

profession. If we cannot maintain discipline in our own ranks, we must not be surprised to see the enemy's strengthened. I am not in practice, and am not, therefore, a personal sufferer, but others are. I think it is simply justice that they should be protected.--I am, etc..

A MEMBER B. M. A.

North Wales, September 30th, 1881.

\*\* The only notice which we have had of the alleged meeting of practitioners is from the newspaper paragraph to which our correspondent refers, and which appeared also in the *Times* and other papers. On communicating with Mr. Hewitt of Lancaster Gate, he states that no meeting of the sort has been held at his house, and he knows nothing of it.

DR. S. J. HUBBARD (New Haven, Connecticut) is thanked for his kind and prompt communication, of which we avail ourselves.

## CHANGE OF NAME.

OUR contemporary the *New Moon*, a lunatic asylum monthly, which has appeared for upwards of forty years under that very appropriate title, is now to be issued under the inane superscription of *Crichton Royal Institution Literary Register*. Commercial considerations can scarcely, in the case of such a periodical, have dictated this change of name, which must, therefore, be attributed to the triumph of sheer imbecility over the more sprightly and interesting varieties of mental aberration. The *New Moon* was the first of those lunatic asylum journals of which several are now published in this country and in America; and its foundation marked a distinct advance in the moral treatment of the insane. It was edited and printed by lunatics; and the contributions which filled its columns, and which included tales, essays, poems, and conundrums, were all the work of lunatics or of patients convalescing after attacks of insanity. It thus afforded, what has always been a desideratum and a difficulty in high-class asylums, suitable and agreeable occupation to the educated insane; while it was also the official record of the scientific observations, lectures, and entertainments carried on in the establishment, and of all important events in its history. In the palmy days of the Crichton Institution, when it was the leading hospital for the care of the insane in Scotland, and was largely resorted to from England, the *New Moon* contained contributions from the pens of several men of great literary eminence, who were prostrated for a time by that melancholy which, since the time of Aristotle, has been recognised as in close alliance with genius. On one occasion, the editor of the *New Moon* received complaints from several subscribers that the contents of the journal, although well enough in their way, were lacking in distinctive flavour, and did not betray their origin; so, in the next number, he gave free play to his refractory contributors. There appeared astounding political revelations; a paper on evolution, with woodcut illustrations of the shape of the human soul at different ages; the design of a machine to facilitate bodily ascension into heaven in the manner of Elijah; and the first canto of an epic, which, when not utterly incoherent, was anticipatory of *Alice in Wonderland*. One number of this character was sufficient. The discontented subscribers expressed themselves satisfied, and begged that they might have no more of Bedlam broke loose in prose and verse. The motto of the *New Moon* was aptly chosen. It consisted of six lines from the Essay on Criticism slightly altered.

"Tis with our judgments as our watches ; none  
 Go just alike, yet each believes his own.  
 In poets, as true genius is but rare,  
 True taste as seldom is the critic's share ;  
 Both must alike from Cynthia borrow light,  
 Those born to judge, as well as those to write.

We cannot but express our regret that the *New Moon* should have dipped her

### MEDICAL OFFICERS TO BENEFIT SOCIETIES.

SIR,—I want to know through the medium of your columns what are the usual fees received by medical gentlemen for acting in the capacity of medical officers to benefit societies, what are the duties, etc., and everything bearing on the subject. My reason for troubling you is, that I am asked to become medical officer to a court of "Foresters", and do not know upon what terms to do so.—I am, etc.,

SURGEON.

F.G.H.—Cheselden, the celebrated lithotomist, had considerable taste in matters of art. The plan of Fulham Bridge was drawn by him. He was a very charitable man, and when the Foundling Hospital was first proposed, he sent a donation, with the following lines from Pope.

" 'Tis what the happy to the unhappy owe ;  
For what man gives, the gods by him bestow."

A GRIEVANCE.

A GRIEVANCE.

SIR,—I wish to draw your attention to what I think you will agree with me in terming a grievance. In the JOURNAL of September 17th, there appeared an advertisement from the guardians of the poor of St. Marylebone parish, requesting applications for the post of Visiting Medical Officer to the Workhouse in connection with I daresay, several of our local medical men (having no belief in the good faith of guardians). I went to considerable trouble and some expense, in sending in an application for this post, with testimonials, etc., and in obtaining interest to carry my election. While engaged in this latter work, I learnt what I now wish to bring before you, viz., that the whole affair was a "job"; that one of the parochial medical officers had resigned his appointment, and that a committee of three guardians had been appointed by the board to appoint this gentleman to the vacant post. Now I ask you, sir, if this is in accordance with the intentions of the Local Government Board, and receives their sanction? And also, if delusive advertisements such as this are to be paraded before the profession, in order that medical men may be put to trouble and inconvenience in running after "bogus" appointments?—I am, sir, faithfully yours,

A HOODWINKED CANDIDATE.

P.S.—I may add that I was encouraged to apply by officials of the board. I enclose my card.

\*.\* Assuming that our correspondent has been correctly informed, that an advertisement was issued inviting applications from candidates when it had been well understood, among a majority of the guardians, to whom the appointment would be given, there can be but one opinion as to the injustice which has been perpetrated upon all such applicants. We believe that our correspondent's case is by no means a singular instance, and it would be very desirable if some plan could be adopted whereby it could be stopped; reference to the Local Government Board would be of no service, as the clerk to the guardians would be instructed to reply that no such understanding had been come to. There is no alternative but to pocket the affront.

JUSTICE.—Your inquiry involves a legal question, which we are unable to answer.

