

until the legislature has repaired the bungling, by which at present an innocent man is not allowed to give evidence in his own defence.

### THE WEEK.

It is this week our pleasant duty to offer congratulations—in which we are sure all the members of the Association will join—to a gentleman who has been for many years one of the most zealous and efficient officers connected with this Association, and whose merits have been publicly and substantially acknowledged by his brethren. Mr. Hatton of Manchester, having for fifteen years performed the duties of Secretary to the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch, resigned office last year; and, at the annual meeting held last week, the members of the Branch presented him with a valuable timepiece, as “an acknowledgment of their appreciation of his valuable services,” and “as a testimony of respect for his professional acquirements and social qualities.” We regard it as having been very opportune, that the duty of presenting the testimonial should devolve on the gentleman who is President of the Branch for this year. In receiving the timepiece with its accompanying congratulations from Mr. Jones, Mr. Hatton must have felt the value of the gift enhanced through its being presented by the hands of one who, to our knowledge, is equalled but by very few among us in what he has done to promote the growth of the Association. Once more, we heartily congratulate Mr. Hatton; and trust that the Branch to which he belongs may long enjoy the benefit of his aid and counsel.

A few weeks ago we took occasion to notice a work on *Stricture of the Urethra*, by M. José Pro, and to expose the glaring plagiarisms which the author had committed in copying, without acknowledgment, large portions of Mr. Henry Thompson's work. We have now the satisfaction of announcing that an act of justice has been rendered to Mr. Thompson by the Surgical Society of Paris, which learned body had, when M. Pro's work was published, received it with marks of high favour. Mr. Thompson forwarded to the Society a copy of his own work, with a statement of his claims. The matter was promptly taken into consideration; and at the meeting of the Society, on June 16th, a report was brought up by M. Verneuil, in which the claims of Mr. Thompson were fully acknowledged, and the act of M. Pro was reprobated in strong terms. The report concluded with the following resolutions:—“1. To address to Mr. Thompson the expression of our regret for the error to which the thesis of M. José Pro has given rise: 2. To add our thanks for the confidence which he has placed in us, and for sending his work: 3. To inscribe Mr. Thompson in the list of our future corresponding members.” The Society are anxious that it should be understood that M. Pro has never been elected a corresponding member of their body. They only, the report says, “voted him thanks, which must be as publicly withdrawn as they were publicly given.” The promptitude with which the Société de Chirurgie have thus made the *amende honorable* is highly creditable to them, and it must be, we are sure, most gratifying to Mr. Thompson.

Dr. W. M. Ord, the Surgical Registrar of St. Thomas's Hospital, has addressed a letter to the *Times*, stating the result of his observations on the effect of the emanations from the river.

His inquiries have been made of large bodies of lightermen, dock-labourers, warehousemen, etc.; and, contrary to what might have been expected, the cases of diarrhoea and bowel disorder have been remarkably few,—indeed, comparatively absent. But personal observation of nearly two hundred men, constantly working on the river, has shown the presence, in nearly all, of a peculiar class of symptoms.

“They described themselves as experiencing, at first languor, and, soon afterwards, nausea and pain, beginning most commonly in the temples and spreading over the head. After a time followed giddiness, and in many of them temporary loss or impairment of sight, the presence of black spots before their eyes, and often utter mental confusion. The relative prominence of these symptoms, of course varied in different subjects, but they were experienced more or less by all. In a considerable number the throat was swollen and red, causing much ‘soreness’ and intense thirst,—facts which were also adverted to by other competent observers. Where diarrhoea had occurred, or purgative medicines had been used, these symptoms were, as a rule, speedily mitigated; and the tolerance of such medicines was remarkable.”

A trial took place this week before Mr. Justice Hill, in which Mr. William Richards, of Alcombe, in Somersetshire, was the plaintiff, and Thomas Cocking, a chemist in Great Portland Street, was the defendant. The plaintiff stated, that on March 20th, being in London, he applied at the defendant's shop for an ounce and a half of fluid magnesia, to relieve heartburn. Mr. Cocking brought him something from a back room in a wineglass. On drinking it, he immediately discovered that it was some irritant fluid, and spat out the greater part. He was afterwards very sick, and was obliged to have medical attendance. Several medical gentlemen deposed to the symptoms as having been compatible with poisoning by Burnett's disinfecting fluid; but, though the plaintiff said that he had read the label “Sir W. Burnett's Disinfecting Fluid” on a bottle in the defendant's shop, the latter swore that he had none of that material, and that what he gave the plaintiff was a solution of sulphate of magnesia. The judge left it to the jury to consider what the plaintiff had asked for, and what the defendant had supplied. If they were of opinion that the defendant did not supply what the plaintiff had applied for, but instead of that had given him a noxious irritant poison, the plaintiff would be entitled to a verdict. If the defendant deserved to have a verdict against him, they would give it, regardless of the consequences. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff; damages, £75.

## Association Intelligence.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
WEST SOMERSET.	Clarke's Castle Hotel,	Wed., July
[Annual Meeting.]	Taunton.	14, 2 P.M.
BATH AND BRISTOL.	General Hospital,	Thurs., July
[Annual Meeting.]	Bath.	15th, 4 P.M.
SHROPSHIRE.	Lion Hotel,	Monday, July
[Annual Meeting.]	Shrewsbury.	19, 2 P.M.
READING.	Council Chamber,	Wed., July
[Annual Meeting.]	Reading.	21, 4 P.M.

[To prevent delay, Reports of Branch Meetings should be sent direct to the office, 37, Great Queen Street.]

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION:  
ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION will be holden at Edinburgh, on Thursday, the 29th, Friday, the 30th, and Saturday, the 31st days of July.

*President:* BOOTH EDDISON, Esq., Nottingham.

*President-elect:* WILLIAM P. ALISON, M.D., F.R.S.E., Edinburgh.

The Committee of Council will meet at twelve o'clock on Thursday.

The General Council of the Association will meet at one o'clock.

The following is an outline of the proceedings connected with the Annual Meeting:—

*Thursday, 29th, 4 o'clock P.M.* First General Meeting of the Association.

In the evening, a conversazione will be holden at the Royal College of Surgeons, when Dr. SANDERS, Conservator of the Museum, will make some remarks on many of the objects of interest contained in it.

*Friday, 30th. Morning.* Public breakfast. Second General Meeting of Members. The Address in Therapeutics will be delivered by Professor CHRISTISON.

*Afternoon.* The Address in Surgery will be delivered by Professor MILLER.

*Evening.* There will be a conversazione at the Royal College of Physicians; when Dr. WILSON, Regius Professor of Technology, will read a paper on Chemistry.

*Saturday, 31st. Morning.* The Address in Midwifery will be delivered by Professor SIMPSON.

*Afternoon.* Professor BALFOUR will meet the members of the Association in the Royal Botanic Gardens.

*Evening.* Dinner.

Further particulars will be announced as early as possible. All local information may be obtained on application to Dr. W. T. GAIRDNER, 52, Northumberland Street, Edinburgh.

Members who propose to read papers to the meeting are requested to communicate their intention, as early as convenient, to the General Secretary,

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D.

Worcester, June 1858.

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, May 1858.

## EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of this Branch was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ipswich, on Friday, June 25th, at 2 P.M.; C. M. DURRANT, M.D., President, in the Chair. There were also present: E. B. Adams, Esq. (Bungay); A. H. Bartlet, Esq. (Ipswich); G. Bullen, Esq. (Ipswich); G. Bullen, jun., Esq. (Ipswich); W. Cadge, Esq. (Norwich); B. Chevallier, M.D. (Ipswich); W. H. Ebdon, Esq. (Haughley); G. C. Edwards, Esq. (Ipswich); S. Freeman, Esq. (Stowmarket); J. S. Gissing, Esq. (Woodbridge); R. V. Gorham, Esq. (Aldborough); T. Grimwood, Esq. (Walton); C. C. Hammond, Esq. (Ipswich); C. W. Hammond, Esq. (Ipswich); J. Kirkman, M.D. (Melton); J. M. Ling, Esq. (Saxmundham); C. Marshall, Esq. (Woodbridge); R. Martin, Esq. (Holbrook); D. Meadows, Esq. (Lowestoft); C. Mingaye, Esq. (Dedham); W. Muriel, Esq. (Wickham Market); G. W. Pretty, Fressingfield); W. H. Ranking, M.D. (Norwich, late President); C. Read, Esq. (Stradbroke); G. Sampson, Esq. (Ipswich).

The PRESIDENT delivered an address, which is published at p. 556.

## CASES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

1. Case of Incipient Elephantiasis. By R. V. Gorham, Esq.  
2. Position of the Staff in the Operation for Lithotomy. By W. Cadge, Esq.

3. A Magneto-Electric Machine was exhibited by Mr. Hewitt of Norwich, and highly approved of. It appeared to combine the advantages of portability, cheapness, simplicity of operation, and ready modification of power.

4. Case of Poisoning by an Embrocation. By T. Grimwood, Esq. Mr. Grimwood gave the outline of a case which led to much interesting discussion. It was that of a knife-grinder, who, for some hours before Mr. Grimwood saw him, had been in a state of profound coma, after swallowing, by mistake, an embrocation said to consist of white hellebore and acetic acid, but probably containing also a considerable quantity of opium. When seen, animation appeared to be suspended; no pulse could be felt; the pupils were intensely contracted; and the case was regarded as hopeless; but the energetic and continued use of the stomach-pump, and the free administration thereby of mustard and water, were followed, after a considerable time, by signs of returning power, and the patient ultimately recovered.

5. Case of Wound of the Intestine: Probable Recovery. By J. S. Gissing, Esq.

6. Case of Traumatic Tetanus, of three weeks duration. Under the care of E. B. Adams, Esq., and W. Cadge, Esq.

7. The Application of Belladonna to Breasts threatened with Milk Abscess, and the Treatment of Diabetes Mellitus by a Saccharine Diet, led to much interesting, though desultory conversation.

## PLACE OF MEETING FOR 1859.

It was resolved—

"That the annual meeting be held next year at Lowestoft; and that John Kirkman, M.D., be President-elect."

## THE LATE JOHN BEALES, ESQ.

It was resolved—

"That the sympathy of this meeting be conveyed to Mrs. Beales, with the expression of sorrow for her loss, and that which this Branch of the Association has sustained, by the death of John Beales, Esq., one of its most esteemed and talented members."

## MEDICAL REFORM.

The following resolution was passed—

"That this meeting cordially approves of the measures that have been taken to insure the passing of a Medical Bill this session."

## NEW MEMBERS.

The following gentlemen were admitted new members:—H. Gramshaw, Esq. (Laxfield); J. E. Jeaffreson, Esq. (Framlingham); J. T. Muriel, Esq. (Hadleigh).

## MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

The following gentlemen were elected to represent the Branch in the General Council:—W. Cadge, Esq. (for Norfolk); C. M. Durrant, M.D.; and J. Kirkman, M.D. (for Suffolk); and W. Waylen, Esq. (for Essex).

## CONSULTATION WITH HOMOEOPATHIC PRACTITIONERS.

Dr. RANKING (Norwich) said:—I beg to occupy your attention for a few minutes with a very distasteful, and in itself ridiculous subject, but one which recent occurrences have invested

with some degree of interest to us. I allude to that false system of treating disease which has been termed homœopathy. It is not my intention to bore you with the oft repeated *exposé* of the fallacies of this system; how it originated in the fertile brain of an enthusiast, if not of a needy adventurer; the illogical and positively laughable experiments upon which was founded the fundamental doctrine of *similia similibus curantur*; the puerile absurdity that the curative powers of drugs are increased by their diminution in quantity and intensity, as well as by shakings and triturations; the very agreeable theory that a large proportion of human maladies originate in the "itch" miasm (I wonder, by the bye, how the lady patronesses of the homœopathic Fancy Fair would relish the idea),—these, and other equally luminous theories, so completely demolished in Simpson's admirable *exposé* of homœopathy, you all know as well as myself. Were the fact simply, that this particular form of quackery has flourished beyond all others, except perhaps "Morison's Pills"; were it even solely that many qualified medical practitioners, more astute than distinguished, have pandered to the fashionable folly of the day,—I should not have thought the matter worthy the attention of this meeting. But, gentlemen, when we find physicians and surgeons deservedly esteemed for skill and talent, who have acted as though they did not think it derogatory to their position to stand at the bedside of the sick with these pretended believers in infinitesimals, and have in their own persons been the cause of the science which has been based upon the patient and earnest study of the finest minds of all ages being in the eyes of the public identified with such a thing as homœopathy, I say it is time that those of us who have any regard for truth, as well as for professional honesty, should make themselves heard, and should denounce not only those who practise upon public credulity and ignorance, but those also who, by consulting with them, endorse their fallacies and impostures.

