

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the above Branch will be held at the rooms of the Medical Society of London, 32A, George Street, Hanover Square, on Monday, June 1st, at 8 P.M., to receive the Report of the Committee appointed to investigate the case of Dr. Eastlake.

A. P. STEWART, M.D. }
ALEXANDER HENRY, M.D. } *Honorary Secretaries.*

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH.

THE Annual meeting of the above Branch will be held on Thursday, June 4th, at the Town Hall, Hastings, at half-past One o'Clock; FREDERICK TICEHURST, Esq., in the Chair. Visitors will be admitted on the introduction of a member of the Branch.

The Dinner will be provided at half-past Four o'Clock precisely. Tickets for Dinner, Dessert, Coffee, and attendance, not including Wine, 7s. 6d. each, to be obtained at the Swan Hotel.

Gentlemen desiring to bring forward communications will be pleased to give notice to the Secretary one week previous to the meeting.

C. HOLMAN, M.D., *Secretary.*

SOUTH MIDLAND BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at the Swan Hotel, Bedford, on Thursday, June 18th, at 1 P.M.; C. E. PRIOR, M.D., President-elect, in the Chair.

Gentlemen intending to read papers or cases, are requested to send the names or titles of the same forthwith to Dr. Bryan, Northampton, one of the Honorary Secretaries.

J. M. BRYAN, M.D. }
G. P. GOLDSMITH, Esq. } *Hon. Secretaries.*

NORTHERN BRANCH.

THE annual meeting of the above Branch will be held at Darlington, on Tuesday, June 30th. President for 1867-68—EDWARD CHARLTON, M.D.; President-elect for 1868-69—JOHN JOBSON, F.R.C.S.

Gentlemen intending to read papers or cases, or describe pathological specimens, are requested to communicate with the Secretary, without delay.

G. H. PHILIPSON, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, May 1868.

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH, 1868.

JOHN HALL DAVIS, M.D., President, in the Chair.

DR. GREENHALGH exhibited an Elastic Spring Pessary which he had invented for the cure of retroversion of the uterus. It resembled a Hodge's pessary, and could be easily bent to any shape; but it had a spring at its upper end and a piece of India-rubber tubing at its lower extremity. It was easier of introduction and removal than a Hodge's pessary; it could be more perfectly adjusted; it occasioned little or no inconvenience in sexual intercourse, and was inexpensive.—Dr. GRAILY HEWITT had used for a long time a modification of Hodge's pessary where the fundus was very sensitive. By thickening the upper part of the instrument to about the size of the little finger, its pressure was well borne.—The PRESIDENT thought very highly of Hodge's pessary, and, in its different gradations of size, he very frequently used it in descent of the uterus, with or without retroflexion.

Dr. WYNN WILLIAMS exhibited a mass of Hydatidiform Vesicles attached to what appeared to be a portion of placenta or blighted ovum, together with hardened masses of blood. The specimen was referred to a committee consisting of Dr. Braxton Hicks and Dr. Wynn Williams.

Dr. ROGERS exhibited two large fleshy masses forming one Polypoid Tumour of the uterus, which he had removed by two operations at an interval of a few days. The patient had done well.

Dr. RASCH exhibited a Fœtus and Placenta apparently of about five months, in which the umbilical cord was completely obliterated by twisting close to the navel of the fœtus.

Dr. RASCH also exhibited a Vaginal Drainer, which he had contrived to prevent the wetting of the bed while injecting the vagina. The instrument is an adaptation of a common speculum, made of ebonite. To expose to the fluid injected as much of the vagina as possible, this speculum is considerably shorter and bevelled off at the vaginal end. The brim is rather wider than in a common speculum, and covered in front by a sort of diaphragm, leaving a hole for the introduction of the tube of the injecting apparatus. The brim is perforated below by a short pipe, to which an elastic tube can be fixed, through which the injected fluid flows out into any convenient receptacle. With the douche the author had introduced to the Society on a previous occasion, and this drainer, irrigation of the cervix and vagina, or uterus, if desired, can be made for any length of time without interruption, and without trouble to the attendant or disturbance to the patient. By compressing the tube of the douche when once filled, and transferring the metal end from the vessel containing water to a vessel containing any medicated fluid, any desired quantity of the latter, however small, may be used as an injection. Both instruments are made by Mr. Jackson, 25, City Road.—Dr. WILTSHIRE, while complimenting the author, suggested that it would be advisable to coat the metal end of the douche with vulcanite, to prevent the action upon it of the medicated solutions.—The PRESIDENT considered that Dr. Rasch's invention would prove of great advantage.