### STERILITY OF PROSTITUTES.

SIR,—In a debate upon sterility in women, in the Obstetrical Section at Ryde, I see it stated that Dr. Henry Bennet threw out the idea that one prevalent cause of the sterility of prostitutes is, that the class is largely recruited from those women who are naturally sterile. That these women are extremely unfertile is well known to me, as I have for some years, as physician to the Rescue Society of London, had ample occasion to make myself acquainted with the facts of the case. Several of the matrons of the Rescue Society have informed me that they have never known of any case where a woman, who had been a prostitute for some years, had a child by a subsequent marriage.

Thus, according to this information, prostitution continued for a certain period renders a woman permanently and hopelessly unfruitful. A few months of the life does not do so. Most of the women who enter the Rescue Society's Homes are quite young—from fourteen to twenty—and yet very few indeed of them have had either a child or a miscarriage. The life they lead seems to make them sterile from the first. I do not think that 5 per cent. of my hospital cases among that class have had a child or miscarriage.

class have been acting on miscarriage. I have not time to discuss the facts, and now for the theory. I cannot admit that any of the cases I have seen would come under the category spoken of by Dr. Bennett, because the women were too young, and their fruitfulness or sterility quite uncertain. The real causes, I hold, of sterility in prostitutes are, first, great excesses in the exercise of the function; and, secondly, and much less prominently, inflammatory lesions of the organs. That the first of these causes should be so constantly followed by sterility in the female, is a never-failing source of wonder to me.—Yours obediently, C. R. DRYSDALE, M.D.

17, Woburn Place, W.C., September 15th, 1881.

LUMINOUS NIGHT BELLS.

SIR,—It is stated in the papers that the Post Office authorities have, in our district, directed the openings to the letter boxes to be coated with luminous paint, in order that they might be readily found at night. In the country, it would often save a good deal of trouble if our "night-bell" plates were treated in the same way. Will any member be kind enough to inform me where this luminous paint can be obtained, that I may experimentally try it?—Your obedient servant,  
Stourport. G. F. M.

### CURE FOR SNORING.

SIR,—I am told, though I cannot vouch for the fact, that I am a "nuisance prejudicial to health", from being an inveterate snorer. I shall, therefore, esteem it a favour if any of your numerous readers can suggest a remedy.—I am, etc.,  
STERTOR.

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

Dr. W. Roberts, Manchester; Dr. S. J. Hubbard, Newhaven; Mr. R. A. Douglas-Lithgow, London; Rev. E. Milner Barry, Tunbridge Wells; Dr. J. Huson-More, Manchester; Dr. Beddoes, Clifton; Dr. W. A. Brailey, London; Mr. J. Startin, Dublin; Mr. W. Stringfield, Lowestoft; Dr. W. R. Tolerton, Sherston Magna; Dr. J. Walter Wilson, Plymouth; Dr. A. T. Roberts, Brighton; Mr. T. Mansell, London; Dr. J. A. Austin, Tongue; Mr. G. Harrison Younge, Aldershot; Dr. Ward Cousins, Southsea; Dr. Cran, Great Horwood; Mr. H. Brown, Northallerton; Dr. Warren, Hoylake; Mr. R. Pollock, Glasgow; Dr. Richard Neale, London; Mr. E. Noble Smith, London; Our Glasgow Correspondent; Mr. Vincent Jackson, Wolverhampton; Mr. J. Strangman Grubb, Waterbeach; Our Aberdeen Correspondent; Mr. T. Wells Hubbard, Tunbridge Wells; Dr. E. P. Philpots, Bournemouth; Mr. H. Meymott, Ludlow; Dr. Paterson, Bridge of Allan; Mr. G. P. Field, London; Dr. D. McCalman, Ballachulish; Mr. F. H. Butler, London; Dr. Kendall, Sandygate; Dr. Fairlie Clarke, Southborough; Dr. Masterman, Stourport; Mr. Stanley Boyd, London; Mr. G. Eastes, London; Mr. J. H. Parry, Bristol; Dr. S. Rees Phillips, Exeter; Dr. Thin, London; F. G.; Mr. D'Esteire Parker, Cork; Dr. McCraith, Melton Mowbray; Mr. A. W. M. Robson, Leeds; Professor G. D. Thane, London; Mr. J. Black, London; Dr. Hensman, London; Dr. Carrington, London; Mr. Margerison, London; Mr. Cantlie, London; Mr. Munro Scott, London; Mr. George Terry, Mells; Mr. J. A. Stacey, London; Dr. Thorne Thorne, London; Mr. F. Wallace, London; Dr. Wynn Williams, London; Mr. F. B. Shepherd, London; Mr. W. R. A. Stewart, London; Mr. Garraway, Faversham; Mr. Lambert H. Ormsby, Dublin; Dr. E. Hartley, London; Mr. E. Williams, Aberayron; Mr. Thomas Jackman, Coggeshall; Dr. Corfield, London; Mr. P. H. Bird, London; Mr. A. Lloyd Jones, London; Dr. James Barr, Liverpool; Mr. Edward Thompson, Omagh; Alvus Durus; Dr. William Moore, Dublin; Dr. John Haddon, Eccles; Dr. de Chaumont, Netley; Mr. Ed. Ledwich, Dublin; Mr. G. Gould, London; Dr. R. Bruce Low, Helmsley; Dr. Lush, Weymouth; Dr. Needham, Gloucester; Dr. Stephen Mackenzie, London; Mr. Rushton Parker, Liverpool; Sir E. Lechmere, London; Mr. W. Whitehead, Manchester; Mr. T. Amyot, Diss.

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