

Fraser. mson, Perth; etc. During the evening, Dr. W. T. Gairdner delivered an interesting lecture on "Periodicity in Disease". He reviewed the facts connected with the diurnal, annual, monthly, and weekly periods, and noticed the medical opinions regarding critical days and climacteric years. The opinions expressed were somewhat to the following effect:—Daily and annual periodicity were regarded as proved by numerous facts; the former, as regards man and other animals alike; the latter, chiefly as regards the lower animals and the vegetable kingdom. Dr. Gairdner considered the physiological explanation of these facts to be found in the habits of existence impressed upon living creatures by the solar revolution. Monthly periodicity, as connected with the lunar revolution, was much more doubtful; and, in particular, neither menstruation nor pregnancy could be interpreted as corresponding with the period of the lunation. As regards weekly periods in the phenomena of life, Dr. Gairdner could find not a trace of real evidence; though abundance of medical superstition had accumulated about the weekly period, chiefly from its being an exemplification of the mystic number seven, so much regarded in the Pythagorean philosophy, and forming so large a part of the doctrine of climacteric years, as well as of critical days. These doctrines Dr. Gairdner next analysed, bringing to bear on their illustration the statements of those ancient writers by whom they had been chiefly established; and which were found to be self-contradictory, as well as opposed to modern experience in great part, leaving a very small foundation, if any, for the doctrines in question. It is impossible, within the limits of a notice such as this, to give more than an idea of the subjects treated of; the whole being viewed by Dr. Gairdner rather as a chapter in the history of the human mind, than as a strictly medical subject, possessing a practical interest for physicians. At the conclusion of the lecture, a vote of thanks was given to Dr. Gairdner, on the motion of Professor Pillans, seconded by Mr. J. M. Bell.

ACTION FOR MALPRACTICE IN AMERICA. The following instance of gross injustice towards a medical practitioner is reported in the *North American Medico-Chirurgical Review* for January 1858, as having occurred in one of the interior towns of the state of Pennsylvania. A man, by an accident, suffered fracture of the thigh-bone. His family physician was called in, who, not wishing to take the entire responsibility of the case, sent for another practitioner, Dr. W. McM., to see the case with him in consultation. The latter resided six miles from the patient, and partly on account of sickness in his own person, the *expectant* condition of his wife, and partly on account of the inconvenience of attending an important case so far away, refused to obey the summons. Upon the report of this to the injured man and his physician, they directed the messenger to return to Dr. McM., and say to him, that he must come, if only for once. Such was the urgency of the appeal, that Dr. McM. consented to go, but with the expressed intention of paying but a single visit. Arriving at the house, he positively refused to take charge of the patient, but agreed to dress the limb, which having done with the assistance of the family physician, he left the case in the hands of the latter. The splints were taken off on the tenth week, and it was proved that up to that time the treatment had been proper in every particular. However, deformity subsequently took place, and the family physician having left the village, Dr. McM. was prosecuted by the patient, and mulcted in the sum of five hundred dollars and costs. The point which the prosecuting party urged, and upon which the verdict was grounded, was, that a physician or surgeon having once visited a patient, could not discharge himself without the consent of the patient, no matter what the circumstances under which the visit was made, or what the physician's previous intentions or motives; and that, therefore, Dr. McM., through culpable neglect, was responsible for the deformity of the patient's limb.

NORTH LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETY. The Annual Meeting of this Society took place on Wednesday evening, February 10th, when the oration was delivered by Dr. J. Russell Reynolds. The following officers for the ensuing year were then elected: President—John Erichsen, Esq. Vice-Presidents—W. Jenner, M.D.; C. J. Hare, M.D.; T. Hillier, M.D.; John Hainworth, Esq. Treasurer—Wm. Adams, Esq. Hon. Secretary—Robert Charles Croft, Esq. Councillors—J. R. Reynolds, M.D.; Edw. Cousins, Esq.; Wm. Catlin, Esq.; M. Davis, M.D.; E. Greenhalgh, M.D.; T. Carr Jackson, Esq.; C. F. J. Lord, Esq.; R. S. Myers, Esq.; P. Magenis, Esq.; Robert Burford, Esq.

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.

J. C. C. The preliminary examination for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in England is held twice a year, in April and October. Information regarding the subjects of examination, and all other particulars, may be obtained from Mr. Belfour, the Secretary to the College.

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. J. DULVEY; DR. MC WILLIAM; MR. R. C. CROFT; DR. F. J. BROWN; DR. TOM GUY; DR. CORFE; MR. J. S. BARTRUM; THE SECRETARY OF THE HARVEIAN SOCIETY; MR. HOLMES COOTE; MR. J. A. HINGESTON; MR. T. SMITH; DR. ROUTH; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; MR. THOMAS HUNT; MR. THURNELL; DR. SLOANE; MR. BEECROFT; DR. G. GODDARD ROGERS; MR. GRIFFIN; MR. T. HOLMES; MR. CROSBY LEONARD; DR. BROWN-SÉGUARD; DR. SYMONDS; MR. R. TAYLOR; MR. H. G. TREND; DR. J. WATTS; DR. GRANTHAM; DR. BRINTON; and MR. D. G. NIVEN.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- [* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]
1. The Ganglionic Nervous System; its Structure, Functions, and Diseases. By James George Davey, M.D. London: John Churchill. 1858.
 2. An Introduction to Practical Chemistry, including Analysis. By John E. Bowman, F.C.S. Edited by Charles L. Buxton, Professor of Practical Chemistry in King's College, London. Third Edition. London: John Churchill. 1858.
 3. On Cough: its Causes, Varieties, and Treatment. With some Practical Remarks on the Use of the Stethoscope as an Aid to Diagnosis. By Robert Hunter Semple, M.D. London: John Churchill. 1858.
 4. Journal de la Physiologie de l'Homme et des Animaux, publié sous la direction du Docteur E. Brown-Séquard. Tome premier. Paris: J. B. Bailliére et Fils. 1858.
 5. The Necessity for some Legalised Arrangements for the Treatment of Dipsomania; or the Drinking Insanity. By Alexander Poddie, M.D. Pamphlet. Edinburgh: Sutherland & Knox. 1858.
 6. Report of the Trial of John Thomson, alias Peter Walker, before the Circuit Court of Justiciary at Glasgow, 22nd to 24th December, 1857, for the Murder of Agnes Montgomery by Prussian Acid, and subsequent Administration of Prussian Acid to Agnes Stenhouse, or Mason and Archibald Mason. With Introductory Observations on the Medico-Legal Points of the Case. By Hugh Cowan, Advocate. Edinburgh: Constable & Co. 1858.

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The Council of the Royal Medical Benevolent College have the pleasure

to inform the Governors and Friends of the Institution that the SIXTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL will take place at the FREEMASONS' TAVERN, on Wednesday the 24th of March next, when the Right Honorable the LORD STANLEY, M.P., has kindly consented to take the Chair. The following Noblemen and Gentlemen have undertaken to officiate as Stewards on the occasion.

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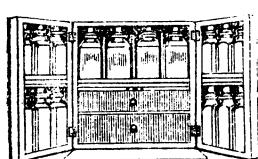
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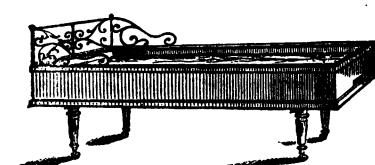
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