

Dr. Gibson's letter arrived too late for insertion this week. It shall appear in the next number of the JOURNAL.

THE AZTECS.

SIR,—Your account of the marriage of the Aztecs on January 8th, reminded me of some old papers in my possession, by which it would appear that they already held a near relationship together, if there be any truth in the following translation of a letter addressed to a friend of mine, a merchant of this city, connected in business with Central America, by a native correspondent, at that time in England. It is dated Manchester, 12th July, 1853, and signed by Pedro E. Rivaz, the writer.

"I have read in the *Times* and *Illustrated News* to-day, the history of the Aztec children who have been presented to the Queen, and exhibited to the public in the character of an existing race of Central America. All related therein is a fable invented by their possessors for the purpose of their exhibition. The children in truth came from St. Salvador, of whom I am able to give the following history. The mother is a native of St. Salvador, and lives in a village near the city St. Miguel. When at St. Miguel in 1849, I met a friend of mine, named Raymond Silva, who, having heard of the peculiarity of these children, had conceived the idea of obtaining them for a speculation to exhibit them in the United States and Europe. By the use of some stratagem, possession was obtained of them, although the mother refused her consent. They were embarked at the port of the Union, and carried to Grenada, where they were confided to the care of Don Trinidad Salazar, who proceeded with them to the United States; and who, the better to carry out the enterprise, engaged as his partner a North American, living at that time at Granada. When they arrived at New York, they met with various disappointments; but in the end arranged for Senr. Salazar to have the possession and profits of the children.

"The next year, Senr. Silva, convinced of the great advantages the possessor of these children might reap, went to New York, and, succeeding in reclaiming them, soon gained money by their exhibition. After a while, he parted with them for a certain sum of money to another person; but whether it was he who had them before or another, I do not know. These are the principal events that occurred at New York that year. I have the strongest reasons for believing that these Aztec children are the same that I saw at St. Miguel, and that they have no pretension whatever to belong to any unknown race; but that their diminutive size is consequent upon a freak of nature, since their parents are of a well known race of native Spaniards, which is spread over the greater part of Central America; and this is confirmed by the personal knowledge I have of their mother. They are of the Roman Catholic religion, which is the only one in my country. I am a native of Central America, and have never heard of any such mysterious city as Yximaya, nor of any such degenerate race as that described. There is such a place as Cupan (called in the *Illustrated News* Coban), and near it there are certainly ruins of most curious ancient monuments, but no mysterious city.

I am, etc.,

London, January 1867.

A CONSTANT READER.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, ETC., have been received from:—

Mr. W. H. Freeman; Mr. G. W. Callender; Professor Maclean, Netley (with enclosure); Dr. Kidd; Mr. T. M. Stone; Dr. Dye Duckworth; Mr. J. G. Anderson; Dr. Alexander Fleming, Birmingham (with enclosure); Mr. W. S. Coleman, Milton (with enclosure); Dr. Falconer, Bath; Dr. G. C. P. Murray; Dr. Gally Hawitt (with enclosure); Mr. Charles Wm. Browne; Professor Humphry, Cambridge; Mr. J. H. Bartlett; Mr. Morris (with enclosure); Dr. George Johnson; Mr. Berkeley Hill; Dr. Watson, Burton-on-Trent; Mr. Trotter; Mr. Bremridge; The Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society (with enclosure); Dr. R. P. Cotton; Mr. J. M. Rendall; Mr. Alfred Barton, Hampton Court; Mr. Samuel Woods; Dr. Morell Mackenzie; Mr. Furneaux Jordan, Birmingham (with enclosure); Mr. R. E. Poole; The Honorary Secretary of the Harveian Society; Mr. W. J. Burgess; Mr. R. S. Fowler, Bath; Dr. Charles Harrison, Lincoln; Mr. Holmes; Mr. William Martin; Mr. J. W. Trotter; and Mr. Lambert.

BOOKS, &c., RECEIVED.

