

**BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION:
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1878.**

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Association for 1878 became due on January 1st. **Members of Branches** are requested to pay the same to their respective Secretaries. **Members of the Association not belonging to Branches,** are requested to forward their remittances to Mr. FRANCIS FOWKE, General Secretary, 36, Great Queen Street, London, W. C.

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, JULY 20TH, 1878.

**THE NEW CRIMINAL CODE IN RELATION TO MEDICAL
EVIDENCE: KILLING OF UNBORN CHILDREN:
ABORTION: RAPE.**

It has been announced that the New Criminal Code Bill will be withdrawn for the present session, and submitted during the recess to a Commission, consisting of two learned judges as well as some able jurists. We may hope, therefore, that this important measure will become law in the course of the next session of Parliament.

In our last number, we referred to the changes proposed to be introduced regarding the medical proofs of the crime of infanticide. The "killing of unborn children" is a crime under the new Code, and it exposes the criminal to a severe punishment. Medical evidence will, of course, be required in these cases, and the nature of that evidence is indicated by the definition of the crime.

By the existing law, it is murder to cause a child to die after it is born by injuries inflicted on it before or during birth; but it is no offence to kill a living child while it is being born, unless miscarriage is caused. Under the new Code, we find the following: "Every one shall be liable to penal servitude for life who causes the death of any living child which has not proceeded in a living state from the body of its mother by any act or omission which would have amounted to murder if such a child had been fully born."

For the protection of medical men who perform craniotomy, or who otherwise destroy an unborn child, it is provided that no one shall be guilty of any offence who, by means employed in good faith, for the preservation of the life of the mother of the child, and reasonably necessary for that purpose, causes the death of any such child or causes any child to die after it is fully born by any such thing done before or during its birth.

This section is likely to be objected to on a technical ground—namely, that it creates a difference in the crime of murder, making it to depend not on the fact of killing, but on the time at which the killing takes place. The answer to this objection is, however, that under the present law many escape who deserve punishment, and that real cases of child-murder go unpunished. Under the new Code, juries will be less ready to acquit women charged with this crime, when a sentence of penal servitude can be passed on them in place of capital punishment.

The proposed changes regarding the evidence in cases of concealment of birth refer rather to the legal than the medical aspects of the offence.

In the section on procuring abortion, a punishment of penal servitude for life is inflicted on any woman being with child who unlawfully administers to herself any poison or any other noxious thing, or unlawfully uses any instrument, etc., with intent to procure her miscarriage; or on any person who, with like intent, administers drugs or unlawfully uses instruments or other means whatsoever, whether the woman be or be not with child. Further, every one shall be liable to penal servitude for *five years* who unlawfully suffers or procures any poison or other noxious thing or any instrument or thing whatsoever, knowing that the same is intended to be unlawfully used or employed with intent to procure the miscarriage of any woman, whether she be

or be not with child, and whether she be or be not aware of such intention.

These provisions make the law more definite, but do not materially change it. The medical evidence required to support a charge of criminal abortion will be much the same under the new Code as under the present law. The only point requiring the special notice of medical men is the strict provision regarding the supplying or procuring of any noxious substances or instruments, etc., whether the woman be or be not with child. It is not unusual for applications to be made to medical men by women who wrongly believe themselves to be pregnant, and drugs have been sometimes incautiously given to them.

The only novelty regarding the crime of rape relates to the age at which it may be perpetrated by a boy. At present, there is a presumption of law that a boy under fourteen is incompetent. This has been shown by experience to be false in fact; hence it is proposed that, under the new Code, there will henceforth be no presumption of law as to the age at which a boy becomes capable of committing a rape.

There can be no doubt that the new Code, if adopted, will shorten and simplify proceedings in criminal cases, and thereby lighten the labours of those members of the profession who are compelled to attend the assize courts.

**THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND THE BRITISH
ADULTERATION ACTS.**

THE recent inquiries by the German Government, and the replies made to them by the Society of Public Analysts, form another valuable addition to the steps which have been taken not only to place the supply of pure food, drinks, and drugs, on a more satisfactory basis, but to point out the errors which have unavoidably crept into the Acts already passed for that purpose in England. When adulteration was first publicly pointed out in such a way that attention was directed to it, traders complained in no measured terms of being condemned because they "only did as others did"; but after five years' work, and the analyses of probably seventy thousand samples of food, drink, and drugs, the trade journals, convinced against their will, acknowledge that adulteration still prevails. The fact scarcely needs acknowledgment in this way, for the statistics show that nearly three thousand samples were condemned last year by public analysts alone; and this is a rather conclusive proof that tradesmen are not yet immaculate.

The German Government, however, are about to follow our lead in this important matter; and, as all matters of this kind must necessarily proceed step by step, they act wisely in availing themselves of all the information which our experience here has brought to bear on the subject. The character of the questions shows clearly that the commissioner whom they appointed is well acquainted with the subject into which he is inquiring. The replies made to his questions are equally pertinent, for there is no body of men so competent to advise on such points as those to whom the execution of the Act has been entrusted.

Considering shortly the facts involved in these questions and replies, we find that the most satisfactory point which appears on the face of them is the evidence that the Act as a whole has worked well. It is doubtless true, as shown by the replies themselves, that there are many imperfections, but they are not of very much moment when compared with the general principles comprised in the Act.

The replies to the first two questions appear to us to embrace the most important defects which exist in the present Act. At the time when it was under the consideration of the House of Commons, every endeavour was made by the analysts and medical men associated with them to secure the insertion of a schedule defining what was and what was not adulteration; but other arguments prevailed in the House, and the only result was the insertion of a description of offences, which ranged over seven sections of the Act, with four subsections relating to exemptions. As was foreseen in this complicated mode of legislation

has been attended with some difficulty, and the consequence has been that in many cases where prosecutions have been instituted, and where there could be no moral doubt of the guilt of the person summoned, the prosecution has failed. We will illustrate what we mean. Section six provides that no person shall sell to the prejudice of the purchaser, etc. The Glasgow stipendiaries have decided, that when an inspector, who is appointed by the Quarter Sessions and paid a salary on purpose to go round and purchase samples in order to submit them to the analyst, purchases a sample of adulterated food, etc., he is not "prejudiced", because he only wants it for analysis and not to eat or drink. Consequently, as far as the ruling is followed, the Adulteration Act is in Scotland a dead letter.