In order to carry out this view, I have ventured to propose certain resolutions, which I leave to be modified by this meeting, where modification may seem requisite. But, before I lay them before you, I will apprise you of the fact that curiosity tempted me to discover the antecedents of several of those who have succeeded to homœopathy. You have doubtless generally been told, as I have, when some new accession to the ranks of the homœopaths has occurred, that the neophyte has sacrificed a previously good position, and has been constrained by conviction to adopt the new views; with, perhaps, the addition of lamentations that the inspiration of the "divine Hahnemann" had not sooner illuminated his benighted mind. In fact, if we are to believe all we hear on this head, and which the public take for granted, there never was a diplomatised homœopath who had not resigned a splendid practice on the old system, and who, disinterested man that he was! had not preferred to begin life anew, rather than continue longer in the errors taught by a Cullen, a Gregory, a Prout, a Bright, and a Watson. Unfortunately for the disinterestedness of many at least of these gentlemen, the inquiries I have made entirely bear out the assertion of our associate Dr. Barker, "that no instance has occurred of a man with a good practice becoming a convert to homœopathy". In those instances I have inquired into, including one which has recently made some noise, I have ascertained that the individuals did not in any case enjoy the confidence of the community—in fact, that, as regards practice, they were disappointed men. Here, I think, we have a ready solution of their apostasy.

I will now propose the following resolutions:—

1. That the system of treating disease called homœopathy has been subjected to close scrutiny and unbiassed investigation, not only by individual physicians, but by medical commissioners of undoubted credit, and has been pronounced to be destitute of probability as a theory, and, when applied to real and serious disease, of success in practice.
2. That, in the land in which it originated, it has nearly become extinct; while it is expressly forbidden in the public services of this and other countries, as chimerical and unsafe.
3. That this meeting regards homœopathy as one of the many modes of playing upon public credulity, and considers that any physician or surgeon who meets in consultation, or otherwise encourages a practitioner of this system, is unfit to remain a member of the British Medical Association.
4. That the members of the East Anglian Branch of the Association pledge themselves to refuse consultation or other professional communication with homœopathic practitioners.

These resolutions received the signature of the President and twenty other of the members present.

#### THE DINNER.

The members of the Branch afterwards dined together at the White Horse Hotel, and about twenty there sat down. The President, Dr. Durrant, was in the chair, supported by Dr. Ranking, Dr. Kirkman, R. Martin, Esq., and A. H. Bartlett, Esq. G. Bullen, Esq., acted as Vice-President. The usual loyal toasts were given, and there was a very generally expressed feeling that the meeting had been one of the most cordial and satisfactory ever held in the eastern counties.

#### LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE twenty-second annual meeting of this Branch was held in the Theatre of the Medical Institution, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, on Wednesday, June 30th; ELLIS JONES, Esq., President, in the Chair. There were also present:—R. Allen, Esq. (Preston); H. Anderton, Esq. (Wavertree); R. J. Banning, M.D. (Liverpool); T. Bickerton, Esq. (Liverpool); W. T. Callon, Esq. (Liverpool); J. Cameron, M.D. (Liverpool); P. Cartwright, Esq. (Oswestry); S. T. Chadwick, M.D. (Bolton); G. Daglish, Esq. (Wigan); T. Dawson, Esq. (Liverpool); L. E. Desmond, Esq. (Liverpool); J. Dickinson, M.D. (Liverpool); A. W. Dumville, Esq. (Manchester); T. Eden, Esq. (Liverpool); J. Galt, Esq. (Ashton-under-Lyne); G. Gill, Esq. (Liverpool); N. S. Glazebrook, Esq. (Liverpool); T. F. Grimdale, Esq. (Liverpool); J. Hutton, Esq. (Manchester); T. R. Heywood-Thomson, M.D. (Aigburth); H. Hulme, Esq. (Liverpool); H. Imlach, M.D. (Liverpool); W. McCheane, Esq. (Liverpool); P. Macintyre, M.D. (Liverpool); J. Macnaught, M.D. (Liverpool); W. H. Manifold, Esq. (Liverpool); J. Martin, Esq. (Hindley); T. Mather, Esq. (Ashton-in-Mackerfield); T. Mellor, Esq. (Manchester); G. M. Millett-Davis, Esq. (Liverpool); T. R. Mitchell, M.D. (Liverpool); D. Noble, M.D. (Manchester); J. O'Bryen, M.D. (Liverpool); J. Petrie, M.D. (Liverpool); J. Sharp, Esq. (Warrington); T. Skinner, M.D. (Liverpool); G. Southam, Esq. (Manchester); L. Spencer, Esq. (Preston); A. B. Steele, Esq. (Liverpool); A. Stephens, Esq. (Liverpool); A. Stokes, M.D. (Liverpool); H. Swift, Esq. (Liverpool); B. Townson, Esq. (Liverpool); J. Turnbull, M.D. (Liverpool); J. Vose, M.D. (Liverpool); A. T. H. Waters, Esq. (Liverpool); E. Waters, M.D. (Chester); M. A. E. Wilkinson, M.D. (Manchester); H. Wilson, Esq. (Runcorn); and J. H. Wilson, M.D. (Liverpool); also, as visitors—S. Archer, Esq. (Liverpool); and C. Collingwood, M.D. (Liverpool).

The President delivered an address, which is published at p. 557.

#### REPORT OF COUNCIL.

Mr. A. T. H. WATERS, Honorary Secretary, read the following report:—

"The Council, on presenting their annual report, have much pleasure in welcoming the members of the Branch to the town of Liverpool.

"Since the last anniversary meeting in Preston, nothing of particular importance has occurred in the affairs of the Association to call for special comment. The subject of Medical Reform has again been brought before Parliament, and the Reform Committee of the Association have taken an active part in endeavouring to forward the progress of the Bill which has been introduced by Mr. Cowper. This Bill has now been amended by the Home Secretary, and stands for consideration in Committee on Thursday next; and, from the fact that the Government seem to be favourably disposed to the measure, it appears probable that it may be passed into law during the present Session. The Branch has not been idle with respect to this all-important subject. A petition has been forwarded in favour of the Bill, signed by the President and Secretary, on behalf of the Council; and others, signed by many members of the Branch resident in various localities of the district. In addition to this, the Secretary has written letters on two occasions to the members of Parliament for Lancashire and Cheshire, soliciting their support in favour of the measure. Further, some members of the Branch proceeded to London, to attend a very numerous deputation of members of the Association, and members of Parliament, to the Home Secretary, on the 15th May last; and your Council cannot conclude their reference to this subject without expressing their thanks to those gentlemen for their willing sacrifice of time and convenience on that occasion.

"Your Council regard with much satisfaction the introduction into the House of Lords, by the Prime Minister, of a Bill for the Restriction of the Sale of Poisons: they trust that the

Session of Parliament will not close without the Bill, in its general features, being passed into law; and that its operation will tend to check that indiscriminate sale of poisonous substances by which so many lives are yearly sacrificed.

"Your Council have much pleasure in congratulating the members on the continued prosperity of the Branch. At the beginning of the present year, a number of addresses were sent round to the members of the profession resident in Lancashire and Cheshire, in which the objects of the association were pointed out, in the hope that, by making the Society more extensively known, an increase of members might be secured. Some have responded to the appeal thus made to them; and although the number that has been, by this means, induced to join the Association is not so great as your Council could desire, they have reason to believe that the seed which was thus sown has not yet produced all its fruit.

"Since the last annual report of the Council, forty new members have joined the Branch. Of these, thirty are new members of the Association; the other ten had previously belonged to it. During the year, ten members have been lost by death, resignation, or removal, leaving an increase on the year of thirty members. The present number of members is two hundred and two. The Council believe that most of these members have been gained by the individual exertion of the members themselves; and they would urge upon all the importance of lending their aid to increase the ranks of the Association.

"Your attention will be directed to the new rules which have been modified by a committee appointed for the purpose, in order to bring them in conformity with the laws of the Parent Association, as passed at Birmingham in 1856.

"The Council cannot allow this opportunity to pass without expressing their satisfaction at the very successful meeting which was held last year at Preston, and the more so that it was the first time a meeting had taken place away from the two great towns of the district. It will be found, on reference to the list, that more than half the members of the Branch belong to Manchester and Liverpool, and that a much larger proportion of the profession has joined in those towns than in the other towns of the district which the Branch includes. Your Council believe that, by holding the meetings in some of the other towns of the two counties, an increased sympathy towards the Association will be felt, and a larger number of members be induced to join it; and in accordance with this view, a resolution will be submitted for your approval, recommending that the next annual gathering of the Branch shall take place at Chester, from which city your Council have much pleasure in stating they have received an invitation, signed by nineteen of the resident members of the profession.

"Your Council have much pleasure in stating that the finances of the Branch are in a satisfactory condition; the following is a financial statement for the year. (This statement showed a balance in hand of £18:13:5.)

"In conclusion, your Council beg to express their opinion of the great value of meetings like the present one, which tend to promote feelings of brotherhood and kindness between the members of the profession in the districts in which they are held; and the paramount importance of an association like the Parent to which they belong, which, by binding the profession together in a common bond of union, and producing combined action amongst them, is calculated to bring about results whether of a political, social, or scientific character, which can alone be produced by concerted action and concentrated power."

Mr. A. W. DUMVILLE (Manchester) moved—

"That the Report of the Council now read be adopted and printed, together with the proceedings of this meeting."

Dr. HEYWOOD-THOMSON (Aigburth) seconded the motion, observing that, as this was the first time he had had the honour of joining any of the meetings of this Branch of the Association, he could not but feel the deepest gratification in hearing of the extended success of the Branch, and indeed of the Association generally. It must be evident to them all that it was only by such a strong bond of union that their noble profession would be held together—that they would be able to uphold one another. Wherever one member suffered, all of them suffered; and where one of them was honoured, all would be honoured.

The resolution was then put and carried.

#### VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING OFFICERS.

Dr. PETRIE (Liverpool) moved, and Mr. TOWNSON (Liverpool) seconded—

"That the best thanks of this meeting be given to Lawrence Spencer, Esq., the late President; to A. Wood, Esq., and Dr. Waters, the late Vice-Presidents; to the Honorary Secretary, and to the other members of the Council, for their services during the past year."

From the report which had been read, and from the address of the Chairman, they must all be satisfied that the gentlemen now named were really worthy of their best thanks for the services they had performed.

The resolution was then put, and carried unanimously.

Mr. SPENCER (Preston), as he had the honour to fill the President's chair last year, had great pleasure in responding to the last resolution. It was exceedingly satisfactory to him to know that, during the year, the number of members had increased; and that, while the Branch had been successful in point of numbers, the greatest harmony and good feeling had also prevailed. He trusted that, under the new Presidency, the Branch would flourish still more; and that, at the close of the present year, the Secretary would be enabled to report more satisfactorily, not only in regard to numbers, but also with respect to their financial condition.

