

## THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF JOURNALISM.

A FEW nights ago the following heading appeared to a paragraph in the *Pal Mall Gazette*: "A Sane Man confined in a Madhouse." In it was alleged that a pauper, after some apparently rough usage in a workhouse, was removed to Cane Hill Asylum. The person was carefully examined on admission by a resident physician, and was reported by him to be sane. Dr. Moody then went closely into the case, and formed the same opinion; not only so, but he revisited the patient himself at a later hour of the same evening, and confirmed his opinion of the patient's sanity. Dr. Moody, however, very properly gave the poor man accommodation for the night, as to have turned him out would have been gross inhumanity. On the following morning steps were taken with all due speed to have the patient removed. All this the reporter sets forth very fairly, and we accept his statements. But may we not, then, fairly ask the editors of evening papers whether sensational headings of the kind we have quoted are in accordance with the traditions of careful journalism? To speak of Cane Hill Asylum as a "madhouse" is, in our opinion, deliberately to import prejudice into such a case; no less so is it to begin the paragraph with a reference to the outrageous and baseless fictions of the late Charles Reade on a subject on which public feeling is acutely sensitive. Taken as it stood, the story was one of little more than official interest, unless it were in respect of the action of the workhouse authorities, from whom the sensational headlines actually tended to divert attention.

## SODEN FUND.

MR. W. F. BROOK (Mount Pleasant, Swansea) Honorary Secretary to this fund, sends the following additional subscriptions, reached since the statement as to the case and the first list of subscriptions was published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

Second List, up to January 2nd, 1894.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Ed. Cureton, Shrewsbury	0 10 6	H. T. Butlin, 82, Harley St.	1 0 0
G. C. Franklin, Leicester	0 5 0	F. Bond, M.D., Gloucester	0 5 0
Wm. Berry, Dijon	0 5 0	Alf. Freer, Stourbridge	0 10 6
Telford Smith, M.D., Lancaster	0 1 0	Wm. Price, M.B., Cardiff	1 0 0
Alfred Haines, Birkenhead	0 10 0	Surgeon-Col. Harris, M.D., Calcutta	2 2 0
W. Edmunds, 75, Lambeth Palace Road	1 1 0	W. F. Brook, Fareham	0 10 6
H. Stear, Saffron Walden	1 1 0	F. T. Clarke, Leamington	1 1 0
Sir Henry Thompson, 35, Wimpole Street	2 2 0	"H." Birmingham	0 10 0
S. H. Agar, Henley in Arden	0 10 0	W. E. Parkes, M.D., Birmingham	0 10 6
		W. H. Folker, Hanley	0 10 6
		Total	£14 5 6

## AUTOMATIC WRITING—A CORRECTION.

DR. A. CAMPBELL CLARK (Kirklands Asylum, Bothwell) writes: In boiling down my article on "Automatic Writing" an obscurity of expression is the result at the top of page 37, right-hand column. What I really wrote was: "Further, he (Mr. Stead) observes: 'It requires a good deal of training to acquire the necessary power of concentration of thought, of passiveness of the will, etc.' Now all psychologists will agree that these two conditions are incompatible, that concentration of thought implies more or less exercise of will, not suspension of it."

## THE OPIUM QUESTION.

WE have received a communication from Surgeon-General Partridge commenting on the summary of documentary evidence concerning the use of opium in India which appeared in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 25th, 1893, which he says "is calculated to mislead the public." Our readers will quite understand that our object was precisely the opposite. We specially stated that we did not wish at present to enter upon the general question of the use and abuse of opium; but, having at considerable trouble obtained certain very voluminous evidence gathered on the spot, we thought it best without delay to give the gist of it to our readers. Our desire has been as far as possible to get fresh evidence which shall assist in arriving at a wise and statesmanlike decision of this important question. We shall be glad to forward Surgeon-General Partridge a copy of the questions sent to India, and to incorporate the valuable evidence which he will be able to give in the results of our returns; but it is at present too early to enter on such a general review of the whole question as is contained in his letter.

## POLITICS AND MEDICINE.

SCALPHEL writes: The position of the profession both in the services and in civil life depends upon the estimate of it by the State. If the peerage, and practically the baronetage, are closed to surgery and medicine yet open to every other profession, to politicians, and rich parvenus, then what is required is that the profession politically organise and vote straight until it is placed on a proper footing as to State honours and rewards.

\* \* \* We demur somewhat, or at all events would qualify the first proposition. The share of the profession in State honours and rewards is absurdly below what it should be in this country, yet we venture to think the loss falls more on the latter than the former.

## MONKEY OR MAN?

A BASKET was recently found with what appeared to be part of the remains of a human being, which presented the appearance of being quite fresh. Examined by the local medical authorities they were, according to the *Madras Times* of December 15th, 1893, pronounced to be parts of a female child between 4 and 5 years of age; furthermore, the intestines were said to be diseased, and the child to whom they belonged to have been alive some four hours previous to the finding. Subsequent inquiry discovered that what was found in the basket was left of an "orangoutang," about 4 feet high, which had been killed by a Chinaman for its skin.

## PRIZES OF THE FRENCH ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

THE French Academy of Medicine has awarded the following prizes: The Academy Prize (1,000 francs) for the best essay on the Origin and Modes of Transmission of Cancer, to Dr. Maurice Cazin, of Paris; the Civrieux Prize (800 francs) for the best essay on Disturbances of the Intelligence in Enteric Fever, divided between Drs. Honoré Bidon, of Marseilles, and Dr. Calixte Rougé, Medical Superintendent of the Limoux Lunatic Asylum; the Daudet Prize (1,000 francs), for the best essay on Inflammations of the Parotid, divided between Drs. Paul Claisse and Ernest Dupré, of Paris (800 francs each), and Dr. Cristiani, *Privatdocent* in the University of Geneva, and Madame Cristiani, M.D. (200 francs each); the Prix de l'Hygiène de l'Enfance (1,000 francs), for the best essay on Icterus Neonatorum, to Drs. Lesage and Demelin, of Paris; the Portal Prize (600 francs) for the best paper on Congenital Luxations of the Hip, to Dr. Arnold Villette, of Geneva; and the Pourat Prize (1,200 francs), for a communication embodying the results of experiments to determine the part played by the Pancreas in Diabetic Glycogeny and Glycosuria, to Dr. Thiroloix, of Paris.

