

Owen, on some select part of comparative anatomy. This College requires a course of lectures on comparative anatomy to have been attended, as a qualification for its fellowship, and offers a small premium, or biennial studentship, to successful students in this department; but notwithstanding its great authority, means, and pretensions, it has never required the smallest knowledge of comparative anatomy from any student entering the medical profession, with a view to acquire the membership of the College; and it must be obvious, on the most shallow reflection, that their boasted efforts to support the subject tend but to the discouragement and ruin of all who seek to cultivate and diffuse a knowledge of this neglected science.

Every candidate for admission into the Ordnance Medical Department must now produce evidence of having attended one course of lectures on comparative anatomy, or of natural history; and candidates for admission into the medical service of the navy are required to produce evidence of having attended six months on comparative anatomy; and those for the army, five months' lectures on natural history; but by the enlightened discernment and the well-directed authority of Sir James M'Grigor, and his zeal to promote the study of this useful branch of medical science, especially among students most likely to visit remote colonies, a special reservation was adopted by the Army Medical Board, almost from the first foundation of University College, in favour of the departments entrusted to the subject of this biographical sketch—that attendance on his courses of lectures on comparative anatomy and zoology, at University College, should be recognised by them as equivalent to the course of natural history, required as a qualification for army surgeons.

In the University of London, every candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine, a preliminary step to that of M.D., is required to reply to questions in comparative anatomy, as part of his examination in physiology; and a pecuniary premium or exhibition, with the style of "University Medical Scholar," is offered to students for proficiency in comparative anatomy. But in their examination of candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, answers are required to questions in comparative anatomy, which are disguised by this body under the false name of animal physiology.

Such has hitherto been the march of our professional brother from the sister kingdom; and such the various encouragements by which his efforts have been seconded, in endeavouring to supply a desideratum in medical education in England—unhappily, however, of too little personal advantage to him.

The history of Dr. Grant is the history of his published works, his lectures, his connexions with learned Societies, and his scientific explorations. Out of these he has scarcely had an existence, and scarcely an incident has occurred to ruffle the even tenour of his domestic life. Most retiring in his manners, in his deportment quiet and modest to an unequalled degree, clad always with the most extreme simplicity,—few to whom he might be personally unknown would, from his very unostentatious bearing and appearance, suppose that they beheld a man of his profound knowledge and deserved renown,—until, the hat being removed, the whole contour of his head, his intelligent eye, and the entire character of his countenance, betokened that they saw no ordinary person. Tranquil, in general, to a proverb, he is yet to be seen often, in the lecture-room, highly animated, when warmed on some favourite theme. Courteous to all; scrupulous, in the highest degree, to avoid the least offence to any; he is yet not with impunity to be trifled with; and he can be as bold and fearless, in denouncing what he deems to be wilfully wrong, as he is disposed to be indulgent, where he conceives that foibles and error spring from inexperience, or from sources not wholly evil. On the whole, we are not acquainted with any one who more fully realizes our idea of a *gentleman*; and though he has hitherto been lamentably little benefited by his *friends*, we can scarcely conceive him to have an enemy.

**LAW OF LUNACY IN ENGLAND.**—We understand that, at the instance of an influential member of the American Government, Dr. Forbes Winslow is actively engaged in preparing an analysis of the English law of lunacy. Dr. Winslow is also requested to make any suggestions that may occur to him in the course of the inquiry for an amendment of the said law. We trust, when his labours are brought to a conclusion, that Dr. Winslow will submit the result of his investigation to the British Government, in order that they may adopt any valuable suggestions it may contain for an amendment of our own defective laws in regard to the arrest and detention of persons alleged to be insane.—*Morning Chronicle*.

## Medical News.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.**—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on

Thursday, Dec. 12, 1850.

BARRY, JOHN CHAMBERLAYNE, Draycot, Chippenham, Wilts.

FLEMING, ALBERT.

HEWITT, WILLIAM MORSE GRAILY, Badbury, Swindon, Wilts.

