

left-handed persons learned to write with the left hand; therefore, the left side of the brain, even with persons left-handed, could be educated better than the right side. The fourth point was that the leg was rarely so much affected by paralysis as the arm. He, however, would pass over this argument, as it could only be understood by medical men.

If the lecturer had established that we had two brains, then they should be developed. If we could develop the legs and the arms of both sides, we could develop both sides of the brain. If we gave as much attention to the left side of the body as we do to the right side, we would fully develop our two brains. The important point, therefore, would be to make children use both sides of the body—alternately using the right and left arm and the right and left leg equally. There would be no difficulty in thus training children to full development.

Even adults who had lost speech by disease of the left side of the brain could regain the power by cultivating the right side. In gesture, persons who had lost the use of the right arm could be trained to use the left. If children were thus trained, we would have a sturdier and healthier race, both mentally and physically.

DR. FRENCH is specially observing the effects of the famine on the fever-stricken people of West Burdwan.

DR. PROTHEROE SMITH has been elected a Corresponding Member of the Medical Society of St. Petersburg.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS the Duke of Edinburgh has been pleased to appoint Dr. J. Fayer, C.S.I., Honorary Physician to Her Majesty, to be Physician to His Royal Highness.

DR. T. HENRY GREEN has been promoted to the office of full physician to Charing Cross Hospital; and Dr. Pearson Irvine has been unanimously recommended by the Council for the office of Assistant-Physician.

THE Dean of the Westminster Hospital School requests us to correct a statement, which he says has appeared elsewhere, that the Council had accepted a proposition from certain ladies for the formation of a female department of the Medical School. The Council declined the proposition.

MESSRS. SMITH, ELDER, and Co., the *Times* states, have entered into an arrangement with the Principal of the Inland Revenue Laboratory for the preparation of a hand-book on Adulterations, and the means of their detection in food, drink, and drugs.

THE *Bombay Gazette* announces the death of Dr. Bhau Daji, whom it describes as "probably the most learned native in Bombay, and a most charitable and highly respected member of the community". He was honorary secretary of the Bombay Association, a member of the Local Board of Education, vice-president of the Bombay branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, president of the East India Association (Bombay branch), besides being a honorary member of several eminent foreign scientific societies. He was twice elected sheriff of Bombay. Dr. Bhau Daji was the first native student who gave attention to Indian botany and Hindoo medicine; but it is chiefly with the cure for leprosy that his name is identified.

#### THE IMPORTATION OF CHOLERA.

THE port sanitary authorities, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, warned by the experiences of last autumn, and, as we may suppose, strengthened by the legislation of 1872, will, it is to be hoped, act untidily this year in endeavouring to prevent the importation of cholera. In 1873, isolated cases were introduced from Rotterdam, Hamburg, Caen, and Havre, into the ports of London, Liverpool, and Southampton. Each authority, guided in some way by an order in Council, did that which was right in its own eyes, and succeeded in stopping the disease. But it is notorious that no uniform plan of action has as yet been agreed upon by all port authorities. Some trust in the Customs for information, others make

their medical officers inspect every suspected vessel, and a great many have done nothing at all. We may have cholera imported at any time from French, Dutch, Belgian, or North German ports; and Consul Bernal of Havre indicates, in his last official report, the hopelessness of getting early information from authorities in France as to the existence of any epidemic. The Dutch authorities are eminently open in such matters, and in Belgium and Germany the sanitary state of ports can be ascertained with comparative accuracy. Having regard, however, to the importance of concerted action, a meeting of port sanitary authorities in London, presided over by an "expert" from Mr. Simon's department at Whitehall, would at the present moment be eminently useful.

#### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES v. ANDERTON.

A PENALTY of £20, and costs amounting to £5 1s. 6d., have been lately recovered through the Halifax County Court from the defendant, Mr. Anderton, a homœopathic chemist in Halifax, for illegally practising as an apothecary.

