

clinical material with which this huge city rather too much abounds. This amalgamation will, moreover, remedy the mistake of centuries, and put an end to that division of the profession into two ranks, which is so great a puzzle to the public, and distinction between which is as difficult for them to discriminate as it is for ourselves to define. The whole profession will be raised in political and social influence, and the President of the United College, the future occupant of the double chair of Cheselden and Lincacres, of Harvey and Hunter, of Paget and Jenner, the chosen head of the great medical profession of this country, will occupy a position of dignity and brilliancy which a Prime Minister might envy, and to which a peerage could add no lustre. In a degree-conferring Royal College of Medicine, formed by the amalgamation of the two Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, we have a scheme which can injure no legitimate interest, which will be found most widely acceptable, which can be very easily and quickly carried into execution; we have a cure for our ills which will satisfy the most ancient canons of judicious treatment, complying, as it does, with the well known maxim of Asclepiades, *Curare tuto, cito, et jucunde*.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

THE PRESIDENT: Before we part I am sure you will agree with me, that the least we can do is to record a vote of thanks to Dr. Gilbert Smith for the admirable report which he has drawn up for us. Without his aid, without his energy, it would have been utterly impossible for the Branch to have accomplished the work it has done. I am, therefore, perfectly convinced you will all agree with me in according him a vote of thanks.

DR. GILBERT SMITH: What I did was merely my duty, and without the aid of each member of the Committee and many members of the Council I could not have done it.

The proceedings then terminated.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH: QUARTERLY MEETING.

A QUARTERLY meeting of the Branch was held at Chubb's Hotel, Plymouth, on February 3rd, 1885. In the absence of the President, Dr. Lewis Shapter, of Exeter, from illness, Mr. W. Square, of Plymouth, was called to the chair.

New Members.—The following were elected members of the Association and Branch: Mr. H. Appleton, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., the Lizard, Cornwall; Mr. A. E. Hayward, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., Brixham, Devon. The following members of the Association were elected as members of the Branch: Fleet-Surgeon Longfield, R.N., H.M.S. *Royal Adelaide*, Plymouth; Mr. J. T. Ashton, Paignton; Mr. A. W. Dalby, Torquay.

Papers.—The following papers were read.

1. Mr. W. E. C. Nourse: a Case of Syphilitic Periostitis, followed by Paralysis, Intestinal Obstruction, and Phthisis.—Mr. W. Square and Dr. Bampton made remarks.

2. Dr. P. M. Deas: Note on the Use of Permanganate of Potash in cases of Insanity, associated with Amenorrhoea.—Dr. Bampton, Dr. Aldridge, Mr. W. Square, and Mr. Nourse made remarks.

3. Mr. J. B. Carlyon: Notes of a Case of Intestinal Obstruction.

4. Mr. J. Jackson (Plymouth): Remarks on the Medical Aid Sick Association. This was read by the Secretary, in the absence of Mr. Jackson. The paper explained the objects of the Association, mentioned facts showing the very satisfactory progress which it was making, and urged its claims on the consideration of the members of the Branch; regretting that, so far, a very small proportion of those eligible had joined; and concluded by expressing a wish that a Committee should be appointed to further the aims of the Association.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. W. A. BUCHAN, and seconded by Dr. BAMPTON:

"That a committee of members of the South-Western Branch be appointed, to whom it should be an instruction to take steps to bring the Medical Aid Sick Association more forcibly under the notice of the members and others, and generally to promote its extension."

This was carried unanimously, and the following members were appointed to act on the committee—Mr. G. Jackson, Mr. W. A. Buchan, Dr. Bampton, and Mr. G. Thom.

5. Mr. F. G. H. Whitley showed a patient with exostosis of the frontal bone, arising from a kick at football.

6. Dr. A. Kempe exhibited and explained the advantages of a new form of long midwifery forceps, the feature of which was that the handle of one blade was constructed with a screw, so that it could be removed while the blade was being applied, and then screwed on again afterwards.

