

homœopaths themselves. Some of the latter *may be* sincere, however hard it is to believe it.

The proceedings of the General Meeting at Edinburgh cannot fail to give great satisfaction to the profession; and we are again called on to admire Dr. Hall for his telling reply to Dr. Conolly's goodnatured but ill-judged remarks.

Yours, etc.,

F.R.C.S.

COUNTERIRRITANTS.

LETTER FROM F. PORTER SMITH, M.B.LOND.

SIR,—Whilst I perfectly agree with that part of Dr. Inman's paper on Counterirritants which explains the effect of blisters placed directly over an inflamed part, I cannot so readily give up the belief in the really derivative and undoubtedly beneficial effects of blisters applied at some distance from an *acutely* inflamed tissue. It is the practice of Dr. Budd, of King's College Hospital, to apply blisters at the distance of several inches on the heart-side of the acutely inflamed joints in rheumatism, taking the precaution, however, *in half the usual time*, to remove the blister, and apply warmth, it may be in the shape of a poultice. The effect is, that a large quantity of serum, containing the irritating *materies morbi*, lactic acid, is obtained from this temporary gland; whilst there has not been possibly time for the cantharidine to pass into the tissues and irritate the acutely inflamed articular tissues, as it seems to do, in keeping with Dr. Inman's theory, if the blister be allowed to remain on the usual time, or if it be placed directly over the joint. Again, in rheumatic pericarditis, although a blister placed directly over the organ will, in consonance with Dr. Inman's theory and my own practice, increase the mischief, yet, if it be applied at the distance of several inches from it, it will greatly relieve, in accordance with the doctrine of counter-irritation or revulsion. I am therefore equally convinced of the positive truth both of Dr. Inman's theory of absorption, and of the venerable doctrine of counterirritation or revulsion.

I am, etc., F. PORTER SMITH.

Evercreech, August 17th, 1858.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

- LAURIE. On August 15th, at 6, Boyne Terrace, Notting Hill, the wife of D. C. Laurie, M.D., of a son.
STEDMAN. On August 15th, at 6, Upper Brunswick Place, the wife of *Silas S. Stedman, M.D., of a daughter, stillborn.
TATHAM. On August 9th, at 2, Newby Place, Poplar, the wife of R. G. Tatham, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
WILDASH. On August 10th, at Hythe, the wife of H. C. Wildash, M.D., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

- BADDELEY—DALE. Baddeley, Thomas, Esq., solicitor, of Leman Street, Whitechapel, to Rosa, youngest daughter of George T. Dale, Esq., Surgeon, King's Place, Commercial Road, at St. Peter's Church, Notting Hill, on August 12th.
DUCHESNE—GULLICK. Duchesne, Robert, Esq., Surgeon, of Mount Place, London Hospital, to Eliza Maria, daughter of Joseph Gullick, Esq., of New Ground Terrace, Guernsey, at St. Peter Port, on August 11th.
LAMBE—PRICE. Lambe, George Vautier, Esq., of St. Helena, to Amelia Augusta, third daughter of James Price, M.D., late of Her Majesty's Army Medical Staff, at St. Matthew's Church, Brixton, on August 10th.
PERKINS—DUNSFORD. Perkins, C. H., Esq., of Swansea, to Adelaide, daughter of the late Harris Dunsford, M.D., of Seymour Street, London, at Monkstown Church, near Dublin, on August 10th.
RUSSELL—MULHOLLAND. Russell, Charles A., Esq., of Lincoln's Inn, solicitor, to Ellen Cecilia, eldest daughter of the late Joseph Stevenson Huliholland, M.D., of Belfast, on Aug. 10.

DEATHS.

- PRINCE, Charles, Esq., Surgeon, for forty-eight years in practice at Uckfield, Sussex, on August 15th.
RIGGALL. On August 12th, at Hampstead, aged 5 weeks, Frank Edward, son of Edward Riggall, Esq., Surgeon, of Bayswater.
WATERS. On August 17th, at Exmouth, Annie Ellen, daughter of *Allan Waters, Esq., Surgeon, aged 12.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, August 13th, 1858:—

