

RE-VACCINATION.

LETTER FROM THOMAS JACKSON, Esq.

SIR.—Whilst your pages are warm in the discussion of Medical Gratuitous Services, will you allow me a corner in them to ventilate the subject of Re-vaccination?

I am vaccinator to the Ferriby District of the Sculcoates Poor Union, Hull; and in May, June, and July, of last year, during an epidemic of small-pox, re-vaccinated successfully some sixty adults.

In the September quarter of last year, I sent in to the board my claim for these re-vaccinations; and am now, within the last few weeks, told that they refuse to acknowledge them, on the plea that the legislature has not contemplated re-vaccination, and that public vaccinators cannot legally demand payment for such services.

Under the Public Health Act of 1858, her Majesty's Privy Council issue to public vaccinators regulations and instructions, which not only authorise the performance of re-vaccination, but require it to be done.

It is, perhaps, superfluous to your readers to give these regulations; but I will do so (extracts from some of them) to make my case better understood.

No. 1 says: "Do not re-vaccinate persons who in infancy have been efficiently vaccinated, unless they be more than 15 years of age; or if, during any immediate danger of small-pox, more than 12 years of age."

No. 4. "Legibly write in his register the letter 'R' against the name of any person, adult or adolescent, who, having in early life been successfully vaccinated, is re-vaccinated."

No. 6. "Do not take lymph from re-vaccinations."

No. 5. "Guardians and overseers, in their respective unions and parishes, shall forthwith take measures to bring the performance of public vaccination into conformity with these regulations."

This rule evidently requires that our contracts be made in accordance with the regulations; and as the Privy Council "may from time to time issue such regulations as they think fit", they must be considered imperative.

The Sculcoates guardians think otherwise; and submit a case for the opinion of Mr. R. Lush, Q.C., who, in answer, says, Sept. 18th, 1863.

1. "I am of opinion that the provisions of these acts extend to all persons, whatever their ages or circumstances may be, who choose to avail themselves of the privilege of being vaccinated at the public expense, provided they have not been already successfully vaccinated."

2. "The statutes, however, do not appear to me to contemplate re-vaccination; and I am of opinion that a medical officer cannot charge the Union for the vaccination of a person whom he knows to have been successfully vaccinated."

To the question, "Whether the Public Health Act, and the orders issued therein, in any way repeal, alter, or enlarge, the provisions of the 3rd and 4th Vict., so as to charge the poor-rate with the vaccination of persons previously successfully vaccinated?" the answer is

3. "I am of opinion they do not."

4. "I am of opinion that the contracts must be construed with reference to the Acts of Parliament by which they are authorised; otherwise they would be void, as being *ultra vires*."

If this opinion, sir, be a correct one, we are, indeed, called upon to perform a vast amount of gratuitous service; for re-vaccination is considered as powerful in preventing the inroad of small-pox, as infantile vaccination; and we shall be constantly applied to, to perform it.

We should err in refusing obedience to the orders of the Privy Council, can the Sculcoates Board violate them?

I shall be glad to know your opinion, as well as that of any medical *frère* on this question, and also the practice adopted in other unions.

Last week, I addressed the Poor-law Board, White-hall, for their decision; but have not yet received an answer.

I am, etc.,

THOMAS JACKSON.

Walton, near Brough, East York, April, 1864.

[The treatment of medical men by Poor-law officials is, we need hardly say, too constantly both shabby and grinding. There is only one way in which such treatment can be met. Our advice, in this case, to Mr. Jackson is, that he never again re-vaccinates any case until he has obtained from the Guardians promise of payment. He should point out to the Guardians the dangers which result to the individuals whom he deems not sufficiently protected by the first vaccination; and secondarily, to the public, through their not being re-vaccinated; and there leave the matter with a clear conscience. We should consider, from Mr. Lush's opinion, that Mr. Jackson is under no legal obligation to re-vaccinate.

EDITOR.]

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS, EDINBURGH. (Double Qualification.) The following gentlemen passed their first professional examinations during the April sittings of the examiners.

Allshorn, A. H., Enfield	O'Neill, P., Castle-dermot
Carrick, George L., Cronstadt	Steel, William E., Blaenavon
Chisholme, Wm., Edinburgh	Veitch, Wm. Young, Coundon
Cornish, Henry, Taunton	Walsh, David J., co. Cork
Duguid, William, Elgin	Wardleworth, Thomas, Lancaster
Elmslie, Wm. J., Aberdeen	Wicks, Aubrey, Cambridge
Godfrey, Frank, Salisbury	Worthington, James Vince,
Kynock, Patrick, Roxburgh	Lancaster
M'Craith, Edward, co. Cork	Young, David, Perth
Mickle, John, Douglas	

And the following gentlemen have passed their final examinations, and been admitted L.R.C.P. Edinburgh, and L.R.C.S. Edinburgh.

