

found. The expenses of the past year had necessarily been large in the printing and stationery department, and consequently, there was a balance due to your Treasurer. The committee recommended that in future the subscription of the members be five shillings, instead of two shillings and sixpence annually. The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:—*President*, Robert Hardey, Esq.; *Vice-President*, J. P. Bell, M.D.; *Other Members of Committee*, R. M. Craven, Esq., J. H. Gibson, Esq., K. King, M.D., H. Munroe, M.D.; *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer*, H. Carnley, M.B.

HEALTH OF LONDON—DECEMBER 31st, 1859.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

| | Births. | Deaths. |
|--|---|--------------|
| During week | { Boys..1035 Girls.. 923 } | 1958 .. 1677 |
| Average of corresponding weeks 1849-58 | 1595 | 1456 |
| Among the causes of death were— | bronchitis, 278; pneumonia, 151; asthma, 21; phthisis, 154; small-pox, 46; scarlatina, 65; diphtheria, 12; hooping-cough, 50. The deaths from pulmonary diseases (exclusive of phthisis) were 470, being 176 above the corrected average. Of 66 persons who died at the age of 80 and upwards, 6 were nonagenarians. Of bricklayers, 4 died in the week, of bricklayers' wives, 0, of bricklayers' children, 8; of carpenters, 8 died, of carpenters' wives, 3, of carpenters' children, 14; of masons' wives, 1, of masons' children, 2; of painters, 9 died, of painters' wives, 5, of painters' children, 6; of plasterers, 3 died, of plasterers' wives, 3, of plasterers' children, 5. | |
| Barometer: | | |
| Highest (Sat.) 29.580; lowest (Mon.) 28.799; mean 29.32 in. | | |
| Thermometer: | | |
| In sun—highest (Sat.) 56.5 degrees; lowest (Sun.) 43.0 degrees. | | |
| In shade—highest (Sat.) 56.5 degrees; lowest (Tues.) 34.0 degrees. | | |
| Mean—45.3 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs. +8.4 degrees. | | |
| Range—during week, 22.5 degrees; mean daily, 8.8 degrees. | | |
| Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 93. | | |
| Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.97. | | |

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A QUESTION OF PRECEDENCE. The following case has been submitted to us. A.B. has been a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons since February 1826, and a Licentiate of Apothecaries' Hall since May 1825: he became a Fellow of the College in 1856 (by payment), and since then has practised exclusively as consulting surgeon.

C.D. became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons and Licentiate of the Apothecaries' Hall in 1847, and is now in full general practice.

Is there any difference between the two gentlemen as to preference? Does the Fellowship take priority of standing, or rank before Member?

In answering these questions, we do not clearly see whether we are to regard the first both as applying to professional skill, or, as the second, to simple precedence in the profession. If the first question relates to professional skill, then, *a priori*, A.B. would have the first place: because, by his having been longer in the profession, he may be supposed to have enjoyed and profited by more opportunities than C.D. of acquiring practical knowledge. But it is possible that in this matter C.D. may be superior; and, therefore, as we know nothing of the relative merits of the parties, we can only give a qualified answer. As to the matter of precedence, a Fellow of a College takes rank before a Member, on the ground that his possession of the title of Fellow implies that he has obtained a recognition of professional attainments of a superior order. It is by no means to be supposed that all Fellows are absolutely superior to all Members, any more than that all Doctors of Medicine are superior in attainments to all Bachelors of Medicine. The fact, however, of having a title which *a priori* implies superior attainments gives precedence to the holder.

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

POSTAGE OF MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED MATTER.

Any amount of manuscript or printed matter, singly or together, provided it contains nothing in the form of a written letter, is transmitted through the post, in packets open at the ends, at the following rates: not exceeding 4 ounces, one penny; above 4 and not exceeding 8 ounces, twopenny; above 8 ounces and not exceeding 1 pound, fourpence; for every additional half-pound or under, twopenny.

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENTS should always enclose their names to the Editor; not for publication, but in token of good faith: No attention can be paid to communications not thus authenticated.

Communications have been received from:—MR. ATHOL A. JOHNSON; MR. FRICHSEN; MR. F. H. HARTSHORNE; MR. PEARSON; SIR CHAS. HASTINGS; DR. B. W. RICHARDSON; DR. T. H. BARKER; MR. G. MALETT; DR. WM. BEED; MR. DIX; MR. HOLTHOUSE; DR. O'BRYEN; MR. W. M. CLARKE; MR. F. JORDAN; DR. C. H. JONES; DR. H. CARNLEY; MR. THOMPSON; DR. W. CAMPS; DR. J. W. WATKINS; MR. W. E. CASS; DR. PURSELL; MR. R. S. FOWLER; DR. WHITEHEAD; DR. J. B. GILBERTSON; MR. L. HARRISON; DR. J. B. PITT; DR. FAYE; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; MR. C. S., L.S.A., and a MEMBER OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION; and DR. BIRCH.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

1. On the Injurious Effects of Mercury in the Treatment of Disease. By S. O. Habershon, M.D. London: Churchill. 1860.
2. Essays in Medical Science. I. On the Nature of Inflammation. II. On the Encephalic Circulation, and its Relation to the Physiology of the Brain. By James Copple, M.D. Edinburgh: Sutherland and Knox. London: Simpkin, Marshall, & Co. 1859.
3. Religious Revivals in Relation to Nervous and Mental Disorders. By J. J. Stevenson Bushnan, M.D. London: Churchill. 1860.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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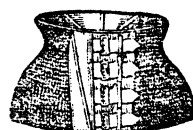
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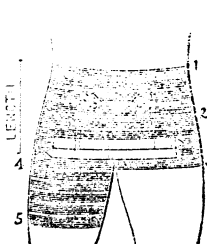
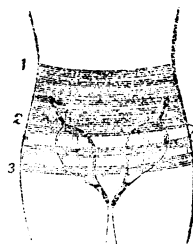
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MR. BOURJEAUD, in submitting the accompanying Diagrams, presents his best thanks to the Members of the Medical Profession for their unceasing support of his invention of the Spiral Elastic Compressorial Principle in Surgical Appliances, and for the continuance of innumerable recommendations in all parts of the kingdom, at the same time he feels it incumbent upon him to remind his friends, that this Invention was registered by him in February 1848, and, immediately after, advertised in the Medical Journals, thus affording an undeniable contradiction to the assertions of the unblushing appropriators of his principle, who have never appeared till within the last three and a half years, and yet style themselves Patentees, Registrars, etc., of the Spiral Principle. The advantage of qualifying antecedents, and being a Member of the Surgical Profession, have enabled Mr. B., by confining his attention to the superintendence of the manufacture and adjustment of his appliances, to attain great proficiency; and he considers it essential, especially in difficult cases, that patients should be attended by himself or his assistants, and if not practicable, by a Member of the Profession, as it must be admitted to be exceedingly hazardous for the suffering to entrust their limbs or cases of hernia to persons totally ignorant of anatomical or physiological laws.

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