

now let me ask, if, as he states, he had operated fifty-eight times before he visited me, what occasion required a London surgeon of so much experience to travel near two hundred miles to see a provincial surgeon operate? That his diary or his memory is defective, the following will show. In 1863, I read a paper on Ovariectomy before the London Obstetrical Society, in which a case of double ovariectomy was given. In 1865, about eighteen months after, Mr. Wells put forth his first volume of operations, in which he gives a case of double ovariectomy. The case was fatal. In respect to this case, he remarks, "I never heard of such a case before, except one in America"; although it was only a short time before that my paper was read, and which he states he criticised closely. Dr. Clay's case recovered, married, went to America, had three children; and, sixteen years after the first operation, the opposite ovary was extirpated by Dr. Atlee, from which she recovered, and was living years after, and may be so still. The report of my paper in the *Obstetrical Transactions*, and the discussion following, mentions no criticisms by Mr. Wells.

A few words on "Auctor". He does not try to disparage the names of Blundell, Simpson, etc., because they are above his mark, but contents himself with smaller fry, fishing among old prejudices for evidence among men who, as Dr. Blundell remarks, "knock their heads against stone walls". Then "Auctor" asks a question, often asked before, and as often answered, "What was the mortality before chloroform or ether were used?" I repeat, and can prove by documentary and living medical evidence, fourteen cases, of which four died. Then follow "Auctor's" two half-apologies, neither of which are worth acceptance.—Yours, etc.,

Manchester, August 10th, 1880.

C. CLAY, M.D.

THE CONTAGIOUSNESS OF TUBERCLE.

SIR,—Taken in connection with your recent article on Cohnheim's views, the following passages, which I extract from De Quatrefages' *The Human Species*, pp. 428-430, seem to me of special interest to medical men.

..... "The strange and fatal influence which the white race seems to exercise upon certain inferior races whose territories it has invaded. Nowhere is this melancholy phenomenon more striking than in Polynesia.

"In the Sandwich Islands, Cook calculated the population at 300,000. In 1861, there were but 67,084.

"In New Zealand, Cook found 400,000 Maories. In 1858, there were only 56,049 remaining.

"From a comparison of the estimates of Cook and Forster, it appears that the population of Tahiti must have been at least 240,000. In 1857, the official census gave only 7,212. These facts..... are universal.

"Not only does the rate of mortality increase in this unfortunate Polynesian race; there is also a decrease in the number of births. In the Marquesas Archipelago, at Taio-Hal, M. Jonan saw the population fall in three years from 400 to 250, during which time only three or four births were registered. In the Sandwich Islands, from among eighty women legitimately married, M. Delapelin found that only thirty-nine had children. There were only nineteen children in the principal families of chiefs. In New Zealand, says M. Colenso, marriages are rarely fertile. The seven principal chiefs of Almiri are without children, with the exception of Te-Hapuku; but of the four married sons of the latter, three are as yet without a family. Nine out of eleven marriages were here barren.

..... "Two naval surgeons, MM. Bourgarel and Bruelfert, have alone been able to throw some light upon this melancholy problem. The former found that tubercles were invariably present in the lungs of bodies submitted to *post mortem* examination. The latter tells us that almost all Polynesians suffer from an obstinate cough, and that in eight cases out of ten tuberculosis follows these bronchial catarrhs. *Now phthisis does not appear in the list of diseases drawn up by the old voyagers.* Have we, then, imported it into these islands? Developing in a new region, in a race to whom it was formerly unknown, this disease assumed a more terrible form—with examples of which we are acquainted."—Yours faithfully, HERBERT L. SNOW, M.D.Lond.

BEQUESTS, ETC., TO MEDICAL CHARITIES.—The Brompton Hospital for Consumption, etc., has become entitled to £500, under the will of Mr. John E. Chalmers, and £50 under that of Miss Astbury, and has received £105 from the Mercers' Company, £105 from the Merchant Taylors' Company, £105 from the Clothworkers' Company, £100 from the Grocers' Company, and £100 from the Goldsmiths' Company. Mr. Henry Crawford, of St. John's Wood, has bequeathed £200 to the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic. The Drapers' Company have given fifty guineas, and the Grocers' Company £50, and "J. O." £50 to the Charing Cross Hospital.

