

upon them. The medical profession of France, who have just passed through such severe trials, will certainly bear with feelings of pride and gratitude that their brethren in this great metropolis seized upon this opportunity of warmly testifying sympathy for their suffering, and admiration for the manner in which they have borne the misfortunes of their country.

M. Ricord and M. Demarquay were, as is well known, the bearers from the French Government of expressions of regard to those amongst us who had spared neither time nor money to help the victims of the sad contest which has just been brought to a close. Nor could, under these circumstances, any better representatives of France have been chosen. These representatives, so eminent in their profession and so distinguished by their noble attitude during the struggle, belong to our common profession; and it was fit that the medical men of London should receive them with the generous warmth which is so characteristic of British hearts.

The dinner at Willis's Rooms was organised in a very short time, and the call was quickly responded to by the most eminent members of our body, Sir William Fergusson, Bart., having consented to take the chair. Among the guests were especially noticed a great many of M. Ricord's old pupils, who were happy to see the eminent syphilographer, unsubdued by years, meet them with the same sprightliness as in times gone by.

After the loyal toasts, Dr. Burrows proposed the "Army and Navy, and those who had done duty with the contending armies," to which Sir Alexander Armstrong and Dr. Gordon answered in a very apposite manner. The latter, who had been sent to Paris with Mr. Wyatt by our Government, dwelt especially on the assistance offered him by M. Demarquay, without whose help he could hardly have fulfilled his mission.

The President gave, in an eloquent speech, the toast of the evening, and paid to the eminent guests a tribute of high estimation for their professional worth, and the noble manner in which they had acted during the siege. Sir William went as far back as the siege of Troy and the first siege of Metz, to show how important were the services of medical men, especially instancing Ambrose Paré. The Paris school, he remarked, was deserving of our thanks, for some of the great discoveries which had benefited the profession and mankind had been made by its *élèves*. Sir William then turned to MM. Ricord and Demarquay, and begged them to accept the hearty welcome of their professional brethren assembled around them.

The toast was received with enthusiastic cheering, which was long continued, and a sufficient proof that all present joined with the liveliest feelings in the sentiments expressed by the President.

M. Ricord, who was greatly cheered on rising, read a speech in English which was characteristic of himself. He said that, seeing so many of his pupils, he fancied himself lecturing under the lime-trees of his hospital. M. Ricord gave a sketch of the hard work done by medical men during the siege, and eulogised the British members of the profession who had helped them. Highly flattering remarks were made on English surgery, Hunter and Bell being especially mentioned, and M. Ricord expressed a hope that close union would always exist between the members of the medical profession on both sides of the channel. This speech was received with the loudest approval.

M. Demarquay followed, in French, and sketched in forcible language the medical events of the two sieges, and the perils which the surgeons had encountered in various ways. He, too, trusted that the French and English nations would work in peace for the advancement of science, and especially for the improvement of medicine.

Mr. Paget subsequently proposed the toast of "The Society for the Sick and Wounded" in one of those impressive speeches to which he has long accustomed us. Count Serurier answered in the absence of Count Flavigny, and gave, in French, a sketch of the labours of the Society.

Dr. Gull then proposed "The Press," showing, as Mr. Paget had done, how much the madness of waging war was to be deprecated, and passed a compliment on the secretaries.

Dr. Russell, of *The Times*, responded in a suitable manner.

The evening drew to a seasonable close after an interchange of goodwill and gratitude which, we trust, the future

will strengthen. Much has been said by intemperate or unthinking journalists in Paris of the coldness with which England witnessed the disasters of her nearest ally; but these unwarranted statements have received a refutation in meetings such as those at the Crystal Palace, at Greenwich, and in London, which must silence for ever the voice of jealousy or chagrin.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

DR. SAYRE'S OPERATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am very sorry to see in your journal of July 15th a letter from Mr. Barwell on "Dr. Sayre's Subperiosteal Exsection of the Hip-joint." He seems to have completely misunderstood the entire plan of my operation, and has most certainly failed altogether to perform it in such a manner as would give it a fair chance of success. I have discussed some of the questions raised in his letter in a lecture which the surgeons of St. Bartholomew's and the Children's Hospitals did me the honour to request me to give on Saturday last. I would beg to refer Mr. Barwell and your readers generally to the report of it, which will appear elsewhere.

Mr. Barwell has had my extension splint for several years, but has been unsuccessful in its use because he applied it in a reverse position. He seems equally unfortunate in comprehending my method of subperiosteal exsection.

I am, Sir, very respectfully yours,

Bath Hotel, Piccadilly, July 17th, 1871.

