

## MEDICAL DIARY OF THE WEEK.

MONDAY, JAN. 21 .....	{ ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M. CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—8 P.M.
TUESDAY, JAN. 22 .....	{ GUY'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1 P.M. ROYAL INSTITUTION.—3 P.M. Professor Huxley, "On Physiology and Comparative Anatomy." ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—8½ P.M.
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23 .....	{ ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1 P.M. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M. NORTH LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETY.—7½ P.M.
THURSDAY, JAN. 24 .....	{ MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.—Operations, 12½ P.M. ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1 P.M. CENTRAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.— Operations, 1 P.M. ROYAL INSTITUTION.—3 P.M. Professor Tyndall, "On Light." KING'S COLLEGE MEDICAL SOCIETY.—8 P.M. Mr. Henry Smith, "On Some Practical Points con- nected with Strangulated Hernia." ROYAL SOCIETY.—8½ P.M.
FRIDAY, JAN. 25 .....	{ OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, MOORFIELDS.—Opera- tions, 10 A.M. LONDON HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1 P.M. WESTMINSTER OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.—Opera- tions, 1½ P.M. ROYAL INSTITUTION.—8½ P.M. Mr. W. R. Grove, "On Inferences from the Negation of Perpetual Motion."
SATURDAY, JAN. 26 .....	{ CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL.—Operations, 12½ P.M. WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1 P.M. ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1 P.M. ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1½ P.M. KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M. ROYAL INSTITUTION.—3 P.M. Professor Odling, "On Organic Chemistry." ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY.—3½ P.M. MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—8 P.M.

## To Correspondents.

*The Nightingale Fund.*—In an article that appeared in our columns on the 15th of December last, we said, when considering what would be the most desirable form for the Nightingale Testimonial to take, "we assume, and we do not fear that this assumption will be falsified, that the funds will be obtained." It appears, however, there is every chance that we shall have to confess our opinion erroneous. As far as we are able to learn, the movement for the Nightingale Testimonial is likely to fall short of complete, or even decent, success, from a fear that has taken possession of very many persons that the money subscribed may be unwisely expended. The committee have published their list of subscriptions, and the entire amount is between eleven and twelve thousand pounds. Considered by itself, this is by no means a contemptible sum; but when viewed with relation to the object we have to attain, it is mean and pitiful. The nation, by the voices of its most influential and noble members, declares its earnest wish to render to Florence Nightingale an appropriate tribute of love and reverence. It is determined to place in her hands the means of benefiting humanity, and for that purpose the business of collecting funds is entered upon. At present what is the result? The unworthy offering of a sum less than what is deemed a fair year's income for a wealthy English gentleman. How to account for the tardiness manifested by the public in sending in their money, no one will be at a loss who has read the epistolary war lately carried on in *The Times* between "E. M.," Mr. Hall, and Mr. Bracebridge. With no small indignation we regard the disposition that has declared itself to raise out of the differences of religious opinions obstacles to the welfare of this undertaking. The accounts we have received of Miss Nightingale's exertions show that *her* benevolence has not been fettered by any narrow prejudices; the dying soldier has never found his creed standing between his sufferings and her kindly ministrations. Let us, in rendering homage to such excellence, not forget to follow the example of that which we so earnestly profess to admire. The wealth that we place in the hands of Florence Nightingale, as being pre-eminently a good woman, we ought to bestow without any misgiving that it may be expended in a bad way. To bestow power on virtue, for the sake of humanity, and at the same time to annex to the gift conditions that it shall not be employed for the purposes of evil, is simply ridiculous. If Florence Nightingale had taken as long to make up her mind whether the sick in the hospitals deserved her care before she stirred from home, as we have in debating whether we ought "freely to give as we have freely received," she would never have found her way to Scutari, and her benevolence would have wasted away in dreams, and not yielded the fruits of action.

*E. S.*, (Islington.)—Dr. Day, of the University of St. Andrews, will supply the information required.

*Mr. C. Smith*, (H.M.S. *Sanspareil*.)—The mistake arose through the indistinctness of the writing. The journal shall be forwarded to the *Sanspareil* in future.

We have received an important communication from *Mr. Gaisford*, one of the coroners for Gloucestershire, accompanied by a local paper, in which are published some admirable remarks by that gentleman to a jury at an inquest where he presided, on the vexatious interference of the magistrates with the functions of the coroners of that county. The subject will receive our earnest attention, and we shall comment on the circumstances to which our correspondent refers. At the present time, when crimes of a fearful character appear to be increasing, there is something appalling in the continued opposition to the coroner's office exercised in certain quarters, to the great detriment of the public safety.

*Mr. W. Moore.*—We have not received the communication of our correspondent.

*Dr. Williams'* (Swansea) request shall receive attention.

*A Subscriber since 1831.*—The advertisement mentioned, which is stated to have appeared in the *Lambeth Gazette*, has not been forwarded.

