of the 1889 vintage. The 1889 vintage was pronounced to have much improved its fine quality; and we are informed that the firm still place at the disposal of those members of the medical profession not already acquainted with Laurent-Perrier "Sans-Sucre" Champagne, a sample pint on receipt of their professional card. The firm also notify us that their 1892 vintage is now ready for consumption, and well maintains the reputation the 1889 vintage gained for the brand.

LITERARY NOTES.

A NEW scientific periodical entitled *Revista Trimestral Micrografica* has recently begun to appear in Madrid under the editorship of the distinguished histologist, Professor Ramon y Cajal.

Dr. G. Frank Lydston, of Chicago, has in the press a book entitled *Over the Hookah: the Tales of a Talkative Doctor*. It is said to present humorous and pathetic character sketches and studies.

Dr. Guiseppe Soffiantini has published a complete bibliographical index of Scarenzio's treatment of syphilis (by hypodermic injections of mercury), giving all the references thereto in medical literature from 1864 to the early part of 1896.

The *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, established in 1805 by Messrs. Constable and Co. under the title of the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, will in future be published by Mr. Young J. Pentland. A new series of the *Journal*, under the direction of Dr. George A. Gibson, assisted by a staff of well-known contributors, will be begun with the issue for January, 1897.

Messrs. Swan Sonnenschein and Co. will shortly publish *The Diary of a Resurrectionist*, by Mr. James Blake Bailey, Librarian of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The book will include an unpublished diary kept by the principal men in the chief London gang of resurrectionists from November 28th, 1811, to December 5th, 1812. The diary gives a minute account of the daily work of these men, and shows how extensive their dealings were. A history of the events which led to the passing of the Anatomy Act is given, and principal cases which came before the courts of law are fully set forth. The book also contains a detailed account of the way in which the resurrection men worked, with biographical notices of the leaders in this repulsive trade. The crimes of Burke and Hare brought into great prominence the doings of the body-snatchers of Edinburgh, and the history of these villains has been fully written. Mr. Bailey's work is probably the first attempt to deal thoroughly with the subject in relation to London.

Dr. F. R. Fairbank, F.S.A., of St. Leonards-on-Sea, has kindly sent us the following reports of charges of malpractices which came before the Courts of Justice in mediæval times. The first, which is quoted in Riley's *Memorials of London and London Life*, was tried in 1354, the 28th year of Edward the Third's reign. The record is as follows:

Be it remembered that on the Monday next after the Feast of St. Matthias the Apostle (February 24) in 28th year, etc.,—surgeons, were sworn before the mayor, aldermen, and sheriffs, to certify them as to a certain enormous and horrible hurt on the right side of the jaw of Thomas de Shene appearing; whether or not such injury was curable at the time when John le Spicer of Cornhulle took the same Thomas under his care to heal the wounds aforesaid.

Who say upon their oath, that, if the aforesaid John le Spicer, at the time when he took the said Thomas under his care, had been expert in his craft or art, or had called in counsel and assistance to his aid, he might have cured the injury aforesaid; and they further say that, through want of skill on the part of the said John le Spicer, the said injury under his care has become apparently incurable.

In the second case, which occurred in 1433, a "leche" of York was sued for unskilful treatment of a certain friar. The following is the report:

GAINSBOROUGH PRIORY, YORKSHIRE.¹

1433.—The Prior of Gisburne and Brother Ritchard Ayreton, his canon, v. Matthew Rilksford of York, "Leche."

Whereas the said Matthew had undertaken well and competently to cure a certain infirmity in Richard's left leg (tibia) for a certain sum of money, to wit, 40s., paid to him at Gisburne, yet Matthew so neglected his cure, that the leg became putrid and corrupt, and Richard despaired of his life, to the damage of the Prior and Richard of 40s.

