

THE  
CORONERSHIP OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN  
MIDDLESEX.

DR. CHALLICE, in accordance with the appeal made to him in our last, has retired from the contest now proceeding for the election of Coroner for the Central Division of Middlesex. Nothing less was to be expected from his antecedents and honourable character. By gracefully withdrawing on this occasion he is entitled to the approbation of his professional brethren, more particularly upon the ground that he had strong claims upon the profession for the manner in which he has always stood forward as the vindicator of its rights and privileges. Nothing is more difficult for a man than to submit to that self-sacrifice which yields up to the interest of the profession to which he belongs the possibility of his obtaining a lucrative appointment. The example which has been set by Dr. Challice we doubt not will be followed by the medical candidate in the Western District who has least promise of success. As Dr. Mushet has the confidence of the profession and the freeholders, it is the duty of the other medical candidate to retire.

The unworthy attempt made by the legal candidate for the Central district to strengthen his own failing cause by attacking the personal character of his opponent is not likely to be successful. The freeholders of Middlesex will certainly not be misled by electioneering tactics. Dr. Lankester's character is amply vindicated by the fact that several of his colleagues, members of the Council of the Ray Society, who are the best judges, have given him their hearty support and the weight of their testimony by serving on his Committee. We trust that every medical practitioner will regard the contest as one that calls for his active personal exertions.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

A SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As you have favourably noticed the project of establishing a county hospital in this town, I trust you will permit me to correct some erroneous impressions which you have received through want of accurate information. I feel sure that, in criticizing the action of the Building Committee, you were not aware of the fact that the site given by Lord Onslow consists of only one acre; and, however good its position, you will probably allow that this area is not sufficient for the purposes of an hospital that shall contain from forty to sixty beds, with capabilities for future enlargement—that is to say, if it is to be built on any modern system, with the gardens or airing-grounds for convalescents that are now considered to be essential features of a good hospital. In this view of the case, and being strengthened by the opinions of so excellent an authority as Dr. Sutherland, and of Mr. Le Gros Clark and others, the Committee resolved on applying to Lord Onslow for more ground. The result of this application is, as far as I can learn, that another acre of land will be granted on a lease of twenty-one years. In any case, it is certain that the building must stand within a few feet of the high road, and with the prospect of houses being built up to it at no distant period. Whether this is to be considered a desirable solution of our difficulty I will not now undertake to say. In the delay caused by this negotiation, valuable time has been gained for considering other points hardly less important, such as the plan and direction of the building, which, with our limited space, must determine the frontage of the ground.

Again, in regard to your strictures on the composition of the Building Committee. This body was, with only one exception, selected from the General Committee, not on account of their "wealth or rank," as you will see by the subjoined list, but from consideration of fitness, due regard being had to their tastes and present or previous occupations. Certainly not

more than three out of the thirteen would think of aspiring to the rank of "county magnates," unless the Archdeacon of Surrey is to be accounted such; and these three are eminently practical men, and one an accomplished architect. Of the remaining number, six are medical practitioners, including Mr. Le Gros Clark, none of whom are as yet conspicuous for either wealth or rank. The following is the list alluded to:—

Lord Lovelace (good amateur architect, but declines to act).  
Hon. Francis Scott (county magistrate, and good man of business).  
G. Leveson Gower (active promoter of the scheme).  
Archdeacon of Surrey (ditto).  
Mr. J. M. Capes (hon. secretary).  
Mr. Shepard (treasurer).  
Mr. Gunton (gentleman), Guildford.  
Mr. Faviell (railway contractor and engineer).  
Dr. Harcourt, Chertsey.  
Dr. Cox, Kingston.  
Dr. J. R. Stedman, Guildford.  
Mr. Eager (surgeon), ditto.  
Mr. H. S. Taylor (ditto), ditto.

In conclusion, I beg to say, on behalf of these gentlemen, that, despite some hostile criticism, we are extremely grateful to you for having made honourable mention of our undertaking in your widely-circulated pages, and that we hope to receive many valuable suggestions from you as our work advances.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
GUILDFORD, June, 1862. HENRY S. TAYLOR, M.R.C.S.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As a non-professional man, but one much interested in the erection of the Surrey Albert Memorial Hospital (on which an able article appeared in THE LANCET of the 21st inst.), I venture to ask, through your pages, for information for our guidance in the form and cost of our proposed building, so that we may profit by the experience and be warned by the non-success of former efforts:—

Firstly. What is the best aspect for an hospital?