#### ENGLISH PHYSICIANS IN CHILI.

MR. RUMBOLD, the British Minister at Valparaiso, has addressed a note to the Chilean Government on the subject of the admission of the diplomas of our English medical examining bodies. At present, the recognition of these certificates is arbitrary, not to say capricious; and an examination conducted in the Spanish language, before a board of examiners who will find in the candidate a most formidable rival, is not a favourable test for a foreign practitioner. The Chileans pretend to an excellence and widespread knowledge in medicine not attained by other nations, and they deny that English doctors are equal to their standard. The result is that, while Englishmen who have graduated in the study of medicine at home are not allowed to practise in Chili, the country is overrun by a class of quacks who give themselves no trouble about a diploma or examining bodies of any nationality. This is the more to be regretted, as disease of a very serious type and fatal character appears to be rife in Chili. At Chillan, small-pox has been committing fearful ravages. Of 192 patients admitted into the hospital, no fewer than 154 died; whilst cholera of a very malignant type had broken out among the Indians of the frontier of Mendoza, causing two hundred deaths in twelve days. Many of the victims, it is said, succumbed ten minutes after being attacked.

#### POISONING BY CARBOLIC ACID.

EARLY on Sunday morning, Mr. Baker, surgeon, of Junction Road, Upper Holloway, being restless and unable to sleep, went to his surgery in the dark to obtain a composing draught, but he unfortunately took a dose of carbolie acid by mistake instead. Soon afterwards, Mrs. Baker was awoken by the violent retching of her husband. He said he was very ill and thought he should die. Dr. Spencer was immediately sent for, and was soon in attendance, but too late to save Mr. Baker's life. He endeavoured to revive the action of the heart by the application of the galvanic battery, but without effect. Mr. Baker had practised many years in Upper Holloway, and was much respected in the neighbourhood.

#### TRAINED NURSES' ANNUITY FUND.

A MEETING was lately held at Grosvenor House, having for its object the establishment of a Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund. The object of the meeting having been stated in a few words by the Duke of Westminster, Mr. Erichsen moved, and Baron Henry de Worms seconded—

"That this meeting cordially approves the objects of the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, and pledges itself to support it to its best ability."

In urging the claims of the Annuity Fund upon his hearers, Mr. Erichsen dwelt upon the sickness, ill-health, and other hardships incident to the life of a nurse, and the urgent need of some provision being made for those who had worn themselves out in such a necessary and praiseworthy avocation. The mortality among London nurses, the speaker pointed out, was 40 per cent. above the mortality of the other female population of London, and surely no class of persons had a

stronger claim on the community than those whose time and health and life were spent in alleviating human misery. In moving the next resolution, Mr. Brudenell Carter insisted upon the excellent nature of the charity now brought before the public. The resolution was as follows:

"That the following ladies and gentlemen, namely, the Countess of Carnwath, Lady Bloomfield, Lady Elizabeth Adeane, Miss Stanley, Mrs. Morris Stirling, Sir John Kennaway, M.P., Mr. John Eric Erichsen, W. Wadham, M.D., Mr. Victor Williamson, and Mr. J. C. Stirling, who have hitherto acted as the Committee of the Fund, be requested to continue to act in that capacity; and that they have power to add to their number."

Before the meeting broke up, a vote of thanks to the Duke of Westminster was put and carried; and His Grace added a few words, explaining that the Annuity Fund was in no way opposed to, and would very likely be amalgamated with, the Association for the Provision of Trained Nurses, which was being advocated that afternoon at Willis's Rooms. The Duke announced donations to the extent of £724, and annual subscriptions amounting to £70.

#### KING'S COLLEGE.

By the resignation of Dr. Garrod, a Physicianship to King's College Hospital, and the Professorship of Materia Medica in King's College, become vacant. For the former appointment, we understand that Dr. D. Ferrier is a candidate; for the latter, Dr. Milner Fothergill and Dr. Burney Yeo, both of whom are favourably known as cultivators of therapeutical science.

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON AND FEMALE GRADUATES.

THE Senate of the University of London, at a meeting on Wednesday, adopted the following amendment by seventeen votes to ten, on a proposal to obtain a new charter enabling the University to confer degrees on women: "That the Senate is desirous to extend the scope of the educational advantages now offered to women, but it is not prepared to apply for a new charter to admit women to its degrees."

#### GOVERNORS' LETTERS.

WE are glad to learn, by an announcement in the *Charity Organisation Reporter*, that a large number of both out-patient and in-patient letters for the metropolitan hospitals and medical institutions have been sent to the Council of the Society for distribution among deserving cases, after due investigation into the circumstances of the applicant. So long as the objectionable system of admission by governors' letters holds its ground, there cannot be a better way of dealing with the letters than this. The governor is at once relieved from all begging applications, and he has the assurance that his recommendations will be well bestowed—will be bestowed in such a manner as to assist the most needy without pauperising those who are in better circumstances. We may hope also that the action of the Charity Organisation Society in this matter will in time lead to the adoption of a better system of admission by the hospitals and dispensaries themselves.

