

pauper one: the ratio should be to the pauper population, which varies very much in districts containing an equal number of inhabitants. The fairest and most reasonable mode of remuneration would be a payment for each case attended in each week by order of the relieving officers or guardians, varying in amount according to whether attended, or medicine supplied at the surgery, attended at patient's residence at distance less than two miles, or attended at distance beyond two miles. The scale of payment to be fixed by the Poor-law Commissioners, as the present scale of payment for extras is. There would be no difficulty in adopting this mode, or in ascertaining the amount or manner of attendance, as every medical officer is now required to make a weekly return to the Board of Guardians of every pauper attended by him during the week, specifying whether, and when, medicine only has been supplied, when attendance given at surgery, or at patient's residence. This report is sufficiently checked by the relieving officer, whose duty it is to visit all persons receiving relief, medical or other, at their own houses.

When the medical officer's remuneration is by yearly salary, there is always a great disposition to give orders for medical relief to almost every applicant, no extra cost to the parish being thereby incurred.

I am, etc.,

SAMUEL DREW,

Medical Officer of Ticehurst and Battle Unions.

Robertsbridge, Sussex, Nov. 10th, 1855.

### THE STYRIAN ARSENIC EATERS.

LETTER FROM W. B. KESTEVEN, ESQ.

SIR.—I must again beg the indulgence of a few lines in the next number of the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL.

I am obliged to Mr. Husband for his ready reply to my inquiry. At the same time, I would observe, that he has not advanced my knowledge much as to the authenticity of the story of the Styrian arsenic eaters. I was acquainted with the article in Johnston's *Chemistry of Common Life* before I put the question to Mr. Husband. Dr. Johnston's was, indeed, one of the works to which I alluded.

The value of arsenic in skin diseases has been too well established by Mr. Hunt and others to require support of at all a doubtful character.

I would take the liberty of asking Mr. Husband to furnish me with an exact reference to the work containing the statements of Vogt and Wibmer, that I may examine the nature of the evidence they adduce.

The story is, I believe, generally advanced upon the authority of Dr. Von Tschudi, as named by Dr. E. Day; but I must own that my scepticism is not diminished by the fact that Dr. Tschudi gathered his information as a traveller through Styria. Without for one instant imputing to him a free use of the "traveller's license", I am not sure that Dr. Tschudi possessed any infallible defence against imposition.

Mr. Husband's statement with regard to the Yorkshire grooms is interesting. Can Mr. Husband give any idea as to the quantity of arsenic daily administered to horses under the circumstances which he mentions?

I will further encroach upon your space, to give a recent instance of the purposes to which such tales as this about the Styrian arsenic eaters are applied.

At the investigation before the Darlington magistrates on the "Burdon slow poisoning case", the counsel for the accused, in the course of his questions upon the doses of arsenic, put the following inquiry to one of the medical witnesses, Dr. Jackson. "Don't you know that arsenic is used in foreign countries, and taken in much larger quantities?" Answer: "I am aware that it is taken, but not in what doses." Dr. Jackson might more accurately have said, "I am aware that such statement has been made." It is obvious with what object this question was put. It is equally obvious how unjustifiable and dangerous a shield may hereby at any time be held before a criminal.

I should apologise for so long an intrusion upon your space. I trust, however, that the importance of the subject will excuse me.

I am, etc.,

W. B. KESTEVEN.

Upper Holloway, Nov. 10th, 1855.

## NEWS AND TOPICS OF THE DAY.

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

\*In these lists an asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association. That this department may be accurate, ample, and early in its information, the assistance of Members is requested.

