the voltaic (galvanic, or "constant current") instrument, as it possesses therapeutical properties which the volta-magnetic does not. Excellent guide-books on this subject have been published by Dr. Russell Reynolds and Dr. Tibbits, and a larger treatise by Dr. Althaus. The medical staff of the National Hospital for Paralysis, in Queen Square, London, graciously invite members of the profession to visit their electrical room, which I can assure you, from having repeatedly availed myself of it, is worth your doing. When I state that by one or other form of electricity you may stimulate or soothe either nerve or muscle, restore lost voluntary movement, relieve pain, heighten flagging temperature, recall sensation, coagulate the blood, dissolve or slowly cause the absorption of tumours, increase the secretions, promote nutrition, or cauterise and destroy, I need not make any excuse for bringing this subject so prominently forward.

Of the instruments for treating diseases of the ear I will not say much, as I am afraid that not many of you will care for such a speciality. And yet they illustrate how that intricate organ has of late been unravelled, as it were, and its labyrinth and bony recesses made to yield up their intricacies. By the combined exertions of English, Continental, and American aurists within the last comparatively few years, great advance has been made in the pathology and diagnosis of aural disease, and its successful treatment has therefore correspondingly advanced. The galvanic instrument on that table is on the Daniell-Muirhead plan, and yields the most gentle and constant current procurable. Consequently it is well suited for aural application. It was made by Mr. Pickard, a mechanician at our railway works. It is time I should speak of ourselves—the Association.

Our Executive Council's report of the affairs of this branch during the past year will be read to you presently; but I cannot refrain from anticipating it with a word or two—mainly of congratulation. The good work which Dr. Parsons is well known to have done for East Kent district for several years, he is now repeating on a larger scale as honorary secretary and treasurer to the Branch. The Branch, therefore, continues to prosper. Six summers back, it numbered two hundred and fifty-five; now they are nearly as many again, viz., three hundred and seventy. Our Branch stands third in respect of numbers. The Metropolitan Counties Branch having six hundred and five members, and the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch four hundred and seventy. The funds of the Branch also accumulate. The balance in hand, six years since, was £35 odd; now it is £80, within a few shillings. I advert to the last point, because it will be for you to determine at this meeting whether this balance shall be diminished, and, if so, how; whether, by lowering our present annual subscription of four shillings, we shall gradually draw on this balance, and so use it for the purposes for which it has been subscribed; or whether a gift shall be made from it to some charity, especially the British Medical Benevolent Association. To solve this question to the general satisfaction of the Branch, will require your best judgment.

The parent Association has latterly progressed very remarkably in all ways. The recent change in the *locale* of the secretary from Birmingham to the office in London, where the main business of the Association is done, and the requirement that the whole of that officer's time should be devoted to the Association, have worked such a wholesome change that this year, for the first time since the death of Sir Charles Hastings the former treasurer, about eight years ago, the Committee of Council have the satisfaction of being able to state that the Association is not in debt to its printer. Moreover, there is every prospect that this sound financial condition will continue to prevail, and result in a handsome balance in hand annually, available for the prosecution of scientific research. The present number of members is 5,700, resident not only in all parts of the United Kingdom, but in nearly all countries, and we are united by our own weekly journal, which is so ably contributed to and edited, as to be in the van of medical journalism. What a source of power is here! The British Government is aware of it. The army, navy, and the Poor-law service are all getting to know it. The possession and the wielding of this power have a responsibility attached, which we must never forget either collectively or individually. Indeed, we are united in a calling most noble, not to say divine. This being so, how sad the reflection—that is sometimes forced on one by a careless observation in regard to what our future will be. But of our future we need have no doubt if we follow in the footsteps of our Lord, who went about healing the sick. Would that the time for scientific men to be sceptics were gone by! Apart from revelation, it seems hard to suppose that after practising this high vocation, and enjoying these lifelong fellowships, we are to die like dogs, and be no more seen. But, my brethren, we know that such is not to be our end. Our calling, indeed (though noble it be), is only for time; but our brotherhood, if we will, and God helping us, may attain to a higher sort, yea, it may become hallowed and blessed and endure through all eternity.

