

been "on their feet" have genu valgum, it is doubtful whether keeping children off their feet will cure the deformity save in exceptional cases. By proper splints the commonest rickety deformities, genu valgum and genu varum, can be completely cured, and this with the children running about, going to school, and what not. The more difficult anterior curving of the tibia can also be cured in slight cases and improved in severe cases by the addition of a posterior to the internal splint.

I have ventured to write somewhat fully only because of the vast importance of the subject, which concerns thousands of poor children, and influences the rates and taxes and also the recruiting fields for the navy and army, as well as the individuals immediately concerned.—I am, etc.,

Old Cavendish Street, W., May 9th.

J. JACKSON CLARKE.

AN ADVERTISEMENT.

SIR,—I take the liberty of enclosing for your perusal the following advertisement, which appeared in to-day's *Glasgow Herald*:

MEDICAL.—Wanted, strong Man as Surgeon for ——— Friendly and Trades Societies Medical Institute; hard night worker, active walker; must be civil, trustworthy, obliging, sober.—Apply, Committee, with last character.

It seems to me that what the Committee of the ——— Friendly and Trades Societies Medical Institute really require is a hybrid betwixt Sandow, a night policeman, and a club waiter.—I am, etc.,

JOHN FREELAND FERGUS, M.A., M.D.

Strathaven, May 9th.

Obituary.

DEPUTY-SURGEON-GENERAL S. B. PARTRIDGE,
C.I.E., Q.H.S.

Bengal Medical Service (retired).

ON May 11th, in the presence of relatives, brother officers, and friends, the mortal remains of Samuel Bowen Partridge were laid to rest in the cemetery at Norwood.

This distinguished medical officer was born at Cardiff in 1828 and was educated at King's College, London, where he had a most brilliant career, during which he gained many prizes. After passing the Royal College of Surgeons he entered the East India Company's service on the Bengal establishment as an assistant surgeon in the year 1852. Shortly after his arrival in India he was ordered to Burmah to join the Bengal Field Force, and after performing excellent service in a variety of ways, on his return to Bengal he served as civil surgeon and also with a cavalry regiment. On the outbreak of the mutiny in 1857 he served with a cavalry regiment in Oude, and when the siege of the Residency of Lucknow commenced he served throughout the whole of that eventful period in Dr. Fayer's house in the garrison, where his energy, activity, and professional knowledge were of the greatest benefit. He was present with the expedition under Colonel Burmester, in which several officers were killed, and he also accompanied the ill-fated expedition to Chinhut, where he had a narrow escape of losing his life. Subsequently he distinguished himself as field-surgeon in the operations under the Commander-in-Chief at the recapture of Lucknow. For these services he received the brevet promotion of surgeon, was allowed to count a year's service, and received the thanks of Government in general orders.

The state of his health after all these exceptional services rendered it necessary for him to return to England. After a short stay, during which he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, he resumed his duties in India, and was then appointed to the Medical College of Calcutta, in which he had on a former occasion officiated for a short time, as Professor of Anatomy and Surgeon of the Medical College Hospital. He was also an Examiner in the University of Calcutta, a member of the Senate, and for a short time President of the Medical Faculty of the University. Subsequently, on the retirement of Dr. Fayer, he succeeded to his appointment as First Surgeon and Professor of Surgery in the Medical College Hospital, which appointment he continued to hold with the greatest distinction. In addition he

had an extensive practice in Calcutta until 1880, when he retired from the service.

After his return to England Deputy Surgeon-General Partridge was appointed member of the India Medical Board at the India Office, where he rendered most valuable service, until loss of sight made his resignation of that appointment necessary, to the deep regret of his colleagues and friends.

The news of his death will be received in India, as it has been in this country, with the greatest sorrow. He was held in the highest esteem by everyone who knew him; no man was ever more deservedly loved and respected than he was. His intellectual powers were great, and he was as much characterised by the breadth as by the accuracy of his knowledge; most laborious in his studies, most persevering in pursuing to the end any object which he had undertaken; with the profoundest mathematical problem as with the simplest piece of mechanics he was equally at home. As an anatomist he was unrivalled in the clearness of his demonstrations; as a surgeon he was remarkable not only for his skill as an operator but for his great powers of diagnosis, nor was he less remarkable for his capacity for dealing with disease in its tropical and other forms, whilst his firm, gentle, and patient method of treatment inspired all who came under his care with confidence and affection. Notwithstanding his great attainments and his remarkable intellectual power, he was as humble as a child. The simplicity of his character was not less marked than its strength. He was naturally beloved by all his brother officers, associates, and pupils, and in fact by everyone who knew him. Whilst so gentle and tender in every way, a rock was not firmer than he where firmness was required. Not even Bayard himself, or Outram (with whom he was justly compared) better deserved the title of "Chevalier sans peur et sans reproche."

