

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS. The annual *soirée* of the members and fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, held in commemoration of the bequest of Harvey, and of the gift to the College of the insignia of the office of President by Dr. Cairns, and also of the first convivial meeting of the fellows, took place on Saturday evening, July 12th. The library of the College was thrown open, and by 10 o'clock was filled by members of the medical profession and other visitors, among whom were the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Vice-Chancellor Sir J. Stuart, Mr. Cardwell, M.P., Mr. Serjeant Shree, Sir B. Brodie, etc. Around the room were arranged diagrams illustrating points of medical science, microscopes, stereoscopes, and various models of machinery, which afforded an opportunity to those present of noting new means by which mind can control and command matter. In the course of the evening, His Royal Highness Prince Albert, accompanied by Lord Torrington and Captain Purvis, attended the meeting. His Royal Highness was conducted through the building by Dr. Paris, President of the College, and evidently took great interest in the various models which were pointed out to him. The company separated shortly before 12 o'clock.

OPHTHALMOLOGY. A considerable amount of interest has been excited this week by the presence of M. Quadri, of Naples, at the various ophthalmic hospitals in London. M. Quadri has recently arrived from Vienna, and brought with him the latest improvements in this department of surgery, such as improved needles, ophthalmoscopes, lenses, etc., as adopted by Jäger and the Austrian surgeons. M. Quadri and the Italians use ether in place of chloroform, and place the patient sitting in a chair, as well as under the effect of belladonna. Mr. Bowman dispenses with both chloroform and atropine, as there is a tendency to vomiting induced, and evacuation of the vitreous humour, under the well known effect of the former, while the dilatation of the pupil by atropine leads, he thinks, to a wrinkling or tucking up of the delicate muscle of the iris, which is thus forced under the knife, and wounded. With reference to a point suggested in this JOURNAL as to the want of focus after operation for traumatic cataract, this deficiency is usually remedied by "cataract glasses;" but, as a rule, the difference is not much, as the part of the eye where the refrangibility is greatest, the relation of the external air to the cornea is, of course, not changed, while the vitreous humour which takes the place of the diseased lens differs very little from the latter in density. Mr. Bowman always operates with the patient in a reclining position, and thus, perhaps, very little of the denser humours of the eye are lost, and the "refractive index" of the entire organ remains almost unchanged.

IODIDE OF CADMIUM. This new preparation of iodine is coming into general use in hospital practice, in place of iodide of lead and iodide of zinc, as it makes a white ointment more effectual in dispelling glandular enlargements, and not so like paint as iodide of lead.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS and other COMMUNICATIONS for the JOURNAL should be directed to the private address of the Editor, 39, Curzon Street, May Fair.

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

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.

We have received the following answer to our query of last week, with reference to Vaccination fees:—"Sir, I can see no right the Board of Guardians have to refuse the fees for Vaccination under the circumstances mentioned by your correspondent. I and another Public Vaccinator have adopted the following plan for two years (and quite agreeable to the Guardians). To obviate any misunderstanding, we each vaccinate in our own district, at the residence of the child, or at our stations; but, if the parents wish their child to be vaccinated by me, and such child does not belong to my district, it must be brought to my house or station to be vaccinated, else I can make no charge to the Union. Any child vaccinated by me in the other district of the Union, at its own home, is considered a private case, and not to be paid by the Union. Name and address given, if necessary." "A UNION SURGEON."

BRANCH REPORTS. The North Wales, the Suffolk, and South-Western Meetings, shall appear next week, our space not permitting their insertion in the present number. We are obliged to defer numerous other papers for the same reason.

Communications have been received from:—MR. GEORGE KING; MR. ALFRED BAKER; MR. WM. COLLINS; DR. KIDD; MR. D. KENT JONES; UNION SURGEON; DR. SPENCER THOMPSON; MR. W. NEWHAM; MR. OLIVER PEMBERTON; MR. T. O'CONNOR; DR. J. JOHNSTONE; MR. J. V. SOLOMON; MR. J. S. BARTUM; MR. THOMAS NUNNELEY; MR. EDWIN SERCOMBE; MR. J. A. HINGESTON; DR. KIRKMAN; MR. W. E. CROWFOOT; DR. RANKING; DR. C. HANDFIELD JONES; DR. BROWN; MR. SAMUEL CRAMPTON; MR. W. C. WILLIAMSON; MR. JOSEPH WICKENDEN; MR. PIER CHAVASSE; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; MR. W. B. KESTIVEN; MR. W. TRENNERT; DR. JOHN ROULETON; DR. OWEN ROBERTS; MR. JONATHAN GRANT; and MR. W. J. SQUARE.

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