

curiosity. When M. Broca presented him to the Society, he gave him verbally a sum in multiplication composed of some trillions to be multiplied by billions. This he accomplished in less than ten minutes mentally and without any aid whatever, in presence of the members, who were all struck with wonderment. The lad is far from intelligent in other respects, and can neither read nor write; and the most curious feature of his method of calculation is, that he proceeds from left to right, instead of from right to left. He is of the ordinary stature of his age; but his head is rather large and somewhat hydrocephalous in appearance. His forehead is high, and developed to an extraordinary degree. The question of the localisation in the brain of such a function is as yet a mystery.

Cases of congenital small-pox are exceedingly rare, and their existence is even denied by some; and this no doubt induced Professor Depaul to make known a case that lately came under his observation in his hospital. He stated at the Academy of Medicine that a woman aged 33, who was affected with small-pox about the end of January last, made a good recovery without the slightest mark on her face or body. She was pregnant, and on April 30th, feeling herself unwell, was admitted into the lying-in hospital, where she had scarcely been a few hours when she aborted. The child was of the male sex, and weighed 820 grammes; it had been dead for about a month, and presented on different parts of the body the characteristic pustules of small-pox. The placenta, which was also diseased, was affected with fatty degeneration. MM. Devilliers and Blot referred to other cases still more curious. These gentlemen asserted that they had met with cases in which mothers served as channels for the transmission of the small-pox to the foetus *in utero*, without having themselves any manifestations of the disease. Surely these examples ought to be sufficient to convince antivaccinators of the efficacy of vaccination, and of the necessity of employing this prophylactic measure not only as early as possible, but of renewing it at certain intervals. At Professor Depaul's *clinique*, the children are vaccinated directly they come into the world.

Michelet, the great philosopher and writer, remarked in his work *La Femme* that there were more women treated now-a-days for diseases of the womb than in times of yore. He added, however, this did not prove that these diseases are actually more prevalent than they used to be, but that, with the progress of science, greater facilities have been afforded for finding them out; and there is no doubt they are even better understood, and consequently better treated. The same may be said of diseases of the eye, and indeed of many other diseases. Whether the former are more prevalent in France than elsewhere I am not in a position to state; but, judging from the published reports of some of the ophthalmic clinics in Paris, the French are not behind their neighbours in this respect. According to a report drawn up by Dr. Parent, *chef de clinique* to Dr. Galezowski, 7,973 ophthalmic patients presented themselves at the clinic of the latter gentleman from November 1st, 1878, to November 1st, 1879; and, if it be granted that each patient had, on an average, ten or twelve consultations, this would bring the number to about 80,000 to 100,000! Thus it may be seen that there are ample opportunities for studying eye-diseases in Paris; and these seem to be availed of, if we may judge from the number of medical students and practitioners that frequent the clinics. Dr. Parent's report, which is published in the *Recueil d'Ophthalmologie*, will be found very interesting, and the list of diseases seems to comprise the whole range of ocular pathology. I may, however, notice certain points, in order to give your readers an idea of the difference of Galezowski's treatment from that adopted by others. His operation for cataract, of which he had 198 cases during the year, consists in forming a flap with the upper third of the cornea by making the incision quite close to the sclerotic, and combining it with iridectomy. The opening of the capsule is effected with a knife, and he never employs the cystotome except in cases of soft cataract. The eye operated on is immediately bandaged, and a lotion of a one per cent. solution of boric acid is applied. He never employs instillations of eserine or of atropine after the operation. The bandage is removed after twenty-four hours; and, if the anterior chamber be re-established, the eye is simply sheltered by a floating shade during the day, and the bandage is reapplied for the night. The same treatment is continued for some days afterwards; and, if all go well, the bandage is entirely removed and the eye protected by a veil. Dr. Parent declares that, since he entered Dr. Galezowski's clinic about twelve months ago, he met with only one case of phlegmon of the eye after operation for cataract. He witnessed several cases of iritis resulting from the operation, but which, with a few exceptions, were amenable to treatment. The results altogether may be considered satisfactory. Not a single eye was lost from escape of the vitreous humour; and this accident happened only three times in all; and the rarity of the accident is