*W. W.*—We could not publish the letter unless the writer's name is attached to it.

## SHORT-HAND WRITING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you allow me, (a medical pupil,) through the medium of your valuable journal, to recommend to medical students Pitman's Phonography, or System of Short-hand Writing, as being well worthy their attention. It will amply repay their trouble in learning it, by enabling them to take down extracts, or even the whole of lectures delivered at the hospitals, with the greatest facility. So concise is this system, that it may easily be learned in three months.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

A CONSTANT READER AND PHONOGRAPHER.

Bognor, Sussex, January, 1856.

*A Non-Combatant.*—Members of the Royal College of Surgeons and of the Apothecaries' Company are not exempt from the ballot for the militia.

*Londinensis.*—Yes, to do so legally.

*Mr. T. B. Oldfield.*—The Poor-law Act, Art. 159, states that "the guardians shall not assign to any medical officer a district which exceeds in extent the area of 15,000 statute acres; but Art. 160 provides, "that if it be impracticable, consistently with the proper attendance on the sick poor, for the guardians to divide the Union into districts, containing respectively an area and population less than is specified in Art. 159, then and in such cases the guardians shall cause a special minute to be made and entered on the usual record of their proceedings, stating the reasons which in their opinion make it necessary to form a district exceeding the said limits, and shall transmit a copy of such minute to the Commissioners for their consideration; and if the Commissioners signify their approval thereof to such guardians, then and in such cases, but not otherwise, such guardians may proceed to assign the said district to a medical officer." This provision does not extend to any medical district situated wholly or in part in Wales; "within which principality," it is enacted, "that no medical district shall be assigned to any medical officer residing more than seven miles from any part of any parish included within such district, unless such district shall have been specially sanctioned by the Commissioners in the same manner as directed in Art. 160."

*Aurum.*—Probably as physician. Dr. Vaughan, of Essex-street, Strand.

*Mr. Richard Griffin's* letter is unavoidably postponed until next week.

*Inquirer* is advised to put the question to the Editor of the *Chemist*.

*W. C. H. S.*, (Lambeth.)—Such handbills are unfortunately common.

*A. B.*—We do not recommend any particular practitioner. Any surgeon can treat the case.

## CERTIFICATES OF DEATH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I perfectly coincide with "L. J.," (in last week's LANCET,) "that some reform is needed in the granting of certificates of death," but at the same time must beg to put him right on the subject. He there states "that the certificate of death is given to the minister." The fact is, the medical man's certificate is taken to the registrar, who retains it, and gives a copy from his book for the minister. But in my opinion the whole of the onus rests on the registrar, who ought not to take a certificate unless he is satisfied that the signature be that of a legally-qualified man. Not many weeks since a registrar in my locality took a certificate of death from a person who styled himself "M. D. Wilna." Surely he cannot be called a qualified medical man.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

ALFRED ATKYNS.

Hoxton, January, 1856.

*M.*, (Liverpool.)—Dr. Ffolliott's "card" is scarcely a model to be recommended.

*Mr. H. Collins.*—Royle's *Materia Medica*, Fownes' *Chemistry*, Holden on the *Bones*, Tanner's *Manual of the Practice of Medicine*.

*Medicus*, (Romsey.)—Several articles appeared on the subject in the volumes of THE LANCET for 1846 and '47.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, &c., have been received from — Mr. Guthrie; Dr. Andrew Smith; Dr. R. D. Thomson; Dr. Tyler Smith; Dr. James Alderson; Dr. Edwards Crisp; Dr. Tilt; Mr. Nathaniel Ward; Mr. W. Stone, (Buckingham); Mr. Goodrich; Mr. C. H. Snell; Mr. Charles Smith, (H.M.S. *Sanspareil*, Plymouth); A Constant Reader and Phonographer; Londinensis; A Subscriber since 1831; A Non-Combatant, (Camborne, Cornwall); Mr. H. C. Hastings, (East Dereham, Norfolk); Mr. Zachariah Laurence; Mr. J. B. Oldfield; Dr. T. Williams, (Swansea); Mr. W. Moore; The Ordnance Medical Department; Mr. Wm. Hewitt, (North Walsham); King's College; Mr. Frederick Curtis; Mr. W. A. Summers, (Guy's Hospital); Medicus, (Romsey, Hants); Mr. J. Clarke, (Lynton); The Hon. Sec. of the Harveian Society; M. N.; Mr. Alfred Atkyns; Messrs. Bodmer; Juvenile Teetotaller; Mr. Coward, (Hoxton); Mr. Francis Robinson; Mr. J. Bellam; R. S., (Islington); Dr. Borham; Mr. Walter Sampson, (University College); Mr. Gaisford; W. W.; Aurum; Mr. Richard Griffin; Inquirer; W. C. H. S.; A. B.; M., (Liverpool); Mr. H. Collins; &c. &c.

THE *Birmingham Journal* and *Worcestershire Chronicle* have been received.