

ornamentation of the wards. £40 or £50 will go a long way, in a large hospital, in giving to the wards an appearance of something like decorative art; and such a modest outlay will tend to enliven the spirits and hasten the cure of many a patient now doomed to have nothing on which to rest a restless eye than the eternal whitewash of most hospitals. A little shade of colour introduced into the wash for the walls, with a party-coloured border, is all that is required, with a few well selected engravings. To perfection in drainage it is hardly necessary to allude. The remarks I have ventured to bring before you are necessarily brief, and only touch on some of the most salient points in hospital construction. If I had more time, I would lay before the profession some extended observations; but I thank you for the space you have afforded me.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY..... Royal Free, 2 P.M.—Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's for Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum, 1.15 P.M.—Samaritan, 2.30 P.M.
TUESDAY..... Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.
WEDNESDAY... St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.
THURSDAY..... St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—London, 1.30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.
FRIDAY..... Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.
SATURDAY..... St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.

POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—JULY 12, 1862.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.	Deaths.
During week.....	{ Boys.. 882 Girls.. 825 }	1707 1065
Average of corresponding weeks 1852-61		1747 1155
Barometer:		
Highest (Tu.) 29.902; lowest (Sun.) 29.313; mean, 29.600.		
Thermometer:		
Highest in sun—extremes (Tu.) 116 degs.; (Wed.) 86 degs.		
In shade—highest (Tu.) 75.5 degrees; lowest (Fri.) 44.7 degs.		
Mean—58.2 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.—3.4 degs.		
Range—during week, 30.8 degrees; mean daily, 17.2 degrees.		
Mean humidity of air (saturation = 100), 85.		
Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.73.		

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

. All letters and communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

CORRESPONDENTS, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

IS ALCOHOL FOOD?—SIR: I admire your ingenuity in evading a disagreeable question far more than your editorial courage. I must keep you to the point, and again ask, What amount of evidence will content you? You have challenged proof, and you have taken advantage of your position to attack me in an offensive manner. I accept your challenge, in spite of your being in possession of the hill. You blench from the combat. Unless you are prepared to enter the lists fairly, I must consider you an intellectual craven. I trust, however, that you have something knightly in you, and that you are not *vox et preterea nihil*—a medical Sir Andrew Aguecheek—who only ventures to cope with a Viola, and fears those who seem "cunning of fence".

I am, etc., THOMAS INMAN.

Liverpool, July 12th, 1862.

[This is the last letter of Dr. Inman's, done in this style, which we shall publish. We are surprised that he is blind to the impropriety of his language. EDITOR.]

RELIGIOUS SERVICE AT THE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION.—SIR: The commencing of our annual meetings with a religious service is a proposition which (so far as I have mentioned it to others) has been met with but one dissentient voice. The common reply has been that of Dr. Stewart—an expression of surprise that so reasonable a suggestion should have been so long delayed; and a cordial assent has been given to the proposal in my letter of the 21st ult. (signed X. P.), suggesting that on the coming anniversary the oversight should be corrected. As it is highly probable that there will be a larger attendance of members this year than ever has been before, the opportunity is peculiarly fitting for learning the mind of the Association. It is therefore my intention to bring the question forward in the form of a resolution. I shall, if possible, commit it to more able hands than my own; but if it be judged better that the unknown X. P. should take the initiative, he will not shrink from the responsibility. In anticipation of this duty, I shall be glad to receive communications from any who may not be able to attend the meeting; and this, whether they are in favour or not. Though "peace at any price" is not my motto, when a principle, which seems to me important, is involved, I wish ever to assert my own convictions with full consideration of, and proper deference to, those of others who may differ from me. I am, etc., WILLIAM OGLE.
Derby, July 14th, 1862.

I presume it will not be necessary to give any more formal notice than this. W. O.

SIR: I believe that many members of the British Medical Association approve of our annual meeting being inaugurated by a religious service. Mr. Davies, of Pershore, and others who think with him, are not obliged to attend such service; but those who look upon the art of medicine as a very sacred thing, and duly feel the responsibility of practising it, will gladly avail themselves of an opportunity to celebrate the offices of praise and thanksgiving. I apprehend that many dignitaries of our church would feel complimented by being asked to preach on such an occasion. At all events, I hope that the matter will be earnestly taken up by the Council. I am, etc., AN ASSOCIATE.

Bath, July 15th, 1862.
SIR: I take leave to add my name to the number of your correspondents who advocate the opening of the proceedings of the approaching annual meeting with Divine Service, or, at any rate, the holding service at some appropriate period during the meeting. The subject cannot too soon come under the careful consideration of the Managing Council. Where there is a will, there is a way. The will, probably, has not always been prominently shown among the medical profession as a body. I am, etc., WILLIAM MARTIN.

Brighton, July 15th, 1862.

DR. W. B. MUSHET.—Your Letter shall appear next week.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Mr. RICHARD GRIFFIN; Dr. LATHAM; Dr. W. OGLE; Mr. F. DAVIES; Dr. JAMES RUSSELL; Dr. INMAN; Mr. F. H. SANKEY; Dr. H. PORTER; Dr. THOMAS WILLIAMS; Mr. WILLIAM COPNEY; Dr. W. B. MUSHET; and Dr. FLEMING.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

1. The Medical Profession in Great Britain and Ireland; with an Account of the Medical Organisation of France, Italy, Germany, and America. By Edwin Lee, M.D. Parts I and II. London: 1857.
2. The Mammary Signs of Pregnancy and Recent Delivery. By J. Lumley Earle, M.D. London: 1862.
3. Parturition without Pain. By James Townley. London: 1862.
4. The Treatment of Gonorrhoea without Specifics. By J. L. Milton. Second edition. London: 1862.
5. The Establishment and Management of Cottage-Improvement Societies. By W. A. Greenhill, M.D. London: 1862.
6. Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Heilkunde. Erster Band.
7. On Pelvic Hæmatocele. By Dr. Byrne, New York.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Third Edition, price 2s. 6d., Plates,

The Ear in Health and Disease,
with Remarks on the Prevention of Deafness. By WILLIAM HARVEY, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Royal Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear.

H. RENSCHAW, 356, Strand, London.