Secondly. What is the best arrangement of wards, offices, &c.?

Thirdly. At what cost per bed may we fairly calculate to erect a building, not without architectural taste, but chiefly intended to be a model institution for our sick and suffering fellow-creatures? I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

T. G. HATCHARD, M.A.,  
Rector of St. Nicholas, Guildford.

St. Nicholas' Rectory, Guildford, June, 1862.

\*\* We willingly insert this letter in order to elicit the most recent professional experience on the important questions contained in it, and shall have some suggestions to make ourselves in the next number of THE LANCET.—ED. L.

THE TREATMENT OF ANEURISM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Since much important information relative to the treatment of aneurism has appeared in the last few numbers of THE LANCET, may I make so bold as to request you, should you think it worthy a place in your journal, to insert the following suggestion relative to the treatment of aneurism—a suggestion which I trust may lead in many cases to the abandonment of the ligature, and fill up the gap which appears to me to exist between the simpler forms of treatment, such as by pressure and forcible flexion, and the extreme one by ligature—viz., to cut down upon the artery, and to so far separate its coats from the surrounding structures as to enable the operator to control the circulation through the vessel by a small pair of compress forceps, electro-plated, with a good firm spring, and slightly roughened on their approximate surfaces so as to prevent them slipping from the vessel. By this means the circulation might be as effectually stopped as by the ligature, and the necessity of separating the vein from the artery (which in cases of the femoral artery is the chief obstacle to the operation) done away with. The forceps should be left in the wound, and secured by plaster, till the cure is effected. I do not think any more serious consequences would follow such a proceeding than would follow the ligature, and it would have the advantages—1st, facility in the operation; 2ndly, avoid the separation of the vein; 3rdly, the forceps could be removed at any moment should it be found necessary to do so. In those cases of internal piles, where their removal by the knife is prevented by the fear of subsequent hæmorrhage, I am of opinion that the

compress forceps applied to the base of the pile might be used instead of the ligature to restrain the bleeding, and could be removed after ten, twelve, or more hours after the operation, without any fear of bad results.

I am very glad to see in your number of June 14th a proposal for the removal of embolon. Perhaps I may be allowed to state that I have held the opinion that a fine suture might be applied to the coats of both arteries and large veins in cases of accidental wounding during operation, or from other accidental causes, such as puncture by penknife, &c. We cannot possibly know how an operation may succeed until it is tried. Should a case of aneurism come under my notice, and the simpler methods fail to afford a cure, I shall attempt its cure by the compress forceps.

Hoping that I have not suggested an impracticable operation, and with the desire to supply a link in the chain of operations for aneurism,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

AUGUSTUS BROWN, M.R.C.S.

Minerva-terrace, Barnsbury-park, Islington, June, 1862.

### POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reply to Dr. Fowler's letter, permit me to say that on the 17th of May last I stated, "Now I here publicly call upon Dr. Fowler to give a list of the paupers, the number of patients, the present salary of each medical officer, the salary by his proposed plan, and the average amount per patient for each medical officer in the following unions, taking the figures in Lord Elcho's Return as they are there reported." Instead of doing this, Dr. Fowler has altered the figures to suit his own views (see his acknowledgment of the fact in the third paragraph of his letter), and upon these imaginary figures has founded a table for his own plan. To attempt to answer that which is purely imaginary would be an utter waste of time; I must therefore leave the Doctor to the enjoyment of his plan. In the Pamphlet laid by me before the Select Committee, and also sent to several hundred union medical officers, I have pointed out the impolicy of adopting Dr. Fowler's proposed plan; it is therefore unnecessary for me to discuss the question further.

Dr. Fowler proposes the appointment of "a committee of advice to be of incalculable assistance to the eventual deliberations of the Select Committee." Seeing, however, that the Committee have hitherto been very chary of receiving any advice at all on medical subjects, perhaps Dr. Fowler will first ascertain how far our further assistance may be agreeable. Should the Select Committee gratefully accept his proffered aid, perhaps he will be good enough to allow me to name some of the Committee, as I fear the three provincial gentlemen mentioned by him would hardly be considered a fair representation of the three thousand medical men residing in the country, considering that five Londoners are named for the hundred and seventy-five metropolitan medical officers.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Royal-terrace, Weymouth, June, 1862.

RICHARD GRIFFIN.

