

neighbours are before us by far in the pecuniary recognitions which they are able to make of scientific improvements. A fortnight ago, the Academy of Sciences in Paris distributed a sum equal to £940 in rewards for improvements in medicine and surgery. It is true that this sum is the bequest of a private individual, the late M. de Montyon, and that they have numerous other rewards at their disposal, bequeathed also by private individuals. But this is not the case in England; and therefore the *onus* (if it ought to be so called) of rewarding scientific merit falls on, and should be liberally borne by, the state, which would in the end be no loser by its outlay.

At the meeting of the Academy of Sciences in Paris, on February 2nd, two of our countrymen had the honour of receiving some of the rewards annually bestowed by that learned body. To Professor Owen was awarded the Cuvier prize, in recognition of his having during more than twenty years greatly extended the field of comparative anatomy and paleontology, by his continued and valuable labours. One of the principal Montyon prizes, of 2,000 francs, was awarded to Professor Simpson, of Edinburgh, for his introduction of the use of chloroform into surgical and obstetric practice. A few weeks ago, the knighthood of the order of St. Olaf was conferred on Dr. Simpson by His Majesty the King of Sweden.

Association Intelligence.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
METROP. COUNTIES. [Adjourned Meeting.]	37, Soho Square, London.	Tues., March 3, 4 P.M.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

An ordinary general meeting of the Metropolitan Counties Branch was held at 37, Soho Square, on Tuesday, February 10th; GEORGE WEBSTER, M.D., President, in the Chair.

NEW MEMBER.

THOMAS CHARLES, Esq., of 2, Hertford Street, May Fair, was, on the motion of Dr. Ogier Ward, seconded by Dr. Henry, elected a member of the Branch.

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR CHANGE OF LAWS.

DR. HENRY gave notice that at the next general meeting he should propose alterations in the Laws of the Branch, to provide for the appointment of two Honorary Secretaries in place of one.

MEDICAL REFORM.

The subject of Medical Reform having been brought forward, it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned for the further consideration of the question, until Tuesday, March 3rd.

Dr. LANKESTER gave notice that he should move—

"That this meeting rejoices at the near prospect of the settlement of the question of Medical Reform, by the adoption, on the part of the British Corporations and Universities, of the principal details of the Medical Reform Bill proposed by the British Medical Association; and would heartily approve of the proposal of the Medical Reform Committee of the Association, that one-third at least of the medical council constituted under the proposed Bill, should be chosen by the Government from among those members of the profession not constituting the Governing Bodies of the Corporations and Universities; and that the Branch strongly urges upon the Association the necessity of seeing that this arrangement is fully carried out."

Notice was also given of the following motions:—

"That this Branch do strongly recommend the Government to grant a new Charter to the College of Surgeons, on a more liberal basis as regards the elective franchise, and the residence in London as a qualification for the fellowship.

"That this Branch do petition Parliament to pass a Bill for the regulation or prevention of the sale of poisons."

It was also resolved, on the motion of Dr. THUDICHUM—

"That the proposed resolutions be printed, and a copy thereof sent to every member of the Branch, with an invitation to attend the adjourned meeting, for the purpose of considering, and if found suitable, passing them."

Reports of Societies.

NORWICH PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

DONALD DALRYMPLE, Esq., President, in the Chair.

STRICTURE OF THE RECTUM. BY W. B. FRANCIS, ESQ.

MR. FRANCIS exhibited a specimen of stricture of the rectum taken from a lady aged 34. The disease had extended over a period of thirteen months from the discovery of the stricture, and was indicated by occasional slight bleeding after the action of the bowels; progressive constipation; pain, and, during the latter period of the disease, great abdominal distension. When the finger was introduced to the full extent a nipple-like projection was felt, in which was a small orifice of about the size of a goose quill. With some difficulty a No. 10 male catheter was passed through the stricture. The treatment consisted of mild aperients, tonics, enemata, and careful attempts to dilate the stricture. The spasmodic contraction of the sphincter ani opposed greatly the use of instruments and requisite manipulation; this was freely divided, and larger bougies were used with greater ease. Gradually, however, the symptoms became aggravated; strength failed; emaciation followed; the stricture narrowed till scarcely any relief of the bowels could be procured; the abdomen became greatly distended, and death soon ensued.

The rectum was found healthy for about two and a half inches above the anus. For three and a half inches above this point the bowel was indurated, thickened, and excessively constricted. Above this again the bowel was healthy for a short distance; but, instead of rising out of the pelvis in the ordinary manner, it curved downwards, became connected with the strictured portion, and so narrowed at a second point as barely to admit a No. 12 bougie. Under the microscope the disease was clearly ascertained to be malignant, although serious doubts were expressed on this point, both during the life of the patient and after death.

AMPUTATION OF TONGUE BY AN ACCIDENT.

BY B. H. NORGATE, ESQ.

MR. NORGATE detailed the case of a young man, aged 20, whose face was crushed by a wagon wheel. He received a compound fracture of the lower jaw, and the tongue was nearly severed at its base by the sharp edge of bone. When he was brought to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, the tongue was found attached by merely a few shreds of membrane, and nothing was left but to remove it. There was free but not troublesome hæmorrhage; articulation was impossible for a time, and deglutition was difficult. He gradually recovered; and when he left the Hospital speech was so far restored, that he could be understood without trouble.