The South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital.—Before the meeting, members had the opportunity of attending the formal opening, by Lord Mount Edgcumbe, of the new buildings of the South Devon

and East Cornwall Hospital, and of inspecting what, as regards situation, construction, and internal arrangements, may fairly be regarded as a model of what a hospital ought to be.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The Depopulation of France.—*Boldo.*—*Lead-Poisoning from preparing Charcoal.*—*Ozonometric Observations.*—*Cholera in the Army.*—*Recent Regulations concerning Army-Surgeons.*—*Adulterated Mineral Waters.*—*A Proposed Electrical Laboratory.*—*Catalepsy forbidden by the Police.*

THE discussion at the Académie de Médecine on the depopulation of France was resumed at the last meeting, and M. Fournier gave some interesting statistics concerning the influence of syphilis on infant-mortality. The mortality among new-born infants from syphilis reaches 28 per cent. If a mother have contracted syphilis a year before the birth of her infant, it is sure to die in infancy. M. Fournier has personally observed forty-four instances of women becoming pregnant during an early period of syphilis; only one of the children born lived beyond its infancy. Among 100 syphilitic women, there were 208 pregnancies; 60 living children resulted, and 140 dead; consequently, the rate of mortality was 71 per cent. These statistics are furnished by notes taken in private practice. Hospital statistics would probably give a higher rate of mortality. Dr. Coffin stated that, at the Lourcine Hospital, among 28 pregnant women, there was only one who had a living child. M. Fournier estimates that, at the St. Louis Hospital, among 148 pregnant women, 125 lost their children in early infancy.

The plant known by the name of Boldo, which is common in Bolivia, and much used there, has recently been studied in France. In 1874, M. Dujardin-Beaumetz made some experiments with it, and observed that it acted on the urinary organs and produced somnolence. About a year ago, M. Chapoteau extracted a substance from boldo leaves, which was entirely free from any alkaloid. M. Laborde has made some experiments with this substance, which have always been attended with the same results. The substance, extracted by M. Chapoteau is an orange-yellow fluid, with a strong smell of thymol. The injection of twenty-five grammes of it into a guinea-pig throws the animal into a somnolent condition. After a few hours, the animal recovers its normal condition, and presents symptoms of faulty motor co-ordination, which persist for some time afterwards. Rabbits are not thrown into such a deep sleep; they are the most difficult of all animals to narcotise, but when the first effects of the poison pass away they appear to be more intoxicated than do the guinea-pigs. Two or three grammes are sufficient to hypnotise a small dog; noise fails to awaken it. After two or three hours of deep sleep, it wakes up voluntarily, makes a good meal, and does not appear to have been under the influence of a toxic substance. Insensibility is the invariable result of experiments with boldo. If the dose be increased, death takes place during a profound sleep, unaccompanied by convulsions or contractions. The accessory phenomena are, loss of the sense of hearing, stimulation of the urinary and biliary secretions, and local anaesthesia. Boldo apparently acts on the brain; the phenomena above described are not produced if it be administered to a frog when its cerebrum is removed.

At a recent meeting of the Société Médicale des Hôpitaux, M. Gérin Roze and M. Duguet described three cases of lead-poisoning. The patients were employed in a factory for making chemical charcoal. They were in perfect health before working in the factory, and many of the factory-workers preserved their health, whilst following their occupation, during many years, until the workroom, which was on the third floor, and was large and airy, was removed to an underground room, which was ill ventilated. The sufferers in question were employed in drying and packing the particular kind of charcoal known as *braise*, after it has been immersed in lead-nitrite, which renders it more combustible. Meat cooked over this *braise*, when consumed, may provoke lead-poisoning.

M. Pamard has presented to the Academy of Medicine a note on ozonometric researches made at Marseilles, Toulon, Avignon, and Orange. It was observed that there was more ozone in the garden of a hospital than in its wards, especially in those containing cholera-patients; but the relation of mortality with a given proportion of

ozone in the atmosphere has not been determined. M. Giraud, Director of the *École Normale* at Avignon, has, during the last ten years, ascertained the quantity of ozone contained in the air at different seasons of the year. Last May, the quantity of ozone diminished considerably.

An excellent report of the health of the army during the recent epidemic of cholera has appeared in the *Archives de Médecine et de Pharmacie Militaire*. Cholera broke out in the Quai d'Orsay Barracks on November 6th. Throughout the barracks, there were 64 undoubted cases, and 66 doubtful. During the epidemic, there were 15 deaths. It is estimated that there were 68 attacks and 10 deaths to every 10,000 men.

Up to the present time, army-surgeons in the reserve-corps were not summoned to the manoeuvres like the other officers in the reserve and territorial corps. This year, 108 army-surgeons are convened for May 4th, to undergo the same military instruction and discipline as their military colleagues. Also, 118 army-surgeons will take part in the autumn manoeuvres.

The police have discovered an association for selling adulterated mineral waters, and false Swiss pills. Two of the members of the association are medical students; there are also among them a pupil of the School of Pharmacy, and a laboratory servant. M. Charles Girard, director of the Municipal Laboratory, has visited the shops belonging to the association, and examined the waters offered for sale.

