

Communications.—Mr. MAYLARD and Dr. NAPIER showed a case in which the Appendix Vermiformis was removed for recent Appendicitis.—Dr. ALEX. ROBERTSON showed a patient nearly restored to mental and bodily health under treatment from General Paralysis of the Insane.—Dr. MACLEOD (Kilmarnock) showed (1) a case of Intussusception in a child 14 months old, which intussusception was returned by cesophageal tube, (2) a case in which the Radius was removed thirty years ago.—Dr. CAMERON showed a case of Extroversion of the Bladder on which he has operated.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

The Sanitary Conference at Venice.—*New Law as to Public Buildings.*—*Death-rate among French Children.*—*General News.*

THE French papers announce that the pending negotiations, alluded to by M. Brouardel, in his statement concerning the Venice Sanitary Conference, to be arranged by political authorities, have been brought to a successful conclusion.

The constant discovery of defects in the construction of public buildings, such as the École de Pharmacie, École de Médecine, and different hospitals, has led to the passing of a new law, which gives the authorities of these public bodies a voice in deciding on the plans submitted for judgment.

The proportion of deaths among French children under one year from 1868 to 1872 has been estimated at 18.44 per cent., and 16.6 per cent. from 1878 to 1882. At the present time the proportion is 15 per cent.

M. Papillier, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, proposes to ask the Minister of Commerce to empower the town of Nancy to build a sanatorium for sheep. In order to pay the expenses incurred by building the sanatorium of the Paris slaughterhouse, every sheep admitted will be taxed 1d.

The French Surgical Congress will meet at Paris on April 18th, 1892. Professor Demons, of Bordeaux, will preside. The first meeting will take place at 9 o'clock A.M. in the large amphitheatre of the Sorbonne.

MANCHESTER.

Presentation of an Address to Professor Williamson.—*Hospital Sunday.*—*Opposition to the Albert Charter.*

AT Owens College, on February 13th, there was a gathering of friends of Professor Williamson, on the occasion of the presentation to him of a farewell address from the Senate of the College. Professor Williamson has just retired from the Chair of Botany in the College, after having occupied it for more than forty years. The Principal, in presenting the address, referred to the fact that Dr. Williamson had been an admirable and enthusiastic teacher, whose example had inspired generations of pupils, and who, in days of less organised relations between scientific centres and the public, was a pioneer or missionary of the study of biological science. He had conferred lustre on the College, and helped to vitalise its highest aspirations by his devotion to scientific research for its own sake, and by the eminence—the European fame—which he had acquired. Professor Williamson will in future reside near London, and all his colleagues and his former pupils wish him length of days to continue his researches in palæo-botany, in which field he has won his laurels.

Collections were made on Sunday, February 14th, in the churches and chapels of Manchester and Salford in aid of the funds of the medical charities. The weather unfortunately was wet enough to affect seriously the attendance at the various places of worship.

The authorities of Victoria University have sent a circular letter to the Lancashire members of Parliament and others urging them to oppose the charter of the proposed Albert University in its present form. It is stated that joint action will be taken by the provincial schools of medicine in England—namely, Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds, Liverpool, and Manchester—against the Albert charter in its present form. A document signed on behalf of each of the above-named schools of medicine has been circulated, and petitions will be presented to both Houses of Parliament against the charter.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SCIENTIFIC STANDARD OF A MEDICAL DEGREE IN THE NEW UNIVERSITY FOR LONDON.

SIR,—In the document issued by the Deans of the Birmingham, Bristol, and Sheffield Medical Schools, alleging as a reason why the charter of the new university for London should be rejected, that the medical schools of London will under it give medical degrees to the disadvantage of the provincial schools, on an unduly low standard of scientific knowledge, an attempt is made to bolster up this preposterous assertion by quoting from your report the remarks which I made at the opening of the session of the Westminster Hospital Medical School. You permitted me, on December 26th, to correct this report by stating afresh what I said, but no notice is taken of this correction by the three deans. Is this controversy, or calumny?

I am sorry to trouble you further with so trivial a matter; but since it has been raised afresh, allow me to point out that in the report of my speech printed in the *Times* the sentence which shows I was referring only to existing students is given, and that an anonymous assailant of the charter in the *Quarterly Review*, though quoting the *Times* report, has found it necessary to omit this sentence, in order to justify him in his argument.

As the readers of my previous letter are aware, I said not one word of the standard of degrees, or of scientific attainment, and guarded myself, even as to the case of the existing students, by the proviso that general and scientific attainment would, of course, have to be satisfactorily shown. I do not complain of your omitting this sentence, in a report necessarily abbreviated, of a speech made in no prospect of controversy on the subject; but I have a right to complain that the correction you courteously allowed me to make has been entirely ignored by the quoters.—I am, etc.,

Whitehall Court, S.W.

GEORGE YOUNG.

ASSOCIATION OF DIPLOMATES AND STUDENTS OF THE LONDON MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

SIR,—The petition which it is intended should be presented to the House of Commons is now engrossed and ready for the signature of those of the diplomates of London Schools who are in favour of our movement.

For the convenience of members of the British Medical Association, the original petition is now lying in the Library of the Association, 429, Strand, W.C., and parchments are also deposited with the Deans of the various London hospitals for signature by the students.

The Committee of this Association find it impossible to have the petition sent round to the houses of the diplomates for signature, as the funds of the Association are at a very low ebb; and they therefore hope that those gentlemen in favour of the petition will attend at one of these places where parchments are deposited to sign the same.

I take this opportunity of mentioning that the appeal that we made for subscriptions has been so meagrely answered that already we are out of pocket; and if by chance any diplomates who have not subscribed should feel moved by the spirit of generosity, I should be glad to receive subscriptions from them.

I would like to suggest that the diplomates, and particularly provincial ones, should take an early opportunity of interviewing or writing the members who represent their respective constituencies, urging them to support the amendment to the charter that we pray the Commons by our petition to make. It is highly essential that every influence possible should be used for the purpose of impressing the members of Parliament with the justice of the demands that we make of them.

Allow me to convey to you, on behalf of my committee, an expression of their thank for the assistance you have given us by inserting in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL* notices of our movements.—I am, etc.,

ERNEST W. GREENWOOD,

12, Serjeants' Inn, Temple.

Hon. Sec.