

THAMES VALLEY BRANCH.—Meetings of the Branch will be held on November 10th, January 26th, and March 20th. Members willing to read papers or exhibit cases are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary, CHARLES C. SCOTT, M.B., St. Margaret's, Twickenham.

DORSET AND WEST HANTS BRANCH.—The next meeting will be held at Portland, on Wednesday, October 13th, 1886. The business meeting will be held at the Victoria Hotel, at 1.30 p.m. Agenda—Election of Officers for 1887. Election of New Members of the Branch. Dr. Batterbury will move: "That it is advisable that three meetings of the Branch be held every year, instead of two, as at present." In the event of the above resolution being carried, it will be moved that by-law 10 be altered in accordance therewith. Communications.—Mr. Pridham: Case of Large Fibroid Polypus of Uterus; Removal; Specimen. Mr. Parkinson: Two Cases of Extra-uterine Fotation; Rupture and Death from Hæmorrhage. Dr. Batterbury: Specimen; Salivary Calculus. Dr. McLean: 1. Two Cases of Conservative Surgery of the Hand; 2. Two Cases of Empyema, illustrating Different Modes of Treatment; 3. Case of Nævus, cured by Injection of Tincture of Iodine. Dr. Macdonald: Observations on some of the new Hypnotics. Discussion.—The Treatment of Hæmorrhage from Internal Organs; for example, Lung, Liver, Stomach, Kidneys. Dinner at 4.15 p.m.; charge 6s. each, without wine. Members intending to be present are requested to notify the same to Dr. McLean, Portland, on or before Monday, October 11th.—WM. VAUDREY LUSH, M.D., Weymouth; C. H. WATTS PARKINSON, Wimborne, Honorary Secretaries.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The Pathological Action of Corrosive Sublimate.—On the Antiseptic Action of Bile.—A New Fact in Testing for Sugar in Blood.—Local Electrification and Rise of Temperature.—Gelosine.—General News.

SINCE corrosive sublimate (mercuric chloride) has been so generally used in surgery, and especially in obstetric practice, the attention of medical men has been attracted to the various intestinal lesions which have fallen under their notice. It has been asserted that mercuric chloride can produce deep lesions in the large intestines. Complex clinical facts may be interpreted in different ways, and have, therefore, not furnished convincing proofs of this assertion. Some authors suppose that, in cases of parturition where the sublimate has been used, the visceral lesions are due to the septic condition existing in the patient, and that the sublimate is not to blame. Experimental data, especially those obtained by Prévost's experiments, described in the *Revue Médicale de la Suisse Romande*, 1882, p. 553, indicate that visceral lesions often result from the effect of corrosive sublimate. Similar lesions to those observed in patients were experimentally provoked in animals; ecchymosis and hæmorrhage, but neither gangrene nor ulceration were observed. MM. Charrin and Roger used an aqueous solution of corrosive sublimate at 1 per 1,000, and 1 per 4,000, which was injected under the skin or into the veins; this last method required smaller doses. After injecting two milligrammes under the skin of a guinea-pig weighing 500 grammes, several ulcerated areas were observed; the injection of 5 milligrammes given in the course of eighteen days, or 3 milligrammes in six days, were powerless. These animals, experimented on by MM. Charrin and Roger, did not present during life any important symptoms of intestinal lesion; they grew thinner, had albuminuria, but rarely diarrhoea, and never intestinal hæmorrhage. When the dose of mercuric chloride was weak, the animals did not succumb to it; they were killed at successive periods, in order to follow the course of the lesions. It was observed that the morbid appearances were localised in the large intestines, and especially in the ascending colon and cæcum; sometimes the ileo-cæcal valve and the terminal portion of the ileum were attacked. The earliest lesion consisted of small spots of hæmorrhage dotted about on the intestinal mucous membrane, the peritoneum, the omentum, the outer surface of the kidneys, and especially the tissue of the lung. At a later stage these spots appeared as small ecchymoses, forming lines parallel to the axis of the intestines, varying in length from three to four centimètres. Later on, these ecchymoses became more extended, and the central portions sloughed away. A black eschar was thus formed, which gradually fell off and left an ulcerated spot. The contiguous portion of peritoneum sometimes showed signs of inflammation. Intestinal perforation has never been observed by these investigators. Thus the principal lesion which occurs after free administration of corrosive sublimate, is apparently intestinal hæmorrhage, which slightly tumefies the intestinal mucous membrane, and thus disables it as a factor in the process of nutrition. This hypothesis was verified by microscopical examination, which revealed the presence of spots of hæmorrhage in the areolar tissue. The mucous membranes became detached and sphaeculous without any glandular change taking place, as might be supposed would result from the elimination of the poison. These facts in ex-