An electrical laboratory will probably be established by appropriating the sum of 325,000 francs (£13,000), the proceeds of the International Exhibition. The city of Paris consents to give a plot of ground for the purpose, but difficulties in connection with the internal administration have retarded the scheme. It is believed that the site will be soon placed in the possession of the State, and the building operations commenced.

At the fair recently held on the Boulevard Montmartre, one of the great attractions was an exhibition of catalepsy. A child was thrown into a deep sleep, and assumed postures according to the orders given. In order to increase the receipts, the period of sleep was shortened, and the child was awakened in order to repeat the performance. Her health suffered considerably in consequence. After these periods of sleep, she suffered from violent headache, and was gradually wasting away. The commissary of police was informed of the cruelty of the showman, and the inhuman and unhealthy exhibition was peremptorily stopped.

LIVERPOOL.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The Whittle-Hutchinson Fund.—*Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for West Derby.*—*The Liverpool Gymnasium.*—*University College Athletic Club.*—*Volunteers for the Soudan.*—*Medical Appointments.*

On the evening of March 5th, a meeting was held at the Medical Institution for the purpose of passing the accounts of the "Whittle-Hutchinson Fund," and presenting the balance to Drs. Whittle and Hutchinson. The amount actually subscribed was £182 19s., and the sum handed over was nearly £170. Considering the short time the matter has been before the profession, this result is regarded as very satisfactory.

Dr. Carter, the medical officer of health for West Derby, has issued his annual report for the year 1884. He states that the sanitary condition of the township may be looked upon as fairly satisfactory. As usual, a summary of the cases of infectious disease is given, from which it appears that the past year was marked by an unusual prevalence of whooping-cough, measles, and small-pox. During the year, there were 27 cases of small-pox, 72 cases of scarlet fever, and 26 cases of diphtheria. At the close of the year, diphtheria was the only infectious disease existing about which there was any need for anxiety, and this was showing unmistakable signs of declining.

Liverpool is the fortunate possessor of a gymnasium which for size and completeness is, if not the finest, one of the finest in the country. Some time ago, this admirable institution had to be closed for want of funds. Thanks to the generous help of Mr. Samuel Smith, one of the members of Parliament for the city, and others, the building, with all fixtures, was purchased for the Young Men's Christian Association. Under the management of this association, the gymnasium has become increasingly popular; and, at the present time, almost valuable work is being carried on. Last week, a "Sports and Pastimes" Exhibition was held in the building, and proved a great success.

An athletic club has been formed in connection with our University College. The Committee desire to raise £500, with which they propose to obtain a cricket and football ground, to build five-courts, lay out tennis-grounds, and fit up a small gymnasium. There is plenty of ground around the College, which can be utilised for five-courts, tennis-grounds, etc., and probably a cricket-ground can be obtained in the neighbourhood; so that which often proves a serious initial difficulty in a large city will easily be met in this case. Arrangements, too, are being made with the Liverpool gymnasium to admit members of the University Club at a reduced rate for practice and instruction. For a long time past, the want has been felt of some club of this kind which would bring the students together; and as the new club is receiving the active support of the professors, and the students are joining in large numbers, there can be but little doubt of its ultimate success.

A number of men belonging to one of our volunteer engineer regiments volunteered, a week or two ago, for active service in the Soudan, and their offer was accepted by the Government; but, owing to the very high standard of chest-measurement, etc., fixed by the authorities, and the very stringent medical examination to which the men were subjected, only about twenty-five have been selected. They will be attached to the Royal Engineers.

Mr. C. G. Lee, honorary assistant-surgeon, has been appointed an honorary surgeon to the Eye and Ear Infirmary, to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Shadford Walker. Mr. James Rose, a former house-surgeon of the institution, and who has worked in the hospital for the past two or three years as an honorary clinical assistant, has been elected honorary assistant-surgeon in Mr. Lee's place.

GLASGOW.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

University Chair of Botany.—*University Rectorial Address.*—*University Religious Movement.*—*Low Temperatures and Putrefaction.*—*Tarsotomy in Talipes Varus.*—*Mortality Statistics.*—*Glasgow Public Dispensary.*

THE Chair of Botany in the University is now vacant by the resignation of Professor Bayley Balfour, who some time ago accepted the professorship of botany at Oxford. It was thought that this would involve immediate retirement from the Glasgow chair, an opinion which seemed to have been shared by the Crown authorities themselves, inasmuch as it was freely stated that a successor had actually received his commission of appointment to fill the supposed vacancy. It seems, however, that a formal resignation of his Glasgow professorship was first necessary from Professor Balfour; and, as this has now taken place, nothing stands in the way of the appointment of a successor. This will be done shortly by the Crown, so as to allow the new professor to take up his duties in the ensuing summer session. Already several candidates are in the field, among them being Dr. McNab of Dublin, and Mr. H. Marshall Ward, of Owens College.