Again, owing to the absence of this definite schedule, the authorities at Somerset House, who have been appointed as referees in disputed cases, differ in the standard which they have adopted from that which has been adopted by the Society of Public Analysts; and consequently, the discreditable spectacle has occasionally been presented of a prosecution undertaken on the certificate of one Government official being rendered abortive on the certificate of another Government official. It must be evident to all, that whichever is right—that is, the public analyst or the Somerset House analyst—there should be no difference of opinion, as the figures of the analyses are hardly ever challenged, but only the deductions from them. If the public analysts be wrong, the tradesmen who have been prosecuted have been grossly injured; and if the Somerset House chemists be wrong, the public are treated unjustly, because they are supplied with goods of a quality lower than they have a right to expect.

Without pretending to indorse in its entirety the definition drawn up by the Society of Public Analysts, and the schedule of limits laid down by them, it is quite clear that a definition of this general character and a schedule of limits, modified, if necessary, so as to accord with the actual facts, would have prevented any such failures of justice from taking place. This statement is made clearly in the replies of the Society, where it is recommended that their definition and limits should be embodied in a schedule to the proposed German Act.

Up to the present time, the fines inflicted on conviction appear to have been scarcely sufficiently heavy to meet the amount of adulteration arising. This, however, is clearly not the fault so much of the Act itself, which, wisely recognising venial offences in certain cases, yet gives power for a maximum penalty of £50 or six months' imprisonment with hard labour. Justices of the peace, like other persons, must sometimes err; and it is better that they should err on the side of leniency than on that of severity. There is a good deal of force, however, in the advice of the Society, that it would be advisable, at the discretion of the Court, to publish the fines or other punishments inflicted, because we know well that such a publication is often far more deterrent in its effects than any pecuniary fine.

The advice, too, as to the provisional seizure of goods injurious to health, is also very important. As an illustration, we may point to a case in which Dr. Campbell Brown, public analyst for Liverpool, certified that the canvas coverings of certain hams, which were exposed for sale in that town, were heavily coloured with chromate of lead; in this case, certainly, it would have been better that, after the certificate was given, their continued sale should have been prevented until the case had been decided. As it was, after the decision, those which had not been sold were withdrawn from the market; but of course, between the date of the purchase of the sample and that of the withdrawal, many of the hams had been sold, to the injury of the health of the purchasers.

The labelling provision, again, clearly needs amendment. A case was reported some time ago, in which a sample of so-called coffee, containing less than 20 per cent. of real coffee and more than 80 per cent. of chicory and colouring matters, was sold with the simple label "This is a mixture of coffee and chicory". It is quite clear, that a label like this is not a proper description of such a mixture. The Society advise, and we think rightly, that in all such cases the

percentage of the foreign or adulterating ingredient should be stated on the label.

There can, of course, be no difference of opinion as to the desirability of making the appointment of analysts compulsory, or as to the fact, that these appointments should be confirmed in every case by the central authority. Strictly interpreting it, our own Act has provided for both these points, but the principal authorities have up till now been acting with considerable leniency, and, consequently, the Act has not been enforced; but we understand that steps are now being taken to carry it out more effectually. As the wording of the Act at present stands, it is unquestionably in the power of any local board to set the authority of the Local Government Board at defiance for a certain time. Recently, for instance, the Faversham Local Board, having neglected to appoint an analyst, were requested by the Local Government Board to do so, and replied by a resolution proposed and seconded by two grocers, and carried, if we remember rightly, by a majority of two votes, that an analyst was unnecessary; and although under the tenth section of the Act it is in the power of the Local Government Board to appoint an analyst without their permission, yet delay is unavoidably involved. A Government Act passed in 1872 for the public good ought to have been enforced all over the country before this.

It appears to us that the Society of Public Analysts consider it desirable to make analysts' districts large, and therefore, in a general sense, to collect the work into a few hands. From a public point of view, we can see no objection to this course; men whose time is devoted entirely, or almost entirely, to the analysis of food-products and the detection of adulteration, are more likely to do the work with unflinching accuracy than those who are compelled to turn their attention greatly to other matters.

The suggestion as to the character of the body of referees, who should be appointed to act in disputed cases, is one which was raised at the time when the subject was under discussion by the Select Committee of the House of Commons, and which at that time was considered almost as suitable as the appointment of the Inland Revenue authorities. There is certainly a great advantage, under any circumstances, in appointing a man as referee as to particular articles, who has devoted special attention to those articles. Thus, by telling off one or two gentlemen for each particular article of food ordinarily found to be adulterated, it might, and probably would, be possible to bring an extra amount of skill to bear upon the referred analysis. We cannot, however, shut our eyes to the fact, that there would be at first very great difficulty in finding gentlemen both willing and competent to undertake such an exceptional position. The fees attending original analyses are not usually high; and if a chemist, before being in a position to undertake them, were to be compelled to make a special study of the articles—that is, not merely to investigate them in the ordinary way, but to devote, perhaps, some months of work to them so as to fully appreciate every variation which could take place in natural samples of the articles in question—we might fairly expect that most men of position and skill would hesitate before they undertook so much preliminary work.

We need not say much as to the qualifications recommended for analysts. The answer to the question was well drawn, perhaps as well as it was possible to draw it in so few lines; if it were possible to abstract it still further, the first six words seem to furnish the reply—"Analysts should be thoroughly educated chemists".

Legislation is very advisable on one or two points connected with the Act, and we have no doubt that these replies to the German Government will have their fair weight in determining the course which this legislation shall take.

