

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH.

THE next meeting of this Branch will be held in the Council Room of the Midland Institute, Birmingham, on Thursday, March 14th, 1872. The Chair to be taken at Three o'clock precisely.

T. H. BARTLEET, *Honorary Secretary*.

Birmingham, March 7th, 1872.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE next meeting will be held at the Infirmary, Gravesend, on Tuesday, March 19th, at 3.45 P.M.; R. INNES NISBETT, Esq., in the Chair.

Dinner will be provided at the Clarendon Hotel at 6 P.M.

The following papers have been promised:—Clinical Remarks on Abrasion of the Os Uteri and Cervix. By Dr. J. Braxton Hicks.—Jaundice from Excess of Bile-formation, with Decomposition of the Blood before Death. By Dr. Moxon.

Business to be transacted.—The election of a member of the Medico-Ethical Committee of the District, *vice* Mr. Joy, resigned.

FREDERICK JAMES BROWN, M.D., *Honorary Secretary*.

Rochester, March 4th, 1872.

THE POOR-LAW MEDICAL SERVICE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

MR. STANSFELD'S BILL.

Sir,—A full report of the proceedings at the Conference on Poor-law Medical Relief, on the 5th, and at the deputation to Mr. Stansfeld, on the 13th ult. having been forwarded to our members during the last few days, I have received from all parts of the country a large number of letters; in these the writers express their objection to the proposition of the Royal Sanitary Commission, which, if adopted, would constitute them the sole medical officers of health of their respective districts. The enclosed copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the medical officers of the Cardiff Union, places the matter in so clear a light that I believe you would be doing us a service if you find space for it in your columns.—I am, etc.,

JOSEPH ROGERS.

Dean Street, March 5, 1872.

At a meeting of the medical officers of the Cardiff Union, held on the 27th of February last, the following declaration was unanimously agreed to:

"We are most strongly of opinion that the recommendation of the Sanitary Commission, that District Poor-law Medical Officers be sole Sanitary Officers, would be impracticable, as private practice would seriously interfere with the necessary independence. We believe that the greatest efficiency would be obtained by charging them with the duty of reporting to a superior officer, independent of practice, who might preside over a wider area, and accept the responsibility of taking action for the removal of reported nuisances.

"Further, if this higher office were made open to the Deputy Officers who might prove their fitness for it, we think it would be a valuable stimulus to the thorough discharge of the duties of the subordinate post. (Signed) John Lewellyn, R. Lougher, Alfred Sheen, M.D., James Milward, Edward Bates, F. W. Granger, Jno. Evans, David Edgar Jones."

POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION.

A SPECIAL meeting of this Association will be held at the Medical Club, 9, Spring Gardens, on Tuesday the 12th inst., at 7.30 P.M. precisely, for the purpose of considering the Sanitary Bill of the Government, especially those clauses relating to Poor-law Medical Relief. Mr. Corrance, M.P., and Mr. Dalrymple, M.P., will attend, and several other members are expected.

CORONERS' FEES TO POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.

THE attempt of the guardians of St. Pancras to compel the new medical officer of their Infirmary to pay over to them the fees for inquests, threatened to establish a precedent so manifestly dangerous and improper, that it was necessary to enter a strong protest against it. The following correspondence indicates the course taken on behalf of the interests of the Poor-law Service and of the public by the Chairman

of the Poor-law Committee of the British Medical Association, and the satisfactory action of the Local Government Board.