THREE INJECTED SPECIMENS FROM THE EYE. BY W. WOODHAM WEBB, M.D.

Dr. WEBB exhibited the following specimens:

1. An injected specimen from human fœtus of five months, of a posterior view of the entire membrana pupillaris, *in situ*, with the lens removed.

2. A vertical section of the corresponding eye, showing the looped vessels of the membrana pupillaris passing to it over the anterior margin of iris.

3. Detached capsule of the lens, with vessels spreading from pole to pole of the lens, in connection with another preparation of the same eye, verifying the commonly received opinion of the existence of this membrane as a distinct structure closing the pupillary aperture.

These preparations were presented in consequence of Professor Quekett having unsettled the question as to the true character of this part, and to negative the assertion advanced in his *Histological Lectures* (vol. i, page 131), "that at one stage of development of the lens, the whole capsule is covered with vessels; and if it should so happen, in the course of the dissection, that the anterior layer be detached from the posterior, the anterior layer would be described as the membrana pupillaris; but if the lens come away entirely covered with vessels, no such membrane is found."

CALCULUS AND DISEASE OF KIDNEY. BY C. M. GIBSON, ESQ.

MR. GIBSON exhibited a specimen of hypertrophy of the left kidney. The organ weighed 2 lbs. 2 oz. The right kidney was not so large, but was affected with fatty degeneration. The bladder was not unhealthy, and contained two small calculi. The prostate gland was enlarged.

again on this subject, as I feel there is a principle at stake which concerns us all; and, personally I have to substantiate the statements made in my two former letters, which Mr. Long must allow me to say I do not think he has refuted.

I am, etc., J. R. HUMPHREYS.

Shrewsbury, Feb. 17th, 1857.

THE TOBACCO-SMOKING CONTROVERSY.

LETTER FROM JAMES PAXTON, M.D.

SIR,—At the present time, there is an interesting discussion on the exceedingly prevailing custom of smoking; and the diversity of opinions upon this subject may justify a searching inquiry whether the custom is good, bad, or indifferent. Having carefully watched the effects of tobacco on the human constitution, and as the question is constantly, in our ordinary practice, before us, we shall find no difficulty in pursuing the inquiry, and furnishing a reply.

It is true that the properties of tobacco are soothing to the nerves. While a person is under its influence, he feels forgetful of past sorrows, and a freedom from anxiety about the future, with a gentle lull to all the faculties of body and mind—simply from a temporary intoxication. Moreover, there is a desire created to indulge these sensations until the indulgence overpowers the reasoning faculties, and excess follows excess: a pleasing exhilaration alternates with a stupefaction. Such are the results in inveterate smokers. In a greater or less degree, it affects every one. No wonder, therefore, young and old, rich and poor, have fallen into this unnatural habit. These remarks might be uncalled for, were there nothing further consequent; but others besides myself have examined into the physical influence of this plant on the system in those who use it; and the mode of its operation cannot be concealed. Although the smoker soon gets over the disagreeable excitement and peculiar sense of giddiness and sickness occasioned by his first attempt at smoking, yet there follows, by insensible degrees, a weakness of the powers of the heart and circulation of the blood. Mr. Solly's letter in a cotemporary journal has arrested the attention of the public. His own opinion is stated, with that of some of the most eminent physiologists and practitioners; and they condemn its use. The yielding to the acquired taste of tobacco cannot be gratified for any length of time without manifestly affecting the health. There are, indeed, some whose organisations resist the injury: these are exceptions to the general laws of the vital economy. The sallow complexions, debilitated frames, and disordered digestion of young men of the present day, attest the noxious influence of tobacco. This plant possesses no salutary qualities; neither removes nor mitigates disease; and neither supports the body nor refines the mind. On the contrary, by its combustion, the essential oil is volatilised, and inhaled or absorbed by the mucous membranes—an oil most injurious, nay, when administered to animals by way of experiment, it proves a deadly poison.

Many smokers express doubts and misgivings, and say, "I think smoking does me no good." These suspicions are just. However tranquilising to the nerves, such sensations are too dearly purchased when a train of ill consequences follow. From attentive observation, I feel assured that the use of tobacco is more or less subversive of all the purely natural functions of life, always impairing the finer sensations of tasting, smelling, and correct feeling.

I am, etc., J. PAXTON.

Rugby, Feb. 17th, 1857.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Friday, February 13th.

LUNATIC ASYLUMS (IRELAND).

Colonel DUNNE moved for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the law relating to the appointment of the Officers of Lunatic Asylums in Ireland, and also to the management of those institutions.

Mr. HORSMAN did not object to the introduction of the Bill; but would not pledge the Government to its support on the second reading. He did not think the House would be in a position to legislate on this subject till after the commission appointed last year had made its report.

Leave was then given to bring in the Bill.

Monday, February 16th.

