

## Medical News.

### APPOINTMENTS.

**ROYAL NAVY.** The following appointments have been made:—

HARRHAM, Henry, Esq., Surgeon, to the *Pantolon*.  
 NINNIS, Belgrave, Esq., Acting Assist.-Surgeon, to the *Pantolon*.  
 ROCHE, William, Esq. (a), Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Impregnable*, for Plymouth Hospital.  
 YEO, Gerald, Esq., Surgeon, to the *Saturn*.

**VOLUNTEER CORPS.** The following appointments have been made (A.V.—Artillery Volunteers; R.V.—Rifle Volunteers):—

BELL, J., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st City of Edinburgh A.V.  
 BURT, J. G. M., Esq., to be Surgeon 1st City of Edinburgh A.V.  
 CUTHILL, J., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon Administrative Battalion Stirlingshire R.V.  
 GROWSE, Robert, M.D., to be Surgeon 3rd Administrative Battalion Essex R.V.  
 HUNTER, J. A., Esq., to be Assist. Surg. 1st City of Edinburgh A.V.  
 MERCER, A. A., M.D., to be Assist.-Surgeon 1st Lincolnshire A.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

FINDLAY, D., M.D., 2nd Stirlingshire A.V.  
 SMALL, T., Esq., 1st Lincolnshire A.V.

### BIRTHS.

HUTCHINSON. On August 26th, at 4, Finsbury Circus, the wife of \*Jonathan Hutchinson, Esq., of a daughter.  
 POUND. On August 26th, the wife of \*G. Pound, Esq., Odiham, of a son.

### DEATHS.

GANNON, John, Esq., Surgeon R.N., at Clifton, aged 73, on Aug. 27.  
 HEYGATE. On August 16th, at Newport Pagnell, aged 35, Sarah R. C., wife of \*William Heygate, M.D.  
 WHITE, Francis T., M.D., at Hayes, Middlesex, on August 17.

THE EDINBURGH MEDICAL JOURNAL. Messrs. Oliver and Boyd, of Edinburgh, have purchased the copyright and stock of the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* for £850.

AN AMERICAN OPINION OF OUR TREATMENT OF IMPOSTORS. "We have often admired the sleepless vigilance with which the Medical Press of our transatlantic brethren watch the entrance of the Temple of Medicine. No sooner does an impostor show his head at the threshold, than he is mercilessly pelted till he disappears. Or if he chance, by any means, to gain admission he is soon hooted out. Quackery is compelled to hide its diminished head." Thus writes the *Phil. Med. and Surg. Reporter*.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS is in treaty with the Company of Barber-Surgeons, we understand, for the purchase of the picture of 'The Granting of the Charter to the Corporate Body by Henry the Eighth,' the picture to be preserved in future in Lincoln's Inn Fields. The price named is £3,000. If this admirable work is to be disposed of at all, we should much prefer to see it in Trafalgar Square. The first work in England by Holbein, and, in some respects, one of his most complete performances, ought to be in no less a place than the National Gallery, where he is very inadequately represented indeed.

AN UTERINE QUACK. A case was recently tried in an interior town of America, in which the defendant, a quack, was charged with malpractice, in the treatment of disease of the uterus. It was alleged that he was accustomed to diagnose a tumour of the uterus in every case, and that on the first examination he would contrive to introduce, unobserved, a piece of raw meat. He then began to make local applications; and in due time, after much offensive discharge, and no little discomfort, the offending substance would escape, to the great relief of the sufferer. In this case, the patient was struck with the resemblance of the tumour to a

piece of meat, and took it to a physician, who submitted it to a microscopical examination, when its nature was discovered. The result of the trial was a verdict of one thousand dollars against the defendant. (*American Medical Times*.)

ANOTHER ALKALI METAL. Certainly, spectrum analysis is doing wonders in chemistry; for, whilst Bunsen was investigating the properties of *cæsium*, he has discovered a fifth member of the alkali group, which appears to resemble potassium as closely as *cæsium* does. It was obtained from the saline residue from 44,000 kilogrammes of Dürkheim water, and subsequently from *lepidolite*, and has received the name of *rubidium*. It may be interesting to enumerate some of the more important properties which enable us to distinguish this metal and its compounds from those of potassium sodium, lithium, and *cæsium*. In the first place, its atomic weight is very high, being 123.4 (next to gold and iodine, the greatest known). It forms a deliquescent hydrate, as caustic as hydrate of potash, which can combine with carbonic acid, giving rise to a carbonate, likewise deliquescent, but which, unlike the carbonate of potash, is soluble at ordinary temperatures in ten parts of absolute alcohol. Its nitrate is anhydrous, and crystallises, not in rhombic prisms, like nitre, but hexagonally, and by a hemihedral form is isomorphous with nitrate of soda. (*Mr. E. J. Reynolds*.)