And Matthew came and protested that he never undertook to cure Richard, and he says that on September 14th, 11 Hen. VI. the Prior and Richard, and he, Matthew, came to York before Robert Belton, apothecary, and the Prior and Richard then complained that Matthew, in applying his

cure, was so negligent that Richard's whole body became infected, and Matthew, on the other hand, alleged that Richard used to take unwholesome food which had been forbidden by him (Matthew), and hindered the action of the medicines enjoined for his cure, and emptied them out, and he said further that all disputes between them were submitted to the arbitration of the said Robert Belton. Belton decided that for eight days next following, Matthew should apply his medicines and cure to Richard, under the supervision of him (Robert), and that the Prior and Richard should relinquish all actions against Matthew prior to the said September 14th, and he says that he did so apply his medicines and cure for the eight days under Belton's supervision.

The Plaintiffs deny the arbitration. Jury.

The late Surgeon-General Bostock was beloved and respected throughout the whole medical profession. The son of Dr. John Bostock, F.R.S., at one time President of the Geological Society, he served with great distinction in India and the Crimea. He was for twenty years in the Guards, and subsequently, where he occupied a position of great activity and usefulness, on the Metropolitan Asylums Board. His *Letters from India and the Crimea*, which have just been published by Messrs. George Bell and Sons, are well worth reading. The Indian letters are simple, straightforward, and singularly picturesque, and his letters from before Sebastopol have a vivid interest as scathing indictments of a system of mismanagement which has now passed away, but which deserves record as a warning to future administrators.

DR. SMELLIE AND DR. W. HUNTER: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHIC FRAGMENT.

By PROFESSOR JOHN YOUNG, M.D.,

Keeper of the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow.

FOR his *Life of Dr. Smellie* my friend Dr. Glaister had access to all the information that the Hunterian Museum could then afford him. A few days ago, desiring to find the original advertisements of Chamberlain, and remembering Dr. James Douglas's habit of putting up scraps referring to his *Anatomy* in printed matter, I examined several of these parcels, and along with the object of my search (the *Weekly Register* from 1704 downwards at intervals to 1745) found the subjoined letters, which would have enabled Dr. Glaister to give more completeness to his careful memoir. I exceedingly regret that these documents were not earlier found, but one does not expect to find important documents among scroll copies written half a century earlier:

I.—DR. SMELLIE TO DR. CLEPHANE.

[Note in Dr. Hunter's handwriting. "This letter from Dr. Smellie was written to Dr. Clephane from Scotland after Dr. Smellie left London. Before he went off Dr. Hunter heard that he complained of him, and Dr. Hunter knowing that it was without reason wrote to him to beg and insist upon a meeting at the British Coffee-house with their common friends, Drs. Clephane and Pitcairn, before he went off. This was the occasion of the letter, for he went away without giving that satisfaction. Dr. Clephane gave me the letter.—W. H."]

DEAR SIR,—Some posts ago I wrote you in a hurry a little scrawl from the other world, and since you have no good body daying to bring an ansure, I send a long one to plague like an inf-rnl spirit. I am told here that its given out with you, that I have wrote my own life, and that it is to be sent to you as wrote by another person, but there is no help for scandal. I sent lately a letter of exculpation to Dr. Pitcairn, and desired, if he thought it worth while, to show it to you. This way I thought safer after retiring to the gloomy regions, then to have met in the British Coffee House Dr. Hrs glib tongue and Dr. Prns good natur'd and unsurly countenance: and also to prevent blood and batery which perhaps would have obliged me to have kept wandering 100 years before the boatman would receive me.

Tell Hunter that poor Douglass is here but wont speak to me: I suppose he thinks I was the occasion of his madness: I suppose Burton when he comes will act the same part, but I hope he will not behave so ill (for I expect him soon) as there will be no danger of losing patients, only I must take of the sly D—v! to prevent his worming me out of Procerpine's favour. Mr. Hall is not yet arrived here, neither has Lucia favoured us with here presence. Have you any commands to your ol friends Hr, Dennes, Cro, Vel, Horace or any other of these deceist rogues for they can now converse with me in this country gibberish like a new tamed Hotantot: tell my Dr sweet Ptern I see him wrinking his brous drinking (?) health Her liring with his eye Dr Mc—ly making a great mouth and your self waving your arms. From Dear Sir Your old Hakeny friend and
Most Humble Servant
W. S.