JEKEN, JAMES, Dover.

MANLEY, HENRY, Crediton, Devon.

MORRIS, SAMUEL, Colchester.

PENFOLD, HENRY, Brighton.

PULLIN, THOMAS HENRY STOCKER, Sidmouth, Devon.

WARRILLOW, LUCIUS, Birmingham.

The registration of the medical students attending the metropolitan schools has been concluded at Apothecaries' Hall. 1116 students have been registered for the medical session 1850-51, the largest number since the session 1842-43. Of these, 371 are new students.

**TEMPEST PROGNOSTICATOR.**—“A philosophical invention from Whitby appears in the form of a Tempest Prognosticator, whose accuracy is said to have been tested by the storms of the last twelve months. The inventor is Dr. Merryweather.” We have ascertained the above statement to be correct; and that the apparatus is to be exhibited for the first time at the great Exhibition, when a pamphlet will be published giving the whole account of the discovery. The disastrous storm of the month of October, 1850, was foretold by the Tempest Prognosticator, and communicated by letter to the president of the Whitby Philosophical Society, fifty-one hours and a half before it took place. We understand that Dr. Merryweather intends to confine the manufacture of these instruments to the artisans of Whitby.—*Illustrated London News*.

**BENGAL MEDICAL COLLEGE.**—This institution which has now been established fourteen years, continues to flourish most vigorously. We find from the Annual Report just published, that during the last session sixty-three students were in attendance on anatomy and physiology, and during that time, had dissected as many as 220 bodies, and had performed operations on ninety-one. In connexion with the college, a hospital has just been established for the relief of the sick poor of all classes and creeds in the city of Calcutta, and particularly for those affected with epidemic diseases; the money for building which has been raised partly by public subscription, and the remainder by private native liberality. Dr. Goodeve, the Professor of Midwifery, has most generously placed in the hands of the Council of Education the sum of 3600 rupees, in government securities, for the perpetual maintenance of a midwifery scholarship of sixteen rupees a month for the best student of the midwifery class; to be awarded only to matriculated students of the medical college, who are *bonâ fide* natives of India, of Hindoo, or Mohammedan parentage, as long as such young men can be found in any way eligible to perform the duties of the office.

**A CURIOSITY OF MEDICAL LITERATURE.**—We lately received from Paris a printed sheet, which looked much like a newspaper, bearing the title of *Medical Gazette*. In casting an eye over it, we found that the English language had been made use of, and here and there murdered in the most cruel manner. The paper, though evidently intended to pass as a periodical, had no date, and was merely a bombastic combination of puffs, crying up a universal remedy for syphilitic diseases, clearly intended for the English market. Just as if we had not enough of our own *Morrison's*, *Holloway's*, and *Culverwells*. There is in this quackish prospectus one very disgusting feature—namely, the support which has plainly been given to this secret remedy by practitioners, authors, and learned bodies. Among the latter, the Academy of Medicine of Brussels plays a conspicuous and disgraceful part; and it may easily be imagined how vainglorious and pompous the charlatan is made by the stupid conduct of the Academy. The memorable meeting, when the nostrum was offered up to the world as an infallible remedy, by a Society composed of the most distinguished medical men in Belgium, is reported at full length in thousands and tens of thousands of prospectuses, &c., and flung into the face of the medical profession of all countries. We are thankful that in looking at home we

do not find such a forgetfulness of duty in any medical body; and though quackery is rife enough in England, and the public are gulled and cheated in all possible manners, we have not at least to blush at such a perversion of legitimate influence as has been exercised by the Academy of Medicine of Brussels.

