OBITUARY—CORRESPONDENCE.

PUBLIC BATHS. The multiplication of these invaluable institutions must be regarded as one of the cheering signs of the times; inasmuch as cleanliness is eminently conducive to good morals and sound physical health. We learn that Sir Charles Hastings, the founder of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, has just laid the foundation stone of public baths at Worcester. The architect is Mr. F. T. Barbe.

OBITUARY.

ROUN, Thomas, M.D. Edin., 1799, and M.R.C.P. 1810, of 6, Queen Ann Street, Cavendish Square, at his country residence, Tostock, Suffolk, aged 76. Dr. Brown was at one time Senior Physician and afterwards Physician Extraordinary to the Royal Sea-bathing Infirmary, Margate. He was the author of a work on Dropsy.

STOATE, James, Esq., Surgeon, late of Brecknock Terrace, Camden Town, at his brother's residence in Bristol, on 15th September, aged 24.

TEGANNE, Joseph, Esq., late Surgeon of H.M. 30th Regiment, after a painful illness of five weeks, on the 3rd September, aged 63.

WEBB, Sir John, C.B., K.C.H., late Director General of the Ordnance Medical Department, for many years a Justice of the Peace, and Deputy-Lieutenant of the county of Kent, at his residence, Chatham Lodge, Woolwich Common, on 16th September, having nearly completed his 80th year. Sir John was posted Assistant-Surgeon in March 1794; Surgeon in July 1795; Deputy-Inspector, June 1802; Inspector, June 1806; and Director-General in August 1813.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CRYSTALS IN PUTREFYING BLOOD.

In the September number of this Journal, there is a short account of some crystals observed by Dr. Parkes in putrefying blood, which, there can be no doubt from the description, were those of hematin. According to my observation, these do not most frequently form in blood that is putrid or far advanced to this state, but in recent blood that has been extravasated a short time in the body. I recently procured some very fine ones, which I exhibited at Dr. Acland's conversation at Oxford to the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, by simply adding water to blood which had been effused on the surface of the brain of a cat, in consequence of a wound.

Very lately, I have observed the formation of octohedral crystals in human blood, drawn from a man attacked with hemiplegia. The blood was left several weeks, and decomposed into a kind of smelly gore, which consisted of an abundantly diffused grayish granulous stuff, mingled with numerous particles of dark yellow matter. No blood-globules could be discerned in it, nor any kind of corpuscle, but there were numerous fine octohedral crystals, which resembled precisely those of oxalate of lime seen in the urine, and dissolved away on the addition of a little muriatic acid.

Perhaps this observation may give some increased probability to the opinion entertained by some physicians, that oxalic acid may be one of the intermediate products occasionally formed in the system during the oxidation of sugar into carbonic acid. At least, it shows the possibility of oxalic acid being produced in the blood.

C. HANDFIELD JONES.