

session. Properly speaking a perpetual sense of endlessness is equivalent practically to its real fruition.

I may add that my view of the internal constitution of water derives corroboration from the demonstrations of Faraday and Becquerel, as to the enormous amount of electricity contained in every grain of that fluid, equal to a tremendous thunder clap. I have always contended that if oxygen gas could be liquefied it would be found to be water, and this opinion has also been given by Mr. Wilde as the result of chemical experiments, detailed at great length in the *Philosophical Magazine*, for August, 1868.

I think, however, that the subject is one, not for chemists, but physiologists, especially for those who bring enlarged scientific views to bear upon the functions, healthy and morbid, of the brain and nervous system.

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,

R. LEWINS, M.D.

Army and Navy Club,  
3rd, September, 1869.

*We gladly make room for Dr. Lewins' letter, as we feel the subject on which he writes to be one of great interest and importance; but we cannot help saying that we do "distrust his data and inferences," because he has not given us sufficient details to judge of the former, and because the latter are opposed to the whole tendency of modern physics. It is true that a great deal of evidence—not noticed by Dr. Lewins—has been accumulating for some time to prove that all the various forces of matter, which we have looked upon as correlated, are merely modes of local movement, as affected by the intimate arrangement of the atoms of bodies. But this in no way weakens—it rather strengthens—our belief, that matter and force are in themselves distinct and irreducible. The desire to comprehend under one all-embracing principle has been felt by some of the greatest thinkers, and Dr. Lewins need not be ashamed of following in the footsteps of Kant. But the world is not now governed by authority, and he will find it difficult to get his opinions adopted, unless he can adduce more evidence in favour of his fundamental principles, and can connect these more closely with his inferences than he has yet done.*

J. R. G.

---

### *Appointments.*

J. C. COMPSON, M.D., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Leicestershire and Rutlandshire Lunatic Asylum, Leicester.

J. E. M. FINCH, M.B., has been appointed Resident Medical Superintendent of the new Leicester Borough Lunatic Asylum.

H. C. GILL, M.R.C.S.E., Assistant Medical Officer to the Nottingham County and Borough Lunatic Asylum, has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the North Riding Asylum, Clifton, Yorkshire.

R. GREEN, M.R.C.S., has been appointed Assistant Surgeon to the Northumberland Pauper Lunatic Asylum, Morpeth.

J. K. MACONCHY, M.B., has been appointed Visiting Medical Officer of the County Down Lunatic Asylum.

ALEXANDER REID, M.B. Aberd., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Royal Lunatic Asylum, Aberdeen.

JOSEPH HUME SMITH, M.B., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Nottingham County and Borough Lunatic Asylum.

H. G. WALKER, M.D., has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer to the Dorset County Lunatic Asylum, Dorchester.