ATCHLEY, Geo. Fred., Whitehall St. George, Gloucestershire
BEILBY, Thomas Green, Swanland, near Hull
COHAM, John Harding, London
COOPER, Samuel John, London
GREENWOOD, Thomas Frederick, Wallingford, Berks
HUGHES, Robert, Trefriw, North Wales
JOTHAM, Edwin Sparhawke, Hadley, Middlesex
KING, Germain, Helmsley, Yorkshire
LEWIS, Alfred Henry, Penang, East Indies
LLOYD, Henry James, Mornington Place
MOCKRIDGE, John, Taunton, Somerset
PETMAN, Alexander Prince, Folkestone, Kent
REED, Thomas Sleeman, Helston, Cornwall
SPRY, George Frederick, Cheltenham
TONGE, Morris, Wimbledon Common

At the same meeting of the Court—

AUSTEN, Josiah, passed his examination as Naval Surgeon. This gentleman's diploma of membership bears date June 11th, 1852.

Monday, August 16th:—

BARTLET, Alexander Edward, Ipswich
LEE, John, jun., Ashbourne, Derbyshire
MACKRETH, John Frederick, Keyingham, Yorkshire
O'NIAL, Daniel, Killaloe
ROGERS, John Frederick, New Grove House, Bow Road

LICENTIATES IN MIDWIFERY admitted at a meeting of the Board, on August 14th:—

BARFOOT, Edward, Islington
BEADLES, Hubert, Broadway, Worcestershire
CAYZER, Thomas, Erith, Kent
HEGINBOTHOM, Edmund, Winchelsea
HICKS, Robert, Lewisham
LA FARGUE, George Frederick Heriot, Husband's Bosworth
LAMBERT, Henry Stone, Croydon
LEONARD, Charles George, Old Kent Road
MASON, William, Ashby-de-la-Zouch
NADIN, Joseph Edmund Kooystra, Tipperary
PARKER, Thomas Didymus, Sevenoaks
SENIOR, Charles, Bradford, Yorkshire
STOREY, Robert, Ashby-de-la-Zouch
WEBSTER, Thomas, Kensington
WILLIAMS, William Henry, Plaistow
WINKFIELD, William Benjamin, Bedford
WOODWARD, Alfred, Bicester

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. M.B. First Examination. 1858.
First Division.

ATCHLEY, George Frederick, King's College
ATWELL, Gregory Haines, Guy's Hospital
BARTLEET, Thomas Hiron, Queen's College, Birmingham
BRACEY, Charles James, Queen's College, Birmingham
EASTON, John, King's College
EVANS, George Moule, King's College
GAYE, Arthur Charles, University College
GERVIS, Henry, St. Thomas's Hospital
GIBSON, Francis W. B. A., University College
HALLEY, Ebenezer, Royal Manchester School of Medicine
HARRISON, A. J., Sydenham College, Birmingham
HELLICAR, C. J., Bristol Medical School
LLOYD, Francis, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
MACKENZIE, Morell, London Hospital
MORETON, Thomas, St. Thomas's Hospital
NEESON, Joseph, Leeds School of Medicine
RUTTER, Joseph, University College
SAUNDERS, G. J. S., King's College
SMITH, Thomas Bower, University College
SUMMERHAYES, William, St. Thomas's Hospital
WINSLOW, Henry Forbes, King's College

WINTERBOTHAM, W. L., University College
WOLKES, Edward, St. Thomas's Hospital
WOODFORD, Alfred, University College

Second Division.

BELCHER, Robert Shirley, King's College
BELINFANTE, Simon, University College
BUTTERS, John, Extra-Acadl. Med. Sch., Edinburgh
COATES, Matthew, Bristol Medical School
DALE, William, Leeds School of Medicine
DICKINS, Frederick Victor, Royal Manchester Sch. Med.
JAKINS, William Vosper, University College
LEVER, Reginald Croft, King's College
MAYOR, Thomas Orlando, Adjoining St. George's Hospital
POUT, Frank, King's College
ROBERTS, Charles Lincoln, University College

APOTHECARIES' HALL. Members admitted on Thursday,
August 5th, 1858:—

BOGE, Edward Beverley, Louth, Lincolnshire
EASTON, John, Shaftesbury
JONES, William Goodall, Birmingham
VIGURS, Chambre Robert Corker, Crawley, Sussex

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING

AUGUST 7TH, 1858.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

In the week that ended on Saturday (August 14th) the number of deaths registered in London was 1,147, and exhibit a decrease on those returned for the two previous weeks. In the ten years 1848-57 the corrected average number of deaths, allowing for increase of population, in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1,355; the number now returned is therefore less by 208 than the average rate of mortality would have produced.