MEDICAL AFFAIRS:

Being the President's Address, delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Northern Branch, June 30th, 1874.

By ANDREW LEGAT, M.D., South Shields.

GENTLEMEN,—You have been pleased to elect me to the high position of President of this the Northern Branch of the British Medical Association for the coming year.

The honour thus conferred upon me is, I hope, rightly appreciated, and if thanks, genuine and sincere, be any adequate return, I tender them to you most gratefully. I have accepted the chair from a sense of duty rather than of fitness; for, although my best efforts to further the interests and success of the Branch are placed at your service, a knowledge of my own unworthiness stands prominently before me, and causes me to fear that my shortcomings are more likely to occupy the foreground. I, therefore, beg that the kindness you have shown in placing me here may be extended to me in the discharge of my duties, and that I may rely on your generous support in my endeavour to sustain, so far as I can, the dignity of the office. I feel that I labour under a disadvantage of no ordinary character in following so closely your late excellent President, Dr. Heath, who occupies so distinguished a position as a surgeon in Newcastle and neighbourhood. Other men also, highly gifted, and with large opportunities within their reach, have gone before me, and have made it a somewhat difficult task to follow in their footsteps; and, when I think of them, my thoughts revert in sadness to the memory of one who will no more grace these meetings with his genial presence, interest us with his eloquent narratives, nor aid us in our anxieties and difficulties with his sound and matured professional experience. We are all painfully sensible that a dark shadow rests upon us now, through the recent and wholly unexpected death of our distinguished and esteemed friend Dr. Charlton.

"Leaves have their time to fall,
And flowers to wither at the north wind's breath,
And stars to set; but all—
Thou hast all seasons for thine own, oh Death!"

After having received a highly liberal education, he turned his attention at the usual age to the study of medicine, and graduated at the University of Edinburgh in 1836. His devotion to his profession, his scholarly attainments and pleasing address, soon made him a favourite practitioner in Newcastle and neighbourhood. The death of Dr. Headlam, the removal of Dr. Cargill from Newcastle, and, at a later period, the death of Dr. White, left Dr. Charlton in possession of a very large field of consulting practice. No man worked with greater freshness and spirit than he did. When we met last in consultation, about two months ago, although the work he referred to as being before him that day (and which, I have no doubt, was but a repetition of the work of most other days) seemed arduous, requiring both physical toil and mental strain, yet the countenance and the step betokened health of no common kind. But the enemy was insidiously at work, and, after two days' illness in the middle of May, with his harness still on him and in the flood-tide of his professional reputation, he was snatched from us at the comparatively early age of 59.

It may seem almost superfluous, among those who knew him so well, for me to dwell at length on his merits. It was my privilege and pleasure, however, to know him for upwards of twenty years, during which time I had much pleasant and advantageous intercourse with him; and I feel constrained to say that I found in him ever the same warm friend and safe adviser. His highly cultivated intellect and well digested store of professional knowledge, his gentle and considerate demeanour by the bedside, his accuracy of diagnosis and suggestiveness as to treatment, his invariable courtesy to his professional brethren, his unflinching punctuality in his engagements, and observance of those rules which ought to guide all who hope to tread successfully in the higher walks of his profession, were the chief points in his character which made up in him the accomplished and desirable consultant. They gained for him, no doubt, his widely extended reputation and practice in that capacity.

