OBITUARY.

P. VICTOR BAZIRE, M.D.

It is with unqualified and painful regret that we have to announce the death of Dr. P. Victor Bazire, Assistant-Physician of the Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic, editor and translator of Trousseau's Clinical Lectures, and author of the Hospital Reports and Records which have appeared in the British Medical Journal this year. This most able and accomplished young physician stood high in the personal estimation of his metropolitan brethren, and was acquiring a wider reputation. A few days since, he was apparently in excellent health, and his prospects in life were bright. The sad and altogether unexpected event took place suddenly during the morning of the 11th instant. Nothing had foreshadowed so awful and abrupt a termination of life, and it is still difficult fully to realise the fact. A brief period of paroxysmal pain in the head had not awakened either his own or his friends' anxiety. He regarded it so slightly as only to speak of it incidentally to his medical friends, and it had not troubled him so much as to induce him to suspend for a moment his duties. On the eve of his death, he had appeared as he was in the fullest vigour of life—all his rare, brilliant, and fascinating qualities undimmed. But in the early morning he was struck down as he left his bed; and there, on the floor of his room, when summoned to his breakfast, he was discovered insensible and dying. It is little consolation now to know that no mortal help could have availed him even in the slightest degree. A small aneurismal pouch had formed in the basilar artery. As is commonly the case with the young (and perhaps mercifully so, when no relief is practicable or possible), its growth had proceeded without probably causing a single sense of discomfort, certainly not one traceable to this source. At length, on the morning of the 11th, the pouch had given way, and flooded the sub-arachnoid space and meshes of the pia mater at the base of the brain and upper portion of the spinal cord with blood. From the fatal rupture to the cessation of life, little more than three hours probably elapsed.

Dr. Bazire was a native of Mauritius. He was educated in the Royal College of Port Louis, where he obtained the gold medal for general proficiency. In 1853 he entered University College, and in the year following he matriculated with great credit. From this time he annually took honours. In 1856 he carried off two gold and one silver medals. In 1858, he passed the second examination for M.B. in the University of London, taking honours in every branch, and receiving the gold medal for Surgery. The same year, he petitioned the University to allow him to present himself for the examination for M.D. The petition was granted; and he achieved great distinction in the clinical examination, at which he passed. The first examination for the B.C. was during that examination that he first exhibited proofs of that wonderful power of diagnosis which was his great characteristic professionally. In December 1858, he entered the University of Paris; and he graduated in medicine there in 1860, his thesis for the degree being on diseases of the hip-joint. Here, as in London, his scholarly career was very brilliant. In the last named year, he began the practice of his profession in Port Louis, Mauritius; and he quickly afterwards received a valuable appointment in the Civil Hospital of that city. In 1862, he lost his wife from cholera. This painful event appears to have inspired him with disgust for his native island; and he returned, with his children, two in number, to Europe, and settled in London. Here he held in succession the appointments of Medical Registrar of the Westminster Hospital, and Assistant-Physician of the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic. His writings were limited to the thesis already mentioned, a few clinical contributions to this and other journals, and the translation and annotation of a part of Troussseau's Clinical Lectures. Few as are his published works, they are shown by the rare quality of observations and culture which he possessed. Especially may be noted, in this respect, a paper on Paralysis of the Diaphragm (British Medical Journal 1867); his note, with reports of cases, appended to the translation of Troussseau's lecture on Progressive Locomotor Ataxy; and some of the valuable introductory summaries and historical commentaries with which he prefaced the Hospital Reports of this Journal.

Medicine has lost much by Dr. Bazire's untimely death. He was just beginning to unfold his admirable knowledge in the behoof of the profession when he was cut off. He had hardly indicated the rarity and richness of his promise when death stepped in. Words can only coarsely outline the large grief of so great a loss.

MEDICAL NEWS.

THE ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL AND THE ST. PANCRAS GUARDIANS.

