

**THE SPOLENS.** There is really some show of justice in the continued demands of the *Cork Constitution* for further inquiry into the allegations preferred against Spollen's wife by Mr. Curran in the course of his able defence of the prisoner. Following up its recent remarks upon this branch of the case, the *Cork paper* asks,

"Is a woman publicly impeached of having attempted to procure the execution of her husband to remain at large? Is there to be no trial, no inquiry, no investigation of the grounds on which the accusation was preferred? If the Attorney-General sleeps shall the press sleep? Are our Dublin contemporaries to suffer the startling statement of Mr. Curran to be forgotten? Is it not better worth their attention than were the host of 'rumours' on which they expended so much speculation? Then why are they silent? There is a clue to the murder. Either Spollen was the murderer, or Mrs. Spollen knows who was. There is no escaping that dilemma. How, without knowledge of the murderer, could she have told where the plunder was deposited! How could her statements to the police have been verified and their search for it have been successful? How, moreover, did Spollen's razor get into the canal? We put these questions merely to show that if Spollen is innocent, Mrs. Spollen has a secret in her possession which ought not to be left there, and that if he is not innocent, she ought not to be made the victim of the foulest calumny ever uttered against a mother and a wife. No license can excuse, no exigency can justify it. Either it is true, and she is worse, more heartless, more hardened, more infamous than the shedder of Mr. Little's blood; or it is false, and — but we must not trust ourselves with the inference. Be it which it may, it is the duty of the law officers to search it out, and the duty of the press to keep them to it. Wherever the accusation is believed, that woman stands in a more undesirable position than Spollen stood in before he was arraigned; and ought this to be so and she still at large? Is that the result we look for from legal process in superior courts? Is one to be acquitted that mother, unconvicted and unquestioned, may be condemned?" *Times Correspondent.*

**VENTILATION BY THE STEAM JET.** A somewhat novel application of the steam jet, for the purpose of ventilating a coal mine, has just been made by Mr. F. H. Pearce, of the Bowling Ironworks, near Bradford. The *Leeds Mercury* gives the following account of the application: "The application is at present in operation in a pumping shaft, 120 yards in depth, the ventilation of which had been stopped by the water rising at the bottom of the pit during the time some alterations were being made in the pumps. The water having stopped the air-courses, the pit, to within a few yards of the top, became full of the gas known to miners as black or choke damp, which appears to have been discharged freely from some old workings, and thus it was rendered an impossibility for the workmen to descend until the removal of the gas had been effected, and a constant current of pure air produced in the pit. Mr. Pearce has succeeded in maintaining so perfect a ventilation of the above-mentioned pit, simply by allowing a small jet of steam to issue into the atmosphere at a few feet from the top of the pipes through which the water is forced up when the pumps are at work, and the pit can be worked with perfect safety. The workmen were enabled to descend thirty minutes after the steam had been turned into the pipes. The principle is exceedingly simple. The jet of steam issuing from the top of the pipes produces in them a partial vacuum, which draws the foul air up these pipes, and thence out of the pit, with very great velocity. The cost of applying the steam jet in the above manner is very trifling; and this method of ventilation will, doubtless, be found a very safe and useful one in many instances, particularly in sinking deep shafts. In addition to other advantages, wood or any other kind of pipes may be used. It requires little or no attention, no machinery to get out of repair, produces a powerful current of air, and can be regulated at pleasure. As the steam is discharged into the atmosphere above the top of the pit, it does not interfere with the men working in the shaft."

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

### 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 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, twopence; above 8 ounces and not exceeding 1 pound, fourpence; for every additional half-pound or under, twopence.

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.

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.

We are obliged to Mr. Garstang for his communication, but we think the subject has been sufficiently discussed already.

Mr. NATHANIEL CRISP, by referring to the Hospital Reports of August 8th, will find a detailed account of the death from Amylone at St. George's Hospital; and in the same department of this week's paper, he will find an account of the death from Chloroform at King's College Hospital.

Communications have been received from:—Mr. T. HOLMES; DR. MACKINDER; DR. C. HANFIELD JONES; MR. STONE; MR. R. L. BOWLES; MR. C. BADER; MR. WALTER GARSTANG; MR. AUGUSTIN PRICHARD; MR. NATHANIEL COATS; MR. NATHANIEL CRISP; MR. R. WOOD; MR. GEORGE YATES; DR. J. HITCHMAN; and DR. JOSEPH STONE.

## BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

1. On Mineral Waters; their Physical and Medicinal Properties. By Robert Mortimer Glover, M.D. London: Henry Renshaw. pp. 375.
2. A Key to the Adulteration of our Daily Food. Compiled by William Dalton. London: Published by F. Marlborough & Co. 1857.
3. Metropolitan Workhouses and their Inmates. London: Longmans. 1857.
4. La Vaccine: ses Conséquences Funestes, démontrées par les Faits, les Observations, l'Anatomie pathologique, et l'Arithmétique. Réponse au Questionnaire Anglais relatif à la Vaccine, adressé aux Académies par la Chambre des Communes d'Angleterre. Paris, &c. Baillières. 1857.

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