LEWIS A. SAYRE.

INFECTION FROM THE DEAD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As a discussion has lately arisen on the chances of infection from the dead, and as the question is one of no little importance, I think it desirable to draw the attention of your readers to such a case in the last number of Virchow's *Archiv* (June 23rd, p. 136). The case is reported by Virchow himself, in a short communication upon the contagiousness of typhus. Among other instances is mentioned, No. 10, Wiegand, a servant in the Pathological Institute, charged especially with the care of the dead. This man was taken ill with typhus, probably from one of the fever patients who died on April 20th. The body was not opened, but was laid in the cellar of the Pathological Institute. On May 18th Wiegand likewise fell ill of typhus and died on the 30th. Virchow adds that this attack was very remarkable as, so far as could be ascertained, Wiegand had only been brought into contact with the typhus patients after death.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Leeds, July 17th, 1871.

T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT.

MR. KEMPSTER'S CASE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I think I may fairly ask you for a small space in your journal, to enable me to explain several matters which do not come out clearly in the report of my recent case at the Medical Council.

In the first place I have to thank the Medical Council for the great impartiality evinced by them during the investigation, and their kindness at the termination of the case, and more especially the President, who conducted the proceedings in a judicial manner worthy of our most distinguished judges.

But I still feel that I have grave cause of complaint against the Medical Council, or rather against the English Branch Council, in their not having given me any intimation that certain charges were made against me, and were being investigated by them. I ought to have been invited to tender an explanation, which I should have readily done, and after which I am sure that the case would never have assumed the complexion it did.

It was mentioned that the Council were obliged to frame the charge as one of "infamous conduct in a professional respect," as they have no power to erase a name from the Register for any other cause; but surely the fact that they can pass but one sentence—that of professional extinction—should render them careful not to put their powers lightly or too readily into force, as they must be aware that the fact of having been tried on such a charge might, to many men, be absolute ruin.

No notice has been taken of the fact that Mr. Goodson was, during the time embraced by the charges, a medical student attending hospital practice and lectures, and that he is now qualified.

It was also not sufficiently understood that a "medical certificate of death" is not a legal document in the usual acceptation of the phrase, as it is not required by, or mentioned in, any of the numerous Acts of Parliament relating to registration, and is merely a form issued by the Registrar-General for the convenience of the local registrars, and the only information in it of vital importance is the *cause* of death.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Battersea, July 18th, 1871.

W. H. KEMPSTER.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—

At a meeting of the Council on the 13th inst., the following gentlemen (admitted Members in April and August, 1840, respectively) were elected Fellows of the College:—

Porter, John Taylor, Sheffield.
Gleadall, James, Sheffield.

Mr. Quain reported the proceedings of the General Medical Council at its last meeting, and the thanks of the Council were voted to him for his services. The thanks of the Council were also voted to Sir William Fergusson, Bart., for his efficient services as president during the past year. Mr. Charles Hawkins's motion, "That a committee be appointed to consider and report to the Council if any alteration should be made in the wording of the several diplomas now granted by the College or in the mode of issuing them," was carried. Mr. Quain gave notice of the following motion at the next meeting of the Council—viz., "That a committee be appointed to investigate the expenses of the College in all its departments, and report thereon, with a view to the diminution of expense, where practicable."

The following gentlemen passed the primary examinations in Anatomy and Physiology at meetings of the Court of Examiners on the 18th and 19th inst.:—

R. H. Stowers, L. A. Holden, R. S. Bridges, G. T. B. Moffatt, W. C. G. Collins, and J. M. Hart, St. Bartholomew's; James Ritchie, Francis Imlach, H. M. Church, and E. Hincheliff, Edinburgh; J. C. Irving, J. R. Burton, H. J. F. Groves, W. Y. Davenport, R. D. Hughes, J. H. Townend, and E. M. Boddy, Guy's; G. W. Bell, C. K. F. Williams, W. D. Strang, G. R. Steil, W. E. N. Erith, P. Bradford, H. C. Lang, H. Rugg, Oliver Barber, J. G. R. Symons, R. St. M. Dawes, and M. Eskell, University College; A. J. Vause and A. E. Kirby, Leeds; R. C. Fair, Canada; J. D. Jennings, Birmingham; M. J. Fitzpatrick, Dublin; F. W. Cory and F. Johnson, London Hospital; I. B. Stuart, Liverpool; C. Hartley, Charing-cross Hosp.; C. F. Grindrod, St. Mary's; D. Nunez, Guy's and Paris.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on July 13th:—

Briggs, Henry Myddleton, Birmingham.
Lyons, Isidor Isaac, St. John's-wood.
Richards, Geo. Pickering, Newman-st., Oxford-st.
Rix, Benjamin, East Meon, Hants.
Thornton, William Pugh, Canterbury.
Williams, Edward, Llandyssul, S. Wales.