Mr. Spencer then moved—

"That the best thanks of this meeting be given to the Local Secretaries, J. M. Robinson, Esq. (Bolton); John Sharp, Esq. (Warrington); J. B. Gilbertson, Esq. (Preston); and H. M. Williamson, Esq. (Manchester), for their valuable services during the past year; and that they be requested to continue their appointments."

Mr. WILSON (Runcorn) seconded the resolution, which was agreed to amidst applause.

#### PLACE OF MEETING IN 1859: ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Dr. VOSE (Liverpool) moved—

"That the next annual meeting be held in Chester; that Edward Waters, M.D., of Chester, be appointed President-elect; and that Geo. Wolstenholme, Esq., of Bolton, and John Harrison, Esq., of Chester, be appointed Vice-Presidents-elect."

This resolution, Dr. Vose said, embodied that which must be the wish of the society; namely, to meet in the ancient cathedral city of Chester; and to have so distinguished a man as Dr. Waters for their President. He need not extend his remarks in support of the resolution; and he only hoped they might have as good a meeting as the cordiality of the invitation which had been addressed to them from the ancient city of Chester would warrant. [Applause.]

Mr. HATTON (Manchester) seconded the resolution. He thought that the requisition which had come from Chester, so numerously signed, gave every hope that they would have a large and prosperous meeting. Some years ago, the Branch endeavoured to hold a meeting in Chester; and it was thought that the meetings should be held in different towns. The attempt at Chester failed; and this only showed that, as an Association, they were getting exceedingly strong, and that their strength was increasing every year. The success of the Preston meeting last year was an instance of the greater importance that this Association held than it did some years. A meeting at Preston was tried ten years ago, and it failed at that time; but he thought they had every warrant, and would be justified in believing that they would have a good meeting at Chester, especially when they would have for their President Dr. Waters, who had always taken the greatest interest in the affairs of the Association.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Dr. NOBLE (Manchester) moved, and Dr. MACINTYRE (Liverpool) seconded, the following resolution—

"That, in addition to the President, Ellis Jones, Esq., and the Vice-Presidents, Dr. Vose and John Hatton, Esq., the following gentlemen constitute the Council for the ensuing year:—E. Batty, Esq. (Liverpool); W. W. Beever, Esq. (Manchester); J. Dickinson, M.D. (Liverpool); A. W. Dumville, Esq. (Manchester); W. H. Duncan, M.D. (Liverpool); H. Halkyard, Esq. (Oldham); T. Inman, M.D. (Liverpool); E. Lyon, M.D. (Manchester); G. Mallett, Esq. (Bolton); T. Mellor, Esq. (Manchester); P. Macintyre, M.D. (Liverpool); D. Noble, M.D. (Manchester); J. M. Robinson, Esq. (Bolton); J. Sharp, Esq. (Warrington); G. Southam, Esq. (Manchester); L. Spencer, Esq. (Preston); G. Turner, M.D. (Stockport); E. Waters, M.D. (Chester); H. Wilson, Esq. (Runcorn); G. Wolstenholme, Esq. (Bolton)."

Dr. MACINTYRE (Liverpool) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

## MEDICAL REFORM.

Dr. DICKINSON (Liverpool) said, that one of the evils under which the profession had laboured for a considerable period was the anomalous and unfair position which they held in the state. It had been the effort of the Parent Association and of the Branches to try to remove that anomalous position. Hitherto their efforts had been in vain; but he believed that they might entirely blame themselves for this failure. Legislators had asked, How could they legislate for a body of men who had no common ground of action? He believed they must sink their minor interests; and, if they could get a measure which would remove the great bulk of their grievances at present, they must receive it, if it were simply as an instalment. The present Bill before Parliament appeared to come up to that point. He moved—

“That this meeting regards with much satisfaction the progress made during the present session of Parliament with reference to the subject of medical reform; and, believing the Bill now before the House of Commons is calculated to meet some of the requirements which at present exist, and that, if passed into law, it will be acceptable to the great bulk of the profession, resolves, in the event of the Bill being sent to the House of Lords, that a petition in favour of it, signed by the President and Secretary, on behalf of the Branch, be forwarded for presentation to that house.” [Applause.]

Mr. SHARP (Warrington) said that, from his long professional experience, he was fully conversant with the grievances which the Bill sought to remove. He seconded the resolution, which was then put, and carried unanimously.

Dr. NORLE requested that the Secretary, Mr. Waters, who, he believed, was acquainted with the amendments proposed in the Bill, would give the meeting some information on that subject. The meeting was doubtless aware that the Government had given their sanction to the general principles of the measure, which they proposed to modify in committee. The amendments were now produced, and the Bill was to be re-committed forthwith. The Bill therefore existed now, as it was modified by Mr. Walpole.

Mr. WATERS (Liverpool) had had an opportunity of reading the Bill, but not of considering it very attentively. However, there were some important modifications which had been introduced. The first was with regard to preliminary education. It was formerly left to the General Council to decide whether there should be a preliminary classical examination or not. Under the present Bill it was to be compulsory. [Hear, hear.] The next modification was with regard to the executive power of the Council. Under the old Bill the Council had an administrative and executive power; the power of telling any Examining Board that their examination was not such as they wished, and that they must alter it, or they would not register the gentlemen they passed. Under the present Bill this was modified. The power no longer rested with the Council to do this; but the Council had the power, when they saw fit, to represent to Her Majesty in Council that the course of examination and the study recommended by the different Examining Boards were not what they thought necessary. Her Majesty then had the power, in Council, to suspend the recognition of the examination of those Boards; and, although the machinery was different, the result would still be the same. The Colleges and the Universities did not wish to put themselves into the power of the Council; but they had no objection to put themselves into the power of the Queen. [Laughter.] There was another difference between the two Bills. It was stated that every one who registered under this Act must pay a fee, to be decided on by the Council. He thought all those gentlemen who had already passed their examination ought to be allowed to register their names without any fee at all. He thought, however, the Bill altogether was improved rather than otherwise by having passed through the hands of Mr. Walpole.

Dr. NOBLE was sure the meeting was greatly obliged to Mr. Waters for his lucid and succinct explanations of what the amendments of the Bill really were. He thought those amendments supplied no reason whatever why the Association should modify its approval of the Bill. On the contrary, the first amendment was an unmistakable improvement—an improvement which would have been accomplished by another machinery, but its being brought about by a legislative provision stamped it with greater weight and greater moral influence. With respect to the amendment in reference to the executive power of the Council, he agreed with Mr. Waters that it would come to practically the same thing. As to the question of fee, however wrong it might be in principle, he thought they had

better not raise it, because they were so near the land of promise they would act very imprudently in interposing the slightest obstacle for so slight a cause.

Mr. WATERS said there were other minor matters in the Bill. It still granted the power to the Archbishop of Canterbury to create a man a doctor. [Laughter.] There had also been a change made in regard to the Scotch Universities; but the result was, that, though differently classified, they returned the same number of representatives to the Council.

Mr. HATTON observed that it was a question whether some modification should not be made in regard to the power possessed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The only instances, as far as he knew, in which it had been exercised, were in the case of an hydropathist, who kept a shop and sold oils and pickles, etc., in Manchester, and in that of a homœopathist.

Dr. MACINTYRE thought that so long as the Archbishop confined himself to the bestowing of the degree upon homœopathists and hydropathists, the profession generally need not fear. If his Grace were to grant it to persons not so well marked, there might be something to complain of. As they had borne it, however, so long, they might as well say little about it just now, if it would facilitate the passing of the Bill.

The resolution was then put and carried.

## REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

Dr. WILKINSON (Manchester) moved, and Mr. WILSON (Runcorn) seconded—

“That the following gentlemen be appointed representatives of the Branch in the General Council:—J. Dickinson, M.D. (Liverpool); John Hatton, Esq. (Manchester); T. Inman, M.D. (Liverpool); Ellis Jones, Esq. (Liverpool); E. Lyon, M.D. (Manchester); D. Noble, M.D. (Manchester); E. Southam, Esq. (Manchester); L. Spencer, Esq. (Preston); J. Vose, M.D. (Liverpool); and E. Waters, M.D. (Chester); with A. T. H. Waters, Esq. (Liverpool), Secretary.”

The resolution was put and carried.

## RULES OF THE BRANCH.

The SECRETARY read over the rules, as amended by a special committee appointed for that purpose.

Dr. INMAN (Liverpool) moved the adoption of the amended rules.

Dr. WATERS (Chester), in seconding the resolution, drew attention to the law which imposed a subscription of 2s. 6d. a year to the Branch, when members of the Parent Association already paid an annual subscription of a guinea. He thought it tended to discourage gentlemen in the profession from joining the Branch. Dr. Waters instanced Bath and Bristol as a Branch where the payment of 2s. 6d. had been objected to.

Dr. O'BRYEN (Liverpool) had been for many years a member of the Bath and Bristol Branch. They regularly paid their half-crowns; and he should recommend all the Branches to do the same.

The SECRETARY said, if all the Branches were supported by the Parent Association, there would be a serious deficiency in the Treasurer's coffers.

The motion was then carried.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

The following papers were then read:—

Counterirritants; their *Modus Operandi* and Uses. By T. Inman, M.D.

Recollections of a Professional Tour in Holland. By J. Vose, M.D.

Use of the Trephe, illustrated by a Case. By A. W. Dunville, Esq.

Treatment of Inflammation of the Cervix Uteri. By T. R. Heywood Thomson, M.D.

On the motion of Mr. DAGLISH (Wigan), seconded by Mr. SWIFT (Liverpool), votes of thanks were awarded to the gentlemen who had read papers.

Mr. WATERS, in the name of the President, invited the gentlemen present to assemble at Mr. Jones's house, as soon as the dinner, which would be held at the Adelphi Hotel that afternoon at four o'clock, was over.

Thanks were then voted to the President for his conduct in the chair.

## TESTIMONIAL TO JOHN HATTON, ESQ., LATE HON. SECRETARY OF THE BRANCH.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the members adjourned to the committee room, for the purpose of presenting to Mr. Hatton, the late Hon. Secretary, a testimonial which had been subscribed for amongst the members. The testimonial consists

of a magnificent timepiece, with sculptured figures in gold, of French manufacture, and very elegant design. The support on which it rests bears a plate on which is the following inscription:

"Presented to John Hatton, Esq., F.R.C.S., by the members of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the British Medical Association, on the occasion of his retirement from the office of Honorary Secretary, as an acknowledgment of their appreciation of his valuable services during an official connexion with the Association of fifteen years; and as a testimony of the respect they entertain for his professional acquirements and social qualities. (1858)."

The PRESIDENT said he had much pleasure, in the name of the Branch, in presenting to Mr. Hatton the splendid testimonial which was before them; and the more so, that he could bear ample testimony to the great ability and zeal shewn by Mr. Hatton for the long period of fifteen years, during which he had ably filled the office of Honorary Secretary. It was with regret that they lost the benefit of the services of Mr. Hatton as their Secretary; but he hoped long to retain his valuable aid and co-operation as a member of the Association.

Mr. HATTON, in reply, said that he received this substantial proof of the respect of the Branch with grateful feelings, and was only sorry that he was unable, as a speaker, adequately to express to them the sense in which he estimated their present. It was true that, during the period he held the office of their Secretary (some fifteen years), there had been many obstacles and some difficulties to overcome; but it was a gratification to him to congratulate the society upon its present position. In resigning his office into the hands of their present Secretary, he was sure that the society had benefited by securing the services of Mr. Waters, as the way in which he had conducted the business of the day would be ample proof. After alluding to the many valuable members they had lost during the brief space of his secretaryship, including the names of Dr. Horne, Dr. Kendrick, and Dr. Jeffries, of Liverpool, he again expressed his obligation to the members for their kind testimonial, and the terms in which it had been conveyed to him. [*Applause.*]

#### THE DINNER.

The dinner was held in the evening at the Adelphi Hotel, where covers were laid for about fifty. There was a full table, the chair being occupied by the President, Ellis Jones, Esq., and the vice-chairs by Dr. Vose and J. Hatton, Esq. The Mayor was unavoidably prevented from being present.