Dr. EDIS exhibited, for Dr. JOHN MURRAY, a new Chloroform Inhaler. It consists of a frame-work of strong wire, which folds up, and of a removable cover made of several folds of fine cotton cloth with an aperture for the admission of air. With a flat graduated bottle for the chloroform, it could be placed in a small case which could be easily carried in the breast-pocket.

Case of Ruptured Uterus. By H. M. MADGE, M.D.—MRS. M., aged 42, of good general health, had had tedious labours. This was her tenth confinement. She was taken in labour on the evening of December 21, 1867. At 2 A.M., labour having made but little progress, and the quiet intervals becoming longer, half a drachm of laudanum was given. Irregular pains continued up to 5 A.M., when the patient began to doze, and from that time they almost entirely ceased. There was no shock, collapse, or sickness. She slept a little, and in the morning was able to sit up in bed, conversing with friends and taking her breakfast. At 11 A.M., there had been no return of pains; and symptoms of exhaustion were coming on without obvious cause. It being thought that internal hæmorrhage might possibly be going on, it was decided to use the long forceps. Egg and brandy were ordered, and an enema administered. During Dr. Madge's absence, the patient walked into an adjoining room without assistance; the bowels were freely relieved, but, whilst sitting on the commode, she felt something give way in the abdomen, followed by a sharp pain in the hypogastric region. With assistance, she walked back to her bed. She was now in a state of extreme exhaustion. The assistance of Dr. Hall Davis was obtained, who, on his arrival, delivered by turning. She died about an hour after delivery. The child had apparently been dead for several days. The posterior wall of the uterus was found to have been lacerated, the abdominal viscera being easily felt by the hand introduced *per vaginam*. A *post mortem* examination could not be obtained. The injury was probably partially effected some hours before the birth of the child, and was made more complete by the straining efforts at stool.—Dr. BARNES said that this case afforded another proof that a dead child was an efficient cause of rupture of the uterus. He believed it was best, if the child were still in the uterus, and were felt presenting through a dilated os at the brim, to deliver by forceps or by turning. Gastrotomy was especially indicated when the fœtus had escaped into the abdominal cavity.—Mr. SPENCER WELLS suggested, in cases of ruptured uterus, a trial of a sort of Cæsarean section, performed with every possible precaution, the peritoneum being carefully cleansed from all blood, and the opening in the uterine wall being closed by sutures.—The PRESIDENT was disposed to suspect that, in Dr. Madge's case, a limited laceration of the uterus immediately preceded the first attack of collapse; and that the rent was enlarged when the patient sat on the night-chair. As to the Cæsarean section, no good could possibly have resulted from it; its performance would have aggravated the feelings of distress in the family, and it was contraindicated by the state of the patient. He believed that, had the *post mortem* examination been permitted, degeneration of the tissues at the seat of laceration would probably have been discovered.—Dr. SNOW BECK regretted that a *post mortem* examination had not been allowed. He believed that in cases of ruptured uterus some change, either from fatty degeneration or want of due development, existed, and was the chief cause of the giving way of the uterine tissue. The presence of a dead child appeared to be only an accidental occurrence. One frequent cause of laceration was repeated straining to overcome some obstruction, but a dead child was more easily moulded and passed

opinion that the medical officer should make the return. The Board trust that Mr. Trevor will acquiesce in supplying the required particulars regarding lunatics.

7. Mr. Trevor (February 2nd, 1867) informs the Secretary of the Poor-law Board that he has received from the Clerk to Board of Guardians the form of the quarterly return of lunatics in the workhouse. He considers that the words of the form prove that he was right in the position for which he contended; but, as the Poor-law Board had intimated their desire that he should make the returns, he expresses his readiness to do so, on receiving from some responsible quarter a legal indemnity against the expense of any legal proceedings to which he may be vexatiously subjected for any technical error or error of judgment that he may possibly commit in the preparation of the return.

8. Mr. Earle (February 12th, 1867), on the part of the Poor-law Board, acknowledges the receipt of Mr. Trevor's letter, and states that the Board is unable to see that he will incur any legal responsibility in making the return of the pauper lunatics in the workhouse if he make it according to the best of his judgment.

9. Mr. Trevor (February 14th, 1867) submits that he has throughout contended against the Commissioners of Lunacy that the Statutes do not impose on the medical officer of a workhouse the duty of making the quarterly list of lunatics; and, as the making of such a list not imposed by law would be voluntary, even though done in deference to the expressed wish of the Poor Law Board, he requests the Poor-law Board either to leave the Commissioners in Lunacy to fight out this question with him, or at least to give him the indemnity for which he has asked.

10. Mr. Flemming, Secretary of the Poor-law Board, acknowledges on February 20th, 1867, the receipt of Mr. Trevor's last letter.

THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL AND THE POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE.

MR. WILLIAM TREVOR, Medical Officer of the Dulverton Union Workhouse, appends to his letter, inserted above, the following note, which we think it well for once to print, because it affords so timely a comment on the invective which a medical contemporary is now encouraging, in the vain hope of checking the increasing vogue and usefulness of the JOURNAL to the officers of the Poor-Law Medical Service, who weekly avail themselves with greater freedom and advantage of the columns which, for some time now, we have set aside for their use. We have very frequently the deep gratification of receiving such letters (more than one reaches us this week), and a packet of them was lately laid before the Committee of Council. They amply counterbalance, if they cannot efface, the discomfort of occasional invective and misrepresentation to which the strict performance of a public duty inevitably renders us subject.

"Excuse my taking the opportunity of expressing my delight at the improvement of the JOURNAL under your editorship. I have been a member of the Association ever since its establishment (there cannot be many of us left), and have a vivid recollection of all that has taken place with reference to 'Transactions', 'Journal', etc., and am perfectly convinced that nothing has contributed so much to the present position of the Association, and to the pleasure and improvement of the members, as your management of the JOURNAL."

THE CHELTENHAM INFIRMARY.

THE following letter is published in the *Daily Telegraph* of Monday.

"Sir,—It almost passes belief that the Cheltenham guardians have not, after a period of nine months, taken one single effectual step towards duty—and reformation.

"Last week, I paid a long visit to their workhouse. I found the same menagerie-like day-room (smell included) for the boys; the same filthy washing-places; there were basins to be sure, instead of the one trough; but they were so dirty outside that their material was hidden, and so filthy inside that they would have sickened the 'Amateur Casual'. 'He's looking at the pig-troughs' said a lively young pauper at my ear. His power of description did honour to his training. I found the same lack of hospital essentials, *e.g.*, water, hot and cold, baths, water-closets, and sinks. The same Black Hole of Calcutta, where matches light upon the walls; the same glaring want of real inspection; the same old hopeless misery, and the same dogged determination to let it remain so. The Poor-law Board, represented by its inspector, is hopeless; the Board of Guardians, represented by its reverend chairman, is hopeless; my only hope is

PUBLIC OPINION."

MEDICAL NEWS.

STATE MEDICINE.

THE Duke of Marlborough has arranged to receive a deputation of the joint Committees of the British Medical Association and the Social Science Association on the subject of the inquiry into the state of the laws and customs relating to public medicine, and has fixed this day (Friday) for the interview. From the references made by Mr. Hardy to the subject in a recent speech in the House of Commons, we are sanguine that the clauses, memorial, and memoranda, drawn up on this subject, and of which Dr. Rumsey offers this week a valuable commentary in another column, will receive the most favourable consideration of the Government.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following members of the College, having been elected Fellows at previous meetings of the Council, were admitted as such, on May 14th.

Linton, Robert Pilkington, of Her Majesty's Indian Army; diploma of membership dated November 16, 1832

Woods, George, Southport, near Liverpool; May 25, 1840

Previous to the annual election of Fellows into the Council, an opportunity will be afforded to those gentlemen hitherto unable to attend for the purpose of *admission* to the Fellowship. After which, they will be enabled to record their votes.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREW'S.—The following gentlemen, having passed their examinations, obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine on April 23rd.

Barry, Daniel Paterson, Twickenham
Chinery, Edward, Lymington
Docking, Thomas, Sydney, New South
Wales
Griffiths, Edwin T., Birmingham

Hunt, Benjamin, Birmingham
Merryweather, Henry, Sheffield
Palmer, William J., Calcutta
Richardson, Lea, Hong Kong
Troup, Francis, Auchtermuchty, Fife

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, May 14th, 1868.

Bostock, Alfred Stileman, Horsham, Sussex
Campbell, John, Great Dunmow, Essex
Clark, James Henry, Jamaica, West Indies
Pinder, William Parker, Bellmoor Sutton, Retford
Putsey, William Henry, 7, Larges Street, Derby

At the same Court, the following passed the first examination:—

Abbott, George, Guy's Hospital
Collet, Augustus Henry, Guy's Hospital
Marsh, John Wilford, London Hospital

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are declared:—

BRIGHTON AND HOVE DISPENSARY—Two Resident House-Surgeons.
BRIGHTON, STREATHAM HILL, &c., DISPENSARY—Resident Medical Officer.

CHELSEA, BROMPTON, and BELGRAVE DISPENSARY—Physician.
CHESTER GENERAL INFIRMARY—House-Surgeon and Visiting-Surgeon.
CLAREMORRIS UNION, co. Mayo—Medical Officer for the Ballindine Dispensary District.