IRISH LUNATIC ASYLUMS. Yesterday (Friday) week, Sir Robert Peel, Bart., M.P., the chief secretary for Ireland, received a deputation of members of the Association of Medical Officers of Asylums and Hospitals for the Insane, who had been appointed at the late annual meeting of that body, held in this city, to wait on him, for the purpose of bringing under his notice the existing condition of the District Lunatic Asylums in Ireland in respect of their professional superintendence. Dr. Lalor, on the part of the deputation, made a statement, shortly referring to the principal object of the deputation, which was that of the resident physicians being placed in their proper professional position in their respective establishments, and which the existing rules for their government, as framed by the Privy Council, did not sufficiently define. Dr. Stewart, and the other gentlemen present, having also expressed their views, the deputation retired, after a lengthened and satisfactory interview with the Chief Secretary, who stated that he would not fail giving his best consideration to the several points which had been discussed, and for the important information connected with which, as afforded to him by the deputation, he was much gratified.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM. During the autumn recess, which will extend from Saturday, the 31st inst., to the 7th proximo, inclusive, several important alterations in the arrangement of the objects in the various departments of the national collection will be carried into effect. In the Ethnological Department an improved arrangement, and, to some extent, a new classification, has been undertaken by Professor Owen and his assistants, in order to include the additional specimens comprised in M. Du Chaillu's African collection, and the contributions of other recent discoverers in the study of natural history which have found places in the galleries. The mosaics from Carthage, which have hitherto been only partially displayed in one of the basement rooms, are to be exhibited to the public; and further alterations will be effected in the disposition of the casts and sculptures in the Athenian galleries. Increased facility is to be provided in the reading-room for reference to the volumes of the old catalogue which have not hitherto been labelled and arranged in divisions, and additional copies of the printed catalogue are to be supplied for the use of readers. The proposed changes will be carried out to the utmost extent the short period allotted for the autumn vacation will admit.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION OF THE AMERICAN ARMY. Immediately after the battle of Bull's Run, the agents of the Commission at Washington were engaged, under the direction of Dr. Harris, in visiting the wounded and administering to their wants. Surgical dressers, nurses, and various needed articles, not available in Washington, were at once ordered by telegraph, and supplied as soon as possible from other cities. An unsuccessful attempt was made to penetrate the enemy's lines, and carry aid to the wounded on the field of battle. Mr. Olmsted, the secretary, on being apprised by telegraph of a severe engagement, at once took measures to send forward such articles as were likely to be wanted in large quantities, and came as soon as possible to Washington, accompanied by several competent surgeons. Nearly all the members of the Commission arrived within three days, and a systematic examination of the hospitals, and of the condition of all the forces engaged in the battle, was undertaken at the outset. Large bodies of soldiers were found in complete disorganisation, sick at heart, and in great misery. The causes of this demoralisation, which appeared by no means adequately accounted for by the mere circumstance of the repulse at Bull's Run, were made a subject of careful examination, not yet fully completed, the results of which will be published. Whatever essential was found wanting at the hospitals for the wounded, was, as far as practicable, obtained by the Commission, and supplied gratuitously. Among the more important of these were water-beds for certain severe surgical cases, water-pillows and rings, sheets and pillows, bed shirts, drawers, and napkins, wire cradles for supporting wounded limbs, frames for supporting bed clothing above them, and for holding mosquito-netting over the face, etc. More than 2,000 articles of this kind have been distributed by the Commission, nearly all of them having been supplied by benevolent societies and individuals in response to a call from the secretary and treasurer, which appeared in the same issue of the newspapers with the first announcement of the battle. What was not thus provided in time, the funds in the hands of the Commission enabled it to purchase. A large number of little tables to be set upon the bed, with supports for the arms, have been prepared. Means for amusing the patients, backgammon-boards, etc., and light reading, are also furnished by the Commission. A store of paper, envelopes, pens and ink, is sent to each hospital; and a person is to be employed to write letters for those unable to write themselves. A barber is also employed by the Commission, who goes the round of the hospitals, shaving and cropping all the patients who desire this attention gratuitously. Fifty tons of ice have been placed at the disposal of the hospital surgeons, with instructions to use it generously for the comfort of the patients.