VACCINATION.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE rose to ask the Vice-President of the Board of Health when the Committee on Vaccination, agreed to by the Government during the last Session, was to be appointed.

Mr. COWPER said it was proposed that a Bill of somewhat similar character to that of last year, should be brought in and referred to a Select Committee, with the understanding that they should fully inquire into the working and the results of the present law, and the best means of amending it. He believed that the Bill would be brought in in the course of a few days.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Mr. COWPER obtained leave to bring in a Bill to confirm certain provisional orders of the General Board of Health, applying the Public Health Act, 1848, to the districts of Ipswich, Oldbury, Stroud, Llangollen, and Dukinfield, and for altering the constitution of the Local Board of Health for the main sewerage district of Wisbech and Walsoken.

Tuesday, February 17th.

MEDICAL LEGISLATION.

Mr. HEADLAM gave notice that he should, on Thursday, February 19th, move for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the laws relating to the Medical Profession.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

BURNS. On February 12th, at the New Convict Prison, Chatham, the wife of Dr. Burns, Surgeon R.N., of a daughter.
CULHANE. On February 12th, at Dartford, the wife of Daniel Culhane, M.D., of a son.
NORTON. On February 16th, at 19, Monmouth Road, Westbourne Grove, the wife of Robert Norton, M.D., of a daughter.
STEWART. On February 16th, at 8, Weymouth Street, Portland Place, the wife of William E. Stewart, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
TAYLOR. On February 16th, at Bayswater, the wife of John Taylor, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

BEALEY—BRIDGES. BEALEY, Adam, M.A., M.D., of 27, Tavistock Square, to Mary, Isabella, eldest daughter of John William Bridges, Esq., of 39, Tavistock Square, and Birch, Essex, at St. Pancras Church, on February 10th.
GRIFFITH—WILLIS. GRIFFITH, John William, M.D., F.L.S., to Anne, only daughter of Joseph Willis, Esq., of Hinton Charterhouse, Somerset, on February 12th.
HUDSON—GROVES. HUDSON, John, M.D., of Cork Street, Burlington Gardens, to Louisa, daughter of the late Captain Groves, F.R.S., at St. James's, Westbourne Terrace, on February 17th.
LLEWELLYN—BROWN. LLEWELLYN, Evan, Esq., Surgeon, of Mount Place, London Hospital, to Maria, only child of Thomas Brown, Esq., of Camberwell Green, at St. Giles's, Camberwell, on February 5th.
NICHOLSON—WISE. NICHOLSON, Captain Albert L., 64th Bengal Native Infantry, to Anna Margaret, eldest daughter of Thomas Wise, M.D., late of the Honourable East India Company's Service, at Edinburgh, on January 13th.

DEATHS.

RUTHERFORD. On February 14th, at Devonshire Street, Portland Place, George Sydney, eldest son of George Shaw Rutherford, M.D.
*SIMONS, John, Esq., Surgeon, of Birmingham, lately.
SMITH, Richard, Esq., Surgeon, late of Chertsey, where he practised for fifty years, at 12, Percy Street, Bedford Square, aged 78, on February 12th.

APPOINTMENTS.

CRANE, J. Wyatt, M.D., Physician to the Leicester Infirmary and Fever House, has been appointed one of the Honorary Physicians to the Leicestershire and Rutland Lunatic Asylum, on the resignation of Dr. Noble.

JONES, Arthur Newel, Esq., Surgeon, has been appointed by the Lord Chancellor a Justice of the Peace for the Borough of Bideford.

*PRIDHAM, Thomas Lawrence, Esq., Surgeon, Mayor of Bideford, has been appointed by the Lord Chancellor a Justice of the Peace for the Borough of Bideford.

*THOMPSON, John, Esq., Coroner for the Borough of Bideford, has been appointed by the Lord Chancellor a Justice of the Peace for the said Borough.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. LICENTIATES IN MIDWIFERY admitted at the meeting of the Board on February 11th:—

DAVIES, Henry Naunton, Cymmer Works, Pont-y-pridd, Glamorganshire: diploma of membership dated March 10th, 1854

DAVIS, William Farquhar, Grosvenor Street: May 12, 1856
DE NICÉVILLE, Charles Francis Hippolyte, Clifton, Bristol: January 8th, 1855

HAMILTON, John Eccles, Royal Navy: June 23rd, 1845
HUTCHESON, Robert William, Bahamas, West Indies: February 6th, 1857

LUKE, Joseph, Claremont Square: June 15th, 1849

ROBERTS, Thomas Lewis, Australia: March 14th, 1856

RUSSELL, George, Merthyr Tydvil: October 29th, 1852

SMITH, Henry Tyrwhit, Melton Mowbray: July 25th, 1853

SMITH, Josiah Sidney, Tiverton, Devon: May 8th, 1846

TIMES, Henry Gorsuch, Thayer Street, Manchester Square: February 6th, 1857

WILLIAMS, Charles, Dolgelly: March 31st, 1856

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING
FEBRUARY 14TH, 1857.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE deaths registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday were 1264, and exhibit a decrease on those of the preceding week, when they were 1368. In the ten years 1847-56 the average number of deaths in weeks corresponding with last week was 1135. But as the deaths in the present return occurred in an increased population, it is necessary for comparison that the average should be raised in proportion to the increase, in which case it will become 1249. The rate of mortality last week was therefore very near the average rate in the second week of February.