DUBLIN, TRINITY COLLEGE—King's Professor of the Practice of Medicine.
INFIRMARY FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST, 26, Margaret Street—Visiting Physician.

KENT & CANTERBURY HOSPITAL—Assistant House-Surgeon and Dispenser.
KING AND QUEEN'S COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN IRELAND—King's Professor of the Practice of Medicine.

LEXDEN and WINSTREE UNION, Essex—Medical Officer for District No. 9.
LITTLEMORE PAUPER LUNATIC ASYLUM, near Oxford—Assistant Medical Officer.

LIVERPOOL DISPENSARIES—Resident Assistant-Surgeon.
LYMINGTON UNION—Medical Officer for the Boldre District and Workhouse.
MILFORD UNION, co. Donegal—Medical Officer for the Rossquill Dispensary District.

NAAS UNION, co. Kildare—Medical Officer for the Robertstown and Kilmeague Dispensary District.

NORTH WALES LUNATIC ASYLUM, Denbigh—Assistant Medical Officer.
ROYAL GENERAL DISPENSARY, Bartholomew Close—Two Physicians and Assistant-Physician.

SHAFTESBURY UNION—Medical Officer for the Shaftesbury District and the Workhouse.

SHEFFIELD GENERAL INFIRMARY—Assistant House-Surgeon.
SOUTH LAMBETH, STOCKWELL, and NORTH Brixton DISPENSARY—Honorary Medical Officer.

STOURBRIDGE UNION—Medical Officer for the Kingswinford No. 2 District.
TRIM UNION, co. Meath—Medical Officer for the Fever Hospital and Union Workhouse.

WATERFORD UNION—Medical Officer for the Kilmakerogue Dispensary District.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

BUCKENHAM, John, L.R.C.P.Ed., appointed Medical Officer to the Cambridge Workhouse, in the room of Dr. Ransom, resigned.
PAGE, Frederick, Esq., appointed Resident Physician for Dr. George Balfour in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, in the room of the late John Baddeley, M.D.

ROYAL NAVY.

CLARKE, John G., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Philomel*.
PARR, James F., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Impregnable*, for the *Squirrel*.
VOLUNTEERS.—(A. V., Artillery Volunteers; R. V., Rifle Volunteers.)
MORGAN, H. M., M.D., to be Honorary Assistant-Surgeon 15th Staffordshire R.V.
SMALL, T., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st Lincolnshire A.V.

BIRTHS.

BARLOW.—On May 6th, at Dalston, the wife of Robert Barlow, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
BRADEN.—On May 8th, at Lewes, the wife of J. G. Braden, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
CHORLEY.—On May 8th, at 15, Inverness Road, the wife of W. F. Chorley, M.D., of a daughter.
COATES.—On May 3rd, at the Dockyard, Devonport, the wife of Matthew Coates, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon R.N., of a son.
DRYLAND.—On May 13th, at Kettering, the wife of J. W. Dryland, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
EVANS.—On May 13th, at Cheshunt, the wife of Nicholl Evans, M.D., of a son.
HENRY.—On May 9th, at Duncan Terrace, Islington, the wife of James Henry, M.D., Surgeon Royal Navy, of a daughter.
HIME.—On May 9th, at Sheffield, the wife of Thomas W. Hime, M.B.T.C.D., of a daughter.
LYNES.—On May 7th, at Coventry, the wife of Edward Lynes, M.D., of a daughter.
MONCKTON.—On May 5th, at Brenchley, Kent, the wife of *William Monckton, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
MURRAY.—On May 13th, at Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire, the wife of W. Berkeley Murray, M.D., of a daughter.
PAYNE.—On May 12th, at Wimbledon, the wife of Charles H. Payne, M.D., of a daughter.
SOPER.—On May 16th, at Clapham Rise, the wife of *William Soper, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
STEGGALL.—On May 7th, at Queen Square, Bloomsbury, the wife of John W. B. Steggall, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.
SUMNER.—On May 13th, at Wellington Road, St. John's Wood, the wife of W. Allen Sumner, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
WILLOUGHBY.—On May 14th, at Redland, Bristol, the wife of *Edward F. Willoughby, L.R.C.P., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