attributed to Dr. Galezowski's method of operation, in which he avoids approaching too near the sclerotic, and takes the precaution of withdrawing the dilating forceps as soon as the iris is excised. The lens is extruded by simple pressure with the finger. The accident before referred to is, generally speaking, rare even at the other clinics in Paris; and this immunity is ascribed to the abandonment of von Gräfe's operation for cataract; and, indeed, as Dr. Parent facetiously remarks, nothing, as far as Paris is concerned, is left of von Gräfe's method except his knife. In the treatment of glaucoma, Dr. Galezowski never believed that sclerotomy could seriously compete with iridectomy. The former affords no security against sympathetic ophthalmia; and even those who adopted the new method with so much enthusiasm are agreed that sclerotomy is more palliative than curative, and that it does not for any time prevent a return of the glaucomatous symptoms. Dr. Galezowski, however, thinks it useful in some cases of absolute and hæmorrhagic glaucoma. I cannot enter more fully into Dr. Parent's report, which is somewhat long; but any of your readers will find it in the *Recueil d'Ophthalmologie* for the current month.

In connection with diseases of the eye, and to show the importance attached to the great prevalence of this class of affections in France, I may notice the laying of the foundation-stone of a new ophthalmological clinic to be annexed to the "Quinze-Vingts", an asylum for the blind already in existence. The ceremony, which was altogether laical, was performed by M. Lepère, Home Minister, in presence of M. Gambetta, President of the Chamber of Deputies, M. Pepau, Director of the Institution, Dr. Fieuzal, the Principal Medical Officer, and a certain number of medical and other notabilities. In an eloquent speech, the Director traced the history of the institution, the origin of which goes as far back as Louis XVI, who in 1779 decreed the removal of the Quinze-Vingts from the Faubourg Saint-Honoré to its present site in the Rue de Charenton; ordering at the same time the establishment of an ophthalmological clinic to be annexed to the asylum. From some cause or other, the latter part of the decree had not been put into execution, and it has been left for the republic, after a lapse of a hundred years, to carry out the wishes of an ancient monarch. Paris, May 16th, 1880.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

TYPHOID FEVER IN BRISTOL.

WHILST the evidence which has been adduced with regard to a recent outbreak of typhoid fever in Bristol does not enable the cases to be traced with certainty to the milk-supply, which is stated to have been the only condition common to the five houses invaded, there is enough in Mr. Davies's report to warrant a very strong protest against the inefficiency of the present law with regard to dairies. The local veterinary authority, upon whom the duty of regulating dairies was cast by the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act of 1878, is required, amongst other things, to see to the purity of their water-supply. Mr. Davies found, on repairing to the farm whence the milk-supply of the five invaded houses was derived, that, whilst the dairy and its surroundings were clean, the only available water-supply was from a mill-stream, which, at the time of his visit, was turbid. Following this stream up the valley, Mr. Davies came upon some closets discharging into it, and a cesspool which overflowed into it in winter-time. In one place, he found parts of the entrails of a bullock in it; and a little higher up, the two hind quarters of a calf dead of the "quarter-evil"—a very contagious disease, supposed to be identical with anthrax in man. It is true that the farmer and his family have drunk water from this source without recognisable mischief; but if either the closets or the cesspool spoken of discharged at any time, as they might easily do, sewage containing the germs of typhoid fever, the danger of the drinking of water from the mill-stream is manifest. It was the duty of the local authority to have seen that the water-supply of a dairy thus regulated by special legislation was free from this or any other source of danger. Yet nothing was done until Mr. Davies' inspection, when the farmer, thoroughly disgusted at what he had seen, promised at once to secure a proper water-supply from the Bristol Waterworks. Piecemeal legislation, such as that of Section 34 of the Animals Act of 1878, is worse than useless; and we trust that a speedy opportunity will be taken of transferring the duties imposed by that section to the proper authority, viz., the sanitary board for the district in which each dairy-farm is situated,

