

the cotton manufacture, the speaker said it was a rule carried on under arrangements calculated to preserve health, but in some cases it was attended by very injurious consequences. Having referred to the occupation of miners, potters, grinders, &c., he said the causes of the mortality were very largely preventable. He concluded by moving the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this meeting, the principle of regulating labour already adopted by the legislature in certain mines and factories, should be extended to all other kinds of industrial employment where several persons are employed in the same factory or work-place, with the especial purpose of endeavouring, as far as possible, to obviate conditions dangerous to the health or safety of the employed, and that the Council of the Association be requested to consider whether it can with propriety and advantage represent the importance of the subject to the legislature."

Mr. CHARLES HAWKINS seconded the resolution.

Dr. RICHARDSON was unfavourable to the interference of government as recommended in the resolution.

Dr. RYLAND was also opposed to the interference of the government.

Mr. HOLLAND said he would extend the Factory Act, though not, perhaps, so far as Dr. Greenhow.

After some further discussion,

Dr. RICHARDSON moved an amendment to the effect that it would be expedient for the government to issue a commission to inquire into the influence which occupations exercise on health.

On the vote being taken, the resolution was carried by a majority of 1.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11TH.

Mr. W. Fairbairn presided over this department.

Dr. SYMES PRIDEAUX read a paper "On the Pollution of the Atmosphere by the Smoke of our Manufactories."

This subject led to a discussion, in which it was stated that the washing bill for the metropolis was, at the lowest estimate, five millions per annum; but if the use were general of improved grates and kitchen ranges, such as those on the French and American principle, this great bill might clearly be reduced one-half.

Dr. MILROY read a paper "On the Health of the Army and Navy compared together." It contained the following facts in reference to the two services:—In the army, in 1859, in the United Kingdom, the annual death-rate was 8.4 in 1000; in the Mediterranean it was 13; in the West Indies, 17; in the Australian colonies, 10; and in Ceylon and China, 47.1. The death-rate in the navy was as follows for the year 1858:—On the home station, 9.6; Mediterranean, 11.1; West Indian, 20.8; Australian, 7.9; and East Indies and China, 62.5. The daily sick rate in the army was as follows:—United Kingdom, 50 in 1000; Mediterranean, 48; West Indies, 53.5; Australian colonies, 27; Ceylon and China, 99.5. The daily sick rate in the navy was—Home station, 53.5; Mediterranean, 48.7; West Indian, 66.6; Australian colonies, 42; and East Indies and China, 92.

Mr. J. N. RADCLIFFE said it was worthy of notice that Lord Clarence Paget, in moving the navy estimates, had stated that a large amount of the mortality and sickness in ships was believed to be traceable to the want of proper ventilation between decks. The iron plating of ships shut out the means of ventilation, and the temperature between the decks of the *Warrior* was much higher than in any of the other war ships of the navy now in use. He thought it was urgently required that the attention of the Government should be drawn to the ventilation of the *Warrior*, *Black Prince*, *Defence*, and the other iron-plated ships now building, or the mortality might prove much greater than it was at the present time.

Mr. ERNEST HART read a paper "On the Sale of Poisons, and the Prevention of Accidental Poisoning," in which he recommended that peculiar shaped bottles should be adopted for particular kinds of medicines, whether poisonous or not, for external or internal application. This precaution, he believed, would be found most useful, and would have prevented many of those accidental cases of poisoning which he enumerated, and which they had so much reason to deplore.

The thanks of the section were awarded to Mr. Hart for the valuable suggestions contained in his paper.

THE OPHTHALMOSCOPE IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF MENINGITIS.—M. Bouchut for the first time has employed the ophthalmoscope in the diagnosis of tubercular meningitis, with the most satisfactory results.—*Gaz. des Hôpitaux*.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

PROPOSED OPERATION FOR THE REMOVAL OF EMBOLON IN ACCESSIBLE ARTERIES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Two interesting cases of embolon in the femoral artery are published in your "Mirror" of last week: one under the care of Mr. Prescott Hewett, at St. George's, and the other under that of Mr. Erichsen, at University College Hospital. In both, death by gangrene took place. In the former, amputation of the limb was contemplated, but not adopted; in the latter it was actually put in practice. A similar case came under my notice some time since, in which we felt certain that a plug of fibrin had become impacted in the femoral artery at a short distance below Poupart's ligament. To my friend who was with me in attendance I proposed that the following operation for the removal and extraction of the embolon should be practised:—

Operation.—Let the trunk of the artery at the point at which the pulsation ceases be laid bare to the linear extent of about two inches; then, by means of sharp-cutting scissors (taking care that the point of the instrument does not displace the plug), let a straight longitudinal incision of the required length be made through the coats of the vessel—thus laying open the tubular channel of the artery and exposing the plug, which now may be removed by aid of a properly constructed forceps. This being accomplished, the edges of the incision in the coats of the vessel should be accurately brought into contact, and held in apposition by means of an appropriately contrived suture of silver wire.

In our case, however, the friends would not consent to an operation. The patient recovered.

I am not aware that the proposed operation has been thought of by any surgeon. I suggest it as worthy of trial in these and such cases in which the artery is accessible, and the locality of the embolon can be determined with fair certainty. It recommends itself as a harmless measure; and offers to the surgeon a feasible mode of restoring the tubular continuity of the vessel, and therefore of the current of the circulation. It is my belief that an incision made parallel with the axis of the vessel, provided the edges be carefully brought into apposition, *would not be followed by hæmorrhage*. If surgeons reflect on the terrible consequences which now follow upon the plugging of an artery—amputation and gangrene—they will admit that the operation as explained is not only justifiable, but strong in its claims to practical adoption.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS WILLIAMS, M.D., F.R.S.,
Physician to the Swansea Infirmary.

Swansea, June, 1862.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg leave respectfully to quote your words in THE LANCET of the 31st ult., and with your permission to make a few comments upon them. You remark: "It is desirable in every point of view that country surgeons should be represented in the Council. The reasons for this are so obvious, that it is unnecessary to enlarge upon them. The interests of the profession demand that no exclusive principles should be in the ascendant." Allow me, as a country Fellow, senior to some of the candidates who are laudably ambitious to fill the honourable post of Councillor, to express my entire dissent from the spirit of your proposition—the antagonism between London and provincial Councillors. I coincide in the correctness of your previous remark, "That the College of Surgeons is no longer a London College but the College of England." I contend that the history of the College shows that it has regard alike to the wants and claims of town and country; it is essentially one and undivided. To attempt, therefore, to array one section of Councillors against another, on the plea that rural and urban Councillors have clashing interests to uphold, is to assume a myth or a fiction which is most mischievous to the unity of feeling and action which are essential to the well-being of the College.

Whatever individual views on a given subject a Councillor