The Board of the Royal Free Hospital have offered to let to the Guardians of St. Pancras a portion of the buildings of the hospital for 150 of the inmates of the workhouse, but the Guardians would have to fit up the buildings. The Board resolved to accept the offer if the terms could be agreed upon. We hope that the unpaid medical officers of the hospital will not undertake the treatment of any of the pauper sick. This is a state duty: it must be properly paid, and hospital medical officers should not interfere to take it out of the hands of the Poor-law medical officers. We view any rapprochement between voluntary hospitals for the non-pauperised poor and of the workhouse infirmaries with great suspicion. We have hitherto strongly and successfully opposed any such confusion as highly detrimental to the state and to the profession. We trust that the medical officers of the Royal Free Hospital will not lend themselves to any meddling with the duties of Poor-law medical officers at all,—far less to any gratuitous treatment of the poor who are accepted as a charge upon the state, and towards whose maintenance we all contribute in common with other citizens.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—The following passed the Preliminary Scientific M.B. Examination, 1867.

First Division.


First M.B. Examination, 1867. Entire. Pass Examination.

First Division.


Second Division.

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.

WEDNESDAY ... St. Mark's, 2 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. —3:30 P.M.

THURSDAY ... St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 1 A.M.—St. Thomas's, 1:30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

FRIDAY .... Westminster Ophthalmic, 1:30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.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 Free, 1:30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.

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.

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

Communications as to the transmission of the Journal, should be sent to Mr. Richards, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C.

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

SIR,—Please inform me in your next issue if the following proceeding, on the part of an associate, is in keeping with established medical etiquette? The associate complained to me that a pamphlet was exhibited with success, and he had reason for him to present copies of this pamphlet to a public reading-room and literary institute in the town in which he practises? I am, etc., A PHYSICIAN.

* * * The practice is not ungenerous and not unprofessional.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING.

SIR,—It will doubtless cause surprise that any one should be found bold enough to prefer an indictment of misconduct against those who were responsible for the arrangements of the Annual Meeting, to the censure of the medical practice of those who had no connection with the meetings on the occasion in question. I would observe generally, that certain innovations, the adoption of which, I consider, is judicious, progressive, and in no wise objectionable, from the inevitable want of administrative capacity which has evaded itself at previous meetings, and which appears to have gone with us to Dublin.

The plan, now for the first time adopted, of dividing the scientific business into sections, must be regarded as an admirable device for facilitating the progress of that department, but which was more than counterbalanced by confusion and want of proper arrangement. It was, I am informed, intended that only certain sections should sit, and that no two subjects of more than common interest should be taken at the same time. This provision was ignored: and, consequently, valuable communications were withheld from many of those present, from the impossibility of being in two places at the same time. The notice-papers, exhibited at the entrance of the section chambers, purporting to inform inquirers what particular subject was under discussion, would have been very useful, if, instead of the system of not being omitted of changing the announcements, in accordance with the progress of the papers.

The so-called "Journal of Proceedings" would have proved highly interesting, as a means of ascertaining the daily progress of business, if, instead of a mere reprint of the original programme, they had really contained ever so brief account of what had transpired from day to day. In the face of a heavy debt to the Treasurer, I regard this expenditure as highly undesirable. It is true, that the printing of the "Journal of Proceedings" is a waste of our funds. As I was unable to attend the first meeting, I am, owing to the imperfection of this so-called Journal, left in complete ignorance as to what was the fate of a most important communication in the Report of the Sub-committee; namely, the future course proposed in reference to the Charter Sub-committee.

It is, I think, only fair to the honourable Members of the Committee of Council, with such a long experience, should, year after year, fail in devising any plan for securing the satisfactory conduct of the business details of our meetings; and this subject incidentally, which may have been considered of the greatest importance. It may be, that the General Secretary, upon whose personal attention the success of these matters so materially depends, has already more work on his hands than he can thoroughly master; and, if this be so, it is worthy of consideration whether some assistance should not be given him, rather than subject ourselves to the annual annoyance of failure and mismanagement.

I am, etc., A. R. STREEL.

Liverpool, August 1867.
NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.—Advertisements should be forwarded directly to the Printing-Office, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C., addressed to Mr. Richards, not later than Thursday, twelve o’clock.

