

On October 25th, 1852, I was summoned in haste to the next street, and being at home, and the house almost within stone's throw of my residence, I was there in a minute or two. I was immediately ushered down to the W.C.; but, before I could arrive there, from the lusty cries proceeding from the spot, I knew what had happened. And sure enough, in the pan, hanging by the umbilical cord, a full-grown male infant was expanding its lungs most vigorously. It was the mother's second pregnancy. She had fallen in the family-way whilst nursing, and thought she was only about seven months gone. She was on a visit to London, and quite unprovided with any baby-linen. She had taken in the morning a dose of castor oil, thought the bowels were only going to act, and in a pain or two the child was born.

Now, had this not been a W.C., but one of the old fashioned "Temples" still often met with in the country, the child would very probably have been lost, either by the umbilical cord breaking, or the entire ovum with the placenta being precipitated into the gulf below, and then an accusation of infanticide might have been brought against the poor mother; and the fact of being unprovided with baby-linen would have rendered it more difficult to convince a jury of her innocence.

I am, etc.,

THOMAS HENRY SMITH, M.R.C.S.

**PUBLIC GRATUITOUS MEDICAL SERVICE.**—SIR: As no steps have yet been taken by the Association to abate this monster professional evil, not even the steps which, on my suggestion, were approved by the Council and Metropolitan Counties Branch, I am induced to forward you an illustration of the fourth method I suggested for discountenancing this system. It is my reply to several requests, lately received, for assistance in canvassing, etc., for gratuitous appointments.

I am, etc.,

SEPTIMUS GIBBON.

[COPY.] "3, Finsbury Square, E.C., May 9th, 1863.

"My dear —: Personally, I should have pleasure in canvassing to secure your election at — Hospital; but, as I hear it is a *gratuitous* appointment, I am reluctantly obliged to withhold any little assistance I could have rendered. In order to discourage the acceptance of unpaid medical labour, which I hold to be as unprofitable, if not actually injurious, to the poor as it is to the profession, I have made it a rule not to canvass, give testimonials, etc., for such posts. I have also recommended the like course of action to the members of the British Medical Association. If this were done, and other measures taken by the majority of the profession to discountenance the so-called charity of public gratuitous medical service, the benefit to every grade of the profession would be immense.

"Yours very truly, "SEPTIMUS GIBBON."

**RE-VACCINATION.**—MR. N. B. Ward, who has had much experience as a vaccinator, thus gives his opinion on the subject of re-vaccination:—

"Having been a vaccinator of the National Vaccine Establishment for forty years, and having during that period vaccinated above 43,000 persons, I feel justified in expressing my entire conviction that vaccination *properly performed* is as effective a preventive of small-pox as small-pox itself is.

"Two points of inquiry have always engaged my attention—the one, as to the occurrence of small-pox after vaccination; and the other, as to the number of persons re-vaccinated. The information given me can, of course, only be considered as approximate to the truth; but I believe that less than a hundred cases of secondary small-pox (none of them fatal) have taken place, and that not more than 3,000 out of the 43,000 have been re-vaccinated, proving to my mind most satisfactorily the delusion of the idea that the protective powers of vaccination are diminished or worn out in the course of time.

"I have no faith in limited protection, or in limited liability, and have always imagined that one perfect vaccination was sufficient; but, inasmuch as one cannot always be aware of disturbing causes which might interfere with its efficiency, it is, I think, desirable to have a second vaccination to test the security of the first. But it is of no moment whether such second vaccination takes place after the lapse of a fortnight, or of any given number of years.

"Should the second vaccination present the usual modified conditions observable after successful vaccination, the patient, I believe, never requires the operation to be again performed, but is safe for life."

**COMMUNICATIONS** have been received from:—MR. HENRY LEE; MR. PAUL BELCHER; THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; MR. J. R. LANE; MR. SAMUEL A. PARKER; THE HON. SECRETARIES OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY; DR. W. H. DAY; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL; MR. C. F. MAUNDER; MR. R. O'CONNOR; DR. MAYO; DR. PARKES; DR. KIDD; MR. WALKER; MR. J. C. ROOPE; DR. T. BUZZARD; MR. C. WILLIAMS; and MR. STONE.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. On Imperfect Digestion. By A. Leared, M.D. London: 1863.
2. Excessive Infant Mortality. By M. A. Baines.
3. Practical Lithotomy and Lithotripsy. By Henry Thompson, F.R.C.S. London: 1863.
4. The Progress of Ophthalmic Surgery. By J. Z. Laurence, F.R.C.S., M.B.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

### Bath and Bristol Branch.—The

ANNUAL MEETING of the above Branch will be held at the Philosophical Institution, Bristol, on Thursday, June 18th, at 4.30 p.m.

The Annual Dinner will be at the Volunteer Club, at 6.30 p.m. Dinner Tickets, 5s. each, exclusive of wine.

HENRY MARSHALL, M.D.,

Hon. Sec. to the Bristol District.

8, The Mall, Clifton, May 20th, 1863.

### Lancashire & Cheshire Branch.

—The Twenty-seventh ANNUAL MEETING of this Branch will take place at the Medical Institution, Liverpool, on Wednesday, the 24th of June next, at Twelve o'clock, noon. President-elect, J. R. W. VOSE, M.D.

Notices of Papers or other Communications to be sent to the Honorary Secretary, as early as possible.

A. T. H. WATERS, M.D., Hon. Sec.

27, Hope Street, Liverpool, 27th May, 1863.

### West Somerset Branch.—The

ANNUAL MEETING will be held at The Squirrel Hotel, Wellington, on Wednesday, July 1st, at 2 p.m.: C. P. COLLYNS, Esq., President-elect, in the Chair. Gentlemen who intend to read Papers or communicate Cases, are requested to send notice to the Honorary Secretary.

W. M. KELLY, M.D., Hon. Sec.

Taunton, May 19th, 1863.

### Classical and Mathematical.—

Dr. STEGGALL prepares Gentlemen for their Examinations in Classics and Mathematics at all the Medical Boards, viz., the Preliminary Examination at Apothecaries' Hall; the Matriculation Examination of the London University; Preliminary and Fellowship Examination at the Royal College of Surgeons, etc.

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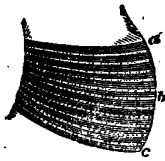
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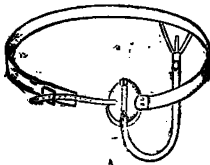
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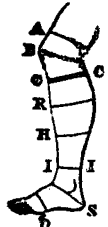
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