"The prime qualifications of a physician", writes Dr. John Brown, in his *Horæ Subsecivæ*, "may be summed up in the words *capax, perspicax, sagax, efficax*. *Capax*, then, must be room to receive, and arrange, and keep knowledge; *Perspicax*, senses and perceptions keen, accurate, and immediate, to bring in materials from all sensible things; *sagax*, a central power of knowing what is what, and what it is worth, of choosing and rejecting, of judging; and, finally, *efficax*, the will and the way, the power to turn all the other three—capacity, perspicacity, sagacity—to account in the performance of the thing in hand, and thus rendering back to the outer world, in a new and useful form, what you had received from it. These are the intellectual qualities which make up the physician, without any one of which he would be *manus*, and

would not deserve the name of a complete artsman any more than proteine would be itself, if any one of its four elements were amissing."

That Dr. Charlton came up to the ideal of the able writer whom I have just quoted, and that he possessed those qualifications in a marked degree, I feel assured will be admitted by all of us. The interest, moreover, that he evinced in all questions relating to the profession, whether they were such as called for the interference and assistance of our Imperial Parliament or the Government of the day, or were matters more especially under the guidance and control of the profession itself, is still too fresh in your minds for me to allude to it, except in a very brief way. When anything requiring thought, activity, and spirits had to be accomplished, there was to be found our late friend, *facile princeps*, up and doing, and, by the unanimous consent of his medical brethren in these counties, occupying the place of honour that he so worthily deserved. He was, I believe, one of the very early supporters of the British Medical Association, and took an active part in founding this Branch of it, which has been in existence for ten years, and has now attached to it 216 members. Nor can we forget, when the annual meeting was held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne four short years ago, what energy he threw into the proceedings to make it a success. Did we not, as members of the same profession, look on with justifiable pride at the judgment and tact displayed by him on that occasion, and feel that the North of England had provided a President whose ability, hospitality, and dignity in the discharge of his duties not only obtained for him an enthusiastic reception, but commanded the admiration and approval of all?

His long connection with, and assiduous professional services to, the medical charities of Newcastle entitle him to be long and lovingly remembered by its inhabitants. Few men devote more valuable time and practical skill gratuitously to the poor than do those belonging to our body; and in this respect Dr. Charlton did not spare himself. Truly a leader has fallen from our ranks. We have sustained a loss which is not ours alone, and which cannot fail to be deeply felt for a long time to come by all classes of society in these Northern Counties. Men of his stamp are too seldom met with, and are badly spared by the profession and the public. With us he lives now only, but surely, in our affection and remembrance. Yes, the spring and summer flowers shall bloom and fade, and bloom and fade again for many years, over the last resting-place of our late associate, before his many virtues and excellencies can be effaced from the memory of those with whom his pursuit of a noble profession, wisely and nobly exercised, brought him into contact.

But I cannot conclude this hurried sketch without referring to the abiding sense of honour, the high-toned morality and earnest religious feeling that permeated the everyday life of Dr. Charlton. Amid all the toil of his incessant professional work, we know he did not fail to turn his mind towards those duties which are at once the privilege and the consolation of God's creature, Man. For we know too well—

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of pow'r,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Await alike th' inevitable hour:
The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

And, therefore, that man must be happiest who, while, to the best of his ability, spending his life diligently for his own and his neighbours' benefit, can pierce with the eye of faith these passing mundane scenes, and, like him of whom we speak, fix his hopes on a brighter world and look forward with confidence to a closer relationship to the Unseen and Eternal. None knew better than he the truth conveyed in the line—

"He builds too low who builds beneath the skies.
Euge te vale."

There is a question which, if one may judge from some recent newspaper articles, still continues to be of intense interest and importance to a certain section of the public. I mean the medical education of women. Since 1869, the battle-field has been chiefly in Edinburgh, where the skirmishes have been both sharp and numerous. Much difference of opinion has all along existed among the members of the Senatus and University Court, as to the propriety of admitting female students to the classes of the University. It was only by a bare majority, and after importunity without ceasing on the part of the lady students and their supporters, that they were admitted to some of the class-rooms. Many of the professors intimated their determination not to admit them to their classes along with their other students, and that they would not attempt to teach them separately. Thus the ladies and their supporters knew very well the difficulties in their way; and that, some day not far off, their progress would be barred, and graduation therefore, be impossible. Such proved to be the case. After many somewhat acrimonious discussions at meetings both lay and professional, the question of their right to be taught and to graduate at the University there was carried to the legal courts, where a decision was given adverse

