

THE WEEK.

We do not remember to have seen the hardships of the medical practitioner chronicled in verse by a British author. In the *feuilleton* of *L'Union Médicale* for July 24th, however, this task has been undertaken by Dr. A. Corlieu, who, in a poem addressed to the Emperor's physician, Dr. Conneau, has given a very true poetical sketch of the various kinds of charlatans. Having been amused ourselves with Dr. Corlieu's effusion, we think that it may be entertaining to some of our readers if we quote a passage or two from this poetical sketch. The poet, after speaking of the advertising and some other quacks, thus celebrates the votaries of homœopathy:—

"Voici venir ici, grave comme Hippocrate,
Tout habillé de noir, un sage homœopathe :
Les agents qu'il emploie, infiniment petits,
Ont avec votre mal des effets assortis.
Voulez-vous la santé ? Rien ne vaut son globule ;
D'un remède anodin la moindre particule
Produit assurément entre ses doctes mains
Des effets merveilleux, des résultats certains.
Le plus hideux cancer, la plus grave colique,
Aucun mal ne résiste à sa vaste pratique."

Some more stanzas of a similar kind follow ; and then the heroism of army surgeons, and the neglect with which their services meet, is celebrated :—

"Toi, qu'on a vu cent fois sur les champs de bataille,
Affrontant les boulets, les balles, la mitraille,
Conservant ton sang-froid dans l'ardeur des combats,
Donner d'habiles soins aux valeureux soldats,
Braver comme eux la mort sur la terre étrangère,
Quoi ! l'on t'a refusé la poudre au cimetière ! ...
Et que recevras-tu pour finir tes vieux ans ?
Le ruban—quelquefois—avec quinze cent francs
Ah ! si du moins ici, dans un sincère éloge,
Je pouvais brûler au long martyrologe
Les noms de ces héros, soldats du dévouement,
Esclaves du devoir ... quel noble enseignement ! ...
Pour vous rappeler tous il faudrait une page."

The rural practitioner is next brought on the scene, and his necessary qualifications are thus simply and truly summed up :—

"Pour suffire aux besoins de sa rude pratique,
Il faut qu'il soit doué d'un zèle hippocratique,
Qu'il soit en même temps médecin, accoucheur,
Dentiste, pharmacien, adroit opérateur.
N'ayant d'autre désir que celui de bien faire
Que de fois il n'a su recevoir son salaire !
Pour toute alternative, il doit, pour son prochain,
Succomber de fatigue ou bien mourir de faim."

Reports of Societies.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MONDAY, JULY 5TH, 1858.

JOHN PROPERT, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

THE DIFFICULTIES ATTENDING THE STUDY OF EPIDEMIC DISEASE. BY W. H. MICHAEL, ESQ., SWANSEA.

[Read by J. O. McWILLIAM, M.D.]

MR. MICHAEL commenced by stating that two questions appeared to require solution ; viz.: 1. What are the causes which determine the advent of disease in such large proportion to the population of any district as to justify the title of epidemic visitation ? 2. What operates to check the progress, to moderate the diffusion, and to cause the departure of such visitation ? Are these causes to be sought for in the air we breathe, or in the food and water we ingest ? Do they depend upon some subtle electrical phenomena, which depress vital agency, and make the body prone to take on disease ? Or is there some telluric influence which reacts in a particular manner, according to some definite but uncomprehended general laws, predisposing to some particular disease, or some group of dis-

eases ? Experience amply proved that such diseases as small-pox, measles, hooping-cough, and scarlet fever, might not only exist together in the same district or town, but they might also be present in the same household and family, and, as the author believed, might coexist at the same time in one individual, with short space between their advent ; the heavier attack frightening away, as it would appear, the lesser visitations of disease. Other questions were : Has relative height of locality any influence in procuring exemption from pestilences ? and, if so, how are the exceptions to this to be explained away ? and what are the general laws which influence the velocity of transmission of diseases to various parts of a district ? Can the germs of disease be communicated by food or water from person to person ? Is the contagiousness of disease an accidental circumstance arising from the intensity of the poison, if such exist ? Are all diseases of an epidemic type more or less, under differing circumstances, communicable by contact or infection, as separated from some generally prevailing cause ? Are foul smells in themselves capable of producing disease ? or is there of necessity, before such effects are seen, the presence, undetected by the senses, of some influence or emanation separable from and independent of them ? And is it not possible to deodorise, without disinfecting any supposed cause of disease ?

