

10. The seriously reduced and rapidly declining strength of the department (owing to a long-continued failure of candidates), leading to much and increasing overwork in the case of many medical officers.

11. A greatly diminished efficiency in the department, partly from the last-named causes, and otherwise by reason, not only of the prolonged absence of competition, but that also of the low standard of marks now accepted as merely qualifying for appointments in the Army Medical Department under the present ten years' system.

12. The wholesale supercession of many senior executive medical officers, of high character and professional ability, by the unexpected enactment of certain alleged rules, which were made to operate retrospectively, and which, if ever published at all in Great Britain or the colonies—which is doubtful—were certainly not communicated to those most concerned until, if ever, at any rate, a great many years after their entry into the department, on the strength of other and quite different rules.

13. Want of proper representation, protection, and sympathy towards the executive ranks by the administrative ranks of the department.

14. The worrying uncertainties of the position and prospects of army medical officers caused by the many breaches of agreement with them by the Government or its representatives during the last nineteen or twenty years.

**ADDENDUM.**—*Average Mortality amongst Army Medical Officers as compared with other Classes Civil and Military.*—The average annual death-rate per 1,000 of adult males in England is 9 to 10; Army officers, exclusive of medical officers, 15; Army medical officers from 1839 to 1854, 34; *a.* During Crimean war, 67; *b.* Since Crimean war, 20; Average death-rate of army medical officers during the last thirty years, 30. This increased death-rate does not take place among the older men, as in civil life, but the chief mortality is among the younger men of the department. The actual death-rate of the department is 44 per cent. greater than that of the males in civil life of all classes, and 75 per cent. greater than that of males of the same class as the army medical officers (including medical men) in civil life.

For the above data, *vide* paper by Dr. De Chaumont (now Professor of Hygiene at Netley) in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* for November 1874, page 405.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL: NOTICE OF MEETING.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Committee of Council will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, on Wednesday next, the 13th instant, at Two o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE,  
*General Secretary.*

36, Great Queen Street, London, W.C., March 6th, 1878.

### SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST SURREY DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE next meeting will be held at the Crystal Palace Hotel, Upper Norwood, on Thursday, March 14th, at 4 P.M.: R. M. MILLER, M.D., in the Chair.

The following papers are promised.

1. Mr. Golding Bird: The Treatment of Scrofulous Glands by the Electrolytic Caution.

2. Dr. Poole: On the Non-Alcoholic Treatment of *Post Partum* Hæmorrhage.

3. Mr. Sidney Turner: A Case of Abdominal Tumour.

4. Mr. Sidney Turner: A Case of Opium Poisoning.

Dinner will be laid at 6 P.M. Charge, 6s. a head, exclusive of wine.

JOHN H. GALTON, M.D. Lond., *Honorary Secretary.*

Woodside, Anerley Road, S.E., February 26th, 1878.

### BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE fourth ordinary meeting of the session will be held at the Museum and Library, at the top of Park Street, Bristol, on Wednesday evening, March 13th, at half-past 7 o'clock; H. MARSHALL, M.D., President.

The following papers are expected.

1. J. G. Swaine, M.D.: Case of Puerperal Convulsions.

2. W. H. Spencer, M.D.: The Use of Salicylic Acid in Combination with Opium and Aconite.

3. E. Markham Skerritt, M.D.: Cases illustrating the Treatment of Pleuritic Effusion.

4. A. E. A. Lawrence, M.D.: On certain Forms of Non-Puerperal Uterine Hæmorrhage.

A train leaves Bath at 6.35 P.M., and returns from Bristol at 10.15 P.M., Great Western Railway.

E. C. BOARD, } *Honorary Secretaries.*  
R. S. FOWLER, }

7, Caledonia Place, Clifton, March 6th, 1878.

### THAMES VALLEY BRANCH.

THE next general meeting will be held on March 14th, at the Griffin Hotel, Kingston, at 5 o'clock.

Papers will be read by—

1. Dr. Price Jones.

2. Mr. George Farr White: On Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

3. Dr. Fenn: On Paroxysmal Hæmatinuria.

There will be a dinner at the above hotel at 7 o'clock. Charge, 7s. 6d., exclusive of wine.

