

perverted reasoning, be considered improper for the lowest and uneducated class to conform to; it is, in fact, what the latter themselves would most likely also adopt, by choice, if they were educated, and a little higher in the scale of society.

As the law now stands, it can hardly be considered just, individually, to the lower classes themselves. They are not obliged to be vaccinated, but they are not allowed to be inoculated, lest they should propagate small-pox, as they undoubtedly would by inoculation; so that if they do not choose to adopt vaccination, they are left to take small-pox in the natural way. This they almost certainly do take sooner or later, and small-pox in the unvaccinated is one of the most fatal diseases in this country, destroying, as before stated, *thirty-five per cent.* of those attacked by it.

Your petitioner having had frequent opportunities of judging from the vaccine cicatrices on the arms of seamen from Denmark and Sweden, who have become patients of the Small-pox Hospital, of the efficient way in which they had been vaccinated, and who, having taken small-pox, have had it, almost invariably, in the lightest form. This your petitioner believes was entirely due to their having been so efficiently vaccinated, and therefore he ventures to recommend that similar arrangements to those in force in Denmark and Sweden for conducting vaccination should be adopted in England.

The many foreigners admitted, in a series of years, as patients at the Small-pox Hospital, have enabled your petitioner to observe that vaccination is, as a rule, much better performed abroad than in England; that, in fact, it is far less satisfactorily performed in England than in any other country in Europe, owing, most likely, to a total absence of organization of the subject in this country.

Your petitioner, therefore, fully convinced himself, from ample opportunities of judging, for a period of twenty years, of the great good conferred on mankind by vaccination, when judiciously and carefully carried out, and knowing, also, from ample experience in vaccination, of no objections to it, except unfounded prejudice, earnestly entreates your honourable House to pass the Vaccination Bill now before Parliament, in the full conviction that it will be, if provision be made for its due administration, a most beneficial act of the Legislature for those who, from their carelessness, prejudices, and ignorance, or from their early age, are unable, on this subject, to take proper care of themselves.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Signed)

J. F. MARSON,

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, London.

May 26th, 1856.

## DINNER GIVEN IN PARIS TO THE MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE FRENCH ARMY AND NAVY WHO SERVED IN THE EAST, BY THEIR BRETHREN IN CIVIL PRACTICE.

SOME months ago we recorded a most gratifying demonstration of the excellent feelings existing amongst our professional brethren in France, which demonstration had arisen from the universal admiration felt for the many distinguished qualities of M. Ricord (*THE LANCET*, March 8, 1856). This day, however, we are extremely happy to state that the same spirit of union and affectionate regard has shown itself on a larger and still more magnificent scale; and that the profession of Paris and the provinces\* have met together to do honour to their brethren of the army and navy, who have displayed so much skill, heroism, and endurance, during the late war.

The medical men of France were anxious to express, in a brilliant manner, the sympathy they feel for the sufferings and noble conduct of their brethren of the army and navy; and to pay due homage and respect to those who have perished under the fire of the enemy, or have fallen victims to their indefatigable care of the sick.

The first idea of this truly touching and splendid professional fête, arose with Dr. Maheux; he succeeded in rallying around himself the most eminent men belonging to the faculty and hospitals of Paris, who constituted themselves into a committee, presided over by the justly celebrated Paul Dubois. This committee spared no trouble in promoting the intentions of the originator of the happy suggestion, and four hundred pro-

fessional men of every grade and standing assembled on the 20th instant, at the Great Hotel du Louvre, to partake of a dinner, where decorations of the most tasteful kind, an excellent fare, and a magnificent locality, were combined with the most affectionate good-will and mutual sympathy amongst the guests.

The committee had expressed the wish that the medical officers of the armies and navies of Great Britain, Sardinia, and Turkey, should be represented at this dinner. Lord Cowley designated Sir John Hall, Sir David Deas, and Mr. Wyatt. For Sardinia, the representatives were M. Comisetti, and M. Mazzolini, and for Turkey, Dr. Sinapian; all holding high offices in the army and navy medical departments of their respective countries. The medical officers of the French army and navy, who had served during the war, were for the most part present, a body of men eminently deserving the flattering and affectionate compliment paid to them by their brethren in civil practice.

At the conclusion of the dinner, the speeches were of the most enthusiastic character, and full justice was done to the heroic conduct of the medical officers of the allied armies. The chairman, Baron Paul Dubois, proposed successively the health of the Emperor, of the medical officers of the French army and navy during the Eastern campaigns, and of their brethren of the British, Sardinian, and Turkish armies; premising the health of the living by a tribute of sympathy and regard for the dead. The principal officers of the medical departments returned thanks in very talented speeches, which we regret not being able to give in full. Sir John Hall's address was delivered in English, and was received with much cheering. M. Ricord proposed the health of the medical officers of the Russian army.

The meeting was altogether a splendid proof of the power and influence of our profession, when union and good-will pervades its members. It shows that we need but meet to appreciate each other, and to feel that we shall acquire our proper standing in the human family. Let us convince the public at large that we duly appreciate the eminent qualities displayed by our brethren, both in the field and the more peaceful civil practice.

