

NORTHAMPTON GENERAL INFIRMARY. The Annual Meeting of Governors was held at the Infirmary, on Saturday, the 2nd Aug. last; the Mayor of Northampton in the Chair. After some of the ordinary business of the court was disposed of, the proposition for an alteration in the rules was brought forward for consideration. It will be remembered that, at the quarterly court in May last, Dr. Faircloth gave notice of his intention to move that Rule 23 be erased, and that the following rule be established:—"That all elections shall be made by ballot, fifteen governors at least being present; and be decided by the majority; and that all other questions shall be determined by a show of hands, unless a ballot be demanded." Touching Rules 29 and 31, Dr. Faircloth also gave notice of the following proposition:—"To move for an alteration in Rules 29 and 30, by increasing the number of the honorary medical officers; and that, in the event of such last mentioned motion not being carried, to move that a committee be appointed to examine into the whole question of the medical arrangements of the Northampton Infirmary, to compare the existing rules with the present practice, and to consider whether any and what alterations may be made to increase the efficiency of the charity and the comfort of the patients, as well as to promote the advancement of medical and surgical science. That they be requested to report the result of their deliberations to the next quarterly court, and to take any other steps which may enable the governors to carry their recommendations into effect." Dr. Faircloth, having read his proposed alterations, said it had been his intention to have them fully discussed at this court; but, from what he had heard both before and since his entrance into that room, he understood that a suspicion existed that he was not altogether a disinterested person in the matter. He had determined, therefore, with the advice and concurrence of the seconder of his motion, not to ask the court that day to alter any of the rules as now existing. He felt that such propositions were not to be hurried; but he felt also that the time would soon come when such measures would not only be entertained, but must be carried. The institution, notwithstanding the increase of population, was now, as regards its medical staff, only in the same state as it was forty years ago; and, unless the governors were careful to make the hospital arrangements equal to those of other similar foundations, it would not be capable of that usefulness which they all had so much at heart. He was satisfied, however, that the time was not very far distant when the governors would not be content without a large and efficient medical staff, in the full vigour of mental and bodily proficiency; but he would merely say now, that the question having been once mooted, having been once begun to be agitated, it would never be set at rest until the rules received some such revision as he had proposed. He would now leave the question in the hands of the court, in the hope that it would soon be taken up by some governor whose position and influence would place him above the suspicion of interested motives. The propositions were then, by leave, withdrawn. (*Northampton Herald.*)

ANOTHER FATAL MISTAKE. A patient in the lunatic asylum at Lancaster, named Martha Lanton, met with her death on Tuesday last in consequence of the accidental administration of two tablespoonfuls of a preparation of opium, instead of an aperient medicine which had been prescribed for her. The poor woman was 37 years of age—thirteen of which had been spent in the asylum. She was unmarried, but laboured under an impression that she had been, and constantly wore a ring on her finger. It transpired that the bottle usually containing the aperient medicine had been filled, during the absence of the superintendent and his assistant, in the surgery on Monday, by the house porter, who had been in the situation twenty years, and who had frequently been in the habit of replenishing it, and in the place where it was kept was another large jar, of similar size and appearance, containing laudanum, and he had inadvertently filled the bottle from the wrong jar, without looking at the label to ascertain whether he was right or wrong. The coroner at the inquest, in addressing the jury, said there could be only one conclusion as to the manner in which deceased came to her death—an accidental one—but that there had also been great neglect was evident. Verdict accordingly.

H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT AND MADAME IDA PFEIFFER. It will be recollected that at the last meeting of the British Association, a grant of £20 was voted to Madame Pfeiffer towards prosecuting inquiries into the natural history of Madagascar; this coming to the ears of Prince Albert, His Royal Highness immediately forwarded to Professor Owen a further sum of £10 for the adventurous lady.

LIGATURE OF THE INTERNAL ILIAC ARTERY. Professor Mott has recently tied this artery for an enormous false aneurism of the gluteal artery. The patient was a healthy young woman, and the aneurism arose from a wound with a penknife through the thick part of the glutei muscles. This is a second time that this distinguished surgeon has tied this artery; both cases recovered.

PROFESSOR OWEN will deliver, early in the spring, a course of lectures, in the theatre of the Government School of Design, Jermyn Street, illustrative of the Fossil Remains contained in the British Museum.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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:—DR. KIDD; MR. T. W. CROSSE; MR. J. SEATON SMYTH; DR. W. MONRO; MR. E. GARRAWAY; DR. THOMAS HARRETT; DR. C. E. PRIOR; DR. ROULETON; DR. TOM GUY; MR. T. M. STONE; MR. G. M. HUMPHRY; THE LECTURERS AT THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL; MR. JOSEPH HINTON; MR. G. E. NICHOLAS; DR. NICOL; MR. T. HOLMES; MR. J. Z. LAURENCE; THE CENSUS COMMISSIONERS OF IRELAND; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; THE SECRETARY OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE; and DR. J. BOWER HARRISON.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

1. Unity General Assurance Association. An Address to the Shareholders and Connections of the Institution. By Edward Lloyd, M.D. Pamphlet. London: 1886.
2. The Science of Mind or Pneumatology. Vol. 1. London: Longman and Co. 1886.
3. Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Directors of James Murray's Royal Asylum for Lunatics, near Perth. Perth: 1886.
4. The Composition of Food, and how it is Adulterated, with Practical Directions for its Analysis. By W. Marcet, M.D. London: John Churchill. 1886.
5. The Treatment of Cancerous Diseases by Caustic: a Critical Inquiry into the Modern Therapeutics of Cancer. Being the Address in Surgery delivered at the Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association. By *Laugston Parker, Esq. London: John Churchill. Birmingham: Cornish Brothers. 1886.
6. Monthly Return of the Births, Deaths, and Marriages, Registered in the Eight Principal Towns of Scotland. August 1886.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

On the Anatomy of the Liver.—

Illustrated with 66 Photographs of the Author's Drawings. By LIONEL BEALE, M.B., Physician to King's College Hospital, Professor of Physiology and Morbid Anatomy in the College. 8vo. October 1st.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

The Microscope and its Application

to CLINICAL MEDICINE. 8vo. 232 Woodcuts. 10s. 6d.

The Medical Student a Student in

SCIENCE.—The Introductory Lecture delivered at King's College, October 1st, 1885. 1s. London: JOHN CHURCHILL.

Practical Demonstrations on the

URINE in HEALTH and DISEASE: its MICROSCOPICAL and CHEMICAL CHARACTERS. By LIONEL BEALE, M.B., Physician to King's College Hospital; Professor of Physiology and Morbid Anatomy in the College; on Monday and Friday Evenings, from 8 to 10 p.m. The Course to be delivered during the present Term will commence on Monday, Nov. 10, at Dr. Beale's Private Laboratory, 27, Carey Street, Lincoln's Inn, where a Syllabus may be obtained. Fee, £2 : 2.

Microscopical Manipulation and the

USE OF THE MICROSCOPE. A Practical Course of Six Lectures, on the above subject, will be delivered by LIONEL BEALE, M.B., Physician to King's College Hospital and Professor of Physiology in the College, on Wednesday evenings at 8 o'clock, commencing on Wednesday, November 5th, 1886. Gentlemen desirous of attending are requested to send their names and addresses to Dr. Beale's private Laboratory, 27, Carey Street, as early as possible. Fee £1 : 1.