Shaw Park near Tartarus July 1
era of Chinese Pluto 4758.

II.—THE "LETTER OF EXCULPATION."¹

[This was sent to Dr. Pitcairn by Dr. Smellie, after his retreat from London, by the post. Dr. Pitcairn gave it to me.—W. H.]

SIR,—In reading Mr. John Lock's letter to — on the character of Dr. Ed. Pocock, dated Oats, 23 July, 1703, it struck me with so many particu-

¹ Referred to in the foregoing letter. This was written on pages facing each other.

lars, of your friend's, that I take it as an example, and pick out what I thought was really his, and add some of my own which I now send as a Moddle, in case you think of publishing his posthumous works.

1st. The works he published shew him a man of learning and experience in practice, his acknowledged care and sympathy to all his patients, of every denomination, shewed his virtuous inclinations.

2nd. His excellent disposition and qualifications was so hid by an unaffected modesty and selfdenial, that they were not fully known but to his intimate acquaintances, who could distinguish his disinterested behaviour both in his public and private life.

3rd. When not engaged in business his great pleasure was home, improving his mind by reading the best authors, both in his own profession and other gentle and useful branches of learning: his other amusements by way of relaxation, was designing in drawing and music; but no more than what was fit for a gentleman to know, and he used to jock those who spent too much time in these recreations, by axing if they were no ashamed to perform so well.

4th. He was mild in conversation, spoke little, but when he did it was always to the purpose: his modesty was so great, that he would frequently hear others and sit as a learner in disputes on his own profession, and not interup, even although he was more master of the subject, rather than shew any superiority.

Though he was not forward or assuming in discourse, he was not morose, but frank and open, and would sometimes when occasion offered, speak well on other subjects, as well as on these where he excelled.

His shunning to meddle in other peoples affairs, or enter into debates, consiled his merit: but I knew of non more qualified to judge in matters of controversy, or more capable to give better advice.

Arts of superiority and selfconceit, practised frequently by others, were what he dislik'd and always shunned.

He never entered into disputes in company, but rather gave his opinion in a mild and friendly manner, and when invidious reports were spread of him abroad by the worthless, he neglected taking any notice, but those of character he reproved in private.

He gained respect and business by real merite, and never used flattery or other arts to gain patients, and when others success was mentioned on these methods, he commonly waved the discourse, and only said he had enough, and what he thought might even satisfy any unreasonable man.

In his way of living he was temperate, free from show or ostentation, kind and benificent: he had many friends; but was only intimate with a few select ones, with whom he sometimes though rarely would take a cheerful glass.

He was a social Husband and a kind Master, his servants stayed long, and many were married from the family: when any thing was amiss he used to tell them in a jocose manner that there mistress and he would punish them by making them unfit for any other service.

When he had by honest industry got a moderate competency, he retired from business to Scotland his native country, to employ the remainder of his time, in revising his works and to finish the second volum of cases, that he had promised to the Publick.

He left his business and apparatus for teaching of midwifery to one that had been long in his house without any gratuity.

On this opposite page, I likewise send what I really think your friend if alive, would have wrote as an honest reasons for all his actions and way of life, that appeared so amiable to his friends, and take no more to himself than was his own.

1st. As to his learning, that was his industry in his riper years, for he was verrey idle and dull at school, was taken more up with carving and painting then his books: as to his works, on intention was good, but the principal was to acquair the name of a learned author.

He must have been dull indeed, if a long course of practice, accompanied with blunders as well as success did not give experience: as to his care and sympathy to rich and poor, this procured him both patients and money, else he could never have made a fortune to retire, not indeed enough for this place; but sufficient for his poor country.

2d. I own his modest disposition, denayal and disinterested behaviour, seemed natural to him: but these proceeded from great caution, and a pride in supporting that character.

As to the third, what is said there I know to be true; but as he had little time he could not improve much; besides I have heard him say that his memory of the cramp his judgement; and although he had a good memory for visible objects, yet it was deficient in other affairs.