### POISONOUS CHEESE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your publication of the 14th instant, you have a notice respecting the poisoning of forty or fifty of the members of the Burley Volunteer Rifle Corps by cheese at Skipton. As the opinion prevails amongst the medical men who attended the cases, and has been diffused through the country by the daily press, that the cheese itself was the cause of the alarming symptoms which followed its ingestion, that it had undergone some morbid change by which the poison had been generated, and as *prima facie* grounds exist for this opinion, I think it right that the profession be put on their guard against its adoption for the future without inquiry, the more so as it is not improbable that similar cases may occur again.

A portion of the cheese having been submitted to me for analysis, I found it contaminated with arsenic, which, of course, fully accounts for all the phenomena attendant. As this contamination, in all probability, occurred in the manufacture, it may have happened to other cheeses in the same dairy.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Bradford, June, 1862.

F. M. RIMMINGTON.

### VACCINATION TUBES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It may prove useful to some of your readers residing in the country to know how to make for themselves the capillary tubes now so much used for preserving vaccine lymph in a fluid state. The following is a description of the method I adopt:—

Take a piece of glass tube several inches in length, and about a quarter of an inch in diameter and an eighth in bore: hold the ends between the thumb and forefinger of each hand, close over a "fish-tail" or "bat's-wing" gas flame, in such a manner that it shall be parallel to its plane and to the upper border; then move it about sufficiently to get two inches of its length pretty equally heated. When softened, but not red-hot, remove it from the flame, and suddenly draw the two ends as far asunder as the arms of the operator will admit. About four feet of the intermediate fine tube thus produced may be broken up into 3-inch lengths ready for use.

Dr. Braxton Hicks, of Guy's Hospital, states that the proper dimensions, as given by the inventor, are—length, 3 inches; diameter,  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch; thickness of wall,  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch.

If the tubes are too large capillarity is diminished, there is difficulty in hermetically sealing the ends when charged, and the lymph is apt to be separated into beads instead of adhering in one mass. If too fine, the tubes are apt to break.

I am, Sir, yours &c.,

Woolwich, June, 1862.

A. GARDINER BROWN, M.R.C.S.

## Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.—At the Comitia Majora held on the 25th inst., the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, were duly admitted Members of the College:—

Philipson, George Hare, M.B., Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
Taylor, John, M.D., Queen's-road, Bayswater.  
Willis, Francis, M.B., Braceborough, Stamford.

At this Comitia the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—*Censors*: Dr. Budd, Dr. A. Farre, Dr. Birkett, and Dr. Monro. *Treasurer*: Dr. Alderson. *Registrar*: Dr. Pitman.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on the 19th inst.:—

Anthonisz, James Edmund, Colombo, Ceylon.  
Badcock, Lewis Carter, Crescent-place, Camberwell-grove.  
Brown, George, Colchester.  
King, Thomas, Guy's Hospital.  
Mahon, George Annesley Derville, Aspley Woburn, Beds.  
Nelson, Samuel, Acomb, near York.  
Robson, Matthew James, North Shields.  
Shapland, John Dee, Oakford, North Molton.

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their first examination:—

Hayden, William George, Charing-cross Hospital.  
Jones, William, St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

UNIVERSITY OF M'GILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL.—At a meeting of Convocation, held on May 6th, twenty-three gentlemen received the degree of M.D., C.M. The number included the following graduates, the subject of the Inaugural Dissertation being attached to each name:—Charles Richard Nicolls, Montreal, Surgeon-Major, Grenadier Guards: "On Rheumatic Fever." John Edward Moffatt, Montreal, Staff-Surgeon, Guards: "On Gout." Henry G. H. Lawrence, Montreal, Assistant-Surgeon, Grenadier Guards: "On Typhoid Fever." Arthur G. Elkington, Montreal, Assistant-Surgeon, Scotch Fusilier Guards: "On Pneumonia." Edward Louis Lundy, Montreal, Staff Assistant-Surgeon: "On Syphilis." St. John Killery, Montreal, Staff Assistant-Surgeon: "On Idiopathic Tetanus." Robert Atkinson, Montreal, Staff Assistant-Surgeon: "On Diseases of the Liver." Thomas B. P. O'Brien, Montreal, Staff Assistant Surgeon: "On Rheumatism."

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, IRELAND, JUNE 25TH.—The degree of Doctor in Medicine was conferred, at the close of the recent yearly examinations, upon thirteen *alumni* of the above University. Of these, two were students in Belfast College, four were from Cork, and seven from Galway.

THE NEW COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, DUBLIN, from the design of Mr. W. G. Murray, is now in course of erection. It is considered that the building will be extremely well adapted to the uses of the College.