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday, August 12th.

Surgeons-Major of the Household Cavalry.—Captain HOME asked the Secretary of State for War whether he would consider the case of Surgeons-Major of Household Cavalry who have paid for their commissions, and were now, under warrants issued subsequent to their appointments, compulsorily retired at the age of fifty-five years without compensation; and whether these officers, being debarred from promotion to the rank of Deputy Surgeons-General, might not be allowed to serve until they reached the age of sixty, so as to prevent their being placed in a worse position than the medical officers throughout the rest of the army.—Mr. CHILDERS:—In reply to my hon. and gallant friend, I have to say that this is the first time that I have heard of the existence of the purchase system among the medical officers of the army, and I cannot undertake to recognise it. I will look into the subject of the second question, but I very much doubt whether the medical officers of the Household Cavalry have any claim to more favourable treatment.

The Indian Medical Service.—The Marquis of HARTINGTON said, in answer to Mr. PUGH, that he was not under the impression that certain orders of the Governor-General of India specified in the question contravened statutory provisions by altering terms of service and title to pay, pension, allowances, and privileges, as regarded the promotion of the officers in this service. In a dispatch, however, which he had sent to India, the grounds of complaint had been stated at full length, and he requested the Indian Government to give him early and full information on the matter.

Unhealthy Training-Grounds.—Replying to Sir EDWARD LECHMERE, Mr. CHILDERS said that the training of the Worcestershire Militia Regiment at the 22nd Brigade Depot, Worcester, had not been brought to a premature conclusion in consequence of the condition of the land. The report on it, however, was not satisfactory, and it would be necessary to expend money in its better drainage.

Small-Pox in Fiji.—Mr. Alderman M'ARTHUR asked the Under-Secretary for the Colonies whether he would lay upon the table any reports or dispatches relative to the detention of the ship *Leonidas* by Mr. Des Voeux, Administrator of Fiji, when that vessel arrived at Nasova last year with small-pox on board.—Mr. G. DUFF promised papers on the subject.

Friday, August 13th.

Hospitals and Infirmaries in Ireland.—Mr. CORBET asked the Secretary to the Treasury, with reference to the diminution of the salaries and expenses of hospitals and infirmaries in Ireland in 1879 by the large sum of £3,369 1s. 3d. as shown in the abstract of an account just issued, whether he could state the names of the hospitals and infirmaries in which the reductions had been made, the amount of such reductions, and the cause thereof.—Lord F. CAVENDISH: There has been no reduction in the grants to hospitals and infirmaries in Ireland. The amount taken in the estimates is the same every year. The apparent diminution shown in the account referred to by the hon. member is due to the fact that the period for which the account is made up is the calendar year, and not the financial year. Thus, if any issues in respect to these hospitals happened to be made after the 31st of December, instead of before, the issues in that calendar year would be diminished thereby, although there might be no difference in the issues in respect to the financial year ended March 31st following. I hope, during the recess, to consider whether this return, which is rendered under Act of Parliament, may not be made to serve some more useful purpose; and, if so, legislation may be necessary to alter the period for which it is made up from the calendar year, which was the financial year at the time of the Act, to the present financial year, and to define more exactly the charges which it is desirable to include in it.