MURDER BY A SOMNAMBULIST.

THE *Glasgow Evening News* gives the report of a trial of a man for killing his own child, eight months old. The case has great medical interest. The accused lifted the child from the bed and threw him on

the floor or against the walls of the room; the child died about two hours afterwards. The defence was that this was done unconsciously, the accused being at the time somnambulist. He said that he had been in the habit of getting up in his sleep since he was a boy. On the occasion of the homicide, he dreamed that he had seen a wild beast jump into the bed, and he rose to attack it. As to his general condition, we only learn, from the evidence of a fellow-workman, that there was a "little want about him", but "nothing particular"; and, from the evidence of his father, that "there was dulness in him". There was confirmatory evidence of the accused's statement that he frequently got up in the night; he had, on such occasions, used violence to his half-sister and to his wife, and, when a lad, to his father. The Lord Justice Clerk directed the jury to find that the prisoner "had killed his child when unconscious, by reason of his condition as a somnambulist, and was not responsible for his actions".

This case shows clearly, even to the laity, what has many times been insisted on, that persons may act elaborately, and as if purposely, when unconscious. Indeed, we have related cases in which far more elaborate actions were done unconsciously by epileptics; although, in the cases we instanced, the actions were not injurious to others. We urge again the importance of a comparative study of post-epileptic and somnambulist actions, and of actions performed by patients rendered unconscious by injuries to the head, by intracranial hæmorrhage, and by drunkenness. And we repeat that, in a scientific study of these cases, the thing of first importance is the elaborateness of the actions, and not their gravity. How elaborately may an unconscious man act?

Cases of this kind are, we believe, rare. Casper narrates several, which, however, he gives under the head of somnolence, defining that as a middle state betwixt sleeping and waking. He speaks of somnambulism as a condition allied to somnolence. And it has been stated that the true somnambulist has no memory of what he has done. Leaving, however, this scientific question, we extract the following cases from Casper; they will be read with interest in connection with the Edinburgh case. "The famous case of Bernard Schmidmaizig, who saw in a dream a fearful-looking white spectre coming towards him, struck at it while half awake and killed his wife; that of the young man who suffered from horrible dreams, particularly on bright moonlight nights, and who, during one of these, when his father got up by night, and he heard the door jar, sprang up, seized his double-barrelled gun, and shot his father through the heart; the precisely similar case of a young man of property; that of the man who, oppressed, by a dream, in which he seemed to be struggling with a wolf, killed his friend sleeping beside him by stabbing him with a knife..... these and other older but similar cases are mournful proofs that the most horrible deeds may be perpetrated in the dreamy state of somnolence."

THE second reading of the Medical Act (1858) Amendment Bill has been deferred till Thursday, July 25th.

DR. LUSH's Bill for amending the Medical Act in reference to its penal clause only has been "dropped".

THE Library of the Obstetrical Society will be closed during the month of August.

THE annual meeting of the New Sydenham Society will be held at Bath on Friday, August 9th, at 9 A.M.

A MEETING of the Irish Graduates' Association will be held at the Mineral Water Hospital, Bath, on Friday, August 9th, at 4 P.M.

MR. RICHARD DAVY has been elected surgeon in charge of the Orthopædic Department at the Westminster Hospital. Lectures on the surgical and mechanical treatment of deformities will be given during each summer session. Patients will be seen every Friday, at 3 P.M., without letters of recommendation.

ALL the medical officers of the United States Navy are ordered to make use of the metric system of weights and measures, which is making great progress also in civil use.

KUHNE and Ayre, according to a paper published in Foster's *Journal of Physiology*, have distinguished and isolated four colours in the retinae of fowls and frogs, these colours being of a yellow, yellowish green, orange, and purple.

MR. NORTH's paper on Starvation, in the same journal, gives the result of some experiments on himself, which confirm the view that urea is excreted in somewhat larger quantity during severe exercise.

THE Medical Officer of Sandown reports that, for the three months ending June 30th, there were only three deaths registered in the Sandown district. One of these was that of a visitor, who came into the town with a fatal disease upon him. This represents an annual rate of 4.2 per 1,000, including visitors, and 2.8 per 1,000 of the resident population.

THE Indian news includes the following items: The deaths in the North-Western Provinces in April last reached the high number of 157,326, the total in the corresponding month of last year having been 78,408. A fatal case of hydrophobia has occurred among the 19th Bengal Lancers at Meean Meer. The victim was a non-commissioned officer, who had been bitten by a dog two months previous to his death. Cholera has broken out among the troops at Neemuch, and the chaplain, the Rev. G. Gothard, is seriously ill. The present state of public health in Bombay is so bad that the Town Council, at its last meeting, sanctioned the expenditure of fifteen thousand rupees for the erection of a temporary hospital.

A JOINT meeting of the North-Western, Northern Counties, and Yorkshire Associations of Medical Officers of Health will be held at the Council Chamber, Guildhall, York, on Wednesday, July 24th, 1878, at 1.30 P.M. The following papers are promised: 1. Mr. S. W. North (York), Registration of Disease. 2. Mr. H. E. Armstrong (Newcastle-on-Tyne), The Regulation of Cow-Byres and Dairies. Mr. Armstrong will move that a joint petition of the three Associations be addressed to Parliament, praying that power be granted to Local Authorities for the better sanitary regulation of byres, dairies, and milk-shops. 3. Dr. H. H. Vernon (Southport), The Redistribution of Population as affecting Death-rates. After the meeting, the members will dine together.

THE PARKES MEMORIAL.

