Army and Navy Medical Intelligence. Correspondents.


Dr. Bigelow, of Boston, United States, has recently read a paper before one of the medical societies on a process for procuring insensibility to pain during surgical operations. Teeth in large numbers have been extracted, and limbs amputated, without pain. Such a disturbance of the sense of pain must be considered as a valuable boon. The means used is believed to be the injection of the vapour of sulphuric ether for two or three minutes, which, it is stated, produces insensibility for a period of time. Dr. Bigelow is reported to have patented the process on the ground that such an agent is capable of causing that action is not thoroughly understood—and because it is looked upon as a means of saving life, as much as is by any process the means of saving life. It is understood by the patent. Supposing the discovery to be genuine, even these offers but poor excuses for its reservation by patent.

A Medical Handbill. "Mr. Trigg, Surgeon, Accoucheur, &c., 7, Princess-place, Kennington-cross, (near opposite Chester-street.)—Mr. Trigg, after serving in her Majesty's army in his professional capacity for upwards of thirty years, (twelve of which as principal surgeon of a regiment,) has retired from the service, and credits himself as above, where he trusts his military, surgical, and medical experience, combined with assiduity and strict attention to such patients as may be committed to his care, will gain their confidence, and merit the support and patronage of the inhabitants of Lambeth, Kennington, and the public generally.—Papers, on application to Mr. Trigg, will receive the requisite medical aid, and if necessary, visited at their own place free of expense.—Vaccination given to all classes, as well as Physicians' and Surgeons' prescriptions, and family recipes, accurately dispensed at very moderate charges.—Medical retailed."

Mortality in the Metropolitan.—In the week ending December 12th, the registered number of deaths amounted to 1195, considerably above the average. Of these, the deaths from bronchitis were 16; from pneumonia, 114; from phthisis, 153; from disease of the heart, 65; lues, 16; mesentery, 16; disease of the liver, 12; chilblains, 10; old age, 45; violent deaths, 49. The number of births in the same week was 1252.

Correspondents.

We have received all the important documents of Mr. Fosbrooke, and shall shortly endeavour to do ample justice to his labours.

G. H. M. may rest quite satisfied. He should, in the first instance, have consulted a respectable medical man. Our correspondent warrants us to state that being, originally, frighted by the advertisements of the obnoxious quacks, he applied to one of their fraternity, when he had his groundless fears exaggerated by the empiric, and was mutilated of £60 in three months for restorative balsams. He writes to say that so much heed has been worked upon, that the days spent since the perusal of the recent article in the Lancet have been the happiest of his life. The details of cases of this kind will be of invaluable service in our assault upon these odious villainies, and most happy shall we be to receive them.

Dr. Boott's important communication respecting Dr. Bigelow's discovery of a mode of producing insensibility during surgical operations, by the inhalation of sulphuric ether, shall be published next week.

Another Medical Student.—We should have published the letter of last week may suffice to remedy the serious evils complained of in the Manchester Medical School.

A Non-professional.—The man in question is a gross quack, one of the worst of the class of whom we have known. Any respectable medical man might be consulted with confidence in such a case. The treatment of such disorder is well understood by the profession as that of keeping coughing patients in bed. The residence of Mr. Coats, whose paper is in the Lancet of last week, is at "Sibrewy," instead of "Six Hours," foundry.

Communications received from Mr. Fosbrooke, Students of Medicine: Mr. G. M.; Mr. George Wilsley, (Leeds); Mr. George Worth, (Leeds); Dr. Mayne; Mr. George Combe, (Edinburgh); Dr. Alfred Hall; Rev. Mr. Ingamells, (Chester); Mr. Booth; Another Medical Student (Manchester); Mr. Coats, (Bedford); (Birmingham); (Leeds); (Lincoln); (Birmingham); A Non-professional, Mr. T. Pry, (Bilkenthead); Mr. J. Jones, (Montgomeryshire); Rev. Mr. Coats, (Dorset.)