LETTERS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC., have been received from:

(A) Mr. D. Ainley, Halifax; A. E. D.; A. S. (B) Mr. W. F. Brook, Swansea; Mr. S. A. Bull, London; Mr. C. F. H. Battersby, London; Dr. G. Buchanan, London; Dr. F. T. Bond, Gloucester; Mr. H. Butterfield, Sevenoaks; R. C. Buist, M.B., Dundee; Mr. H. Burdett, London; F. L. H. Brown, M.B., Coventry; Dr. R. Boxall, London. (C) Mr. W. N. Clayton, Wakefield; Chiropodist; Dr. T. C. Charles, London; D. J. Caddy, M.B., London; Dr. D. Campbell, Calne; Messrs. F. Canton and Co., London; Country Member; Dr. A. C. Clark, Bothwell; Messrs. J. Cleave and Son, Crediton. (D) Mr. S. Davies, London; Dr. C. Dukes, Rugby; Dr. J. Dawson, London; *Daily Graphic* Editor; Mr. C. T. Dent, London; L. Drage, M.B., Hatfield; Dr. W. Duncan, London; Mr. G. H. De'ath, Buckingham; Dr. T. O. Dudfield, London; Professor S. Delépine, Bowdon. (E) Mr. J. V. Foveaux, London; Mr. T. Fearnehead, Heywood; Dr. G. A. Fraser, Totnes; Mr. C. Forbes, London. (G) Mr. J. C. Galton, London; Mr. A. Greenwood, London; General Practitioner; Dr. F. Grange, Southampton; Mr. L. D. Gover, Wolverhampton; Mr. L. M. Griffiths, Clifton. (H) Herr M. Hoff, Hamburg; Messrs. J. Halford and Son, London; Sir G. M. Humphry, Cambridge; Dr. L. Henry, Melbourne; The Harveian Society of London, The Secretary, London; Mr. J. Harrold, London. (J) Mr. G. P. Johnson, Liverpool; Mr. A. Jones, Stokesley; Dr. W. C. James, London; Mr. C. M. Jessop, Redhill; J. M. (K) Mr. E. P. King, Chesham. (L) Dr. R. E. Lord, Colwyn Bay; Dr. J. W. Lane, Milford Haven; Lancastrian; Sir Joseph Lister, Bart., Lyme Regis; Mr. J. Lawrence-Hamilton, Brighton; Mr. H. Littlewood, Leeds; The Liquor Carnis Company, London; Lecturer in Embryo; Mr. G. Lichtenfeld, London. (M) Member; Mr. J. J. N. Morris, Devonport; J. E. Moorhouse, M.B., Cardenden; Mr. H. J. Manning, Salisbury; Dr. G. H. Mackenzie, Edinburgh; Dr. P. W. MacDonald, Dorchester; M.B., C.M.; Dr. C. F. Marshall, London; Mr. L. A. Middleton, Birmingham; J. McCombie, M.B., London. (N) Notification; Dr. J. Neil, Oxford; Dr. A. Newsholme, Brighton; Dr. F. Needham, Mentone. (O) Mr. J. I. Owen, London. (P) Pyramid; Persevere; Dr. A. M. Phedran, Toronto; Petwite. (R) Mr. A. W. G. Ranger, London; Mr. P. Ryan, Thorpe; Dr. C. H. F. Routh, London; Dr. R. R. Rentoul, Liverpool; J. S. R. Russell, M.B., London; Dr. L. Robertson, Wimbledon; Mr. C. F. Rudd, Teignmouth; G. Robertson, M.B., Insch; Mr. E. H. Ryan-Tenison, Belstone. (S) Mr. C. Siewers, London; Dr. W. Stirling, Manchester; J. C. S. Stawell, M.B., Bagnalstown; Mr. H. L. Smith, Isleham; St. Mary's Hospital, The Secretary, London; Dr. G. W. Steeves, Liverpool; Professor Simpson, Glasgow; Mr. H. H. Sturge, New Eltham; Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel; Dr. J. W. F. Silk, London. (T) Dr. F. E. Townsend, Eton. (V) Mr. H. B. Vincent, East Dereham; Mr. K. B. J. Vickers, London; Mr. M. A. Veeder, Lyons, New York; *Verulam Review*, Editor, Edinburgh. (W) Mr. F. Watts, London; Dr. J. J. Welply, Bandon; Dr. A. Waller, London. (Y) M. Young, M.B., Brighouse; etc.

## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

The Great Pestilence (A.D. 1348-49), now commonly known as the Black Death. By F. A. Gasquet, D.D. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, and Co. 1893. 7s. 6d.

The Microscopical Examination of the Human Brain. By Dr. E. Goodall, London: Baillière, Tindall, and Cox. 1894. 5s.

The Retrospect of Medicine. Vol. 103. Edited by Dr. J. Braithwaite. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, and Co.

Human Physiology. By John Thornton. London: Longmans, Green, and Co. 1894. 6s.

Legal Handbook for the use of Hospital Authorities. By L. S. Bristowe. London: Reeves and Turner. 1894.

Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's Office, United States Army. Vol. xiv. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1893.

\* \* \* In forwarding books the publishers are requested to state the selling prices.