

articulation between these parts. The softness and consequent bending inwards of the acetabular portions of the ilia, and change of the direction of the pressure upwards thereon, favours this divarication, or at least greatly diminishes the natural influence of the upward and inward pressure of the thigh-bones in diminishing the same divarication.

Association Medical Journal.

SATURDAY, MAY 10TH, 1856.

WHAT IS FORGERY?

It would seem as though a series of fortuitous cases were coming before the public just at the present moment, in order to show the medical man how utterly worthless are all the regulations of colleges and universities to prevent pretenders from poaching upon their domain. In our last, we published the particulars of a trial, from which it appeared that a medical degree had been long assumed by a person well known in the "manly vigour" school of advertising. For years he had practised on the credulity of the public upon the strength of the prefix Dr., which no one challenged; in fact, his case proved that it is as easy to assume this potent title as to draw on a glove—there is no one to censure, no punishment to be dreaded for so doing.

The case we publish in our news columns this week proves that a diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons can be forged with similar impunity. The trial of Henry Hodgson for erasing the name of the original owner of a diploma of the College, and substituting his own in its place, and the extraordinary judgment of Mr. Justice Bramwell, was commented upon by us at the time it took place. The case was, however, reserved for the opinion of the judges, and they have now decided that a man may tamper with an old diploma—may scratch out the lawful possessor's name and inscribe his own in its stead—may hang it up in his parlour, and parade it to the profession as his warrant to practise—without breaking the law! He may even allude to this forged diploma when applying for the post of vaccinator to an union, without being chargeable with an intent to deceive! Such is the decision of Her Majesty's Justices in full court assembled. If this is the law—and we see no reason to doubt it—the documents issued by the Royal College of Surgeons as a testimony of scientific efficiency, at the not small charge of £22 each, are likely, we should say, to decline somewhat in value. Why should a rogue go through a somewhat arduous and uncertain examination, terminated by an expensive outlay, when a penknife and a skilful hand will serve his purpose equally well? We have long heard, indeed, that lapsed diplomas are marketable abroad; but now they have come into the home market, and Her Majesty's judges can see no wrong in their use!

The counsel on behalf of the prisoner argued that it did not appear that he intended to commit a fraud upon any particular person, as he only forged the diploma with a

view of making it appear that he was a member of the College of Surgeons. Only making it appear that he was a member of the College of Surgeons! Under this impression he might have imposed upon half a village, and done an incalculable deal of harm. It cannot for one moment be supposed that the forged diploma was hung up in the sitting-room as an ornament: that document is not a specimen of engraving worthy of being displayed as a work of art. It was placed there with the full intention of making people believe that he was a qualified man, which he was not. Yet, forsooth, this is not forgery! We shall have all the bone-setters ornamenting their parlours with surreptitious diplomas now, of course, since they are informed that they can do so with impunity. All they have to do is to allow people to read these swindles and deceive themselves, and they will escape the charge of forging, inasmuch as they cannot be convicted of having done so "with intent." If a man forges a will, he does so with the hope of some prospective advantage to himself; and we cannot, for the life of us, see that he is a greater villain than the man who forges a document which places him in a position which others have to obtain with much labour and hard cash, and which enables him to destroy Her Majesty's lieges, right and left, with impunity.

THE CLAIMS OF MEDICAL MEN ON THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MRS. CUMMING.

THE decision of the Vice-Chancellor with respect to the motion made on the behalf of Dr. Forbes Winslow, Dr. Alexander J. Sutherland, Dr. Robert Barnes, Mr. George Simpson, and Mr. H. J. Caldwell, that their names, which had been struck off the schedule of creditors of the late Mrs. Cumming by the Chief Clerk, should not be restored to it,—has, among medical men at least, given unusual dissatisfaction. If this decision, in short, is allowed to stand, medical men must henceforth take the same care to insure the payment of their charges as lawyers do, and then there will be no need of these appeals in matters of right as clear as the noonday.