Eight deaths are returned as occasioned from "English cholera," infantile cholera, and choleraic diarrhoea; of this number seven were assigned to infants under one year of age; the other a coachman, aged 40 years, English cholera (14 days).

Diarrhoea appears to decline, for whereas during the month of July the weekly number of deaths from that disease rose by degrees from 94 to 168, it fell last week to 121, and was fatal to 105 children under the age of two years. The deaths referred to measles were 25, scarlatina 85, whooping-cough 38, and to typhus 32. Scarlatina and diphtheria prevail to a considerable extent, at double the average rate of mortality, and affect more particularly the east and south districts.

The deaths of six nonagenarians are returned, namely of two men and four women. Two were respectively 97 and 98 years of age.

Last week the births of 787 boys and 709 girls, in all 1,496 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1848-57 the average number was 1484.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.921 in., it increased from 30.25 in. at the beginning of the week to 30.26 in. by 9h. 30m. A.M. on the 8th; decreased with slight exceptions to 29.72 in. by 3h. P.M. on the 14th, and then turned to increase slowly. The mean temperature of the week was 65.4°, which is 3.7° above the average of the same week in 43 years, but corresponds very nearly with the temperature in the same week of last year. The highest point of the thermometer in the shade was 86.9° on Thursday; the lowest 46.5° on Sunday; the extreme range was therefore 40.4°. The highest point in the sun was 108.5° on Thursday, the lowest on the grass was 35.0° on Friday; to these extreme differences vegetation was exposed. The mean temperature of the Thames was 66.4°. The water on an average was 1° warmer than the air. The mean dew point temperature was 56.3°, and corresponds with the same week of last year. The mean degree of humidity wanted 27 of saturation, complete saturation being represented by 100; the previous week was drier, wanting 36 of saturation, with the air rather cooler. Excepting some rain on Tuesday morning the weather was fine up to Saturday, which was cloudy throughout the day. Rain fell occasionally after noon. A great and unusual darkness was prevalent a little before 4h. P.M., during which the direction of the wind changed from E. by N. to W. by N. Shortly afterwards rain fell heavily to the depth of 0.5 in. within 40 minutes. Several flashes of lightning were seen and thunder was frequently heard.

REPORT OF THE LUNACY COMMISSIONERS.

The following abstract of this important document has appeared in the *Times*:—

The report of the Lunacy Commissioners to the Lord Chancellor has been published in the form of a blue-book of some 50 pages of printed matter. They state that considerable progress has been made of late towards the provision of adequate public accommodation for pauper lunatics; new sites have been purchased, and plans for new asylums approved. Buildings already in course of erection have been materially advanced towards completion. The asylums in course of erection will accommodate 1,169 men and 1,167 women, in addition to 2,481 accommodated in existing asylums. The total number of pauper lunatics immured in various asylums had increased, on the first of January last, from 16,657 to 17,572, and it is assumed that this increase will continue. The Commissioners next detail the steps which they have taken to provide for lunatic paupers in the various counties and boroughs. The disgraceful state of the asylum of the Haverfordwest (South Wales), in reference both to its construction and management, has already been frequently submitted to the Lord Chancellor; the last visit to the asylum was made in September 1857, and, so far from any improvement having been effected, the complaints of the Visiting Commissioners proved to be of a still graver character. The result was the supersession of Mr. Millard, the medical officer, and the appointment of Mr. Phillips in his place. In this den at Haverfordwest we find by an entry in the Visitors' book, dated the 7th of September, 1857, that, although all the patients (15 men and 19 women) were in a quiet state, "nevertheless one woman had her arms confined with long sleeves, and another was in one of the 'restraint' chairs and in a darkened cell." The poor wretch, whose offence was noisiness and the striking of another inmate, was kept in this position from 6 p.m. till 3 p.m. on the following day, when she was released by order of the Visiting Commissioners. Mr. Millard, the medical officer, had not been near her the whole time. Her hands and feet were cold from the long restraint, and had her confinement been much prolonged the skin of her arms would have been broken by the edge of the iron sleeves. Her legs were much bruised, and her eye also. The Visitors record their opinion that "the mode in which this patient has been restrained, and the condition in which they found her, are disgraceful to the medical officer (Millard), and to the authorities of the asylum."