Cosgrove, William, Dunbar,	Laing, Alexander, Aberdeen
Aberdeen	M'Caul, James, Edinburgh
Crerar, John, Perthshire	Ropes, Francis C., London
Eaines, Wm. L., co. Cork	Stewart, William, Ayrshire
Jameson, James, Bowden	Topham, David, co. Cavan

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, EDINBURGH. The following gentlemen passed their first professional examinations during the April sittings of the examiners.

Christie, G. A., New Brunswick	M'Arthur, Peter, New York
Compigne, Horatio D. S., Gosport, Hants	Moniot, John A., Penang
Lyle, John D., Maghera	Robinson, C. H., Yorkshire
	Smith, James, Dumfries

The following gentlemen passed their final examinations, and obtained the diploma of the College.

Barrie, Andrew, Glasgow	MacSwiney, E. V., co. Cork
Bruce, Wm., Edinburgh	Milner, John, Edinburgh
Ducat, Andrew D., London	Miller, A. G., Edinburgh
Gaffney, J. B., co. Roscommon	Mouat, George B., Stirling
Hunter, James, Ayrshire	Poole, Samuel W., Edinburgh
M'Crea, Samuel, co. Down	Sepple, Wm. H., Stranraer

APOTHECARIES' HALL. On April 21st, the following Licentiates were admitted:—

Bain, John William Devereux, Brunswick Terrace, Blackwall
Gunning, John Edmund, Surbiton, Surrey
Istance, Richard, Carmarthen
Murphy, Joseph Wm. Carter Neyne, 75th Regiment

DEATHS.

MATHER, Horatio, Esq., Surgeon, of Earlestown, Newton-in-Makerfield, on April 20.
WATSON. On April 14th, at Chester, aged 49, Margaret, wife of
*George Churchill Watson, M.D.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF VIENNA. Dr. Morell MacKenzie has been elected a corresponding member of this society.

ORIGIN OF SPECIES. A work has appeared by M. Flourens, entitled, *Criticism of the Book of M. Darwin upon the Origin of Species.*

PROFESSOR LANGENBECK of Berlin has been appointed head-surgeon of the Prussian army, and has left for Düppel.

DEATHS OF MEDICAL MEN FROM FEVER. We have noticed the death of five of the ten resident physicians of Bellevue Hospital who contracted the fever, and now have to record the fact that three more are prostrated by this disease. (*American Medical Times.*)

RADCLIFFE TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP, OXFORD. The Radcliffe Travelling Fellowship has been awarded to A. B. Northcote, B.A., of Queen's College. Mr. Northcote took a first-class in Natural Science in March Term, 1861.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS. The graduates of the University of St. Andrews will hold a dinner at the London Tavern on Tuesday next, May 3rd, when a testimonial to Mr. Day, late Chandos Professor at the University, will be presented. The testimonial consists of a carved cabinet (by Rogers) holding, in twenty volumes, the *Règne Animal* of Cuvier, with the coloured illustrations. The dinner promises, we believe, to be largely and influentially attended. Dr. Richardson is to occupy the chair.

INCREASE OF MEDICAL STUDENTS. There has been a large increase of students in attendance upon all the medical colleges of the country. The schools of New York and Philadelphia have again reached nearly the maximum of their former attendances. The young men coming forward represent the higher classes of society, and bring to the profession a much more thorough preliminary education. The great inducement which the Army and Navy hold out to qualified medical men is the cause of this stimulus and attraction to the medical profession. (*American Medical Times.*)