to the new students. In consequence of this, another movement was made. The assistance of the House of Commons was implored; petitions were sent in, calling attention to the disabilities of women in the medical school of the University. On the 12th of this month, the matter was brought formally before the House by Mr. Cowper Temple, whose motion was as follows: "That it is expedient that legal powers should be given to the Universities of Scotland to make such regulations as they may think fit for the admission and complete education of female students." Now those institutions were not only not asking for such powers, but were, in fact, totally opposed to the changes sought for. It was distinctly shown, in the course of the debate, by those who thoroughly understood the working of our University system, that the education of women in all or any of the learned professions would demand a thorough change in the constitution of the Edinburgh University, at which the motion was particularly aimed; that it would, as its representative in the House, Dr. L. Playfair, said, "disturb everything and settle nothing; that the whole organisation of the University up to this moment had been for male students; that their resources were adapted to this purpose; and that that organisation could not be suddenly fitted for female students in separate classes without a large augmentation of its resources". It was shown also that a poor university should not have forced upon it changes which would involve a great outlay of money and increase in the medical professorial staff, merely for the purpose of making an experiment which might, in all probability, end in failure at no distant day. The debate excited very little interest in the House; for, although upwards of three hundred members had taken part in a division immediately before, forty could scarcely be kept together during the discussion on Mr. Cowper Temple's motion. It has been repeatedly said that the jealousy of the profession is the main hindrance to the success of the movement. Now it appears to me that the medical profession as a body have as deep an interest in the higher education and occupation of women as any other class of men. They are, generally speaking, married men blessed with children, male and female, and not so overburdened with this world's wealth as to have no anxious thought about provision hereafter for their daughters as well as their sons. But they are behind the scenes, as it were. They have themselves gone through the curriculum of study, and have toiled and laboured at a profession which, with all its attractions and advantages, has also its drawbacks and disadvantages. They are in a better position, therefore, than most men to judge whether young women are by nature fitted for such an occupation, and whether they are well adapted to fight their way through the rugged paths that beset every young practitioner for years after he has obtained his coveted diploma. Few of our own body, I feel assured, would counsel a sister or daughter to devote herself to such work as he himself has had to encounter. I can imagine, in a large and populous city, an accomplished lady who has graduated, it may be with honours, sitting quietly in her consulting-room giving advice to, and receiving fees from, those of her own sex by whom her services are sought; without much physical toil, and possibly without interfering much with those maternal and household duties which are the peculiar pride and province of every married Englishwoman; for we presume the talented and successful will not continue to be long single, and, therefore, the word *married* is used advisably. But how many, let me ask, are likely to attain to that position? It cannot be the lot of many; and not a few of them, should their number increase, will, in all probability, share the experience of a cousin on the other side of the Atlantic, who has thus recorded her views of the profession, in the *New York Evening Mail*:—"If the girls were to know my experience, not one in a thousand of them would ever attempt to be a doctor; for I have studied medicine and some branches of surgery, graduated with honour seven years ago, practised for five years, and was successful so far as restoring my patients and building up a large practice may be considered success; but, as for collecting" (mark the similarity between the old country and the new one!) "bills and getting bills proportionate to the time and services rendered, I was no more successful than most young practitioners. And though I am now healthy and strong, I could not compete with young men in the medical profession, because of inability to bear overwork and exposure to night air, bad weather, etc. Men who take reasonable care of their health are always well enough to visit a patient; but this is not true of women until they are nearly fifty years old, and never will be true of them at an earlier stage while the human race continues. Having almost killed myself, and known two other lady-physicians to quite kill themselves, by attending to a large medical practice, I have already given up the profession two years since, and will never resume it."

