as it was introduced, so sure next year was it necessary to introduce a Bill for the amendment of the Bill which had been introduced the previous year. He would not say that the same fate which had attended all attempts to improve the salmon fishery laws would necessarily await any effort to deal with the question of Medical Reform; but the latter subject, as well as the former, appeared unquestionably to be involved in considerable difficulty as regarded its permanent settlement. Last year, two Medical Reform Bills had been introduced into the other House; and this year, not less than three such measures had been or were to be brought forward. In such a conflict of opinions, he was not prepared to say that Her Majesty's Government also would undertake to introduce a fourth Bill on their own responsibility. But it was the intention of his colleagues in the other House to give their best consideration to the different proposals which came from other quarters, and to endeavour, if possible, to pass a measure which would meet with the approval of the profession and of the public.

With regard to the Sale of Poisons, he had to observe, that a Bill had been introduced upon that subject into their lordships' House last Session by his noble friend the late President of the Council (Lord Granville), and had undergone considerable alterations after having been referred to a Select Committee; and he had himself already called the attention of his right honourable friend the Secretary for the Home Department to that matter, and requested him to consult, with respect to it, professional men or professional bodies, and more especially the Pharmaceutical Society, with whom he had himself had some communication. If Her Majesty's Government should find that there was any chance of their being able to obtain the assent of Parliament to a Bill for the settlement of that question, they would not hesitate to bring forward such a measure.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday, March 22nd.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

MR. RERTON asked the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether it was the intention of the Government to proceed with the Public Health Act (1848) Amendment Bill during the present Session of Parliament.

MR. ADDERLEY said that he should move that the order for the second reading of the Bill should be discharged, preparatory to the introduction of a new Bill.

Tuesday, March 23rd.

#### MEDICAL REFORM.

MR. COWPER, in moving for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the qualifications of practitioners in medicine and surgery, said, the proper objects of all legislation upon the subject appeared to him to be, in the first place, that the qualification required by law to entitle a person to become a medical practitioner should be maintained at a certain standard, and should be valid in all parts of the United Kingdom; and, secondly, that a register should be established, which would enable the public generally, and the less educated portion of the community in particular, to ascertain what practitioners were really qualified, and in what the nature and extent of their qualification consisted. Constant reference was made in our statutes to the due qualification of medical men, and public appointments could, generally speaking, be held only by persons who were legally qualified. That was a principle which he thought it was desirable to uphold, notwithstanding that he was disposed jealously to guard the right of private individuals to consult whomsoever they pleased, whether they happened to be learned or unlearned. For appointments connected with the army, navy, friendly societies, or other institutions, it seemed right that the restriction should exist, in order that from

caprice, or other motives, unqualified persons might not be chosen. That practice had been justified by usage from the earliest times. There were dozens of Acts of Parliament concerning the medical profession always referring to qualified persons, but none settling what the qualification should be. He believed that former efforts in that direction, although defeated by the conflict of antagonistic interests, had not been without some use, and there was an extending opinion of the necessity for the organisation of the profession, for some established qualification, and for some arrangement whereby that qualification might be made known. One of the great defects of the legal qualification at present existing was that it was partial in application and jurisdiction. Surgeons had no legal definition of qualification; and Sir B. Brodie, or any other surgeon, was not in law legally qualified. Then, again, an English practitioner had no standing in Scotland or Ireland, and *vice versa*; while even the London University, which conferred degrees for practice in the country, could not authorise any one to practise in the city wherein it was situate, and whence it derived its name. It was agreed that the first step must be to establish a better *minimum* qualification, without which no one should be permitted to practise. The proposal in the Bill of last year was that a new board of examiners should be created, consisting of persons delegated by the College of Physicians, the College of Surgeons, and the Society of Apothecaries; but the Bill altogether deprived the universities of any voice in the granting of licenses or the directing of education. The Bill which was prepared by the select committee of 1856, and which was laid upon the table by the noble lord the member for Haddingtonshire (Lord Elcho), provided a new board of examiners, consisting of persons nominated by the medical corporations and the universities, the intention being that the universities should examine as to the sciences collateral to the study of medicine, while the professional colleges should examine as to medical science itself. There were, however, objections that that plan would compel graduates to undergo a second examination after obtaining their degrees, and there would also be a difficulty as to the apportionment of the fees among the various bodies entitled to receive them. He thought it would be wise not to make any change that was not absolutely necessary, and the best course would be to leave the examination to the present licensing body, under the general control and supervision of a general council, to whom power should be given to decide upon what examination should be required, or what certificates should be produced before any person could be placed upon the register. If the council had the right to be present at the examinations of the College of Surgeons and the Society of Apothecaries, they would be enabled to prescribe the standard which should be required, that at present existing being admitted to be too low. The consequence of the low standard of examination at present was that the profession was overrun with young men, who were barely able to exist. With regard to the register, great difficulties had been raised. The Bill which was introduced last year by the hon. member for Newcastle (Mr. Headlam) proposed a new definition of the medical profession—the higher class to be called physicians, and the lower class surgeons. That created a difficulty, as many who were always considered surgeons would then be called physicians; while the ordinary understanding was that a physician attended to the interior of the human body, while a surgeon attended to the exterior. The College of Physicians had always been anxious that they should be distinguished by being placed upon a separate register. There would be no difficulty in meeting their wishes, but it was a minute point, and might well be left to the consideration of the Medical Council. He now came to the mode of constituting the council. Since 1834 the proposals had oscillated between a council nominated by the Crown and a representative council. In 1848 the medical profession were unanimous in favour of a nominated council. As they subsequently declared in favour of a representative council, however, he recommended the House to adopt that plan, which would be open probably to less objection than a council nominated by the Crown. He proposed that it should consist of six members to be nominated by the present licensing bodies, and six to be nominated by the Crown. In order to connect the council in some way with the executive, it had been suggested that the president should be either the Secretary of State for the Home Department or the President of the Board of Health; but he thought that a better course would be to follow the precedent of many other commissions, and to provide that the rules of the medical council should only be adopted when they had been confirmed by an Order in Council. By these means the medical profession would derive