#### RECENT MORTALITY AND METEOROLOGY.

SMALL-POX and scarlet fever are still prevalent in Birmingham, and the deaths from scarlet fever were last week excessive in Liverpool and Sheffield. Small-pox, in fact, has caused more than 300 deaths in Birmingham since the beginning of the year. The deaths registered in London last week were 167 below the average number in the corresponding week of the last ten years. One hundred and seventy-eight deaths in the metropolis were due to the seven principal zymotic diseases; that is, 109 below the corrected average number. The deaths from diarrhoea, which had been 22, 39, and 56 in the three previous weeks, further rose to 68 last week, and exceeded the corrected weekly average by 7; 55 were of infants under one year of age. The deaths of an adult in Battersea and of two infants in Fulham and Shoreditch were referred to choleraic diarrhoea. The mean temperature of the air at Greenwich was 57.4 deg. last week, and was 3.6 deg. below the average for the corresponding period in fifty years; a deficiency of temperature prevailed on each of the sixteen days ending with last Saturday.

Nearly an inch of rain fell during the week, raising the amount measured at Greenwich since the beginning of the year to 6.5 inches, which is, however, still 4.7 inches below the average amount measured in the first six months of the year during fifty-eight years. Of foreign cities furnishing death-returns, the greatest mortality prevailed in Berlin, Munich, and Turin, in which the death-rates were 41, 46, and 35 per 1000 respectively.

#### CORONER'S COURT HOUSE.

THE first building of this kind in London has been erected by the Vestry of Islington in the grounds of St. Mary's Chapel of Ease, Holloway Road; it has cost about £700, and was opened last week by Dr. Lankester. It provides accommodation for bodies, with dissecting-rooms, and a court-house for the holding of inquests. It is to be hoped that the poor will view the new dead-house with less disfavour than they have entertained for the parish mortuaries, and will send bodies to the new building rather than keep them in the single rooms in which they and their families live and sleep. The new building further obviates the necessity of holding inquests in public-houses—a practice in all respects to be condemned.

#### UNITED HOSPITALS ATHLETIC SPORTS.

THE eighth anniversary of these sports took place at West Brompton last Saturday, and, thanks to fine weather and good management, was very successful. Some half-dozen gentlemen from King's College carried off the honours of the meeting, and earned for their school the title of "Champion Hospital" of the year. Between them they obtained the first place in six, and second place in five, out of the twelve events on the card; and one of them (Mr. C. B. Lewis) won first the one mile and then the two miles race in capital style. We hope these gentlemen will sustain the honour of their school as creditably in the more strictly professional contests, for which they will have to enter themselves before long.

#### SMALL-POX IN BIRMINGHAM.

IN a recent number, in which we drew attention to the long continued prevalence of small-pox in Birmingham, we stated that one of the hindrances towards the provision of proper hospital accommodation was a fear, on the part of the public, that any such hospital might prove a centre of infection; and we ventured on the opinion that this fear was to a great extent, due to a memorial which had emanated from members of the medical profession. We have since received a communication from Mr. Hall Wright justifying the course which he, with others, took in signing this memorial, which states amongst other things that "such a hospital should be removed as far as possible from human habitations, and that to perpetuate such a powerful centre of infection in the midst of a town is to do away with any advantages which might accrue from its existence as a hospital". Mr. Hall Wright further states that it would be wrong to send patients to a hospital where they would probably infect others in the neighbourhood; and he quotes a portion of Dr. Buchanan's speech, which is to the effect that it is impossible to state that there is absolutely no danger in the establishment of such a hospital as was then under consideration. Now, we freely admit that the construction of a small-pox hospital in any neighbourhood is not likely to meet with the approval of the surrounding inhabitants; but on the question of infection, we have no hesitation in saying that no such danger should arise in a properly conducted institution; and the degree of hesitancy with which Dr. Buchanan spoke in his official capacity, was, probably, founded on the few instances in which small-pox is believed to have spread from some of the London hospitals, the immediate spread of the infection being due to such causes as that ambulance attendants staying at public-houses on their return journey, instances of negligence which could certainly not be avoided in the future by merely placing the hospital outside the town, and which, even if they had occurred much oftener than they have done, are insignificant when compared with the incalculable harm which must result in a town like Birmingham, from the real centres of uncontrolled infection which

