

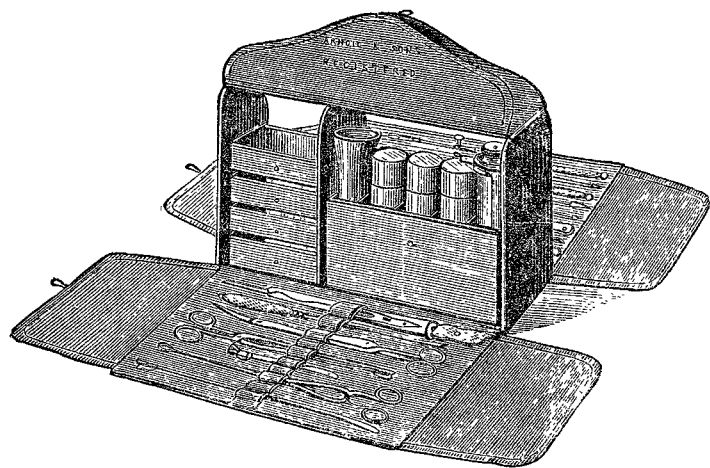
that persons practising as apothecaries without a certificate from the Society of Apothecaries of examination and qualification, should be liable to penalties and disabled from recovering fees. That passed for the public good and to ensure competency in that class of medical practitioners; but it was still considered that unqualified persons practised. The Act of 1858, so far from repealing that statute or weakening public security, was intended to strengthen it by requiring medical practitioners to be registered, so that unqualified persons might be prevented from practising. Registration under this Act is made evidence of qualification, but is not substituted for it. See the title and preamble of the Act and sections 4, 15, 18, 26, 30, and 32. Another object of section 31 is to enable physicians to recover fees. Now read Section 31 and it is clear that it is not intended to repeal the Act of George III., or to allow those persons to practise as apothecaries who have not a certificate from the Society of Apothecaries, and who would be liable to penalties." — Attorney-General v. Royal College of Physicians, 30, *Law Journal*, Chanc. 757; Wilcock's "Treatise on Laws relating to Medical Practitioners"; Weightman on the "Medical Practitioners' Legal Guide," 1870.

It was then contended, and evidence was given to show, that a practice exists in Scotland for physicians or surgeons to act as apothecaries; but no satisfactory evidence was adduced as to the law in Scotland on this point. This, however, is immaterial, as a medical practitioner must be registered as an apothecary to practise as such in England.

In the case of "The Apothecaries' Company v. Collins," 4 B. and Ad. 604, it was expressly decided that a person authorised to practise as a physician by a Scotch diploma was not exempt from the penalty for practising here as an apothecary without the certificate from the Society of Apothecaries.

### NEW GYNÆCOLOGICAL BAG.

GYNÆCOLOGISTS cannot be too grateful to the Messrs. Arnold and Son, of West Smithfield, for this neat and compact bag. It includes everything they are likely to want, and is calculated to save them much time and trouble by supplying them with a place for everything and everything in its place. The comfort and success of many uterine operations will be greatly furthered by the use of this bag.



It is light, portable, compact, and strong, resembling, when closed, a neat secretary's writing-case. The framework is of strong material, covered externally with morocco leather, and is divided into an upright central compartment, with nests or divisions for specula and bottles, and a nest of four mahogany drawers, one fitted with four small bottles, and the remainder for pessaries, stems, &c. When unfastened the two sides of the bag fall apart, exhibiting at one view all the instruments therein contained, held in their respective places by bands of leather, from which they can be easily and speedily withdrawn. The cost of the Gynæcological Bag complete, with instruments, is twenty guineas; without instruments, three guineas.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE twenty-third annual meeting of the American Medical Association was convened at Philadelphia on the 7th of May, and continued in session four days. The number of members in attendance was upwards of one thousand. As a great social gathering of the profession from all parts of the country the meeting was eminently successful. The utmost good feeling prevailed, and feasting, sight-seeing, and congratulatory speech-making formed the order of the day. As a scientific body the Association is a lamentable failure, its annual meetings being barren of interest to those who attend for the purpose of advancing any branch of medical science.