ADAM, William Hogarth, Esq., Surgeon Royal Navy, to Charlotte, eldest daughter of Major-General Simon FRASER, of Overton House, Avondale, at Strathaven, on May 7th.
BURROUGHS, Thomas J., L.R.C.P.Ed., of Southwark, to Frances Sophia, youngest daughter of the late WILLIAM WEBB, Esq., of Stoney Hall, Hannington, Hants, on May 13th.
GARMAN, Cornelius E., Esq., Surgeon, of Bow Road, Middlesex, to Charlotte, youngest daughter of John DAILEY, Esq., of Manchester, at Poplar, on April 30th.
HODDER, Frederic W. L., M.B., Staff-Assistant-Surgeon, to Emma Jane, second daughter of Thomas HOUNSLOW, Esq., Civil Staff, at Demerara, on March 16th.
OLDFIELD, Edward, M.D., to Eleonora, only daughter of Anthony DESRE, Esq., of Nickerie, Surinam, at Berbice, on April 9th.
RVE, Arthur B., Esq., Surgeon, of Banbury, to Mary C. N., only surviving daughter of R. LIDDELL, Esq., of Leckhampton, on May 5th.
*SUTCLIFFE, Henry, Esq., Surgeon, West Bromwich, Staffordshire, to Mary Jane, youngest daughter of Abm. ROBINSON, Esq., of Bank Foot, Hebden Bridge, and The Grange, Erringden, Yorkshire, on May 14th.
*WALKER, R. P., Esq., Surgeon, Birmingham, to Emily Louisa, youngest daughter of Thomas BULLOCK, Esq., of Fern Lodge, Handsworth, at Aston, on May 13th.

DEATHS.

BARRETT, Samuel, M.D., of Ewell, Surrey, aged 57, on May 2nd.
COOKE, William, Esq., Surgeon, at Tonbridge, aged 70, on May 7th.
DAVIS.—On May 8th, at Putney, Isabella, elder daughter of Henry Davis, M.D.
FORSHALL, Thomas, Esq., Surgeon, at the Crescent, Kingsland Road, aged 68, on May 8th.
LUCE.—On May 7th, at Wincanton, Somerset, Louisa Maria, wife of *J. J. Luce, M.D.
PAUL.—On May 9th, at Burton Crescent, aged 2 years, the only daughter of J. T. Paul, L.R.C.P.Ed.
PIPER.—On May 5th, at Brighton, aged 67, Ann, widow of S. A. Piper, M.D., late of Richmond.
ROBERTS.—On April 30th, at Stalybridge, aged 35, Eliza Anne, wife of Frederick John Roberts, Esq., Surgeon.

ABORTION.—At a recent meeting of the Medical Association of Androscoggin county, Maine, Dr. Oaks asserted that, according to the best estimate he could make, there were four hundred murders annually committed in that county, produced by abortion.—*Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter*.

DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM.—A death from chloroform recently occurred in a dentist's office, Portland, Maine. The deceased had the anæsthetic administered to him for the purpose of having some teeth extracted. After the operation, he rallied for a time, and then expired. He is said to have been suffering with advanced pulmonary phthisis. Professor Tewksbury, of Portland, made every effort to resuscitate him, but in vain.—*The New York Medical Record*.

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 9 A.M. and 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.
TUESDAY.....Guy's, 1.30 P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—National Orthopædic Hospital, 2 P.M.—Royal Free, 9 A.M.
WEDNESDAY..St. Mary's, 1.15 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 P.M.—Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, 2.30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.
THURSDAY....St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Royal Orthopædic, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, 2 P.M.
FRIDAY.....Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Free, 1.30 P.M.
SATURDAY....St. Thomas's, 9.30 A.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Lock (Clinical Demonstrations and Operations), 1 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.—Medical Society of London, 8 P.M. Dr. Sanson, a Letter on Vaccino-Syphilis; Dr. Dick will exhibit a new form of Truss; Skulls and other Remains from a very Ancient Tumulus in the Carpathian Mountains, sent by Major-General Sir S. Lakenham, by the President; Professor John Clay, of Birmingham, "On Non-Malignant Ovarian Tumours, an Abstract of the Fothergillian Prize Essay for the present year."—Linnean Society.
TUESDAY.—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Adjourned Debate on Dr. Broadbent's paper, "Attempt to apply Chemical Principles in explanation of the Action of Remedies"; Dr. George Johnson, "Seven Cases of Removal of Morbid Growths from the Vocal Cords by the aid of the Laryngoscope"; and (if time) Mr. Henry Lee, "Results of Diseases of Arteries."—The Ethnological Society of London.
WEDNESDAY.—Hunterian Society.
THURSDAY.—Royal Society.
FRIDAY.—Royal Institution.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All Letters and Communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.

CORRESPONDENTS not answered are requested to look to the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

CORRESPONDENTS, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course, not necessarily for publication.

AUTHORS OF PAPERS, desirous of having extra copies printed for their own use, are requested to communicate with the printer, Mr. Richards, 37, Great Queen Street.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACT.