Nor were the professional men who met on this festive manner forgetful that some of the medical officers of the army and navy, who have fallen during the late war, have left widows and orphans unprovided for. A subscription has been commenced, under the sanction and co-operation of the committee, and is getting numerously filled.

In concluding this rapid sketch of so admirable a demonstration, may we venture to suggest that a similar tribute might, with much propriety, be paid to our own brethren in the army and navy who have just returned from the East and the Baltic? Have we not a sympathizing word for those who have perished? Could we not give a hearty British welcome to those who again are treading English ground? We trust the appeal will be heard; and we hope that our brethren of the army and navy, who have lately so heroically upheld the dignity of our profession, will meet with some public mark of admiration from the whole medical body.

## CASES IN MIDWIFERY PRACTICE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Two of your correspondents of last week, request to know my reason for having perforated the head of the child, in one of the three cases which I reported in *THE LANCET* of the 9th instant. The reason was so obvious that it appeared to me quite unnecessary to adduce any argument in favour of the course which had been adopted. I stated that the child was in a putrid state, and that the mother was completely exhausted. Under such circumstances, it is an anxiety in midwifery to effect delivery by those means which are attended with the least suffering and inconvenience to the mother; and I need scarcely add that the crotchet was more likely to fulfil this indication than the forceps. Had there been the slightest doubt as to the death of the child, I should have had recourse to the forceps; but in this unfortunate case, the signs of death were of the most unmistakeable character. The head was emphysematous, and on perforating the cranium, the violent discharge of foetid gas and blood, evidenced in the most forcible manner the decomposed condition of the fetus.

The danger of inoculating the mother with an animal poison, should the mucous membrane of the vagina be injured during delivery, is another reason for not employing the forceps, when the fetus exhibits unequivocal signs of being in a state of putrescence.

\* The railway companies issued tickets on this occasion to medical men, proceeding to the meeting, at one quarter of the ordinary fares.

There is yet another argument for not employing the forceps when the child is putrid or diseased. It is a fact, not generally recognised, that a cachectic state of the mother implies a softened condition of the textures of the perinæum, and consequently a liability to rupture of this body during the passage of a full-sized foetal head. This friability of the mother's textures, from disease, may be suspected when the child is in a decomposed state.

One of your correspondents is desirous of being informed whether the head presented in the above case: as the operation of *craniotomy* was performed, he might have easily inferred that the head was the presenting part.

I remain, your obedient servant,  
Finsbury-square, August, 1856. J. M. WINN.

## Medical News.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.**—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on

Thursday, August 21st, 1856.

BLASSON, THOMAS, jun., Billingborough, Lincolnshire.

LEWIS, FREDERICK, Birmingham.

STURGES, MONTAGUE JAMES, London.

The next Preliminary Examination in Classics and Mathematics will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 18th and 19th of November, at eleven o'clock A.M. Medical students cannot be admitted to this examination before the commencement of their apprenticeship, a certificate of which will be required, but at any period from that date to the commencement of the second winter session of their curriculum. The examination is at present voluntary, and is conducted both by printed papers and *viva voce*. The subjects of the current year—viz., November, 1856, March and July, 1857—will be:—*In Greek*: The Gospel of St. John, and the First Book of Homer's Iliad.—*In Latin*: The First Book of the Odes of Horace, and Cicero de Amicitia.—*Mathematical*: The First Book of Euclid's Elements, Arithmetic, and Algebra, including Simple Equations. Candidates who fail to pass this examination cannot be re-admitted, but will be required to pass the Latin Examination in Celsus and Gregory when they appear for their final examination.

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.**—**EXAMINATION FOR HONOURS.**—*Anatomy and Physiology*: W. H. Broadbent (Exhibition and Gold Medal), Royal Manchester School of Medicine; Josephus A. Williams (Gold Medal), Queen's College, Birmingham; Thomas Parker Smith, Chatham-street, Manchester, and Wm. Spencer Watson, King's College, æq.; Joseph Giles, London Hospital; William Liddon, King's College; Rayner Winterbotham Batten, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Philip Sydney Jones, University College, æq.—*Chemistry*: J. L. H. Down (Exhibition and Gold Medal), London Hospital; W. Henry Broadbent (Gold Medal), Royal Manchester School of Medicine.—*Materia Medica and Pharmaceutical Chemistry*: J. L. H. Down (Exhibition and Gold Medal), London Hospital; William Hodges (Gold Medal), Guy's Hospital; Rinso Robert Siccama, King's College; William Josiah Smith, (Gold Medals), St. Bartholomew's Hospital.—*Botany*: William Josiah Smith, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; William Henry Broadbent, Royal Manchester School of Medicine; John Langdon Haydon Down, London Hospital, and Thomas Parker Smith, Chatham-street, Manchester, and William Spencer Watson, King's College, æq.

**APPOINTMENTS.**—At a late meeting of the Regents of the State University, held in Madison, the following chairs were filled in the Medical Department:—Dr. Alex. Schue, Professor of the Institute of Medicine; Dr. Joseph Hobbins, Professor of Surgery; Dr. H. Mercer M'Cabe, Demonstrator of Anatomy. Dr. Joseph Hobbins was educated at the Queen's College, at Birmingham, England.—*Evening Argus and Democrat*, Madison, Wisconsin, U.S., July 30th, 1856.

