

Whichever it be, the case appears to me to prove fecundity in the men rather than in the women of Russia generally; and this will perhaps strike also such of your readers as can turn to Appendix 20 of my father's *Synopsis of Difficult Parturition*, so long a text-book in all the Schools of Medicine. Here they will find not only the case of the Russian peasant, but an account of a Frenchman, whose wife seven times, and servant once, brought him three children at a birth; besides some other curiosities of plural births.

I am, etc.,  
S. WM. J. MERRIMAN.

3, Charles Street, Westbourne Terrace, Sept. 8, 1857.

#### THE SCOTTISH LUNACY BOARD.

SIR,—I observe that two erroneous statements, originally published in an obscure and intemperate Edinburgh newspaper, regarding Dr. James Cox, one of the paid Commissioners of the new Scottish Lunacy Board, have been copied as facts into professional journals, and made the theme of very unfair comment. It is stated that Dr. Cox does not owe his appointment to merit, but to his having been "family physician to the Duke of Argyll," and to his wife being "the relative of a cabinet minister". I have known Dr. Cox and his family intimately for twenty years, and I can positively assert that he never was family physician to the Duke of Argyll, and that his wife is not related to a cabinet minister. Had it been otherwise, there would have been no reason why a physician of Dr. Cox's high acquirements, learning, and experience, should not have been appointed to the new board; but, as a lover of truth, I think it right to point out the groundlessness of the inventions of a discontented northern clique. Dr. Cox, I observe by the newspapers, is at present abroad, making a tour of the continental asylums.

The insertion of this letter will oblige yours, etc.,

VERITAS.

London, September 16th, 1857.

## Medical News.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

In these lists, an asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.

#### BIRTHS.

- ASHLEY. On September 1st, at 8, Boyne Terrace, Kensington Park, the wife of W. H. Ashley, M.D., of a son.  
GROWSE. On September 12th, at Brentwood, the wife of \*Robert Growse, M.D., prematurely, of twins, who survived their birth only a few hours.  
HARDEY. On September 9th, at 2, Earl Street, Blackfriars, the wife of Key Hardey, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.  
HAVILAND. On September 6th, the wife of \*Alfred Haviland, Esq., Surgeon, Bridgewater, of a daughter.  
MAY. On September 8th, at 16, Mount Place, London Hospital, the wife of Emanuel May, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.  
MILLER. On September 11th, at 1, Somers Place, Hyde Park, the wife of Robert Miller, M.D., of a son.  
OTWAY. On September 15th, at 7, Canterbury Row, Newington, the wife of C. W. C. Otway, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.  
ROSE. On September 15th, at Hampstead, the wife of Henry Cooper Rose, M.D., of a son, stillborn.

#### MARRIAGES.

- CROSSE—TAYLOR. \*CROSSE, Thomas William, Esq., Surgeon, Norwich, to Mary Jane, eldest daughter of Adam Taylor, jun., Esq., of Norwich, on September 10th.  
HILL—DRURY. HILL, Alfred Octavius, Esq., to Elizabeth Alice, daughter of the late J. Drury, M.D., of St. Petersburg, at St. Petersburg, on September 3rd.  
KELSON—CUMMING. KELSON, Henry, Esq., of Poplar, to Emily Jane, daughter of William S. Cumming, Esq., Surgeon, at Limehouse, on September 10th.  
WILLIAMS—M'DOUGALL. WILLIAMS, J. T., Esq., Madras Medical Service, to Flora, daughter of Thomas M'Dougall, Esq., of Eskmills, Penicuik, at Edinburgh, on September 8th.

#### DEATHS.

- BATEMAN, George, M.D., formerly of Great Yarmouth, at Leamington, aged 69, on September 13th.  
LONSDALE, Edward Francis, Esq., Surgeon to the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, suddenly, from the rupture of a blood-vessel, aged 46, on September 11th.  
NORTON. On September 16th, at Walpole Lodge, Strawberry Hill, Maria, youngest daughter of the late Matthew Norton, Esq., Surgeon, of Gloucester Place, Marylebone.  
ROOKE. On July 15th, at Malabar Hill, Bombay, Agnes Isabel, wife of Dr. Rooke, Surgeon-General.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

- \*BROWNE, W. A. F., M.D., Superintendent of the Crichton Institution at Dumfries, appointed one of the Paid Commissioners of Lunacy in Scotland under the new Lunacy Act.  
COXE, James, M.D., of Edinburgh, appointed one of the Paid Commissioners of Lunacy in Scotland.  
\*STEELE, Arthur B., Esq., appointed Honorary Surgeon-Accoucheur to the Liverpool Ladies' Charity, in the room of G. B. Denton, Esq., resigned.

#### PASS LISTS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. Members admitted on Thursday, September 10th, 1857:—

FENNELL, Sydney, Cradly, Worcestershire  
HYDE, William Edward, Ledbury, Herefordshire  
SHARPIN, Edward, Bedford

### HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 12TH, 1857.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE present return indicates an improved condition of the public health. The deaths registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday (September 12th), were 1023; during seven previous weeks they rose in three instances above 1200, and the lowest weekly number was 1084. If the average rate of mortality, derived from deaths by all causes (except the cholera of two epidemic seasons), as they occurred in corresponding weeks of the ten years 1847-56, had prevailed last week, the number of deaths would have been greater by 128 than that which is actually returned.

Diarrhoea continues to decline; and last week the decrease was more decided than it has recently been. The deaths from this disease, which in the two previous weeks were 198 and 181, have fallen to 144. During the last fortnight, the mean weekly temperature was about 60·5°, being less by 5° and 6° than it had been in the latter half of August, and less by 8° than it had been in the great heat of July. Of the 144 deaths from diarrhoea, 115 occurred to children; and of nine deaths from cholera or "choleraic diarrhoea", all occurred to very young children, except one. Eight deaths are referred to dysentery, and these also, with one exception, occurred to young persons. The deaths from scarlatina rose to 44; and of these, 11 occurred in the west districts, and 9 in the central. Of 39 from typhus and common fever, none occurred in the central districts. Small-pox was fatal in only two cases. One person died of intemperance; one from want of food; one from grief; and one from a wound received in dissection; a lascar (in the *Dreadnought* ship) from scurvy. The deaths of five nonagenarians are included in the returns: viz., two women who died at the age of 90 years, two widows at the age of 91, and a spinster who died in Bow at the age of 97 years.

Last week the births of 813 boys and 762 girls, in all 1575 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1443.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29·542 in. The greatest barometric pressure was 29·76 in., on Monday. The mean temperature of the week was 60·5°, which is 2·9° above the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). The thermometer was at its highest point in the shade on Sunday, when it was 75·7°; it fell to its lowest point on the day following, when it was 51·4°. The thermometric range of the week was therefore 24·3°. The mean daily range was 16°. The mean dew-point temperature was 56·4°; and the difference between this and the mean air temperature was 4·1°. The