perimental physiology applied to human patients indicate that a dose of 24 centigrammes of corrosive sublimate is necessary to produce intestinal ulceration in a man of sixty kilogrammes; but the conclusion is not applicable unless the sublimate be given in hypodermic or venous injections. It remains also to be proved whether human susceptibility to the influence of this substance is the same as that of the lower animals; some clinical facts suggest that smaller doses of corrosive sublimate act on the human subject and provoke intestinal lesions. Nevertheless, MM. Charrin and Roger do not consider that the possibility of these accidents ought to be urged as a reason for proscribing the use of corrosive sublimate as an antiseptic agent.

Many physiologists believe that bile acts as an antiseptic agent on the organised ferments of the intestines; clinical facts appear to support this hypothesis. In jaundiced patients, when the bile does not flow into the intestines, intestinal putrescence increases. MM. Charrin and Roger have endeavoured to study the direct action of bile on micro-organisms observed in the upper part of the small intestines. Fresh intact bile, added to sterilised broth, in the proportion of sixty-six cubic centimètres (or even more) of bile per litre of sterilised broth, was not found to prevent the microbes from developing. These artificial cultivations became turbid, and emitted a fetid odour. If slightly shaken, gases collected on the surface. If, instead of intact bile, some of its component elements were used, it was observed that each separate constituent of the bile exercised a different action. Biliary salts were more energetic in their action than bilirubin; this was especially true of the taurocholates. The antiseptic properties of bilirubin were very slight. Lecithin and cholesterine are apparently inert as antiseptic agents. Intact bile was less energetic than its constituent elements taken separately. Bufalin came to the same conclusion, after studying the action of bile and its constituent parts on ferments.

At a recent meeting of the Biological Society, M. Quinquand stated that, having ascertained that there were several errors in the existing method of testing blood for sugar with the usual reagents, he had modified the system of analysis, and used isinglass. He obtained precise results, and ascertained from them that the proportion of sugar contained in the blood was inferior to that stated by C. Bernard. At the same meeting, M. Quinquand stated that he had succeeded, by means of local electrification of a group of muscles in a dog, in increasing the central temperature to such an extent as to produce death in a short time. The blood returned in the veins of the region thus stimulated contained less sugar than the blood in the veins of the corresponding group of muscles on the opposite side of the animal. Therefore, animal heat could be increased experimentally, and the resulting physiological phenomena carefully studied. M. Quinquand's experiments apparently furnished a therapeutic means of increasing the temperature of patients.

At a recent meeting of the Société de Thérapeutique, M. Guérin read a paper on Gelosine, a mucilaginous substance extracted from a Japanese alga, which is sold in the form of dry whitish leaves. Gelosine is an excellent base, mixing easily with all pharmaceutical substances, soluble in alcohol and water, and in acidulated or alkaline water; it served as a medium for salts, powders, and different tinctures, and was of great utility in preparing suppositories. Gelosine gradually contracts and expels the water and medical substances it contains, which are thus spread over the surface of wounds or cavities, in which it is placed in any form. Gelosine thus gradually regains its original volume, but can be used more than once for the purposes cited above. Gelosine, therefore, appeared to be preferable to liniments and ointments. M. Guérin showed specimens of cylinders and slabs of gelosine, containing camphor, creosote, sulphate of zinc, eucaine, tincture of belladonna, iodoform, corrosive sublimate, carbolic acid, and coal-tar. In order to use gelosine as a medium, the quantity required should be immersed in its weight of hot water; the therapeutic agent is then added and incorporated. When the mixture becomes as thick as syrup, it is poured into moulds. These operations were completed in a quarter of an hour, and the expense was slight. Sterilised gelosine might be utilised in bacteriological research.