If the admirers and supporters of medical women insist upon their right to have their wives and children attended by such practitioners, by all means let the opportunity be given them. So long as they do not disturb the existing schools for young men, and endeavour to intro-

duce a system of education which boldly throws the acknowledged modesty of the fair sex to one side, and is wholly at variance with, and repugnant to, the feelings of society in this country, it can matter little to their present opponents. The solution of the difficulty, to my mind, might be accomplished by allowing the small number likely to present themselves for admission into our ranks to obtain the necessary education from qualified teachers, disposed to undertake the duty, privately. After passing an examining body appointed by the State, they might become entitled to a certain qualification suited to the comparatively narrow path of practice they will find it necessary to cultivate.

It is gratifying to note the growing interest awakened throughout the country in measures pertaining to the promotion of the public health. Local authorities are in many instances availing themselves of their power to appoint medical officers of health, and the Universities are bestirring themselves to provide the requisite course of study and to grant degrees in state medicine. Now that we have a Prime Minister who shadowed forth his own views on this important question in his Glasgow speech last year, by using the words, "Sanitas sanitatum, omnia sanitas", it is pardonable to hope that, as he is in office at the head of a numerically strong Government, something decided may be done in the way of careful revision and alteration of the Public Health Act of 1872. Changes in some of its clauses, which will facilitate its thorough and effectual working, will not only add to his reputation as a statesman, but will also tend in a powerful direction to the preservation and prolongation of human life throughout the kingdom. When we ponder over the enormous amount of preventable mortality occurring from year to year, it seems difficult to account for the apathy that has hitherto favoured such a large premature destruction of life. To guard against advancing merely an assertion which cannot be justified, let me call your attention for a moment to what has taken place in the army within recent years, through the watchful supervision of our medical authorities.

Deaths among the Troops serving in the United Kingdom annually per 1000 men.

		1830 to 1836.		1859 to 1860.
Cavalry of the Line	...	15.	...	6.
Royal Artillery	...	15.	...	7.
Foot Guards	...	21.	...	9.
Infantry of the Line	...	17.	...	8.

Thus, the mortality among these picked men has been reduced by more than a half, showing what increased vigilance and advancing sanitary science, well applied, is able to effect.

It is too much the practice in this country to consider the deaths of young children as a matter that need excite no surprise; that the arrangements of Providence are mysterious, and justify the saying, "Whom the gods love die young". We, as medical men, cannot accept this view; and, while we know that too many come into this world on whom may be traced in large characters, full of portentous meaning, *Nascentes morimur*, we feel that other influences are at work, and other causes concerned, in the large mortality among young children.* I am not one of those who indulge in the Utopian hope that such diseases as scarlet fever, measles, and whooping-cough will ever be exterminated; but I do entertain the belief that, as years roll on, much may, and will, be done to diminish the mortality arising from the former two of these diseases. Unquestionably, it occurs in very much greater proportion in crowded localities, and in the dwellings of the poorer classes. The type of the disease, however, is at the same time mainly affected by the constitution of the patient, or by the sanitary condition of the house or district (whether inhabited by rich or poor), in which the epidemic happens to be present.

Again, if we look at the large preventable mortality resulting from typhoid or enteric fever, which numbers its victims by thousands every year, are we not impressed with the necessity that exists for sparing no possible effort to diminish its hold upon the people of this country, and to endeavour to exterminate it altogether? Whether it originates in simply putrefying matter, and deserves the name of "pythogenic" fever, or proceeds from special germs of the disease which are necessary for dissemination, it is not my purpose at present to discuss; but in either case we know so well where the *materies morbi* is to be found, that by careful attention to the immediate destruction of these matters by strong chemical agents, by the removal of them speedily and frequently from our dwellings and neighbourhood, and also by guarding against infected sources of our water, and, shall I not say, considering recent experience, our milk-supply, we may with confidence entertain the hope that ten years hence typhoid fever will figure less prominently in the re-