Some years since, it will be remembered, Mrs. Cumming was made the subject of a commission of lunacy; and during the inquiry, which lasted seventeen days, a number of medical men were subpoenaed to give evidence *pro* and *con* in the case. Dr. Forbes Winslow, Dr. Conolly, Dr. R. Barnes, Mr. Walter Bryant, and several other gentlemen, did not consider Mrs. Cumming to be of unsound mind: the jury, however, fancying that she had been unduly influenced in the disposal of her property, brought in a verdict of mental unsoundness. Against this decision, applications were made to the court to traverse, or to set aside the jury; and, pending the settlement of this question, Mrs. Cumming died.

Now, let us take the case of the physician whom we conceive to have been the most injured by the court's refusal of all remuneration in this matter, and we shall see at once how grossly the case has been misjudged. Dr. Forbes Winslow, it appears, acted from the very commencement of the inquiry as an officer of the Court of Chancery. He was deputed, in the first instance, to ascertain the state of Mrs. Cumming's mind, and, after the execution of

this commission, the Lords Justices ordered her to be placed under his surveillance in her own house; and this arrangement lasted by authority for nearly two years. Dr. Winslow having thus acted, in an official capacity, as guardian of her person, naturally claims in simple justice to be placed on the schedule of her creditors. We have stated Dr. Winslow's case thus prominently, as we feel that he has been the most hardly used by the Vice-Chancellor; but all the medical men, who have been with himself equally deprived of their right to receive remuneration for the discharge of a painful and unthankful office, are alike entitled to our sympathy and support. There can be no question that the services rendered by these gentlemen should be looked upon as necessaries supplied to her of a most valuable nature, and, as such, should be discharged out of the estate. That the conduct of all of them was marked by "great benevolence and liberality to Mrs. Cumming", we have the word of the Vice-Chancellor, who also generously states that "they deserved the consideration of the court"; but with the same breath he sets aside their claims in the most decided manner; and, unless an appeal is lodged against this unjust decision, they will have to satisfy themselves with the complimentary language of Sir J. Stuart, as they will have no chance of proving their debt against an estate which seems given up to the tender mercies of the lawyers.

THE WEEK.

THE subject of the week is the weather. The oldest inhabitant does not remember so bitter and ungenial a spring as we now cower under. The cutting east has indeed driven back that jocund visitor with affright—the birds no longer sing, the buds have ceased to burst, the blossoms have fallen dead, and man himself has retreated into his winter fastness—the great coat and the muffler. In the midst of an irritable, blue-nosed, shivering nation, we hear the merry cheerful voice of one individual, at least; the Registrar-General beams upon us in his weekly report of the health of the Metropolis, and in spite of the fact that everyone is ill about us, keeps reiterating his statement, that "the rate of mortality is still below the average." It is very hard to have to put up with this hilarious statement in the midst of universal lamentations; we shall therefore take occasion to remark, that the death-rate published weekly by that official should not by any means be considered as an invariable gauge of the health of the town. There can be no question whatever that death is sowing the seeds of disease at the present moment broadcast among the population, the fruits of which he shall probably reap towards the autumn or winter. At the beginning of a severe and untimely infliction of cold easterly and north-easterly winds, no doubt many persons are suddenly swept off; but these taken from the account, the public health is, for the time, apparently improved, fever stilled by the cold, and the disorders of the respiratory organs have not had time to ripen to a fatal termination. For these reasons, we should be on our guard against taking the weekly death-rate as indicating the true condition of the public health.

The death of Mr. Guthrie, which had been long anticipated by his medical friends, marks the close of an epoch, if we may so term it, in surgery. This gentleman was to

his profession what his commander, the Duke of Wellington, was to the profession of arms—the able and vigorous defender of a system which has had its day. Mr. Guthrie, though undoubtedly an able surgeon, was wedded to a style of practice which succeeded in the Peninsula, but which, from a change in the nature of the human constitution, or from some other cause, does not succeed now; we allude to the practice of bleeding, sometimes to a heavy amount, which he adopted, even in cases when severe operations had been performed.

With the decease of this able man, we believe we have lost the last advocate of any note of a system which modern surgery, we think justly, condemns. The profession will regret the loss of Mr. Guthrie for many reasons. He was of that old race of surgeons whose virtues we read of with approval in these more polite, but not more true times. Honest, fearless, and prompt, he was a good friend, or an opponent upon whom a man could rely—a virtue of no mean water in an age when the smoothest tongue often hides the deadliest venom. His work on *Military Surgery* is a monument to the clearness of his head, and to the vigour and perseverance with which he pursued anything he undertook. Up to within a few months of his death, he was engaged in writing it up to the last moment of the Crimean struggle; and of him it may be said, with Macbeth, that "he died with harness on his back".

