THE LATE ALLAN WEBB, M.D.

The medical profession and the Bengal Medical Department have sustained a great loss in the premature decease of this gentleman. The distinguished author of the Pathologia Indica, after an arduous professional career of above thirty years, of which twenty-seven had been devoted to the Indian medical service, succumbed on September 15th, at the comparatively early age of 55 years, to disease brought on by the arduous nature of his duties. He was a pupil of the late Mr. Haden of Derby; then of Mr. Jennings of Leamington; afterwards, of the late Mr. Thomas Alcock, lecturer on surgery, in London, whom he assisted by drawing, dissecting, and modelling; and, at this period, he obtained from the Society of Arts the large silver medal for anatomical drawing. Subsequently, he was clinical assistant at the Westminster Hospital. His remarkable qualifications as a surgical anatomist and an artist attracted the notice of the late Sir Robert Peel, no mean judge of merit; and it was through his influence, we believe, that Dr. Webb obtained an Indian medical appointment.

After his arrival in Bengal, he did not remain long on general duty; for his superior attainments induced Government to appoint him surgeon to the Bishop of Calcutta, and in his company he traversed most parts of our Indian empire. During these years, his opportunities for observing the varieties of tropical disease were almost unlimited; and so well did he use them, that the views on their pathology and treatment which he embodied in his principal work, the Pathologia Indica, have had a marked effect in modifying the views and influencing the practice of our medical brethren in the East. Ever on the look out to render professional aid where it was most wanted, he worked energetically in support of a hospital at Simla, to which he devoted all the time he could spare. Government employed him to report upon an outbreak of cholera which had destroyed large numbers of native convicts upon portions of the Grand Trunk Road, then being constructed. His recommendations were acted upon; and a stop was put to the outbreak. Eventually, he was appointed Professor of Military Surgery in the Calcutta Medical College; and, in course of time, Clinical Professor of Surgery at the College Hospital, and surgeon to the Native Hospital. Fortunate it was for the present race of native practitioners, as well as for Indian medical science, that his great attainments as an anatomist and scientific surgeon, combined, as they were, with his abilities as an artist, were thus made available; and that he was enabled to become one of the most successful operating surgeons of the day. He first carried out systematic courses of surgical anatomy in the College; and from his immense surgical experience, he was enabled to lay down rules for operating, more precise than had before been attempted. These he afterwards embodied in his Field Notes for Surgical Operations. He was also curator of the College museum; and for some years laboured with indefatigable industry to collect specimens of all the forms of disease most prevalent in India, and thereby was enabled to lay the foundation of a rational system of pathology and treatment. In accordance with his system of applying the humoral pathology to many Indian diseases, he looked upon cholera as an exhausting disease, in which there was an excessive elimination of disintegrated blood; and advocated the use of opium and stimulants, in opposition to the plan of treating it by depletion, salines, etc. In absence of the liver, he advocated a modification of the plans adopted by Graves, Alcock, and others, of promoting adhesions between the hepatic lining and the abdominal parietes, with the view of facilitating the outward evacuation of matter and preventing introduction of air into the cavity.

Great as were his labours as an Indian physician, probably those which he undertook in the character of surgeon were of more importance. We believe that no European surgeon had ever more experience in operating upon cases of elephantiasis of the scrotum. He instituted researches into the nature of these tumours; and the results were embodied in a paper which was read by him and discussed, not long ago, before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London.

In the midst of his toils, he could always spare time to do a beneficent act; to aid a professional brother in his researches; or to investigate the causes of phenomena himself with the scalpel or microscope. Few men were more esteemed by their patients than Dr. Webb; he was always looked upon as the personal friend as well as the medical attendant. For very many years, he was the medical adviser and chosen friend of the Bishop (Daniel Wilson). His name is now to be added to the list of those who, having served their country long and well in the East, have only returned to commence their long rest in their native land.

Association Intelligence.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS: ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

The following memorial has been forwarded to the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, in consequence of a recommendation made by the Council of the British Medical Association at the meeting in Bristol.

To the President, Vice-Presidents, and Members of Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

The memorial of the President and members of the British Medical Association,

SIGNED,—

That the British Medical Association numbers more than two thousand medical practitioners in the metropolis and the provinces, including many Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Surgeons.