The PRESIDENT, in some appropriate remarks, proposed "The Queen—Duchess of Lancaster." The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

The CHAIRMAN next proposed "The Prince Consort, Albert Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family." He thought that medical men were under a debt of gratitude to Prince Albert, who had shown himself friendly to their profession. His Royal Highness had on many occasions given evidence of this. He believed the Prince Consort had attended some meetings of the Royal College of Physicians; and he had also taken a lively interest in the Royal Medical Benevolent College for the education of the children, and the relief of widows of decayed members of the profession.

The CHAIRMAN next gave "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese;" coupling with the toast the name of the Rev. Mr. Jones, Incumbent of St. Augustine's Church, Liverpool.

The Rev. Mr. JONES, in responding, paid an eloquent tribute to the good works in which members of the medical profession were constantly engaged amongst the poor,—works which the clergy had more opportunities of appreciating than any other class of the community. The more he had the happiness of knowing what the medical profession was, the more did he esteem and admire its members. The more he was brought into contact with the sufferings of the afflicted, the more was he lost in admiration as he witnessed the attentions of members of the medical profession to the necessitous poor, receiving nothing for their labours except the testimony of an approving conscience and the gratitude of the recipients. Having referred also to the opportunities which medical men possessed of speaking words of Christian consolation at times when the heart was prepared for gospel truth, the reverend gentleman concluded by expressing his personal obligations to his friend, the chairman, for having introduced him to the pleasant meeting that day, and to the company, for the kind manner in which they had received the mention of his name.

Dr. VOSE proposed the next toast. Being a man of very warlike disposition (he said), the very honourable charge had been imposed upon him of giving the health of "The Army

and Navy." [*Cheers.*] He had great pleasure in being the means through which, on that occasion, they did honour to those noble services, whose exertions won the triumphs of Waterloo and Trafalgar. He rejoiced that at last the merits of army-surgeons in the field should be looked upon as worthy of notice by the State. [*Hear, hear.*] It was somewhat remarkable that, until recently, there was a great anomaly in the constitution of this country. Whereas, France had set the example of honouring the medical branches of the army and navy, *pari passu*, with other men entitled to honourable distinction, hitherto the medical profession attached to the army and navy of Great Britain had been treated with neglect, if not with contempt. A reform had, however, taken place; and their exertions in the field would now be recognised as much as those of a purely military and naval character. He could not refrain from alluding to the extraordinary position of favour enjoyed under the Imperial system of France,—not the present Imperial system, but the Great Imperial system of France, when Desgenettes, Larrey, and Broussais were looked upon almost as the personal friends and associates of the Emperor, who regarded them as men worthy of the highest distinction on account of their unbending courage, which was so required in connexion with their important professional duties in the field; and he believed the Emperor Napoleon stood second to none for his knowledge of human nature. With these observations he gave, with infinite satisfaction, "The Army and Navy," coupling with the toast the names of Mr. Desmond (of Liverpool) and Dr. Heywood-Thomson (of Aigburth). The toast was enthusiastically drunk.

Mr. DESMOND, in responding, regretted that so few Victoria Crosses had been bestowed upon the medical officers of the army and navy who served in the Crimea, although no gazette was published during that period which did not record some casualty to medical officers in both services. It was absurd to call them non-combatants, because they were exposed to the same dangers as the combatants. [*Hear, hear.*]

Dr. HEYWOOD-THOMSON also responded. He said he had had the honour of serving Her Majesty in all parts of the world in connexion with the three branches of the service,—soldiers, sailors, and marines. He agreed with Dr. Vose, that the military and naval services did present the anomaly to which he had referred—the anomaly that army and navy surgeons were obliged to take a share of the peril in the public service for years without recognition, beyond a slight additional amount of pay as their recompense. At length, by the pressure of public opinion, and the efforts of that ASSOCIATION, to which they had the honour to belong, [*Hear, hear.*] Government had been brought to look upon this matter in a different light, and now the distinction of the Order of the Bath had been granted to medical officers of both services,—granted very grudgingly, no doubt, but it had been granted to a few, a very few. However, he was content that the profession should receive one small instalment, as it gave them an earnest of the future. Then there was the Crimean war, with its horrors and difficulties. Notwithstanding the disparaging remarks which Government had made with respect to the medical profession, it had turned out that there was only one well established case in both branches of the service,—there might have been a second—in which it was doubtful that a medical officer had been deficient in his duty. In all the difficulties and trials which the soldiers and sailors had gone through, the medical officers had shared. Indeed, the *Times* correspondent wrote, that fewer medical men left the Army than other officers; so that a larger proportion stuck to their colours. Though they might respect Lord Palmerston for many things, it was a matter of regret and condemnation that, when the question of the distressing state of the army was discussed, he took the opportunity of disparaging "civilians," observing that the civilians were they who broke down, forgetting that his great ancestor was married to the daughter of a medical man. Although the noble lord said there were no aristocratic men amongst the civilians, it was somewhat remarkable that the only man "called over the coals," in connection with the Commissariat, was the grandson of a duke. [*Laughter.*] He agreed with Mr. Desmond, that the Victoria Cross ought to be accessible to members of the profession who distinguished themselves in the field. Recent events in India showed that the profession still maintained its character for bravery; and further, that apart from their civil duties, they were on emergencies prepared to undertake militant duties. They would remember, too, that in the Crimea the same thing was manifest; as witness the fact that, notwithstanding the ability and generalship of a certain royal duke, it was one of their own profession who pre-



vented His Royal Highness from being captured in the Crimea. [*Cheers and laughter.*]

Dr. MACINTYRE gave "The BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION and Sir Charles Hastings;" paying an eloquent tribute to the services rendered to the profession by Sir Charles. As to the Association itself, he was convinced that, if it progressed as well as it had done in the last few years, it would ere long include within itself the great majority of the profession in England, Scotland, Ireland, and the Colonies. And saying anything of the Association, they never could forget that it had derived its name, and strength, and prestige from Sir Charles Hastings. The toast was received with enthusiasm.

Mr. PEPLOE CARTWRIGHT gave "The Lancashire and Cheshire Branch," coupled with the name of Dr. Inman. [*Cheers.*]

Dr. INMAN thought something might be said about the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch. He did not know whether there was, out of the metropolitan counties, a larger Branch. [The CHAIRMAN: It is the largest in the kingdom.] He (Dr. Inman) would have been rejoiced to think that it was a Branch that contributed more largely to the literature of the Association than any other. In looking throughout the JOURNAL, it was painfully apparent that the reports of hospital practice came almost exclusively from the metropolitan counties. Now these meetings showed that in the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch there was an amount of talent certainly not second even to the Metropolitan Counties Branch; yet there seemed to be a diffidence amongst the members, who apparently thought that because they did not live in a place like London, or Edinburgh, or Dublin, what they observed, and thought, and wrote was not to be compared with what was observed, and thought, and written in those places. Their meetings proved that they had an amount of gold which, if worked, would yield abundantly. From coming into contact with the members of this Branch, he knew there was a very great amount of knowledge of the most valuable kind floating amongst them, which, if not kept circulating, would go to the bottom. Now, it ought to go to some other place than the "limbo of absurd ideas." Their JOURNAL, though not quite so large, was certainly not second either to the *Lancet* or *Medical Times and Gazette*; and it depended upon the members of the Association to make it still more valuable. He urged, that all who carried even a grain of gold in their waistcoat pockets, should allow their friends to share the benefit of it through the JOURNAL, which, good as it now was, would then contain a still greater amount of valuable intelligence. If they could develop this idea, and induce persons who had valuable knowledge to lend it to these meetings, the mission of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch would be fulfilled, and their meetings would gradually increase in interest, their members would augment, and none of them, on coming to these annual gatherings, would feel that there was cause for saying "*Perdidi diem*," but that he had gained a very great deal of information and interesting intelligence. [*Cheers.*]

Dr. TURNBULL proposed "The Royal Medical Benevolent College." [*Cheers.*]

Mr. EDWARD BATTY gave the health of the late President of the Branch, Lawrence Spencer, Esq., of Preston, and the Vice-Presidents, Abraham Wood, Esq., of Rochdale, and Dr. Waters of Chester. [*Cheers.*]

Mr. SPENCER, in returning thanks for the compliment paid to himself and late coadjutors in office, concurred in the excellent suggestions and remarks of Dr. Inman, expressing an opinion, with regard to these meetings, that they did more than anything else towards promoting a feeling of harmony, and removing petty jealousies from the minds of rival practitioners. [*Hear, hear.*]

Dr. WATERS, on being called upon, also responded in suitable terms.

Mr. SOUTHAM proposed "The health of the President, Mr. Ellis Jones", of whom he spoke in high terms, in connexion with the long and valuable aid he had rendered to the society, not only in his official capacity, formerly as joint Secretary of the Branch, but also in his individual influence, by the untiring use of which he had considerably enlarged the number of their members. [*Hear, hear.*] He was rejoiced to see that gentleman in the position of President of the Branch—a distinction to which he was in every way entitled. Since the last General Meeting, they had had an accession of no fewer than thirty members; and, though he did not attribute the whole of that success to Mr. Jones, very much of the success which had attended the present meetings was undoubtedly owing to that gentleman. [*Cheers.*] It was, therefore, with great pleasure that he proposed the toast which had been intrusted to him.

The toast was received with three times three.

The PRESIDENT, in responding, expressed the warm interest he took in everything pertaining to his profession, and especially in this Association, which he looked upon as an important machinery for good, not only to its members, but also to the community at large. Formerly everything affecting the status and privileges of the profession was done in London; the provinces were but little thought of; but, since the establishment of this Association, they had taken their proper position. With regard to Medical Reform, he believed that the petitions from the provinces, thanks to the combination rendered easy by the Association, had effected the agreeable change which was about to be made manifest in the passing of the Medical Reform Bill. The day was gone by when the provinces were to be consigned to the cold shade of neglect; for now they had a voice—it was the voice of that Association—to which there was no equal in the present day. [*Cheers.*] If they were true to the objects of the Association, their JOURNAL would ere long become superior to any other medical journal in the kingdom. It was now, in all its departments, equal to any other, thanks to the talent of its Editor; and it only required the provision of the requisite means to increase its staff and extend its operations, to place it in a position far above any kindred publication in the British dominions. [*Cheers.*] He urged the desirability of publishing the *Transactions* of the Association, which, he said, contained papers of transcendent talent; and concluded by expressing his personal obligations for the honour which had been paid to himself, in placing him in the position he occupied that evening.

Dr. WILKINSON proposed the healths of Dr. Vose and Mr. Hatton, the Vice-Presidents for the ensuing year.