SIR,—Your last week's JOURNAL contains an account of a meeting held in this town, having for its object the extension of the above Act to the civil population. Had I not been called away from that meeting, it was my intention to have offered a few remarks to the following effect. If we admit the truth of an old adage, that "prevention is better than cure", we must also admit the necessity of urging Government to extend this sanitary measure even to our remotest colonies. We pride ourselves upon having hoisted the British colours in every quarter of the globe. Our missionaries are to be found in the remotest parts of the earth, and commerce is sending our ships to and fro with incalculable treasure. Alas! there is another and a sad tale to contemplate: many of our ships' crews and others impart the seeds of drunkenness, disease, and desolation, wherever they go. In proof of this, modern travellers inform us that the aborigines of the fair islands of the Pacific are rapidly disappearing. It was my lot to serve as surgeon on board two ships, from January 1823 to January 1829 (excepting the passages out and home), in the Pacific, westward so far as New Zealand in the Southern Hemisphere, and nearly to Japan in the Northern Hemisphere, where I had numerous opportunities of witnessing the manner in which diseases had been propagated by sailors and travellers of all nations. Surely this may be prevented to a considerable degree.
I am, etc., WM. DALTON, F.R.C.S.
Cheltenham, May 1868.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

SIR,—Mr. Garland, in his letter published in the JOURNAL of May 16th, has well shewn two great blots in Poor-law medical practice; viz., that appointments are held from secondary considerations; and that the poor not unfrequently lack the attention they are entitled to receive. These are matters which require diligent consideration; and although correct diagnosis is a long step towards proper treatment of any case, I fear that the remedy suggested by Mr. Garland would prove quite unavailing. For, surely, if the man who now gets all the payment cannot or will not do his duty, dividing these paltry sums among half a dozen men, will not add to the inducement. The hope of receiving two shillings for perhaps two months' attendance, would not tempt one out in a wintry night in return for the compliment evinced by selection from the relieving officer's list. The simple remedy for most of the grievances from which we suffer, would be the formation of a distinct civil medical service; and probably few who have been much engaged in Poor-law practice will think that the poor need to be made more independent in this matter than they are at present.
I am, etc., HENRY J. MATHEWS.
Horsham, May 1868.

NOTICES of Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Appointments, intended for insertion in the JOURNAL, should arrive at the Office not later than 10 A.M. on Thursday.

CO. DUBLIN.—It is one of the numerous blunders in the *Medical Directory*. No person of the name of William E. Adrien was admitted a member of the London College in 1830. Mr. P. B. E. Ayres, of the Emigration Service, should be P. B. C. Mr. J. A. Bloxam, of the Guards, should be Bloxam. Mr. Robert Bowen has been a Fellow since 1861. The name of Dunke cannot be found as possessing the qualification mentioned: it is perhaps intended for Dunne.

SPASM OF THE GLOTTIS IN LARYNGISMUS STRIDULUS.

SIR,—I can thoroughly confirm the value of the finger introduced into the fauces in laryngismus stridulus, when the spasm is of long continuance, as suggested by Dr. Rooke in last week's paper. A very similar case, though not to so fearful an extent, having occurred in my own practice some three or four years ago. I was sent for by a patient with a message to come immediately as the baby (some fifteen months old) "had swallowed something, and was choking." When I reached the house, which was close to my own, I found the child perfectly livid in the face, and the eyes protruding from their sockets; in fact, apparently choking. The attack had come on very suddenly, and the parents did not know that she had swallowed anything, only, from her symptoms, supposed so. As no time was to be lost, I thought the best thing that could be done if anything was sticking in the throat was to force it down, or make the child sick in hopes it might be so ejected. I accordingly thrust my forefinger well down into the pharynx, but could detect nothing lodged there. The introduction of the finger, however, made the child vomit immediately, and immediately all the symptoms which had before appeared so fearful, vanished. No foreign substance was found in the vomit; and, whilst I was sitting in the room talking to the mother, the child gave a crow, which explained the whole case. I am, etc.,

Stony Stratford, April 1868.

ALLAN D. MACKAY, M.B. Oxon.

MR. SAMUEL BROCKELBANK (Forest Hill) and others.—We have had a great many letters concerning Dr. McCall Anderson's formula for a new hair-dye, which we picked out of his paper on Eczema in the current number of the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, and to which we may refer all inquirers for further particulars.

LARYNGISMUS STRIDULUS.