Those members who intend to be present are requested to notify the same to the Honorary Secretary as soon as possible.

F. P. ATKINSON, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

Kingston-on-Thames, March 6th, 1878.

### SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT MEETING.

THE next meeting is appointed to be held at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, on Tuesday, March 19th, at 4.30 P.M.: DR. BURNS, R.N., in the Chair.

Dinner will be provided at the Bull Hotel, Rochester, at 6.15 P.M.

Papers have been promised by A. W. Nankivell, Esq., on Acute Necrosis; and by J. Thoresby Jones, Esq., on a Case of Displacement of the Sacrum.

FREDERICK JAMES BROWN, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

Rochester, March 5th, 1878.

### SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST SURREY DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE next meeting of the above District will take place at the Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, on March 21st, at 3.45 P.M.

Members wishing to read papers are requested to communicate with the Secretary at once.

There will be a dinner at the White Lion Hotel, at 6 P.M. Charge, 7s., exclusive of wine.

A. ARTHUR NAPPER, *Honorary Secretary.*

Cranleigh, February 26th, 1878.

### SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: EAST KENT DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE next meeting of the above District will take place at the Harp Hotel, Dover, on March 21st, at 3 P.M.

Members wishing to read papers are requested to communicate with the Secretary at once.

There will be a dinner at the Harp Hotel, at 5 P.M. Charge, 6s. 6d., exclusive of wine.

WM. KNIGHT TREVES, *Honorary Secretary.*

Margate, March 2nd, 1878.

### YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

THE spring meeting of this Branch will be held at the Infirmary, Rotherham, on Wednesday, March 27th, at 3 P.M.

Members wishing to read papers or bring forward cases are requested at once to communicate with the Secretary.

After the meeting, the members will dine together at the Ship Hotel at 5 P.M. Tickets (exclusive of wine) 6s. 6d. each.

W. PROCTER, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

York, February 26th, 1878.

LEEDS.—Dr. Goldie states that the rate of mortality was rather high in this borough during the five weeks ending December 1st, especially amongst infants. Scarlet fever was still prevalent, but was much reduced by closing the schools in the infected districts; whilst small-pox was entirely absent from the death-returns. The uncertified deaths were 2.4 per cent. of the whole.

or an inch and a half from the navel. Put another ligature on the cord, about an inch beyond the former, and cut between them. While doing this, you should put your hand between the scissors and the body of the child; for the latter is kicking about very vigorously, and one might cut off the penis by mistake. Such an accident as this the mother would never forgive; and the women would tell it from one to another till you lost all your practice." Again: "There is one other error which you may commit in using the short forceps. Most extravagant it is, and tremendous as extravagant! I mean the introducing of one blade into the rectum and the other into the vagina, the recto-vaginal septum becoming enclosed between the blade and the head. The error is possible, but is scarcely pardonable. The man who is guilty of such an enormity ought to relinquish the name of 'an accoucheur'." At the same time, Dr. Blundell himself was certainly in advance of the obstetric practitioners of his day. He was in the habit of using the uterine sound to aid in the diagnosis between cystocele, inversion, polypus, and other uterine diseases.

His mode of lecturing was characterised by a careful attention to minute detail upon many points which now-a-days, in a midwifery course, pass unnoticed; yet entertaining withal. Speaking of the treatment of leucorrhœa, he says: "Women prefer colourless astringents; as Nature—with a view, I presume, of correcting the effects of the impurities peculiar to their sex—has given them the same fondness for cleanliness which we observe in kittens and other playful animals; and they do not like their dresses to be stained. The astringent which I generally use is alum; and it scarcely ever fails me. Our Saxon ancestors complained that the Danes stole away the hearts of their women by the fascinating custom of purifying their persons once every week. For aught I know to the contrary, many an accoucheur may have made his way to fortune by a commendable attention to the neatness of a shirt-plaiting! *Sic itur ad astra.*"

In his mode of practice, Dr. Blundell was somewhat eccentric. We believe he was not in the habit of rising much before twelve o'clock. He would then receive patients at his own house till about six in the evening. Having dined, he would start on his rounds about eight or nine in the evening. He took with him in his yellowish chariot a lamp, by the light of which he would read one of a number of books which he always took with him. His rounds sometimes lasted several hours, and it was not uncommon for him to visit a patient in this way at as late an hour as midnight.