The French Society of Otolaryngology will meet in Paris at the Town Hall, Place St. Germain-l'Auxerrois, on October 27th and 28th, at eight o'clock in the evening.

Several cases of pelagra have recently broken out among the foot-soldiers in barracks at Montpellier; the disease is supposed to have been contracted through the men wearing caps which had previously been worn by men affected with the complaint, and which had not been disinfected.

DR. THOMAS LINNINGTON ASH, of Holsworthy, is a candidate for the coronership of the Okehampton district of the county of Devon, vacant by the decease of Mr. Fulford.

GLASGOW.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Bequests to the University and Infirmarys.—University Examinations.—The Natural History and Medico-Chirurgical Societies.—The Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons and Dr. Bell.—The Disaster at the Lochfyne Quarries.

ANOTHER munificent bequest has fallen to the lot of the University. The late Mr. Andrew Cunningham, formerly town-clerk depute of Glasgow, has bequeathed £5,000 for completing the tower. When that is accomplished, the University will be practically finished, as proposed in the late Sir Gilbert Scott's plans. Within recent years a remarkably large amount of money has been presented for building purposes. The Marquis of Bute built the Bute Hall; the late Mr. Randolph left a very large sum for similar purposes; Mr. Pearce has removed the old college-gateway from its original site, and is rebuilding it as a lodge at one of the university-gates; and an unknown donor has given the money for a students' union building, which is now in process of erection. Thus, in the course of little more than six years, nearly £120,000 have been presented to the University in the form of stone and lime; yet, with all this magnificence, the teachers in several of the departments suffer from insufficient accommodation, and from paucity of funds to meet working expenses and expenses of laboratory equipments. The professor of anatomy has had to erect, for the accommodation of his students, an iron addition to his dissection-room that is not beautiful to look upon; the professor of physiology has to maintain and add to his apparatus at his own cost; and the professors of botany and zoology have to use, as laboratories, rooms never designed for these purposes, and have no equipment other than they themselves provide. If future benefactors of the University would follow the example of Dr. Muirhead, of Cambuslang, and endow additional lectureships, or provide funds for the equipment of laboratories, the direct benefit to generations of students would be infinitely greater. Mr. Cunningham has also bequeathed large sums (£5,000 each) to the Royal and Western Infirmarys, and has generously remembered in his will the Eye Infirmary and several other similar institutions.

The winter's work at the University began on October 6th with the preliminary examinations in general education for medical students, for which no fewer than 344 candidates have entered. The professional examinations begin on October 11th. There are 168 candidates for the first examination, 129 for the second, and 81 for the third.

The various scientific societies of Glasgow have already begun, or are about to begin, their work for another session. The Natural History Society held its first meeting on October 28th, under the presidency of Dr. James Stirton, F.L.S.

The Medico-Chirurgical Society has already held two preliminary meetings, at which various recommendations for increasing the interest and usefulness of the Society were considered. It is proposed to establish four Sections especially devoted to the subjects of Medicine, Surgery, Midwifery and Gynecology, and Pathology; a final decision will be taken on October 8th.

At a meeting of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, held on October 4th, the case of Dr. Bell was finally disposed of, for a time, by Dr. Bell being suspended from all the privileges of a Fellow for the period of six months; and this, in spite of the fact that he had humbly apologised to the Faculty for his connection with a patent medicine, and had withdrawn from the position he took up at a former meeting. The new President of the Faculty, in room of Dr. Fergus, whose term of office is completed, is Dr. James Morton.