The decrease on the previous week, amounting to about 100 deaths, is referrible in a principal degree to a diminished mortality from pulmonary diseases. Bronchitis carried of 224 persons in the previous week; last week the number was 178; pneumonia (inflammation of the lungs) was reduced from 96 to 90; phthisis, or consumption, from 184 to 172. On the other hand, hooping-cough shows an increase, 61 children having died of it in the previous week, and 70 last week. Measles presents more decided evidence of having been influenced by cold weather, for the deaths from this complaint, which had risen to 38, again declined to 20. The deaths from small-pox last week were only 3. The mortality from zymotic diseases in the aggregate was not high, as compared with the corrected average of corresponding weeks; but it will be seen that hooping-cough was much more fatal than any other disease in that class. Three children died of measles on the 2nd and 5th of February in the Workhouse, Norwood.

The deaths of six persons (all women, and four of them widows) occurred at ages ranging from 90 to 97 years. The three greatest ages recorded are 94, 96, and 97 years. Four of these old women died in workhouses.

Last week the births of 947 boys and 904 girls, in all 1851 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56 the average number was 1550.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.837 in. The highest reading in the week was 30.25 in., and occurred on Thursday. The mean temperature of the week was 40.9°, which is about 9° or 10° higher than that of the two previous weeks, and 2.4° higher than the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The highest temperature obtained in the week was 52.2° on Wednesday. The lowest occurred on Fri-

day, and was 31.0°. The range of the week was 21.2°. The mean dew-point temperature was 35.2°, and the difference between this and the mean temperature of the air was 5.7°. The wind blew on almost every day from the south-west. The rain measured by the gauge was only nine-hundredths of an inch. The horizontal movement of the air was 220 miles on Monday; only 15 on Saturday.

ACTION FOR TRESPASS AND ASSAULT.

GEORGE V. JONES.

Mr. Edwin James, Q.C., and Mr. Prentice, appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. Serjeant Shee and Mr. Pearce for the defendant. The plaintiff sought to recover damages from the defendant for breaking into his apartments and assaulting him, and also for services rendered by the plaintiff and his wife. The defendant pleaded the general issue.

Mr. JAMES, in opening the case, stated that the defendant, Dr. Griffith Jones, called himself a hydro-homœopathic doctor. He resided at 43, Woburn Place, and professed to be vendor of a wonderful patent medicine, which was able to cure all diseases. The medicine was called "axtra mancaz", the meaning of which, the learned counsel said, he had not been able to discover; but it was recommended by the doctor as a cure for constipation and everything else. The doctor, in his prospectus, said he recommended it to all his patients, and used it in his own household (though he did not say he had ever used it himself). He said it was useful in consumption, and was an agreeable substitute for cod-liver oil. From the white sulphur which it contained, it possessed a bland aperient quality; and from the caseine, in which it abounded, it made excellent food for infants. The defendant had engaged the plaintiff to superintend an establishment which he had opened for the sale of the axtra mancaz, at No. 496, New Oxford Street; and the present action was brought for violently expelling the plaintiff from his apartments in that house on the 7th of July last. The plaintiff on that day had written a letter to the defendant, requesting an acknowledgment of the policy on the plaintiff's life, upon which the defendant had borrowed £100; and, being irritated by that letter, the defendant sent a man, named Ray, and a body of nearly twenty men from St. Giles's, who broke into the plaintiff's rooms, assaulted him violently, and endeavoured to eject him from the house.

WILLIAM GEORGE, the plaintiff, after stating the circumstances under which he had resided in Dr. Jones's establishment, gave the following evidence regarding the assault:—"Mr. Ray called on me on July 7th. He was assistant to Dr. Jones. He came at 3 or 4 o'clock, or later. Ray came again in about an hour. He brought a number of men of the roughest description. There were about a dozen. The back parlour door was burst open, and they rushed upon me. I got into the front room, and they knocked me down. They dragged me along. I resisted, and was nearly strangled. They knelt on my breast. The police released me. A written authority was produced by Ray, in Dr. Jones's handwriting, as follows:—

"Hydro-Homœopathic Establishment, 43, Woburn Place, July 7, 1856.

"I authorise Mr. Ray to turn out all persons trespassing on my premises, 496, Oxford Street. "D. G. JONES."

Ray returned again the same day with a dozen or twenty men. They made several attacks on the doors, but I succeeded in keeping them out. The police came in after this, and as the police came, the men got away. My wife was very unwell at the time. They held up this chopper at a female in my house, and threatened to bury it in her skull if she gave any alarm. I was internally injured. Through the interference of the police, I was allowed to remain till the next day. I was not engaged for any particular time; but I was to have £1 a-week, and 5s. for each lecture which I was to deliver, and a commission on what I sold. I was not to pay any rent. On the 7th of July, I had taken apartments at 75, Red Lion Street, Holborn.

