

"Ladies' maids and others, entirely without medical training or any medical supervision, established themselves as 'masseuses,' and advertised that they gave lessons and 'granted' certificates."

Dr. Tibbits refers in various forms to the "Royal patronage" under which he alleges his institution is carried on. We shall be curious to know what justification there is for this statement. The pamphlet which is before us appeals for subscriptions for this institution as an important charity—"Dr. Tibbits's latest venture in benevolent effort"—and we are duly informed that "remittances sent will be gratefully acknowledged by Herbert Tibbits, M.D., Hon. Treasurer." Our readers may be curious to see the form of the certificate, which we append :

WEST END SCHOOL OF MESSAGE AND ELECTRICITY.
Established in 1886.

In connection with the Massage and Galvanic Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System, Paralysis, and Epilepsy.

We certify that whose
Signature is subjoined, has attended
Course of Practical Instruction in Massage and Electrical Treatment,
at this School and Hospital, and having passed a satisfactorily written,
verbal, and practical Examination, we consider
fully competent to apply these Methods of Treatment under Medical
Authority,
Signed on behalf of the School, upon
this day 189
..... Senior Physician to the Hospital.
..... Lady Superintendent.
..... Hon. Secretary.
Signature and Residence of the Holder of this Certificate.

The contents of the pamphlet are constructed in such a way, by reference to transactions which appear to have taken place in 1886, as to give the impression that various other physicians of some standing are associated with Dr. Tibbits as the examiners and supporters of the school. We are not aware that any physician except Dr. Tibbits is now an examiner or physician to the "hospital," and, if so, it will be observed that the certificate rests on no other medical authority than his own. On the outside of the pamphlet, at the foot of "Appeal upon behalf of the London Massage and Galvanic Hospital," addressed to all who take an interest in relieving disease and suffering, it is alleged that the "hospital patrons" include "the Very Rev. the Dean of Lichfield and many of the clergy of all denominations (Church of England, Nonconformists, the Roman Catholic Church, the Hebrew Church, and others)." We should be glad to know who are those numerous clergy, and whether the Dean of Lichfield has authorised the use of his name.

We are unable to speak with accuracy of the training given at the various places to which we have referred, but we regret to say that we cannot ourselves place any confidence in any of the certificates which are in circulation. It may be that some of the persons concerned have had a serious training in massage, but the public has no guarantee that in any individual instance this is to be assumed.

LITERARY NOTES.

DR. TEMISTOCLE SANTOPADRE, as we learn from the *Riforma Medica*, will shortly publish a work entitled *Trattato di Patologia Speciale Medica e di Terapia*, embodying the fruits of his twenty years' experience and the results of much literary research. The work is to be in ten volumes of 3,000 pages each. The learned Themistocles has displayed a heroism worthy of his great namesake in producing such a literary megatherium, but where in these degenerate days is there to be found a student of sufficiently heroic mould to read it?

Mr. W. C. J. Miller, B.A., Registrar of the General Medical Council, has reprinted from *Nature Notes* a pleasant article on "A Bird-loved Suburb of London." The suburb is

Richmond, and Mr. Miller not only shows himself a keen lover and observer of birds, but also tells us some facts which are little known even to Londoners best acquainted with the surroundings of the great metropolis. It will be news, for instance, to most people that there is a fine heronry in Richmond Park. He can tell them, also, where the first nightingale is most likely to be heard, and where the cuckoo first raises its monotonous note. He has the art to entwine with his ornithological lore many agreeable reminiscences of the great days of Richmond.

In the *Medical Magazine* for November there is an article entitled, Why the Army Medical Service is not Contented, which is clearly written by someone thoroughly acquainted with the present condition of the Department. The various grievances and official snubs and injustices of which our brethren of the army have to complain are set forth in a spirit of fairness and reasonableness, and with a moderation of tone that cannot fail to win the sympathy of the reader. One of the chief among the causes of the present discontent is, as we gather, the fact that the administration of the Medical Department is largely controlled by a civilian War Office clerk. To this official the most multifarious and most important duties are assigned; he is "the power behind the throne" in the Director-General's office, and it is not too much to say that he holds the entire Department in the hollow of his hand. The officers of the Department resent being governed by a civilian clerk, and it must be admitted that this grievance is something more than a sentimental one. They would feel it to be more in accord with the idea of military discipline and with the general fitness of things to have their career in the service shaped for them by one of themselves rather than by a subordinate official. Everyone who wishes to understand what it is that army doctors really complain of should read the article in the *Medical Magazine*.