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

WE see with satisfaction that the plan which we have adopted for the last few years of devoting a special column to the interests of the public health services, and which has proved highly advantageous and satisfactory to the members of those services, has now been followed by our contemporary the *Lancet*. We cannot, however, but suggest, for the reputation of medical literature, that the supervision of these matters should be entrusted to some one possessing an elementary knowledge of the history of the subject. From a series of articles appearing during successive weeks, our contemporary has reiterated its quaint jubulations that "the claims of the country to a Ministry of Health", on which it thinks it important to add that "it has long and importunately insisted", are now satisfied by the admission of Mr. Dodson to the Cabinet. It thinks it eminently worthy of Mr. Gladstone to have carried into effect this policy, and to have "taken the initiative in giving the Local Government Board its proper place". All this might be excusable as a passing error, but that our contemporary should not, in the course of a month of this sort of writing, have become aware or been reminded that throughout Mr. Gladstone's last administration Mr. Stansfeld held a place in the Cabinet as President of the Local Government Board, and, unfortunately, without those happy results which are now predicted from Mr. Dodson's presence. Mr. Dodson is an untried statesman, and we are content to be very hopeful of his future, but that his presence in the council chamber offers any immediate prospect of a Ministry of Health is a proposition too childish to be entertained. A President of the Local Government Board has been a Cabinet Minister with far more satisfactory results. The exclusion of the late President was mainly due to personal considerations, and the new President has now merely resumed the position which is the due of the Minister who is in such immediate connection with the local interests of the country. A real Ministry of Health is, we are afraid, for the moment, as far off as ever; but, as the new Government have come in pledged to progress in home legislation, it may be hoped that they will not leave sanitary matters in the unfortunate plight in which they now find them.

SMALL-POX AT READING.

FOR some years past, the Medical Officer of Health for Reading has been pressing upon the Town Council the expediency of providing hospital accommodation for infectious diseases, but the Council have delayed adopting his oft-repeated recommendation, backed up, as it had been, by the Local Government Board, until a recent outbreak of small-pox in the town has induced them to sanction the erection of a temporary hut for the isolation of the cases. It may be hoped that the authority will proceed from this to the building of a properly equipped hospital for their important district; for they have had, during the recent outbreak, evidence sufficient for complete conviction of the disadvantage and inconvenience arising from the want of such accommodation. A servant-girl was brought from a house in London to Reading in February last, whilst suffering from incipient small-pox. The parents of the girl were unwilling to receive Poor-law relief, until, by being kept away from work on account of the infection, they were compelled to accept it. They would, however, have been willing for their daughter to have been removed to a hospital for infectious disease if one had been available. The result of non-isolation was that the girl communicated the disease to three other members of her family, one of whom died. The father and his son were thrown out of work, and then (too late) the cases were removed to the infirmary at the workhouse, and were isolated. A man who acted as bearer at the funeral of the fatal case in this family was attacked ten days afterwards with small-pox; and as he was the landlord of a beerhouse, arrangements had to be hurriedly made for his isolation in an empty cottage, which it was necessary to clear out and furnish before he could be removed to it. All the cases subsequent to the first would probably have been prevented, and an incalculable amount of trouble and anxiety spared, if the Authority had possessed in readiness the hospital of which they are now, too tardily, contemplating the erection. The aphorism of shutting the stable door when the steed is stolen has never been more strikingly exemplified.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

Notice of Motion.—The following notice of motion has been given by Mr. R. PAGET: To draw attention to the inconvenience of sending criminal lunatics to county asylums; to the necessity for making separate accommodation for idiots and for chronic lunatics now in county asylums; and to move a resolution.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—The following gentlemen were admitted Fellows of the College on May 13th, 1880.