Dr. Blundell was well grounded in his youth in the classics, and in his later days he spent much of his leisure in the study of Greek. He had collected upwards of three hundred volumes of works on obstetrics and diseases of women. Many of them have the name of the late Dr. Orme written inside the cover. Some of them are rare and curious old books. Amongst others, there is a beautifully illustrated monograph on *uterus bipartitus*, entitled *Tabule quatuor uteri duplicis*, with Latin text. The whole of this interesting collection has been purchased by the Obstetrical Society of London from Dr. Blundell's executors for the sum of £20. He had also formed a collection of pathological specimens, which we believe the authorities of Guy's Hospital contemplate purchasing in a similar manner.

It is almost unnecessary to inform medical readers that the large fortune—nearly half a million—which Dr. Blundell left was not made in the exercise of his profession; it was bequeathed to him at different times. Although he early relinquished the practice of his profession, he did much, in conjunction with the late Dr. D. Davis, to elevate the department of obstetrics to a more scientific position.

**PRESENTATION TO MR. ROBERT THOMPSON.**—On Tuesday, February 28th, a very handsome bronze clock and pair of candelabra were presented to Mr. Robert Thompson, of Brandon, Suffolk, as a mark of esteem on his relinquishing practice. The clock bears the following inscription: "Presented to R. Thompson, Esq., upon his retirement from medical practice after a residence in Brandon of thirty-seven years, as a mark of respect and esteem by those patients and friends whose names are inscribed on the accompanying address." Along with the clock and candelabra, the following illuminated and richly framed address was presented: "Robert Thompson, Esq., Dear Sir,—We, the undersigned inhabitants of Brandon and its vicinity, feel we cannot allow you to retire into private life, after a residence of thirty-seven years as medical practitioner in Brandon, without some expression of our sincere esteem and regard. We, therefore, beg your acceptance of this address and the accompanying testimonial, consisting of a clock and pair of candelabra; and trust, by the blessing of God, both yourself and Mrs. Thompson may be spared for many years to enjoy that happiness and repose which your long and arduous professional labours so well deserve."

## MEDICAL NEWS.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.**—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, February 28th, 1878.

Appleton, Thomas Alfred, Cathcart Road, S.W.  
Atkinson, John Mitford, Winchester  
Davis, Arthur Randall, Langport, Somerset  
Pitt, Francis Dingley, Edward Street, Hampstead Road  
Wright, Harry Claude, Wynbery, Cape of Good Hope

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their primary professional examination.

Curde, Charles, Charing Cross Hospital  
Hope, William More, University College  
Hughes, Thomas Montgomery, Charing Cross Hospital  
Hume, Walter Augustus, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Pegge, William Joseph, Manchester Hospital

### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

The following vacancies are announced:—

**BROMYARD UNION**, Parish of Cradley—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator. Salary, £50 per annum, and fees. Applications to be made on or before the 9th instant.

**CLIFDEN UNION**—Medical Officer for the Clifden Dispensary District (Inishboffin). Salary, £90 per annum, exclusive of Registration and Vaccination Fees. Applications to the 13th instant.

**GORT UNION**—Medical Officer of Ardahan Dispensary District. Salary, £140 a year as Medical Officer, and £10 as Sanitary Officer, with Registration and Vaccination Fees. Election on the 14th instant.

**DUNFANAGHY UNION**, Donegal—Medical Officer of Gweedore Dispensary District. Salary, £100 per annum, with £10 as Sanitary Officer, exclusive of Registration and Vaccination Fees. There are also two Police Stations and a Coast Guard Station in the district, which are usually placed in charge of the Medical Officer. Applications to the 17th instant. Election takes place on the 22nd instant.

**MILLSTREET UNION**, Cork—Medical Officer of Workhouse, at a salary of £70 per annum. Applications, with Testimonials, to the 21st instant.

**NARBERTH UNION**—Medical Officer for No. 4 District. Salary, £35 per annum, and fees, with £10 as Medical Officer of Health.