That the mode of election of the Members of Council of the College of Surgeons has been brought under the notice of your memorialists.

That your memorialists understand it to have been the intention of the charters granted to the College, that the opportunity of voting in the election of Members of the Council of the College should be afforded equally to all its Fellows.

That, under the present bye-laws of the College, personal attendance on the day of election is required; whereby many Fellows residing in the country, and prevented by their professional duties from going to Lon-
don, are prevented from recording their votes, although desires and justly entitled to do so.

That, in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the voting at the election of members of Parliament is conducted by means of voting-papers, filled up by the non-resident electors and sent by post; proper provision being made for their authenticity.

That your memorialists are of opinion that the adoption of some such method would remove the dissatisfaction at present felt by the profession as to the mode of election of Councillors of the Royal College of Surgeons, and would entitle the result of the election to be considered a more correct expression of the wishes of the Fellows than it now is.

Your memorialists therefore earnestly request that you will be pleased to take into consideration the propriety of altering the bye-laws of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in regard to the election of Members of Council, or, if necessary, of obtaining the legal powers for doing so, so that non-resident Fellows of the College may be enabled to vote by proxy at the annual election of Members of Council, in accordance with the principle which has already been advantageously adopted in the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

(Signed)
J. A. SYMONDS, M.D., etc., President.

**BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.**

**NAME OF BRANCH.**

**BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.**

The ordinary meeting of the Bath and Bristol Branch was held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday, October 22nd; F. K. FOX, M.D., President, in the chair. There were also present thirty-seven members and six visitors.

Cases. The following cases were read:

1. Spasmodic Affections of Children: J. Pertussis. By E. L. Fox, M.D.
4. Dr. Fulconer exhibited a patient with well-marked Wasting Palsy of the Upper Extremities.

**BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.**

**BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.**

**PLACE OF MEETING.**

**DATE.**

1. **MEDICAL MEETINGS.**

The next meeting will be held at the Fountain Hotel, Canterbury, on Thursday, November 26th, at 7 p.m.

Dinner will be ordered for 5 o'clock.

THOMAS BOYDOTT, M.D., Hon. Secretary.

Canterbury, November 2nd, 1863.

**SHROPSHIRE SCIENTIFIC BRANCH.**

"Felicitas infelicitatis adjuvante scientia."

The members of this Branch held one of their periodical evening meetings at the Raven Hotel, on September 22nd last; ROBERT BLAIXIE, Esq., President, in the Chair.

Communications. 1. A Paper, illustrated by Diagrams and Experiments, on the Cause of the Deformities of the Skulls found in Excavating at the Ancient Roman City of Uriconium (Wroxeter). By H. Johnson, M.D.
2. A Paper on some Cases of Poisoning by the Administration of 'Bear's Foot' (Helleborus Foetidos) as a Vermicidal to Children. By T. B. Barrett, Esq. It appeared probable that the Helleborus Niger had been the plant used.
3. Some Mineral Waters, strongly impregnated with Salts, from Natural Springs near to Llanrwst, were exhibited by H. BLAIXIE, Esq.
4. A Number of New Preparations were exhibited.
5. A present of the Patent Oxygenated Water, prepared by the Patent Oxygenated Water Company, was received and tasted. A report was suggested to be made of its value as a remedial agent, after trial.
6. Mr. Barrett showed a number of beautiful and interesting Photographs.
7. Microscopes and Preparations were on the tables; and amongst other interesting things exhibited was a case of Roman Surgical Instruments, Charms, and Relics, relating to the profession, and discovered at Uriconium (Wroxeter), which had been used by our professional forefathers more than 1300 years ago.