the benefit of an organisation which it had never had before. While the legal, the military, and the naval professions were amply represented in that and the other House of Parliament, it was rarely that one of the medical profession ever found his way there; and yet there were sanitary and other social questions with which no men could be more competent to deal. [*Hear, hear.*] Moreover, the medical profession required the exercise of as great skill, and was actuated by as noble an aim as any other profession, for it was not less noble to seek to save than to destroy life, or to preserve life than to preserve property. In conclusion, he moved for leave to bring in a Bill to regulate the qualification of practitioners in medicine and surgery. [*Hear, hear.*]

Mr. WALPOLE said that the Bill which the right hon. member had suggested appeared to be by far the best proposition which he had yet heard on the subject, and he should not object, therefore, to its introduction.

Lord ELCHO said that the Bill which had just been proposed by his right hon friend, was an old friend with a new face, for it was precisely the same measure which he had himself ventured to introduce in 1856; and wonderful as were the changes which daily took place around them, there was no change more wonderful, perhaps, than that which had occurred in the mind of his right hon. friend upon this subject. After relating the history of the rival medical Bills which had been introduced by the hon. member for Newcastle and by himself, the noble lord observed that he should be very happy to modify that part of his own Bill which related to the institution of the council in the direction of the Bill of the right hon. gentleman.

Mr. HATCHELL approved the Bill, and thought it met the difficulty of the constitution of the council in a satisfactory manner.

Leave was then given to bring in the Bill, which was read a first time.

On the motion for adjournment of the House,

Lord ELCHO said that he had been asked why, in his Medical Bill this year, he had not made the Council representative, if he did not consider the constitution of the Council a question of vital importance, and if he believed that the opposition to the Bill last year mainly arose from the hostility to a Council nominated by the Crown? He replied that the Medical Bill which he had introduced last year, and again this year, was the Bill of the Select Committee of 1856, which was presided over by Mr. Cowper; that no Medical Bill had ever before been in so advanced a stage as to be reported unanimously by a select committee; and that he had thought it right to adhere to the exact form in which it left the committee, lest, if he made any alterations, its opponents might say that it was no longer the Bill of the select committee; but that he was ready in committee in the House to make any change which might be thought desirable in the constitution of the council.

## Medical News.

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

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

#### BIRTHS.

- DE LISLE. On March 19th, at Surbiton, Surrey, the wife of Richard V. De Lisle, Esq., Surgeon 4th Regiment, of a son.  
RUCK. On March 18th, at Cirencester, the wife of David Ruck, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.  
STEVENS. On March 17th, at Biggleswade, the wife of \*Charles P. Stevens, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.  
THOMSON. On February 8th, at Nassau, Bahamas, the wife of W. A. Thomson, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon 1st West Indian Regiment, of a son.  
WALKER. On March 16th, at Corwen, North Wales, the wife of J. R. Walker, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

#### MARRIAGES.

- DOUGLAS-CLEGHORN. DOUGLAS, George Mellis, M.D., of Quebec, to Susan, second daughter of the late George Clegghorn, Esq., of the Weens, Roxburghshire, at St. Marylebone Church, on March 18th.