At a meeting recently held at Netley of the subscribers to the Parkes Memorial Fund, to consider, among other matters, the replies to the circular relative to the disposal of the collected money—the replies being found in all cases to agree with the proposal adopted in April 1877,—it was resolved: 1. That a prize of one hundred pounds in money, and a large gold medal bearing the portrait of the late Dr. Parkes, be given triennially for the best essay on a subject connected with hygiene, to be declared at the commencement of each triennial period, the prize to be open to the medical officers of the army, navy, and Indian services of executive rank on full pay (with the exception of the officers of the Army Medical School during their term of office). 2. That the subject for the first competition for the above-named prize be as follows: "On the Effects of Hygienic Measures in arresting the Spread of Cholera." 3. That the essays be sent in to the Committee of the Parkes Memorial Fund, care of the Director-General, Army Medical Department, 6, Whitehall Yard, London, S.W., on or before the 31st December, 1880. Each essay to have a motto, and to be accompanied with a sealed envelope bearing the same motto, and containing the name of the competitor. 4. That a bronze medal (also bearing the portrait of the late Dr. Parkes) be given at the close of each session of the Army Medical School to the best answerer at an examination in hygiene.

OUR YOUNGEST BRANCH.

AMONG the interesting reports of annual meetings of Branches which characterise the JOURNAL of this week, not the least welcome is the brief note of the first meeting of the North of Ireland Branch, at Belfast. That youngest of our Branches is now in fair working order; and we learn from its energetic founder and honorary secretary, Dr. John Moore, that it numbers already more than eighty members, and "promises to go ahead famously".

TAPPING A VOMICA.

IN another column, we publish a preliminary note, by Dr. C. Theodore Williams, of a case in which a large cavity of the lung has recently been tapped and locally treated with great advantage by Dr. Williams and Mr. Erichsen. This mode of treatment has once or twice been suggested by physicians, especially by Dr. Ramadge in this country; and more recently it has been practised by Dr. Pepper in America, and in Germany by Dr. Mosler of Greifswald and others. A recent thesis by Dr. F. Arjo on the subject discusses the various methods by which it has been attempted to carry out the operation: by catheterisation of the air-passages, by large thoracentesis, by aspiration, by caustic, and by galvano-caustic, which is preferred by Koch of Berlin. The practice is one of great rarity, and possibly only suited to exceptional cases, such as those of fetid expectoration. In any case, however, it appears to offer clinical resources which may well be borne in mind.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM.

AT a meeting of the Council on July 12th, Dr. Sawyer was chosen Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, in the room of Dr. Mackey, resigned. Dr. Rickards, hitherto Professor of Physiology, was elected Professor of Pathology in succession to Dr. Sawyer. Mr. Henry Eales was appointed additional Demonstrator of Anatomy.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

IN relation to the constitution of the Medical Council, which has lately been much discussed, our attention has been called to the following statement of its obstetric imperfections by Dr. Tilt in the introduction to a recent edition of one of his works.

"For the last twenty years there has been a Medical Council, and its twenty-four members have been frequently changed; but not one man has ever sat at the Board who understood what relates to the obstetric branch of medicine, or who was taking an active interest in it, either as a teacher of midwifery, or as a practitioner in diseases of women. If our leading men were well acquainted with diseases of women, the Medical Council would see that the too limited time now allotted for their study to medical students should be extended, and it would have insisted on the midwifery of the lower orders of our countrywomen being put on a respectable footing, instead of allowing it to remain a national disgrace, notwithstanding the repeated and urgent appeals made to it and to Government by the Obstetrical Society of London."

THE ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

THE annual report of the Royal Medical Benevolent College shows a continuous effort at extending widely the benefits of this important institution, and close attention by the Council to the efficiency of the institution as an important educational establishment. The Council mentions that there will be several vacancies at Christmas for exhibitors of the class established in 1865. They must be "sons of some of the less fortunate members of the medical profession", and they pay only £30 a year for board and education, instead of the usual charge of £48 or £51 according to age, and are also excused the entrance fee and the subscription to the Exhibition and Scholarship Fund required from all other pupils. Applications for the admission of boys as candidates must be made by the middle of November, and the Exhibitors, who will enter the College after Christmas, will be selected from the approved candidates, according to the result of a competitive examination to be held on some appointed day in December. All particulars can be obtained from the Secretary at the office. A new element of charitable distribution is added to the organisation

of the College by the bequest, which we last year mentioned, by the late Miss Eliza Morgan, of a sum of money which she desired to be applied more especially for the benefit of the daughters of decayed medical men. The annual income of the Morgan Fund will, for the present, be £60, and the Council propose to appropriate this to three annuities of £20 each, to be awarded to the daughters of medical men, whether spinsters or widows, possessing the same qualifications as those required from widows of medical men when they are candidates for the ordinary pensionerships. The Council are advised that all the Governors of the College will have the right, under the Act of Incorporation, to vote at the election of these annuitants, as in the case of the ordinary pensioners and foundation scholars; and, as that is so, they consider that contributions may properly be received for this fund, giving the same privileges as donations to the ordinary funds of the College. We note with regret that the Council decline to remedy the glaring and painful abuse of charity involved in the costly, wearisome, and onerous system of canvassing for election by open voting, which mars the beneficent operation of the charity. By annexing the bequest of Miss Morgan to the same system, they ally with pain an otherwise admirable addition to the resources of the charity.

GOOD ENOUGH FOR KAFFIR-LAND.

IN the dearth of candidates for the army medical service, the authorities have had to resort quietly to various shifts to fill up, without preliminary competitive examinations, the vacancies in the department. But what is the meaning of this paragraph in the *Guy's Hospital Gazette*? "News has been received that our energetic fellow students who offered themselves as surgeons in the Kaffir war have safely reached their destination. We hope in some future number to record their exploits."

MEDICINES FOR THE SOUL.

THIS is about the best view of homœopathy which we have yet seen expressed by any of its votaries. It is taken from Skinner's *Diseases of Women*.

"In allopathy, the soul is nowhere; in homœopathy, the state of the soul and mind is a *sine qua non*. Allopathy has no means of affecting the soul or mind, except those of a moral kind; whereas homœopathic medicines act upon the spirit or soul of man, and through it and by means of it, and with a certainty which is as remarkable as it is true. By way of illustrating the power of homœopathic medicines over the mind and its affections, I shall give the following example. A favourite cat of my own had kittens. All were drowned but two; then one was given away, and ultimately the remaining one was given to a friend. The mother of the kittens became *inconsolable*, and went all over the house mourning her loss in unmistakable *tones of grief* for five days and nights, 'making night hideous' with her cries. One globule of *Ignatia* cured her in half an hour, as she never cried again."