Dr. Vose said, not having, until recently, taken any active part in the affairs of the society, he looked upon his appointment as an especial compliment; but he failed to comprehend the reason why, in the toast, precedence had been given to his name, in preference to that of a gentleman who had distinguished himself for many years by his exertions on behalf of the society, unless it were that an opportunity might be afforded him of introducing to them Mr. Hatton as one of the most time-honoured and most efficient servants of the Association. Those who were not present at the close of the proceedings in the Medical Institution, would need to be told on that occasion an elegant testimonial (a beautiful eight-day clock) had been presented to Mr. Hatton on behalf of the Branch—a recognition of services to which he was eminently entitled. [*Cheers.*]

Mr. HATTON observed that he could not say, with his friend Dr. Vose, that he had not until lately taken an active part in the meetings of this Branch; for he believed that he was nearly the oldest member at the table. Referring to the prosperity of the society, he attributed it in some measure to changing the place of meeting from Newton, and holding the gatherings periodically in various towns, thus spreading the influence of such meetings, and bringing them more into communion with each other. He remembered when the Branch had only forty-one members, and when the Parent Association only counted a few hundreds. Now the Branch alone numbered upwards of two hundred members, including the names of the leading practitioners in the profession in the two counties; and he believed gentlemen were beginning to think now that they were out of the pale of professional society, unless they were members of the Association. He agreed with the President, that the force of this Association had brought out the Government measure; and that the voice of upwards of two thousand of the profession could not be withstood by Government, when it was considered what was the class of men who graced that Association. With regard to the obtaining of the Companionship of the Bath for medical officers of the army and navy, credit might be taken by this Branch for being the first to move in that matter. [*Cheers.*] Some twelve or fourteen years ago, they moved in another important matter affecting the profession, and that was, the obtaining of fees for giving certificates for life insurance. Thanks to their influence and the justness of the appeals which had been made, the non-payment of the fee on such an occasion was now the exception, and not the rule. [*Hear, hear.*] As to the handsome testimonial which had been presented to him, he said he should always look upon this day as one especially gratifying to himself, and the more so because this was the second occasion on which his professional brethren had honoured him with some such testimonial.\*

Mr. SPENCER proposed the health of Mr. Waters. He had

\* A piece of plate was presented to Mr. Hatton in 1854, in recognition of services as Hon. Secretary of the Executive Committee for conducting the Annual Meeting of the Association at Manchester in that year.

not long been the Honorary Secretary of the Branch, but, so long as he had filled that important position, he had performed the duties of the office with zeal, energy, and punctuality. He begged leave to propose the health of Mr. Waters, the Hon. Secretary of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch. [*Cheers.*]

Mr. WATERS said that it was a source of gratification to him to find that the manner in which he had discharged the duties of his office had met with their approbation. With regard to the accession in their numbers, while he agreed very much with the Council in attributing it to the individual exertion of the members, he thought they were indebted for a portion of that increase to the fact that the principle of the Association was becoming more widely known and more extensively appreciated. Members of the profession were beginning to see and feel the importance of having some common bond of union, some common ground on which they might meet, some common banner round which they could rally; and it was to this—the making use of their agency and their individual exertions, added to the good cause they had in hand—that they were indebted for this accession in their ranks. [*Cheers.*] He would not undervalue the importance of individual exertion. No one knew better than himself to whom they were indebted in this respect; but they should bear in mind that they had a good cause to work upon, and that by using the agency they possessed they could make the good cause prosper. Referring to the approaching meeting at Edinburgh, he expressed a hope that all would go, enumerating the advantages to be enjoyed by taking advantage of the opportunity, one important consideration being that the northern lights were to shine on that occasion. [*Cheers and laughter.*] He hoped that all of them would go and leave their mark behind them. [*Laughter.*] He trusted also that the Association would not only spread throughout England and Scotland, but that it would inundate Ireland also, and that the time was coming when they should be able to hold a great annual meeting of the Association in the metropolis of this country and in Dublin.

The PRESIDENT gave “the Press of England,” coupled with the name of Mr. Thomas Whitehead.

Mr. WHITEHEAD responded; and, after several other toasts, the proceedings terminated.

#### METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE sixth Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan Counties Branch was held at 11, Montagu Place, Bryanstone Square, on Tuesday, July 6th, at 5 P.M. The retiring President, EDWIN LANKESTER, M.D., F.R.S., took the Chair, and afterwards resigned it to GEORGE JAMES SQUIBB, Esq., the newly elected President. There were also present: S. S. Alford, Esq.; James Bird, M.D.; J. Birkett, Esq.; R. Dunn, Esq.; E. H. Greenhow, M.D.; A. Henry, M.D.; S. W. J. Merriman, M.D.; J. Propert, Esq.; G. Robins, Esq.; C. H. F. Routh, M.D.; E. H. Sieveking, M.D.; H. S. Smith, Esq.; A. P. Stewart, M.D.; J. Toynbee, Esq.; E. H. Vinen, M.D.; T. O. Ward, M.D.; and G. Webster, M.D.

#### REPORT OF COUNCIL.

Dr. WARD (Secretary) read the following Report:—

“The Council, in presenting their sixth Annual Report to the Branch, beg to inform the members that, during the past year, their attention has been directed chiefly to aid the efforts of the Parent Association in procuring such a Medical Reform Bill as shall be in accordance with the principles hitherto held and expressed on all occasions by this Branch. When Lord Elcho and Mr. Cowper presented their respective Bills to Parliament, your Council undertook a thorough examination and comparison of them, and came to the conclusion and reported that Mr. Cowper's Bill was preferable to that of Lord Elcho, and would, if modified in some particulars, be deserving of the support of the Branch, in the absence of a more perfect measure. Certain resolutions, embracing these modifications, were then forwarded to Mr. Cowper; and your Council were gratified with the reply of that gentleman, that he read them with great satisfaction. The honourable gentleman has also presented a petition from the Branch in favour of his Bill; and your Council have the pleasure to announce, there is every reason to believe that, in consequence of the efforts of the British Medical Association, aided by this and other Branches, a Medical Reform Bill, embracing almost all the requirements of this Branch, will pass through its final stage in the House of Commons on this day.”

“Difficulties by no means unforeseen, and differences of opinion as to the particular mode in which inquiries into the action of medicines should be instituted, have occasioned unavoidable delay in the prosecution of the arduous task undertaken by the Committee appointed a year ago. They have, however, held several meetings; and some progress has been made in forming a plan for the guidance of those who may be willing to co-operate in the cultivation of so promising a field of scientific research. The thanks of the Committee are especially due to Dr. Ranke, who, though not a member of the Association, lent his valuable and zealous aid in furtherance of this inquiry, which he proposes to carry out in his new sphere of labour in connexion with the University of Munich.

“In reference to this subject, it is with deep regret your Council performs the painful duty of reminding the Committee and the Branch of their loss by the death of one of our members, Dr. Snow, who, by his practical and experimental researches on the subject of anaesthetics, and his inquiries into the connexion between the spread of Asiatic cholera and the water supply of the localities in which the disease has prevailed, had established for himself not only a European, but a world-wide reputation.

“The report of the Treasurer will be laid before you; and your Council are sorry to remark, not only an adverse balance, but that, notwithstanding the appeal made to the Branch at the last annual meeting, the unpaid subscriptions amount to almost as much as the receipts; and that several members, who allow their names to continue year after year on the list, and receive the circulars, etc., repudiate their membership when direct application is made to them for the payment of their arrears.”

Dr. WEBSTER moved that the Report be received and adopted. He congratulated the meeting on the prospect which there seemed to be of obtaining as good a measure of medical reform as could be expected. The death of Dr. Snow, alluded to in the Report, deserved to be regarded almost as a public calamity.

Mr. PROPERT seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL.

The following gentlemen were elected the officers and Council for the ensuing year:—President: G. J. Squibb, Esq. *President-elect*: Edward William Murphy, A.M., M.D. *Treasurer*: Joseph Toynbee, Esq., F.R.S. *Secretaries*: T. Ogier Ward, M.D.; A. P. Stewart, M.D. *Ordinary Members of Council*: James R. Bennett, M.D.; John Birkett, Esq.; W. Camps, M.D.; Robert Dunn, Esq.; George B. Gibb, M.D.; S. Griffith, M.D.; A. Henry, M.D.; E. Lankester, M.D., F.R.S.; S. W. J. Merriman, M.D.; William Ogle, L.R.C.P.; C. H. Rogers-Harrison, Esq.; C. H. F. Routh, M.D.; E. H. Sieveking, M.D.; Edward Smith, M.D.; George Webster, M.D.

Dr. LANKESTER said that he had great pleasure in resigning the presidency of the Branch to Mr. Squibb. He felt sure that the office could not be in better hands. The Branch had apparently not been very active of late; but he firmly believed that it had exercised an influence on the progress of medical reform. He trusted that Mr. Cowper's Bill would pass; and hoped that the members of the House of Commons in the interest of the universities, and those in the interest of the corporations, would unite for this object.

#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. SQUIBB, on taking the chair, said that he regretted that the mantle of Dr. Lankester had not fallen on a better man. But he yielded to no man in feelings of goodwill towards the Association and the Branch, or in the appreciation of the benefits to be derived from the meetings. The members should each and all try to obtain additions; and endeavours should be made to render the meetings of the Branch attractive. The object should be to foster a high tone of feeling among the profession. He believed that the most effectual way of dealing with homœopaths and other charlatans would be by union among ourselves. He would make the experiment of having some social evening meetings at his house, and hoped that these would be attended with benefit. The Metropolitan Counties Branch ought to be a leading one in the Association; it had already done much, and might do more.

#### REVISION OF THE LAWS.

Dr. GREENHOW proposed, Dr. WEBSTER seconded, and it was resolved—

“That the Council be desired to revise the laws of the Branch, with a view to increasing its usefulness; and to report to a general meeting of the Branch early in December.”



## VOTE OF THANKS.

Mr. PROPERT proposed, and Dr. BIRD seconded, a vote of thanks to the late President; which was carried unanimously, and acknowledged by Dr. Lankester.

## REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

The following members were elected, in addition to one of the Secretaries, to represent the Branch in the General Council of the Association:—A. Henry, M.D.; E. Lankester, M.D., F.R.S.; G. Webster, M.D.; and A. Wynter, M.D.

## Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday, July 5th, 1858.

### SALE OF POISONS BILL.

On the report of this Bill—

The Earl of WICKLOW said he saw no reason why the Act should not extend to Ireland.

The Earl of DERBY could not undertake to say off-hand whether the Bill was applicable to Ireland or not.

Lord TALBOT DE MALAHIDE said he had announced his intention to propose certain amendments with respect to the selection of examiners under the Bill; but he would defer the consideration of them till the third reading, when he hoped they would receive the report of the noble earl opposite (Earl Derby), to whom the country owed a deep debt of gratitude for having taken up this question. [*Hear, hear.*]

After a short conversation—

The Earl of DERBY said his impression was, that it was better to allow the Bill to remain as it was; but he would consider the question, and give the noble earl a final answer on the motion for the third reading.

The report of amendments was then agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Tuesday, July 6th, 1858.

### MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS BILL.

Mr. COWPER having moved that the House go into Committee on this Bill,

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE said he thought he should be doing good service to the house, the medical profession, and the country, by moving that the House go into Committee on this Bill that day six months. He characterised the Bill as a job on the part of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons. All the Clauses of the Bill should be postponed till the House considered the 41st Clause, which enacted that the expenses of this Bill should be paid by the Treasury. How much was the House prepared to pay for it? He for one, on the part of his constituents, should not vote one single item of expense, and he should be betraying their interests if he did. This Bill, he knew, possessed the interest of the College of Surgeons and the College of Physicians; but let not the House suppose that these bodies possessed the confidence of either the profession or the country. If it were a simple bill for registration of medical practitioners, that object might be effected in a much simpler method than by the machinery of this Bill. It, however, went much further, providing for the establishment of regulating councils. No one ought to give his consent to the Bill until he had seen the dissection made of it in the *Westminster Review* of April and the present month, which showed conclusively that the proposed medical council was simply a method of centralising and consolidating the powers of those corporations. The measure was one which would meet with the greatest opposition; there would be numerous divisions on almost every Clause, and he implored the right honourable gentleman (Mr. Cowper) not to waste the time of the House and the Government by persisting in a measure which it would be impossible to carry through this session.

Mr. BLACK seconded the motion.

Mr. COWPER said that the principle of the Bill had been already discussed. With regard to the observation of the honourable member that this Bill was not looked upon with favour by the profession, he would refer him to the large number of petitions to that House from the profession in support of it. He therefore trusted the House would not interpose any further delay in going into Committee on the Bill, as he had not heard any fair reason for postponing it.

Mr. HEADLAM expressed his regret that the right honourable gentleman had so steadfastly refused to meet the views of

those who objected to parts of the Bill. It was most desirable that the House should legislate upon this subject, and, although he was afraid that the session was too far advanced to permit the passing of the Bill, especially if all the principles that were discussed on the second reading were to be contested over again, he did not object to the House going into committee.