The new number (October-December) of Dr. J. W. Ballantyne's *Teratologia* contains an interesting paper from the pen of the editor on the Teratological Records of Chaldea. The early inhabitants of Chaldea regarded teratological phenomena as presages of the future, and the Chaldean priests had an extensive acquaintance with the nature and prophetic meaning of monstrous births. Lenormant, in his work *La Divination et la Science des Présages chez les Chaldéens*, Paris, 1875, devotes a special chapter to the omens derived from monstrous births. Dr. Ballantyne gives an account of the texts (from the brick tablets which formed Assurbanipal's library) upon which our knowledge of Chaldean teratology is based. One of these tablets has on its obverse and reverse a list of sixty-two teratological cases in the human subject with the prophetic meanings attached to them by the Chaldean diviners. The list shows that the Chaldeans were acquainted with many kinds of congenital deformity, and Dr. Ballantyne is able to identify most of them with anomalies well known at the present time. He says, indeed, that in the tablet literature of ancient Babylon there are indications of an acquaintance with structural defects and malformation of the human body which will compare favourably with even the writings of the sixteenth century of the Christian era.

All students of anatomy are familiar with the name of Gimbernat, but to most of them it is probable that it designates not so much a man as a ligament. Yet Gimbernat was a man of light and leading in his day. His life has just been written by his countryman, Dr. Siloniz, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Barcelona. Antonio de Gimbernat was born at Cambrils, Tarragona, in 1734, and, after studying medicine for a time in the University of Cervera, he migrated to Cadiz. Here he attracted the notice of his teacher, the anatomist Virgili, who, when the Spanish Government was organising the Medical College of Barcelona, proposed him as one of the professors. Gimbernat's youth, however, for a time prevented the ratification of this appointment. It was not till 1763 that he was able to take possession of the Chair of Anatomy. He soon made a great reputation for himself as a learned anatomist and a skilful operator. The Spanish Government commissioned him to visit the principal European countries in order to study the state of medical science and the methods of teaching. He visited the hospitals and schools of Paris, London, and other cities, and was

everywhere received with the greatest distinction. At a later period he was consulted by the Government relative to the establishment of the Medical College of San Carlos (now the Medical Faculty of the University of Madrid), of which he was appointed first director in 1783. He was recognised in his own country as the leading surgeon of his time; he was honoured with the confidence of his sovereign, and he died full of years and honours in 1816.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

LIBRARY OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS are reminded that the Library and Writing Rooms of the Association are now fitted up for the accommodation of the Members in commodious apartments, at the offices of the Association, 429, Strand. The rooms are open from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Members can have their letters addressed to them at the Office.

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 1895. ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on January 16th, April 17th, July 10th, and October 23rd, 1895. Candidates for election by the Council of the Association must send in their forms of application to the General Secretary not later than twenty-one days before each meeting—namely December 27th, 1894; March 28th, June 20th, and October 2nd, 1895.

Any qualified medical practitioner, not disqualified by any by-law of the Association, who shall be recommended as eligible by any three members, may be elected a member by the Council or by any recognised Branch Council.

Candidates seeking election by a Branch Council should apply to the Secretary of the Branch. No members can be elected by a Branch Council unless their names have been inserted in the circular summoning the meeting at which they seek election.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary.*

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST AND WEST KENT DISTRICTS.—A conjoint meeting of these Districts will be held at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital on Thursday, November 22nd, at 3 P.M., Dr. Frederick Eastes, of Folkestone, in the chair. The chairman invites members and visitors to luncheon at the Fountain Hotel from 1.30 to 2.30. Members intending to avail themselves of the chairman's hospitality are requested to send acceptances by Tuesday, the 20th, or they will not be expected. Agenda:—Dr. E. W. White: Psychological Medicine in relation to the General Practitioner. Dr. Thomas Eastes: The Treatment of Diphtheria by Antitoxin. Mr. Biddle will relate a case of Diphtheria treated with Antitoxin, and it is hoped that all members who have notes of such cases will either bring them to the meeting, or forward them to one of the honorary secretaries. Mr. Brian Rigden: Some Points in relation to Life Assurance. Tea and coffee will be served in the Board Room of the hospital after the meeting. All members of the South-Eastern Branch are entitled to attend these meetings, and to introduce professional friends.—THOS. F. RAVEN, Broadstairs, and E. GROUND, Maidstone, Honorary Secretaries.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.—An intermediate meeting of this Branch will be held at the Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter, on Friday, November 23rd, at 3 P.M. Mr. Victor Horsley, F.R.S., will deliver an address on the Differential Diagnosis of Cerebral Tumours, with remarks on Treatment, illustrated by lantern slides. A discussion is invited. Tea will be provided at 5 P.M. A meeting of the Branch Council will be held at 1 P.M. Invitations have been sent to the West Somerset, the Dorset and West Hants, and the Bath and Bristol Branches. The Honorary Secretary will be much obliged if members intending to come will kindly give him notice of the fact by November 18th, if possible.—WILLIAM GORDON, Honorary Secretary, Barnfield Lodge, Exeter.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SUSSEX DISTRICT.—The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 29th, at 3.30 P.M., at the Queen's Hotel, Eastbourne. Dinner at 5.30; charge, 6s., exclusive of wine. Dr. Gabbett will preside and will read a short paper. The following communications are also promised:—Mr. H. D. Farnell: Remarks on Anæsthetics. Mr. A. H. Dodd: A Case of Transfusion, with exhibition of apparatus. Dr. A. J. Richardson: The Use of Naphthols in Flatulent Dyspepsia. Mr. J. Dodson Hesse: A Case of Inversion of the Uterus. Members are invited to show cases of interest, specimens, etc.—J. W. BATTERHAM, Honorary District Secretary, Bank House, Grand Parade, St. Leonards.