That cat had a great deal of imagination—almost as much as some men.

A CASE FOR INQUIRY.

UNDER this title, the *Rochdale Observer* of the 22nd ult. gives an account of an inquest on the body of a man, aged 35, who died while under the care of an unqualified practitioner, Mr. George Alfred Brown. Mr. Brown is described as a medical student, twenty-two years of age, who had finished his curriculum of study, and passed all his examinations except the final one. His father, who held an American diploma, was away from home, and his son was carrying on business in his absence. On Wednesday, the 5th ult., the deceased applied to him with what seems to have been an irreducible hernia, which had become inflamed. The "lump" was poulticed, and presently it was found that "an abscess had formed on the top of the rupture". This abscess first perforated the bowel, and then broke externally. At the end of a week from the time when the patient first came under treatment, he was so ill that Mr. Brown suggested that a regular practitioner should be called in. Accordingly, Mr. Wallace saw the patient the same day; but it was too late, and in the

evening he died. Such a case as this would have been a serious one for any surgeon; but, when it fell into the hands of an inexperienced and unqualified man, we need not be surprised at the result. Mr. Brown's position was rendered still more difficult, because he well knew that the regular practitioners would not be inclined to meet him. Hence, perhaps, he delayed longer than he would otherwise have done to recommend a second opinion. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased died from natural causes. The lesson to be learnt from such a case is obvious. Had Mr. Brown had a diploma, he would have had no difficulty in obtaining a consultation with some experienced surgeon, and, if the life of the patient had not been saved, at least the reproach of a coroner's inquest would have been avoided.

THE CLIMATE OF CYPRUS.

ALTHOUGH the reports upon the climate of Cyprus are very conflicting, yet they seem to be reconcilable when due attention has been given to the circumstances under which each report has been made. Thus we gather from the statements of reliable medical authorities, who speak from personal observation, that, although the heat is considerable, and the low grounds apparently marshy from neglect, so that remittent fever prevails during the wet season, nevertheless the uplands are healthy, and there seems little reason to doubt that Cyprus may be made as free from fever as Malta. When first we took possession of Malta, and for many years afterwards, particularly bad forms of aguish fever were exceedingly prevalent; and there is no doubt that, by draining and planting, the climate of Cyprus may be materially improved even in the lowlands. Great precautions will, however, have to be taken for the health of the troops now sent there. Remittent fever and dysentery will certainly threaten the first comers, and especially when the sods begin to be turned for new works.

THE TELEPHONE, PHONOGRAPH, AND MICROPHONE.

IT has been arranged that Professor McKendrick, as President of the Physiological Section at the meeting of the British Medical Association in Bath, will give an address on the recent progress of acoustics, more especially as regards the mechanism of the ear. When we consider the recent remarkable advances in this department of science, as illustrated by the inventions of the telephone, phonograph, and microphone, no subject could be more appropriate; and it will be interesting to know what these inventions are likely to contribute to our knowledge of the physiology of hearing, or to our powers of diagnosis. Dr. McKendrick intends to illustrate his address by experiment.

DEATHS FROM GOÏTRE.

AN extremely interesting monograph on *Death from Goitre and the Radical Cure of Goitre*, by Professor Rose, just published by Hirschwald, throws a new light upon the cause of sudden deaths in goitrous persons which have been frequently observed, and sometimes in the course of operation. In three such cases, Rose has found that the pressure of the increased thyroid has led to the fatty degeneration of the cartilaginous rings of the trachea, thus transforming the rigid and resisting cylinder of the air-tube into a membranous and flaccid canal. A sudden movement of torsion or of flexion of the head suffices, then, to make an elbow in the tube and flatten its lumen. This change is also accompanied by fatty degeneration and dilatation; and thus we have here all the conditions of sudden death, especially under anaesthesia or during the brusque movements of the head and neck while an operation is being performed.

A NEW SPA.

A NEW sanatorium and hydropathic establishment was opened, on Tuesday last, at Bishop's Down Grove, Tunbridge Wells. It has been set on foot by a company, and the directors invited a large number of the neighbouring gentry to a garden party on the occasion. The estate, which has been purchased for the purpose, comprises fifty-three acres of land beautifully diversified with meadow, wood, and water. These give scope for many delightful walks, and in the garden

there is a chalybeate spring of valuable medicinal properties. The old mansion, which fronts Tunbridge Wells Common, has been entirely refitted, so as to adapt it to the requirements of a sanatorium, and a large addition has been made to it, which, besides affording increased accommodation, contains a complete suite of bath-rooms. At present, the institution is capable of receiving fifty patients. A medical man resides in the house. In the south of England, there is no institution of this kind, such as those which have been found to answer so well as Malvern, Matlock, and Ilkley; and there could scarcely be a better place to open one than Tunbridge Wells. The proximity to the metropolis and the beauty of the surrounding neighbourhood cannot fail to make it attractive; while the natural advantages possessed by the Bishop's Down Grove Spa are certainly not inferior to those which have made the localities we have named so celebrated as health-resorts.

THE DRAINAGE OF SEASIDE TOWNS.