These and many other important questions had not yet received that attention, and had directed to them that amount of research, of an inductive character, which alone could solve definitively these great problems of life and death. This remained for the future. In the present, it was well rightly to estimate the difficulties in the way of progress, and to make sure the ground already gained ; and, from the histories of epidemics possessed, to endeavour to deduce for guidance those great general laws without the knowledge of which the position could never be adequately mastered.

Mr. Michael proceeded to the exposition of the subject of his paper by references to cases, and to statistical facts ; and concluded by suggesting that we might hope, by this well directed inquiry, conducted in the true inductive spirit, to be able eventually to discover the latent causes of all zymotic diseases, and to trace to their true sources those scourges of the apathy and crimes of mankind which lie concealed in cholera, small-pox, scarlet fever, and the like. Great would be the boon to humanity, however ill our labours might be required, if we could but add one step to the ladder which shall reach to that shrine in the temple of truth where these problems shall receive their solution, for the world's well-being and comparative freedom from suffering, disease, and death.

A discussion followed, in which Dr. Milroy, Dr. Murchison, Dr. Greenhow, and Mr. Radcliffe, took part.

Association Intelligence.

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, July 1858.

obliged to ask them to put—"The health of the Secretary and Council of the British Medical Association," to whom they were so largely indebted for all the happiness which they had derived from the present series of meetings. [*Applause.*]

Dr. CONOLLY hoped the meeting would drink in a full bumper the health of their very distinguished Chairman, to whom they were under the greatest obligations not only for the enjoyment which they had all received during the present evening, but throughout their whole visit. [*Loud cheers.*] (The toast drunk with enthusiastic demonstrations.)

The CHAIRMAN said he could only, for the second time, thank them from his heart. He was very sorry to say that he had not been able to pay all the attention to the meetings throughout the day which he could have wished; and even in the evenings he had found it impossible to get clear of his professional business. They were all happy in having left their professional engagements behind them, where their patients could not get at them; but with himself it had happened, by one of those unfortunate coincidences which sometimes occurred, that, after having been comparatively an idle man for the whole of the previous week, he had, during the first two days of the Association's meetings, been overburdened with a crowd of professional engagements, which he found it impossible to get clear of. [*Hear, hear.*] He would now, in conclusion, propose the toast with which, in Edinburgh, they generally wound up their meetings—"Floreat res medica". [*Applause.*] They were all at liberty to interpret that toast according to their ideas of Latin translation. Some time ago, in a consultation, he met with a practitioner from the island of Mull. Mull was a very remarkable island; and if even the British Association thought of holding a meeting in its capital, Tobermory, he had no doubt that they would be most warmly received. [*Laughter.*] He asked the old doctor, among other things, how business was looking in Mull. "Ah, very bad," said he; "the Hielanders o' Mull are never ill but once in their lives, and then it is for a very short time." [*Laughter.*] He was not very sure that the members of the Association would wish medicine to flourish in that way; but he had another translation of the toast at their service, which he well remembered Dr. Duncan, senior, giving when proposing the same toast at the close of a convivial meeting like the present. "*Floreat res medica*, which," said he, "must be translated 'Long life and ill health.'" [*Great laughter.*]

The company then adjourned.

Editor's Letter Box.

RESUSCITATION OF PERSONS APPARENTLY DROWNED OR DEAD.

LETTER FROM ROBERT L. BOWLES, Esq.

SIR,—In your JOURNAL of July 17th is an original communication from Dr. Silvester, in which, amongst others, the Marshall Hall method of treating apnoea is reviewed, but in so partial a manner that I feel it but justice to the memory of Dr. Marshall Hall to call the attention of your readers to the subject.