On Deputy Surgeon-General Partridge's retirement from the India Office the Government signified their approval of his services by creating him a Companion of the Indian Empire. He had previously been made an Honorary Surgeon to the Queen, and had also received a medal and clasp for Burmah, and a medal and clasp for the siege and for the recapture of Lucknow.

J. F.

ALFRED JOHN WALL, M.D.LOND., F.R.C.S.

Indian Medical Service (retired).

DR. WALL, whose death was announced a few days ago, was the son of a medical man who had a large practice in the West End of London. He was born in 1847, and after receiving his preliminary education at Epsom College, matriculated at the University of London in 1865; he then entered St. Mary's Hospital where he was known as a hard worker and won a number of prizes. In 1868 he gained the Scholarship of Anatomy of his school, a distinction which carried with it the title and duties of Assistant Demonstrator of Anatomy. In 1870 he was appointed Resident Medical Officer of the hospital, becoming Resident Obstetric Officer in 1871. He took the degree of M.B. in 1871, that of B.S. in the following year, and that of M.D. in 1873. In 1872 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England by examination. He took a high place in the examination for the Indian Medical Service in 1873, and almost immediately on his arrival in India in the early part of 1874 he was appointed Resident Medical Officer at Bhangulpore.

In 1875, when the Snake Poison Commission was appointed, Dr. Wall was offered a seat on it. The greater part of the practical work of the Commission fell upon him as the youngest member. He held the position for three years, and then, in consequence of failing health, he sent in his resignation. He was twice asked to reconsider this step, but when he adhered to it he received a letter of thanks from the Government for the valuable work he had done, and was given his choice between an appointment as Residency Medical Officer in Nepal and Deputy Professor of Anatomy in Calcutta. Considerations of health led him to choose the former. Some time afterwards, when travelling on furlough, he contracted malarial fever, which became complicated with pneumonia. In consequence he came home invalided, and never recovered sufficiently to return to India.

In 1883 he published a book entitled *Indian Snake Poisons*

which made his name widely known. He next took up as a subject of special study the cholera, and followed successive outbreaks of the disease over Europe. In Italy and Sicily he was especially distinguished for his services during these. The Municipal Council of one town presented him with an address and the freedom of the town in recognition.

In 1893, as a result of these travels and investigations, he published a book on *Asiatic Cholera*, which was favourably received.

He had always been an indefatigable student of pathology, and he now turned his attention still more closely to it, working at it for many months together in Buda Pesth, Berlin, and Paris.

In December, 1897, he left England with the intention of going to the Riviera, in the quiet there to put his pathological notes into form. But whilst staying in Paris *en route* he became so ill that by the advice of a specialist whom he consulted he returned to England and asked his sister to go to Hastings with him.

His condition became so much worse that on April 21st he was brought up, under care, to London, and after consultation with Dr. Savage was placed in charge of a trained attendant under the care of a medical man. On Wednesday, April 27th, he managed to escape from his attendant by going out another way from St. George's Hospital, where he had gone, he said, to call upon some friends on the medical staff there. Although the police were at once communicated with in London, and telegraphed to stop him at the ports of Dover, Folkestone, Harwich, and Newhaven, nothing was heard of him by his friends until the following Monday, when, in consequence of information received by his sister, she went down to Guildford, and identified a body lying there as that of her brother. He had made his way there the previous Thursday, and early in the morning had ended his life by stabbing himself to the heart. A *post-mortem* examination showed that Dr. Wall was suffering from thickening of the membranes of the brain, and this, together with the evidence his sister was able to give at the inquest that evening, caused an immediate and unanimous verdict of "Whilst of unsound mind" to be returned, in which the coroner fully concurred.

Another St. Mary's man and intimate friend [of Dr. Wall from student days writes of him :

"In manner he was diffident, quiet, and retiring. He was extremely well informed in every subject of art, science, and literature—the best possible of companions. He talked German, French, and Italian fluently, and was keenly interested in the politics as well as the literature of the countries in which he made his home."

This brilliancy of mind continued to the last, and even whilst under medical care and restraint he captivated all with whom he came in contact by his mental power and gentleness of demeanour. Throughout his life Dr. Wall had been singularly abstemious, and of very regular and quiet habits.