MEDICAL-DIRECTOR KING'S OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BULL RUN BATTLE. Sir,—Being Chief of the Medical Staff, I have the honour to make the following report of the results of the action at Bull Run. As the officers of the Medical Staff were attached to the different regiments, I deemed it proper to remain with, and accompany the General commanding and staff, from the beginning to the termination of the battle. After the action had fairly commenced, and the wounded and the dead were seen lying on the field in every direction, I despatched Assistant-Surgeon D. L. Magruder to the rear, with directions to prepare a church, which I had observed as we passed before arriving at the scene of action, for the reception of our wounded, and also to send the ambulances forward as rapidly as possible to pick up the wounded and the dead. In a very few minutes the ambulances made their appearance and continued throughout the day to visit every part of the ground which was accessible. It is due to the ambulance drivers, to say

that they performed their duties efficiently, and the results of their operations also show how absolutely necessary these means of conveyance are to the comfort and relief of the wounded, in giving them shelter and water when ready to perish with heat and thirst. The stretchers were found very useful and comfortable to the wounded, and were in constant requisition in conveying them to the nearest ambulance. So far as I am informed, the medical staff belonging to the different volunteer regiments discharged their duties satisfactorily. I observed Acting-Surgeon Miles busily engaged in dressing wounded men under the shade of a tree in a part of the field where the fire from the enemy was very hot. Surgeon C. C. Kerney, of Col. Hunter's Division, and Assistant-Surgeon D. L. Magruder, attached to the Commanding General's staff, did good service in the hospital church, and also in two houses near the church, where the wounded were placed after the church had been filled. These officers remained busily engaged in their duties until the enemies' cavalry made its appearance, and but narrowly escaped capture. Drs. Swift and Winston, attached to the New York Eighth, remained with their sick, sacrificing selfish considerations for their own safety in order that their wounded might not be neglected, and are now prisoners. I am informed that Assistant-Surgeons Grey and Steinsburg of the Regular Army, and Drs. Honiston and Swan of the New York Fourteenth, also preferred to remain rather than abandon their charge. The impossibility of making a careful survey of the field after the battle had ceased, must be my apology for the briefness and want of detail in this report. I may mention, before concluding, that I met on the field Col. Heintzelman, U.S.A., with a minnie ball in his arm. I extracted the ball as he sat on his horse, and applied the necessary dressings. I attended to a number of cases on the field where from hemorrhage and other circumstances immediate attention seemed to be necessary.

POPULATION OF SCOTLAND. The births in Scotland during the second quarter of this year are found to have exceeded the average, exceeding also the proportion of births in England; and the deaths were below the average, and also below the proportion in England. The excess of births over deaths in Scotland in the quarter amounted to 13,266; allowing for foreign emigration, Scotland added above 10,000 to the population of the United Kingdom; but the population in Scotland itself did not increase by so many as that, because there is a very large migration into England constantly going on, and not at all counterbalanced by immigration into Scotland, though the feet do not all point one way. The births in the town districts were to the births in the country districts almost as 4 to 3 (421 in 10,000 to 338), but then the deaths, unfortunately, were as 3 to 2; but this mortality in the towns is met by migration, and the permanent increase of population is almost entirely in the towns. In the ten years 1851-1861, from census to census, the town population increased nearly 11 per cent., the country population less than 1 per cent. At the recent census there were found in Scotland 111.5 females to every 100 males, while in England and Ireland the proportion was not 106; in the quarter that has elapsed since the census, the marriages in Scotland were below the average, and much below the English average, and a local registrar (at Stromness) "supposes it is from want of males, there being an overstock of females, and a host of maids." The general health of Scotland was good during the quarter, but scarlatina and diphtheria have been epidemic, and in some parts panic prevailed, and throats were burnt for the slightest cold. In a parish in Aberdeenshire, Chapel of Garioch, an ill-ventilated house, formerly used for cattle, has been made to serve for human use, and in fourteen days the occupier lost three of his family by diphtheria. Typhus fever of

a most violent kind prevailed in Papa Stour, Shetland; fourteen years ago a similar fever prevailed, and a woman who then had it has kept in her possession since a quantity of worsted yarn in the form of balls; this year she used up some of the worsted, and after having done so fell ill of the fever, which also spread to other members of the family; this was the first place in which it broke out. The registrar of Bridgeton, a district of Glasgow, with a population of 45,000, mentions that more than 100 children are still-born there every year. The mean temperature of the quarter, calculated from returns from fifty-five stations, was as high as 50·6°; at Greenwich it was no more than 51·8°. The mean number of days on which rain fell was 36, and there were 599 hours of sunshine. In May the thermometer at Drumlanrig (Dumfries) fell as low as 20·7°, and in the same month at Taymouth (Perth) it was at 85°; but the mean daily range of Scotland was only 14·4°; at Greenwich it was 19·7°.

