

INFLAMMATION AND BLISTERS.—In an article on Counterirritation, in the *Dictionary of Medicine*, "Pathologist" will find a case recorded, in which, after death, a patch of lung was found inflamed to some depth from the surface, its superficies corresponding with a blister to the skin. In a paper read before a Branch meeting of the Association, and published in the *JOURNAL*, July 24th, 1853, I stated that I had gained information from three distinct sources, all personal friends, that the application of a blister to the side or to the abdomen generally produced an inflammatory state in a corresponding part of the pleura and peritoneum. My first authority declined to let me give his name; but I may say that he ranks very high as a surgeon. His experiments were made on dogs and rabbits many years ago, with the special intention of ascertaining whether blisters were appropriate remedies for pleurisy, etc. Pereira mentions similar experiments and similar results. Dr. Nottingham was my second authority; and he has by a second series of experiments confirmed the results obtained by the first. Dr. Cameron was the third who gave me information on this point; he told me he had seen vascularity of the pleura in corpses, corresponding in size with blisters applied shortly before death. He had found "friction-sound" twenty-four hours after a blister to the side, none being heard before. "Pathologist" will find a great deal upon this subject in the twentieth chapter of my last work (*Foundation for a New Theory, etc.*).

THOMAS INMAN, M.D.

February 2nd, 1861.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS OF THE BRANCHES.—A correspondent calls our attention to the Social Gathering of Associates at Shrewsbury. We quite agree with him that such a meeting is well worthy of repetition in other Branches. Speaking of the conversation, he says:—"This is a new feature in the Branches, and, I believe, will accomplish much good, as tending to break down the barriers between the profession and the public, and to show to the latter that we are not mere cases of instruments and bottles of physic, but can afford pleasure and amusement to others as well as relief."

T. A.—A correspondent asks:—"Having lately settled in this part, I find that the Union appointments are held by two gentlemen who hold only the Hall qualifications. Can I, as one fully qualified according to the regulations of the Poor-law Board, take any steps to have myself placed in the position of medical officer, which is one of the privileges of membership of the College?"

[As the Poor-law authorities elected Licentiates of the Hall to do their work, we should suppose that they have the power of retaining them in their offices. Under any circumstances, we think our correspondent would show very bad taste if he attempted their removal for the sake of obtaining their posts.—EDITOR.]

S. D.—In answer to a correspondent, who asks for information concerning the regulations under which the science certificates of the Science and Art Department of Government are granted, we beg to state that his inquiries will meet with every attention by applying to the Secretary, Science and Art Department, South Kensington Museum, Cromwell-road, London. A directory is published containing the minutes of Council; also syllabuses of the courses of study, and the examination papers. Our correspondent observes:—"I fully agree with you as to the desirability of members of the medical profession proffering themselves as instructors of the public on such branches of knowledge as physiology, chemistry, etc., and as to the urgent need of some sound (if limited) knowledge being imparted to the masses on these points."

DUTIES OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF PUBLIC CHARITIES.—A. F. writes:—"Will you be good enough to give me an opinion in the following case:—I am a surgeon to a medical charity. When a pauper applies to be attended by the officer of the charity rather than by the Poor-law officer, is it a usual or necessary part of professional etiquette to obtain the sanction of the latter previously to seeing and prescribing for such patient?"

[The duty of the medical officers of medical charities is to see the patients who attend the charity. It is no part of their duty to make any inquiries as to the antecedents of those patients—excepting only so far as is required to show that they are proper objects of the charity.—EDITOR.]

S. P.—The death of the celebrated anatomist and physiologist, Tiedemann, took place at Munich on the 21st January last. He died in his 80th year.

MR. SPENDER.—We are obliged by the suggestions of our correspondent. They shall receive immediate attention.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

ANY qualified medical practitioner, not disqualified by any bye-law, who shall be recommended as eligible by any three members of the Association, shall be admitted a member at any time by the Committee of Council, or by the Council of any branch. The subscription is One Guinea annually, due on January 1st; and each member, on paying his subscription, shall be entitled to receive the publications of the Association for the current year.

