

JOURNALS WANTED.—The Publisher of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL is in want of the numbers for August 15th, 1857, and June 5th, 1858. Perhaps some member who does not bind his volumes will kindly forward his copy of those numbers.

C. K.—A writer in the *Saturday Review*, who exults in not knowing anything about physic, has another fling at the profession. He has a leaning towards the "coarse specifics of Morison and Holloway"; and argues, because we have now more modified views of bleeding, calomel, stimulants, open windows, etc., there can be little certainty at all in medicine as an art. And he is wonderfully dogmatic, as all such exulting "know-nothings" usually are, that the *vis medicatrix naturae* is the foundation of all therapeutics, and after that reflex action is the great dominating law of all vital actions. He compares the statistics of hospitals, but thinks physiology a stand-still science. He should try his hand at the "harmony not understood" of Ricord.

MR. PARKER has forwarded us the following:—£100 reward to any person or persons who will refute, in writing, the principles of the new physiological views that are comprehended in avocations of common life, in a treatise, by W. Parker, M.R.C.S., L.A.C., with a frontispiece of the Bath Mineral Hot Water Fountain, and an appendix on the Bath Mineral Waters. The above sum will be given by the author, after the decision of a fair and open tribunal, selected from men of renown. Sold by Peach, Bath; and all booksellers. Bath, 1857. Price one shilling.

MEDICAL WITNESSES IN COURTS OF LAW.—SIR: I see in your issue of to-day, a note from my friend Dr. Hall of Torquay, in which he asserts, that "two years ago, when touching upon the discrepancy of medical witnesses, I ventured to suggest that Government should appoint three experts, whose duty it should be to decide upon the scientific bearing of any important medico-legal question." If he will take the trouble to read Nos. 207 and 208 of our JOURNAL (December 1856), he will perceive that so long as *six* "years ago, precisely the same solution of the difficulty which 'has' just now occurred to the Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science," was suggested by myself. The paper referred to concludes with these words:—

"I would submit to you—if it would not be desirable, for the sake of science, and not less for the honour of our profession, that in all cases, of whatever kind, involving in any degree a knowledge of the principles and practice of medicine and its collateral branches, a plain statement of all the facts should be drawn up, and submitted to a MEDICAL ARBITRATION. Reverting for one moment to the case of Mrs. Catherine Cumming, and to that of Mr. J. Parsons Cook, do you not feel with me that, had the physicians and surgeons engaged on either trial constituted what may be called a medical committee (jury), *then* would the whole matter have been greatly simplified, the cause of justice very materially promoted, and science itself maintained in all its integrity, uncontaminated by the technicalities of law, or degraded by the sophistries lawyers? Under such circumstances, would not law be made subservient to medicine, or, what is the same thing, mere precedent to scientific truth—the mere words of man to the glorious works of his Creator? In a word, would not mere art be made to fall prostrate before the natural or organic laws? The fact that the reverse of all this obtains to this hour is in every way sufficient to assure us that there is yet scope and opportunity for the medical reformer—for him who would venture on the responsible task of ameliorating the position of our own most honourable calling."

I am, etc., JAMES G. DAVEY.

Northwoods, Bristol, October 25th, 1862.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—DR. JAMES RUSSELL; DR. J. W. ROE; MR. C. W. WOOD; MR. ANTHONY MARTIN; DR. PARKES; DR. SKINNER; DR. STONE; DR. JOSEPH LANCASTER; MR. J. K. SPENDER; MR. WILSON; DR. HANDFIELD JONES; DR. FOWLER; MR. H. TERRY, jun.; THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY; MR. HAYNES WALTON; DR. E. COPENAN; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; MR. WILLIAM COPNEY; MR. F. JORDAN; and MR. T. M. STONE.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Contributions to Practical Medicine. By James Begbie, M.D., F.R.S.E. Edinburgh: 1862.
- Analysis of Two Hundred and Twenty Cases of Pulmonary Consumption. By William R. Hill, M.D. London: 1862.
- On Diseases of the Chest, including Diseases of the Heart and Great Vessels. By Henry William Fuller, M.D. London: 1862.
- On Diseases of the Skin. By Erasmus Wilson, F.R.S. Fifth edition. London: 1862.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Hospital for Sick Children, 49,

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November 1862.

S. WHITFORD, Secretary.

The London Medical Review

(enlarged eight pages) for November,

CONTAINS:—

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- "An Essay Towards a New Law of Healing,"—Part II.
- Dr. Inman, "Essays on Therapeutics."
- Mr. Ballard, "On the Convulsive Diseases of Infants."
- Dr. Roger, "Clinical Researches on Auscultation of the Head." (Translated by Alfred Meadows, M.D.)

ANALYTICAL AND CRITICAL REVIEWS.

- "Medical Climatology," by R. E. Scoresby-Jackson, M.D.
- "On Long, Short, and Weak Sight, and their Treatment, by the Scientific Use of Spectacles." By Soelberg Wells, M.R.C.S., M.D. Edin.
- Homeopathy, as practised in Manchester in Harmony with its alleged Principles, by J. Drummond, L.R.C.P.E., M.R.C.S.
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