At the opening of the session the president, Dr. Yandell, delivered an address, in which he reviewed the history of the Association. Among the reports of standing committees the following are of interest:—The committee on Medical Education condemned the rivalry of medical colleges, and recommended that no more delegates be admitted from those schools which do not adopt the plan of education laid down by the Association. The committee on Nomenclature recommended the adoption of a new system; but it was decided to print the report, and make it a special subject of discussion at their next annual meeting. The committee on Public Hygiene recommended the organisation of institutions devoted to instruction in hygiene, and also that medical colleges take more cognisance of the subject. A proposition that the Association approve the establishment of a National Sanitary Bureau by the General Government was not adopted.

A resolution was unanimously agreed to recommending physicians to discourage the use of alcoholic stimuli in their practice. A committee was appointed to investigate the transmission of zymotic diseases from animals to the human species. The inevitable woman question was introduced by the committee on Ethics, which recommended that the delegates from certain organisations of Washington, which admitted women students and practitioners, and also unlicensed practitioners, to their privileges, should not be admitted. The report, after a very animated discussion, was adopted.

The scientific papers and discussions in the sections were of considerable interest to those in attendance, but little of permanent value was placed on record. The "Prize" for the best essay was accorded to the author of the paper on "The Physiological Value of Phosphorus as an Organisational Element."

### Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

#### MECHANICAL RESTRAINT IN CASES OF INSANITY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My own experience is decidedly in favour of the employment of restraint in suitable cases, which I admit are not frequent; but, when necessary, it is often the most humane as well as the most scientific means at our disposal of preventing patients inflicting injuries upon themselves and others. Doubtless there are other plans of treatment which ought first to be tried, and which generally succeed; but I do not myself look upon restraint as many do, as the opprobrium of alienists, or as a *dernier ressort*, to be held in abhorrence. For eighteen years I have seen it employed in certain cases with the best results; the last one was that of a man, a few years since, who attempted to tear out his tongue in a fit of excitement, and in whom restraint succeeded when full opiates and other means had failed. In fact, in such cases as this, it is far better, far more humane and scientific, to adopt the proper form of restraint at once, than to waste time

and strength and patience in fruitless attempts to pour medicines down the throat, and in various devices intended to defeat the object of the patient. I may add that I have never experienced the least opposition or objection on the part of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the adoption of restraint whenever the nature of the case and the reasons for the treatment were fully explained to them.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

WILLIAM C. HILLS, M.D.,  
Norfolk County Asylum, May 31st, 1872. Medical Superintendent.

## ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—I have been well pleased with your remarks upon the recent meeting of the above-named institution, and I fully agree with you that the word "benevolent" is a misnomer. Last year the subject of canvassing was mooted by Mr. Stamford Felce, others and myself, and I quite hoped that it would have been fully ventilated before this time. I was much encouraged in this hope by correspondence and a pleasurable interview I had last summer with Dr. G. Jonson. I quite expected, from the conversation in that interview, that the subject was to be discussed in council, and have almost week by week looked out for the result of that discussion; whereas nothing has appeared till your brief notice of it. Another year's election is coming on, in which there are forty-one candidates for eight vacancies. Now, sir, I would ask once more, how much good money has been thus squandered in order to accomplish these canvassings? Put it down under the reduced postage-stamp system, which, at a minimum of £30 each, gives £1200 odd. Perfectly monstrous when we know how little able are nine-tenths of these widows to meet such an outlay. Surely they had better have sent the poor boy to the school and paid the recently increased premium of £45 per annum? much money would have been saved or at least spent in a legitimate way; and, above all, valuable time would have thus been saved. Take, for instance, the candidate Scott, for his sixth application; 6 x 40 gives £240; this, divided by £45 per annum, gives sufficient money for five years' education and to spare.