The fear recently expressed by the *Times*, that Acomb House, at York, "was not a solitary specimen of the horrors of a lunatic asylum, is fully borne out by the belief of the Visiting Commissioners, distinctly expressed—that these "restraint chairs," although repeatedly forbidden, "are frequently used without any records of the fact." The general condition of this foul prison at Haverfordwest was the same as usual. The privies were still very offensive, there was a deficiency of blankets, furniture, and chamber utensils, and a total want of amusement. No diet table is kept. The notorious Acomb House, at York, the scene of poor Mrs. Turner's sufferings, appears to have escaped the notice of the commissioners; it is not mentioned at all. The want of hospitals for the cure of lunacy, especially near the metropolis, is pointed out as a great evil; and a case is mentioned where the lunatic wife of a respectable gentleman, much reduced in circumstances, and the inmate of a debtors' prison, was refused admission by the governors of Guy's Hospital, and obliged to go to the work-house in consequence. The state of the Earlswood Asylum for idiots at Reigate is still far from satisfactory.

"The water continues as bad as heretofore. The diet is in a very unsatisfactory state. The diet list contains no quantities, and there is no extra diet list. There is a bakehouse, but the bread is from Horley, and the meat is sent in baskets from Kensington. The supply of this important article is by no means certain, the butcher failing repeatedly to send it, and the great distance through which is has to travel causing it sometimes in hot weather to be unfit for food on its arrival. There have been several cases of fever and one of death. The building is giving way in some parts. The wages for attendants and nurses are very low, and the rules have not yet received the sanction of the Secretary of State. There has been no quorum of the Committee for some time past."

Serious charges of cruelty and ill usage having been established against the attendants in the Refractory Ward of the Northampton Hospital, the culprits were dismissed in consequence.

The new State Criminal Lunatic Asylum will be constructed without delay. It is to be erected on Bagshotheath, where 290 acres of land have been purchased for £6,000. The question of providing for the care of insane soldiers remains in abeyance, to the deep dissatisfaction of the Commissioners, who contrast the great difference in this respect between the two services.

The condition of single patients has much engaged the attention of the Commissioners. On the whole, it "cannot be described as satisfactory." As a general rule the accommodation provided is quite incommensurate with the payments, which are often very large. Cases of marked neglect have been met with, and the necessity for continued and regular supervision is apparent. In some cases the proprietors of these licensed houses, or rather prisons, have under their charge persons of whom no return whatever had been made to the office. The provisions of the law are generally disregarded, wholly or partially. The experience of the Commissioners on this head during the past year has confirmed the impression which they had long entertained—"that a very large number of insane persons are taken charge of by medical men and others without any legal authority;" and they "have reason to fear that the condition of such patients, deprived as they are of all independent supervision, is far from satisfactory." The necessity of assisting boroughs to provide asylums is next noticed, and an amendment of the Act of 1853 is suggested. On New Year's Day, 1858, 22,310 lunatics of all classes were confined (10,493 men, and 11,817 women). Of these 15,163 were confined in asylums, 1,751 in hospitals, 2,623 in metropolitan, and 2,647 in provincial licensed houses; 295 were found lunatic by inquisition, 633 were criminals, and 1,490 were chargeable to counties or boroughs. There are 37 metropolitan licensed houses, with very high-sounding titles. Brandenburg House, at Hammersmith, formerly the "retreat" of the Consort of George IV., is now, with its spacious grounds and park, open, under Dr. Forbes Winslow, for the reception of demented patients.

CONSULTATION WITH HOMŒOPATHS.

THE *North American Medico-Chirurgical Review* for July has the following excellent remarks:—