No additional fatalities have occurred from the explosion at the Lochfyne Quarries. The injured who were removed to Greenock Infirmary, among them Dr. H. B. Wilson, have recovered, and have been able to return home. An investigation, conducted by Colonel Ford, into the circumstances of the disaster has been completed, but no report has yet been issued.

LIVERPOOL.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Opening of the Winter Session at University College.—The Hospital for Women.—Annual Meeting of the Literary and Philosophical Society.—The Disposal of Cases of Scarlatina.

ON the afternoon of October 2nd, the usual formal opening of the winter session of University College, took place in St. George's Hall. Lord Derby presided; among the visitors present was Sir Philip Magnus, Director of the City and Guilds of London Institute for the

Advancement of Technical Education, who on the evening before delivered the prizes to the students of the Liverpool School of Science. The annual statement, which followed an address from the chairman, and which was read by Principal Rendall, dealt with the more striking features of the work of the past year. These were—the remarkable increase in the number of registered students in arts and science, which greatly exceeded any previous record; the increasing proportion of students preparing for university degrees, and for various public examinations; and the transfer of the chemical teaching to the new buildings, opened in May last by Sir Lyon Playfair. The result of this last has been to give the required accommodation for physiological work; but, in spite of this, and of the enlargement of the dissecting rooms, and the rearrangement of the cloak-rooms, etc., the college is still seriously hampered by lack of space and want of lecture-rooms, a new lecture theatre for medicine and surgery being especially needed. Professor Conway, M.A., the Roscoe Professor of Art, delivered the introductory address, on the Succession of Ideals. In the evening the annual dinner was held at the Adelphi Hotel, under the presidency of Dr. Caton, and was attended by an unusually large number of leading members of the profession from Leeds, Manchester, and other towns.

The medical gathering at Dr. Imlach's residence on September 28th was a decided success. A day or two ago, a statement appeared in the newspaper to which the second resolution passed at the meeting had reference, to the effect that formal intimation of the discontinuance of the legal proceedings had been received, and that Dr. Imlach had paid the costs. Some further observations in reference to the matter followed, which were not altogether in good taste when it is considered that quite recently the President of the Hospital for Women wrote in his official capacity to the daily press, to request the public to suspend their judgment until the conclusion of the inquiry that is proceeding.

The annual meeting of the Literary and Philosophical Society, held on the evening of October 4th, proved of especial interest to medical men and others interested in sanitary science. The President, Dr. Carter, had selected as the subject of his second inaugural address "Some Results of Recent Sanitary Legislation, with Suggestions as to its Safe Extension." In the course of a most able and exhaustive address, he referred to Condorcet's prophetic observations on the subject; to the fact that forty-three years ago a paper read before the Society by the late Dr. Duncan, and which was published by the Government of that day, had given the impulse to the work of sanitary reform that has done so much good in Liverpool; he drew a contrast between the sanitary condition of England, and more especially Liverpool, forty years ago, and its sanitary state now. Dr. Carter, in conclusion, considered the direction in which changes in public health law might be safely and advantageously made, remarking that, in view of past experience, whatever change is made should be on the principles and in the direction of the Public Health Acts of 1872 and 1875. In referring to the various branches of sanitary work, the attempt to compel notification, even on the part of the householder, in every case of infectious disease, without instituting at the same time the most careful precautionary measures, was condemned.

During the past few weeks, a difficulty has arisen in regard to the disposal of cases of scarlatina. This disease has been, and is, prevalent here; and the Health Authorities have been placed in an awkward position by the action of the Select Vestry, in objecting to receive any more cases into the Workhouse Hospital. The Netherfield Road Hospital is not yet in perfect sanitary condition; and, on that account, no cases have been of late sent there. But, at the last meeting of the Health Committee of the City Council, it was stated that during the week ending September 25th a few urgent cases were removed to Netherfield Road. During the week referred to, forty-four cases of scarlet fever were reported, of which seven were sent to hospital.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

New Infectious Hospital at Jarrow.—Sick Children's Hospital.—Carbolic Poisoning Case.—North of England Medical Society.—Newcastle Clinical Society.