4th. The above confession will clear up most of the folowing incomiums, for having a bad memory, his ideas and reflections came in so slow, that he could not reddeily find materials to keep up conversation or argument with any tollerable quickness and in this case it shued his wisdom to be silent.

It is rare that wisdom and memory are joined in a great degree in any one person.

Fools have frequently great memories and are continually chattering.

A middle degree of both make sober, able good speakers.

Good sense with little memory produces taciturnity.

Those who are possessed of both in an eminent manner excell every way.

It was no wonder that he spoke well on his own profession, considering that he had repeated the same things several hundred times in his Lectures; but being contious of this defect in other things, which prevented his reddey expression, he shuned publick companies, and exposing a naturall failing he could not help.

From this it seems reasonable to suppose that the different characters of mankind proceed mostly from memory and judgement combined in innumerable ways, and these perhaps originally, from the various forms and modulations of the bodies of different men, and still altered more in some degree by the different kinds of education.

Every person has two side or appearances, there good qualities are too much exaggrate by friends, and there faults on the reverse side by there enemies, when commonly a medium is nearest the truth, for the worst of men have something good and the best have there failings.

You see by this, thinking to join many of the sentences of the incomiums, I have farly turned philosopher.

His living, his business, and apparatus without any gratuity; this in truth was no less then giving a fortune to his nice, who is married to hat Gentleman, to inable him to support his family, and supply your

friends diffieny of children, and indeed if they go one as they have begun, will probably in time be numerous and perhaps useful to society.

The point left in doubt by Dr. Glaister was the existence of anything like a feud between the two obstetricians, beyond the decided difference of opinion regarding instrumental obstetrics. It appears that there was ground for the tradition that they had quarrelled, but these letters seem to show the correctness of Dr. Glaister's suspicion that there was not so much a quarrel as a dissatisfaction on Smellie's side; that this emerged only just before Smellie's retreat to Scotland, and that Dr. Hunter only then came to know of it. Hunter's failure to obtain a meeting with Smellie for the purpose of getting matters cleared up, receives satisfactory explanation from the letter to Pitcairn. It arose from the mental slowness of which Smellie was conscious and his consequent unwillingness to meet the nimbler witted, the "glib-tongued" Hunter, with whom he felt that he would have had no chance. Perhaps Hunter had, on some occasion, made more pungent remarks than are contained in his writings regarding the mischief done by obstetric instruments, and these had been repeated to Smellie, who expressed resentment. Perhaps Smellie had, on the eve of his departure, launched a Parthian shot at his more distinguished contemporary, and this had been conveyed to Hunter by some good-natured friend. Certain it is that there was something to explain, and that no particular publication on either side can be pointed to as the cause of offence. Hunter's autograph note limits the time: "Before he went off Dr. Hunter heard that he complained of him, and Dr. Hunter, knowing that it was without reason," etc. Smellie cannot have felt very sharply and recently angry, for his message to Hunter is rather good-humoured. The laborious jest of writing from another world gives opportunity for a little gentle fun at the cost of his acrimonious critics, Andrew Douglas, Dr. Burton, and Mrs. Nihell, the midwives' champion.