The Trial of Palmer, which is fixed for the 14th, will, we anticipate, make a profound sensation. Already the Central Criminal Court is being fitted up in an unusual manner, in order to find the accommodation for all parties concerned in this most extraordinary case. We feel grateful to the authorities, however, that they have decided that our professional brother, whether guilty or innocent, shall not be made a show of to the vulgar at so much a head, as other notorious poisoners upon their trial have been in this Court.

The President and Committee of the Royal College of Physicians have addressed a memorial to the Select Committee on Medical Legislation, in which they speak of Lord Elcho's Bill as "not only exceedingly unjust to the College, but sure to be injurious in many ways to the profession and the public." It objects to the fixed standard of qualification proposed in that Bill, and to the increased number of bodies which it empowers to grant diplomas. The memorial contrasts Mr. Headlam's Bill most favourably with it, but, at the same time, it gives in its adhesion to the principle which the Board of Health is labouring to introduce into the measure—that the Medical Council shall be small, and appointed by the Crown. The Select Committee has not, we hear, made much progress with the two Bills referred to them, in consequence of the death of Earl Cowper, which has prevented the attendance, for some little time, of the President of the Board of Health.

We are glad to hear from Mr. Griffin that two hundred and eight unions have sent in their adhesion to the movement on behalf of the Poor-Law medical officers, and that arrangements are being made for a London meeting. The sooner this is accomplished the better, as the agitation has now reached a head calculated to make an impression in the right quarter.

A microscope *salon* has been opened by Mr. M. Pillischer, the well known maker of optical instruments, in New Bond

Street, London. The opening was inaugurated by a *conversazione* given by Mr. Pillischer, on May 1st, which was attended by about eighty members of the profession and other gentlemen, including many of our most eminent histologists. The room is fitted with eight microscopes, together with the necessary accessory apparatus, a cabinet of standard specimens, works on microscopy, etc.; and the use of these, for several hours daily, is offered by Mr. Pillischer for the very moderate subscription of ten shillings and sixpence *per annum*. From an inspection of Mr. Pillischer's room, we have no hesitation in heartily recommending his enterprise to the favourable notice of members of the Association, especially of those who may at any time be desirous of examining occasional pathological specimens, for which examination, and for a comparison with standard specimens, every facility will be afforded.

Association Intelligence.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
METROP. COUNTIES. [General Meeting.]	37, Soho Square, London.	Tues., May 13, 4 P.M.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE time is approaching when it will be necessary, according to the rules passed at the last anniversary at York, for each Branch of the Association to nominate a certain number of representatives to the General Council, in proportion to the strength of the Branch.

There are many associates resident in Lancashire and Cheshire who have not signified to me their wish to become members of our Branch; and since, as I read the rule, *only members have the power to vote*, I shall be obliged if those gentlemen who are not already enrolled will favour me with their names previous to the meeting of the Council, which will shortly be held, in order that a complete list may be presentable on that occasion.

JOHN HATTON, *Hon. Secretary.*

293, Oxford Street, Manchester, May 2nd, 1856.

Reports of Societies.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22ND, 1856.

CÆSAR HAWKINS, Esq., F.R.C.S., President, in the Chair.

ON THE STRUCTURE AND NATURE OF THE SO-CALLED COLLOID CANCER. BY SEPTIMUS W. SIBLEY, ESQ.

[Communicated by J. M. ANNOTT, Esq., F.R.S.]

THIS paper was accompanied with many illustrations, and an analysis of nine cases of colloid cancer observed by the author, giving an account of the age, sex, history, progress, result, and *post mortem* examination in each. It gave a very minute description of the structure and nature of the disease, more especially of the characters and development of the membranous stroma and its contents, both of which had been indicated, but not fully described, by previous authors. Having given a minute account of the mode of origin and development of colloid, with an examination of the question as to its relation to and association with cancer and tubercle, the author drew the conclusion, that, as far as could be judged from the cases detailed by him, colloid was a disease perfectly *sui generis*, neither of a cancerous nature, nor frequently associated with cancer, and concluded with advocating the propriety of the early removal of the disease when practicable, inasmuch as, if not radically cured by operation, there was abundant evidence that colloid was slow to return after excision.

