

NEWS AND TOPICS OF THE DAY.

[Continued from page 1083.]

THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY has awarded the Copley Medal this year to M. Léon Foucault, for his various researches in Experimental Physics; and the two Royal Medals to Mr. John Russell Hind, for his discovery of ten Planetoids, the computation of their orbits, and various other astronomical discoveries; and to J. O. Westwood, Esq., President of the Entomological Society, for his various Monographs and Papers on Entomology.

MR. ORMOND OF BATH, an old and most highly esteemed practitioner of that city, being about to relinquish practice, and to leave Bath, it was determined by his professional friends to give him a dinner, as a mark of the high esteem and regard in which he has been held for so many years. The dinner took place on Thursday last, the 22nd instant, at the Castle Hotel, Bath. Twenty-four gentlemen sat down to the entertainment, including the guest. Mr. Norman presided; and everything passed off to the entire satisfaction of the party.

ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR THE CARE OF THE INCURABLY AFFLICTED. The first annual meeting of the subscribers to this charity was held at the London Tavern on Monday, November 26th, at noon, Alderman WIRE presiding. There was also an election of eight patients to be admitted into the hospital. The report, which was read by Mr. MILLARD, one of the directors, stated that up to this time twenty-two cases had been admitted to the benefits of the institution, which number would be increased by the election of this day to thirty. The directors might not speak of any cure, but they were happy to say that, in almost every case, a visible amendment had been obtained; care and kindness had produced contentment and hope, which were the best medicines of life. The various methods of relief which had been adopted worked admirably well, and the application of them was varied according to the circumstances of each particular case. Where a patient had no home, having survived his family connexions, a home was provided for him; but where the case might still nestle among its own friends, assistance was given to it from the institution, without destroying that natural source of comfort. The readiness with which both methods of relief had been sought was the best testimony to the wisdom of the arrangements. Although the times were forbidding, the state of the resources of the hospital was encouraging. A roomy dwelling had been obtained and furnished, a considerable household had been maintained, every expense had been met, and a small balance still remained in its favour. The financial account, which was audited by Mr. W. E. ARUNDEL and the Rev. W. WOODHOUSE, stated the amount of annual subscriptions at £341; the amount received for life subscriptions, £1,064; the donations and sundries, £316; received for cases admitted on payment, £110; total receipts for the year, £1,874:13:11. Alderman WIRE observed that the experiment of this institution in the first year had been very satisfactory. No other hospital of a similar character existed, and its funds ought to be rendered more than threefold what they were at present. There were indeed in London some good hospitals, where the first medical skill was employed in the cure of those who were received into them; but there was no asylum for the relief and comfort of those helpless persons who were dismissed as incurable. The chairman next called attention to the extensive results which had already been attained by the hospital with very small means, and to the economy with which it had been managed, referring particularly to the very small item of £91:8:8 for salaries and wages in the year. Nearly all the offices of the institution were performed gratuitously by those who had undertaken them; and the humane efforts of the medical staff deserved the highest honour. The money which the public might bestow would therefore be truly applied, not to the emolument of officials, but to the real benefit of the afflicted patients. On the motion of Mr. A. WOODHOUSE, the report was adopted. A vote of thanks to the treasurer was responded to by Mr. S. GURNEY, jun.; and Mr. J. V. TOWNSEND then moved a vote of thanks to the honorary secretary, the Rev. Andrew Reed, D.D., to whom the establishment of the hospital was mainly to be ascribed. On the motion of Mr. T. B. KING, thanks were given to the board of management; and it was re-constituted for the next year, the president-elect being the Earl of Harrowby, with an influential list of vice-presidents.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS and other COMMUNICATIONS for the JOURNAL should be directed to the private address of the Editor, 89, Curzon Street, May Fair.

TO CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that in future no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers always deter the reader from commencing them, this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from Mr. W. J. ANDERSON, Dr. C. M. BURNETT, Dr. BARKER, Mr. T. HOLMES, Mr. J. R. HUMPHREYS, Sir C. HASTINGS, Dr. COWAN, Dr. P. H. WILLIAMS, Dr. GOODE, Dr. D. H. TUKE, Mr. CANTRELL, Dr. F. J. BROWN, Mr. C. BARRETT.

A CORRESPONDENT asks—"Can an Overseer of the Poor of the Township give an order for the Medical Poor Law Officer to attend to any poor person taken ill, though the sick person is not at the time a pauper, but belongs to the township?"

"The following case occurred last week to the Medical Poor Law Officer of the adjoining district. A poor labouring man was taken very ill with paralysis and lock-jaw. The Overseer sent for the Medical Officer, and he refused to go to the case, because the man was not at the time a pauper receiving relief. The man was afterwards sent to the Liverpool Infirmary, and died."

"I contend that the Medical Officer was bound to attend to the order of the Overseer. I have been a Poor Law Medical Officer since the first formation of the Poor Law, and I have always attended to an Overseer's order, but not to the order of a Guardian. I think the question is of some moment, and therefore, if you can spare a corner next week, will you be pleased to insert this letter, with your answer, as well as leaving it open for other opinions." (Perhaps some of our readers will answer this question).

ADVERTISEMENTS.

On Wednesday next, will be published, in 1 vol. square post 8vo,
A Manual of the Domestic Practice
of MEDICINE. By W. B. KESTEVEN, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, &c.
London: LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, and LONGMANS.

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"We know of no volume that can be compared to the very elaborate treatise of Mr. Thompson, containing, as we think it does, all that is at present known upon the subject. It will doubtless be re-published in our country."—*New York Journal of Medicine.*

"Un ouvrage vraiment à part pour la valeur et le nombre des documents originaux sur lesquels ses conclusions se trouvent appuyées."—*Gaz. Hebdom. de Paris.*

London: JOHN CHURCHILL, New Burlington Street.

BONUS.

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