CAUSES OF DEATH. To the Registrar-General's report is appended, as usual, an instructive paper by Dr. W. Farr on the causes of death in England. The year now reported on, 1859, is the first in which diphtheria has obtained a distinct line in the tables; it had previously been confounded with cyananche, and when the two are put together the rapid progress of this great epidemic becomes evident; the deaths in 1855 were 385; in 1856, 603; in 1857, 1583; in 1858, 6606; in 1859, 10,184. Epidemics of diphtheria are clearly described in the 17th century by Italian and Spanish writers, and its frequent association with scarlatina justifies the inference that the diphtherine, its *materies morbi*, is some modification of scarlatinine. Of the whole deaths of the year, one-fourth were referred to zymotic diseases. Smallpox destroyed 3848 persons, chiefly children who had not been vaccinated, an instance, as Dr. Farr remarks, of the rigour with which the infringement of sanitary laws is visited; for the children perish and the parents lose their offspring by the neglect of a precaution of the simplest kind. A fatal outbreak of erysipelas at the Winchester Infirmary was traced to a cesspool. Of the parasitic diseases it is remarked that the ova of worms must be derived generally from impure river waters, into which the refuse of towns is poured. We have but an imperfect conception of the number of deaths from excessive drinking; but 345 were directly ascribed to intemperance and 545 to delirium tremens, 890 in all from the two forms of alcoholism. Passing next to constitutional diseases, another regiment of the enemies that dog our steps, we find gout described as nearly stationary; it is considered that, thanks to the more intelligent system of dining which the wealthier classes, wearied of this racking disease, will probably introduce, we may hope to see gout rapidly decline. The deaths from tuberculous disease have decreased since 1853; those from bronchitis have increased very greatly of late years. Among local diseases we find affections of the three vital organs—the brain, the heart, and the lungs—causing nearly a third of all the deaths of the year. Fright was the cause of seven deaths (not all children), grief of eight (seven women), rage of five (four infants), anxiety of one (a man); mental shock of one (a woman); melancholy of the deaths of 21 men and 26 women. Above 25,000, chiefly infants, died of convulsions—a striking and distressing symptom, but probably only part of the disease, which is the result of organic lesions and local irritations that are never discovered. 27,104 deaths are referred to the decay of old age without any disease; “the weary wheel of life at length stood still.” 14,649 persons were killed; a sad confession, says Dr. Farr, for a nation humane, civilised, and skilled in all the arts, to have to make. Annually 75 persons in 100,000 thus die a violent death. 13,056 of these deaths in 1859 are ascribed to accident or negli-

gence; among them were 279 by poison. 1,248 deaths were declared by coroners' juries to be suicides; 338 murder or manslaughter. 18 persons were killed by lightning, nearly all persons of outdoor occupations; the house is safer than the field. It is hoped that the arrangement for paying coroners by salary will bring better information on the subject of violent and sudden deaths, and throw new light on their causes.

FALL OF AN AEROLITE. Mr. Denham gives the following account of the fall of an aërolite:—I was this day a witness of the fall of an aërolite of, I believe, unprecedented size. As I was driving my wife and children in the vicinity of my house, a rushing sound, gradually increasing in intensity, made itself heard, until at last, with a roar and a scream which still seem to ring in my ears, a flaming mass plunged itself into the road at the distance of a few yards from my pony's head. My wife and two children were naturally much alarmed; so I directed some haymakers, who were at work in an adjoining field, to dig for it, while I drove to a friend's house close by. The pony broke out into a profuse perspiration, trembled all over, and showed every sign of the greatest terror. On my return to the spot, after an absence of about twenty minutes, I found that the labourers had succeeded in disinterring what proved a most magnificent aërolite, of such a size and weight as I do not believe to be on record. Its shape is an irregular ellipse, the major axis being 11½ inches, the minor axis 7½ inches; the weight is, 83½ lbs. The men who dug it up informed me that it had buried itself nearly six feet in the ground, and was redhot when they reached it. Indeed, when I returned, it was too hot to be touched with impunity by the naked hand. While cooling, the crystals assumed, while constantly changing, the most beautiful prismatic hues. Its specific gravity I have satisfactorily ascertained to be greater than that of iron; but, from the imperfect means of testing at my command, I am unable to determine the exact ratio. At the moment of its fall, the sky was perfectly cloudless. A strong smell of sulphur was diffused immediately after the descent; and I have found several crystals of that element in the cavities of the upper surface, which have escaped abrasion from the soil.

#### OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY.....	Royal Free, 2 P.M.—Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.
TUESDAY. ....	Guy's, 1½ P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.
WEDNESDAY...	St. Mary's, 1 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—Royal Orthopedic, 2 P.M.
THURSDAY....	St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—London, 1·30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—London Surgical Home, 2 P.M.
FRIDAY. ....	Westminster Ophthalmic, 1·30 P.M.
SATURDAY....	St. Thomas's, 1 P.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1·30 P.M.—King's College, 1·30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.

#### POPULATION STATISTICS AND METEOROLOGY OF LONDON—AUGUST 24, 1861.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

		Births.	Deaths.
During week.....	{ Boys... 909 Girls... 844 }	1753	1159
Average of corresponding weeks 1851-60 .....		1582	1178
<i>Barometer:</i>			
Highest (Th.) 30.089; lowest (Mon.) 29.803; mean 29.943.			
<i>Thermometer:</i>			
Highest in sun—extremes (Mon.) 127 degs.; (Wed. & Sat.) 107 degs.			
In shade—highest (Fri.) 76.3 degrees; lowest (Wed.) 47.3 degs.			
Mean—61.2 degrees; difference from mean of 43 yrs.+0.6 deg.			
Range—during week, 29 degrees; mean daily, 20.8 degrees.			
Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 74.			
Mean direction of wind, W.—Rain in inches, 0.05.			

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

\* \* All letters and communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

CORRESPONDENTS, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

MR. J. COOPER FORSTER writes:—"If your readers will refer to vol. iv, 3rd series, of the *Guy's Hospital Reports*, they will find all that can be desired as regards both the operation and the masterly after-treatment adopted by the surgeon, Mr. Cook, in a case of oesophagotomy, and where artificial feeding was had recourse to soon after the patient was removed from the table."

MR. JOHN HUGHES.—Every registered practitioner of medicine can recover "reasonable charges for professional aid, advice, and visits, and the costs of any medicines, etc., rendered or supplied by him to his patients."

THE Editor of the *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter* gives the following advice to correspondents:—"We cannot too strongly urge all our correspondents to write plainly, if they expect their manuscript to be printed correctly. Cross all your *i*'s, dot all your *s*'s; be specially careful in writing all technical terms. If you are in doubt about the word yourself, don't leave the printer or editor to decide for you, but go to the dictionary. Look out for words that appear nearly alike when written as *then* and *there*, *when* and *where*; be sure and make an *s* at the termination of a word when you want it there, not a mark or quirl merely to show your own doubt about it. In fine, prepare your manuscript for the press; place every word in just the position you desire to see it in type; make every sentence complete before you send it to the Editor; don't ask him to do what you can do better yourself."

Does Anti-Clique wish his note published? or will he oblige us with the other side of the tale he refers to? Perhaps he is not aware that his remarks smack of the libellous!

MR. C. H. CORNISH's hint shall be attended to.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

THE following Laws of the Association will be strictly enforced:—

15. The subscription to the Association shall be One Guinea annually; and each member on paying his subscription shall be entitled to receive the publications of the Association of the current year. The subscriptions shall date from the 1st of January in each year, and shall be considered as due unless notice of withdrawal be given in writing to the Secretary on or before the 25th of December previous. If any member's subscription remain unpaid twelve months after it shall have become due, the publications of the Society shall be withheld from such member until his arrears be paid.

16. The name of no member shall remain on the books of the Association, whose arrears extend over three years; but the omission of the name from the list of members shall not be deemed, either in honour or equity, to relieve any member from his liability for the subscriptions due for the period during which he has availed himself of the privileges of membership.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *General Secretary.*

Worcester, August 1861.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—MR. T. SPENCER WELLS; MR. G. POUND; MR. JOHN MARRIOTT; MR. JONATHAN HUTCHINSON; MR. J. COOPER FORSTER; DR. DAVIES; MR. W. WEBBER; DR. W. D. MOORE; MR. F. C. JENNINGS; DR. WYBRANTS; MR. J. H. ROGERS; DR. P. M. LATHAM; DR. HALFORD; DR. RANKING; DR. WATERS; MR. JOHN POSTGATE; MR. T. C. RODEN; MR. C. H. CORNISH; and MR. JOHN HUGHES.

**BOOKS RECEIVED.**

1. *Climates for Invalids; or a Comparative Inquiry into the Preventive and Curative Influence of the Climate of Pau, etc., on Health and Disease.* By Alexander Taylor, M.D., F.R.S.E. Third edition, condensed and considerably altered. London: 1861.
2. *Advice to a Mother on the Management of her Offspring.* By \*Pye Henry Chavasse, F.R.C.S. Sixth edition. London: 1861.

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