**THE CHOLERA.**—The cholera broke out at Mecca on the 30th of September, and only ten or fifteen deaths then occurred per diem. On the 15th of October, caravans of pilgrims coming from Syria, Egypt, and the Yemen, arrived at Mecca, and on that very day 200 deaths from cholera were recorded. On the 16th the pilgrims went to Mount Arasat to attend to the religious rites; the heat was very great, and the disease increased rapidly. In the night, from the 16th to the 17th they went into the valley of Muja, and there killed, according to custom, a large number of sheep, whose carcasses being strewn about with a very high temperature and no wind, fearfully vitiated the air. The cholera then reached dreadful proportions, and on the 18th the whole of the pilgrims, struck with terror, abandoned the valley of Muja, and the town of Mecca, and fled in all directions. It appears from the statements which have been published, that on the 16th, 4000 persons died, 6000 on the 17th, and 3000 on the 18th. Nothing is known as to the mortality of the following days; it was, however, said that a great number of dead were lying on the roads leading from Mecca.—*L'Union Médicale.*—The above figures are probably to be looked upon as *oriental* intelligence.

**DEATH OF PROFESSOR ROYER COLLARD.**—Dr. Royer Collard, Professor of Hygiene at the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, a member of the Academy of Medicine, of the Committee of Public Hygiene, and of the Council of Public Health, Officer of the Legion of Honour, &c., has recently departed this life, at the early age of forty-seven, and before he was able to collect, in a complete work, the valuable stores of knowledge which he had acquired, and used to convey with such felicity to his pupils. He was buried, with the most unfeigned marks of regret, on the 17th instant.

## NOTICE.

Office of THE LANCET,  
Dec. 19, 1850.

In consequence of new arrangements, which the increasing business of the publishing department of this office necessarily entails, and the increased responsibility and difficulty of keeping the accounts with accuracy, the Publisher takes this opportunity of respectfully giving notice, that after the present volume is concluded, it will not be in his power to keep open a list for the *gratuitous issue of a single number of this journal.*

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We regret exceedingly not having been enabled to find space for the interesting paper of *Dr. Burgess* on the Climate of Italy. A very unprincipled pirate, we observe, has been at work upon the valuable articles which the doctor has already published in our columns on this subject; even the title of the papers has been stolen. The culprit, in all probability, will receive his due reward. If it be possible, the paper, which has now been in our possession for some weeks past, shall appear in the next number of our journal.

*A Young Practitioner.*—There is no single work which includes an ample reference to both subjects. In one of the manuals by Mr. Lumley an explanation is given of the duties, responsibilities, &c., of medical officers of unions. In a work soon, we understand, to be published, it is likely that the other subject mentioned by our correspondent will be fully discussed.

### TOOTH-DRAWING AT WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As it is well known the good you have done for the poor patients of our hospitals, and how often you have prevented them from being neglected, I beg to mention a fact. I went to the Westminster Hospital at nine o'clock on Friday morning to have a tooth drawn; I was in such great pain that I could scarcely live. I was told the tooth-doctor was not within, and I was told to call again at one o'clock. I went again at that time, and then the tooth-doctor was there, with his two young gents, who had the tools in their hands, and the tooth-doctor nothing at all; and they handled me, he only looked on, and after a tug or two they got out my tooth, and the tooth-doctor, looking at it, said it was a very bad one. Now, Sir, I hope I'm not bold in asking if it is right that at such a very great place, when a poor woman calls in an agony with toothache, that there should be no tooth-doctor in the way to pull out her tooth and ease her pain. I hope the tooth-doctor's master will see this.

Your humble servant,

8, Charles-street, Vauxhall-road, Pimlico.

ELLEN SHEEN.

We cannot "review" *Mr. S. Nixon's* worthless defence of a vicious system of quackery.

We will endeavour to publish the paper of *Dr. Benecke* at the time mentioned; but from the enormous number of admirable papers already in our possession, it is impossible for us to fix upon the precise period when the doctor's interesting report can be laid before the profession.

*S. S.*, (Glasgow).—The address is Manchester-square. It was attached to the communication published in THE LANCET of Nov. 16th.

*Medicus*, (Leamington).—Yes, under particular circumstances; but the poison would not be of a very virulent kind.

### BURROWING IN A MINING DISTRICT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As the friend and advocate of the legal practitioner, will you inform me, in your Notice to Correspondents, if I possess any power to rid myself of the following nuisance?