Cross-examined.—I never was a carpenter. I was in the early part of my life an upholsterer and cabinet-maker. I had a chemist's shop in Pentonville for two years. It was in Lower Queen's Row. I sold mineral compounds and vegetable poisons. I was for twelve months, eighteen months, or two years, a pupil of Dr. Beach's, in Kennington Lane. It was a private medical academy. I attended two courses.

Re-examined.—I am an Englishman.

By Lord CAMPBELL.—I have never been in the States.

By Mr. JAMES.—There is a Reformed Medical Society in the United States. [Laughter.] This is my diploma. Dr. Beach

was the founder of the Medical Reformed Colleges in America.

Mr. JAMES handed up to the Court a diploma on parchment, which had been given to the plaintiff.

Lord CAMPBELL, who seemed much amused with the document, said it only authorised the plaintiff to practise in America. The witness said the defendant knew of this diploma.

Mrs. GEORGE.—I am the wife of the plaintiff. I remember the men coming on the 7th of July. We had been at work, arranging to move our things. I did work for twelve months in cleaning the dispensary.

THOMAS PRATT, a policeman.—I saw the man Ray with about twelve men at the house in New Oxford Street. They looked like costermongers from St. Giles's. I heard screams of "murder!" and when I got to the house, the men referred me to Mr. Ray, their employer. Ray said he was trying to eject a party. He said he had a magistrate's authority. I asked him to produce it, and he refused. I went upstairs, and saw the panels of the door broken in, and observed to Ray the state in which Mrs. George was; and that if anything happened to her, he might be indicted for manslaughter.

Other witnesses corroborated the previous evidence. Among these were two of the men employed by Ray: they stated that they had been paid for their work.

Mr. CUFF, a surgeon, proved that he attended the plaintiff, and found bruises on various parts of his body. He suffered from fever in consequence of the injuries. He was in bed four days, and then he suffered from debility and pain from the injuries.

Lord CAMPBELL, in summing up the evidence, said there would be a question as to whether the defendant was liable to pay for the plaintiff's wife's services; but as to the trespass and assault, his Lordship said the only question would be as to the amount of damages which the plaintiff ought to recover. The jury would give reasonable damages.

The jury found for the plaintiff—Damages, £35 for the assault; and £15 for the wife's services.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

MEETING OF STUDENTS OF THE LIVERPOOL INFIRMARY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

At a general meeting of the students of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary School of Medicine, held on Wednesday, Feb. 4th, for the purpose of supporting Mr. Griffin's movement—A. Brooke George, Esq., in the Chair—the following resolutions were proposed and carried unanimously:—

1. Proposed by Mr. Roskell, and seconded by Mr. Callen—
"That the thanks of this meeting are especially due to R. Griffin, Esq., for his unwearied exertions in the cause of Poor-Law Medical Reform."

2. Proposed by Mr. A. Long, and seconded by Mr. Williams—
"That this meeting, viewing with regret and indignation the injustice and oppression which union medical officers now suffer, deems it expedient that prompt and decisive support should be given to the movement already set on foot by R. Griffin, Esq., which movement this meeting considers will be the most effectual means of obtaining redress if supported by the profession at large."

3. Proposed by Mr. Campion, and seconded by Mr. J. H. T. King—

"That the present system of supervision of Poor-Law Medical Officers, by persons not conversant with either medicine or surgery, ought to be amended, by appointing a Medical Inspector on the Poor-Law Board, to whom would be referred all charges of a purely professional character."

4. Proposed by Mr. Thompson, and seconded by Mr. E. Stokes Roberts—

"That this meeting earnestly urge their brother students in the United Kingdom to join in pledging themselves that on the completion of their studies, they will not accept any appointments as union medical officers until a more equitable adjustment of salaries has taken place."

5. Proposed by Mr. Finegan, and seconded by Mr. Robinson—
"That in order to carry out the objects of the meeting, a committee be formed, consisting of the following gentlemen:—Mr. A. B. George, Chairman; Mr. Roskell; Mr. H. G. Rawdon; Mr. E. Stokes Roberts; Mr. A. Long; and Mr. J. H. T. King, Honorary Treasurer and Secretary."

The business of the meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. A. B. George, for his able conduct in the Chair.

J. H. T. KING, *Hon. Treas. and Sec.*

MEETING OF STUDENTS OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

A meeting of the students of St. Bartholomew's Hospital was held on Tuesday, February 17th, for the purpose of supporting Mr. Griffin's movement, Mr. Chippendale in the chair. The following resolutions were then adopted.

1. Proposed by Mr. Barford, and seconded by Mr. C. Smith—
"That this meeting tenders its best thanks to Mr. Griffin for his able and unwearied exertions in the cause of poor-law medical reform."

2. Proposed by Mr. G. Reed, and seconded by Mr. Dixon Adams—

"That this meeting pledges itself to support the movement commenced by Mr. Griffin, and resolves upon its best endeavours to promote the reform of the present iniquitous system."

3. Proposed by Mr. R. Goodall, and seconded by Mr. Heelas—
"That this meeting desires to express its disapproval of the conduct of those members of the profession who, regardless of its dignity and interest, have hitherto treated this movement with apathy and indifference."

