

METEOROLOGICAL READINGS.

(Taken daily at 8.30 a.m. by Steward's Instruments.)

THE LANCET Office, April 11th, 1889.

Date.	Barometer reduced to Sea Level and 32° F.	Direction of Wind.	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Solar Radia in Vacuo.	Maximum Temp. Shade.	Min. Temp.	Rain-fall.	Remarks at 8.30 A.M.
Apl. 5	29.44	S.W.	43	42	79	52	41	.05	Overcast
" 6	29.53	E.	46	44	76	53	41	..	Hazy
" 7	29.40	E.	48	45	96	55	40	..	Cloudy
" 8	29.37	E.	47	45	81	57	43	.04	Overcast
" 9	29.35	E.	45	44	58	49	44	.05	Raining
" 10	29.50	E.	43	42	..	46	41	.23	Raining
" 11	29.50	E.	40	40	70	48	39	.33	Raining

Notes, Short Comments, & Answers to Correspondents.

It is especially requested that early intelligence of local events having a medical interest, or which it is desirable to bring under the notice of the profession, may be sent direct to this Office.

All communications relating to the editorial business of the journal must be addressed "To the Editors."

Lectures, original articles, and reports should be written on one side only of the paper.

Letters, whether intended for insertion or for private information, must be authenticated by the names and addresses of their writers, not necessarily for publication.

We cannot prescribe or recommend practitioners.

Local papers containing reports or news paragraphs should be marked and addressed to the Sub-Editor.

Letters relating to the publication, sale, and advertising departments of THE LANCET to be addressed "to the Publisher."

We cannot undertake to return MSS. not used.

"OUR LADY OF FEVER."

THE cult of this goddess dates from the first century of the history of Rome. At the time of Varro (*obit.*, B.C. 28) there were three temples of fever still standing—one on the Palatine, one on the Piazza of Marius on the Esquiline, and one on the upper end of the Vicus Longus, a street corresponding in part of its length to the Via Nazionale. On the Esquiline there was an altar dedicated to Mala Fortuna (the Evil Eye) and an altar in a grove at which the goddess Mephitis was worshipped. The archæologist Lanciani lately discovered near the Prætorian camp an altar dedicated to Verminus, whom he calls the "god of microbes," and in the centre of the Roman Forum the same authority mentions an altar to Cloacina, "a goddess of typhoid." Mediæval Rome also raised a chapel to the Madonna della Febbra—Our Lady of Fever.

Mr. Horrocks (Bradford).—The matter had perhaps better be left where it is.

A very Light Sleeper is thanked; the procedure is well known.

"ERRORS IN THE MEDICAL REGISTER."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In a letter in your issue of April 6th, "M.B., C.M." complains that after registering two additional qualifications these did not appear for eighteen months in the Register, and supposes that he ran great risk because he "had signed all kinds of certificates, using his later qualifications only." Your correspondent labours, like a great many young practitioners, under a misapprehension with regard to the Medical Act. He had certainly just cause of complaint that he did not for a period of eighteen months get what he paid for; but let me assure him that this neglect on the part of the Council did not make the least difference to him whatever, and that he ran no risk. But he is quite right in one thing—namely, that the registration of extra diplomas and degrees, beyond those qualifying to practise in all three branches, is both unnecessary and a waste of money to those who cannot afford it, and quite superfluous to those who can. The object of registration is to enable one to recover fees in courts of law and to legally hold appointments. "M.B., C.M." may practise and sign certificates and yet not be registered, provided he does not certify that he is a "practitioner duly registered." He is perfectly at liberty to sign himself "M.R.C.P.," or any other diploma or degree he chooses which he may possess, though these may not be registered, but he may not certify these to be "registered qualifications" when they are not so. No qualified practitioner is bound to register. If he is not registered, he is amenable only to the college from which he obtained his diploma.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

April 6th, 1889.

M.D., M.R.C.P., &c.

ADULTERATION IN ST. PETERSBURG.

