

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. THURNALL; DR. SLOANE; MR. BEECROFT; DR. G. GODDARD ROGERS; MR. GRIFFIN; MR. T. HOLMES; MR. CROSBY LEONARD; DR. BROWN-SÉQUARD; 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 Davy, 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. Bloxam, 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. Baillière et Fils. 1858.
5. The Necessity for some Legalised Arrangements for the Treatment of Dipsomania; or the Drinking Insanity. By Alexander Peddie, 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 Prussic Acid, and subsequent Administration of Prussic 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.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

### Wines from South Africa.—Port,

SHERRY, etc., TWENTY SHILLINGS per Dozen.

These Wines, the produce of a British Colony, which has escaped the Vine Disease (the vintage occurring in February may account for the same), are, in consequence, wholesome, and are warranted free from acidity and brandy, and are admitted by Her Majesty's Customs at half-duty, hence the low price. Patronized and highly approved of by several hospitals and public institutions.

A Pint Sample Bottle of each for 24 Stamps, bottles included. Packages allowed for when returned.

EXCELSIOR BRANDY, Pale or Brown, 15s. per gallon, or 30s. per dozen. TERMS—CASH.

Country orders must contain a remittance. Cheques to be crossed "Bank of London".

J. L. DENMAN, Wine and Spirit Importer, 65, Fenchurch Street, London. Counting-house entrance, first door on the left up Railway Place.

"Mr. J. L. Denman now supplies these Wines at 20s. per dozen, and it gives us much pleasure confidently to recommend them to our readers."—*Vide John Bull*, Jan. 17th, 1857.

"We have taken the trouble to try Mr. Denman's wines, and have also submitted them to several of the clergy, and the opinion formed is that they are worthy of being patronized."—*Clerical Journal*, October 22, 1857.

BOWLES and SONS, Label and General Printers, Lithographers, and Engravers, 27, BUCKLESBURY (near the Mansion House), E.C., and 274, Whitechapel Road, London. Established nearly 30 years.

### Surgeons' Dispensing Labels. —

Members of the Medical Profession requiring gummed Dispensing Labels, either in their own practice or for use in Hospitals, Dispensaries, Unions, etc., are respectfully informed that BOWLES and SONS are prepared to supply Labels of that description, well printed on superfine cream post paper, cut ready for use, in any quantity, and at reasonable prices.

BOWLES and SONS solicit particular attention to their NEW ENGRAVED LABELS. Plates for many of the leading sorts they have already engraved, and will continue to add others from time to time, as may be required. The price is 4d. per 100, or 3s. per 1000.

Letter-press Dispensing Labels, 2d. per 100, 1s. 8d. per 1000; ditto, with name and address, 3s. per 1000.

A List of the DISPENSING LABELS which BOWLES and SONS keep in stock, forwarded to any part of the kingdom, post free.

CHEMISTS' LABELS, etc., in great variety. Catalogues and Books of Specimens may be had on application.

SURGEONS' ACCOUNT NOTES. Specimens on application.

# ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

(INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT.)

PATRON—HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

PRESIDENT—THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL MANVERS.

VISITOR—THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER.

TREASURER—JOHN PROPERT, Esq.

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.

The Right Honourable the Earl of Huntingdon  
The Right Honourable the Viscount Boyne  
Sir John Forbes, M.D., D.C.L., F.R.S., Old Burlington Street  
The Rev. John Jennings, M.A., Canon of Westminster  
The Rev. P. Melancthon Holden, St. Paul's Chapel, Gt. Portland Street  
Michael T. Bass, Esq., M.P., Burton-on-Trent  
H. Wentworth Acland, M.D., F.R.S., Oxford  
J. D. Allcroft, Esq., Wood Street, Cheapside  
Henry Allsopp, Esq., Burton-on-Trent  
Richard Bagge, Esq., Gaywood Hall, Lynn  
Henry Bennet, M.D., Grosvenor Street  
Henry Blenkarn, Esq., Dowgate Hill  
George Bottomley, Esq., Croydon  
R. Willson Brown, Esq. (Hon. Local Secretary), Bath  
Charles Browning Esq., Dorset Place  
Walter Bryant, Esq., Bathurst Street, Hyde Park  
William Carr, Esq. (Hon. Local Secretary), Blackheath  
Nathaniel Clifton, Esq., Cross Street, Islington  
Edward N. Clifton, Esq., Russell Place, Fitzroy Square  
Edward Cock, Esq., Guy's Hospital  
Charles Collambell, Esq., (Hon. Local Secretary), Lambeth Terrace  
Thomas R. Colledge, M.D., Cheltenham  
George Cooper, Esq., (Hon. Local Secretary), Brentford  
Charles Cotton, M.D., Lynn  
C. Ilderton Croft, Esq., Laurence Pountney Hill  
Henry Curling, Esq., Ramsgate  
George Thomas Dale, Esq., Pembroke Place  
William Dalton, Esq. (Hon. Local Sec.), Cheltenham  
Francis Davies, Esq. (Hon. Local Secretary), Pershore  
Horatio G. Day, Esq. (Hon. Local Sec.), Isleworth  
Charles Drage, M.D. (Hon. Local Sec.), Hatfield  
Frederick du Croz, Esq., The Grange, Kingston  
Robert Dunn, Esq., Norfolk Street