DUNDEE AND DISTRICT BRANCH.—The ordinary meeting of this Branch will be held in University College, Dundee, on Thursday, November 29th, at 4 P.M. Business: (1) Midwives Registration Bill. (2) Proposed Outdoor Maternity Charity for Dundee.—R. C. BUIST, Secretary.

ABERDEEN, BANFF, AND KINCARDINE BRANCH.—An ordinary general meeting of this Branch will be held in Milne's Library, 229, Union Street, Aberdeen, on the evening of Wednesday, November 21st, at 8 P.M. Business:—(1) Minutes, Nominations, etc. (2) Ballot for the admission of Dr. Bell, Skene; Dr. Mowat, H.M.S. *Edinburgh*; Dr. Ogston, Rosemount Place, Aberdeen; Dr. Usher, Aberdeen. (3) Case of Trephining for Traumatic Epilepsy, by Professor Ogston. (4) Hospital notes on a Case of Spasmodic Wry Neck, with exhibition of patient, by Dr. Blaikie-Smith.—C. THISELTON URQUHART, J. SCOTT RIDDELL, Honorary Joint Secretaries.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH.—The next ordinary meeting will be held at the General Infirmary, Gloucester, on Tuesday, November 20th, at 7 P.M., under the presidency of Mr. O. H. Fowler. Agenda:—(1) Mr. O. H. Fowler, Cirencester: Presidential Address on Circumcision, its Advantages and how best Performed. (2) Mr. E. Bower, Gloucester: Some Interesting Surgical Cases.—S. T. PRUEN, Honorary Secretary, Sherborne Lodge, Cheltenham.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.—The first general meeting of the present session will be held at the North Stafford Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent, on Thursday, November 29th. The President (Dr. Charlesworth) will take the chair at 3.30 P.M.—GEORGE REID, Honorary Secretary, Eastgate House, Stafford.

MIDLAND BRANCH: LINCOLNSHIRE DISTRICT.—A meeting will be held at Grantham on Thursday, November 29th. Members desirous of reading papers are requested to communicate with the Honorary Secretary, Dr. CARLINE, Lincoln.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

The first ordinary meeting of the session was held on October 31st, in the Medical Library of University College, Bristol; NELSON C. DOBSON, F.R.C.S., President, in the chair. There were also present thirty-five members.

Communications.—Dr. J. MICHELL CLARKE related a case of Gastric Cancer presenting unusual difficulty of diagnosis. Mr. PICKERING, Drs. SHINGLETON SMITH, FISHER, and MARKHAM SKERRITT, MESSRS. WALKER and MORTON, and the PRESIDENT joined in the discussion which followed.—Dr. WALDO related the sequel to a case of Motor Aphasia.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT. The first meeting of the thirty-eighth session of this District was held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, on October 26th, Mr. PRIDEAUX SELBY, of Sittingbourne, in the chair, twelve members being present.

Confirmation of Minutes.—The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Next Meeting.—It was decided that the next meeting be held at Maidstone in March, 1895, and that Mr. Clomley be invited to preside.

New Member.—Dr. Jones, of Loose, and Dr. Whitestone, of Hollingbourn, were elected members of the Branch.

Communications.—Mr. ST. G. C. REID read a paper on Tinnitus Aurium, which was fully discussed.—Mr. LUDFORD COOPER read a paper on Excision of the Tongue, in which he advocated ligature of the linguals in the neck as a preliminary step, not only on account of the bloodlessness of the after-operation, but also of the thoroughness with which the surrounding structures could be examined. In the discussion which followed, the members were not unanimously in favour of this procedure.—Mr. PRIDEAUX SELBY related a case of Abdominal Section for Peritoneal Pregnancy in a Woman, aged 34. The peritoneal foetation was diagnosed at the end of the third month. In opening the abdomen the sac presented, which was turned out at once with the placenta. Very great difficulty was experienced in checking the profuse hæmorrhage from the placental site in Douglas's pouch. Vomiting set in, and the patient died from exhaustion seventy-eight hours after the operation. In the discussion which ensued Mr. HALLOWES related a case in which obstinate vomiting had occurred after the operation, which was controlled by hot coffee, administered at the request of the patient.—Dr. J. DUNDAS GRANT read a paper on Disease of the Antrum and Sinuses in Relation to Puerulent Nasal Catarrh. He demonstrated the methods of aspirating these cavities, advocating immediate aspiration for the relief of pain, followed by irrigation, and showed several special instruments, some of which he had designed for carrying out this treatment.

Dinner.—Seven members dined afterwards at the Bull Hotel.