Mr. HADFIELD was opposed to the further progress of the Bill.

Mr. WALPOLE recommended the House to permit the Bill to go into Committee, as it could then be more precisely ascertained what were the objections to the Bill. If they should seem to be such as no mere alterations of the Bill could remove, he, on the part of the Government, should be prepared to suggest a course that might be satisfactory to all parties.

After a few words from Mr. BLACK and Lord ELCHO,

The House divided, when the numbers were—

For going into Committee	95
Against it	8
Majority	—87

The House accordingly went into Committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 were agreed to.

On Clause 3,

Mr. DUNCOMBE moved that all the Clauses should be postponed till they came to the consideration of the 41st Clause. He thought before they proceeded further they ought to decide who were to pay for going into this legislative quackery, for quackery after all it was. If it was not competent for him now to move this amendment, he must only go through all the clauses, clause by clause, until they came to the 41st or financial clause.

Mr. COWPER said with regard to the 41st clause it was so framed that it would not make any demand upon the public purse. He, therefore, appealed to the honourable member for Finsbury not to impede the progress of the Bill. When they came to the 41st clause he hoped to satisfy the honourable gentleman that the Clause did not bear the construction which he put upon it.

Mr. AYRTON also hoped his honourable friend (Mr. Duncombe) would not persevere against the opposition which he met with on the division which had just taken place. He thought the feeling of the profession with respect to this Bill was decidedly in its favour, and he believed it contained the foundation of a good measure of legislation for the country.

Mr. HATCHELL thought that this Bill met the wishes of the medical profession as much as any others which had been proposed, and after it was amended in Committee he saw no reason why it should not be passed. He was sure it would give satisfaction to the medical profession in Ireland.

Mr. WALPOLE was quite opposed to the Government being saddled with the expense of the Act, and therefore should support all the clauses which would tend to establish a scale of fees sufficiently high to defray that expense. The 41st clause was merely for the purpose of obtaining an advance from the Government until the fees came in. He thought it was unnecessary.

Mr. COWPER said that, as he did not consider the 41st clause essential he would consent to withdraw it when it was arrived at in due course.

Mr. DUNCOMBE withdrew his amendment, and Clause 3 was agreed to.

Clause 4, on the motion of Mr. AYRTON, was so altered as to require that the President of the Council to be constituted by the Bill should be elected by that body from among themselves, instead of being, as proposed by the Clause, nominated by Her Majesty.

Clauses 5 to 14 inclusively were agreed to.

On clause 15,

Mr. HEADLAM moved an amendment to the effect that no practitioners but such as had passed an examination at the College of Physicians and College of Surgeons, and received license to practise therefrom, should be permitted to register themselves under the Bill.

Mr. WALPOLE opposed the amendment, which he said militated against the main objects of the Bill—namely, the continuance of all the existing bodies by whom degrees and diplomas are granted, so long as the course of study in them shall be satisfactory to the Council to be appointed under the Bill.

The Committee then divided, when the numbers were—

For the amendment	21
Against it	138
Majority	—117

The amendment was therefore lost, and the Clause agreed to.

Clauses 16 to 25 were agreed to.

To clause 26 the following proviso was added, on the motion of Mr. HEADLAM:—"Provided always, that the name of no person shall be erased from the register on the ground of his having adopted any theory of medicine or surgery."

On clause 29, an amendment to the effect that the members of any College of Physicians should agree to a by-law prohibiting its members from suing for their fees was agreed to on the motion of Mr. HEADLAM.

Clause 41 was struck out.

Clauses 42 to 44 were agreed to.

On clause 45,

Mr. HADFIELD moved to insert a proviso to the effect that within twelve months after the granting of such charter to the College of Physicians of London, any fellow, member, or licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, or of the Queen's College of Physicians of Ireland, who may be in practice as a physician in any part of the United Kingdom called England, and who may be desirous of becoming a fellow or member of such College of Physicians of England, shall be at liberty to do so, and be entitled to receive the diploma of the said college, and to be admitted to all the rights and privileges thereunto appertaining, on the payment of a registration fee of pounds to the said college.

Mr. WALPOLE agreed to the amendment, and, with reference to a proposed exemption from stamp duty which the proviso first contained, said the honourable gentleman must consult the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The proviso, as amended, was then agreed to, and the clause provided to stand part of the Bill.

The remaining clauses were then agreed to with some verbal amendments.

Mr. HEADLAM moved to insert the following clause in lieu of clause 16:—"After the passing of this act, the medical registrars shall, under the authority of the respective branch councils, require proof from every person who applies to be registered as a physician, and who is not qualified to be registered as such under the provisions of section 15 of this act, that he has completed the age of twenty-four years, and that he has graduated in arts and medicine, or in medicine after having passed the examination for a degree in arts, in some University of the United Kingdom, or in some foreign University approved by the General Council, or that his case comes within some special exception established by the General Council, and that he has been examined by and has received letters testimonial as a physician from one of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of England, Scotland, or Ireland, and has been enrolled as a member of that College."

Mr. WALPOLE opposed the clause as unnecessary, and it was negatived without a division.

Mr. BERESFORD-HOPE moved to insert the following clause after clause 45:—"It shall, notwithstanding anything herein contained, be lawful for Her Majesty, by charter, to grant to the Royal College of Surgeons of England power to institute and hold examinations for the purpose of testing the fitness of persons to practise as dentists, who may be desirous of being so examined, and to grant certificates of such fitness."

The clause was agreed to.

The House then resumed, and the CHAIRMAN reported the Bill as amended, and the report was ordered to be received on Wednesday.

#### SURGEONS FOR THE ARMY IN INDIA.

Mr. S. HERBERT said that it had been stated in accounts which had been received from India, that many regiments were proceeding up the country without any English medical practitioners; and that there was great difficulty in obtaining candidates for employment, on account of no improvement having been made in the rank, pay, and general position of medical officers. He believed that a plan had been under the consideration of the Government to give to medical men the improved status to which they were entitled; and he wished to ask the gallant general at the head of the War Department whether there was any probability of a plan to promote that object shortly receiving the sanction of the Government, and of being promulgated.

General PEEL said that certainly some difficulty had been experienced in procuring the requisite number of surgeons. There was a plan, recommended by his right honourable friend,

to obviate the difficulty, which had received the attention of the Government, but it would require some time for consideration.

## Medical News.

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

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

#### BIRTHS.

- BULL. On June 30th, at Hereford, the wife of \*Henry G. Bull, M.D., of a son.  
 DRUITT. On July 6th, at 37, Hertford Street, Mayfair, the wife of Robert Druitt, M.D., of a daughter.  
 GODBY. On June 30th, at Newport, Shropshire, the wife of \*Augustus H. Godby, M.D., of a son.  
 GRAMSHAW. On June 28th, at Gravesend, the wife of \*J. H. Gramshaw, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.  
 INGLIS. On July 1st, at Edinburgh, the wife of Thomas Inglis, M.D., of a son.  
 LITTLE. On June 30th, at Boston, the wife of \*John C. Little, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.  
 PURVIS. On July 3rd, at Blackheath, the wife of Prior Purvis, M.D., of a daughter.

#### MARRIAGES.

- ESKRIGGE—TATHAM. Eskrigge, William Linton, Esq., of Stockport, to Annie Crosley, only daughter of the late James Tatham, Esq., Surgeon, of Lancaster, at the Church of St. Stephen the Martyr, Avenue Road, on July 1st.  
 FOWLER—BODLEY. Fowler, the Rev. John, head master of the Grammar-School, Lincoln, to Martha, daughter of the late W. H. Bodley, M.D., of Brighton, at Cheltenham, on June 30th.  
 KNAGGS—GREEN. Knaggs, Henry, M.B., Assistant-Surgeon 59th Regiment, to Emma Lawrence, only daughter of D. H. Green, Esq., War Department, Chatham Lines, at Trinity Church, Brompton, Kent, on July 1st.  
 MATTHEWS—SMITH. \*Matthews, William C., Esq., Surgeon, of Longsight, near Manchester, to Lucy Emma, eldest daughter of Horatio Smith, Esq., of Longsight, at St. John's, Manchester, on July 6th.  
 MITCHELL—THOMPSON. Mitchell, George, Esq., of Olinda, county Down, to Mary Hogg, only daughter of William Thompson, M.D., at the Cathedral, Lisburn, on June 28th.  
 SKIPWITH—BOYD. Skipwith, Major George, Depôt Battalion, Jersey, to Margaret Jemima, only daughter of the late David Boyd, Esq., Surgeon-General Madras Army, at St. George's, Hanover Square, on July 6th.  
 WALKER—BARON. Walker, William Gambier, Esq., Surgeon, of Brill, Bucks, to Frances, second surviving daughter of the Rev. J. S. Baron, at Brill, on July 1st.

#### DEATHS.

- DAVIES, William Henry, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon H.E.I.C.S., at Porta Nova, South Arcot, Madras, aged 40, on May 16th.  
 HENDERSON, Thomas, M.D., late H.E.I.C.S., at Edinburgh, on July 2nd.  
 STROUD, William, M.D., at St. John's Wood, of apoplexy, aged 68, on June 29th.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

- ARNOTT, James Moncreiff, Esq., F.R.S., elected Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.  
 GREEN, Joseph Henry, Esq., F.R.S., elected President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.  
 \*NICOL, David, M.D., appointed Physician to the Swansea Infirmary.  
 SOUTH, John Flint, Esq., elected Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

#### PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, July 2nd, 1858:—

BAKER, George Henry, Retreat Place, Hackney

BOGG, Edward Beverley, Louth, Lincolnshire  
BOUSTEAD, Robinson, Wigton, Cumberland  
COGHLAN, Hunter Alexander, Cork  
DANSON, Henry, Gloucester Crescent, Regent's Park  
HANDCOCK, George, Cad Beeston, near Leeds  
HILL, William Henry, H.M. Mint  
HOMFRAY, Charles Augustus, Clifton, near Bristol  
KENT, Octavius Jackson, Hampton, Middlesex  
LEWIS, William, Paddington Street  
O'FLYN, Denis Barry, Cork  
PERALTA, Joseph Rocca, Malta  
TEBAY, Michael James, Little Smith Street, Westminster  
WALKER, Edward, Brighton

#### HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING JULY 3RD, 1858.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE deaths registered in London, which had been 1092 in the previous week, were 1241 in the week ending Saturday, July 3rd. In the ten years 1848-57 the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1111; but as the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, they should be compared with the average after the latter is raised in proportion to the increase, a correction which will make 1222. The comparison shows that the mortality as returned for last week is rather in excess of the average as calculated for the end of June.

The deaths in London during the week would have amounted at the healthy rate to 799; the deaths in excess of this number are 442. The violent deaths produced by evident mechanical, chemical, and physical causes are 108; they are registered in more than their due weekly proportion, as is usual at the end of the quarter, and they constitute part of the excess; but a large majority of the 442 deaths are *unnatural*, and caused by impure air and other imperfect sanitary conditions. The cess-pools, sewers, and gullyholes, the dirt in the streets, and the dirt in the Thames, are the chief sources of the poison in the atmosphere, which might be maintained comparatively pure by arrangements adequate to the occasion.

The progress of diarrhoea is seen in the deaths from this disease during the last four weeks; they were successively 18, 31, 54, and (last week) 94. This last number has not been attained in previous years so early in the season, for the average of corresponding weeks is 34. The present return contains also 11 deaths from cholera, only four of which occurred amongst adults. One of these cases is returned as "cholera gravior," and occurred in the Christchurch sub-district of Marylebone; another as Asiatic cholera in Holloway. Scarlatina, including diphtheria and "malignant sore throat," was fatal in 61 cases, all except four amongst children. The disease has attacked with great severity the family of an unbeneficed clergyman in Gloucester Terrace, Pimlico, whose wife and four children have fallen under its violence. The deaths of three of the children were recorded in the previous week.