"Sir,—As Chairman of the Poor-law Committee of the British Medical Association, it is my duty to call your attention to the new arrangement proposed by the St. Pancras Board of Guardians, that the medical officer of their workhouse be 'required to pay over all fees for *post mortems* and coroner's inquests to the Board of Guardians'. This is a proposition so dangerous and unconstitutional, that we earnestly hope that the Local Government Board will refuse to sanction it. It is an evasion of an important Act of Parliament, for an avowedly mischievous purpose. By appropriating the fees of their officer, the guardians hope to stop inquests, inasmuch as, by making the unattractive duty of performing the necessary examinations henceforth unpaid, the guardians avowedly desire to enlist the interests of their medical officer against the holding of inquests. I may recall to mind that the inquests on Gibson and Daly in the Ilford Union were the first means of calling attention to the necessity of those reforms in the administration of workhouse infirmaries which your Board have by successive Acts of Parliament since been led to adopt. Workhouse infirmaries attended by resident medical officers stand upon much the same footing as prison infirmaries; and, in the case of prisoners, the law requires that an inquest shall be held on every case of death in the infirmary. If the guardians of St. Pancras have, as they think, to complain of unnecessarily frequent inquests, the obviously right course is to appeal to your Board to correct any error in that respect of their medical officer, or to endeavour to come to a satisfactory understanding with the coroner. That which they ought not to do, and which, I trust, your Board will not permit them to do, is to appropriate the fees due to their officer for inquests, with the avowed object of opposing his interests to his public duty.

"It is of the utmost importance to the public interests, and scarcely less so to those of your Board, that in suitable cases coroner's inquests should, as a necessary adjunct to inspection, be held in workhouses. Inspection cannot be ubiquitous or incessant; and, with general good order, serious individual wrongs may coexist.

"This Committee feels confident that neither public nor parliamentary opinion will tolerate the suppression of inquests, of which this resolution seeks to inaugurate a dangerous precedent; but they trust that it will not be necessary to appeal to either, inasmuch as they believe that it lies within the competence of your Board at once to refuse assent to this resolution; and they trust that you will do so.

"I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

"ERNEST HART, *Chairman of the Committee*."

"Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W., February 23rd, 1872.

"Sir,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, with reference to the proposal of the guardians of the parish of St. Pancras to require that the medical officer to be appointed to the workhouse should account for all fees for *post mortem* examinations and inquests; and to state that the Board have informed the guardians that their proposal is not in accordance with the law.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,

"H. FLEMING, *Secretary*."

"To Ernest Hart, Esq., British Medical Association,
37, Great Queen Street, W.C."

MEDICO-PARLIAMENTARY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Friday, March 1st.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.—Mr. Dimsdale asked the President of the Local Government Board when copies of the Public Health Bill would be placed in the hands of members; and whether he would postpone the second reading of the Public Health Bill, which was now fixed for March 7th, so as to allow an interval of at least week between the printing of the Bill and the general discussion of the principle of the measure.—Mr. Stansfeld said that the Bill would be delivered without further delay. As to the second part of the question, he should postpone the second question so as to allow an interval of at least a week, because he thought that the suggestion was a most reasonable one.—Mr. Corrance asked whether any date could be fixed.—Mr. Stansfeld: Not till the Bill is in the hands of members.

Wednesday, March 6th.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION BILL.—Mr. Charley moved the second reading of this Bill, the object of which is to prevent the putting out of children to nurse for hire except at properly licensed houses. The Bill

also provides for the better registration of the births and deaths of infants, under very stringent penalties. He believed that, if carried into effect, the Bill would do much to abate the crime of infanticide, and the only objections which had been urged against it was that its provisions were not sufficiently severe—Mr. Hurst thought that if the objects of the measure were not carried further it would be totally inoperative. It dealt only with those who received the children, and made no provision for the case of mothers who put out their children with a criminal intention.—Mr. Kinnaird, Mr. D. Dalrymple, and Dr. Brewer supported the Bill.—Mr. Walpole believed the Bill would do good, but feared it did not touch the criminal aspect of the subject. He hoped the Government would supplement the measure by another dealing with this part of the question.—Mr. Bruce said the subject of registration was now receiving the attention of the Local Government Board, and probably a measure would be submitted during the present session. With regard to the suggestion of Mr. Walpole, he (Mr. Bruce) would undertake to bring forward some proposals before the Bill went into Committee.—After some remarks from Mr. Henley and Dr. Playfair, Mr. Winterbotham, on behalf of the Government, said it was not intended to oppose the Bill, although he did not anticipate much real benefit from its operation. The Bill was then read a second time.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

LECTURES.—The Regius Professor of Physic (Dr. Paget) and the Linacre Lecturer in Medicine (Dr. Bradbury) give notice that they will deliver lectures on Pathology during the Easter term.