**FEVERS AND THEIR CAUSES.**

Sir,—An accurate knowledge of the laws of epidemic disease, so long needed, now appears to be one of the advances in medicine most nearly "looming in the distance". To exclude all erroneously supposed modes of causation, is the first step towards ascertaining the true cause. Dr. Christison has done good service in publicly expressing his conviction that foul air and sewage emanations cannot of themselves generate typhus or typhoid fever. The occasion seized by Dr. Christison, and the authority of the speaker, will do more to direct general attention to this question than could have resulted from cursory papers in the medical journals, however reiterated. And as a certain amount of impulse is necessary for sanitary action, as for every other action on a large scale, one may perhaps reason that the anti-foul-air movement has so long been looked upon as a vital point in the eradication of fevers, before the reaction of opinion touching its share in causing fevers becomes general. Antisalvage sluggishness stands in need of no support from a feeling that bad drainage does not do quite all the evil with which it has been credited. Granting that a bad drain cannot become a fever-poison factory, so long as the specific poison of fever cannot gain admission into it; yet facts innumerable prove that a bad drain may become a fever-poison receptacle, carrier, and general distributor. And, although a nauseous drain-smell may not be competent to induce disease, yet the gaseous drain emanations, whose presence the bad smells indicate, may convey volatile germs of disease, whether diphtheria, cholera, dysentery, or continued fever. Such volatile germs may be in the air without any odour; or they may be in the air which causes a bad smell. The only connection of the smell with them seems to be, that it itself proceeds from, and points out, a source from which these germs may proceed, and one, too, which is avoidable or removable. Some facts connected with cholera leave it rather doubtful whether the unknown cholera-poison (or ferment) may not breed and increase itself in putrescent matter; or, if not, that, may not, at all events collect by preference, and so accumulate there to make the place a virulent focus of the disease.

How far this may be true of fever-poison, is neither
APOTHECARY'S HALL. On October 20th, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Gervis, Frederick Hendonborough, Tiverton
Leach, Matthew, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire

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

Henderson, Roderick William, Guy's Hospital
Dale, John, St. Thomas's Hospital
Milburn, Frederick Le Feve —, Charing Cross, Hospital
Reed, Walter Hugo, St. Thomas's Hospital
Wallis, James, Bristol Medical School

APPOINTMENTS.

Drexton, Thomas, Esq., has been appointed Medical Officer to the House of Correction at Falkingham, Lincolnshire.
Conway, Robert T. F., L.R.C.P., elected Consulting Medical Officer to the Royal Sea-Bathing Infirmary, Scarborough.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE.

Boyd, William H., M.D., to the Ballycastle Dispensary District of the Ilfracombe Union, ex-Mary.
Bradley, John D., M.D., to the Kilbeggan Dispensary District of the Tullamore Union, King's County.
Land, John F., Esq., to part of the West District of the Patrington Union, Yorkshire.

INDIAN ARMY.

Macpherson, Surgeon H. M., Bengal Army, to Surgeon-Major.

ROYAL NAVY.

Esker, John P., Esq., Surgeon, to the Royalist.

DEATHS.

Bain. On October 12th, at Suez, Elizabeth Piper, wife of James Bain, M.D., 4th Bombay Native Infantry.

Barker. On October 31st, at Darlington, aged 26, Mary Esther, wife of Joseph Barker, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon Royal Horse Artillery.

Bishop. On October 30th, at Thornsby Hall, Northamptonshire, aged 88, Mary J. W., widow of Thomas Bishop, M.D.

Blundell. On October 31st, aged 86, Emma, widow of Thomas Blundell, M.D., of Melton, Wensleydale, Suffolk.

Brocklehurst, Christopher, Esq, Surgeon, at Northallerton, aged 74, on November 2nd.

Jones. On November 2nd, at Sydenham, Mabel Eveline, infant daughter of Sydney Jones, M.B., of St. Thomas's Street.

Warren, Henry, Esq., Surgeon, late of Oswestry, at Park Road, Leggat's Park, aged 60, on November 2nd.

COLLISION AND GLYCERINE. Two parts of glycerine, mixed with one hundred parts of collision, form an application which, when spread on the skin, will not crack.

EXPENSES OF POOR-LAW GUARDIANS. Last week, the Poor guardians of Bottisham Green successfully sued a person, whose son had been sent into the Small-Pox Hospital by them, for the admission-fee of one guinea paid by them and costs.

LEGACY. A Birmingham paper states that the magnificent legacy of £10,000 has just been bequeathed to the General Hospital in that town by the late Mr. Daniel Davis, who died a few days ago at Rowley. By the law at present in operation respecting legacies, half this sum will have to be invested; but the remaining half will clear the hospital of its present debt, and the invested half will add some £200 to its regular income.