may be found dotted about in its many densely populated districts. But our remarks were not so much founded on any objection which may be raised against the proposed hospital at Summer Hill, as on the general statement contained in the memorial, that such a hospital should be removed *as far as possible from human habitations*. If this view be a correct one, then the valuable institutions which have been established in London by the Metropolitan Asylums Board and by other bodies, and which were found to be of enormous benefit during the recent small-pox epidemic, are all the result of a great error, for they should have been built on sites removed as far as possible from the population they were intended to serve; an opinion which we feel sure can hardly be maintained if carefully considered. And if it applies to small-pox hospitals, it is even more true of institutions such as the London Fever Hospital, into which diseases such as typhus—against which there is no means of artificial protection—have been long received. And further, under the Sanitary Act of 1866, orders for the removal to a hospital of persons who, whilst suffering from dangerous infectious diseases, are improperly lodged and accommodated, can only be procured provided the hospital is within the district of the sanitary authority applying for the order of removal; and hence to take such a means of isolation away from the borough of Birmingham is to sacrifice one of the greatest uses to which it might be put.

#### STATISTICS OF THE BLIND.

THE recently published Annual Report of the Society for the Home Teaching of the Blind makes the following statement with regard to the number of blind persons in England and Wales, and in the metropolitan district, respectively.

"The Census Returns show that in England and Wales in 1861 there were 19,352 persons blind, while in 1871 there were 21,590, being an increase of 2,238, or at the rate of 11.6 per cent. in the ten years. Of the foregoing, the number under 20 years of age in 1861 was 2,702, in 1871 was 3,019; above 20 years of age in 1861 was 16,650, in 1871 was 18,571. In London, the statistics for 1871 are as follows. Total blind in the metropolitan district, 2,890: below 20 years of age, 423; above 20 years of age, 2,467. With respect to the provision made for the blind in London, to educate and train them for industrial and other occupations, it may be of interest to state that the schools at St. George's Fields, St. John's Wood, and Norwood, provide for about 275, chiefly for those below 20 years of age; while about 180 of various ages find employment in other industrial institutions."

#### WEST LONDON HOSPITAL.

THE annual dinner in aid of the funds of this charity was held on Tuesday last, at Willis's Rooms, the Duke of Devonshire, president of the institution, in the chair. The noble chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening, called the attention of his listeners to the great need of funds to support the hospital, the work of which was far in excess of the resources at its command. The recent collections on Hospital Sunday had in some degree helped to relieve the pressure on the resources available; yet still, in order to open permanently the wards which have recently been erected, a large sum is wanting. Especial thanks were due to the anonymous donor who, under the initials "W. L. H.," has within the last three years contributed £3000. During the evening, the chairman read a letter announcing that the late Mr. Banting had bequeathed to the charity the sum of £1800. This, with the sum collected on Tuesday, which amounts to nearly £800, will suffice to pay off the existing debts on the institution.

#### NURSES FOR THE SICK POOR.

ON Thursday, June 25th, an influential meeting, having for its object the formation of a national association for providing and training a body of nurses for the sick poor of London and the provinces, was held at Willis's Rooms; Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B., in the chair. The first resolution, which was moved by Lord Shaftesbury, and seconded by the Bishop of Rochester, was as follows.

"That, with a view to securing better nursing for the sick poor as a sanitary and preventive measure, an association be formed, in accordance with the suggestions of a committee of the order of St. John of

Jerusalem, for training and providing a body of nurse for that object in London and in the provinces, and that a home be established where nurses in training at the London hospitals, or employed as district nurses, may lodge, and where a register of trained nurses requiring employment may be kept."

The next resolution, moved by Earl Percy and seconded by Mr. F. D. Mocatta, was as follows.

"That the promoters of this association in no way wish to supersede existing institutions having similar objects in view, but that they will seek by every means at their disposal to promote a community of interests and action, and therefore invite their co-operation."

Other resolutions were carried to the effect that the association be called "The National Association for Providing Trained Nurses for the Sick Poor".

"That the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to Sir Rutherford Alcock for the valuable assistance he has rendered, and for his able conduct in the chair."

#### NEW PROFESSORSHIP OF BIOLOGY IN DURHAM UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

THE authorities of the Durham University College of Medicine and Physical Science at Newcastle-on-Tyne have decided on establishing a chair of biology combined with physiology in connection with their institution. The duties of the professor to be elected will commence in October next, and will be remunerated by a salary of £450 *per annum*, supplemented by a portion of the fees.