#### DEATHS.

- CURLING, Thomas, Esq., Surgeon, formerly of Steyning, Sussex, at Shepherd's Bush, on March 12th.  
FIELD. On March 19th, Martha Sarah, wife of James Field, M.D., Kew Road, Richmond, aged 69.  
\*JONES, William Pierce, Esq., Surgeon, at Holywell, aged 45, on March 13th.  
LEE. On March 24th, at 9, Savile Row, aged nearly 2 years, Emily Pincke, youngest child of Henry Lee, Esq., Surgeon.  
MADDEN. On March 16th, at Brighton, of gastric fever, aged 40, Helen, wife of Henry R. Madden, M.D.  
PICKES, Henry Beresford, Esq., Surgeon, at Aylesbury, aged 35, on March 12th.  
\*WALKER, Edward Dering, M.D., at Teignmouth, on March 9.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

- \*DAVIS, R. S., L.R.C.P., elected Physician to the Worcester Infirmary, in the room of \*Jonas Malden, M.D., resigned.  
HAWKINS, Cæsar Henry, Esq., appointed Surgeon-Extraordinary to the Queen.

#### PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, March 19th, 1858:—

- ADAMS, Joseph Dixon, Martock, Somerset  
BICKFORD, Thomas Leaman, Bickington, Newton Abbot, Devon  
ECROYD, Alfred Ernest, Toronto, Canada West  
GRAY, Charles, Portsmouth  
HALL, Henry John, Sudbury, Suffolk  
HEGINBOTHAM, Edmund, Guy's Hospital  
LANGDON, Thomas Charles, Bampton, Devon  
PICKETT, Jacob, Ipsden, Oxon  
RIDLEY, Joseph Simpson, Preston, Lancashire  
SCHROEDER, Augustus John Pennington, India  
SMITH, Charles Edward, Aylsham, Norfolk  
SMITH, Sidney George, Ramsgate  
SUMMERHAYES, William, Crewkerne, Somerset

APOTHECARIES' HALL. Members admitted on Thursday, March 11th, 1858:—

- JONES, David Kent, Beaumaris  
LYNES, Edward, Coventry  
ROBERTS, Charles  
ROGERS, Robert James, Brighton  
THOMAS, Edward Wynne, Oswestry  
WYNTER, Hugh Bold, Kensington

#### HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING MARCH 20TH, 1858.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE deaths registered in London decreased from 1487 in the previous week to 1431 in the week that ended last Saturday (March 20th). The decrease is not great, and the mortality is still unusually high; for, though the weather has been bright and genial during the week, its effect is not immediately seen, to its full extent, in the shortening of the long list of deaths. In the ten years 1848-57, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1198; but, as the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, they can only be compared with the average after the latter is raised proportionally to the increase—a correction which will make it 1318. Hence it appears that 113 persons died last week, who would have survived if a mortality not higher than the average rate had ruled.

On comparing the facts of the last two weeks, it will be seen that, of the five classes of disease, only that which comprises "local diseases" exhibits any important variation of numbers. Diseases of the organs of circulation decreased from 67 fatal cases in the preceding week to 49 last week; those of the respiratory organs, from 366 to 333; those of the organs of digestion, from 58 to 45. And under the second of these heads the decrease appears to have been chiefly in the deaths from asthma; for the respective numbers in the two weeks were, from bronchitis 207 and 192, from pneumonia 112 and 111, and from asthma 26 and 14. The corrected average of bronchitis in corresponding weeks is 139. The present return exhibits a considerable increase in the mortality of whooping-cough, for in three previous weeks the deaths from it were successively 53, 59, 69, and last week they were 83. Of 45 deaths

from measles, only 4 occurred in the Central districts, and only one in the largest and most populous division, the Southern. Scarlatina was fatal in 40 cases, among which 7 of diphtheria are enumerated. A girl died of typhus in a house in Gibraltar-walk, Bethnal-green, the fatal termination of the disease having been, in the opinion of the medical attendant, materially promoted by bad sanitary condition. Another child died of malignant scarlatina at 20 Danvers-street, Chelsea, in addition to the four, mentioned in last return, who have been carried off by this disease, in the same family, during the current month. A seaman died of scurvy on board a ship in the West India Dock. One person died of privation; 2 of intemperance, besides 3 of delirium tremens. The deaths of six persons are recorded who had attained the age of 90 years or upwards. The two oldest had arrived at the ages respectively of 97 and 100; the younger of whom died in Clapton; the centenarian in Alma-terrace, Old Kent-road.