POISONING BY PHOSPHORUS. A woman has been committed at Llanguadock for wilful murder of her child. The infant, it appeared, from evidence given at the inquest, was seized with vomiting and purging; the matters vomited smelt strongly of "brimstone"; and the motions; and the evacuations from the bowels "shone in the dark." Dr. Prothero made a *post mortem* examination, and deposed that the stomach was inflamed and softened, its mucous and muscular coats being in some parts destroyed. The contents of the bowels, etc., were examined by Dr. W. B. Herapath, who made a minute analysis of them, and arrived at the following results: "Evidence of the presence of free phosphorus in minute quantity was obtained from the contents of the stomach; whilst evidence of phosphorous acid, the lower oxide of phosphorus, was obtained by Scherer's test, as modified by myself, from the contents of the stomach, and of the large and small intestines; whilst a still larger quantity of the same phosphorous acid was shewn to have been absorbed or imbibed by the tissues of the stomach and intestines, and to be present in the liver; whilst the presence of dextrine in the

intestinal canal shews that starch had been present there during life. I infer that phosphorus was probably the cause of the acute inflammation of the mucous surface of the stomach and intestines, of which the infant died." The viscera were brought to Dr. Herapath on the 24th ult.; the child died on the 4th, a period of twenty days having elapsed since the death. The poison was found with difficulty, but chiefly as phosphorous acid.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. It is proposed to continue to pay towards the Linacre Professorship (till funds otherwise accrue) £140 per annum; to the Professor of Chemistry for chemical apparatus £150 per annum; to the same Professor for an assistant in lecturing £100 per annum; to the same Professor for a practical demonstrator £150 per annum; to the deputy of the Professor of Experimental Philosophy £120 per annum; and to the Professor of Zoology for a servant £15 per annum. The five grants are to be made for a period of five years only.

GRATUITOUS MEDICAL SERVICES. A spirited agitation is going on, and gaining ground throughout England, to abolish the system which has prevailed to such an extent in the United Kingdom, of giving gratuitous advice and assistance to persons who, in many cases, can well afford to remunerate medical men. That the profession is really getting alive to this destructive system of gratuitous medical advice is evidenced by the sensible and business-like resolutions passed by the Medical Society of Liverpool. It is to be hoped that the example set by the Liverpool practitioners will be followed elsewhere, undeterred by the silly attacks of the *Medical Times*, on what it is pleased to term the British medical tradesmen, the parallel of whom it finds in the pot-house keeper alluded to in Fielding's novel of *Joseph Andrews*, from which work the writer of the article in the current number of that journal publishes nearly a column about Mrs. Towhouse, and having as much to do with the admirable papers on this subject in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL as with the *Man-in-the Moon*. (*Dublin Medical Press.*)

GARIBALDI'S CONGÉ. An old acquaintance, Mr. Assolant, gives an amusing account to Garibaldi's departure. "My dear friend," said the Duke of Sutherland, "you should by this time be fatigued with all these receptions." "Not a bit of it," returned the simple hero. "My foot is much better since Nélaton—" "My friend," continued his grace, "you are in ignorance as to your real condition. Our fogs do not favour the recovery from accidents. The London climate is unhealthy, and we should be for ever grieved were the liberator of the Two Sicilies laid up with a bad cold. Return, then, my dear fellow, to Caprera, and I will see you home." "But I assure you," answered Garibaldi, "I am very well, and this popular enthusiasm warms my heart." "No matter," continued the duke, "Dr. Partridge believes that—" "Dr. Partridge?" asked the hero. "Is it he who declared there was no ball in my foot? That's a good joke indeed!" "But," insisted the other, with evident impatience, "Partridge is not alone of this opinion. Palmerston and Clarendon do not augur well of your stay in London." "Palmerston and Clarendon!" exclaimed Garibaldi. "I never heard before that they were medical authorities. Where have they taken their diplomas—in Edinburgh or Paris? Ah! this is the reason of Clarendon's visit to the Tuilleries. He has been commanded there to pack me home, and England obeys." "My dear Garibaldi, you know nothing of the matter." "But I want to be let alone. Why did you come and take me from Caprera? Am I a natural curiosity which may be concealed or exhibited at the will of its possessor?"

OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

MONDAY..... Metropolitan Free, 2 p.m.—St. Mark's for Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum, 1.15 p.m.—Samaritan, 2.30 p.m.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 a.m.

TUESDAY.... Guy's, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.m.—Westminster, 2 p.m.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY... St. Mary's, 1 p.m.—Middlesex, 1 p.m.—University College, 2 p.m.—London, 2 p.m.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 a.m.

THURSDAY.... St. George's, 1 p.m.—Central London Ophthalmic 1 p.m.—Great Northern, 2 p.m.—London Surgical Home, 2 p.m.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 p.m.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 a.m.

FRIDAY..... Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 p.m.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 a.m.

SATURDAY.... St. Thomas's, 1 p.m.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 p.m.—King's College, 1.30 p.m.—Charing Cross, 2 p.m.—Lock, Clinical Demonstration and Operations, 1 p.m.—Royal Free, 1.30 p.m.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 a.m.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY. Epidemiological Society, 8 p.m.—Entomological.—Royal Institution (Anniversary).—Odontological.