4. Proposed by Mr. Chalk, and seconded by Mr. Oldman—

"That the present system of vesting the power of appointing union medical officers and fixing the scale of their remuneration, in the hands of the boards of guardians, is viewed by this meeting with the greatest disapprobation."

5. Proposed by Mr. Russell, and seconded by Mr. Daniels—

"That this school is of opinion that an aggregate meeting of the students of the metropolis should be held; and it therefore appoints two delegates to confer with the representatives of the other hospitals."

6. Proposed by Mr. Muskett, and seconded by Mr. Linacre—

"That in order to carry out the objects of this association, a subscription should be at once commenced to defray the necessary expenses."

Mr. Barford and Mr. G. Reed were then chosen to represent the school.

Mr. Chippendale was elected Chairman; Mr. Daniels Treasurer; and Mr. Russell Honorary Secretary.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, for the able manner in which he had conducted the business of the meeting.

JOHN RUSSELL, *Hon. Sec.*

GARIOCH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. The Garioch Medical Association (Aberdeenshire), at their quarterly meeting held in Inverury on Friday, February 6th, had under consideration the measures of medical reform at present before the public. The Association expressed an unanimous opinion in favour of those points for which the British Medical Association have all along contended, viz., preliminary examination, uniformity of qualification, reciprocity of practice, registration, and the exercise of a general superintendence over medical education. These are all found provided for in Mr. Cowper's bill; together with a council, to be appointed by Government, which it was also deemed advisable to accept, rather than divide the profession on the question. A committee was appointed to watch the introduction of any measure. A hope was expressed that at some not very distant day the Garioch Association might become a branch of the British Medical Association.

DISEASE AMONG CATTLE. Advices from Konigsburg give unfavourable accounts regarding the cattle disease, which during the past two years has manifested itself in Poland and other parts of Russia, and which now threatens to spread to Germany. For a short time during last autumn there seemed to be some abatement in the distemper, but it has again become very virulent. It seizes the animals suddenly; and after severe trembling and purging they die within four-and-twenty hours. One proprietor lately lost 300 head in a single night. It attacks cattle exclusively, and does not communicate itself to sheep or any other kind of stock. Every effort is used to prevent infection, and detachments of the military are charged to destroy and bury all that become affected. On the Prussian frontier a strict quarantine is enforced; but it has already made its appearance in some villages, and the authorities have ordered that if even only one of a herd be attacked the whole are to be slaughtered. The recent progress of the disease northward towards St. Petersburg has been a chief cause lately in the advance of the tallow-market. (*Times*.)

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. On this (Saturday) evening, a paper will be read by P. C. Price, Esq., "On the Treatment of Certain Diseases of the Knee-Joint by the Operation of Resection."

INQUEST ON MRS. BACON.

The inquest on the body of the late Mrs. Bacon has terminated in the finding of arsenic in the body, and the returning of a verdict of Wilful Murder against her son. We subjoin the medical evidence with regard to the *post mortem* examination.

MARK WILSON JACKSON, surgeon, Stamford, deposed,—I made a *post mortem* examination of the deceased. On opening the body the abdominal parietes were found to be unusually thick; they consisted of layers of fat and muscle (of a reddish colour), varying from half an inch to two inches in thickness. On raising the parietes the omentum, or caul, was exposed, on which a peculiar redness was apparent. The stomach and liver appeared in their proper positions. On removing the omentum the bowels were seen; they appeared dry, empty, somewhat inflated, corrugated like dry bladder, a patch of redness here and there. The mesentery was loaded with fat; the colon and stomach appeared thickened. The stomach was of a dark reddish colour, and much reduced in size. The liver was small in size; the gall bladder was full; the whole of the viscera of the abdomen were in a high state of preservation, and presented a peculiar appearance. Such a condition would not be produced by any disease; the appearance was like that which Dr. Christison and other analytical chemists describe as being from the effects of arsenic. If Dr. Taylor should find arsenic it certainly will be a strong proof of the highly preservative effects of arsenic, and also show that bodies consigned to the tomb poisoned by the action of this pernicious drug will for years retain the appearances peculiar to its specific action as a preservative.

Professor TAYLOR presented his report, which was as follows:

"REPORT OF ANALYSIS IN THE CASE OF MRS. ANN BACON.

"The box delivered to me by Chief Constable Mitchell contained—

"1. A bottle holding a quantity of bloody liquid taken from the chest of the deceased.

"2. A large jar containing the viscera.

"3. A brown paper parcel containing mould from the grave of the deceased.

"Articles 1 and 2 were in the state in which I had delivered them to Mr. Mitchell—namely, well secured and sealed with my seals, which were unbroken.

"1. CONTENTS OF THE BOTTLE. The liquid was of a reddish brown colour, and measured seven fluid ounces. It was examined by the usual chemical processes for arsenic, but it contained no trace of that poison.

