

the members of the military section at Aldershot, on Saturday, August 6th. On Sunday next, at the special service at Westminster Abbey, Canon Barry will preach. At the service at St. Paul's Cathedral 600 chairs will be reserved for the use of the members of the Congress. On Monday, Professor Volkmann will give his address at a general meeting, as originally announced, and not at the Surgical Section, and Professor Huxley's address will therefore come on Tuesday afternoon. The Baroness Burdett-Coutts Bartlett has sent an invitation to 500 members of the Congress to a garden party at her house at Highgate, on Monday next.

THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS.

THE following is the daily programme, complete up to our going to press :—

Friday, Aug. 5th.

- 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. : Meetings of Sections.
- 12.45 P.M. : Visit to Mr. Penn's Works at Greenwich.
- 1.30 P.M. : Visits to Hospitals.
- Demonstration of Natural History Collection at South Kensington by Professor Owen.
- 2 P.M. : Meetings of Sections.
- 4 P.M. : General Meeting. Address by Dr. Billings.
- 8 P.M. : Conversazione at the Guildhall.

Saturday, Aug. 6th.

- 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. : Meetings of Sections.
- 12.15 P.M. : Excursion to Croydon Sewage Farm.
- 1.45 P.M. : Excursion to Folkestone—Unveiling of Harvey Memorial Statue.
- 2 P.M. : Excursion to Hampton Court, and Garden Party at Normansfield, given by Dr. Langdon Down.
- 4 to 7 P.M. : Reception at Kew Gardens by Sir J. D. Hooker. Garden Party at Hampstead, given by Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Wells. Garden Party at Wimbledon, given by Mr. and Mrs. Saunders.
- 6.30 P.M. : Dinner at Richmond, given by the United Hospitals Club. Reception by the Foreign Secretary to the Foreign Members of the Congress.

Sunday, Aug. 7th.

- 10 A.M. : Full Choral Service, and Sermon by Canon Barry, in Westminster Abbey.
- 3.15 P.M. : Full Choral Service, and Sermon by Canon Liddon, in St. Paul's Cathedral.
- 1.30 P.M. : Excursion to Boxhill.
- The Gardens of the Royal Botanic Society, Zoological Society, and at Kew and Hampton Court, will be open to Members of the Congress.

Monday, Aug. 8th.

- 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. : Meetings of the Sections.
- 11 A.M. : Visit to the Docks.
- 2 P.M. : Meetings of Sections.
- 4 P.M. : General Meeting. Address by Professor Volkmann. Garden Party by Lady Burdett-Coutts Bartlett.
- 6.30 P.M. : Dinner given by the Master and Wardens of the Society of Apothecaries.
- 9.30 P.M. : Conversazione given by the Royal College of Surgeons to the members of the Congress.

Tuesday, Aug. 9th.

- 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. : Meetings of Sections.
- 2 P.M. : General Meeting. Address by Professor Huxley.
- 4 P.M. : Visit to the Crystal Palace; informal Dinner, and Display of Fountains and Fireworks &c.

During the week of the Congress Messrs. Spiers and Pond will set apart for members their Victoria banquetting room for a lunch at 2s. 6d. per head from 1 to 3 P.M., and for dinners and other refreshment at all hours. The Café Monico will provide a luncheon for 1s. 6d.

The General Meetings will all be held in St. James's Hall; the Sections meet in the University of London, Burlington House, the Royal Institution, the Asiatic Society's Rooms, and the Royal School of Mines; the various Offices of the Congress are in the Rooms of the Royal College of Physicians, Pall Mall East. Members will be required to show their tickets at each meeting.

SUNSTROKE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The accounts in the daily papers of the numerous sufferers from "sunstroke" are alarming, and claim some attention from the profession.

I am not acquainted with the death-rate from this accident in this country, but in tropical climates, according to Tanner and other writers, it ranges so high as from 40 to 50 per cent.

To the question, What is sunstroke? medicine cannot give a satisfactory answer, nor, judging from its mutability, can it offer the sufferers any definite and effectual aid. The treatment for sunstroke has hitherto been cold in various forms. Iced water to the head, iced drinks, and the wet sheet, to subdue the abnormal heat of the body, have been the principal means hitherto employed. But the symptoms of sunstroke all point to shock, or severe depression of the

nervous system, the abnormal heat being the result of this shock or nervous depression. If this be a true account of the chief symptoms of sunstroke, are we not on the wrong track in our treatment? And would not the application of heat, instead of cold, be the more likely and rational remedy?

I forget when, but I think two or three years since, I heard or read of the application of heat in sunstroke in the form of hot bricks wrapped in flannel, hot flannels to the head, &c.; and I believe also that my information came from a non-professional source. But professional or non-professional, it was claimed for this treatment that it had been more successful than the old treatment by the application of cold. The excessive heat of the weather this year, and the prevalence of sunstroke, have brought the subject to my recollection again; and my object in this note is to suggest that the treatment of sunstroke by heat instead of cold may be worth a trial. Do we not find the greatest possible relief from a hot bath when we are fagged and worn by the worry of business and the anxieties of life? Was there not a grain of common sense at least in the proceedings of our forefathers, when they treated shock and nervous depression by wrapping the patient in the skins of animals recently removed? And lastly, is not this sunstroke a parallel case? I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

Lynn, July 25th, 1881.

J. M. DALE, M.D. Lond.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF LODGINGS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reply to your remarks upon the above subject, you will be glad to hear that the urban sanitary authority of Ramsgate has done something in the direction of an inspection of hotels, lodgings, &c., and has urged the occupiers of houses to secure what you justly term the "highly marketable guarantee of a sanitary inspection." Six months ago a notice was inserted in the local journals advising the hotel-keepers, lodging-housekeepers, and others, that a certificate would be granted on application if, after an inspection by the medical officer of health and surveyor to the sanitary authority, their premises were found to be in a good sanitary condition. I may add that no certificate has been granted unless the house was properly connected with the main sewer, the drains efficiently trapped and ventilated, a good and sufficient water-supply, and the house generally in a satisfactory condition; and that as these conditions have entailed, in most instances, some structural alteration in the premises, it is evident that a very decided improvement must be taking place in the sanitary arrangements of the houses in this district. Numerous applications have been made for these certificates, and many granted to the hotel-keepers, lodging-housekeepers, and occupiers of private houses and schools.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

EDWARD WALFORD,

Medical Officer of Health, Ramsgate.

July 28th, 1881.

P.S.—I am glad to say that I have the ready co-operation of the other medical men with regard to the early notification of infectious diseases; moreover, the sanitary authority has authorised the fee of 2s. 6d. to be paid for each such notification.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The examinations for the present session were brought to a close on Friday last, the 29th inst., when 215 candidates for the diploma of membership of the College had been examined; of this number no less than seventy-six failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Court of Examiners, and were consequently referred to their professional studies for six months; twenty-four passed in surgery, and when qualified in medicine will be admitted members of the College. Eight candidates who had passed in surgery at previous examinations, having subsequently obtained a medical degree or licence recognised by the College, were admitted to the membership. The following is rather a gloomy picture of the present generation of students who presented themselves for examination on this occasion: as many as thirty-three paid their respects to the Court a second time, sixteen for the third time of asking, three for the fourth time, and one for the fifth time, and many of them were again sent back to their hospital studies.