"Much remark has lately been elicited in the medical circles of London, as well as among the members of the profession generally in Great Britain, on account of the fact that several physicians and surgeons of high standing in the British metropolis are in the habit of meeting homœopaths in consultation. It appears that Mr. Fergusson is one of those who have rendered themselves particularly conspicuous in this respect. In a card, however, published a short time ago in one of the London Journals, he denies that he is in the habit of consulting with these men, but admits that he does not hesitate to meet them in all cases of emergency, on the ground that it would be contrary to the dictates of humanity to let a patient suffer, simply because he was under the care of one of these practitioners. With all deference to the Queen's surgeon, we think him decidedly wrong in this opinion; nay, we go farther, and assert that any man who entertains such a view, is totally ignorant of the fundamental principles of medical ethics, and sadly unmindful of the duty he owes to his profession. What, forsooth, has suffering humanity to do in a matter of this kind? Is it not more probable that the great lever which moves to such a disgraceful violation of ethics, is the expectation of a fat fee, or a dread to disregard the influence of the wealthy and influential? If his Grace, the Duke of Shetland, breaks his leg, and is fool enough to employ a homœopath until mortification has taken place, is it incumbent upon Mr. Fergusson to go to his relief when he is requested to do so, without declaring that he cannot meet his attendant, and that he will not recognise him in the case in any form or manner whatever? No practitioner is guilty of inhumanity who respects his own dignity and honour under such circumstances. His Grace need only dismiss the so-called doctor; the path is then clear, and any man may step in and occupy it. To consult with the homœopath is to place ourselves on a par with him; if the surgeon amputates a leg for him, and the after treatment is confided to his care, it plainly implies that the surgeon has confidence in his skill and judgment, otherwise he would not allow the case to remain in his hands. What stronger endorsement could he give the quack? We are rejoiced to find that the profession of London has taken this matter in hand, and is determined to single out these friends of homœopathy. Let them take a

bold stand upon the subject, and signally rebuke these men for the inconsistency and palpable impropriety of their conduct. The higher their position the more reason is there why they should be censured. An honourable physician should consider his profession as sacred as the person of his wife; he should no more think of coquetting with homœopathy, than a virtuous husband should think of introducing a harlot into the domestic circle. It is an unclean thing, and should not be touched.

"We believe this practice of consulting with homœopaths is not peculiar to our English brethren; indeed, we know it is not, for we have authentic information of the fact, that the same offence has occasionally been perpetrated in this country. The instances, however, have been few, and we recollect no case where the outrage has been committed by a physician occupying a high professional position. What is more surprising still is, that a State Medical Society, one of the oldest in America, should harbour homœopaths among its members. Can it be true, as is alleged in the May number of the *St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal*, that the Massachusetts Medical Society is guilty of such an outrage? Our cotemporary asserts it as a 'well known fact,' and justly adds that it is a blot on the fair name of this ancient and once honourable body."

ERRATA IN ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.

THE question proposed to the Editor of the *Morning Post* in the following letter greatly concerns a large section of the medical profession.

"London, 18th August 1858.

"SIR,—Can the gross and palpable blunders in Acts of Parliament committed by clerks and printers, be remedied by any process more simple and prompt than the passing of Amendment Acts? If not, serious mischief and confusion are likely to arise from *errata* in two very important Acts of last session.

"In the 'Medical Practitioners Act', there is a schedule containing four columns, which ought only to contain three. The fourth column was introduced when the measure was in committee in the Lords; and was expunged on the bringing up of the report. The Act is printed without the explanatory matter originally contained in the fourth column of the schedule; and has only the heading left. As the heading is the important word 'Titles', it (when read with clause 16), confers upon the medical council the power of assigning appropriate 'titles' to the different classes of practitioners; and yet it gives them no directions for the exercise of that useless, dangerous, and strife-exciting prerogative.

"In the 'Titles to Land (Scotland) Act', the omission of the word 'not' between the words 'shall' and 'have', in a proviso at the end of section 9, p. 26, has the effect of reversing the intention of the legislature in a matter of very great moment. At the commencement of section 31, p. 37, reference is made to Act 8 and 9 Vict., ch. *thirty-five*, in place of ch. *thirty-one*. The two Acts treat of totally different matters; and the blunder renders the section nearly inoperative, and to a great extent incomprehensible. In section 7, the word 'lands' is misprinted 'laws'; and in section 8, we have 'a new investiture by *regis-tration*', in place of 'a new investiture by *resignation*'.

"It is idle folly for the Houses of Parliament to debate upon the wording of clauses, which ultimately are to be cut and carved according to the caprices of clerks, or the cantrips of 'the devil' in the printing-office of Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode. I therefore ask:—How are the errata to which I have directed your attention to be corrected before they can produce mischief?"

"I am, etc., SYNTAX."

POOR LAW MEDICAL REFORM. The Gloucestershire Medical and Surgical Association have given a subscription of five guineas to Mr. Griffin, to aid him in his expenses in carrying out Poor Law Medical Reform.

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.