F.R.C.P.—We cannot say at how many of the metropolitan clubs the British Medical Journal is taken, because many clubs order journals through their bookstall. It is, however, subscribed to from the office to the Athenaeum, Reform, Junior United Service, Carlton, Conservative, Civil Service, and Oxford and Cambridge; also to the Poor-Law Board, General Register Office, Foreign Office, and other public bodies.

Bibliopolists will find both the works of John of Gaddesden and John Arderin in the Library of the College of Surgeons.

REGISTRATION OF DISEASES.

Sir,—I observe that the valuable suggestion in your number for May 8th, of a report of the prevalence of diseases in the kingdom, has met with no response, notwithstanding your invitation. Ten years ago, and again two years subsequently, I drew the attention of the profession to it in the columns of one of your contemporaries (Lancet, March 14th, 1836, p. 198). and have since tried to induce members of the profession to forward some such work. But in vain; the thing involves trouble, but no personal advantage; and when such is the case, few men of enlarged views, like Dr. Farr, Dr. Crompton, Dr. Richardson, and some others, have not shrunk from advocating the plan; and it surely cannot be consigned, without another effect, all too often the only effect, to the prevalence of diseases. It would be a piece of medical history—valuable, doubtless, for reference. But we might have a report of a different kind, published weekly in your Journal, if you thought fit, where it would occupy twenty-three lines across a page, and would show the busy medical practitioner the prevalent diseases of his own and other registration districts within ten or twelve days of the time when he read the results, so that they might be a guide and help to him in his practice. Surely, such a report must be concise, strictly confined to its true object, the registration of prevalent diseases; and it must be simple, or it never will be steadily written, and short, or it will not be read.Voluntary, it is certain, it would become a record of the prevalence of diseases, both for the week and for the year, both for immediate guidance and for reference when placed on our bookshelves. I propose that the weekly return should be in the following form:

Specimen of proposed Abstract of Weekly Returns, prepared for publication.

New cases of disease registered in the eleven districts of England and Wales, for the week ending Tuesday, the 18th, 1866.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cholera</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarletina</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whooping-cough</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smallpox</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here the returns from England and Wales would be stated in eleven columns, answering the eleven districts mapped out by the Registrar-General. The weekly returns from such medical men in each district as would take the slight trouble necessary to assist in the work, by filling up and forwarding a return like the following, on a set day every week, to some one appointed to tabulate them.

Specimen of proposed Weekly Return, to be sent in from each Practitioner, selecting his Signature, or Name, according to practice.

New cases of disease observed in the practice of , for the week ending , the day of , 1866.

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</table>

The success of the whole plan would depend on the voluntary action of a sufficient number of gentlemen to make up and send in the weekly returns. Of course, we know that many would slight or disregard the return, as not promising them any personal advantage or credit; but their inaction need not vitiate it. For if only one hundred returns came in from each of the eleven districts, there would be eleven hundred returns every week to furnish results to the profession; and fresh adherents to the plan would be gained, when it appeared (as it most certainly

would) that the general good was promoted without mischief to any individual or locality, and at a small cost. The printed forms required annually might fairly be met by the profession; the expense of printing the returns in a form ready for insertion, would be less expensive than might be supposed. The first communication to members of the profession, to secure adherents to the plan, and to judge of the willingness to aid, might be done through existing machinery, without much expense.

I forbear to trouble you with further details, or to answer possible objections; but am prepared to do both, if called on. The goodness of the plan seems self-evident.

W. E. C. STOWE, F.R.C.S.
Marlborough Place, Brighton, July 8th, 1866.

Dr. J. Brown (Rochester).—The communication was received, and shall have due attention.

DEBATE IN THE SOCIETÉ DE LA CHIRURGIE AT PARIS ON THE NON-SURGICAL TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.

Sir,—Your Paris correspondent [Journal], July 6th, sums up the debate in the Surgical Society of Paris (Gazette Hôpital, May and June) on the question of the treatment of syphilis. I trust that it will not be long before we attempt in London, if it be possible, to solve, as far as we can, the question of cholera. This debate has continued for many weeks, and each speaker has had as long a time given to him as he desired to make out his case; in this respect, making the debate closely resemble those with which we are all so familiar in our House of Parliament. As your Parisian correspondent says, M. Dolbeau, the speaker who began the discussion, is entirely opposed to the treatment of syphilis by mercury, asserting, like many of his opponents, that the syphilitic affections are only to be found in the imaginations of its admirers; and are not real facts in nature,—i.e., that it has no power to prevent secondary eruptions, or to cure them, only to retard them by the action of some agent upon the vital powers, and thus rendering the system more powerless against the formidable inroads of the disease, they object to its use altogether, until some more scientific method of treatment should be made to establish its use, which, however, I believe will never again be made.

