

inst.; the Croonian, by Dr. Conolly, on the 28th; the Lumleian, by Dr. Todd, March 9; and the lectures on *Materia Medica*, by Dr. G. Bird, March 21.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS—ELECTION OF SECRETARY.

MR. BANNISTER, M.A., was elected secretary of the College of Physicians on the 20th ult., in the room of Mr. Sedgwick, resigned. Mr. Sedgwick held the appointment during the last twenty years; he tendered his resignation to the College in November last.

THE CHOLERA AND LIFE INSURANCE.

MANY persons of the better classes of society were attacked and died of cholera in Glasgow. It is reported, that by the deaths of three persons from this disease, one Insurance Office was compelled to pay on life policies to the amount of £12,000.

THE PROGRESS OF CHOLERA.

THE cases and deaths during the last week have been so few that we consider it unnecessary to record them. We subjoin, however, our usual summary of cases and deaths up to the 6th inst. :—

	Cases.	Deaths.
London . . .	933	498
Provinces . . .	825	362
Scotland . . .	9260	4038
	11018	4898

APOTHECARIES' HALL.

NAMES of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, 1st February, 1849.—Oglethorpe Wakelin Barratt, Birmingham—Francis Turner Welby King, Melton Mowbray—Felix Weekes Richardson, Banbury—William Thomas Garrett, Woodforde.

OBITUARY.

ON the 31st ult., at Grange Terrace, Brompton, Dr. George Fownes, F.R.S., Professor of Practical Chemistry at University College, London, in the 34th year of his age.

On Saturday, the 3d inst., at Hornchurch, Essex, Robert William Quennell, Esq., surgeon of that place, after a few days' illness.

On the 4th ult., at Madeira, Nicholas George Hobson, Esq., late of Great Marylebone Street, surgeon.

On the 20th ult., at Canterbury, in his 93rd year, Francis Dalley, Esq., M.D. He practised many years as a Physician at Stamford, in Lincolnshire.

Selections from Journals.

CONTAGIOUSNESS OF CHOLERA—ITS TYPHOIDAL FORM.

BY DR. FOURCAULT.

THE British-frigate "Topaz" touched at the Isle of France in 1829, and conveyed thither cholera, which spread rapidly throughout the island, prolonging its ravages for four months, sparing neither age, sex, nor rank, although the deaths were more numerous among the black population. No room was left for doubt that the disease had in this instance propagated itself directly by contagion. Six thousand individuals perished during the first six weeks of its appearance. When this ship arrived, the island was in a healthy state, and had been free from any epidemic illness for an unusually long period. The soil is volcanic, the climate mild, the thermometric range being from 38° to 80° F. The consecutive fever was of the typhoid type; and on this ground Dr. Fourcault distinguishes the disease which then visited the Isle of France from Asiatic cholera, by the name of typhoid cholera, and thence argues that cholera is never contagious except when combined with typhus,—a law which, he states, obtains also with regard to yellow fever and plague.

Dr. Fourcault, in reviewing the several theories which have been advanced to account for the spread of cholera, refers to the preceding instance as an exceptional fact, which rather confirms than invalidates his general conclusion of the non-contagiousness of cholera.—*Gaz. Médicale*, Jan. 6, 1849.

* * We do not here recognise the distinctly special character of this visitation; and it is to be regretted that no carefully recorded medical history of the cases which occurred, was made at the time. After so long an interval the accounts collected cannot be regarded as trustworthy. Of one fact only there appears to be no doubt—namely, that the disease was carried to the island by the ship. X

PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY.

ON SOME PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF COLLODION, AND ITS PHARMACEUTICAL APPLICATIONS.

M. SOURISSEAU, in experimenting on the contractility of collodion, found, by suspending a weight to a strip of silk gauze, and then moistening it with collodion, that as the latter became dry the gauze shortened by about one-sixth of its length.

The same experimenter observed that collodion is not completely impermeable to water. Having covered one end of a glass tube with a dry layer of collodion, he

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