**SLIGO UNION**—Medical Officer for Carney Dispensary District No. 2. Salary, £120 per annum as Medical Officer, and £20 per annum as Sanitary Officer, with the usual Registration and Vaccination Fees. Applications to the morning of the 13th instant.

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

*Names marked with an asterisk are those of Members of the Association.*

\*BELLAMY, Edward, F.R.C.S., elected Surgeon to Charing Cross Hospital.

CLIFFINGDALE, S. D., M.B., appointed House-Surgeon to the London Hospital,

vice R. Atkinson, B.A., resigned.

COOKE, Edward M., M.B., appointed Medical Superintendent of the Wiltshire

County Asylum.

CRADDOCK, F. H., B.A., M.R.C.S., appointed Senior Assistant Medical Officer and

Deputy Superintendent of the Worcester County and City Asylum, at Powick,

vice Edward M. Cooke, M.B.

\*MACCREIGHT, W. W., M.D., appointed Consulting-Physician to the Torbay

Infirmiry.

MARSH, E. A., L.R.C.P.Ed., appointed House-Surgeon to the Torbay Infirmiry,

vice J. B. Richardson, M.B., resigned.

\*RICHARDSON, J. B., M.B., appointed Physician to the Torbay Infirmiry, vice W.

W. Maccreight, M.D., resigned.

ROBERTSON, William Smith, M.B., appointed a Second Assistant Medical Officer to

the County Asylum, Fareham, Hants, vice John Thomson, M.B., resigned.

\*TAAFFE, R. G. B., M.D., appointed Consulting-Physician to the Sussex and

Brighton Infirmiry for Diseases of the Eye.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

*The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, is 3s. 6d., which should be forwarded in stamps with the announcement.*

#### MARRIAGE.

ROBERTSON—MAXWELL.—At Rosehill Cottage, Hamilton, on the 5th instant, by the Rev. H. M. Hamilton, assisted by the Rev. M. P. Johnstone, \*R. T. C. Robertson, M.B., L.R.C.S.E., to Jessie, daughter of the late James Maxwell, Hamilton, N.B.

#### DEATHS.

SWAIN.—At 20, Ker Street, Devonport, on February 26th, Harriet Eliza Cleeve, the wife of \*William Paul Swain, F.R.C.S.

\*WALLACE, Samuel, M.D., at his residence, Elderslie House, Cardiff, on January 21st, aged 51 years.

**PRESENTATION TO MR. J. B. RICHARDSON.**—Mr. J. B. Richardson has lately been presented with a testimonial on resigning the post of Senior House-Surgeon to the Torbay Hospital. The testimonial consisted of a handsome black marble time-piece, with the following inscription:—"Presented to J. B. Richardson, Esq., M.B., on his leaving the Torbay Hospital, by his patients, as a mark of their gratitude for his kindness and attention to them"; and also of a handsomely framed portrait of Professor Spence of Edinburgh, whose pupil Mr. Richardson formerly was.

## OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

**MONDAY.....** Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 9 A.M. and 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.—London, 3 P.M.

**TUESDAY.....** Guy's, 1.30 P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—West London, 3 P.M.—National Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY..** St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Mary's, 1.30 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.—Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, 2.30 P.M.—Cancer Hospital, Brompton, 3 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Peter's, 2 P.M.

**THURSDAY....** St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Hospital for Women, 2 P.M.—St. Thomas's (Ophthalmic Department), 4 P.M.—London, 3 P.M.

**FRIDAY .....** Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Royal South London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.—Guy's, 1.30 P.M.

**SATURDAY....** St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.—Royal Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 P.M.—Royal Free, 9 A.M. and 2 P.M.—London, 2.15 P.M.

## MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

**MONDAY.**—Medical Society of London, 8.30 P.M. Mr. Lund (of Manchester) will read a short paper, and show a patient from whom both Astragali were removed for severe Double Talipes; Mr. R. Davy will show cases in which he has subdivided the Tarsal Arch for confirmed Talipes; Mr. Adams will exhibit an improved Scarpa's Shoe for the Treatment of Talipes Equus Varus.