AT the annual meeting of the South-Western Branch on June 20th, Dr. C. B. Nankivell of Torquay read a paper on the Drainage of Seaside Towns and the System of Drainage in Torquay.—He said: "I believe that, in all seaside towns, the drainage into the sea is invariably effected by low-level sewers, which, for a considerable distance before arriving at the outfalls, are below the level of the high tides, and have outlets below the level of the ebb tides. The consequence of this arrangement evidently is that, twice in twenty-four hours, the sea flows some distance up the sewers, driving back into them their fluid contents, and causing in them sewage-deposits, which undergo unhealthy decomposition, and evolve noxious and pestiferous gases, which gases, by the same influx of the sea and ponding back of the sewage, are driven into and around the houses of the inhabitants. Another evil of the system of low level drainage into the sea is, that the outfalls of the sewers are generally near the shore, and frequently empty into shallow water, thus polluting any beach and shallow water near the outfalls, and contaminating the air about any walks and drives near the sea with offensive and noxious sewage-emanations. To obviate these great evils, the Torquay Local Board, in 1873, adopted a plan of drainage on the high level system. The great principle of the high level system, as adopted by the board, is that the base of the sewer should be above the high spring tides; and Sir Joseph Bazalgette was engaged to carry out a plan on this system, to discharge the whole sewage of Torquay and St. Mary-Church at Hope's Nose, a point forming the eastern boundary of Torbay. From this small projecting boundary of the bay, the contents of the sewers will be discharged into the deep and rapid channel-currents, and be quickly dispersed and disintegrated in the deep waters of the channel. It is a matter of course that, wherever there is a system of high level drainage of a town to a distant outfall, a part of which town is but little raised above the level of the sea, there must also be a low level drainage to be raised to the higher level. At Torquay, this is accomplished by means of an hydraulic pump, raising the drainage of about one thousand of the inhabitants in the lower parts of the town to the high level sewer. This high level sewer is not only large enough to receive the drainage of the lower level, but that of St. Mary-Church also, and of the new district laid out for building in the parish of Cockington. It would also dispose of the drainage of Paignton, if the authorities of Paignton would wisely join the authorities of Torquay for sanitary purposes. There can be no doubt that this combination of high and low level drainage is applicable to most seaside towns, and that it is especially desirable in all seaside health-resorts. Torquay has, however, one advantage in draining into the sea, which raises it above most other towns. The several valleys between the hills around Torquay have small mountain-streams, which are never entirely dry, and which run through and retain a continuous onward current in the sewers, and flush them at every fall of rain. In other towns, this would have to be provided for by flushing tanks. The great superiority and advantages of the high level system of drainage into the sea are these:—1. There

is a continuous onward current in the sewers of all sewage-matters, uninterrupted by any influx of sea into the sewer, or by any ponding back of sewage; 2. All sewage-deposits are avoided; 3. There is no forcing back of sewer-gases into the town; 4. The sewer-outfalls being at a distance from the town, there is no contamination of the walks and drives around it by sewage-emanations."

SCOTLAND.

THE members of the Forfarshire Medical Association dined together last week. They drove to Glamis Castle, the seat of the Earl of Strathmore, where the afternoon was spent. At three o'clock, they dined—Dr. Alexander of Forfar, the President, in the chair. The office-bearers were elected, and other routine business was transacted.

THE Board of Supervision has instructed the Medical Officer of Health in Arbroath to report as to the duration and extent of the present outbreak of typhus fever in the town, the measures taken for checking its progress, and the sanitary condition of the burgh as to water, drainage, and other sanitary matters.

THE death rate for Edinburgh, last week, was at the annual rate of 19 per 1,000. There were only four deaths from zymotic diseases and three from whooping-cough.

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY COURT.

AMONG other business transacted at the meeting, last week, was the following. The following persons were recognised as lecturers whose lectures should qualify for graduation in medicine in the University under Section VI of Ordinance No. 8, Edinburgh No. 3: (1.) Dr. M. Charteris, Lecturer on Practical Physic, Glasgow; (2.) Dr. Alexander Lindsay, Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence, Glasgow; and (3.) Mr. Joseph Bell, F.R.C.S.E., Lecturer on Clinical Surgery, Edinburgh. An Order of Her Majesty in Council was received approving of an alteration of Section V, Subsection 3 of Ordinance No. 5, Edinburgh No. 2, under which attendance on the Class of Practical Materia Medica recently authorised in the University, and similar classes in recognised institutions, or by registered lecturers, is constituted one of the ways of obtaining the instruction in compounding and dispensing drugs required by the said section and subsection. On consideration of a minute of the Senatus, leave of absence was granted to Professor Balfour for the remainder of the session, and arrangements for the Class of Botany being conducted by Dr. Isaac Bayley Balfour were approved. On consideration of a minute of the Senatus, arrangements were approved, under which Professor Spence acted in April as an Examiner in Anatomy, in place of Professor Turner, owing to the absence of the latter at a meeting of the General Medical Council.

INCREASE OF LUNACY IN GLASGOW.

AT a recent meeting of the Glasgow Parochial Board, Dr. Robertson, in obedience to a remit from the Board, submitted a report on the cause of the increase in the cases of insanity generally throughout the country, with special reference to the circumstances and increase of the city parish. He stated in the report that, in the last annual report of the General Board of Lunacy, the number of insane for Scotland, at January 1st, 1877, was 8,652—an increase of 343 on that for 1876, and of 1,721 during ten years. The Lunacy Board had not given any deliverance as to the causes of the increase of lunatic paupers, but in their last report had stated that the conclusion was not justified that the increase was due to a more frequent occurrence of mental disease in the community. He (Dr. Robertson), while abstaining from pronouncing dogmatically on points that the Lunacy Board have left undetermined, would express the opinion that the following have been factors in its production. 1. The erection of asylums throughout the country brought to light a great deal of unregistered lunacy. Many people who had previously cared for their insane relatives at home, and at their own charge, were not slow to place them in asylums, as soon as they were

erected in their own districts, and were very willing to be relieved partially or entirely of the cost of their maintenance. This cause was, however, ceasing to operate to any great extent, as, with the exception of one or two districts, Scotland was now well supplied with asylums. 2. Forms of mental disease had been of late years sent to asylums which were previously either treated to a conclusion at home, or removed to the asylum at a later period of the illness. These are (a) alcoholic insanity; (b) insanity associated with paralytic and other organic diseases of the brain; (c) insanity occurring in old age. The increase was not due to a diminution of the cures, but to a decrease in the mortality. It had been shown that the great mental strain of recent times, and possibly the higher culture, had not contributed, at least clearly, to the increase of insanity. There was no satisfactory evidence of increased liability to insanity; but the disease had been more prevalent of late years, and the increase shown was sixty-four during the last year; whereas, in relation to the increase in population, it should only have been fourteen. In regard to the cases which seemed caused directly by alcohol, it was frequently very difficult to determine if that were the sole cause. The report was adopted.