**HOSPITAL GOSSIP.**—The rumour that Mr. Lawrence retires from St. Bartholomew's, and that his successor is Mr. Paget, is void of foundation.—Dr. Gull succeeds Dr. Addison as Lecturer on the Principles and Practice of Medicine at Guy's.—There are several candidates in the field for the vacant office of Physician to the *Dreadnought* Hospital Ship.—Miss Catherine Hayes has given £600 to the Melbourne Hospital; a new wing is to be added to it, to be called the "Catherine Hayes Ward."

**MEDICAL CHARITABLE BEQUESTS.**—We have great pleasure in announcing the following munificent bequests to medical charities from Mr. Charles Wardell, of Westbourne-terrace, who has left £300 to St. Mary's Hospital; £300 to the Middlesex Hospital; and £100 to the Western General Dispensary.

**ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL.**—From an interesting report, just published, of this Institution, it appears that from December, 1854, to January, 1855, there had been admitted 177 patients deemed curable; of this number 102 had been discharged cured; as unfit, 9; at the request of their friends, 3; deceased, 11; and 48 remaining under treatment. The report also states that three of the centre dormitories of each gallery have been converted into open and well-lighted recesses, wherein the patients assemble during the day for amusement and recreation, and whereby the often-complained-of dulness of the galleries has been greatly diminished. In these recesses are placed aviaries, fern houses, aquariums, prints, &c., collected through the indefatigable zeal of Dr. Stevens, the Medical Superintendent, who appears thoroughly conscious of the necessity of affording to his patients recreation for the *mind* as well as the body, having for some time past allowed such as were likely to be benefited by it to make excursions to the Crystal Palace, Zoological Gardens, and other places of a like quiet character.

**SUSPENSION OF A UNION SURGEON.**—On Monday night, after a long investigation by the Stepney Board of Guardians, Mr. Stephenson, of Arbour-square, Commercial-road East, was suspended from his office, and the report of the circumstances attending his suspension was directed to be forwarded to the Poor-law Board at Whitehall, for the decision of the commissioners. Mr. Stephenson was one of the medical officers of the union and the hamlet of Ratcliff, and the parish of Shadwell was the district assigned to him. Mr. Baker, the coroner, had occasion to censure Mr. Stephenson three times at the request of juries who had investigated the causes leading to the deaths of three poor persons in the district. The last case of neglect on the part of Mr. Stephenson was that of the young woman named Sheehan. Mr. Horton, of White Horse-street, has been appointed medical officer *pro tem.*, until the decision of the Poor-law Board is known. Mr. Stephenson's salary was £130 per annum, and he was also paid for vaccinations, and had some other emoluments which made the total salary £180 per annum.

**THE INDIAN ASSISTANT-SURGEONS.**—The undermentioned assistant-surgeons, who have been reported qualified by the Board of Examiners, are stationed as follows—viz.: *To Bengal*: Mr. William Eddows; Dr. James Lumsdaine Brydon; Mr. Robert Fryer; Mr. Thomas T. Sherlock, A.B.; Mr. William Rocke Rice; Mr. Frederick Bushman; Mr. William Joseph Shaw; Mr. William Henry Kirton; Mr. Robert Westcott; Mr. George Farrell; Dr. Richard Abbott; Mr. Henry J. Cary; Dr. W. W. Ireland; Dr. Charles E. Wirmond Bensley; and Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick, M.B.—*To Madras*: Mr. James Keess, M.B., L.R.C.P.L.; Dr. Robert Wilson; Mr. Robert William Cockerell; Dr. John B. Newell; Dr. Charles Robertson; Mr. Thomas Gwynne Howell; Dr. William Charles Elliott; Dr. Alexander C. Gamach; and Dr. Jacob Wilkins.—*To Bombay*: Dr. Edmund Larken; Dr. Thomas Miller; Mr. Charles M'Dowall; Mr. Arthur Kelsey; Mr. James Kearney; and Dr. Roderick M'Kenzie.—*Smith, Elder, and Co.'s, Overland Mail.*

**HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, AUGUST 23.**—The number of deaths in London in the week that ended last Saturday was 1122, which is less by more than 100 than it was in either of the two preceding weeks. As the temperature is now lower, there is ground to hope that the mortality reached its maximum for this season in the week that ended August 16th, when the deaths rose to 1250. Whilst the mortality was rising, the mean weekly temperature was about 67°; it decreased last week to 57·8°. The deaths from diarrhoea, which in the two previous weeks were 211 and 253, were last week 214; and those from cholera, which in the former weeks were 28 and 22, were last week again 22. All these 22 cases, with the exception of 6, occurred to infants, and are referred to that description of cholera which is common in the summer months. But it will be noticed, on comparing the returns of corresponding weeks, that diarrhoea has been more prevalent than usual this season. Of the 214 cases in which it was fatal, 190 occurred to children who had not entered their third year.