It is generally supposed to be an advantage to be able to obtain farm produce, or what ought to be farm produce, direct from the country, where it is not so likely to be sophisticated as that which is purchased in a large town. That the security afforded by food being sent direct from the country may be fallacious is shown by the report recently issued of work done in the two public analytical laboratories opened by the St. Petersburg municipal authorities. Out of twenty-three samples of butter analysed only eleven were pure butter, twelve containing from 77 to 83 per cent. margarine and fat; while one, which was sent from a village in the neighbourhood to a family which had for many years been in the habit of getting its butter thence, contained no less than 95.8 per cent. of fat. The work done by these newly established institutions is considerable; but there is so much that has had to be left undone that the municipal authorities have just sanctioned an additional expenditure, bringing the total to £300, instead of the amount hitherto allowed—viz., £120. In the report alluded to it is stated that the number of analyses of milk and cream was forty-seven, in most of which there had been an addition of water; while one sample of cream consisted almost entirely of a mucilaginous emulsion containing bacon fat, but scarcely any milk.

X. Y. Z.—1. The absorption of belladonna in any quantity necessarily involves dilatation of the pupil. In the case mentioned the possibility of direct local action might be considered.—2. The action of belladonna and hyoscyamus upon the pupil can only be combated by their physiological antagonists.

Mr. Brocklehurst.—Our correspondent might apply to the author, at Birkenhead.

Miss Simpson is referred to our advertising columns.

THE TOXIC EFFECTS OF WORMWOOD.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The following case may be of interest to those who live in a neighbourhood where this plant abounds, and where its virtues as "an herb of Mars" are still venerated, and sometimes utilised to the detriment of the recipient.

Recently I was consulted by a gentleman who complained of vertigo, "weakness and trembling" in his limbs,—so much so that he had to discontinue his writing—of "a dragging pain" over the lower part of the abdomen, of a constant desire to micturate, and of a burning sensation at the tip of the penis. He volunteered the statement that at about 8.30 A.M., after breakfasting, he took a quarter of a pint of a home-made infusion of wormwood. The above symptoms came on about an hour afterwards, and increased in intensity for about forty minutes, after which they gradually subsided. When I saw him at 10.30 A.M. the toxic effects were evidently passing off; so, save a little stimulant, if necessary, I considered treatment useless. Except for a slight feeling of weakness in the limbs, which lasted all day, by 2 P.M. he had entirely recovered.

One reads that the various kinds of wormwood were very extensively used by our forefathers, and to this day the plant is much in vogue by the public as a cure for the divers ailments to which man is heir; but of its poisonous properties I can find no record, though on the Continent the chronic condition known as absinthism, from long-continued abuse of the fascinating liqueur, is well recognised. It is difficult to determine the strength of the infusion taken in this case, so as to form an opinion whether a poisonous dose was in reality absorbed, or whether it was a peculiar susceptibility on the part of the gentleman in question. I forward this case, thinking the facts may be of interest, and perhaps of service, to some of your numerous readers.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Oakmoor, April 9th, 1889.

BERNARD ROBINSON.

M.D.—Granting that the facts of the case are given fully and accurately, we should say that the treatment of the patient was decidedly wanting in judgment, if not in humanity.

Dr. Dearden.—The paper is marked for early insertion.

METATARSALGIA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In following my particular branch of the profession (dental surgery), I operate for many hours during the day in a standing position. I fancy I can hear a chorus of voices exclaiming, "Why don't you use a stool, and work whilst sitting?" Be that as it may, I prefer standing; and, with your permission, I will state my experience. Well, I first noticed some six or seven years ago that I became more tired in my feet than could be reasonably accounted for by my hours of work, and, further, I felt pain in the plantar arch. I noticed, too, that I became more comfortable when wearing new boots, and I therefore came to the conclusion that the pain and tiredness were due to descent of the tarsal arch. I had some boots made with flexura waists; and, of course, special lasts were made, and the measurements taken whilst standing. I would advise anyone who has to stand many hours during the day to adopt some such supports, as I am sure my condition has been much benefited by them.

April 8th, 1889.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

M.R.C.S., L.D.S.

THE G.W.R. MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE *North Wiltshire Herald* contains a report of various matters affecting the remuneration of the medical officer. Incidentally the sufficiency of the apothecaries' licence as a qualification was questioned, we think neither justly nor generously. The licence is now a full and legal one in all branches of the profession, and one in which any man may properly "dare to start practice."