#### DESCRIPTION OF APHASIA BY GOETHE.

MR. SIDNEY COUPLAND calls our attention to the following interesting description of aphasia which attracted his attention whilst reading Goethe's *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship*.

"...But alas, this pleasing state was not of long continuance; altogether unexpectedly my father had a shock of palsy; it lamed his right side, and deprived him of the proper use of speech. We had to guess at everything that he required; for he never could pronounce the word that he intended. There were times when this was dreadfully afflicting to us: he would require expressly to be left alone with me; with earnest gestures he would signify that every one should go away; and when we saw ourselves alone, he could not speak the word he meant..."

In reference to the preceding extract, Mr. Coupland justly remarks that "Good descriptions of diseases by popular writers are not common; such accounts are generally full of inaccuracies and exaggerations, and are often quite unintelligible to a medical reader. The preceding quotation from Goethe's *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship* is therefore interesting, not only as giving a clear description of a case of right hemiplegia with aphasia, but still more so from the fact that, whilst this work was published in 1795, the first description of aphasia by a medical author did not appear till 1836 (see Trousseau's *Clinical Medicine*, Sydenham Society's Translation; and Reynolds's *System of Medicine*, vol. ii, 2nd ed., p. 454); so that Goethe, who was educated for the bar, deserves the credit of being an original, as well as an accurate, observer of symptoms".

## IRELAND.

#### REPRESENTATION OF THE DUBLIN UNIVERSITY.

WE would call the attention of the Dublin medical graduates of M.D. or A.M. standing to the fact that there will shortly be a contest for the seat for this University, now held by Her Majesty's Attorney-General for Ireland. Those medical graduates whose names are not on the register of parliamentary voters should lose no time in having their names registered, which can be done without fee on application to the Registrar of Parliamentary Voters, Trinity College, Dublin. We are specially anxious upon this occasion, as a medical candidate will be before the constituency in the person of Dr. Trail, Fellow of Trinity College, a Doctor of Medicine of the University. Although Dr. Trail has had no necessity to engage in the practice of his profession, yet, if returned to Parliament, he will be a most valuable addition to



the roll of medical members, the more so on account of his high academic attainments, especially in that branch of science closely allied to medicine. Dr. Trail is a Conservative; but we understand there is not likely to be any Liberal opposition: therefore Liberal medical men will probably be free to exercise their votes in favour of Dr. Trail without violation of their political creed. The law-officers of the Crown have long had it their own way in Dublin University; and, without joining the Rev. Professor Haughton in his cry of "Woe unto ye, lawyers", we think it is time for the physicians to have a turn; and we hope (in the phraseology of a game in which Dr. Trail is a proficient) that he will make a good score, have a long innings, and never be stumped or run out. We are glad the present "Ball" has had a successful innings, as he has always been a good friend to our profession, and, we believe, has been not a little useful in improving the Irish Public Health Bill.

#### THE GALWAY ELECTION.

MR. WARD, Licentiate of the King and Queen's College of Physicians and of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, has been returned for the borough of Galway. Mr. Ward is a demonstrator in the Cecilia Street (Catholic University) School of Medicine. We have little to do with politics; but we may state that he represents the same party as the unseated member, Mr. O'Donnell.

#### THE LIFFEY NUISANCE.

THE Dublin Corporation seems to have surpassed itself in obstructiveness, riot, and uproar, over the river Liffey. Two stormy meetings have been held. At the first, the obstructive party had its way, and nothing was done; at the second, a resolution was carried in favour of executing works for, at all events, the temporary abatement of the nuisance. The usual conflict of jurisdiction has arisen between the local authorities. It appears that the bottom of the river is under the care of one authority, the Dublin Port and Docks Board; but the sides of the river are under the charge of the Dublin Corporation. It seems, from the opinion of Mr. Fitzgibbon, Q.C., that the Dublin Municipal Council have no right to construct works in the bed of the river for the improvement of its sanitary condition, but have a right to prosecute the Port and Docks Board for allowing the same river-bed to become a nuisance; and, *per contra*, it seems that the Port and Docks Board can prosecute the Municipal Council for creating a nuisance by allowing the City drainage to flow into the river. We are not lawyers; but certainly this seems to be the only interpretation of the very elaborate opinion of Mr. Fitzgibbon. To get rid of the difficulty, it is proposed to memorialise the Lord Lieutenant to take measures to reconcile the differences between the conflicting authorities. This seems to be the sensible course, and one which we believe would have been adopted long since, but for the inveterate love of jobbing which seems to be a constitutional disease of the Dublin body corporate, which seems to have developed to a crisis on the present occasion—a crisis which, we hope, will end in a final reform of that facetiously called urban *sanitary* authority. If this be the result in Dublin, what may be expected from Sir Michael Beach's one hundred and thirteen urban authorities? We may also mention that Dublin obtained from Parliament in 1871 a special Act sanctioning an extensive and elaborate main-drainage scheme. This scheme, which, under the Act, the Municipal Council are bound to carry out, has been in existence for three years, and nothing has been done except construct two culverts for the carrying of the intercepting sewers past the end of a bridge, which had to be rebuilt in the meantime; and the Corporation, now finding that the scheme will not work, and that the culverts are useless, refuse to pay the Port and Docks Board for their construction, which proceeding is naturally resented by the latter body, who are about to sue the former for a sum of £8,000. Up to the present, the Dublin main-drainage scheme has remained under incubation by lawyers, engineers, and corporations, until a general *mêlée* has resulted, in which the lawyers alone have profited, and the citizens have suffered in pocket, temper, and health.