M. Deprez, a gentleman of the highest character as a scientific physician, and who has so ably assisted us in the Lorette Hospital, and, as far as the troubles of this debate has continued, he has given him ample opportunities for observation, follows M. Dolbeau as a speaker; and, in my humble opinion, completely overthrows M. Ricord and his school. He based his argument on clinical facts, showing that mercury used for six or eight months, or even longer, had utterly failed to do anything towards removing syphilitic symptoms; and by giving in his entire adhesion to the treatment of disease, after the manner recommended by Siméon, etc.; namely, by tonics and topical applications.

Isidore of potassium is the only medication now recommended by these gentlemen. The proof of this is that the French Journal de Médecine, as Mr. Veuve says in a poem in the Presse Médicale recently, among many of the young doctors of Paris, "Le Mercure est mort." I am, etc.

Dr. MARKET.—The correction shall be made.

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

Dr. F. Kirkpatrick, Dublin; Dr. Wardell, Tunbridge Wells [with enclosure]; The Director-General of the Army Medical Department [with enclosure]; Dr. James Barwell [with enclosure]; Dr. R. W. Dunn [with enclosure]; Dr. A. R. Warwick, Richmond [with enclosure]; Dr. Frederick J. Brown, Rochester; The Registrar of the University of London [with enclosure]; Mr. Harry Leach; A Physician; Dr. G. V. Albott; Mr. Lownds, Liverpool [with enclosure]; Dr. Harry Charles Anderson, with enclosure; Dr. A. M. J. Dr. A. M. J., Dr. M. F. Hopkins, Huntingdon; Mr. F. Ouvry; Mr. J. De Courcy Young; Sir James Simpson; Dr. Henry Bennet [with enclosure]; Mr. William Bowman [with enclosure]; Mr. Holman, Reigate [with enclosure]; Mr. A. R. Steele, Liverpool; Dr. Laflor, Dublin; Dr. W. V. Bird, Liverpool; Mr. H. T. Bryant, Colonial Office; Dr. A. E. Sansom [with enclosure]; Dr. Protheroe Smith [with enclosure]; Mr. T. M. Stone; Mrs. M. A. Barnes [with enclosure]; Dr. H. MacCurrie, Belfast; Professor Redwood; Dr. MacNab, Dublin [with enclosure]; Miss Isabel Thorn; Mr. Gomber, Sans Souci, Yoxford; Mr. Tweedie; Dr. L. Sadwick; Dr. J. R. Roughead, Gosport; Dr. John Chapman; Dr. Althaus; Mr. Maunders [with enclosure]; Dr. Jonathan Hutchison [with enclosure]; Dr. Roch [with enclosure]; Dr. A. G. Ascham, Amsterdam; Professor Pohle; Dr. Barbiere-Dubourg, Paris; Dr. Cruise, Dublin; Dr. Lomas; Mr. P. M. Bangor; Mr. T. W. Williams; Mr. Moore; Dr. Farmer, the Editor; The Socinian; American Journal of Medical Science; the Registrar-General of Ireland; the Registrar-General of England; Mr. Bywater [with enclosure]; Dr. W. Johnson; Mr. Shaw, Cork.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

A Treatise on the Function of Digestion; its Disorders and their Treatment. By Dr. W. Pavy, M.D., F.R.S. London: 1867.

The Nervous System. By Louis Legrand, Jr., Doctor of Medicine, etc. Edited in English by A. M. Magaudel. Part II. London: 1867.


Physical and Medical Climate and Meteorology of the Western Coast of Africa. By James Africanus B. Horton, M.D., Staff-Assistant-Surgeon of H.M.'s Forces in West Africa. London: 1867.


The Dublin Express, August 12th.