I live in a small mining village amidst the heath-clad hills of Northumberland, in which my father and myself, during a period of upwards of forty years, had been the sole practitioners. There is a small fund, arising from the monthly contributions of the miners, which goes towards the payment of the surgeon, who is expected to attend in every case of accident, and render such assistance as may be necessary, supplying all remedies and appliances. This emolument, which is very small, my father invariably received without division. Since that gentleman's death, and during my absence, an unqualified practitioner took the field, and continues by such shifts as a gentleman could not submit to take to himself, a portion of that practice which ought wholly to be mine. Again, he has succeeded in ingratiating himself with some of the ignorant and half-educated agents of the mines, and actually derives half the emolument arising from the miners' monthly contribution, although the great majority of cases devolve upon myself.

What can I do in this case? Have I any power, as a surgeon only, to prosecute in the County Court? The registrars have no right to take his certificates of the cause of death, and yet they do so? Surely the law is very defective as it regards our profession.

Pardon my intrusion on your valuable time, and

Believe me, yours truly,

ZENO.

Dec. 2, 1850.

P.S.—I give my name and address, not for publication, but for your own satisfaction.

\*.\* If evidence can be obtained that the unqualified person has practised in a medical case, and supplied the party or parties with medicine, he can be prosecuted in the County Court with every prospect of success. If only a little vigilance and caution be exercised, the culprit will be punished for his misdeeds.

THE communication of *Dr. Vesalius Pettigrew* shall be published.

### NITRATE OF SILVER IN GASTRALGIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—To a patient who has suffered severely, and for many months, from gastralgia, I have lately given the nitrate of silver in doses of a quarter of a grain, combined with extract of hyoscyamus and compound rhubarb pill, three times a day; this medicine having afforded much relief, its good effect increasing in proportion with its continuance. I am anxious to know, and shall feel deeply obliged if you will inform me, how long I may hope to continue the use of a remedy I have experienced to be so effectual, without endangering my patient's complexion.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Dec. 1850.

V. P. N.

\*.\* We cannot furnish our correspondent with a conclusive or satisfactory reply to his question. Probably, however, some of our practical readers may be in possession of some useful and interesting facts on the subject. It was stated by the late Dr. James Johnson, during a discussion at the London Medical Society, about the year 1837 or 1838, that the late Dr. Currie, of Guy's Hospital, was giving the nitrate of silver for the cure of epilepsy, and the doctor told the patient to call upon him at the end of a week, but the instruction being misunderstood, he did not return until the expiration of nearly three months, having continued the use of the medicine during the whole of that time, when, to the no small astonishment of the physician, the patient presented himself before him as blue as indigo. The patient was afterwards well known in the streets of the metropolis as "the blue man."

*Seneca* must have perceived, if he reads THE LANCET, that the new Society was noticed in highly complimentary terms in the last number of our journal. In its new form, and with the grand object in contemplation, we heartily wish the Society every possible success. It would not be prudent to open the other subject for discussion in our columns.

### MARKWICK'S PATENT RESPIRATOR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reply to the observation in your commendatory remarks on the respirator which bears my name, allow me to state that the oval shape gives to it the advantage, which if it had the form you describe it would not possess, of enabling the patient to use it either simply as an "oral" or as an "ore-nasal" respirator, according to the height at which it is worn. The other principal advantages of this instrument are, that it neither *dries* nor *overheats* the inspired air, thereby rendering it irritating, but gives to it the necessary warmth and moisture.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Langham-place, Dec. 9, 1850.

ALFRED MARKWICK.

\*.\* The mention of the price of this article has been necessarily excluded in this place, as its insertion would have made the above an advertisement. After reading the note of Mr. Markwick, we confess that our opinion on the propriety of altering the form of the apparatus remains unchanged. We still think that the oval shape is wrong; and we shall be glad if Mr. Markwick will furnish us with a sketch of a mouth and nose which the oval form would fit, at the same time serving the purpose of a respirator.