CASE OF FRACTURE OF FOUR CERVICAL VERTEBRÆ, WITH DISLOCATION, PRODUCED BY SLIGHT AND UNUSUAL CAUSE, AND RESULTING IN IMMEDIATE DEATH: WITH NOTES OF A CASE OF FRACTURE OF THE OS CALCIS. BY GEO. GREEN GASCOYEN, ESQ.

[Communicated by H. SPENCER SMITH, Esq., *Hon. Sec.*]

THIS paper was accompanied with the pathological preparation of the parts. The interest of the case lay in the great amount of injury produced by a slight cause. There was fracture of the posterior arch of the atlas, through the laminae of the second, third, and fourth cervical vertebræ, directly behind the articulating processes, completely separating them from their respective bodies; in addition to which the laminae of the third and fourth on the left side were comminuted. There was partial dislocation of the third vertebræ forwards; the posterior *atlo-axoid* ligament was bruised, and in parts disorganised; the *ligamentum subflavum* was torn away from the second vertebræ. There was effusion of blood into the areolar tissue between the bones and the membranes of the cord from the first to the fifth vertebra inclusive; the posterior common ligament was much stretched with a longitudinal rupture of an inch in length, opposite the second and third vertebræ; while the cause producing all this amount of injury was the forcible twisting of the head a few times from side to side, the sufferer holding his head in a butting position, with his hat on, while his friend, who caused the mischief, forcibly rotated it by the aid of the brim. The author, who had taken great pains to convince himself that this account of the accident was the true one, gave a minute description of the relations of the bones of the spine when placed in the position described, and of his view of the cause and progressive stages of the injury, quoting, in corroboration, many sources of information; the case, however, being in its details quite a solitary one.

The notes of the fractured os calcis, the author stated, he was induced to lay before the Society in consequence of the statement of eminent authorities (Malgaigne and others), to the effect that the calcaneum, when broken by direct violence, is always crushed; and that the fracture is always situated behind the astragalus: whereas, from the seat of the crepitus, and the deposit of callus after the injury, it was evident in this case that the anterior third of the bone was separated obliquely, from above downwards, from the posterior two-thirds; that is, in front of the larger articulating facet for the astragalus.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH, 1856.

W. D. CHOWNE, M.D., President, in the Chair.

CASE OF TRACHEOTOMY. BY JABEZ HOGG, ESQ.

THE case was that of a boy aged eleven and a-half years. Other members of the family had scarlatina; the patient in question was seized with soreness of the throat; the right tonsils were swollen, the fauces were of a vivid red colour, and he had a troublesome cough. On the ninth day from the attack he was better, except the cough, which was then croupy, and became worse towards night. Leeches, calomel, and Dover's powder were employed with some benefit. On the following night, however, respiration was so much impeded, that Mr. Hancock performed tracheotomy. This was followed by immediate relief, and the boy continued for some time to cough up, freely, quantities of frothy mucus through the canula. Every thing went on satisfactorily till the next evening, when the respiration and other symptoms were less favourable. Dr. West discovered considerable dulness about the left lung; but, before twelve o'clock, the patient's respiration became quiet. He slept till four o'clock the next morning, when respiration became very difficult, and at seven o'clock he died.

Post mortem examination four hours after death. Countenance quite tranquil; warmth of surface still considerable; rigidity commencing; no lividity of depending parts; edges of the opening in the trachea quite healthy; a considerable quantity of fat beneath the surface; a small infiltration of serum about the neighbourhood of the wound. Lungs emphysematous; no adhesions of either lung; slight and recent pleurisy, with small deposits of lymph on the right upper lobe; collapse of the lower edge of the middle, impinging on lower lobe, which was in the second stage of pneumonia. Air-tubes of the right upper, much freer than the other bronchi, but containing purulent matter. Lower half of lower lobe and left lung red and hepatised as far as the inferior margin of the upper lobe. Both lungs filled with small military tubercles. Pericardium contained about 5ij. of transparent serum. Heart normal. No swelling