Richard D. Edgecumbe, Esq., Shaftesbury Crescent  
George Fincham, Esq., Marlborough Hill  
John W. Fisher, M.D., Grosvenor Gate  
Harry Luke Gibbs, M.D., Exeter  
Frederick Goodchild, M.D., Princess's Terrace  
Charles Gardiner Guthrie, Esq., Pall Mall East  
Henry Hancock, Esq., Harley Street  
Richard Hassall, M.D., Richmond  
John Vincent Hawkins, M.D., Lynn  
Francis Hird, Esq., Clifford Street  
W. C. Hoffmeister, M.D. (Hon. Local Secretary), Cowes  
George C. Jonson, Esq., Eaton Place South  
T. Marsters Kendall, Esq. (Hon. Local Sec), Lynn  
Edward F. Leeks, Esq., F.L.S., St. George's Road  
J. C. W. Lever, M.D., Wellington Street  
Charles F. J. Lord, Esq., Hampstead  
B. B. Orridge, Esq., Bucklersbury  
Thomas Paget, Esq., Leicester  
George Pinckard, Esq., St. James's Square  
J. J. Power, M.D. (Hon. Local Secretary), Maidstone  
John Propert, Esq., New Cavendish Street  
Joseph Ridge, M.D., Dorset Square  
William Sankey, Esq. (Hon. Local Secretary), Dover  
D. Scannell, Esq., Chapel Street, Belgrave Square  
J. O. Smetham, Esq., Mayor of Lynn  
Thomas H. Smith, Esq. (Hon. Local Secretary), St. Mary Cray  
William E. Snow, Esq., Tredegar Square  
Henry Sterry, Esq., Paragon, New Kent Road  
Somerset Tibbels, Esq., Cheltenham  
Richard Tippetts, Esq., Dartford  
Francis Webb, Esq., Chancery Lane  
Erasmus Wilson, Esq., F.R.S., Henrietta Street  
R. Stanton Wise, M.D. (Hon. Local Secretary), Banbury

Office, 37, Soho Square, London,  
16th February, 1858.

By order of the Council.

ROBERT FREEMAN, Secretary.  
HERBERT WILLIAMS, Assist.-Sec.

## A Perusal of all the New Books as soon as published for

ONE GUINEA PER ANNUM.

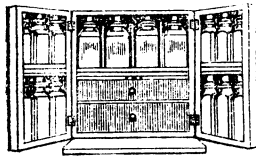
### LEWIS'S MEDICAL LIBRARY, 15, GOWER STREET NORTH.

Books may be retained as long, or exchanged as frequently, as suits the convenience of Subscribers.

*Medical Book Clubs supplied on the following terms:—*

TWO GUINEAS per annum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Four Volumes at a time.
THREE GUINEAS per annum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Seven Volumes at a time.
FIVE GUINEAS per annum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Fourteen Volumes at a time.
TEN GUINEAS per annum ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Thirty Volumes at a time.

PROSPECTUSES ON APPLICATION.



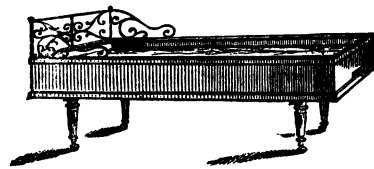
### Medicine Chests.—

MARSH & GRIFFITHS, LATE  
SPRINGWEILER, 2, Duke Street,  
Smithfield, London, E.C.

Chests from 3s. 6d. to £10.

Ship Chests according to Act of Parliament.

Established Fifty Years.



### Dr Arnott's

FLOATING  
WATER BEDS, the  
New Elastic Hot and  
Cold Water Beds and  
Cushions, the Adjust-  
ing Bed. All kinds of  
Hospital and Invalid  
Appliances, Waterproof  
Sheeting, etc. Beds let

hire. Prices and particulars furnished on application.

EDWARD SPENCER and Co., 18, Billiter Street, London, E.C.

### Home for Invalids, or Persons re-

quiring Care and Attendance during Surgical Operations.—A Lady, of great experience, has opened this establishment, and is permitted to refer to the most eminent London physicians and surgeons.—Address, the Lady Superintendent, 24, Queen Square, Bloomsbury.

### Great Saving in the Purchase of

SIX GROSS of NEW MEDICAL GLASS BOTTLES and PHIALS, assorted to suit the convenience of Purchasers, at S. ISAACS & SON, Glass Bottle Manufacturers—London Warehouse, 6, Warren St., Tottenham Court Rd.

6 and 8 oz., any shape, plain, or graduated .....	8s. 0d. per gross.
3 and 4 oz. ditto .....	7s. 6d. "
1 oz. Moulded Phials .....	4s. 6d. "
1 oz. ditto .....	5s. 6d. "
1½ oz. ditto .....	6s. 0d. "
2 oz. ditto .....	7s. 0d. "

A remittance not required till the Goods are received. Packages free. Immediate attention to Country Orders. Post-office Orders payable to S. ISAACS and SON, at the Post Office, Tottenham Court Road, London. Bankers—The Unity Bank.