The following note is from Mr. Croft, assistant-surgeon of the Dreadnought Hospital ship:—"The two cases of fever reported by me on the 15th as having occurred on board rapidly recovered, and no fresh case has arisen. The health of the patients generally is very satisfactory. However, I learn from residents on board, and others passing a large portion of each day on the water, that they are affected at times with nausea, loss of appetite, and inclination to diarrhoea, though none of them have been so severely affected as to require medical aid."

Since the 15th ult. four persons have died in London from sunstroke.

The deaths of two men, aged respectively 94 and 96 years, and of two women, aged 95 and 96, were registered last week.

Last week, the births of 828 boys and 775 girls, in all 1603 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1848-57, the average number was 1605.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.954 in. The barometrical readings rose from 29.85 in. at the beginning of the week to 30.07 in. at the end of it. The mean temperature of the week was 58.6°, which is 2.8° below the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The mean daily temperature was below the average on every day except Wednesday, and on the last two days it was 6° below the average. The highest points in the sun and the shade were attained on Wednesday, the former 104.5°, the latter 79°; the lowest point 45.3° on Monday. The range of temperature in the

shade was therefore 33.7°. The mean daily range was 21.5°. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 66.6°, which exceeds the mean temperature of the air by so much as 8°. The difference between the mean dew point temperature and air temperature was also great, viz., 13.5°; it shows the dryness of the air. The mean degree of humidity of the air was 62; on Monday the humidity was only 54, complete saturation being represented by 100. On five days the wind was generally in the north-west; on the last two it blew from the north. No rain was measured by the gauge, though a few drops fell on Friday and Saturday.

#### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD: EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF MEDICINE. JUNE 1858.

Examiners: Dr. Acland, Regius Professor of Medicine; Dr. Rolleston, Lee's Reader in Anatomy; Dr. Chambers, Physician to St. Mary's Hospital, London.

No. I. *Anatomy and Physiology*. 1. Describe in the human subject the blood-vessels at the base of the brain; at the root of either lung; on the walls of the oesophagus, stomach, and duodenum; in the hilus of the kidney. 2. State the origin, course, distribution, and functions of the third nerve in man. 3. Describe a typical vertebra. 4. What are the several points of ossification in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd cervical vertebrae? in the scapula, temporal, and sphenoid bones? 5. What conditions favour, retard, or prevent the coagulation of the blood? 6. What are the functions of the cerebellum? 7. What effects are produced upon the several functions and upon the duration of life by section of both pneumogastric nerves? 8. What are the objects under the microscope numbered i, ii, and iii? 9. State what you know of the accessions recently made to our knowledge of the physiology and minute anatomy of the spinal cord. 10. Describe the minute structure of the human lung.

No. II. *Chemistry and Botany*. 1. Describe the several varieties of sugar; giving their sources in the animal and vegetable kingdoms, their employment in the arts, and the tests for their presence, together with such fallacies as these are liable to. 2. What are the chemical constituents of the urine, and what relation do they hold to the several tissues of the body? 3. What is the received chemical formula of each of the following substances—ammonia, cyanate of ammonia, urea, uric acid, oxalic acid, creatine, alloxan, murexid, albumen, fibrine, gelatin? 4. By what means do you recognise the presence of arsenic in organic solution? 5. By what experiments has the constitution of the atmosphere been determined with exactness? 6. Give an account of the methods in use for the determination of nitrogen in an organic body. 7. How would you ascertain the absolute amount of carbonic acid present in a room of given dimensions? What is a proper cubical space for each patient in a hospital ward? 8. What is meant by the terms 'amide' and 'nitride'? Illustrate your answer by examples. Does hydrocyanic acid belong to either of these classes of bodies? 9. State the various processes by which calomel may be converted into corrosive sublimate and corrosive sublimate into calomel? 10. Describe the way in which plants are nourished, and name some substances which they seem to derive from the external world, and some which they elaborate themselves. 11. From what parts of what plants are derived (a) opium, (b) extractum colchici acetici, (c) oleum bergamottæ, (d) rhei pulvis, (e) tinctura digitalis, (f) strychnia?

No. III. *Pathological*. 1. What is the state of the blood in patients affected with (a) scurvy, (b) anæmia, (c) Bright's disease of the kidneys, (d) rheumatic fever, (e) pleurisy, (f) advanced pulmonary consumption, (g) typhus, (h) purpura? 2. Describe an ordinary case of confluent small pox in an unvaccinated person. 3. What are the most usual chronic lesions after (a) scarlatina, (b) measles, (c) ague, (d) gonorrhœa, (e) cholera, (f) rheumatic fever, (g) dysentery? 4. What may be the consequences of protracted exposure to cold and wet? 5. What are the poisonous effects on the human frame of (a) mercury, (b) lead, (c) arsenic, (d) digitalis, (e) strychnia, (f) tobacco, in large and small doses respectively? 6. Describe the invasion of illness, the course of the disease, and the *post mortem* appearances in a child of ten years old affected with tubercles in the arachnoid. 7. Name the urinary deposits under the microscopes A, B, and C. 8. Describe the *post mortem* appearances most likely to be found in cases of apoplexy, in the head as the immediate cause, and elsewhere as

the remote causes of death. 9. What are the usual causes of chronic abscess of the liver? 10. Name forms of disease likely to affect bakers—cobblers—needle-pointers—stonemasons—well-sinkers—grocers—chimney-sweeps—lucifer match makers, and coal-whippers, respectively.

No. IV. *Therapeutical.* 1. Describe the medical treatment of hæmorrhoids under various circumstances. 2. How would you treat the several complications of idiopathic low fever? 3. Are any rules of guidance for the administration of wine in fever to be obtained from the heart? 4. Describe the alkaline treatment of rheumatic fever, writing prescriptions in full without contractions. 5. What are the immediate effects of blood-letting, and under what circumstances would you employ it? By what tests would you judge of the power of the patient to bear it? 6. What is the physical action of heat applied externally to the human frame, and when and how would you employ it therapeutically? 7. If a woman during the early months of pregnancy lost blood *per vaginam* after unwonted exertion, what evil would you anticipate, and what means would you adopt to prevent that evil? 8. What prognosis would you give, and what treatment would you adopt in a case of acute traumatic and chronic idiopathic tetanus severally? 9. Write prescriptions for elaterium, scammony, gamboge, senna, and rochelle salt, intended to produce their full effect on an adult: first, simply, and secondly, in combination. 10. How did Rasori employ antimony in inflammations? with what success? and with what risks? 11. How do cold moist air and warm dry air respectively affect the lung? and by what therapeutical means can you modify for a patient the hygrometric state of the respired air?

No. V. *Clinical Examination.* (*Radcliffe Infirmary.*) 1. Write a clinical report on the cases of \_\_\_\_\_, whom you will find in \_\_\_\_\_. State the probable course of the cases, and write a brief commentary on them. 2. Are the specimens of urine marked A, B, C, respectively healthy? if not, state in what particulars they are abnormal? If unhealthy, what indications for treatment do they furnish?

No. VI. Passage from Celsus to be translated into English.

No. VII. Passages from Hippocrates, Galen, and Aretæus, to be translated.

## TRIAL FOR DIVORCE: ACCUSATION OF ADULTERY FOUNDED ON A DIARY.

COURT FOR DIVORCE AND MATRIMONIAL CAUSES.

(*Before Lord Justice Cockburn, the Judge Ordinary, and Mr. Justice Wightman.*)

ROBINSON v. ROBINSON AND LANE.

THIS was a petition for a dissolution of marriage presented by Mr. Robinson, a civil engineer, against his wife, on the ground of adultery. The respondent, Edward W. Lane, is the proprietor of the hydropathic establishment at Moor Park. Mr. M. Chambers, Q.C., Dr. Addams, Q.C., and Mr. Karslake appeared for the petitioner; Mr. Forsyth, Q.C., Dr. Phillimore, Q.C., and Mr. Coleridge for the respondents.

Mr. M. Chambers said that the evidence was of a very extraordinary character, and conclusive as against the wife; but he entertained some doubt whether their lordships would consider it sufficient as against Dr. Lane. The marriage took place in February, 1844, Mrs. Robinson being then the widow of a Mr. Dansey, and possessed of between £400 and £500 a-year, which was settled upon her to her separate use. During a residence at Edinburgh in 1850 they became acquainted with Mr. Lane, who afterwards set up a hydropathic establishment at Moor Park. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson in 1854 were living at Reading, and their acquaintance with Dr. Lane was renewed. Mrs. Robinson visited Moor Park from time to time, but her husband had no idea that his wife was unchaste. In 1857, however, during an illness of Mrs. Robinson, he discovered a diary written by his wife containing an extraordinary narrative of her impure conduct. The diary contained the names of two young men whom Mrs. Robinson had apparently endeavoured to corrupt, but he would not mention them, as there was nothing to show that she had succeeded. (The diary is in three volumes of considerable size, and extends from November, 1850, to November, 1855.) Various extracts were read respecting the first introduction of Mrs. Robinson to Mr. Lane, in which she spoke of him in terms of great admiration. In other places she referred to some lines which she had written under the title of "Spirit Discord," and to the "preponderance of amateness" in her character. But the passages upon which the chief reliance was placed, were written at the

period when she was on a visit to Moor Park, in 1854. Some extracts are subjoined.

"Oct. 7, Sunday.—Fine sunny, warm, genial day, almost like the former month. Dr. Lane asked me to walk with him, but I thought he meant only politeness; and I went to the nursery and stayed with my little pets more than an hour. He met me there at last, reproached me for not coming, and bade me come away. I still lingered, but at last joined him, and he led me away and alone to our private haunts, taking a wider range, and a more secluded path. At last I asked to rest, and we sat on a plaid and read *Athenæums*, chatting meanwhile. There was something unusual in his manner, something softer than usual in his tone and eye, but I knew not what it proceeded from, and chatted gaily, leading the conversation—talking of Goethe, woman's dress, and of what was becoming and suitable. We walked on and again seated ourselves in a glade of surprising beauty. The sun shone warmly down upon us, the fern, yellow and brown, was stretched away beneath us, fine old trees in groups adorned the near ground, and far away gleamed the blue hills. I gave myself up to enjoyment, I leaned back against some firm, dry heather bushes, and laughed and remarked as I rarely did in that presence. All at once, just as I was joking my companion on his want of memory, he leaned over me, and exclaimed, 'If you say that again, I will kiss you.' You may believe I made no opposition, for had I not dreamed of him and of this full many a time before? What followed I hardly remember—passionate kisses, whispered words, confessions of the past. Oh, God! I never hoped to see this hour, or to have any part of my love returned. Yet so it was. He was nervous, and confused, and eager as myself. At last we raised ourselves and walked on happy, fearful, almost silent. We sauntered, not heeding where, to a grove of pines, and there looked over another view beautiful as that on this side, but wilder. In descending, we had seen the Browns, and now thought it necessary slowly to join them. They had observed nothing. We were safe. Constraining ourselves to converse, we succeeded in disarming all suspicion, and reached the house together, but late for dinner. I was flushed and excited on going down, and neither I nor Dr. L.—fairly met one another's eyes or spoke during dinner.

"Oct 8.— . . . At last Mrs. Lane came. Met Dr. Lane once, but I hardly stayed near my door to hear him remark that he hoped his business would finish shortly. He wrote a long letter to Mr. —, of Edinburgh, who wished to come and live with him for a while. It was a nicely written letter. I lay down, wearied, exhausted, nervous. He tapped at half-past 12, and bade me come down and walk; but I refused, and dozed on. Mrs. Lane came in, when I dressed and slowly went out to him. He joined me at the foot of the stairs, and we sauntered out together, walking all round the grounds and by the water, yet saying little to one another, for both were weary and feeble. I named my not having slept; he said he was in pain, and could hardly get on at all. Both were agitated, confused, and nervous, and I asked him how it was he acted as he did on Sunday. At last I proposed leaving the grounds (as the air was hot and moist), and getting a breeze on the hill. We climbed it slowly, and rested among the dry fern. I shall not say what followed. He rose more composed and cheerful, and we went home quickly, fearing its being too late. The dinner was cheerful enough, and I talked all I could to Lady D.—, for there were few persons present, and turned from him, leaving him to talk to —. After dinner, and a visit to Dr. —, we had a nice long ride to Waverley, Miss B.—s both behind. I congratulated him on being better, and said his voice on the stairs showed that he was so.