#### THE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION IN 1875.

AT a meeting of the Committee of Council, held on Thursday last, it was recommended that the Council be advised to support a numerous and influentially signed invitation from the profession in Edinburgh for the Association to hold its annual meeting in 1875 in that city.

#### ELECTION AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE election of three members of Council of the Royal College of Surgeons took place on Thursday last, Messrs. Baker, Hilton, and Marshall being the successful candidates. We feel great satisfaction at the renewed recognition of the principle which we have on several occasions supported, in the election of Mr. Baker of Birmingham. The provincial surgeons will now be represented in the Council by three Fellows; viz.: Professor Humphry of Cambridge, Mr. Southam of Manchester, and Mr. Baker. The following were the numbers of votes given for the five candidates.

|                    |     |                        |
|--------------------|-----|------------------------|
| Marshall, Mr. John | 152 | including 13 plumpers. |
| Hilton, Mr. John   | 116 | " 19 "                 |
| Baker, Mr. Alfred  | 102 | " 10 "                 |
| Smith, Mr. Henry   | 95  | " 20 "                 |
| Hussey, Mr. E. L.  | 58  | " 3 "                  |

Among the provincial Fellows who attended were Messrs. Archer, Bindley, Chavasse, Crompton, Evans, Goodall, Savage, Solomon, Birmingham; Arnott, Ladybank (Fife); Baker, Coleshill; Barter and Bartrum, Bath; Benfield, Leicester; Bodington, Kingswinford; Bowring, Fletcher, Lund, and Southam, Manchester; Brookes, Shrewsbury; Bryan and Buszard, Northampton; Sir J. C. Burrows and Catling, Brighton; Chaffers, Keighley; Cooke and Manby, Wolverhampton; Copeman and Crosse, Norwich; Cousins, Portsmouth; Druitt, Wimbborne; Green, Bristol; Griffith, Wrexham; Harris, Redruth; Hill, Cork; Humphry, Cambridge; Husband, York; Hussey, Oxford; Jessop, Leeds; Jones, Brackley; King, Hull; Lee, Salisbury; Lusk, Weymouth; May, Reading; Pilcher, Boston; Richmond, Macclesfield; Roden, Kidderminster; Rose, High Wycombe; Shillito, Hitchin; Smith, Stevenage; Thomas, Sheffield.

In the evening, the Fellows dined together at the Albion Tavern. Mr. Erasmus Wilson, F.R.S., a member of the Council, occupied the Chair, being supported by the Directors-General of the Naval and Army Medical Departments, the President of the Royal College of Physicians, the Master of the Society of Apothecaries; Dr. West, Head Master of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, etc.

#### NEW MEMBERS: THE HALF-YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION.

MEMBERS elected on and after this date are admitted to the privilege of membership for the remaining half of the present year for a half-yearly subscription of 10s. 6d., due in advance on July 1st, the subsequent annual subscription of £1 1s. for following years dating from January 1st of each year in the usual manner. We have received from Mr. Vincent Jackson a list of nineteen new members (Staffordshire Branch), to whom JOURNALS shall be duly forwarded. Secretaries of Branches and members having new members to propose are requested to give early intimation to the Manager, Mr. Francis Fowke, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn, W.C., in order that due provision may be made in respect to the supply of JOURNALS.