I have written so much and said so much on this matter, that I begin to feel it a bore to recapitulate my ideas of the easy application of a remedy for such an "abomination," as you very appropriately term it. But, in conclusion, I should like to ask a question of my friend, Dr. Jonson, who is reported to have replied, in answer to Dr. Liddell, that "the Council found the difficulty so great, and opinions among subscribers so divided," &c. I would like to know when and how has the sense of the subscribers been taken? as I have never seen any publication of steps tending in this direction; while I feel convinced that if the Council could be persuaded to invest a sum only equal to one of their yearly canvassings, by half-penny postage, in ascertaining the individual feeling of subscribers, a result would be obtained which would ensure the reform you have so ably urged and advocated.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

East Rudham, May, 1872.

FRED. MANBY.

## A GOOD SUGGESTION.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to suggest through your columns that it would be well if the College of Surgeons, like the College of Physicians and many other colleges at Oxford, Cambridge, and elsewhere, were to appoint censors, whose duty it should be to bring questions of professional etiquette and cases of conduct under the notice of the Council, in a regular way, and with a view to the expression of an opinion thereon.

In our profession it is vain to ignore ethical questions. They cannot be dissociated from the practice of surgery; and, inasmuch as the diploma of the College of Surgeons is more generally held than any other qualification, it would be for the dignity and advantage of the profession at large if there were some authorised channel by which such matters could be brought before the Council.

If this were done, I believe that many unseemly disputes,

many painful disagreements (which damage us in the eyes of society), to say nothing of graver matters, might be promptly settled by the judgment of a body, whose ripe experience and distinguished position would invest their opinion almost with the weight of a judicial utterance.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. FAIRLIE CLARKE.

Mansfield-street, Cavendish-square, W., June 3rd, 1872.

## THE LATE LORD MAYO.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—With reference to a paragraph which appeared in your issue of April 13th, reflecting on the post-mortem examination of the late Viceroy of India, and the omission of all evidence as to the condition of the viscera, I, as one of those who signed the report, beg to state that a post-mortem by dissection was not allowed, this being considered unnecessary for the ends of justice.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

ROBERT H. MORE, M.D.,

Assistant-Surgeon, R.N.

H.M.S. "Glasgow," Bombay, May 10th, 1872.

## DENGUE FEVER.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—A friend in Calcutta writes: "I suppose you have seen an account in the papers of this dengue fever which we have in India this year. It has been a regular plague, and I think about 75 per cent. of the people have had it, not a house or an office in Calcutta where some one is not down with it. It is not dangerous to adults, but very painful, being a combination of scarlatina and rheumatic fever." How the fever was introduced or where from he does not say, but possibly the returning coolies from the West Indies may have been the medium.

Can the jungle fever, mentioned in your last issue as being so prevalent in Calcutta, be a misprint for this dengue fever.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

London, May 28th, 1872.

G. B.

## IRELAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE members of the Irish Poor-law Medical Association held their annual meeting on Monday in the College of Physicians, Kildare-street, Sir Dominic Corrigan presiding. The secretary of the Association, Dr. Maunsell, read the annual report, in which he stated, among other matters, that the Poor-law medical officers asked for an increase of stipend, rising with length of service; for promotion to the higher grades of service—viz., superintending health officers, or medical inspectors; for absolute superannuation after a stated period, instead of the present permissive superannuation; also that supervision over them should be conducted by medical inspectors; and that no fresh obligation should be imposed on them, either of a sanitary character or otherwise, without adequate payment. Dr. Rogers, president of the English Poor-law Medical Officers' Association, moved the adoption of the report, and advocated continued combination on the part of the Irish and English Associations, which he believed had resulted in great benefit to the profession in both countries, and in the amelioration of those grievances under which they had so long laboured. It was resolved that a committee be formed to memorialise the Chief Secretary on the injustice of non-payment for certificates in the case of dangerous lunatics, and that a deputation should wait on Lord Hartington to place the matter before him. The association also resolved that measures should be taken to impress on the Government the importance of so constituting the Board proposed in the Local Government Bill for Ireland, now before Parliament, that the Board may include a member specially qualified in State medicine and sanitary science, with a view of carrying out such measures as may be introduced to the Legislature.