In speaking of various plans of imitating respiration formerly employed, it is stated that they essentially consisted in the alternate compression and relaxation of the chest, and that the Marshall Hall method involves precisely the same principles, except that the compression is chiefly occasioned by the weight of the body of the patient resting on the chest during the prone position; but that "the two methods of treatment are identical in principle". From this it would appear that there is nothing original in the Marshall Hall method, but that it is an old method with a new name. The truth is, that in the review the most important point of all is omitted from the Marshall Hall method, and added to the Silvester method instead. I allude to the management of the tongue.

When first Dr. Long Fox of Bristol, Mr. Hunter, and myself, undertook to assist Dr. Marshall Hall in his investigation of the subject of artificial respiration, our object simply was to ascertain the actual amount of air acted upon by compression and relaxation of the chest. Nothing was then known of the tongue being a cause of obstruction; so, as a matter of course, we instituted our experiments with the patient recumbent. We soon found that at one time we got no expiration, at another no inspiration, at another no action at all. After much careful inquiry, we found that the tongue falling back was the

most frequent cause of our difficulty, but that fluids or solids from the stomach also acted as impediments. Upon this, Dr. M. Hall requested us to pronate the subject, and then "lift the chest from the table, and allow it to fall alternately", thereby allowing the tongue to fall forwards, and fluid, if there were any, to escape from the mouth.

This method, however, was not as successful as we had expected; so, after the trial of various others, we found that the "postural" was the most ready, successful, and certain in its results.

From this it will be seen that the principle of compression and relaxation alone is not, and was never pretended to be, original; it is only in conjunction with position and the management of the tongue that Dr. M. Hall made any claim to it. I am not aware that any one had attracted notice to this subject before the publication of our report in October 1856; and I think Dr. Silvester, when he first tried his own method on a still-born child in September 1857, was not alive to its importance; for, in the report of the case, he describes the child as lying on its back, no mention being made of the tongue.

In his last paper, Dr. Silvester states, that in the postural method, when the patient is "rolled on his side and a little beyond", the tongue falls back, and "effectually prevents the entrance of air into the lungs"; but this is contradicted by the results of his own experiments, in alluding to which he says, "On turning the body on its side and a little beyond, the column of fluid falls slowly to its former level, *proving that* the air returned into the chest," etc., etc.

The lifeless tongue always gravitates to the lowest part, and the position "on the side and (strictly) a little beyond" causes it to fall diagonally across the cavity of the pharynx to the back part of the lowest side. This I have seen in the palsied tongue of a living body several times. But, more than this, Dr. Silvester's experiments, our experiments, and the numerous well authenticated cases of success of the Marshall Hall method, carried out as directed, in almost every part of the world, prove to my mind that it is scarcely possible for the tongue, in the position named, "effectually to prevent the entrance of air into the lungs".

With regard to the amount of air respired in our experiments, it is quite true that nearly as much air was respired as in an ordinary state of health.

I do not attempt to raise objections to Dr. Silvester's suggested improvements on the Ready Method; for, though they appear rational enough in theory, at present the fact is patent to every one, that, according to his own experiments, only about one cubic inch of air was respired, which must be utterly inadequate as a substitute for ordinary respiration.

I am, etc.,

ROBERT L. BOWLES.

Folkstone, July 20th, 1858.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Thursday, July 29th, 1858.

VACCINATION (IRELAND) BILL.

On the consideration of the Commons' reasons for disagreeing with the Lords' amendments of this Bill, it was resolved not to insist upon the amendments.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday, July 29th, 1858.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

On the question that the Lords' amendments to this Bill be considered,

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE characterised the Bill as a bad measure, and said that the Lords, by their amendments, had made it worse. He particularly objected to the amendment which continued the Bill for two years instead of one. He moved as an amendment that the Lords' amendments be considered that day six weeks.

Mr. PALK concurred in what had fallen from the honourable member for Finsbury, and observed that the adoption of the Lords' amendment, continuing the Bill for two years, would be a violation of a pledge given in that House.