Fever in the West of Ireland.—Mr. O'C. POWER called attention to the condition of the fever-stricken districts of Mayo, Sligo, and other parts of Ireland, and suggested various remedies, which he embodied in a resolution. In the first place, he insisted that effective sanitary arrangements should be carried out in the districts under the authority of the Local Government Board; next, that a change of nutritious food should be given to all persons receiving relief; and lastly, that a competent medical staff should be organised without delay in the fever-stricken districts.—Mr. SEXTON seconded the motion.—Colonel COLTHURST made some remarks on the injurious effects of confining the out-door relief to one description of food.—Mr. FORSTER said there was no doubt there had been fever in the distressed districts, due in a great measure to a monotonous diet and deficient sanitary arrangements; but the most pressing part of the crisis had been surmounted. Most of the recommendations referred to by Mr. Power had already been carried out, and

the accounts from every district were much better. As to the sanitary arrangements, it was not possible for the executive or the local authorities to go far in advance of public opinion, and the change in the habits of the people must be gradual. As to the boards of guardians, the experience of the last few months did not justify anything like a general condemnation of them. He expressed his willingness to agree to as much of Mr. Power's resolution as declared that the conditions of these districts required the consideration of the Government, and the resolution was agreed to, in this form: "That, in the opinion of this House, the present condition of the agricultural population in Mayo, Sligo, Galway, and other parts of the West of Ireland demands the serious and immediate attention of Her Majesty's Government."—Dr. LYONS concurred with the Chief Secretary for Ireland in the opinion that any sudden and sweeping measure of sanitary reform in reference to the dwellings of the poor in that country was not to be thought of, but that the necessary improvements in that respect must be brought about gradually. He was sure that the mover of the resolution had not the slightest idea of throwing any doubt on the assiduity, zeal, and ability of the gentlemen belonging to the medical profession who had charge of the sick poor in the districts which had been visited by fever. The medical officers who had been sent down to those districts had in their reports expressed the highest approval of the way in which the local medical men in charge of dispensary districts had performed their duties. A statement made that persons had, in some instances, to go forty miles to obtain medical assistance must, he thought, from his knowledge of the dispensary districts, be an exaggeration.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICES.

LUNACY FEES IN THE PARISH OF ST. MARY ABBOTT'S, KENSINGTON.

In our last week's issue, we expressed the opinion that the Local Government Board would institute an inquiry into the truth of the serious allegations brought against the relieving officers of St. Mary Abbotts, Kensington, by Messrs. Lilly and Liddard, in demanding a portion of the fee paid to the medical officer for certifying in the cases of pauper lunatics. Messrs. Lilly and Liddard have received from the department the subjoined letter.

"Local Government Board, Whitehall, August 12th.

"I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, relative to the proceedings of certain relieving officers of the parish of St. Mary Abbotts, Kensington, in connection with the certification of paupers previous to their removal to lunatic asylums.

"I am directed to state that, if you will inform the Board of the circumstances of any particular case in respect of which you feel aggrieved, and which can be substantiated by reliable evidence and the name of the relieving officer implicated, the Board would be able to deal with the matter.—Your obedient servant,

"ROBERT ROTTEN, Assistant Secretary."

Mr. Liddard has since written, and given the required information. We learn, from the *Kensington News* of the 14th instant, that, at the last meeting of the Board of Guardians, the subject was again discussed, when, instead of denouncing the conduct of the incriminated officials, the guardians proceeded to blame Messrs. Lilly and Liddard for their "want of loyal respect shown by them, in being party to an anonymous attack on the Poor-law administration of the parish, without having first brought any grievance they may have felt under the notice of the Board". This resolution was moved by Major-General Sawyer, seconded by Mr. Cockerton, and carried. Seeing the very scant consideration exhibited by this Board since the matter came to their knowledge, and the singular conduct of the clerk, we consider that the friends of Messrs. Lilly and Liddard acted judiciously in taking the course which they adopted.

THE DERBY BOARD OF GUARDIANS AND MR. GENTLES.