MEDICAL NEWS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, February 22nd, 1872.

Kingcombe, Alfred Partridge, Ivy Bridge, Devonshire
Ticehurst, Charles Sage, Hastings

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their first professional examination.

Ayling, Arthur Henry Williams, Middlesex Hospital
Corbin, Edward Kinnersly, St. Thomas's Hospital
Hicks, Edward John William, Guy's Hospital
May, William Allan, Guy's Hospital
Payne, Henry Peter, King's College

As an Assistant in compounding and dispensing medicines,
Pearson, John Johnson, Whitehaven

The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, February 29th.

Atkinson, John Charles, Kew, Surrey
Collier, Nicholas Constantine, Turnham Green
Eady, George John, Chertsey, Surrey
Fendick, Thomas Rowing, Mylne Street, E. C.
Scott, Hubert Payne, Tiverton, Devon

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their first professional examination.

Bull, William, Dublin
Clark, Frederick Cheesman, St. Bartholomew's Hospital
Pridmore, Campbell William, Westminster Hospital

gentlemen who competed successfully for the appointments as Assistant-Surgeons in Her Majesty's British Medical Service at the competitive examination held at the London University, on February 12th, 1872.

Order of merit.	Names.	No. of marks.	Order of merit.	Names.	No. of marks.
1.	Magill, J.	2239	7.	Bushe, C. J. L.	1727
2.	O'Donnell, R. W.	1956	8.	Quill, R. H.	1725
3.	Donovan, W.	1885	9.	Slaughter, W. B.	1686
4.	Swayne, C. H.	1795	10.	Brown, D. B.	1675
5.	Tincler, B. M.	1785	11.	Keys, C. W. M.	1675
6.	Browne, A. L.	1775	12.	Stokes, H. H.	1530

MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—
ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL, Cambridge—House-Surgeon.
ARDNAMURCHAN, Argyleshire—Parochial Medical Officer: £80 per annum, house, etc.
BOYLE UNION, co. Roscommon—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Keadue Dispensary District: £100 per annum, and fees.
BRADFORD INFIRMARY and DISPENSARY—Consulting Physician.