**TUESDAY.**—Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, 8.30 P.M. Sir Henry Thompson, "Analysis of Five Hundred Cases of Operation for Stone in the Bladder of the Adult Male". The Calculi will be shown.

**WEDNESDAY.**—Hunterian Society, 7.30 P.M.: Council Meeting. 8 P.M.: Dr. Fletcher, "On the Diagnosis and Treatment of Idiocy, illustrated by Cases"; Mr. Jacobson will show a Child whose Tibia has been divided for Rickets.

## LETTERS, NOTES, AND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

**CORRESPONDENTS** not answered, are requested to look to the Notices to Correspondents of the following week.

**AUTHORS** desiring reprints of their articles published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, are requested to communicate beforehand with the printer, Mr. Thomas Richards, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C.

**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**—We shall be much obliged to Medical Officers of Health if they will, on forwarding their Annual and other Reports, favour us with *Duplicate Copies*.

**WE CANNOT UNDERTAKE TO RETURN MANUSCRIPTS NOT USED.**

**COMMUNICATIONS** respecting editorial matters, should be addressed to the Editor, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C.; those concerning business matters, non-delivery of the *JOURNAL*, etc., should be addressed to the General Manager, at the Office, 36, Great Queen Street, W.C., London.

DR. PROSSER JAMES ON LARYNGOSCOPY.

**SIR.**—If the person who uses the signature "A Student of Charing Cross" had read the preface of the second edition of my *Lessons in Laryngoscopy*, he would have found the following passage: "On returning to practice after a lengthened absence, occasioned by severe illness, I have not thought it necessary to revise the text of this little work. My attention has, therefore, been confined to the colouring of the new plates. These, I trust, will be found, if anything, an improvement on those in the former issue, on the accuracy of which I have often been congratulated."—I am, yours obediently,  
3, Dean Street, Park Lane, March 4th, 1878.

"MENSTRUATION."

**SIR.**—I keep pigs myself, and, though I cannot speak from actual experience, believe there is truth in the remarks of your correspondent "A Member" about hams going bad occasionally from the process of curing; with this difference, however, as to its cause, that if the *sows* are menstruating or "hogging", they should never be killed till a week afterwards. I have never heard that women who happen to be menstruating at the time they are helping to cure the hams would render the latter unfit for eating.—Yours, etc.,  
F.R.C.P.

The following communications have been handed to the General Manager:—Mr. Anthony Temple, Kingston; Mr. Alfred P. Watkins, Worcester; Mr. Frederick Trevan, Port Isaac; Medicus, Newmarket; Mr. A. G. Macgregor, Canisbay, Caithness, N.B.

DIALYSED IRON.

**A MEMBER** of the British Medical Association requests the editor will have the goodness to say, in the answers to correspondents, what advantage the dialysed iron has over other oxides of the metal.

\*.\* Dialysed iron is alleged to have all the good effects of iron without producing constipation, disturbing digestion, or blackening the teeth. (See a notice in a previous page of the present number.)

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.**—Advertisements for insertion in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, should be forwarded direct to the Publishing Office, 36, Great Queen Street, W.C., addressed to Mr. FOWKE, not later than *Thursday*, Twelve o'clock.

**ADVERTISERS** are requested to take notice that the regulations of the *Post Office* do not allow letters to be addressed to initials and directed to any *Post Office* in the United Kingdom, but letters may be addressed to initials to the *JOURNAL Office* or any stated address other than a *Post Office*.