#### PASS AND PLUCK AT THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS: THE "PASS" EXAMINATION FOR THE MEMBERSHIP.

##### II.

THE number of rejections for the final or pass examination, though very considerable, has not hitherto been proportionally so great as of those for the primary, the presumable causes for which we pointed out last week.

Here, as a general rule, the candidate has had a further two years and a half (or more if he pass his primary very young), before he presents himself. During this period, the larger percentage of men consider that the dissecting-room and its associations are things of the past, and apply themselves with different degrees of interest to their preparation for the license to practise their profession.

The candidate for this diploma has, in the interim, a large number of lectures to attend, which vary in regularity and requirements in attendance in the several schools. Now, a course of lectures upon a given sub-

ject, as conducted by an expert or by a gifted teacher, is of the utmost value when it attracts for its own sake; but we are quite with those who hold that the age of *pro forma* lecturing has past, and that this kind of lay sermon may be in many instances dispensed with, being very analogous to the enforcement of attendance on a college "chapel". A large amount of valuable time is consumed and wasted by good men, and can be of but little good to idle men, who depend on their attendance on their lectures merely as aids to their chance of "going up"; whereas the time might be more profitably employed in both instances—in the former in progress, and in the latter in exciting the student's interest by a direct method of appeal. We speak of the curriculum as it at present exists. We are glad, however, to see that in some of our schools attempts are being made to institute a thorough course of practical work, conducted in a rational way as an adjunct to the lectures, viz., a course of practical surgery consisting of *a.* Bandaging; *b.* Surgical Pathology, as illustrated by the museum and recent *post mortem* examinations; *c.* Operative Surgery on the dead body, supplemented by demonstrations on the living model, in which all the surface-markings are most carefully pointed out and examined. With regard to the clinical instruction, we are glad to notice that, especially amongst the younger surgical teachers, there is great attention paid to the students in the out-patient rooms; and we could only wish that many of them had the chance of ward-teaching, as we have often had occasion to notice that, after long waiting, and the demands of practice, the full officers are rather prone to neglect this portion of their duty as hospital surgeons, or will not take pains to keep up with the reading of the day. Of course the clinical teacher always ensures a class.

With regard, then, to the causes of failure at this examination. The chief and foremost cause of all the recent rejections is undoubtedly a want of knowledge of surgical anatomy. If we look at the late papers we shall see that two or three, or in one case four, of the six questions, were either entirely confined to the subject, or involved it; *i.e.*, such questions as, "What structures are necessarily cut through in performing such and such an operation?" or a "collateral circulation". Again, in the *viva voce*, the want of knowledge shown by the candidates in regard to the surface-markings, to hidden things, and indeed to things absolutely seen merely beneath the integument, is painful. It would seem that special courses should be adopted in all our schools, of what has been very properly termed "applied anatomy"—the anatomy of the *undissected* subject, in fact, accompanied by demonstrations and examinations on the living body, and that body at rest and in action. We suggest this, as of the utmost advantage to the student, quite irrespective of the fact of his having any examination to pass, but as of vital importance to himself in operation or diagnosis. Terrible mistakes are made over the pathological "pickles", which we agree with the student in regarding as far more difficult to recognise than the normal preparations shown him at the primary examinations; and it would be better if as many as possible were more recent. Students require to be well worked in their own or in the College museums, in order to become familiar with such specimens.

With regard to the nature of the practical examination on actual patients, it has always appeared to us of far too limited a nature, and to afford an "occasion for improvement" for such of the examiners as require, as we hinted, stock replies to stock inquiries; and it is, of course, obvious that all the cases must be capable of pedestrianism, and not likely to be very acute. At all events, the results of the examination for the pass in surgery show, as a rule, that the main causes of failure lie in the practical portion of it; and, setting aside one or two elements at which we hinted last week, we are inclined to think that the majority of plucks are deserved; that men do come up unprepared; and that similar pains are not employed as are on the primary. Our own experience shows that all *practical* teaching is of great interest to every student, and that he will attend to it when he can be hardly compelled to attend his lectures; and we are inclined to think that repeated failures in this branch point rather to its neglect, or imperfect teaching in the school from which he comes.

There is certainly not enough of the intelligent teaching of practical surgery in our schools; there are not enough clinical appointments, and men are not looked after sufficiently when they get these appointments; note-taking is not properly enforced, and in too many instances dresserships are nominal tenures of office, for which men obtain all they desire—a signature of attendance. The amount of really critical knowledge of the science of surgery is so small, that it is of the greatest importance that the nature of the queries should, as far as possible, tend to some amount of exercise of the intellect; and hence the examinations should be so conducted that the public may have practitioners who have at all events satisfied a fully qualified Court of their ability to act and to use the intellect, and the teaching should be made as thorough as possible.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Norwich, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, August 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th, 1874.