IRELAND.

THE Local Government Board have approved of £60 *per annum* retiring allowance to Dr. Henry Croly, late Medical Officer of Rathfarnham Dispensary District.

AT a meeting of the Asylum Board, Castlebar, last week, the Governors disapproved of a proposal to utilise workhouses as auxiliaries to district asylums for the reception of idiots.

SMALL-POX IN DUBLIN.

WE are glad to see that a steady decrease in the number of cases of small-pox is reported by the superintendent medical officer of health. Forty-three new cases were, however, admitted into the Dublin hospitals last week; and the type of the disease is, we are informed, in some cases at least, of a very fatal character. It is unfortunate that, in consequence of the borough fund, which is stated to be the only fund upon which the Public Health Committee of the Corporation can draw, being deficient, the Committee is compelled to cease all payments for the destruction of infected clothing. Thus a most prolific mode of spreading the epidemic is permitted again to come into action, at a time when it might be hoped its virulence had been somewhat abated.

AGE OF DISPENSARY MEDICAL OFFICERS.

DR. W. R. CONNOLLY, who was recently appointed for the Southern Division of the Waterford Dispensary District, was objected to in consequence of wanting a few months of being twenty-three years of age at the time of election. The matter was brought under the notice of the Local Government Board, who last week confirmed the appointment, in consequence of the reasons assigned by the Dispensary Committee, but intimated that their consent should not be taken as a precedent in future.

BELFAST HOSPITAL FOR SKIN-DISEASES.

THE thirteenth annual meeting of this institution took place at the Hospital, in Glenravel Street, Belfast, on the 9th instant. During the past year, one thousand and seventeen patients were under treatment, eighteen being received into the intern department. The number of patients could have been very considerably increased had only the requisite funds been forthcoming; so that the Committee have been reluctantly compelled to limit the admissions, not only as regards the out-door patients, but more especially in the intern department, which is of much greater importance. Many of the beds during the year were unoccupied, owing to want of money. Dr. Scott has resigned as one of the medical officers, in consequence of leaving Belfast, but the Committee do not propose to fill up the vacancy at present.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, GALWAY.

THE number of students attending lectures in the Faculty of Medicine during the session 1876-77 amounted to one hundred and seven, being the largest number since the foundation of the College. The President, in his recent report, remarks that the remarkable progress which the Medical School of this College has made, has sometimes been used as a ground for disputing the success of the College; it being asserted that universities ought not to be places for professional instruction, and that, however numerous students for professions may be, the success of colleges should not be measured by them, but only by such students as pass through the curriculum of the Faculty of Arts. He observes, in reference to this matter that, in the present social condition of Ireland, and in the case of colleges which are principally recruited from the middle and professional classes, it might naturally be expected that the Faculty of Medicine should attract to itself a large proportion of the students of the colleges. Although a degree in Arts is not a necessary preliminary to the degree in Medicine in the Queen's University, yet, in the curriculum required, matriculation is preceded by an examination in Greek, Latin, Mathematics, etc.; and every medical student, in addition to his strictly professional training, is obliged to pursue courses in Modern Languages, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Botany, and Zoology—studies which are well suited to enforce a liberal element into special and technical acquirements, and clearly entitled to take rank in the category of Arts subjects in any comprehensive system of University education.

HEALTH OF DUBLIN: QUARTERLY REPORT.

IN the Dublin Registration District, the number of births registered during the quarter ending June 29th, amounted to 2,503, being equal to an annual ratio of 1 in 31.4, or 31.8 in every 1,000 of the population; and the deaths to 2,380, affording an annual ratio of 1 in 33.1, or 30.3 in every 1,000 inhabitants. Omitting the deaths (87) of persons admitted into public institutions from localities outside the district, the rate for last year was 29.1 per 1,000. There were 586 deaths from zymotic diseases, being 155 more than occurred in the previous quarter, and 201 over the average number in the June quarter of the last ten years. The deaths from the seven principal diseases of this class numbered 478, being equivalent to an annual mortality of 6.1 per 1,000 inhabitants. These deaths exceed those from the same causes in the March quarter by 143, principally due to the mortality from small-pox and whooping-cough. Small-pox caused 212 deaths; fever, 81; diarrhoea, 39; croup, 27; scarlet fever, 20; while only 22 deaths were recorded from measles. To whooping-cough, 112 deaths were ascribed, being 30 more than in the preceding quarter, and 77 over the December quarter of last year. Diseases of the respiratory organs caused 470 deaths, being 105 over the average for the June quarter of the ten years 1868-77; bronchitis produced 329 deaths; pneumonia, 85; and lung-disease unspecified, 40. The deaths from these diseases form 20 per cent. of the deaths from all causes, and are equal to an annual mortality of 6.0 per 1,000 of the population. Heart-disease caused 107 deaths; apoplexy, 35; epilepsy, 4; Bright's disease, 18; and liver-disease unspecified, 34; 258 deaths took place from phthisis, 40 from mesenteric disease, 47 from hydrocephalus, and 138 children died from convulsions. The mean of the mean weekly temperature for the quarter was 53.6 deg.; and the rainfall during the thirteen weeks measured 11.971 inches.

A MORGUE FOR WATERFORD.

