

annual expenses of the hospitals and hospices amount to eleven and a half million *francs* (£460,000). Seventeen thousand orphans or deserted children are also provided for, instructed, and placed in situations, at an annual public expense of two million three hundred thousand *francs* (£92,000). Domiciliary aid is given to seventy thousand persons, under the direction of one hundred and forty-four administrators, a larger number of *commissaires*, one hundred and forty-seven sisters of charity, one hundred and fifty-nine physicians, and sixty *employés* of various grades; the annual expense being three million seven hundred thousand *francs* (£148,000). The expenses of the administration of public aid amounted, in 1856, to fifteen million six hundred thousand *francs* (£624,000).

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN RUSSIA. By a recent decree of the Emperor of Russia, students in medicine who have passed their examinations must, before being definitely nominated to the grade of medical officers of towns or districts, pass two years as *médecins aspirants* in an hospital in St. Petersburg. During this time they will receive practical instruction in surgery, pharmacy, analytical chemistry, pathological anatomy and microscopy, legal medicine, and medical police. They will have, under superintendence, to treat all classes of disease; and will have opportunities of perfecting themselves in practical midwifery and other branches of medical art. During this time they will be in the service of the empire, and will receive an annual salary of two hundred silver rubles. At the end of the two years they will be reported to the medical department of the minister of the interior, who will provisionally appoint them for another period of two years as town or district medical officers. Finally, a third year in which they will hold the appointment will be occupied in drawing up the medical topography of the place in which they reside and of the neighbourhood. They will be placed according to the relative merits of these *specimina eruditionis practica*; and this will be the basis of their future advancement.

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.

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.

NOTICE.—DR. WYNTER will feel obliged if the Associates will address all Post Office Orders in payment of Subscriptions, to the Publisher, Mr. THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W. C., "Bloomsbury Branch"; and he would also feel obliged by their sending all communications respecting the non-receipt of the Journal, to the same address; as both these matters are out of the province of the Editor.

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

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.

March 27, 1858.

Sir,—If you should think the following account of a somewhat peculiar condition of the Brain, arising from the sudden translation of the Gout in the toe to the head, worthy a place in your columns, you may probably be inclined to tolerate the poetry for the sake of the physiological information it conveys. I would merely premise, in more sober prose that, whilst suffering slightly from incipient Gout in the toe, I had employed myself for two or three hours writing at an open window. In the evening of the same day, I was seized with the most violent pain in the ear. The pain continuing most intense, I requested the medical friend who attended me to lance the part, and shortly afterwards I was seized with unmistakable periodic gouty attacks in the head. During the most severe of these exacerbations I was irresistibly impelled toward the condition of mental excitement detailed in

the following lines, which were written at the acme of the agony, but, strange to say, proved my best remedy. Truly we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

A MARTYR'S APPEAL TO THE GOUTY KELPIE.*

Oh! this is nae my ain head,
Fair tho' the noddle be,
Weel ken I my ain head,
Wi' its crooked neb and yellow ee.

I canna eat, I canna drink,
I'm on the lea thrown right abaft;
I'm aye compell'd to think and think,
Till, faith! I feel me a'most daft.

Come out, ye little wandering elf,
That's toddling but and toddling ben,†
And taks the place of my ain self
To rob me o' my wits, I ken.

What do you here within my noddle,
Sae troublesome to mak me greet?
Down, down below I pray ye toddle,
And bide a wee within my feet.

And as ye are a selfish imp,
As every gouty creature knows,
Content yourself to mak me limp,
And play your pranks amang my toes.

Moral.—Ware the lancet.

Hail the ease from counterexcitement.

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER AND RETIRED PRACTITIONER.

* Scotticè = a mischievous spirit.

† But and ben = kitchen and parlour, or stomach and brain.

Communications have been received from:—DR. G. GODDARD ROGERS; MR. T. HOLMES; MR. JOHN WINDSOR; MR. HOLMES COOTE; DR. JOHN SNOW; MR. W. F. CLEVELAND; AN OLD SUBSCRIBER AND A RETIRED PRACTITIONER; DR. ROUTH; DR. ADAM MARTIN; MR. F. FRY; MR. ALBERT LLES; DR. O. MARKHAM; MR. HANKS; and MR. E. BARKER.

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British Medical Association.

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PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, General Secretary.

Worcester, January 7th, 1858.