"2. CONTENTS OF THE JAR. This jar contained—1, the stomach; 2, the spleen; 3, the kidneys; 4, the heart; 5, the liver and gall bladder; 6, the small and large intestines. These different organs were very much shrunk and diminished in size as the result of changes since death; but on the whole they were in a very good state of preservation, so that the parts could be separated and recognised.

"The stomach was reduced to about one half of its natural size. The coats were thin, but firm. When laid open the mucous membrane, or inner coat of the stomach was found covered with a thin, black, pasty-looking substance closely adhering to it, and giving a dark colour to all the coats. There was no redness of the mucous membrane, and no mineral matter could be perceived by a magnifying glass when the surface was examined. The coats with the black substance adhering to the inside of the stomach were examined for mineral poison, with the result that a small quantity of arsenic was separated from them. No other metal or metallic compound was detected. There was no trace of any kind of food.

"The spleen was small, much diminished in size; its substance was soft, and easily broken down. It yielded a slight indication of the presence of arsenic.

"The kidneys were shrunk to about one-third of the natural size; they were of a reddish brown colour, moderately firm when cut, and were imbedded in a large quantity of fat, part of which had been converted into adipocere. Arsenic was detected in them in larger proportion than in the spleen, but in smaller quantity than in the stomach.

"The heart was collapsed; its cavities were quite empty, and it was much reduced in size. The outside of the organ was loaded with fat. The valves in the ventricles were plainly recognisable: they were free from any ossific deposit. This organ did not contain any arsenic.

"The liver weighed about 2lbs. Its structure was firm and of a dark reddish brown colour; it was in a good state of preservation. Twelve ounces were taken for analysis, and arsenic

was separated in about the same proportion as from the whole of the stomach. The gall-bladder was also well preserved; its coats were firm, and the inner coat was deeply stained and covered by a layer of thick bile. There were no gall-stones. The gall-bladder, with its contents, yielded arsenic in greater proportion than the stomach.

"Small Intestines. The coats were thin and collapsed, but firm and rather tough; in fact, they were well preserved. Excepting the duodenum, they were empty or contained only air. In some parts the mucous membrane was covered with a thin, black, pasty substance like that found in the stomach. This was especially observed in the duodenum. The duodenum contained arsenic in greater proportion than the stomach. About one-third of the small intestines, taken from different parts of their length, also yielded arsenic in greater proportion than the stomach.

"Large Intestines. The coats were firm, and equally well preserved. A black pasty-looking substance was found, but nothing of a mineral nature could be detected by the aid of a magnifying-glass. There was no redness of the coats of the large intestines. On analysing, the large intestines with their contents yielded arsenic in about the same proportion as the parts of the small intestines examined. There were, also, in the rectum traces of mercury and antimony.

"3. MOULD FROM THE GRAVE. Twenty-two ounces of this were examined for arsenic. It contained none, either in a soluble or insoluble form. It consisted of ordinary clay, sand, carbonate of lime, and oxide of iron, with vegetable roots and fibres.

"CONCLUSIONS. 1. The body of the deceased Ann Bacon contained arsenic, which must have been taken by or administered to her while living.

"2. The arsenic was found in the largest proportion—1, in the intestines; 2, in the liver and gall-bladder; and 3, in the stomach. The kidneys and spleen contained a small quantity; the heart and bloody liquid of the chest contained none.

"3. The total quantity extracted from the different parts was small—namely, about three-quarters of a grain.

"4. The parts containing the arsenic were well preserved, but presented none of the appearances which are usually produced by this poison.

"5. Whether the deceased died from the effects of the arsenic or natural disease, can only be determined by the symptoms from which she suffered in the illness preceding her death.

"ALFRED SWAINE TAYLOR, M.D., F.R.S."

TESTIMONIAL TO THOMAS THOMSON, M.D. A testimonial has recently been presented to Dr. Thomas Thomson, formerly of Stratford-upon-Avon, and now of Leamington. For six-and-twenty years Dr. Thomson was Honorary Physician to the Stratford Infirmary; and on his retirement from that, a short time ago, to reside at Leamington, the Stratford public considered that some testimonial was due to him for his long, able, and gratuitous services to the institution. Accordingly, a subscription was set on foot, and a very handsome testimonial, of solid silver, and of £200 value, was designed and executed by Messrs. Garrard and Co., of London. The elegant offering was presented to the eminent physician at four o'clock in most appropriate terms. The subject of the superb work of art is taken from one of Shakespeare's plays. On a simple base, which contains a clock in the Cinque Cento style, is represented in full relief, with animated and forcible action, the noble story of the deliverance of Oliver by his brother Orlando, taken from the description in the fourth scene of the fourth act of "*As you like it*." The testimonial was presented to Dr. Thomson at his residence, by a deputation consisting of Lord Villiers, Joseph Townsend, Esq., and several clergymen and gentlemen.

ROYAL SOCIETY. An important series of resolutions has been transmitted by the Royal Society to Lord Palmerston. The Royal Society begins by suggesting that the necessities of the times require that physical science should be made a branch of public education; and this suggestion, we venture to say, will be received with approbation by all but those who pertinaciously adhere to old-world notions about the educational theory. The Royal Society then goes on to recommend the encouragement of provincial museums, and of lectures upon scientific subjects, and, as ancillary to this, recommends that duplicate specimens from the British Museum and other institutions should be distributed. It further recommends that national publications bearing on science be more extensively circulated than they are at present, by additional donations to societies and individuals engaged in the cultivation of science.