SIR,—Having felt much interest in reading the account in your valuable *JOURNAL* of April 18th, furnished by Dr. Morley Rooke of Cheltenham, I render him thanks for his communication, as it recalls a similar case which recently occurred in my own practice. I am induced to send you the particulars in confirmation of his general views. Few cases, I am aware, are exactly alike; so different are the circumstances of the birth, the constitution or the physical temperament of individuals. But the diversities of type or of immediate treatment may be as instructive to intelligent practitioners as the resemblances; and medical science always gains by the careful statement of facts, and the due comparison of the different effects produced by other or concurrent methods of relief. The case, in brief, was as follows.

I had been attending a little patient in this neighbourhood for "spurious croup", a boy, about a twelvemonth old, and, it should be remarked, a twin child. He was of decided strumous diathesis, and of backward development. The child was being driven in a perambulator, near my house, when an attack of "laryngismus stridulus" came on suddenly and violently, which occasioned instant alarm, not without reason. The mother caught it up in her arms, and rushed into the surgery, wildly exclaiming: "It is gone, sir." It really appeared dead; its head dropped on its mother's shoulder, the lips were livid and blue, and breathing had ceased. Happily, I was in the surgery; no time could there be for deliberation. I listened to the heart, and found it still beating, and immediately commenced using Dr. Marshall Hall's plan of promoting artificial respiration, endeavouring also to unlock the spasm by dashing hot and cold water alternately on the face. Soon I had the satisfaction of seeing the child draw a long inspiration, followed at a short interval by another, and then perfect breathing became re-established. There was, however, shortly afterwards a sudden return of the attack, but not so severe as the former; and the mother, by adopting, under my direction, the same plan of procedure, quietly succeeded in bringing it round. The process of cure was much assisted by taking the tartrate of iron, and afterwards, I think, cod-liver oil. The boy recovered, and enjoys at this time average health.

It is apparent that in such instances some irritation, probably in the terminal branches of the pneumogastric nerve, sets up severe reflex action, and spasm of the glottis is the result. It is well known that the attacks are frequent during dentition, immediately following a hearty meal. Whatever unduly irritates the child, predisposes to the attack—such as taking away its plaything, and thus angering it; and sometimes even a sudden gust of wind playing on the face or chest will induce the affection complained of; which might have been the case that morning with my little patient. Upon all these points mothers and nurses ought to be on their guard.

The generally received pathology of the disease is that of the late Dr. Ley: He attributed the closing of the glottis "to pressure made by enlarged glands in the neck or chest upon the recurrent nerve or some part of the eighth pair, subverting the exact antagonism by which the glottis is anatomically and involuntarily kept open, and allowing its margins to come together, and to occasion the peculiar kind of inspiration so much like that of croup." Taking this view of the cause of disease, the remedies are few; and if the bromide salt causes absorption of those affected glands, additional weight is attached to the theory.

It will have been seen that my own mode of treatment differed in some respects from that of Dr. Rooke; but his plan of inserting the finger between the teeth and the fauces in the actual fit, he thinks novel, and is certainly worthy of consideration as a method of unlocking the spasm; though, of course, it should be practised very carefully, if at all, by unprofessional people. I, for one, hope to give the bromide a trial; yet I cannot but suspect that similar results would be attained by the persistent use of the *syrupus ferri iodidi*. As, however, both plans were successful, both may commend themselves to notice. I believe that life would be in many instances saved if more general attention were directed to the methods of treatment adopted by Dr. Rooke, or by the use of the one thus hastily described by myself.

The importance of these occurrences in daily domestic life, must be my apology for so minutely referring to these points. The best authorities are of opinion that, in the narrow chasm between life and death, it is often a trifle that kills, or a trifle that saves life. I am, etc.,

WILLIAM VACY LYVE, L.R.C.P. Ed., M.R.C.S. Eng.
Marlboro' Terrace, Harrow Road, May 1868.

SUPPLY OF THE JOURNAL TO NEW MEMBERS.—The Secretaries of the Branches, and other members who take an interest in the increase of the Association, will greatly aid the economical working of the financial department if they will kindly send at once to the General Secretary the names of intending new members.

MEDICAL EDUCATION.

SIR,—As the medical degrees of the University of London are recognised as the highest proofs of a thorough medical education, so its matriculation examination affords the most searching test of the soundness of the instruction which has been received at school; and in saying that, I am anxious, before my boys commence their medical studies, to see their scholastic acquirements submitted to this test. I believe I am uttering the wishes of a large number of medical men who have sons about to leave school, and to become medical students.

The difficulty of finding a school conducted on Church of England principles, where the various subjects of examination are so taught that a pass even in the second class can be insured, is known only to those who have made the attempt; and your readers have only to search the Honours List in the London University Calendar to assure themselves that no Church of England school habitually sends up pupils for matriculation who distinguish themselves upon that occasion. The private schools which stand out highest in the list, belong to various denominations of dissenters; and, as I know from personal inquiry, some of these admirable schools are close boroughs, exclusively confined to sons of members of their own sect.