As Assistants in Compounding and Dispensing Medicines:—

Gould, Eli, Reddal-hill, near Dudley.
Holmes, Nathaniel W., Chorlton-on-Medlock.
Pollard, William, Wakefield.

On the same day the following gentleman passed his first professional examination:—

Garrard, William Arthur, Guy's.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, IRELAND.—At examinations held on the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th of July, the following gentlemen obtained the licences in Medicine and Midwifery:—

MEDICINE.—Robert Boxwell, George Frederick Duffey, John Hallilay, Francis Meagher Harricks, David James Freeman, Joseph Henry Lockwood (Calcutta), Andrew Bernard Morris, Herbert Mandeville Nash,

Henry Albert Pattinson, Frederick Stevenson Tellet, Hugh George Webb.

MIDWIFERY.—Robert Boxwell, George Frederick Duffey, David James Freeman, Francis Meagher Harricks, Joseph Henry Lockwood, Patrick John Molony, Andrew Bernard Morris, Herbert Mandeville Nash, Fredk. Stevenson Tellet, William Ratcliffe Tolerton.

THE EMPEROR OF BRAZIL repeated his visit to the Brompton Turkish Bath on Monday last, at the early hour of six in the morning. On leaving he expressed himself much gratified with all the arrangements, as also with the comfort he derived upon each occasion of taking the bath.

THE SOCIETY FOR RELIEF OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN.—At a quarterly Court of Directors held on the 12th inst., Dr. Burrows, president, in the chair, grants to the amount of £1278 10s. were made to fifty-five widows and forty-five children. Two widows and three children were added to the list. The death of one recipient of grants was announced. Two members were elected, and five proposed for election at the next Court to be held in October.

NOTICES OF MOTION.—Mr. Pell has given notice of proposing that the efficient working of the Vaccination Amendment Act would be promoted by the contribution of a considerable proportion of the expenses from moneys to be voted by Parliament. Mr. Thomas Chambers, Q.C., has given notice of a motion that it is not expedient to enforce vaccination by legislative penalties. Sir Charles Adderley has given notice of his intention to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to public health and local government.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—The arrangements for the meeting of the British Association in Edinburgh are now nearly completed. The sections will be accommodated in the various class-rooms of the University, and it is expected that the Great Hall of the Parliament House will be used as a reception room. The first general meeting of the Association will be held in the Music-hall on Wednesday evening, August 2nd, at eight o'clock, when Professor Huxley will resign the chair, and Professor Sir William Thomson will assume the presidency and deliver an address.

THE WEST LONDON HOSPITAL.—On the 15th inst. the east wing and central building of this hospital were opened for the reception of patients by his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, who laid a "memorial stone" in honour of the occasion. The hospital was originally instituted as a Hammersmith Dispensary, but in progress of time has grown to its present very considerable dimensions, and will shortly contain 100 beds. On Saturday his Grace and other distinguished visitors were received in the board-room by the committee, and conducted in procession to inspect the new wards, after which an address descriptive of the history and usefulness of the charity was read by the Rev. R. G. Baker, of Fulham, one of the vice-presidents, whose interest has further been evinced by a donation of £1400 from Mrs. Baker for the completion of a female ward with every modern improvement. The new wards will afford room for a much needed expansion of the in-patient department; but the income is not sufficient to meet the demands that will thus be occasioned. Apart from building expenses the hospital is at present in debt to the sum of £1010.

DEATH OF JAMES NEWLANDS, C.E., of Liverpool.—We make an exception in noticing the death, on the 15th inst., of Mr. James Newlands, for upwards of twenty-four years the borough engineer of Liverpool. He was one of the most distinguished sanitarians of his time; and it is no small tribute to his genius to state that he recommended the intercepting system of sewers, helped to determine the proper form of sewers, invented the trough water-closet, and comprehended sewage irrigation in the sanitary scheme prepared by him for Liverpool nearly a quarter of a century ago. Mr. Newlands was a man of the highest culture and of the widest views. He had a horror of piecemeal work; and although, like many other distinguished men, he had his crotchets, few men have made fewer mistakes. It has been our misfortune to differ from him, but we did so with a full appreciation of his great ability; and we conclude with expressing our conviction that Liverpool has lost one of her most distinguished townsmen.