Mr. ADDERLEY intimated his intention not to ask the House to agree in that particular amendment of the Lords, as it might be considered a violation of a pledge.

After some conversation, in which Mr. Cox, Mr. Walpole, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Cowper, took part, Mr. Duncombe's

amendment was withdrawn, and the House determined to disagree with the Lords' amendment.

The remaining amendments were then considered and agreed to, and a Committee was appointed to draw up reasons for disagreeing with one of the Lords' amendments, and to confer with their Lordships on the subject.

LUNATICS (SCOTLAND) ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Lords' amendments to this Bill were considered and agreed to.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS BILL.

On the consideration of the Lords' amendments to this Bill, Mr. COWPER said the principal amendment introduced in the House of Lords was a clause for the protection of homœopaths. [*A laugh.*] Recently, the officers of the University of Aberdeen, in examining a candidate, asked whether, if he obtained his degree, he was prepared utterly and solemnly to renounce the practice of homœopathy. The candidate declined to give such a pledge; and a clause had been introduced in the other House providing that if any College of Physicians or Surgeons, or any University, should impose any tests or conditions upon any person who presented himself for examination, the Privy Council should be empowered to issue an order restricting the degrees or diplomas of such body from entitling any person to be registered under this Act so long as those conditions were maintained.

Lord ELCHO wished, before this Bill left this House, to say that he thought it on the whole a very liberal and just measure. The subject had now for thirty years been under the consideration of Parliament, and if they had now succeeded in passing a good Bill, he believed it to be mainly owing to the conciliatory spirit shown by the Home Secretary. [*Hear, hear.*]

Mr. BRADY also wished to express his belief that the conduct of the right honourable gentleman deserved the warmest thanks of the profession, which would remember with gratitude his efforts to settle a question that had puzzled successive statesmen for the last thirty years. [*Hear, hear.*]

The Lords' amendments were then agreed to.

Medical News.

SEA FISH. A few days ago M. Coste communicated a paper to the Academy of Sciences, in which he stated that, with the aid of the Minister of Public Works, he had been enabled to create a kind of marine observatory at Concarneau (Finistère) for the purpose of studying the habits and instinct of various sea fish. A terrace has been formed on the top of a house on the quay, with reservoirs arranged like a flight of steps. The sea water is pumped up to the topmost reservoir, and thence flows down slowly, after the manner of a rivulet, 50 centimetres in breadth, along all the other reservoirs, which together form a length of about 80 metres. This length is divided into 95 cells by wire-net partitions, which, allowing free passage to the water, yet prevent the different species of fish from mingling together. By this contrivance each kind lives separate, enjoying its peculiar food and habits. Having described this apparatus M. Coste gave an account of the results of his observations. Some species, such as the mullet, the stickleback, etc., grow perfectly tame, will follow the hand that offers them food, and will even allow themselves to be taken out of the water. The turbot swallows fish of a much larger size than would appear compatible with the apparent smallness of its mouth. The pipe-fish form groups, entwining their tails together, and remaining immovable in a vertical position, with their heads upwards. When food is offered them they turn round on their backs to receive it. This is owing to the position of the mouth, which is placed under a kind of beak, and perpendicular to its axis. The crustaceous tribes have also furnished much matter of observation.

HEALTH OF THE TROOPS IN INDIA. All over the North-West the troops are being housed, and operations cease until the fierce heat has a little abated. The sun has been more deadly than the enemy. As if to try the endurance of Englishmen to the utmost, the season has been such as has not been known since 1833. Those who know Bengal will understand it when I say that on the 15th inst. one clergyman in Calcutta buried 48 Englishmen, chiefly sailors. In one ship the captain, chief mate, and 26 men had all apoplexy at once.