The autobiographic fragment, the "letter of exculpation lately sent to Dr. Pitcairn," is a most interesting psychological study. The letter of Locke, on which it is based, is contained in the Life prefixed to the 1740 edition of Dr. Edward Pocock's works; the use to which Smellie put it is original. Smellie invites Pitcairn to become his literary executor, and furnishes material for an estimate of his character to be prefixed to his posthumous works. Bearing in mind that Smellie had retired to his native country to die, the scrutiny of his own character is deeply interesting, and leaves the impression of a simple-minded honest man, whose ambition did not blind him to the fact that his chief merit was his industry; he even accounts for speaking well on professional matters by the repetitions imposed on a teacher of long experience. The truisms which he thinks prove him to be a philosopher are pathetic; they are a vain lamentation over the inferiority he is conscious of, and they demonstrate the inferiority. One remark sums him up, "good sense with little memory produces taciturnity." He was a reliable practical obstetrician, with "a good memory for visible objects," who recognised the training given by "blunders as well as success." It would be difficult to find another autobiographic Boswell who so shrewdly analyses his own motives, and tells that equal sympathy with rich and poor patients, however dignified it may sound, is really a good way of procuring patients and money; and that the gift of "his business and apparatus for teaching of midwifery" was a provision for a near relation. But he was not sordid, else his servants would not have stayed with him, even though mildly "chaffed" for shortcomings; nor would he have been content with a "moderate competency," "a fortune to retire, not indeed enough for this place (London), but sufficient for his poor country." He was content with his success; in his own words he had enough, and what he thought might "even satisfy any unreasonable man." His love of carving, painting, and music is tempered by the fear of being thought expert in such idleness; he would not be suspected of knowing more than "what was fit for a gentleman to know," and sustained the character of an amateur by jesting at skill in art as a thing to be ashamed of; his early years in Scotland were answerable for this prejudice, scarcely yet extinct there. These two fragments give a pleasanter impression of the man than the memoirs hitherto

published have offered, and I hope that Dr. Glaister will include them in a second edition of his valuable work, together with photographs of these, the only MSS. of Smellie's of whose existence he knows.

DEATHS UNDER ANÆSTHETICS.

PREPARATION FOR EMERGENCY.

DR. W. S. PAGET-TOMLINSON (Kirby Lonsdale), writes: In reading the account of deaths under anæsthetics recorded from time to time (I refer more particularly to chloroform), one always observes, of course, that the usual remedies were employed—for example, injections of ether, nitrite of amyl, the battery, artificial respiration, etc.; but I have often wondered whether the remedies were in reality ready to hand, so that at a moment was lost. Of course artificial respiration or inversion can always be immediately practised, but when the last spark of life is flickering out of your patient there is no time to run for ether, a morphine syringe, or a battery. There is not even time to fill a syringe, as the loss of a few seconds may just turn the scale, and that is why I urge the supreme importance of absolute readiness for all emergencies. For many years I have never administered chloroform without having a syringe ready filled with ether within reach.

Until some three years ago I had never had occasion to use it, having never met with a case that excited alarm, and as familiarity is very apt to breed contempt I have sometimes, when hurried, been almost tempted to omit the precaution. I was deeply thankful, however, when the above case occurred that I had my syringe ready. It was the removal of an epithelioma of the lip from a stout, middle-aged man. I was administering chloroform and A.C.E. alternately, but chiefly the former on account of the difficulty of keeping the patient under the anæsthetic. All went perfectly well until about the middle of the operation when, quite suddenly, he turned pale, the respiration ceased, and the pulse (I had my finger on it at the time) became imperceptible. In less than five seconds the ether was injected, and we had the satisfaction of seeing his colour return almost immediately, along with respiration and pulse. Of course, in a case of this kind it was impossible to say with certainty that the ether saved the man's life, but it looked to me very like it, and there can be no doubt whatever that extreme promptitude in the use of the remedy is of the first importance. It may seem a somewhat simple point to urge, but my excuse for directing attention to it is that I am quite certain many use chloroform daily with no preparation whatever for an emergency, which may occur at some unexpected moment, and to the most skilled administrator.

DEATH FOLLOWING THE ADMINISTRATION OF ETHER.