THE foundation-stone of a new hospital for infectious diseases was laid a few days ago at Jarrow. Two acres of land have been purchased from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and will be enclosed by a 14-foot wall. There will be an administrative department and a ward block 118 feet long. This latter will consist of four wards, two female and two male, providing accommodation for thirteen patients. The

building will be of brick, with stone facings, and is expected to cost between £3,000 and £4,000.

A vacancy has been declared on the staff of the Children's Hospital by the resignation of Dr. Houseman, one of the physicians. Dr. H. S. Baumgartner and Dr. W. C. Beatley are the only candidates at present in the field. Dr. Baumgartner studied at Guy's Hospital and in Newcastle, and has had some experience of the work; he has held no professional appointments. Dr. Beatley studied at Charing Cross Hospital and in Newcastle. He has held the appointments of resident medical officer at Charing Cross Hospital, senior assistant at the County Asylum, Somerset, and resident medical officer at the Newcastle Dispensary. The governors of the hospital will have some difficulty in deciding to whom they should award their votes, and the contest will no doubt be a close one.

Dr. Walker, of this city, has sent me a report of his analytical and biological examination of the various articles of diet used at the fatal wedding breakfast at Carlisle. The articles consisted of bridecake, corn-flour, tea, and mace; in addition, he received two bottles of vomit. Dr. Walker examined each article separately by the ordinary methods for all mineral poisons, and by Dragendorff's method for all alkaloids and glucosides, in every case with a negative result. Dr. Walker then examined the hare-soup and vomits for ptomaines; in no case was any trace of poison detected. Being struck with the resemblance of the symptoms to those of "bacilli-poisoning," Dr. Walker procured portions of the ham used at the breakfast, made various extracts of it, and administered them, together with the ham, to various animals, but in no case was there a positive result. On microscopical examination among other varieties of organisms, bacilli were discovered, which appeared as short rods with rounded ends, generally in pairs joined by their extremities. All attempts at cultivation failed; and Dr. Walker says: "This appears to indicate that the bacilli are dead, and if so, explains why the ham was not poisonous to the animals experimented upon."

The annual meeting of the North of England Medical Society was held on Thursday last. Dr. Hume was elected President for the coming session; and Dr. Farquharson and Dr. Oliver were elected Joint-Secretaries. About sixteen members subsequently dined together at the Douglas Hotel.

The first meeting of the Clinical Society for the session 1886-87 will be held this month. The session promises to be a useful one; already the syllabus of papers promised for each meeting is made up. Amongst the subjects promised are papers on Intestinal Obstruction, Diseases of the Kidney, Rickets, Herniotomy, the Relation of Infection to the Puerperal State, Waters and Filters, and General Paralysis of the Insane; it is hoped that Dr. Page, of the Local Government Board, who is an honorary member of the Society, will bring some subject before the members, should he pay a visit to the North.

CORRESPONDENCE.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Our correspondents are reminded that prolixity is a great bar to publication, and, with the constant pressure upon every department of the JOURNAL, brevity of style and conciseness of statement greatly facilitate early publication. We are compelled to return and hold over a great number of communications, chiefly by reason of their unnecessary length.

DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF THE PROFESSION ON THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

SIR,—The letter of Dr. Strange, the Chairman of the Birmingham Committee, which you published on October 2nd, and your leader of that date, have informed the profession that, from regard to my place in the test ballot by that Committee, they have now invited me to be their third candidate. The profession will naturally expect to hear the decision of my Committee, and my own opinion in regard to that invitation. I will ask you with this view kindly to publish the resolution of my Committee and my letter to Dr. Strange in reply to his overtures acting as Chairman. In announcing this resolution, I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the courtesy of Dr. Strange and his colleagues. I am well aware of the value of organisations, but at all hazards we must preserve freedom.—I am, yours very truly,
25, Highbury Place, N.

JAMES GREY GLOVER.

"25, Highbury Place, October 2nd, 1886.