A RESOLUTION has been adopted by a coroner's jury calling upon the Corporation of this town to build a public morgue. It appears that the dead bodies dragged out of the river, or found in the streets, are very commonly left exposed to public gaze for hours. The coroner, at an inquest held last week, very properly remarked that it was a disgrace to our common humanity that such a state of things should exist in Waterford. He had repeatedly drawn the attention of the Corporation to remedy such an inhuman and unnatural condition of affairs, but to no purpose.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

THE following tables represent the numbers of candidates from the various medical schools who presented themselves as candidates for the Primary and Pass Examinations for the membership of the Royal College of Surgeons of England during the session of 1877-78. The list shows the numbers of those who passed and of those who were rejected. We have, as last year, added a fourth column, which shows the proportion of rejections. The candidates who are indicated by a fraction in any column were educated at more than one medical school.

PRIMARY EXAMINATIONS.—1877-78.

| Medical School. | Totals. | Number passed. | Number rejected. | Proportion of rejections. |
|----------------------------|---------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| St. Bartholomew's | 97.83 | 69 | 28.83 | 1 in 3.39 |
| Guy's | 90.50 | 63.50 | 27 | 3.35 |
| University College | 84.6 | 54.3 | 30.3 | 2.81 |
| St. Thomas's | 49 | 33.50 | 15.50 | 3.16 |
| St. George's | 44 | 34 | 10 | 4.4 |
| King's College | 36 | 14 | 22 | 1.63 |
| St. Mary's | 35.50 | 27.50 | 8 | 4.43 |
| London | 33.50 | 16.50 | 17 | 1.97 |
| Middlesex | 30.7 | 22 | 8.7 | 3.53 |
| Charing Cross | 23.50 | 10.50 | 7 | 3.35 |
| Westminster | 14 | 6.50 | 7.50 | 1.86 |
| Manchester | 37 | 22.50 | 14.50 | 2.55 |
| Liverpool | 2.3 | 12.50 | 8.83 | 2.41 |
| Birmingham | 18.83 | 12.3 | 6.50 | 2.90 |
| Cambridge | 17.50 | 12 | 5.50 | 3.18 |
| Bristol | 16 | 9 | 7 | 2.28 |
| Leeds | 15 | 7.50 | 7.50 | 2.00 |
| Newcastle-on-Tyne | 12 | 5 | 7 | 1.71 |
| Sheffield | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1.50 |
| Dublin | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1.30 |
| Belfast | 1 | 1 | — | 0.00 |
| Cork | .50 | .50 | — | 0.00 |
| Edinburgh | 33 | 20 | 13 | 2.54 |
| Aberdeen | 4.50 | 3.50 | 1 | 4.50 |
| Glasgow | 4.3 | 2.3 | 2 | 2.16 |
| New York | 1.7 | 1.50 | .2 | 8.50 |
| Toronto | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2.00 |
| Philadelphia | 1 | — | 1 | 1.00 |
| Kingston, Canada | .50 | .50 | — | 0.00 |
| Calcutta | 2 | .50 | 1.50 | 1.33 |
| Madras | .50 | .50 | — | 0.00 |
| Melbourne | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2.00 |
| Berlin | 2 | — | .2 | (?) |
| Vienna | .2 | — | .2 | 1.00 |
| Heidelberg | 1 | 1 | — | 0.00 |
| Paris | .2 | — | .2 | 1.00 |
| Harvard University | .50 | — | .50 | 1.00 |
| Totals | 744 | 477 | 267 | 2.78 |

PASS EXAMINATIONS.—1877-78.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Guy's | 78.83 | 63.3 | 15.50 | 1 in 5.08 |
| St. Bartholomew's | 78.50 | 65.50 | 13 | 6.38 |
| University College | 66.50 | 50 | 16.50 | 4.03 |
| King's College | 43.50 | 32 | 11.50 | 3.78 |
| St. Thomas's | 39.6 | 28.83 | 10.83 | 3.66 |
| London | 27.6 | 25.6 | 2 | 13.83 |
| St. George's | 22.50 | 14.50 | 8 | 2.81 |
| St. Mary's | 19 | 11.50 | 7.50 | 2.53 |
| Middlesex | 16.83 | 13.83 | 3 | 5.61 |
| Charing Cross | 6.83 | 6.3 | .50 | 13.76 |
| Westminster | 6.50 | 6.50 | — | 0.00 |
| Manchester | 21.83 | 14.83 | 7 | 3.12 |
| Liverpool | 15.3 | 11.3 | 4 | 3.83 |
| Leeds | 10.83 | 6.82 | 4 | 2.70 |
| Newcastle-on-Tyne | 9 | 5 | 4 | 2.25 |
| Birmingham | 7 | 7 | — | 0.00 |
| Bristol | 5.50 | 5 | .50 | 11.50 |
| Cambridge | 5.50 | 5 | .50 | 11.50 |
| Sheffield | 4 | 4 | — | 0.00 |
| Dublin | 7 | 4.50 | 2.50 | 2.80 |
| Belfast | 3.3 | 3.3 | — | 0.00 |
| Galway | .50 | .50 | — | 0.00 |
| Edinburgh | 15.16 | 10.83 | 4.3 | 3.50 |
| Aberdeen | 4.50 | 3 | 1.50 | 3.00 |
| Glasgow | 2.50 | 1 | 1.50 | 1.66 |
| Bombay | .50 | .50 | — | 0.00 |
| Calcutta | .50 | .50 | .50 | 1.00 |
| Madras | .50 | .50 | — | 0.00 |
| Toronto | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3.00 |
| Melbourne | 1.50 | 1.50 | — | 0.00 |
| New York | 1 | 1 | — | 0.00 |
| Montreal | .50 | .50 | — | 0.00 |
| Kingston, Canada | .50 | .50 | — | 0.00 |
| McGill | .3 | — | .3 | 1.00 |
| Laval | .3 | .3 | — | 0.00 |
| Berlin | 1 | 1 | — | 0.00 |
| Würzburg | .50 | .50 | — | 0.00 |
| Heidelberg | .50 | .50 | — | 0.00 |
| Totals | 529 | 409 | 120 | 4.40 |