The delivery of his rectorial address by Professor Lushington, has been fixed for Thursday, March 26th. The ceremony will take place in the Bute Hall; and, though the circumstances connected with his appointment have an element of sadness in them, the new Lord Rector is sure to receive a hearty welcome from the students of every political party. The day following the address will, it is understood, be devoted to the usual rectorial holiday. It is thought the winter session will close about April 3rd, but it is to be definitely settled this week. A meeting of the University Court will be held at an early date for the election of additional examiners in medicine, surgery, and physiology. This year, the applicants for these posts are more numerous than usual.

A well attended meeting in the St. Andrew's Hall on Sunday evening, indicated that Glasgow is prepared to assist in the very marked religious movement which is at present spreading among the Scotch universities, and which seems, in a great measure, to have emanated from Edinburgh. The deputation of students from that university which addressed the Glasgow meeting was very well received.

The effects of very low temperatures on the putrefactive processes and on some vital phenomena, was the subject of a paper read by Professor McKendrick at the last meeting of the Philosophical Society. In the preparation of his paper, Dr. McKendrick was associated with Mr. J. J. Coleman, whose cold air system is the one now chiefly in vogue for the importation of meat from the colonies. The general result of their experiments elicited the fact that continued exposure of putrescible fluids to a temperature of 120° below zero did not prevent

putrefaction, showing that the germs of the minute organisms which cause putrefaction are not killed by such extreme cold as this, and which, in intensity, is probably lower than that of the Polar regions. Heretofore, observations have been frequently conducted with the view of ascertaining exactly what amount of heat micrococci and other bacteria will resist, so that these observations of Dr. McKendrick and Mr. Coleman in the opposite direction, possess special interest and value. As there is a prospect of their continuing them with an atmosphere as much as 150° below zero Fahr., or nearly 200° below freezing point, we shall probably yet obtain some further facts of interest concerning the physical conditions which affect the lives of those minute organisms so closely related to many of the phenomena of disease, as well as all the stages of the putrefactive processes.

The pathology and treatment of talipes varus was the subject under discussion at the Medico-Chirurgical Society on the evening of March 6th. It was introduced by Dr. William Macewen, who showed some patients in illustration of his remarks. The position he apparently took up was, that the cases met with in practice might be placed in two main classes, the first of which could be dealt with by manipulations and forcible correction, with the aid of fixed splints or bandages, while the others were best treated by some form of tarsotomy, either by the removal of the astragalus, as in the cases shown, or of other portions of bone. Dr. Macewen's views were very closely criticised by those present, and the general result of the discussion seemed to be that while some cases of older children might call for such a severe measure as tarsotomy, these were the exception and not the rule; and that, instead of regarding tenotomy as an unnecessary and even useless procedure, it was the plan that, with suitable after-treatment, best cured the deformity, and yielded the most perfect results.

Our city authorities have been desirous that there should be a monthly statement of the total death-rate of the city and suburbs, so that a fair comparison might be made with the other large towns of the kingdom. The matter was remitted to Dr. Russell, the medical officer of health, for his consideration, and he is quite in favour of the proposal; but he sees such difficulty in carrying it out, that he has advised the Health Committee to give up the idea. There is no doubt that, as at present calculated, our vital statistics are somewhat misleading, as they only include the central mass of a community whose circumferential population is excluded, and thus the data for getting at the real health of the town are absent.

During the past week, the annual meeting of the supporters and friends of our Public Dispensary was held. The number of cases treated during the year was 2,449, which is in excess of last year. The point of interest in connection with this institution is, that it was established with the view of testing the acceptability of provident principles among the lower classes. From the remarks that fell from Dr. McKendrick when moving the adoption of the report, it is evident that very fair success has attended this endeavour, and that there is every reason to be satisfied with the results. Through the kindness of those interested in the institution, it has been arranged that in future the electric light will be made available on the premises for the examination of patients in the different departments of the dispensary. The arrangements are of a novel character, but seem very admirably suited for enabling the physician or surgeon to generate or shut off the light according as desired.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LONDON UNIVERSITY AND THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

SIR,—It was with no small satisfaction that, in your issue of the 28th ultimo, I noticed the determination of the Senate of the University of London to adopt the oft repeated recommendation of Convocation that the Preliminary Scientific Examination should be held twice in the year. This arrangement will be felt as a boon by those students to whom a single failure has meant a loss, not only of valuable time, but of money, and perhaps the necessity of relinquishing all hopes of a degree, or at least of the one they most coveted. It is a step in the right direction; but I believe that further changes might be made in the regulations, which would facilitate graduation without detracting from the high value at present attached to the London degrees.