Mr. G. E. Perry.—The publication of the letter had better be postponed until after the receipt of the reply from the General Medical Council.

W. W. H.—The suggestion is by no means novel. Bottles varying in shape and colour have for a long time been used by dispensers.

Mr. Lawson Tait.—The point in dispute is, we think, of hardly sufficient importance to warrant more space being given to it.

G. P. can claim £1 1s. and travelling expenses, if any. As a rule, £2 2s. is paid.

THE OSWESTRY COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The committee of the Oswestry Cottage Hospital met on Feb. 2nd last, among other business to elect a surgeon in place of Dr. Fuller, resigned. There were three applications—viz., from Mr. Williams, myself, and Mr. Blaikie, who applied for his son, who was not then residing in the town, but acting as an assistant in Gloucestershire. Mr. Blaikie was elected, I believe, unanimously. About two years ago I was appointed medical officer to the dispensary in this town; and at that time Rule 18 of the Cottage Hospital stood thus: "The medical staff of the Oswestry Dispensary are requested to act as the medical attendants of the Cottage Hospital, and to make such arrangements for visiting in-patients as may seem best to them." About six weeks after my election to the dispensary, Dr. Fuller asked me to assist him with a case he had at the hospital, saying that I had a right to attend there by virtue of the above rule. I did so, and after having gone there a few times I received a note from the secretary, in which he requested me to discontinue my visits to the hospital. This note, from the wording of it, it is plain, was written upon his own authority. At the annual meeting held in the beginning of last year the above rule was struck out, and the following inserted in its stead: "The medical staff of the hospital shall consist of four fully qualified surgeons residing in Oswestry," &c. Mr. Williams and myself have practised here for over four years, and Mr. Blaikie, jun., who was elected, was not even in the town when appointed. I should like to ask through THE LANCET whether it is customary, or whether such a thing is ever done, in filling up appointments such as the one to which I am referring, to pass over two men who have been several years in a place in favour of one who has never practised in that locality? Also, I should like to ask if the appointment by right ought not to have fallen to me by virtue of the rule to which I have directed your attention? I have enclosed you a copy of the rules of the hospital as they stood when I was elected to the dispensary, also a copy as they stand now, and have marked the rules bearing upon this subject. Also I have enclosed a report of the dispensary bearing my name, to show you that I am surgeon to that institution.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Oswestry.

JAS. T. NEECH.

* It is difficult for us on a one-sided statement to judge of such questions as those raised by Mr. Neech. It is not unprecedented to appoint a man in his absence. But our correspondent's statements seem so reasonable that we give them publicity.—ED. L.

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., and others.—The sulphur lozenges could doubtless be obtained at any first-class druggist's in London.

Bacillus.—If the agreement be clear, it can only be terminated before the end of the first year by mutual consent.

Mr. G. E. Walker (Liverpool).—We shall be happy to give the paper, when sent, due consideration.

AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEER MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Will you kindly allow me through your columns to draw the attention of Volunteer medical officers to the class which will be commenced at 26, King William-street, W.C., on Thursday, May 2nd, at 4 P.M., with the object of affording the necessary instruction for obtaining the War Office Proficiency Certificate? The course of six lectures will be given by W. Collingridge, M.D., D.P.H.Camb., Surgeon, Volunteer Medical Staff Corps. Volunteer medical officers desirous of undertaking duty at the forthcoming Easter manœuvres are requested to be good enough to forward their names to me at once.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

ALFRED LINGARD, Hon. Sec.,
Surgeon, V.M.S.

King William-st., W.C., April 4th, 1889.

Lex.—In the absence of any agreement to the contrary, written or verbal, we think our correspondent is entitled to the notice of which he speaks.

D. E. F.—Dr. D—'s course clearly was to have communicated with the medical man in attendance.

Question.—Murchison.