Nine men from Fort William were buried one morning from the same cause. Her Majesty's 19th, at Barrackpore, who are nearly all under cover, and who are most carefully looked after, have 200 men unfit for duty from immense boils. Colonel Stratton, of Her Majesty's 77th, just arrived from Australia, marched his men to Dumdum, eight miles, with their stocks on. An hour after he and his instructor in rifle practice were both dead of apoplexy. All over the country paragraph after paragraph announces the deaths of so many men at such a place from apoplexy. Fortunately the rains are setting in, and in a month it will be comparatively cool.

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, twopenny; above 8 ounces and not exceeding 1 pound, fourpence; for every additional half-pound or under, twopenny.

NOTICE.—Dr. WYNTER will feel obliged if the Associates will address all Post Office Orders in payment of Subscriptions, to the Publisher, Mr. THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W. C., "Bloomsbury Branch"; and he would also feel obliged by their sending all communications respecting the non-receipt of the Journal, to the same address; as both these matters are out of the province of the Editor.

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

The Report of the Reading Branch, and other articles, are unavoidably deferred.

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.

A LICENTIATE. Licentiates of the Edinburgh College of Surgeons, and of the Glasgow Faculty, are entitled under the new act to register, and to recover charges for general professional attendance.

Mr. Wood's paper has been received: and will appear at the first opportunity.

L. M. Our Associate will find, in the report of Professor Christison's speech at the dinner, the particulars relative to the not very creditable attempt of the Colleges to destroy the Medical Bill by the insertion at the last moment of a clause by which their old exclusive privileges would have been confirmed. The profession have to be thankful to the watchfulness of Members of this Association for the defeat of this attempt at the last moment.

Communications have been received from:—Dr. W. P. ALISON; Dr. CHRISTISON; Mr. CLENDON; Mr. STONE; ANTI-NOSTRUM; Mr. F. E. WILKINSON; Dr. C. L. ROBERTSON; Dr. SPENCER THOMSON; Mr. JOHN THOMPSON; Mr. SOUTHAM; Mr. S. WOOD; Dr. D. NELSON; Dr. OGIER WARD; Mr. W. HEATH; Mr. G. C. P. MURRAY; Mr. J. V. SOLOMON; Dr. VINEY; Dr. H. L. WILLIAMS; Mr. J. J. POPE; Mr. T. HOLMES; Dr. J. C. HALL; Mr. GRIFFIN; Dr. PAXTON; Dr. MARKHAM; Mr. RALPH MARTIN; Mr. R. TIPPETTS; Dr. J. R. NICHOLSON; and Mr. MAX, JUN.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Royal Medical Benevolent College.

(Incorporated by Act of Parliament.)

Notice is hereby given that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Governors of the College will be held at the Office in Soho Square, on Monday, the 23rd of August, 1858, at Four o'clock precisely, when the following Resolution will be brought forward:

"That the number of Foundation Scholars to be maintained by the College be increased, in May 1859, to Forty; and that the 2nd Bye-Law be altered accordingly."

By order of the Council,

ROBERT FREEMAN, Secretary.

HERBERT WILLIAMS, Assistant-Secretary.

Office, 37, Soho Square, London, August 5th, 1858.

Dr. James's Fever Powder.—This

celebrated medicine, when genuine, is found by experience to be more mild and certain in its effects than any other Preparation. Its efficacy is most certain when freely given on the attack of FEVER, MEASLES, SORE THROAT, recent Cold with Cough, and other Inflammatory Disorders. In RHEUMATISM and Chronic Complaints it has performed the most extraordinary Cures when used with perseverance. Dr. James's Powder is still prepared by Messrs. NEWBERRY FROM THE ONLY COPY OF THE PROCESS LEFT BY DR. JAMES IN HIS OWN HAND-WRITING. Observe the name—"F. NEWBERRY, 45, St. Paul's Church Yard" London—engraved on the Government Stamp. Price for Dispensing, 9s. per ounce. Also in Packets at 2s. 9d. Established A.D. 1746.

Bass's East India Pale Ale,

AND

BARCLAY'S PORTER AND STOUT,

Always in good condition, Eighteen Gallon Casks, Bottles, Half-bottles, and Imperial Pints.

BERRY, BROS., and Co., 3, St. James's Street, London, S.W.