#### BIRTHS.

- BERRY, Henry Thomas, Esq., Surgeon, of Tysoe Street, Wil-  
mington Square, the wife of—a son—on Nov. 6th.  
BIRT, Hugh, M.D., Surgeon to the Barrack Hospital at Scutari,  
the wife of—a daughter—at Constantinople, on Nov. 1st.  
HENRY, Alexander, M.D., of Knockvicar, county Roscommon,  
the wife of—a son—on Nov. 11.  
JAMES, J. W. W., Esq., Surgeon, of 25, Nelson Terrace, Stoke  
Newington, the wife of—a daughter, still-born—on Nov. 6th.  
LOVE, G. H., Esq., Surgeon, the wife of—a daughter—at 100,  
Old Street, on Nov. 6th.  
\*MACNAMARA, George H., Esq., Surgeon, of Uxbridge, Mid-  
dlesex, the wife of—a daughter—on November 12th.  
RUGG, George Philip, Esq., Surgeon, of 7, Clapham Road  
Place, London, the wife of—a daughter, still-born—on No-  
vember 10th.  
\*STEELE, Arthur B., Esq., Surgeon, 50, Mount Pleasant, Liver-  
pool, the wife of—a son—on Nov. 8th.  
WEBER, Frederic, M.D., the wife of—a daughter—at 44, Green  
Street, Grosvenor Square, on Nov. 7th.

#### MARRIAGES.

- ASHDOWN—WATSON. ASHDOWN, George, Esq., Surgeon, of  
Northampton, at St. Peter's Church, by the Rev. Haviland  
de Saumarez, to JANE WADE, daughter of GEORGE WADE  
WATSON, Esq., of the same place.  
CORFE—DARK. CORFE, George, M.D., Resident Apothecary to  
the Middlesex Hospital, at St. Marylebone Church, to  
CATHARINE, youngest daughter of the late Mr. STEPHEN  
DARK, of Devizes, on November 7th.  
RICHARDSON—MORRIS. RICHARDSON, Felix Weekes, M.D., of  
Woolwich, at Bathwick Church, Bath, by the Rev. H. M.  
Searth, to ALICE MARLA, youngest daughter of the late Rev.  
W. B. WHITEHEAD, Prebendary of Wells, and widow of the  
late Rev. H. Chafyn GROVE-MORRIS, on November 6th.  
WHITE—CARTER. WHITE, Frederick, Esq., M.R.C.S., and  
L.S.A., at St. John's, Notting Hill, by the Rev. A. C. Bolton,  
M.A., to JULIA, eldest daughter of MATTHEW CARTER, Esq.,  
late Her Majesty's Consul-General for Murcia, in Spain, on  
November 6th.

#### DEATHS.

- CAMERON, William, M.D., 52nd Light Infantry, at Meerut,  
Bengal, after a short illness, aged 34, on Sept. 21st.  
COMPLIN, Edward John, Esq., Civil Surgeon to the British Army  
in the East, in the Palace Hospital, Scutari, of fever and  
dysentery caught in the Crimea, on Oct. 29th.  
GOULD, J. H., Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, Bombay Army, at  
Bombay, on Oct. 4th.  
McKUTCHEON, Andrew, M.D., at Jordan Bank, Morningside,  
Edinburgh, from the effects of fever contracted in the dis-  
charge of his duties at Scutari Hospital, aged 26, on Nov. 3.  
MONTGOMERIE, William, M.D., Superintending Surgeon of Bar-  
rackpoore—Eliza, wife of, at Fort William, Calcutta, on  
September 18th.  
NASMYTH, Robert, Esq., F.R.C.S. Edinburgh—John Barclay,  
fourth son of, at Madeira, on October 11th.  
PHILLIPS, Thomas G., Esq., Surgeon, at 44, Albion Street,  
Hyde Park, aged 51, on Nov. 9th.  
\*PILCHER, George, Esq., F.R.C.S., Member of the Council of  
the Royal College of Surgeons, suddenly, at 2, Harley Street,  
Cavendish Square, aged 54, on Nov. 7th.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

- \*BUSH, William, Esq., elected Mayor of Bath for the ensuing  
year.  
ELLIOT, Robert, M.D., elected Mayor of Carlisle for the en-  
suing year.  
JOHNSON, J. Godwin, Esq., elected Mayor of Norwich for the  
ensuing year.