

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The Feeding of Infants.—Poisoning by Lead in Cheese.—Effect of Gymnastics.—Anthropological Society.

It is now generally admitted in the profession that one of the most potent causes of the excessive mortality among infants is premature or artificial feeding, or the substitution of the milk of animals and of other substances for their natural food. M. Magne, however, lately read a paper before the Academy of Medicine, in which he endeavoured to show that, after the age of six months, milk of any kind was not only insufficient, but positively injurious to the child. He, therefore, recommended that, on attaining the above age, children should be fed on raw or cooked eggs, meat, bread, flour, oleaginous grains and seeds, all of which contain the elements of nutrition necessary for the growth and development of the tissues. In his veterinary practice, he had observed that young colts and calves, and even lambs, were, on coming into the world, separated from their mother and fed artificially, not only without any prejudice, but that they were afterwards far superior in every respect to those brought up with their mother's milk. Judging from analogy, he saw no reason why the young of human beings could not be brought up in a similar manner. M. Bouley, another veterinary member, pointed out how illogical it was to compare man with herbivorous animals, which are, anatomically and physiologically, differently constituted. M. Magne would have been nearer the mark had he made the comparison with carnivorous animals, whose digestive apparatus approaches more to that of man than does that of herbivora. The speakers who followed simply went over the old ground, that milk, being a perfect aliment, and being in a liquid form was better suited to the digestive powers of the young animal than any other substance, particularly when it sucks the milk from the breast. Consequently, they could not accept M. Magne's theory, which was opposed to all that had been taught by physiology and by experience. M. Devilliers remarked that, in countries where lactation was rigorously carried out and continued until the child was able to digest more solid food, the mortality among infants was considerably less than where they were brought up by hand. M. Jules Guérin said that, if premature feeding of infants were prejudicial to their health, prolonged lactation was also injurious to both mother and child. He had known cases where the children had nothing but their mother's milk for twelve or fifteen months, and yet they became scrofulous and delicate. It was impossible to fix the age at which a child should be weaned, but its powers of digestion and the state of the mother's health should be the principal, if not the only, criteria in the matter. M. Magne made no attempt to reply.

Lead is seldom or never used for suicidal or homicidal purposes, and yet slow poisoning by this metal is more common than is generally supposed. Not to speak of painters and others whose profession places them in daily contact with the various preparations of lead, we are all more or less exposed to the absorption of this poison with our food and drink. This is so well known, that there is a law in France prohibiting the use of leaden sheets for enveloping confectionery, chocolate, etc. It might, however, have been usefully extended to all edible substances, as instances have occurred in which lead-poisoning has been produced by the ingestion of other meats not included in the above law. Among the substances not named in the prohibitory list is cheese, and a case lately occurred in which a gentleman was suddenly seized with symptoms of lead-colic, which were soon recognised as such by the physician who attended him, and which were relieved by appropriate treatment. No lead could be found in the cooking utensils or in the food and drink of the patient. Lead was discovered, however, in a piece of a Roquefort cheese, which was enveloped in a metallic sheet composed of twelve parts of tin, eighty-five of lead, and three of undefined matter. The conclusion drawn was, that the lead contained in the cheese was imparted to it by the envelope. The report has been submitted to the Council of Hygiene in Paris, with the view that the law already referred to be made to apply to all edibles without exception.

Dr. Burcq has recently made some researches as to the effects of gymnastics on the body. He obtained permission from the commandant of the Military School of Gymnastics near Vincennes to weigh a certain number of the men who had to go through these exercises, to measure the capacity of their chest, and, by means of a dynamometer, to gauge their muscular strength. These observations were to be taken before and after the series of exercises which the men had to

go through for a certain period, and the following were the results of observations on one thousand men at the end of six months. The muscular strength was increased by 23 and even to 35 per cent.; the capacity of the chest was enlarged at least by one-sixth, and the weight of the men was augmented by 15 per cent. It may be observed that the weight of the subject was increased at the expense of the bulk: rather a desirable result for fat individuals, who ought to feel encouraged to adopt such simple means to get rid of their superfluous fat by converting it into force.

The Anthropological Society, or rather Institute, has taken possession of its new premises in the Musée Dupuytren, and the members have every reason to be proud of such an institution. The premises have been arranged for the purposes of the Society, and, besides the usual bi-monthly meetings, lectures on all subjects appertaining to ethnology are to be delivered there to the general public. There is a splendid ethnological museum attached to the premises, which is well worthy a visit.

MANCHESTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Manchester Royal Infirmary.—Children's Hospital at Pendlebury.—A Medical Mayor of Salford.