MADRAS. A FIGHT WITH A MONKEY. A Bordeaux journal states that a medical student of that town last week narrowly escaped being strangled by a female baboon which he had received as a present from a friend. It appears that the animal, which was of large size and savage, had always been kept chained up, but its new master set it loose in his room. The monkey leaped on its master's shoulders and attempted to strangle him by clasping him round the neck. The young man vainly endeavoured to shake the animal off, and even stabbed it several times with a bistouri, but this only rendered it more furious. It is impossible to say how the struggle might have ended, if a brother student had not opportunely entered the room and despatched the monkey with an amputating knife. The student was severely bitten and torn about the neck and breast, but his wounds are not likely to be followed by any serious consequences.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH. The annual meeting of the Edinburgh University Council took place on October 30th; and a rather breezy kind of meeting it was, as, indeed, what else could it be among several hundred old students, who grow young again at the sight of each other, and freely use epithets? The hour for the meeting was named, and all present were ordered to be present or have a proxy, excepting the principal, the vice-chancellor, the dean of the senate, and the professor of theology, who had been present at the opening of the winter session. A meeting of the Senate took place at the Statistical Society on Wednesday afternoon, at which the majority of the members were present. The meeting was opened by the vice-chancellor, who read a report of the University's proceedings to the Senate in a meeting of the Senate in the Park, 9th October, 1863. The report was then referred to the Senate for consideration. The Senate resolved:—That this Assembly desires to express its deep sense of the services rendered to the University by its late president, the late Mr. James Davison, and to request that the Senate shall meet at the Park on Saturday next, for the purpose of electing a new president. The Senate then adjourned.
their representative in the University Court. This gentleman, besides being an eminent Sanscrit scholar—he was once of the Indian Civil Service—is a most accomplished man, and so rational in matters of religion as to be a regular hearer of Dr. Roberts Lee. The University Council discussed another thing which was questionable; they refused to pass a vote of thanks to Lord Barcarole, the retiring assessor, chiefly because he had supported the exclusion of reporters from the University Court.

University College, London. The surviving founders of University College will remember the hearty co-operation which they met with in their project to create the University of London from several opulent merchants of India, and notably from Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, and others, of Bombay, for shares in the institution. It will now gratify them to find that for several years past the College has had a constant succession of students from the Presidencies, mostly Parsees. Of the estimation in which intelligent and distinguished Indians hold these advantages substantial—Lord Ashburton, who has been afforded by the munificent gift of £1000 for the hospital, and by the terms of a letter addressed to Dr. Walshe from the eminent firm of Cama and Co. —'London, Oct. 20. Dear Sir,—Referring to the conversation we had with you, we now beg to enclose a cheque for £1000, as a donation to the University College Hospital, in gratitude for the instructions and assistance received by our countrymen in this excellent institution, and we feel it a pleasure to give this amount through you, in token of friendship, and successful studies of our countrymen under your former professorship. We remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully, Cama and Co.'

Operation Days at the Hospitals.

**Monday.** Metropolitan Free, 3 P.M.—St. Mark's for Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum, 1.15 P.M.—Samaritan, 2.30 P.M.

**Tuesday.** Guy's, 1.45 P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.

**Wednesday.** St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.

**Thursday.** St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical, 2 P.M.—Royal Infirmary, 2 P.M.

**Friday.** Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.

**Saturday.** St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Lock, Clinical Demonstration and Operations, 1 P.M.—Royal Free, 1.30 P.M.

Meeting of Societies during the Next Week.

**Monday.** Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Wm. Adams, "On the Treatment of Disease of the Spine, and Angular Curvature."—Royal Geographical.

**Tuesday.** Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Dr. Howard, "On Treatment of Frost-bite by Friction with Snow and Indin); Holmes Coote, "Cancerous Infiltration of the Penis"; Mr. A. Durham, "Mucous Cyst of the Epiglottis, treated by Indentation."—Zoological.

**Wednesday.** North London.—Microscopical.

**Friday.** Astronomical.


[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

Books Received.