On Joint-Diseases; their Pathology, Diagnosis, and Treatment. By Holmes Coote, F.R.C.S. London: 1867.
Hospital Economies. By R. W. Falconer, M.D. Bath: 1867.
The Baths and Mineral Waters of Bath. By R. W. Falconer, M.D. Fourth edition. London and Bath: 1867.
Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Suffolk Lunatic Asylum, 1867.
Lithotripsy and its After-Treatment. By G. H. Porter, M.D. Dublin: 1867.
British Merchant Seamen. By a Commander R.N. London: 1867.
The Seventh Annual Report of the Cranley Village Hospital. Guildford: 1866.
The Fourteenth Report of the United Kingdom Alliance. Manchester and London: 1867.
The Scotsman, February 1st and 5th.
Burton-upon-Trent Times, February 2nd.

Royal Medical Benevolent Col-

lege.—Notice is hereby given, that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Governors of the College will be held at the Office of the College, No. 37, Soho Square, on Thursday, the 23rd of February inst., at 3 o'clock p.m. precisely, when the following Resolutions will be proposed by the Council:—

1. That the number of Foundation Scholars be increased from forty to fifty; five additional being elected in 1867, and five in 1868.
2. That the last paragraph of the fourth Bye-law be cancelled, and the following paragraph adopted in its place: "If a Firm, Society, Corporation, or Company, give an adequate donation or subscription, such Firm, Society, Corporation, or Company, shall nominate in writing one of their members to be a Governor; or at their option shall exercise the privileges of a Governor, by such member of their Firm, Society, Corporation, or Company, as they shall from time to time appoint, for twenty years from the period of their donation."
3. That the following paragraph be added to the fifteenth Bye-law: "The Votes of those Governors whose Balloting-papers shall be imperfectly filled up, shall be disposed of in such manner as the Council shall from time to time direct, by directions or regulations printed upon such Balloting-papers."

By order of the Council,

37, Soho Square, London, ROBERT FREEMAN, Secretary.
Feb. 6. 1867.

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.

Dr. STEGGALL continues his instruction for all Medical and Surgical Examinations during the summer months.—Address Dr. STEGGALL, 2, Southampton Street, Bloomsbury Square, London.

The London and Dover Sea-

WATER COMPANY.—This Company has been specially formed, as in Paris, for the purpose of SUPPLYING the Hospitals, Baths, Public and Private Establishments, the inhabitants of London and the suburbs with Pure Fresh SEA WATER, which is brought daily from Dover to London by rail. Can be delivered (within a radius of four miles from Charing Cross) in any quantity exceeding 12 gallons, at 3d. per gallon net cash on delivery. A less quantity may be obtained at the Company's Office, 7, Great Scotland Yard, Whitehall, where all orders are requested to be sent, addressed to the Manager. This arrangement offers unusual facilities to those invalids and others who either cannot be removed to the seaside, or are too nervous to bathe in the sea, as they can now enjoy the invigorating effects of pure sea water in their private residences. Aquariums supplied.

TO ADVERTISERS.

British Medical Journal.—

Office, 37, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, LONDON, W.C. Published every Saturday.

The BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, in addition to its external circulation, is transmitted direct from the Office to THREE THOUSAND MEMBERS of the British Medical Association, including the Medical Officers of most Hospitals and Dispensaries, Medical Officers of Health, and of the Army and Navy, and the majority of the leading members of the profession in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. It is taken in by the LIBRARIES, CLUBS, HOSPITALS, Book-Clubs, Public Departments, and Colonial Book Societies.

As a leading and widely circulated organ of the Medical Profession, it offers unsurpassed advantages to advertisers of Books, Drugs, Instruments, Philosophical Instruments, etc.; for Situations and Vacancies; and for General Advertisers.

A Special Department is devoted to the description, with FIGURES, of New Inventions in Medicine, Surgery, Dietetics, and the Allied Subjects.

According to a recent Parliamentary Return, the number of Stamps issued to the principal London Weekly Newspapers during the year ending 30th June 1866, was as follows:

British Medical Journal	114,400
Weekly Times	111,000
Law Times	108,000
Punch	101,500
Athenaeum	84,000
Lancet	81,575
Mining Journal	76,879
Homeward Mail	70,000

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

Five lines and under	£0 2 6
Each additional line	0 0 6
Each ten lines	0 4 6
A whole column	1 15 0
A page	3 5 0