THE Infirmary question has advanced another and a very decided step. The Committee met on the 13th instant, which was appointed in February last, to consider—1. Whether it is desirable to change the site of the infirmary; 2. Should it be so decided, to consider what steps should be taken for the disposal of the property; 3. To report as to the application of any moneys which may be obtained by the sale thereof. When the Committee held its first meeting on March 6th, it was resolved, having regard to the magnitude and importance of the questions submitted, to appoint two subcommittees—a sanitary and a finance; the one (sanitary) to report upon the present condition of the building; its suitability to meet modern requirements in regard to hospital accommodation, and further to report upon any alterations which may be thought necessary; the other (finance) to consider whether it is desirable, on financial grounds, to remove the infirmary from its present site. The Sanitary Subcommittee applied to the Local Government Board for the assistance of one of their medical officers; and Mr. Neiten Radcliffe was instructed to report on—1. The salubrity of the site in reference to the infirmary requirements; 2. The sanitary condition of the hospital, including the drainage; 3. The suitability and adaptability as regards construction and accommodation, and further to report upon any (medical) points included in the resolution under which the Committee was appointed. During Mr. Radcliffe's investigations, the attention of the Subcommittee was called to the defective construction of the drains and their extremely foul condition. The Weekly Board, in consequence of a communication from Mr. Radcliffe to the Medical Committee, and, on the advice of the Sanitary Subcommittee and the medical staff, determined on the erection of tents within the infirmary grounds for the reception of cases requiring isolation, and of other cases the removal of which the crowded state of the wards rendered advisable. Tent-accommodation for about one hundred patients was, therefore, provided; a part of one of the tents is now occupied with ordinary surgical cases. Mr. Radcliffe's report was received by the Sanitary Subcommittee on September 20th. In this report, attention is particularly called to the structural defects of the building: the ventilation of the wards into the corridor, the position of the water-closets within the building, the drains and drainage, the position of the deadhouse, etc. The effect of Mr. Radcliffe's report is clearly to condemn the present building. Its structural arrangements are radically bad; its accommodation is inadequate; there is no proper provision for the isolation of patients with traumatic infection. In the meantime, the Finance Committee carefully examined the subject referred to them, and resolved that, in their opinion, it is not desirable to increase the accommodation upon the present site. The two subcommittees came, therefore, substantially to the same conclusion; viz., the great increase necessary in the infirmary accommodation and the desirability of the removal of the main buildings. The original committee now presents its report, and advises their conclusions to be submitted forthwith to the general body of trustees for their approval. These conclusions are:—1. That a new infirmary or new infirmaries be forthwith built with adequate accommodation for at least four hundred in-patients on such plan and site or sites as to admit of two hundred additional in-patients being at a future time provided for; 2. That at least one of such infirmaries (containing not less than fifty beds, and to be used as a reception-house) be provided in a central position, either upon some part of the present site, or within a few hundred

yards therefrom ; 3. That, if it be determined to maintain such receiving-house upon any part of the present site, the existing buildings should not be retained, but an entirely new building erected ; 4. That the present site of the infirmary buildings and ground, except such parts, if any (1), as it may be determined to leave open and unbuilt upon, and (2) as may be retained for the purpose of the site for such receiving-house as aforesaid be forthwith sold ; 5. That, out of the proceeds of the sale of the site, each receiving-house and infirmary (or infirmaries) as aforesaid be provided. These recommendations will be brought before a general meeting of the trustees at an early date. It is sincerely to be hoped that no more time will be wasted in fruitless and unnecessary discussion, but that determined and definite steps will be taken towards the practical adoption of the conclusions arrived at by the Sites Committee.

The completion of the Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, is fast becoming a realised fact. Two out of the three pavilions necessary to finish the building are already under roof. The last and front pavilion will be two-storeyed, and it is intended to utilise the basement as nurses' dormitories. When completed, the hospital will afford accommodation for one hundred and sixty-eight children, and will be one of the most perfect of its kind in England.

Salford is to be congratulated on having secured a member of the medical profession as its mayor. Mr. Walmsley, one of the surgeons to the Salford Royal Hospital, has well earned the position to which he was unanimously elected last week. He entered the town council about eight years ago, and since then he has for some years held the post of Chairman of the Health Committee. He took a prominent part in the purchase of Wilton House, Cross Lane, now converted into a hospital for infectious diseases.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH.

THE next meeting and supper will be held at Gloucester, under the presidency of Dr. WRIGHT of Cheltenham, on the evening of Tuesday, November 21st.

Business.—The election of officers ; to receive a recommendation of Council with regard to the death of Dr. Rumsey, and the question of the Government Pension.

The following papers are promised.

1. Dr. Wright : On the sources of information for the Sanitary Medical Officers.

2. Dr. Wilson : On Diabetes.

3. Mr. Bubb : Surgical Notes.

4. Mr. Holland : The Spectroscope as an aid to Diagnosis.

RAYNER W. BATTEN, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

Gloucester, November 7th, 1876.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST AND WEST KENT DISTRICTS.

A CONJOINT MEETING of the above Districts will be held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, on November 24th, at 2 P.M. : Dr. STEPHEN MONCKTON, the President of the South-Eastern Branch, will preside.

Dinner to take place at the Bull Hotel at 5 o'clock precisely. Charge, 6s. 6d., exclusive of wine.