Last week the births of 1020 boys and 934 girls, in all 1960 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1848-57 the average number was 1639.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.963 in. On the last four days the mean barometrical reading was above 30 in., and on Saturday it was 30.306 in. The highest reading in the week was obtained on that day, and was 30.33 in. The mean temperature of the air in the week was 48°, and was 0.30 above the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The mean daily temperature was above the average throughout the week; on Tuesday the excess was equal to 0.1°, and varied from 6° to 9° on the four subsequent days. The lowest temperature in the week occurred on Sunday (the 14th) and was 36.9°; the highest on Friday, and was 61.4°; the range of the week was therefore 24.5°. The mean daily range of temperature was 14.8°. The difference between the mean dew point temperature and air temperature was 7.7°. The mean degree of humidity was 75, complete saturation being represented by 100; on Thursday and Saturday the humidity was 69. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 39.1°. The wind blew generally from the west. The whole amount of rain measured was the tenth of an inch.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE. This institution held its sixth anniversary festival on Wednesday evening at the Freemasons' Tavern, when upwards of 180 gentlemen sat down to a very excellent dinner to celebrate the occasion. Lord Stanley was to have presided, but his Lordship sent a letter excusing himself from attending on account of temporary indisposition, and Sir Charles Locock took the chair, supported by the Earl of Huntingdon, Admiral Collier, Admiral R. Carnac, Mr. J. H. Phillips, M.P., Mr. D. Pugh, M.P., Rev. Sir John Hayes, Rev. Canon Jennings, Rev. George Pocock, Dr. Babington, Major Moore, Major Miller, Mr. Propert, and others. After the loyal toasts had been received with the usual demonstrations, the Chairman proposed that of the Army and Navy, and in allusion to the services of the former he particularly dwelt upon the heroic fortitude that had been displayed in India by the British army, and adverted in feeling terms to the sufferings our women and children had endured from the atrocities inflicted upon them by the Sepoys. "Some persons (said Sir Charles) were weak enough to deny these things, but he knew them to be true." The toast having been responded to by Admiral Collier and Major Moore, the Chairman proposed the toast of the evening, "The President, and Prosperity to the Royal Medical and Benevolent College." It reflected the highest credit on the profession that the society should have erected a most substantial and commodious building at Epsom, and have accumulated a sum of not less than £45,000 in the course of six years. There were now at the College twenty pensioners, thirty foundation scholars, one hundred and twenty exhibitors, and some day scholars. Several other toasts were given, and the evening's entertainment was agreeably diversified by a selection of music, under the direction of the Quartet Glee Union. The contributions announced by the treasurer, Mr. Propert, amounted to upwards of £1,100.

PRIZES. The Society for the Encouragement of Science, Letters, and Arts, at Milan, has, in accordance with the report of its committee, adjudged to Dr. Edwin Lee, M.R.C.S. Eng., the prize of six hundred livres, as the author of the best essay on the subject—"What are the really useful applications in physiology, pathology, and therapeutics, that are to be expected from the investigations undertaken into the phenomena of animal magnetism?"

## 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.

Communications have been received from:—SIR CHARLES HASTINGS;

MR. C. R. THOMPSON; DR. T. INMAN; MR. J. DULVEY; MR. T. HOLMES; MR. AUGUSTIN PRICHARD; DR. TYLER SMITH; MR. JOHN WINDSOR; MR. STONE; MR. F. FRY; DR. A. MARTIN; MR. BIGG; DR. J. WEBSTER; MR. JOHN SMITH; DR. DAVID NELSON; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; MR. GEORGE POUND; MR. STREATFIELD; MR. J. C. S. JENNINGS; ANGUS; DR. DAY; DR. GRAILY HEWITT; DR. S. D. LEES; DR. W. E. MAFSEN; MR. EDWARD JONES; REV. T. MITCHINSON; DR. BADER; and MR. SAMUEL HARE.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

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