DOUBTFUL PROVIDENT ARRANGEMENTS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I enclose you a circular which has come into my hands, and which, I think, shows that the state of affairs at Newport is no better, or at any rate not much, than your correspondent, "Via Dolorosa," appears to find at Manchester. From this circular you will see that for the magnificent sum of 1½d. a week anyone can obtain attendance (at his own home) and medicine, and that for 4d. a man, his wife, and all their children under sixteen years of age can obtain ditto. This highly satisfactory limited association is "run" by two aldermen, one councillor of the borough of Newport, I suppose, and two other individuals, all doubtless proud of their endeavours to benefit mankind. Now is it not lamentable that the profession should be brought to such a state of utter degradation that men can be found to accept such conditions (one of the attractions is a "choice of doctors from a duly qualified staff")? Can you or your readers tell me of anyone who does anything for anybody for three halfpence a week? Ours used to be called the profession of a gentleman, but can its most ardent admirer call it so now? Cannot something be done to remedy such a state of affairs? Doubtless one great cause for all this is that the supply of medical men is greater than the demand; but, if the matter were taken up, I cannot help thinking that something might be done to save us sinking below the level of all the trades I know of.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

Monmouth, April 3rd, 1889.

J. GRANT WILSON.

EXAMINING BOARD IN ENGLAND BY THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON AND THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

THE following are the written questions submitted to the candidates at the recent respective examinations of the above Board:—

THIRD OR FINAL EXAMINATION.

Principles and Practice of Medicine.

Candidates must answer at least four of the six questions. Candidates unable to answer four questions must report the fact to the Presiding Examiner. The candidate should confine his answers to the points asked in each question, and deal with them in the order indicated.

1. What are the physical signs of aneurysm of the ascending portion of the aorta? Describe the symptoms attributable to pressure of the enlarging tumour upon neighbouring parts. 2. You are called to a case of acute lobar pneumonia following exposure and in an early stage. What circumstances would influence you in your prognosis of such a case, and how would they guide your treatment? 3. What symptoms would manifest to your judgment that a patient is suffering from typhilitis with perityphilitis, and what treatment would you recommend in the face of such symptoms? State also what are the morbid changes found on post-mortem examination in such cases. 4. Describe the rashes which appear in the following diseases according to their appearance, the local distribution, and the course as to time of each in order:—Typhus, enteric or typhoid fever, small-pox, chicken-pox, measles, and scarlet fever. 5. Enumerate the forms of paralysis in which rapid and considerable atrophy of muscles occurs. State the principal changes which the electrical reactions undergo, and the precise electrical treatment you would adopt in such cases. 6. State what you know concerning the symptoms, the diagnosis, and the pathology of Addison's disease.

Midwifery and Diseases of Women.

Candidates must answer at least four questions. Candidates unable to answer four questions must report the fact to the Presiding Examiner, and are not allowed to proceed with their examination.

1. Describe the naked-eye anatomy of the gravid uterus at the beginning of the third month, with its contents. 2. Describe the various methods of estimating the conjugate diameter of the female pelvis, stating the circumstances under which each is applicable. 3. Describe the operation of bipolar version, the child presenting in the first vertex position. Enumerate the circumstances under which it is indicated. 4. Give the treatment of a case of eclampsia occurring at the termination of four months' utero-gestation. 5. Enumerate the pathological conditions which may lead to enlargement of the cervix uteri, and give their differential diagnosis. 6. Enumerate the causes of retention of urine in women. Explain the mode of action of each cause.

Examination on Surgical Anatomy and the Principles and Practice of Surgery.

Candidates must answer at least four (including one of the first two) of the six questions, and are strongly advised to answer all six questions. Candidates unable to answer four questions must report the fact to the Presiding Examiner, and are not allowed to proceed with their examination.

1. Describe the operation you would perform for excision of the elbow-joint for disease. Mention the structures the division of which should be avoided. Enumerate in order the parts which must be divided. 2. Describe the course and relations of the internal pudic artery. In the event of its being wounded by an accident, or in an operation, what measures would you adopt? 3. Define the terms myopia, presbyopia, astigmatism, and hypermetropia. Describe the ocular conditions on which these visual defects depend, and state the appropriate means by which they may be remedied. 4. Give the diagnosis of varicocele. Enumerate its causes, and state the treatment you would adopt in this disorder. 5. Describe the symptoms of a simple oblique fracture of the femur, in an adult, at the junction of the lower and the middle third. Mention the varieties of displacement which may occur in this injury, and state their causes. How would you treat such a case? 6. Under what circumstances may a blow on the male perineum be followed by extravasation of urine at an early and at a remote period? How would you guard against such an occurrence?