Notices have been received of the following communications to be read at the meeting.

1. Mr. M. A. Adams : Cases of Intravitreous Hæmorrhage.

2. Mr. Rigden : Case of Hydrophobia.

3. Mr. Nankivell : Case of Penile Fistula.

4. Mr. Teevan : Cases of Retention of Urine.

5. Dr. Thomas Eastes : Case of Intussusception successfully treated by Inflation.

6. Dr. C. E. Hoar : Case of Paracentesis Thoracis.

7. Dr. Wordsworth Poole : The expediency of an arrangement by which Surgeons would cease to Dispense, and Druggists to Prescribe.

8. Dr. Monckton : Case of Lymphadenoma.

9. Dr. Monckton : Case of Simultaneous Obstruction of both Ureters by Calculus ; Recovery.

10. Dr. John Armstrong : Jottings from my Note-Book.

It is particularly requested that those intending to be present should inform Mr. Edward Thurston, Ashford, the Secretary to the East Kent District, on or before Tuesday, November 21st.

FREDERICK J. BROWN, M.D. } *Honorary Secretaries.*
EDWD. WHITFIELD THURSTON. }

November 7th, 1876.

STAFFORDSHIRE BRANCH.

THE first ordinary meeting of the Session will be held at the North Staffordshire Hotel, Stoke, on Thursday, November 30th, at 4.30 P.M.

VINCENT JACKSON, Wolverhampton. } *Honorary Secretaries.*
RALPH GOODALL, Silverdale. }

Wolverhampton, November 13th, 1876.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST AND WEST SUSSEX DISTRICT MEETINGS.

A CONJOINT meeting of the above Districts will be held on Thursday, November 30th, at the Marine Mansion Hotel, opposite the Old Chain Pier, Brighton, at 5.30 P.M. ; Dr. E. F. FUSSELL in the Chair.

Dinner at 5.30 P.M. ; charge, six shillings, exclusive of wine.

The following communications are promised.

1. Dr. Fussell : On some Outbreaks of Diphtheria.

2. Mr. N. P. Blaker : On a Successful Case of Ovariectomy.

3. Mr. Banner : On his System of Sanitation, illustrated by models, as applied to the drainage of Guy's Hospital.

Other communications are invited, and notice thereof requested to be sent to the Secretaries on or before Tuesday, the 21st instant, in order that they may be inserted in the notice convening the meeting.

W. J. HARRIS, 13, Marine Parade, Worthing, Hon. Sec. for the West Sussex District.

THOS. TROLLOPE, M.D., 35, Marina, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, Hon. Sec. for the East Sussex District.

Brighton, November 14th, 1876.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE next ordinary meeting of the Session will be held at the York House, Bath, on Thursday, December 7th, 1876 : H. F. A. GOODRIDGE, M.D., President.

R. S. FOWLER, Bath. } *Honorary Secretaries.*
E. C. BOARD, Clifton. }

Bath, November 9th, 1876.

BORDER COUNTIES BRANCH: AUTUMNAL MEETING.

THE autumnal meeting was held in the Board Room of the Whitehaven and West Cumberland Infirmary on Friday, October 20th ; the President, Dr. BARNES of Carlisle, in the chair. There were present eighteen members and several visitors.

Report of Committee on Fees.—The consideration of the report presented by this Committee was resumed, and several alterations in their scale were agreed to. It was resolved that it be remitted to the Secretaries to print and forward to each member a copy of the amended tariff, and that the members of the Branch be recommended to adopt this scale as a basis for their fees.

Papers.—The following papers were read.

1. On the Effect of the Warm Bath in a Case of Acute Mania, by Dr. G. J. MURIEL, Whitehaven.

2. On the Removal of Intra-uterine Polypi by the *Écraseur*, with Cases, by Dr. M. W. TAYLOR, Penrith.

3. A Year's Clinical Surgery in the Cumberland Infirmary, by Dr. MACLAREN, Carlisle.

4. Dr. HORAN exhibited a Case of Necrosis of the Radius.

5. Dr. ABLETT showed a Case of Necrosis of the (Left) Body and Ramus of the Lower Jaw.

Dinner.—The members and friends afterwards dined together ; Dr. Barnes being in the chair, and Dr. Taylor in the vice-chair.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

THE first ordinary general meeting of the Session was held in the Queen's College, on Thursday, October 12th. There were present Dr. G. F. BODINGTON, President, in the chair ; and fifty-one members.

New Members.—The following members of the Association were elected members of the Branch : T. F. Chavasse, M.B. ; and W. G. Creswell, Esq.

Communications.—1. Dr. Dewes exhibited a Tumour of the Cerebellum. 2. Mr. Jolly showed a specimen of Progressive Cario-Necrosis of the Os Calcis. 3. Dr. Saundby exhibited a specimen of Unilateral Hydronephrosis. 4. Dr. Russell read a paper entitled Clinical History of Tumours of the Brain.

Notice of Infectious Diseases.—Dr. JAMES THOMPSON moved, and