BURTON-ON-TRENT UNION—Medical Officer for the Lullington District.
CARMARTHENSHIRE INFIRMARY, Carmarthen—House-Surgeon: £100 per annum, lodging, coal, candles, and the privilege of taking two apprentices.
CASTLEBAR UNION, co. Mayo—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the North Division No. 2 of the Castlebar Dispensary District: £110 per annum, and fees.
CASTLECOMER UNION, co. Kilkenny—Two Medical Officers to the Workhouse: £50 per annum each.
DALMELLINGTON, Ayrshire—Parochial Medical Officer.
DORCHESTER UNION—Medical Officer for the Longbredy District: £26 per annum and midwifery fees.
ECHT, Aberdeenshire, Parish of—Medical Officer.
EDDRACHILLIS and DURNESS, Sutherlandshire—Parochial Medical Officer: £140 per annum, £10 to provide medicine, house, and garden.
ENNISCORTHY DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM, co. Wexford—Visiting and Consulting Physician.
KENT AND CANTERBURY HOSPITAL—Assistant House Surgeon and Dispenser: £50 per annum, apartments, board, and washing.
KILLADYSERT UNION, co. Clare—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Labasheeda Dispensary District: £100 per annum, and fees.
LITTLETON, co. Tipperary—Medical Attendant to the Royal Irish Constabulary.
MALLOW UNION, co. Cork—Medical Officer for the Buttevant Dispensary District.
MEATH INFIRMARY, Cavan—Apothecary, Secretary, and Registrar: £52 per annum, furnished apartments, coal, and lighting.
NORTHERN INFIRMARY, Inverness—House-Surgeon and Apothecary: £40 per annum, board, etc.
PORTSEA ISLAND UNION—Medical Officer for the Workhouse: £315 per ann.
QUEEN'S HOSPITAL, Birmingham—Resident Physician and Medical Tutor: £100 per annum, board, etc. Dental Surgeon.
ROTHERHAM new HOSPITAL and DISPENSARY—Physician and Surgeons.
ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, Gray's Inn Road—Junior Resident Medical Officer.
ROYAL SOUTH HANTS INFIRMARY, Southampton—Surgeon; Assistant-Surgeon.
ST. OLAVE'S UNION, Southwark—Medical Officer for the Workhouse; Medical Officer for District No. 5.
SALFORD and PENDLETON ROYAL HOSPITAL—District Surgeon: £80 per annum, board and lodging.
TURLS UNION, co. Tipperary—Medical Officer for the Littleton Dispensary District.
ALSINGHAM UNION, Norfolk—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Raynham District: £38 per annum, and extra fees.
EST CUMBERLAND—Medical Officer to two Iron Companies: £500 per annum, and 10s. 6d. for each midwifery case.
EST SUSSEX, EAST HANTS, and CHICHESTER INFIRMARY and DISPENSARY—House-Surgeon and Secretary: £80 per annum, board, lodging, and washing.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Names marked with an asterisk are those of Members of the Association.

ADDENBROOKE, E. H., Esq., appointed Surgeon to the Kidderminster Hospital.
RIGSTOCKE, C. A., Esq., appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Calne Union, *vice* D. Campbell, M.D., resigned.
CRKINSON, E. H., M.A., M.B., elected Physician to the Northern Hospital, Liverpool.
RY, John B., Esq., appointed Medical Officer of Health for Swindon, and Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Third District of the Swindon and Highworth Union.
CAW, J. Dysart, L.R.C.P.Ed., elected Resident Physician to the Nottingham Dispensary.
KELLAR, Alexander O., M.D., appointed Senior House-Surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital.
EENIE, W. Frederick, M.B., appointed Medical Attendant on the Royal Irish Constabulary at Carrigans and Newtowncunningham, and Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, for the Killea Dispensary District of the Londonderry Union, *vice* John Harvey, M.D., resigned.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, is 3s. 6d., which should be forwarded in stamps with the communication.

DEATHS.

WRENCE, Rowland, A.M., M.D., at Pontesbury, aged 84, on February 13th.
DRISON, Wm. French, M.A., L.R.C.P.Ed., Assistant-Physician to the Fife and Kinross Asylum, on board the *Stratdon*, at Sydney, aged 27, on Dec. 12, 1871.
TATHAM, Rowland, Esq., Surgeon, at Burton-in-Lonsdale, Yorkshire, aged 73, on February 13th.

THE EARL OF LEICESTER, Lord-Lieutenant of the county, has been appointed President of the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital, in lieu of the late Marquis of Cholmondeley.

PHOSPHORESCENT MEAT.—E. Hering adds another to the observations of Adams, Rossort, etc., on this curious subject. On March 2nd, 1870, Hering received a small piece of the front of a shoulder of salted pork, which was phosphorescent, and had a slightly putrefactive odour. It emitted, in the dark, a bluish-green light, strong enough to read by. The muscular substance was most luminous. On breaking the bone, the broken surfaces were strongly phosphorescent. On scraping the surfaces with a piece of wood, the wood became phosphorescent, and the bone ceased to be. Neither water, mucilage, nor ether, affected it; but nitric acid or heat destroyed it. The luminosity disappeared after three days, when putrefaction became intense.