

THE DAVENPORT BROTHERS.—We really cannot occupy our space and insult the intelligence of our professional brethren by any serious allusion to the legerdemain tricks of these Yankee gents. The only interest which such a tale can have with members of a scientific profession, is the exhibition thereby afforded of some serious fault or gap in the instruction of what are called the "educated" classes.

CORONER AND MEDICAL FEES.—A correspondent writes:—"A few days since, an assistant of mine, who is M.D., M.R.C.S., attended an inquest, and made a *post mortem* examination for me; *i.e.*, the summons was made out to me, as the principal, although I knew nothing about it, and Dr. — had investigated it, and made the examination. The coroner took his evidence, and then refused to give him the fee, because he was not registered, stating that he was *legally* precluded from so doing. Was he *legally* precluded from giving the fee? I believe that he is *legally* warranted in withholding it, as I did not attend the inquest; but he insists that he is *legally* precluded from giving it. I wish to convince him (if he is wrong) that he was not *legally* precluded from giving it."

[We have obtained the best opinion to be had on the point referred to, and it is this: "A coroner cannot be legally compelled to pay a non-registered practitioner, as a medical witness. There is certainly no law to prevent him; and in the case of his taking the evidence of a qualified medical man, he breaks the spirit whilst adhering to the letter of the law. In giving evidence, the law does not require that a man should hold any license to practise at all. His evidence must be taken for what it is worth. He can, however, only recompense him as an ordinary witness. In the case of a medical man asking another to make a *post mortem*, or give evidence for him, the coroner can refuse to take the evidence, if he please; but if he takes it, he is bound in honour to pay for it, although he cannot be compelled to do so." EDITOR.]

INTERMITTENT RESPIRATION.—The phenomenon means simply "exhaustion" of the respiratory muscles. It is common on the approach of death; it is common under nausea; it is produced by such poisons as digitalis; it follows or accompanies convulsive attacks, as sighing; it is common amongst delicate females or males. Its analogue is intermittent action of the heart, which it usually accompanies. When any organ acting rhythmically is exhausted, it loses its rhythm. Irregularity then implies exhaustion from one cause or another. The natural deduction is, that "diffusible stimuli" are indicated. Practice endorses the inference. The prognosis in such a case is grave, so long as the symptom lasts. T. I.

THE GRIFFIN TESTIMONIAL FUND.—SIR: The following subscriptions have been further received on behalf of the above Fund:—H. C. Wildash, Esq. (East Ashford), 10s. 6d.; R. Davies, Esq. (Dunmow), 5s.; T. A. Stephenson, Esq. (Radford), 5s. Amount previously announced, £91.5. Received at the *Lancet* office, £5.13.

I am, etc., ROBERT FOWLER, M.D.,
Treasurer and Hon. Sec.
145, Bishopsgate Street Without, November 2nd, 1864.

COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM:—MR. J. VOSÉ SOLOMON; DR. W. B. HAY; DR. J. B. PITT; MR. POPE; DR. THOMAS ISMAN; DR. H. HARE; MR. C. S. SMITH; MR. T. WALTON; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; MR. RICHARD GRIFFIN; MR. J. N. RADCLIFFE; MR. R. B. CARTER; MR. OLIVER PEMBERTON; DR. THUDICUM; THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE HARVEIAN SOCIETY; DR. GEORGE D. GIBB; THE HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY; DR. MORGAN; DR. KIDD; DR. R. FOWLER; THE HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY; DR. C. RADCLIFFE HALL; DR. J. THOMPSON; MR. F. FRY; MR. G. H. FURBER; AN ASSOCIATE; DR. F. J. BROWN; MR. G. D. R. MCCARTHY; MR. S. WOOD; MR. GAINE; ANTICACOTHES; and MR. WHARTON JONES.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. De l'Emploi Thérapeutique des Lactates Alcalins dans les Maladies Fonctionnelles de l'Appareil Digestif. Par J. E. Pétrequin. Paris et Lyon: 1864.
2. Quelques Mots sur l'Acide Lactique et les Lactates Alcalins et Ferreux. Par M. Burin du Buisson. Paris et Lyon: 1864.
3. A System of Surgery. Edited by T. Holmes, M.A. Cantab. In Four Volumes. Volume the Fourth. London: 1864.
4. First Help in Accidents. By C. H. Schaible, M.D. London: 1864.
5. Dilatation of the Lacteals. Further Observations on the Waxy or Amyloid Form of Bright's Disease. On a Case of Syphilitic Affection of the Liver. By T. G. Stewart, M.D. Edinburgh: 1864.
6. An Address to the Students of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. By G. W. Callender. London: 1864.

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