*President*—Sir WILLIAM FERGUSSON, Bart., F.R.S., Surgeon to King's College Hospital, London.

*President-elect*—EDWARD COPEMAN, M.D., Senior Physician to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

An Address in Medicine will be given by J. RUSSELL REYNOLDS, M.D., F.R.S., Physician to University College Hospital.

An Address in Surgery will be given by W. CADGE, Esq., Surgeon to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.

An Address in Obstetric Medicine will be given by JAMES MATTHEWS DUNCAN, M.D., F.R.S. Edin., Lecturer on Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children in the School of Medicine, Edinburgh.

The business of the Association will be transacted in four Sections, viz.:—

SECTION A. MEDICINE.—*President*: Dr. Eade, Norwich. *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. Sydney Ringer, London; Dr. Durrant, Ipswich. *Secretaries*: Dr. Bradbury, 59, Corpus Buildings, Cambridge; Dr. Lowe, King Street, King's Lynn.

SECTION B. SURGERY.—*President*: Sir James Paget, Bart., F.R.S., London. *Vice-Presidents*: T. W. Crosse, Esq., Norwich; Dr. Macnamara, Dublin. *Secretaries*: F. Worthington, Esq., Lowestoft; Reginald Harrison, Esq., 51, Rodney Street, Liverpool.

SECTION C. OBSTETRIC MEDICINE.—*President*: Dr. Churchill, Dublin. *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. W. S. Playfair, London; Dr. Steele, Liverpool. *Secretaries*: Dr. Edis, 23, Sackville Street, London; F. Image, Esq., Westgate Street, Bury St. Edmunds.

SECTION D. PUBLIC MEDICINE.—*President*: W. H. Michael, Esq., London; *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. Bateman, Norwich; Dr. Ransome, Bowden. *Secretaries*: Dr. Bond, Gloucester; Dr. Leech, Manchester.

The Honorary Local Secretaries are:

Dr. J. B. PITT, Norwich.

H. S. ROBINSON, Esq., Norwich.

Dr. BEVERLEY, Norwich.

*Papers*.—The following papers have been promised.

Ogle, J. W., M.D. 1. Cases of Tumour of the Cerebellum; 2. Cases of Adenomatous Tumours within the Thorax.

Fothergill, J. Milner, M.D. The Systemic Indications of Chronic Bright's Disease.

Gowers, W. R., M.D. Cases of Convulsions from Organic Brain-Disease.

Ferrier, D., M.D. The Localisation of Function in the Brain.

Eade, Peter, M.D. A Disease of Carpenters.

Mackenzie, Morell, M.D. On the Ætiology of Bronchocele.

Anningson, Bushell, M.B. On the Ætiology of Infectious Diseases.

Ross, James, M.D. On the Action of Mercury.

Thompson, J. Ashburton, Esq. General Remarks on the Internal Administration of Free Phosphorus.

Bradbury, J. B., M.D. Notes of Six Cases of Hydatids of the Liver treated by Puncture.

Hicks, J. Braxton, M.D., F.R.S. On the Adaptation of the Galvanic Caution to Gynaecology.

Wright, Frederick W., M.D. On Decollation as a Mode of Delivery in Arm-Presentations.

Smart, W. R. E., M.D., C.B., Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets. On the Relative Frequency, the Causes, and Modes of Suicidal Attempts in the Navy and Army.

Fox, Cornelius B., M.D. Water-Analysis; as it should and as it should not be performed by the Medical Officer of Health.

Thornton, W. Pugin, Esq. On the Indications for Tracheotomy afforded by the Laryngoscope.

Thorowgood, J. C., M.D. On the Nature of the Asthmatic Paroxysm.

Baker, J. Wright, Esq. Case of Lithotomy: the Nucleus of the Stone being a Broken Piece of Elastic Catheter.

Gentlemen desirous of reading papers, cases, or other communications, are requested to forward the titles to the General Secretary, or to one of the Secretaries of the Section in which the paper is to be read. All papers should be forwarded to one of the above-named officers *on or before the 1st of August*.

No paper must exceed *twenty* minutes in reading; and no subsequent speech must exceed *ten* minutes.