Gentlemen wishing to join the Association are recommended to communicate with the General Secretary, Dr. WILLIAMS, Worcester; or with either of the following officers of the District Branches: *Bath and Bristol Branch*—President, John Soden, Esq., Bath; *Hon. Secs.*, R. S. Fowler, Esq., Bath; H. Ormerod, Esq., Bristol; *Birmingham and Midland Counties*—Pres., E. Moore, Esq., Halesowen; *Hon. Sec.*, O. Pemberton, Esq., Birmingham; *Cambridge and Huntingdon*—Pres., Dr. G. E. Paget, Cambridge; *Hon. Sec.*, Dr. Humphry, F.R.S., Cambridge; *East Anglian* (Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex)—Pres., R. Faircloth, Esq., Newmarket; *Hon. Secs.*, Dr. Chevallier, Ipswich; Dr. Pitt, Norwich; *East York and North Lincoln*—Pres., W. H. Eddie, Esq., Barton-on-Humber; *Hon. Sec.*, Dr. H. Munroe, Hull; *Lancashire and Cheshire*—Pres., Dr. M. A. Eason Wilkinson, Manchester; *Hon. Secs.*, Dr. A. T. H. Waters, Hope Street, Liverpool; J. M. Robinson, Esq., Bolton; J. Sharp, Esq., Warrington; Dr. J. Thorburn, Manchester; *Metropolitan Counties*—Pres., J. Birkett, Esq., 59, Green Street, Grosvenor Square; *Hon. Secs.*, Dr. A. P. Stewart, 74, Grosvenor Street; Dr. A. Henry, 15, George Street, Portman Square; *Midland*—Pres., G. E. Stanger, Esq., Nottingham; *Hon. Secs.*, Dr. Goode, Derby; H. Lankester, Esq., Leicester; Dr. Mitchinson, Lincoln; Joseph White, Esq., Nottingham; *North Wales*—Pres., Dr. Turnour, Denbigh; *Hon. Sec.*, D. K. Jones, Esq., Beaumaris; *Reading*—Pres., Dr. Woodhouse, Reading; *Hon. Sec.*, G. May, jun., Esq., Reading; *Shropshire (Ethical)*—Pres., H. Fenton, Esq., Shrewsbury; *Hon. Sec.*, Dr. Styrap, Shrewsbury; *Shropshire (Scientific)*—Pres., Dr. H. Johnson, Shrewsbury; *Hon. Sec.*, S. Wood, Esq., Shrewsbury; *South-Eastern* (Kent, Surrey, and Sussex)—Pres., F. Fry, Esq., Maidstone; *Hon. Sec.*, P. Martin, Esq., Reigate; *Hon. Sec. Rochester, etc. district*, Dr. Dulvey, Brompton, Chatham; *South-Midland* (Beds, Northampton, and Bucks)—Pres., Dr. Barker, Bedford; *Hon. Secs.*, Dr. Bryan, Northampton; R. C. Hurst, Esq., Bedford; *South-Western* (Devon and Cornwall)—Pres., Dr. Hall, Torquay; *Hon. Sec.*, C. H. Roper, Esq., Exeter; *Hon. Secs.*, Cornwall district, Dr. Littleton, Saltash, Plymouth; R. Q. Couch, Esq., Penzance; *West Somerset*—Pres., John Prankerd, Esq., Langport; *Hon. Sec.*, Dr. W. E. Gillett, Taunton; *Yorkshire*—Pres., W. Favell, Esq., Sheffield; *Hon. Sec.*, G. Hornby, Esq., York.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. Hoskins; Mr. Gardner; Dr. Thornburn; Professor Bennett; Dr. A. T. H. Waters; Mr. Dayman; Dr. Hare; Mr. Paget; Mr. Reid; Dr. Nelson; Dr. Roberts; Dr. Wollaston; Mr. Wood; Dr. Hall Davis; Mr. Gange; Dr. Priestley; Dr. Browning; and Mr. F. Theed.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. *Sore-Throat: its Nature, Varieties, and Treatment.* By M. P. James, M.D. London: Churchill, 1861.
2. *Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Suffolk Lunatic Asylum.* 1861.

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To the Medical Profession of Great Britain and Ireland.

GENTLEMEN,—We beg to call your attention to the following extracts from a Paper by the late John Cheyne, M.D., F.R.S.E., M.R.I.A., Physician to the Hardwicke Fever Hospital, Dublin, and Physician-General to His late Majesty's Forces in Ireland, &c., &c., contained in "*The Dublin Hospital Reports*," vol. 1, p. 317.

"Since this case came into my possession, I have been led to make a good many clinical experiments, which have enabled me to verify the reports which I had heard of the efficacy of JAMES'S POWDER, in sometimes removing the APOPLECTIC DIATHESIS in persons advanced in life. It is, moreover, worthy of observation, that JAMES'S POWDER has been of remarkable utility in certain instances of DETERMINATION OF BLOOD TO THE HEAD, which occurred at an early period of life, and threatened to end by effusion. Lastly, in two cases of GENERAL PLETHORA, in which, however, the head was more affected than any other part, JAMES'S POWDER was exhibited by me with perfect success."

Also vol. 1, p. 320.

"The following very simple method of exhibiting JAMES'S POWDER, in cases of undue determination of blood to the head, is that which I have generally pursued. The patient is made to begin with a very moderate dose, not more than two grains at bedtime, and to increase the dose by half-a-grain every night, until some sensible effect is produced upon the stomach, bowels, or skin. Should the stomach be affected with sickness, the dose must be lessened by one grain on the following night. *By the addition of a little rhubarb to it a larger quantity of JAMES'S POWDER may be administered than the stomach could otherwise bear.* If the skin is softened, or the bowels affected, the dose should not further be increased, but it must be repeated every night for a considerable length of time: in several instances I have known eighteen or twenty grains taken for a considerable period without any inconvenience."

The following extract (showing the increasing estimation in which the true Dr. James's Powder is held by Medical Practitioners) is taken from "The Lumleian Lectures," 1858-59, delivered before the Royal College of Physicians, by A. Tweedie, M.D., Physician to the London Fever Hospital, who is admittedly one of the highest practical authorities on the subject of Fever. He says (the *Lancet*, June 16, 1860, p. 590), as follows:—

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(Signed) A. H. HASSALL, M.D.