Where, then, can members of the Church of England in the medical profession send their sons to be educated, with the certainty that if they possess ability they can show it at the very commencement of their career? Of course, I am well aware that a boy may board with a private tutor, and attend classes at King's College, University College, or elsewhere; but this plan is very expensive if the tutor is competent, as I know from present adoption. Moreover, not every parent likes to give a lad of 16 or 17 so much liberty in London or other large towns as it necessitates.

I need not here enlarge upon my belief, that a fine opportunity exists for a competent high-class man to establish a school upon Church of England principles, having for one of its objects thorough preparation for matriculation at the University of London. I rather turn to what already exists, an institution capable of doing great things—the Royal Medical College at Epsom. Several of its pupils have matriculated; but where do we find them in the Honours List? Literally nowhere—not one in 1864, 1865, 1866; whilst two dissenting schools, having respectively one hundred and fifty scholars, place in those years eleven and four in Honours. With two hundred boys, Epsom College ought to do something in the same direction; and parents of pupils and governors ought to insist upon its doing so.

Why could not a matriculation class be formed, with a scale of extra payment, and a door of free admission for merit, presided over by special masters, themselves graduates of the University of London, if necessary? These gentlemen might carry pupils through another stage, the Preliminary Scientific Examination; but the first step must be firmly planted before we hail a wider horizon; and the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* will earn the best thanks of the profession by urging its wants in a matter which so largely concerns its welfare. I am, etc.,

April 1868.

HABITANS IN RURE.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest:—The *Newcastle Daily Journal*; The *Port-Louis Commercial Gazette*, April 4th; The *Merthyr Telegraph*, May 16th; The *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette*, May 14th; The *Liverpool Mercury*, May 13th; The *Aberdeen Herald*.

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

Dr. Henry Barnes, Carlisle; Dr. Waller Lewis, London; Mr. J. Garner, Birmingham General Dispensary; Dr. Page, Southsea; Mr. F. Page, Edinburgh; Mr. E. Chapman, Oxford; Mr. H. Sutcliffe, Westbromwich; Mr. E. Manley; Mr. Reeves, Carlisle; Dr. Lionel Beale, London; Dr. William Rutherford, Edinburgh; Dr. Arthur Gamgee, Edinburgh; Professor Lister, Glasgow; Mr. John Horsley, Cheltenham; Mr. A. Fleischmann, Cheltenham; Mr. T. Watkin Williams, Birmingham; Dr. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. J. Sampson Gamgee, Birmingham; Mr. Oliver Pemberton, Birmingham; Dr. Bateman, Norwich; Dr. Gairdner, Glasgow; Mrs. Broughton, Lancaster; Mr. Lund, Manchester; Mr. J. Vose Solomon, Birmingham; Mr. C. S. Bayliffe, Chippenham; Mr. William Smith, Clifton; Dr. H. Browne, Manchester; Mr. Wheelhouse, Leeds; Mr. Mathews, Horsham; Mr. Henry Smith, Birmingham; Mr. Cotton, Paris; Mr. E. F. Willoughby, Bristol; Dr. George Johnson, London; Mr. Constable, Cambridge; Dr. G. Lowther, Kingston-upon-Hull; and Mr. John Manley, West Bromwich.

LETTERS, ETC. (with enclosures) from:—

Dr. G. M. Humphry, Cambridge; Dr. Radford, Manchester; Dr. J. Hughes Bennett, Edinburgh; Dr. Wilson Fox, London; Dr. Gervis, London; Mr. Diprose, London; Mr. Soper, Clapham; The Secretary of the Reading Pathological Society; Mr. Berkeley Hill, London; Dr. Lomas, London; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; Dr. John Murray, London; The Registrar-General of England; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Mr. St. George Mivart, London; Mr. Wright, Derby; Mr. William Trevor, Dulverton; Dr. Gavin Milroy, Richmond; Dr. H. W. Rumsey, Cheltenham; The Registrar of the Medical Society of London; M.R.C.S., Kensington; Mr. Dalton, Cheltenham; Mr. Heckford, London; Dr. C. B. Fox, Scarborough; The Honorary Secretary of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; Dr. Holman, Reigate; Dr. Ogle, London; Mr. Jones, London; and Mr. A. Coleman, London.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Clinical Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Medicine. By John Hughes Bennett, M.D. Fourth edition. Edinburgh: 1868.
The Third Annual Report of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Borough Pauper Lunatic Asylum, 1867.
Army Marriages. By Brown Bess. Belfast: 1868.