LADY-MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

**SIR.**—Surely the good sense of the Association can settle the question of the admission of lady-members without resorting to angry language or displaying passion. Such superfluities can effect nothing but injury to the Association. Societies in this country decide questions, however burning, by reasonable majorities, duly obtained and determined; and it is not to be doubted, in the settlement of this question, that whatever individual opinions may be, the voice of the majority will be accepted. All, therefore, required is, that the proper steps be taken to frame a law, which shall meet the wishes of the majority of the Association. Not many of our members will, I hope, approve the inconsiderate action or follow the lead of Dr. Wilson Fox and Mr. Lister—the one in resigning his membership, and the other in threatening to do so—because two ladies are members of the Association. These ladies have been members, we are told, for a period of five and three years respectively, and up to the annual meeting at Edinburgh their membership does not appear to have inflicted inconvenience or umbrage in the Association: in fact, it is probable that scarcely one member in ten up to that time was aware that we had ladies for our associates; and since that meeting, it seems that no one of those gentlemen who are so aggrieved by the presence of these associates have taken the proper and legal steps to prevent a recurrence of what they deem a great scandal—the admission of lady-members. I think most of your readers will agree with me, that it would have been time enough for Dr. Wilson Fox to resign, and Mr. Lister to threaten resignation, when a majority of members had decided in favour of the admission of female members. The world at large would reasonably say that only prejudice or passion could refuse to await the decision; and this resigning and threatening are the more surprising, because on the face of it they are quite unnecessary. The fact is before us, that three thousand out of (say) four thousand members have given their opinion against the admission of lady-members, thereby indicating pretty clearly what the vote of the majority will be when the question is placed before the Association for legal settlement. Moreover, I cannot believe that there will be found many members of the Association who will accept the advice given them as to dealing with the two ladies now members. These ladies were admitted in accordance with the laws of the Association, and, until better informed, I conclude that they cannot be legally ejected from the Association merely because they happen to be of the female sex, as has been suggested. Even if the ejection be legal, I am sure it would not be creditable to us. A new law may decide that ladies shall not in future be admitted, and would thus so far indicate that the admission of these two ladies was a mistake; but in this particular case, the mistake, supposing it to be one, was made by the Association, and those who make mistakes must themselves bear the burden of them as best as they may. The last thing they can honestly do is to inflict the punishment due to their own wrongdoing on those who are entirely innocent in the matter. To endeavour to expel these two ladies from the Association, or (as has been suggested) to write them a polite letter, enclosing their money-payments, and requesting them to take themselves out of it, seems to me, under the circumstances, a proceeding wholly unworthy of our great Association, and would for once justly render us obnoxious to some of those reprobations so often ignorantly and profusely dealt on our profession by outsiders. Surely we may anticipate that these ladies, knowing the feeling of the majority, will not ruffle the temper of members by their presence at Association meetings; and for the rest, as their membership does not appear hitherto for several years to have inflicted any other inconvenience on the Association, one would think (the principle of the non-admissibility of the female sex having been settled by vote) that eight thousand medical men might put up with the heaven of two lady-members. And one more plea might be fairly added why a majority should be content not to drive things to their ultimate conclusion as regards these two ladies, and that is, that of four thousand (say) members who answered the question put to them, one thousand (say) replied in favour of the admission of lady-members. A reasonable majority, it should be remembered, always has the magnanimity of paying respect of some sort to a worthy minority.—Your obedient servant,  
W. O. MARKHAM.

London, March 2nd, 1878.

**SIR.**—May I ask you to allow me space for a few lines in your valuable *JOURNAL*? As a member of the British Medical Association, I was present at the Discussion on Pleurisy at Manchester last year. As soon as a "medical woman" began to speak I rose, intending to go out. Some gentleman near to me said, "Sit down; don't you hear a lady is speaking?" Without venturing to give you the precise words of my answer, I may tell you that I did not sit down, but left the room at once. Apart from other overwhelming reasons why women should not be present at such meetings, there seems to be this powerful one, that no matter what she says, or who she is, the gentlemen present must sit and listen *because of her sex*—in other words, it would check healthy discussion. I may say that throughout the discussion members were constantly coming in and going out. Of course, it is needless to observe that the admission of these two "medical women" was totally irregular, as the rules do not specify properly qualified men or women.

I should not have ventured to address you on this subject, but that I am so pleased to see that the strong feelings of a humble individual like myself against the propriety of women practising medicine are only the same as those of my much respected teachers Sir William Jenner, Dr. Wilson Fox, and many other eminent members of the profession.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,  
Bradford, March 1878. EDWARD T. TIBBITS, M.D. Lond.

**SIR.**—Please remove my name from the list of the members of the British Medical Association. I am quite in accord with Dr. Wilson Fox as to the admission of females to the meetings of the Association, and would have earlier withdrawn my name had I been aware of the rules permitting their admission to the Association.