"Dear Dr. Strange,—I lose no time in informing you of the result of the consideration by my Committee of the proposal of your Com-

mittee that I should stand as the third candidate of your nomination for the office of direct representative of the profession in the General Medical Council. The resolution of the Committee is as follows:

"That this Committee, having considered the letters written by Dr. Strange and Mr. Ker, on behalf of the Birmingham Committee, in which Dr. Glover is informed that he has been adopted as the third candidate on their list, and in which, further, they express the desire that this Committee, formed (two months since) to promote Dr. Glover's candidature, should amalgamate with the Birmingham Committee to promote the election of Messrs. Wheelhouse, Foster, and Glover—the three candidates now selected by the Birmingham Committee as the most suitable to represent the profession in the General Medical Council, do hereby resolve that the best thanks of the Committee be given to the members of the Birmingham Committee for their proffered aid in advancing the election of Dr. Glover, and for the way in which they have mentioned his suitability for the post, as well as his claims on the profession; but, as many members of his Committee have already promised their support to other candidates, and many other members decline to have their freedom of selection curtailed, it is impossible for the two Committees to amalgamate to fulfil the objects of the Birmingham Committee."

"I need not say how gratifying it is to me to stand well in the estimation of so many members of your Committee, nor what a pleasure it would have been to me to co-operate with you, and to be associated in a joint candidature with Mr. Wheelhouse and Sir Walter Foster.

"But I am bound to say that I heartily concur with my Committee. What we want above everything is to aid the free and spontaneous expression of the views and preferences of the profession, and to avoid mechanical ways of tying candidates and voters together. I shall still prize the support of the individual members of your Committee. I trust to your kindness and courtesy, of which I have had not a little proof, to believe that, in electing to stand as an independent candidate, I am only doing what I feel to be right in the interest of the profession which we all have at heart.—Believe me, dear Dr. Strange, yours very truly,
JAMES GREY GLOVER."

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me, in answer to the letter of Dr. Carter in the JOURNAL for October 2nd, to explain that I sent the letter he quotes to the Birmingham Committee, just as I sent my advertisement to your valuable JOURNAL, to make known my candidature. On re-perusing my letter, I do not find that it contains any request for support; neither do I find in it any allusion to my own "merits."—I remain, etc.,
R. P. B. TAAFFE.

45, Old Steyne, Brighton.

SIR,—Permit me to say that, as Dr. Lush, late M.P., who had charge of five of the seven Bills drafted by the Medical Alliance Association for the amendment of the Medical Act of 1858, and to whose exertions on behalf of medical reform, we, the Medical Alliance, most unhesitatingly assert the appointment of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and the subsequent Royal Commission to inquire into the Medical Acts are due, is unable, in consequence of continued ill-health, to accept our invitation to come forward as a candidate for a seat in the Medical Council, we have, in conjunction with others, not members of the Alliance, invited Dr. E. H. S. Carpenter, the Chairman of the Medical Alliance, and Mr. George Brown, the Honorary Secretary of the Medical Reform Association, to accept our invitation to them to become representatives of the general practitioners of England, and that both these gentlemen have acceded to our wishes, and have pledged themselves to us to go to the poll.

To Dr. Carpenter's eleven years' continuous efforts to suppress illegal practice, which, as part of his work in this direction, has resulted in fifty-six prosecutions; to his earnest efforts to secure a reform which would be beneficial to the rank-and-file of our profession, as is shown by his drafting the seven Bills of the Alliance—the only Bills which guarded the interests of the general practitioners, it is needless for me to allude further, as they are well known to the profession.

Of Mr. George Brown, the founder of the Medical Defence Association, and the holder of gold and silver medals, and many other medical prizes as well, and whom we consider alone entitled to the credit due for the work done by the Medical Defence Association, I shall not speak, further than to say that for Dr. Carpenter he would be a most worthy colleague.

Both these gentlemen are *bona fide* general practitioners, they both know the material wants and interests of their own class of "struggling practitioners" (as Dr. Lush used to speak of them); they have both shown by these past services, by the way they have devoted their time, and ungrudgingly opened their purses for the