turns of the mortality of Great Britain. Nothing will forward this desirable result so rapidly as the appointment of thoroughly good men as medical officers of health. I can see nothing to be commended in the economy urged by some members of town-councils in this particular, such as advising that a sum of £100 a year be given to a health-officer, and that he be permitted to retain and cultivate his private practice; nor can I discover any good reason for the belief that the duties of such an officer in a large and rapidly increasing town would only prove to be a sinecure; for if the area or population be too small to occupy fully the time of an experienced and well-paid man, it would be an easy matter to make arrangements with neighbouring local authorities, urban or rural, to share the expense connected with his services. Medical men will never co-operate heartily with a private practitioner who accepts a sanitary appointment and carries on his own practice at the same time. Without co-operation, good results are interfered with. There may be a disinclination on the part of some members constituting sanitary boards to carry into effect wise and well considered provisions, but their views as individuals cannot alter the real urgency of the case.

When I last had the pleasure of addressing this Branch, I expressed myself pretty strongly on this point, and I shall now, therefore, content myself, in concluding this, I fear, wearisome address, by quoting one paragraph from the last published Quarterly Report of the Registrar-General. "The rapid growth of the population living in towns, while it implies increase of intelligence, makes the question of their hygienic condition of infinitely greater importance than many of the trivial questions of the day on which public attention is squandered. It is a question not only of more or less sickness or suffering, but of the health, the vigour, and the development of the excellencies of the British race."

PATHOLOGICAL MEMORANDA.

A PECULIAR FATTY GROWTH ON THE UPPER SURFACE OF THE CORPUS CALLOSUM.

I AM not aware that a case has ever been described of fatty growth in a situation similar to this; it seems, therefore, worthy of being put on record. Fatty growths are very rare in connection with the brain and its membranes; they have been met with, however, on the internal surface of the dura mater and the ependyma of the ventricles. The case was one of tubercular meningitis, with a vesical and renal complication originating in a stricture of the urethra, in a man thirty-eight years of age. The brain presented the usual appearances of acute hydrocephalus; the tubercles were not very abundant, but the exudation at the base and into the ventricles was well marked. On the upper surface of the corpus callosum there was an elongated yellow structure, occupying its entire length and in the middle line. It was of nearly the same bulk in every part, averaging about five-sixteenths of an inch in breadth, and about three-sixteenths in thickness. It had the appearance of a narrow ridge on the corpus callosum, and seemed to be involved in the pia mater, a layer of which covered its surface, and another separated it from the nervous tissue of the corpus callosum beneath. Now, this peculiar growth was found, on microscopic examination, to be composed of typical adipose tissue, the large fat-cells having exactly the normal appearance. Bands of connective tissue intersected the fatty tissue just as in the case of the same structure elsewhere. The history of the case does not point to any symptoms from this growth, the phenomena being those of tubercular meningitis chiefly.

JOSEPH COATS, M.D., Glasgow.

THERAPEUTIC MEMORANDA.

TREATMENT OF PNEUMONIA AND BRONCHITIS BY CARBOLIC ACID.

IN the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL for December 19th, 1868, there appeared a few remarks on my treatment of constitutional syphilis by carbolic acid. Whilst thus treating certain patients also suffering from bronchitis, I was surprised to find the latter affection, in the majority of cases, suddenly improve. I then treated cases of pneumonia in the same manner. The first case was far advanced and apparently hopeless, several days having been spent in the employment of ordinary remedies without benefit; and I was pleased to find a favourable turn in the affection within twenty-four hours after the change of treatment. From that time to the present, I have regarded the carbolic mixture as my "sheet-anchor" in the treatment of uncomplicated pneumonia and bronchitis in patients of all ages, and in very rare instances have I had

* One-fifth of those born die within a year of their birth, and a third die before the age of five years is reached. (West, *On Diseases of Children*, etc.)