"Oct. 10.— . . . Mr. Lane came out and walked about the grounds with me; awhile talked to Miss —, and finally joined Alfred and me near the bounding fence, and soon set out for the wood, taking the usual circuit, walking through the outer pine woods, and finally returning by Swift's cottage, and lower walk. We talked with the utmost confidence, but somewhat more calmly. I entreated him to believe that since my marriage I had never before in the smallest degree transgressed. He consoled me for what I had done, and conjured me to forgive myself. He said he had always liked me, and had thought with pity of my being thrown away, as my husband was evidently unsuited to me, and was, as he could see plainly, violent tempered and unamiable. Then we spoke of his early age, 31, the sweet unsuspecting character of his wife, rather than pain whom, he would cut off his right hand."

The next extract referred to a drive in a fly from Moor Park to the Ash Railway Station.

"We drove off, Alfred soon taking his place on the box. I never spent so blessed an hour as the one that followed, full of such bliss that I could willingly have died not to wake out of it again. All former times were adverted to and explained. He had not refrained on past occasions from a display of his true feelings without much pain, and from prudential motives. I reminded him of my lines from *Paul and Virginia*, and owned they were addressed to him. I shall not relate all that passed; suffice it to say that I leaned back at last in those arms I had so often dreamed of, and kissed the curls and smooth face, so radiant with beauty, that had dazzled my outward and inward vision since the first interview, November 15, 1850. He had always known I liked him, but not the full extent of the feeling, and owned it had never been indelicately expressed. This relieved me. Heaven itself could not be more blessed than those moments. While life itself shall endure their remembrance will not pass away from a memory charged with much suffering and little bliss."

Some further extracts having been read, Mr. Chambers said that Mr. Robinson had obtained a divorce *à mensâ et thoro* in the Ecclesiastical Court upon this evidence; but it was now, he believed, intended to be urged on the other side that all that was described by Mrs. Robinson was mere hallucination, and had no foundation in fact. It would therefore be corroborated by other testimony.

Several witnesses were then called; but nothing was elicited in positive proof of improper conduct. A groom named Warren, who had been in the services of Mr. Robinson and Dr. Lane, swore that he had seen Dr. Lane with his arm round Mrs. Robinson's waist in a summer-house. It was proved, however, that a person could not see into the summer-house from the point at which Warren said that he had stationed himself.

For the defence, Mr. FORSYTH said that the Journal of Mrs. Robinson was no evidence against Dr. Lane, and he would at once dismiss it as not being in the case. Dr. Lane, a married man, with a young wife, was accused of adultery with a woman fifty years of age upon the weakest possible evidence. Dr. Lane, whom he heartily regretted being unable to call, had a number of female patients, with whom he was in the habit of walking about the grounds, and there was nothing to show that he had ever been more attentive to Mrs. Robinson—who, it must be remembered, was an old acquaintance—than to any other lady who resided in his house. The only evidence of improper familiarity was given by Levi Warren, who was unworthy of credit.

Dr. PHILLIMORE addressed their Lordships on the part of Mrs. Robinson. The charge was that of adultery with one person only, and the evidence clearly established that that person had not been guilty of adultery. He dwelt upon the weakness of the oral evidence, by which no proximate act whatever was proved. He then referred to the fallacious character of journals, as compared with other confessions. For instance, the journals of Horace Walpole contained many statements which, as had since been proved, he must have known to be false when they were written. This journal had evidently been written by a woman of so flighty, extravagant, excitable, romantic, and irritable a mind as almost to amount to insanity. He should contend that it had been written under the influence of a disease peculiar to women, which had the effect of producing the most extraordinary delusions upon the minds of the patients, and frequently caused them to accuse themselves of the most horrible crimes. The learned counsel then read a number of extracts from the diary, consisting chiefly of self-accusations, of records of conversations on various subjects with Dr. Lane and other persons, of her opinions on poetry, phrenology, and other matters, and containing frequent expressions of her disbelief in a future state. There were also entries relating to physical suffering for which she had consulted and been treated by medical men.

Dr. JOSEPH KIDD, the medical attendant of Mrs. Robinson, described the malady under which she was suffering, and said her mind was in a state of morbid depression alternating with excitement.

Sir CHARLES LOCOCK, Dr. BENNET, and Dr. FORBES WINSLOW were then examined with regard to the effects of the malady described by Dr. Kidd in producing extraordinary delusions.

Dr. PHILLIMORE then proposed to examine the co-respondent, Dr. Lane. He could have been examined in the Ecclesiastical Court, and their Lordships inherited all the power possessed by that court.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said the alleged adulterer was not a party to the suit in that court. By the Evidence Act (14th and 15th Victoria, cap. 99) no party to a suit in cases of adul-

tery could be examined. By the Divorce Act the alleged adulterer, who was before not a party, was made a party. He was inclined, therefore, to think that the court had not power to examine Dr. Lane.

Their Lordships took time to consider their decision.

The case was therefore adjourned for a fortnight, and was again brought on last Saturday. An application to discharge Dr. Lane from the suit and admit him as a witness had been, in the meantime, refused by the Lord Chief Justice and Sir C. Cresswell.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said he had to announce that since the last hearing considerable doubts had suggested themselves to the minds of certain members of the Court, as to the propriety of the decision at which they had arrived in refusing to accede to the application of counsel to discharge Dr. Lane from the suit, and to admit him as a witness on behalf of Mrs. Robinson. It had been brought to the knowledge of the Court that a Bill was now pending before the Legislature, and had passed one House, in which it was intended to introduce a clause for the purpose of solving those doubts, and of enabling the Court, supposing it did not already possess the power, to dismiss the co-respondent under such circumstances as those of the present case, and make him admissible as a witness. The Clause, he understood, was to apply to pending as well as to future suits. Having every reason to believe that the law would be altered so as to enable them to avail themselves of the evidence of Dr. Lane, and thinking that the interests of justice required that Dr. Lane, against whom no case had been established, should be discharged from the suit and examined, the Court thought that the most proper and expedient course to pursue was to adjourn for the present the further consideration of the case.

#### MEDICAL REFORM.

At a special general meeting of the Brighton and Sussex Medico-Chirurgical Society held on Monday, July 5th, 1858, to consider the Medical Reform Bill now before Parliament, etc.—Dr. Wilson, President, in the chair, the following resolutions were passed:

1. That the Society do petition Parliament in favour of Mr. Cowper's Medical Reform Bill now before the House of Commons, etc. That the President do sign the petition on behalf of the Society.

2. That the Chairman be authorised and requested to intimate to the members of the Borough, that the Society has petitioned the House of Commons in favour of Mr. Cowper's Bill, and to solicit their support to the same.

3. That the Society do petition Parliament in favour of the Poor Law Surgeons receiving an increased remuneration for their services—together, with a memorial to the Poor Law Board to the same effect.

4. That a notice of the meeting with copies of the resolutions passed, be forwarded the several Medical Journals.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM. The new principal of Queen's College, Birmingham, has placed on the Council minutes the following notices:

1. In consequence of the growing importance of clinical instruction as a most essential part of medical and surgical education, happily recognised by the new regulations of some of the most influential examining bodies,

"That the Physicians and Surgeons of the Queen's Hospital be Professors of Clinical Medicine and Surgery respectively in Queen's College."

2. The importance of practical anatomy having been especially dwelt upon in the new regulations of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to the effect that on and after the 1st of March next, candidates for the membership are to be examined in anatomy as to test their practical knowledge of it, and to get rid of the practice vulgarly called *cramming*,

"That with a view to second such beneficial reform, that the Demonstratorships of Anatomy in Queen's College be elevated to the position of Professorships of Practical Anatomy."

PROFESSOR FARADAY. Her Majesty, as a mark of her appreciation of the distinguished scientific acquirements of Professor Faraday, has presented him with a residence at Hampton Court, and has been pleased to give directions that Professor Faraday's residence is to be furnished at Her Majesty's expense.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

## POSTAGE OF MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED MATTER.

Any amount of manuscript or printed matter, singly or together, provided it contains nothing in the form of a letter, is transmitted through the post, in packets open at the ends, at the following rates: not exceeding 4 ounces, one penny; above 4 and not exceeding 8 ounces, twopence; above 8 ounces and not exceeding 1 pound, fourpence; for every additional half-pound or under, twopence.

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

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

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, 87, 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.

GOUGH *versus* LEES. TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL. SIR.—You will oblige me by stating in your next number that the Dr. Lees who recently appeared in the Law Courts in "*Gough versus Lees*," is not a member of our profession, and that the so styled Dr. Lees is not your obedient servant, S. D. LEES, M.D., F.R.C.P. EDIN. Ashton-under-Lyne, July 7th, 1858.

SURCONJUNCTIVAL OPERATION FOR SQUINT. Mr. Solomon, in a communication on this operation (BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, July 3, 1858, p. 350), recommends its adoption, with this important qualifying clause: "When once the difficulties of the operation are overcome—and they are by no means slight." It would be gratifying if Mr. Solomon would explain the source of the difficulties he refers to, and the means by which they may be overcome.—PHILOPHTHALMOS.

Communications have been received from:—MR. O. PEMBERTON; MR. G. LOWDELL; DR. T. SKINNER; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; DR. SILVESTER; MR. F. A. HUMPHRY; MR. T. HOLMES; MR. ELLIS JONES; DR. C. M. DURRANT; DR. KELBURNE KING; DR. F. H. WOODFORD; MR. T. M. STONE; DR. INMAN; MR. HOLTHOUSE; MR. J. HATTON; MR. W. C. MATTHEWS; DR. D. NICOL; DR. S. D. LEES; MR. E. C. BUCKOLL; DR. MACKENZIE; MR. A. T. H. WATERS; DR. CHEVALLIER; and DR. P. H. WILLIAMS.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

1. The British Army in India: its Preservation by an Appropriate Clothing, Housing, Locating, Recreative Employment, and Hopeful Encouragement of the Troops. With an Appendix on India. By Julius Jeffreys, F.R.S. London: Churchill. 1858.
2. Sanitary Science: its Past and Present State: the Address in Medicine delivered at the Twenty-fifth Meeting of the British Medical Association. By \*W. Tindal Robertson, M.D. London: Walton & Maberly. 1858.
3. A Clinical Memoir on Strangulated Hernia, with the Author's Preface; to which are added, Remarks on Obstruction of the Bowels from other Causes: and a Postscript. By George Macilwain. London: Renshaw. 1858.
4. The Diagnosis of Surgical Cancer. By \*John Zachariah Laurence, F.R.C.S., M.B. Second Edition. London: Churchill. 1858.
5. The Use of the Microscope in Clinical Medicine. Illustrated. By Lionel S. Beale, M.D., F.R.S. No. III. London: Churchill. 1858.
6. Chapters on Mental Physiology. By Sir H. Holland, Bart., M.D. Second Edition, revised and enlarged. London: Longman and Co. 1858.
7. Workhouses and Women's Work. Reprinted from the "Church of England Monthly Review." Also, a Paper on the Condition of Workhouses. Pamphlet. London: Longman and Co. 1858.
8. On Photography. By Lake Price. London: Churchill. 1858.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

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\* Part II, completing the *Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology*, is in the press, and will comprise the Title, Preface, and Index to the Supplementary Volume, and a copious ANALYTICAL INDEX to the whole work.

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PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, General Secretary.

Worcester, January 7th, 1858.