But one cannot shut one's eyes to the fact that, in the outcry against the University, as in every attack on existing institutions, the assailants are divided among themselves, and are actuated by very various motives. However open to improvement the regulations of the University may be, an inspection of the roll of its graduates must

convince any unprejudiced person that, taken as a whole, they do represent the *élite* of the profession, and that, therefore, it has not altogether failed in the aims it has throughout had in view. Though not enjoying the prestige attaching to the two ancient universities, I believe that an absolute majority of the graduates of a few years' standing will be found on the staffs of London and provincial hospitals, or in other prominent and honourable positions. Such men are naturally jealous of any attempts to level down the degrees of their university to those of some other universities, though they would gladly welcome any reasonable suggestions for the removal of accidental and artificial impediments in the way of graduation, which deter equally able students from seeking the same degree, or compel them to abandon it after having made the attempt.

Of late years, the Cambridge University School of Medicine has been coming to the front in popularity and numbers; yet, though the rejections at each examination reach as high a percentage as those at the corresponding London examinations, notwithstanding the high average intellectual power of the candidates, no outcry has been raised against it. The fact is, that men proceeding to Cambridge know what they have undertaken, and willingly accept the high ideal placed before them, for the attainment of which ample assistance is provided in the schools.

But grapes are sour to those who cannot reach them, if hanging immediately before their eyes; and the real wish of many who, with some degree of justice, complain of the excessively high requirements of the University in some subjects, and the unnecessary difficulties presented by the regulations, is, if truth were told, as indeed it has been by a few, that every London medical student should be enabled to graduate; in other words, that the London degree should, like some others, be equally easy of attainment with the diplomas of M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. With this feeling, I for one cannot sympathise. Your correspondents talk of degrees as "distinctions;" but, if every medical man were to put M.D. after his name, where would the distinction be? The Cambridge and London degrees stand out as such among others, and long may they continue to do so.

Looking at the overcrowded state of the profession, one cannot wish to see the entrance made easier; on the contrary, one would rather see it made more difficult, and should consider it an omen of better days for the science of medicine, and the status of its practitioners, if there were a more general falling off in the numbers of new entries, except where the standard of literary, scientific, and professional knowledge is pitched the highest, and the means for its acquisition are most complete. To return to the question of the regulations of the University of London, few, I believe, are prepared to deny that they are open to improvement; but, instead of joining in the vague declamation, of which we have heard too much, I would, with your permission, venture to make some definite suggestions for their modification.

First in order comes the matriculation, at which the rejections are out of all proportion to the severity of the examination. This is due, in great part, to the practice of requiring candidates to pass separately in each paper. If the ten papers were "lumped" together under the three heads of languages, mathematics, and English subjects, and a certain number of marks required in each group, proficiency in one of the subjects compensating for deficiency in another in the same group, the failures would be fewer, though the general standard of education would not be degraded. This would be better than accepting the wretched smattering of school-boy knowledge which satisfies the Medical Council; and I would remark, in passing, that the value attaching to the Oxford and Dublin medical degrees is owing mainly to their previous requirement of a degree in Arts. That so many students, on entering the London schools, find that they are precluded from graduating in consequence of their having neglected to matriculate, is a circumstance for which they or their parents alone are to blame.

The preliminary scientific examination, however, is the *pons asinorum* of the London student. That the standard in physics, at any rate, is too high, I am ready to admit; but the importance of a knowledge of the phenomena of life throughout the animal and vegetable worlds to the full comprehension of the physiology of the higher animals, on which again all pathology and rational medicine is based, is being better recognised every year; while, even as regards electricity, the subject which has been most severely criticised, and which I admit has of late been overdone, one must not forget that it is now a recognised therapeutical agent; yet how few practitioners have any accurate notion of its law, or of the methods of measuring its quantity and intensity. I would suggest that, besides holding the preliminary scientific examination twice a year, the subjects should be divided into (1) Biology, and (2) Chemistry and Physics, and that it should be