Furthermore, that the sums placed by Parliament at the disposal of the Government and of the Royal Society should, in the former case, be augmented, and, in the latter, not necessarily limited to 1000*l.*, but increased wherever "special reasons may be assigned for an additional sum." That scientific officers shall be placed more nearly on a level, in respect to salary, with such other civil appointments as are objects of ambition to civilised men. Finally, the Royal Society expresses its satisfaction at the concentration of the principal scientific societies at Burlington House, and suggests the establishment of some Board "which might advise the Government on all matters connected with science." The society concludes by pointing out the fees taken upon the granting of patents as the proper fund from whence money might be taken, if necessary, for the purpose of carrying out their recommendations.

MEDICINE IN EGYPT. All who are interested in the progress of medicine will be gratified in learning that the school of medicine in Cairo has been reopened. The school, which was founded about thirty years ago by Dr. Clot-Bey, was suppressed by the late Viceroy Abbas Pasha, and its founder was compelled to retire from Egypt. On the 10th of September last the institution was reopened, under the presidency of Ethem Pasha, to whom the progress of public instruction in Egypt owes much. Dr. Clot-Bey delivered a discourse on the occasion, and proclaimed the opening of the school.

LUNACY. The receipts of the Lunacy Commissioners in the year ended the 31st of July, 1856, amounted to £14,491, and the payments to about £13,158.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS and other COMMUNICATIONS for the JOURNAL should be directed to the private address of the Editor, 39, Curzon Street, May Fair.

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.

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.; 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:—Mr. J. H. T. KING; Mr. W. JAMESON; Mr. G. BIRD (Tollerton); Mr. J. S. GAMAGE; Mr. CHARLES PEARSON; Dr. J. SLOANE; Mr. THOMAS PAGET; Mr. T. L. PRIDHAM; Dr. C. H. JONES; Mr. BASSETT; Mr. R. GRIFFIN; Mr. J. SCHOLFIELD; Dr. NELSON; Mr. G. BODINGTON; Mr. R. PROPERT; Dr. THOS. WILLIAMS; Mr. G. B. MASFEN; Mr. JOSEPH HINTON; Mr. W. DALTON; Dr. GLÜCK; Mr. T. HOLMES; Dr. J. R. NICHOLSON; Dr. EDWARD SMITH; Mr. HERBERT MORRIS; Mr. J. V. SOLOMON; Mr. J. R. HUMPHREYS; Dr. PAXTON; Dr. F. J. BROWN; Sir H. COOPER; Mr. McDERMOTT; Mr. W. COLLINS; Dr. SIEVERING; Mr. JOHN RUSSELL; and Dr. LAUDER LINDSAY.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

1. Epidemic Cholera, Diarrhoea, and Dysentery. Pointing out an Effectual and Expeditious Method of Cure. By Henry Jeanneret, M.D. Pamphlet. London: 1857.
2. The Crystal Sphere: its Forces and its Beings: or Reflections on a Drop of Water. By J. Milton Saunders, M.D., LL.D. London: Baillière. 1857.
3. On the Pathology, Symptoms, and Treatment of Ulcer of the Stomach: with an Appendix of Cases. By *William Brinton, M.D. London: John Churchill. 1857.
4. Nature and Art in the Cure of Disease. By *Sir John Forbes, M.D., D.C.L., F.R.S. London: John Churchill. 1857.
5. The Constitution of the Animal Creation, as expressed in Structural Appendages. By G. Calvert Holland. London: John Churchill. 1857.
6. A Report on some of the more important Points in the Treatment of Syphilis. By Holmes Coote, F.R.C.S. London: Churchill. 1857.
7. Compressed Air as a Therapeutic Agent in the Treatment of Consumption and other Diseases. By Archibald Simpson, M.A., M.D. Edinburgh and London: 1857.
8. The Constitution of Women, as illustrated by Abdominal Cellulitis or Inflammation of the Cellular Membrane of the Abdomen and Pelvis. By Charles Bell, M.D. Edinburgh: Sutherland and Knox. London: Simpkin & Co. 1857.
9. What is to be done with our Criminals? A Letter to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor. By Charles Pearson, Esq., City Solicitor. London: Hall and Virtue. 1857.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Pepsine and its Preparations.—

TITTERTON'S MEDICINAL RENNET, or Liquor Pepsinæ Preparatus (as originally approved of, and so named, by Dr. DAVID NELSON, of Birmingham, in 1851.—See *The Lancet* of 1855-56.) Messrs. W. and C. B. TITTERTON are ready to supply this well tried and valuable remedy for Diabetes and the various forms of Dyspepsia, in pint and half-pint bottles.—Apply, 6, Snow Hill, Birmingham.

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To be had of the Inventor, GABRIEL JOZEAU, sole French Chemist, 49, Haymarket, London, whose name is printed on the Government stamp; and all the principal Chemists of England.