TUESDAY. Pathological.

WEDNESDAY. Obstetrical Society of London, 8 p.m. Dr. Meadows, "On the Treatment of Vesico-Vaginal Fistula"; Mr. Nunn, "Destructive Inflammation of the Hip-Joint following Delivery."

THURSDAY. Harveyian Society of London, 8 p.m. Dr. Sisson, "On the Origin and Nature of Syphilis."—Royal.—Linnaean.—Chemical.

FRIDAY. Western Medical and Surgical Society, 8 p.m. "Practical Evening for Cases and Specimens."—Royal Institution.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * * All letters and communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

CORRESPONDENTS, who wish notice to be taken of their communications, should authenticate them with their names—of course not necessarily for publication.

RE-VACCINATION AND THE POOR-LAW.—Mr. Jackson, District Vaccinator at Ferriby, is refused payment of his just fees, because "it is past the time."

"A letter was read from Mr. Jackson, the medical officer for Welton, stating that it was not his intention to waive his claim against the Board for re-vaccination.—Mr. Ellison: I will move that it be paid.—The Chairman: And I will second it.—The Clerk: You can't; it is past the time; six months have elapsed.—Mr. Ellison: That's a very shabby way of making your payments."

When Mr. Jackson made his claim in a correspondence, the refusal was grounded on the non-liability of the guardians. Thus every "shabby" method is resorted to for the avoidance of the payment of the surgeon's just debts.

A CORRESPONDENT makes the following useful suggestion:—"It would be of much use if we could obtain the actual result of change of climate in the patients sent abroad for the winter. If their English medical attendants would give the effects they find on their return, the needed information would be gained. Would it be possible to obtain this information by some such plan as is now adopted, of naming a reporter, and requesting such information to be sent to him? My firm conviction is, that, as a rule, patients are much worse off abroad than in England; but to ascertain the fact, or some approach to it, would be satisfactory. Indeed, to furnish evidence to give medical men in doubtful cases sufficient reasons for opposing change, would be very serviceable, for the expense and wretchedness caused by sending doubtful or hopeless cases abroad is untold."

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Dr. W. TILBURY FOX; Dr. ROUTH; THE SECRETARY OF THE ODONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY; THE HON. SECRETARIES OF THE WESTERN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON; THE HON. SECRETARIES OF THE HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON; Dr. J. S. FLETCHER; Mr. BRODHURST; Mr. T. M. STONE; Dr. SKINNER; Dr. LIONEL BEALE; Dr. THUDICHUM; Mr. THOMAS MATHER; Mr. THOMAS JACKSON; Dr. HOLMAN; Dr. R. B. HOLLAND; Dr. W. BIRSHAPATH; Dr. M. L. SIRCAR; Dr. E. GOODEVE; THE REGISTRAR OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL; Dr. N. CHEVERS; Dr. SANKEY; Dr. RICHARDSON; Dr. STEVENS; and Dr. DRYSDALE.

ESTABLISHED 1840.

Bowmer's Medical Agency.—

In consequence of the decease of Mr. Joseph Bowmer, M.R.C.S., the representatives of that gentleman have transferred the business so long and successfully conducted by him at

50, Lincoln's-inn-fields,

to a member of the Medical Profession, who, from his business experience, energy, and well-known ability (combined with his personal knowledge of the requirements of Medical gentlemen), appeared to them to be *specialized* to carry out successfully the negotiations entrusted to him. They, therefore, respectfully beg to introduce to Mr. Bowmer's clients and the Profession generally his successor,

MR. J. BAXTER LANGLEY, M.R.C.S.,

(late student of King's College, and for some time business manager of one of the London daily newspapers), to whom all correspondence referring to the business of this Agency is in future to be addressed.

March 10th, 1864.

MEDICAL TRANSFER AND AGENCY,

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Mr. J. Baxter Langley, M.R.C.S.

(King's Coll.), begs to inform the members of the Medical Profession that he has undertaken the Medical Transfer and General Professional Agency business till recently carried on by the late Mr. Bowmer.

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Gentlemen desirous of relinquishing their Professional connexion, or prepared to receive partners, can be introduced to gentlemen ready to invest in *bona fide* transferable practices and partnerships. The strictest reserve will be practised in all the preliminary arrangements, and no expense incurred (except in special cases), unless a negotiation be completed.

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