At the meeting of the Derby Board of Guardians, held at the Poor Law Offices, on Tuesday, the 10th inst., the Rev. Canon Abney in the chair, the report of the committee, to whom had been referred the application of Mr. Gentles, District Medical Officer, for an increase of his stipend, was brought up and read. In their report, the Committee substantiated the correctness of Mr. Gentles' assertion, that his duties had largely increased, and recommended that his stipend should be in-

creased from £80 to £100 a year. The chairman, in supporting the recommendation, said Mr. Gentles had always done his work well. He had given satisfaction to the board; and was well liked by the poor, and although a clergyman in former days was regarded as passing rich on £40 a year, they could not regard a well qualified practitioner as over paid at £100 a year. The resolution on being put to the vote, was unanimously adopted. We congratulate Mr. Gentles on the success of his appeal, and notably upon the fact that he has achieved the difficult duty of satisfying both the board of guardians and the sick poor.

MEDICAL NEWS.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—First M.B. Examination, 1880. Pass List. Entire Examination.

First Division.

Back, Herbert Hatfield, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Berry, Harry Poole, Guy's Hospital.
Beverley, John Metcalfe, Owens College.
Booth, Edward Hargrave, Guy's Hospital.
Brooks, Walter Tyrrell, King's College.
Carter, Thomas Edward, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Collier, Joseph, Owens College.
Cooper, George Frederick, St. Thomas's Hospital.
Dingley, Edward Alfred, University College.
Ellison, John Clement, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Evans, Charles Silvester, St. Thomas's Hospital.
Horricks, William Heaton, Owens College.
Jones, Charles Montague Handfield, St. Mary's Hospital.
Lister, Joseph Herbert, Guy's Hospital.
Martin, Sidney Harris Cox, B.Sc., University College.
Moline, Paul Frank, University College.
Overend, Walker, B.Sc., St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Price, John Alfred Parry, Guy's Hospital.
Shove, Edith, London School of Medicine for Women.
Spicer, Robert Henry Scanes, B.Sc., St. Mary's and Guy's Hospitals.
Stephens, Lockhart Edward Walker, Guy's Hospital.
Thomson, St. Clair, King's College.
Tunzelmann, Edward Waldemar von, University College.
Voisey, Clement Bernard, Owens College.
Wilkinson, William Camac, B.A.Syd., University College.
Worthington, Sidney, Guy's Hospital.

Second Division.

Adams, William Coode, University College.
Batten, Rayner Derry, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Beevor, Hugh Reeve, King's College.
Berry, James, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Bertram, Benjamin, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Campbell, Harry, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Cook, Augustus Henry, University College.
Cunnington, Cecil William, King's College.
Davies, William Thomas Frederick, Guy's Hospital.
Day, John Roberson, University College.
Elgood, Charles Reginald, University College.
Faulkner, Joseph, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Gray, John Alfred, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Haliburton, William Dobinson, B.Sc., University College.
Kealy, John William Gregory, King's College.
Lewers, Arthur Hamilton Nicholson, University College.
Lynam, Robert Garner, King's College.
Marsh, Nicholas Percy, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
Nicholson, John Williams, Guy's Hospital.
Norvill, Frederic Harvey, King's College.
Parkinson, Charles Joseph, Owens College.
Pike, Charles James, University College.
Porter, Guy David, King's College.
Rabbeth, Samuel, King's College.
Scott, Bernard Charles, Middlesex Hospital.
Waugh, Henry Dunn, B.A., B.Sc., University College.
Wilson, Arthur Henry, Royal Infirmary, Liverpool.
Wood, Louis Edmund, St. Mary's Hospital.

Excluding Physiology.

First Division.

Eady, George John, King's College.
Parry, Robert, Guy's Hospital.
Payne, Charles Alexander, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Second Division.

Dent, Harry Lord Richards, King's College.
Fox, Robert Fortescue, London Hospital.
Richmond, Charles Ernest, Owens College.

Physiology only.

Second Division.

Dingley, Arthur William, University College.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, August 12th, 1880.

Creswell, John Charles, Bromsgrove.
Fotherby, Henry Arthur, 3, Finsbury Square.
Newcombe, Frank, Derby.
Oswold, Robert James William, 245, Kennington Road.
Palmer, Harold Lewis, Haverfordwest.
White, Edwin Francis, Putney, S.W.