Barlow, Thomas, M.D. London, 10, Montague Street
Coupland, Sydney, M.D. London, 7, Nottingham Place
Dickinson, Edward Harriman, M.D. Edinburgh, Liverpool
Donkin, Horatio Bryan, M.B. Oxford, 60, Upper Berkeley Street
Goodhart, James Frederick, M.D. Aberdeen, 27, Weymouth Street
Kelly, Charles, M.D. London, Worthing
King, Robert, M.B. Cambridge, 48, Harley Street
Mahomed, Frederick H. H. Akbar, M.D. Brussels, 12, St. Thomas Street
Shaw, Thomas Clave, M.D. London, Banstead Asylum, Surrey
Topham, John, M.D. London, 19, Collingham Road

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen passed their primary examinations in anatomy and physiology, at a meeting of the Board of Examiners, on the 14th instant, and, when eligible, will be admitted to the pass examination.

Messrs. John C. Underwood, James M. Griffin, Charles Y. Shuter, Edwin C. Hunt, and Henry R. Todd, students of Guy's Hospital; Albert Ramsden, Charles G. Grimmer, and Harry Campbell, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; George H. Salter and John J. Y. Baber, of St. George's Hospital; Chas. E. Downman, of University College; H. Ruskin Hancock, of Charing Cross Hospital; Archibald G. Andrews, of the London Hospital.

Twelve candidates were rejected.

The following gentlemen passed on the 15th instant.

Messrs. John O. Littlewood, Henry C. Ensor, Richard P. Samut and George Longman, of Guy's Hospital; Henry Ward and William R. Cowen, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Chas. W. Whistler, of St. Thomas's Hospital.

Nine candidates were rejected.

The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on the 18th instant.

Bassett, Henry T., Birmingham, Guy's Hospital.
Cantin, Lewis A., Mauritius, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Cook, George W. H., Southsea, London Hospital.
Crowther, George H., Wakefield, Leeds School.
Jones, Arthur, Manchester, Liverpool School.
Jones, Vincent A., Birmingham, Birmingham School.
Kingsland, Arthur T., Birmingham, Birmingham School.
Lane, James E., Norfolk Square, St. Mary's Hospital.
Mackrell, Alfred S., Queen Anne Street, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Megarry, John W., Lavender Hill, Belfast School.
Mott, Frederick W., Hastings, University College.
Nance, Henry C., Ecclestone, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Plummer, Charles J., Valparaiso, Guy's Hospital.
Redman, Edwin M., Peckham, University College.
Rhodes, James H. A., Liverpool, Liverpool School.
Rummalls, Harry B., New Quay, Cornwall, St. Mary's Hospital.
Smart, Alfred, Luton, Beds, Guy's Hospital.
Sturge, Henry H., Dartford, Guy's Hospital.
Watson, Frank S., Isleham Soham, Charing Cross Hospital.
Weldon, George, Brompton, St. George's Hospital.
White, Alfred T. O., Lansdown Road, St. George's Hospital.
White, Robert P., Wigan, Edinburgh School.
Young, Thomas M., South Shields, Newcastle School.

Eleven candidates were rejected.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, May 13th, 1880.

Black, William Glaholm, Ludhoe Grange, Durham.
Condon, James Hunt, Sydenham, Kent.
Crane, Charles Robinson, Charing Cross Hospital.
Powell, Henry Albert, 32, Huntley Street, W.C.
Schmidt, Wolfgang, 127, Leman Street, E.
Stevenson, Henry Wickham, 22, Charterhouse Square.
Tew, James Scott, 5, Marquis Terrace, N.W.

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their primary professional examination.

Hull, Walter, St. Thomas's Hospital.
Parke, Charles James, Guy's Hospital.
Phillips, Frank Leslie, Queen's College, Birmingham.

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

Particulars of those marked with an asterisk will be found in the advertisement columns.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

BATTLE UNION—Medical Officer for the Second District. Salary, £25 per annum.

BELGRAVE HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN—Physician. Applications to the Honorary Secretary on or before May 30th.

BELGRAVE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN—House-Surgeon. Stipend £30 per annum, with board and lodging in the hospital. Applications, with testimonials, to the Honorary Secretary on or before May 30th.

*BRADFORD FRIENDLY SOCIETIES' MEDICAL AID ASSOCIATION—Resident Medical Officer. Salary, £400 per annum. Applications, with testimonials, to the Secretary on or before June 1st.

BROOKE'S DISPENSARY, Selby, Yorkshire—Medical Officer.