MR. ROBERT B. PURVES, M.B., C.M. (Edin.), Honorary Assistant-Surgeon, Tewkesbury Hospital, writes: S.R., a female, aged 22, was admitted to the hospital on August 11th suffering from varicose veins. She was duly prepared for operation, and on August 15th she was brought down to the theatre to have the veins ligatured. Heart and lungs were found healthy. On entering the theatre she was nervous and frightened, therefore a preference was expressed for ether being given. Ether was administered on an Ormsby's inhaler. She breathed well and regularly, and Dr. Iiston proceeded to operate. The operation had lasted about twenty minutes, when she was noticed to become slightly blue in the lips. The inhaler had been removed half a minute or so previously. She continued breathing well, and the cyanosis gradually diminished, but suddenly, no more ether having been given, she became more cyanosed, and her breathing became irregular. Her head was got over the end of the table, and a nitrite of amyl capsule given. She improved a little, but got worse again almost immediately, the breathing becoming irregular and gasping. A hypodermic injection of ether was given and artificial respiration performed. The tongue was drawn out, and the pharynx swabbed out, but very little mucus was found there. The air passed freely into her lungs and she revived. The operation was immediately concluded. She was carried upstairs and put to bed. At this time she was breathing fairly well, and was of a good colour. In about five minutes she became deeply cyanosed and stopped breathing. Artificial respiration

was performed and restoratives applied in vain, and she died. During this, the second performance of artificial respiration, a large amount of mucus escaped from the mouth. During the operation there was very little salivation, and when the head was lowered, and artificial respiration performed in the theatre, there was no escape of mucus. Death was apparently due to asphyxia. On *post-mortem* examination all the bronchi were found filled with frothy mucus. No disease of lungs. Right auricle distended with fluid blood. No disease of heart. Other organs healthy.

THE IRISH TREASON-FELONY PRISONERS.

WITH reference to the statements that have been made in the papers as to the release of certain of the Irish so-called "political" prisoners from Portland prison on medical grounds, we have reason to believe that the health of these men has been a source of solicitude to the Director of Convict Prisons and to the Home Office authorities for some years past, and that they have been watched with unusual care. As was stated in the House of Commons, Drs. Maudsley and Buzzard were recently desired to examine these prisoners, some twelve in number, and it was as the result of their report, we understand, that the four prisoners, Daly, Devaney, Gallagher, and Whitehead, were ordered to be released. There was no reason to suppose that these prisoners had sustained any injury as a consequence of imprisonment; nevertheless, further confinement might have resulted in some permanent injury, and we think that, from a medical point of view, the Home Secretary has acted wisely in taking the precaution of ordering their release without further delay.

CHOLERA IN EGYPT.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Increase of the Disease in Upper Egypt; Diminution in Lower Egypt; Date of Disappearance of Vibrio from Fæces.

THERE is little to note except an increase of the disease in Upper Egypt. Lying between the infected frontier Mudi-reyeh in the south and the infected provinces in the north, the Mudi-reyehs of Keneh and Guirga were bound to suffer sooner or later. In the town of Keneh a smart outbreak has occurred, and between thirty and forty a day are dying. The disease is also extending in some of the district of Guirga. In the Fayum but isolated cases are now occurring, and there is a general diminution throughout Lower Egypt. The following are the figures for the last two weeks:

	Admissions to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital.	Deaths out of Hospital.
From July 30 to August 5	576	398	442
„ August 6 to August 12	586	386	697

In the Boulak Hospital, Cairo, bacteriological examinations were made in eighteen cases to determine the period when the bacillus ceased to exist in the fæces. The following are the results:—

2 cases	... 26 days	3 cases	... 14 days
2 „	... 19 „	2 „	... 13 „
2 „	... 16 „	1 case	... 12 „
3 „	... 15 „	3 cases	... 11 „

When bacteriological examinations could not be made, the general rule adopted was to keep convalescents in hospital for twenty-one days.

On the frontier the disease appears to have practically died out amongst the troops.

Reuter's telegrams, dated August 25th, state that in the four days ending August 24th, 539 fresh cases and 484 deaths from cholera had been reported in the whole of Egypt. There had been only three deaths in Cairo, three at Ismailia, one at Suez, one at Suakin, but there had been fifteen at Alexandria.

DURING the course of an inquest held by Mr. A. W. Wyatt, Deputy Coroner, strong comments were made both by the jury and the deputy coroner on the failure of the Lambeth Vestry to provide a mortuary. In the case in question the medical men had to make a *post-mortem* examination in a bedroom, a proceeding unsatisfactory from a medical point of view, calculated needlessly to harrow the feelings of the friends, and possibly to lead to results injurious to health.