JOSIAH AUSTEN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

MR. JOSIAH AUSTEN, who died at Ealing on May 2nd, at the age of 62, had been for some months rapidly failing in health with organic disease and general arterial degeneration. He received his medical education at Middlesex Hospital, and obtained the diploma of M.R.C.S. in 1852 and that of L.R.C.P.Lond. in 1869. Almost immediately on qualifying he entered the Royal Navy as Assistant-Surgeon, and was appointed to the East India Station, joining his ship at Rangoon during the Burmese war. Here he first saw active service in charge of boats blockading Meaday up the Irrawaddy, for which he received the medal and clasp. After this he was employed on the Hong Kong station as supernumerary, and on several occasions served in expeditions against pirates. He subsequently served in Japan (being present at the opening of the treaty ports by the British squadron), the Gulf of Tartary, and through the greater part of the China War of 1856-57, on many occasions seeing active service (medal). He was invalided in 1857, and shortly afterwards was appointed to Haslar Hospital, where he remained three years as Pathological Assistant, being a near successor in that office to the late Sir Andrew Clark. He became Staff-Surgeon in 1861,

and retired from the navy in 1864. Mr. Austen then settled at Ramsgate, where he practised for twenty-five years. He was held in high esteem, and held the post of Surgeon to the Ramsgate and St. Lawrence Royal Dispensary. He retired in 1890 to live at Crouch End and latterly at Ealing. His bright temperament caused him to be beloved, while his upright character and devotion to the best traditions of the profession made him respected by all with whom he came in contact. He leaves a widow, four sons, and one daughter to mourn his loss.

WE have to record the death on April 30th of Dr. LUKE BLUMER, of Sunderland, at the age of 70. Dr. Blumer, who received his medical education in Edinburgh, became L.R.C.S.Edin. in 1849, and L.R.C.P.Edin. in 1859. In 1862 he took the degree of M.D.St.And. He held the post of Poor-law Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator in the Sunderland Union for 46 years, and was held in high esteem by his medical brethren, and by all who knew him. By indefatigable energy he built up a large and valuable practice, and had the satisfaction of living to see his sons take distinguished positions; one of them is Medical Superintendent of the State Asylum, Utica, New York, another is Surgeon to the Sunderland Infirmary, and a third Surgeon to the Staffordshire General Infirmary. Dr. Blumer's familiar form and genial presence will be sadly missed by a large circle of attached friends.

DEATHS IN THE PROFESSION ABROAD.—Among the members of the medical profession in foreign countries who have recently died are Dr. Anton Krassowski, the leading gynaecologist of Russia, for many years Professor of Midwifery in the Military Medical Academy of St. Petersburg, author of an *Atlas zur Ovariectomie*, Lecturer on Midwifery and Diseases of Women, etc., aged 77; Dr. Ludwig Schillbach, Extraordinary Professor of Ophthalmic Surgery in the University of Jena, aged 73; and Dr. George Rosenbaum, of Berlin, a neurologist of considerable repute, aged 40.

SIR RICHARD QUAIN, Bart., F.R.S., whose will was proved recently left property sworn for probate at £118,121 13s. 2d.

THE Russian Government some time ago announced its intention of officially adopting the metric system throughout the Czar's dominions. The *Allgemeine Zeitung* of Munich, in a recent issue, asked: "How long will England stand out? Does she mean to allow the present century to come to an end before making up her mind to take a similar step in progress?"

MEDICAL ETHICS IN FRANCE.—The Gironde Medical Society recently passed a resolution that in every medical school in France regular courses of instructions should be given in professional ethics and in the law relative to the practice of medicine. The majority of the other local societies in France, however, are said to regard the proposition with perfect indifference.

A BILL has been introduced into the Maryland State Legislature prohibiting the issue of a marriage licence to any person suffering from consumption, tuberculosis, insanity, dipsomania, or syphilis. Presumably, therefore, intending bridegrooms will have to arm themselves with one or more medical certificates before presenting themselves before the official whose business it is to issue the fateful document.

THE PASTEUR INSTITUTE AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—The Pasteur Institute at Constantinople, which recently had to close its doors owing to want of funds and the utter indifference as to its wellbeing shown by the Turkish Government, has been reopened. This gratifying result is due partly to the intervention of M. Bouliniere, Chargé d'Affaires of the French Embassy, and partly to the action taken by the Imperial Society of Medicine, which addressed a strong protest on the subject to the Sultan. His Majesty's attention having thus been drawn to the condition of the institution, in which he had always taken the keenest interest, at once gave instructions that Dr. Nicolle should be furnished with everything that he required, and satisfactory guarantees were given that funds and all other assistance that might be needed should henceforth be abundantly supplied. It is expected that the outcome of the affair will be a considerable development of the usefulness of the Institute.