

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

### BIRMINGHAM.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

As usual in the summer, medical affairs are rather quiet. The lull is an advantage, as it gives time to prepare for the hard college and hospital work of the winter session, and for the meetings of the medical societies.

The year just concluded, which is the first year after the amalgamation of the two medical schools, has been most successful. The lectures have been delivered with great punctuality and regularity, and have been attended with diligence. Thirty-one students have passed their anatomical examination at the College of Surgeons, while only three have been rejected.

At the first M.B. examination at the London University, Mr. Ernest A. Elkington has carried off the first honours in anatomy, *viz.*, the scholarship and exhibition—a distinction which is the more gratifying as his father is a much esteemed practitioner in this town, and has been himself a teacher and writer on anatomy. These successes are in themselves a testimony to the energy and ability of our medical tutor, Dr. James Hinds. Report says that this gentleman is about to resign his office in order to commence practice. It will be very difficult to replace him at the Queen's College by a gentleman equally able and enthusiastic in his work, and one who will as thoroughly gain the respect and esteem of both professors and students.

Mr. J. F. West has been recently elected co-Professor of Anatomy with Professor Bracey. His position as senior surgeon at the Queen's Hospital, as well as his fitness for the office, render his election very suitable.

The work of the College has progressed most harmoniously, and I have heard of no instance of annoyance of any kind arising from the amalgamation and the consequent doubling of the occupants of the various chairs.

The want of any representation *as such*, of the professors on the Council of the College, renders the action of the latter very difficult, and not always very satisfactory. The presence on the Council of representatives elected by the professors, and the recognition of the professors' meeting would obviate this, and would much increase the confidence felt in the school.

The last mistake of the Council has been in the appointment of a gentleman to deliver the introductory lecture in October. The expressed feeling of the professors was that such honour should be offered to Dr. Russell, the senior professor of medicine, and in fact the senior active lecturer in the school. It is reported that another physician, not a professor, and junior in every way to Dr. Russell, has been appointed by the Council. Surely, those who do the hard work should have their honours. It is at the least discourteous on the part of the Council to pass over professors able and willing for this duty, for any one, still more for one who has no other special claim than that he is a member of the Council—the electing body.

Active preparations for the clinical work of the coming session are being made at the General and Queen's Hospitals. The General Hospital has rearranged its library, and added to it a valuable supply of books specially adapted for students' use.

The staff of the Queen's Hospital have a little raised the fee for its medical and surgical practice, which hitherto has been rather more than half that at the General Hospital. A nearer approximation of the two in amount is surely justified by the position which the Queen's Hospital has attained.

The value of medical education has been too cheaply estimated at most provincial schools. The result here has been that men have been tempted into a profession for which they were socially unfit, and at which they have been unable to succeed without carrying on a competition damaging not only to their medical brethren, but still more to the credit and dignity of our profession. It seems a pity that a common fee cannot be arranged between the two hospitals, admitting students to attendance at either hospital; this would be a great advantage to the students, and would remove all other rivalry between the two than the honourable one as to who could teach best.

The Queen's Hospital Working Men's Fund is at last reaching proportions which will render it an useful addition to the funds of the charity. Its promoters deserve every credit for their patience and perseverance, and for sticking hard to their project when faced by difficulty and disappointment. At the Queen's Hospital, Dr. Fleming has recently had and reported two interesting cases of moveable kidneys.

Mr. Goodall, at the General Hospital, has, within the last few weeks, twice successfully performed ovariotomy—a proof, if such were wanting, that such cases can do well even in large old hospitals. Dr. Foster has also been making some interesting observations at the General Hospital with reference to the proportionate elimination of urea in cases of diabetes, when treated with or without drugs. His remarks tend to show that the increase in weight of patients under certain kinds of treatment is due rather to the diminution of the urea excreted than of the sugar.

The Nursing Institution has quite gained the public confidence, as was to be expected from the energy shown by the Ladies' Committee in its management. It is now less in want of funds than of probationers. It will be much to be regretted if, after all the talk of providing suitable employment for women, the women are not forthcoming for the work.

The annual meeting of our Branch, and also the dinner following, had the largest attendance for some years. The President, Mr. Vose Solomon, gave an excellent address, in which full justice was done to the workers in the Branch during the past session.

## ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

### REPORT OF MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL:

*Held in Birmingham, August 24th, 1869.*

PRESENT:—W. D. Husband, Esq. (in the Chair); Mr. Bartleet; Dr. Chadwick; Dr. Charlton, Mr. Clayton; Dr. Falconer; Mr. Fowler; Dr. Radclyffe Hall; Dr. Heslop; Mr. Hodgson; Dr. Latham; Mr. Nunneley; Dr. Sibson, F.R.S.; Dr. Simpson; Mr. Southam; Mr. H. Smith; Dr. Stewart; Dr. Vose; Dr. E. Waters; Dr. A. T. H. Waters; Dr. Wilkinson; Mr. Wheelhouse; Mr. Wood; and Mr. Williams (General Secretary).

The following resolutions were agreed to.

1. That at the next annual meeting a Psychological Section be established.
2. That Jonathan Hutchinson, Esq., be elected Editor of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.
3. That the annual meeting be held in the second week in August, commencing on Tuesday, August 9th, 1870.
4. That there shall be two Addresses, *viz.*, in Medicine and Surgery.
5. That Dr. Heath of Newcastle be requested to deliver the Address in Surgery.
6. That Dr. Sibson, F.R.S., be requested to deliver the Address in Medicine.
7. That the subject for competition for the Hastings Medal for 1871 be "On the Action of Bromide of Potassium."
8. That a sum not exceeding ten pounds be granted towards the expenses of the State Medicine Committee.
9. That Professor Hughes Bennett, M.D., and the Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, with their assistants, be appointed a Committee to investigate the effects of antidotes to the effects of strichnine and opium; and that the sum of fifty pounds be granted to the assistants.

T. WATKIN WILLIAMS, F.R.C.S., *General Secretary.*  
Birmingham, August 25th, 1869.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE VISIT TO LEEDS.

SIR,—You will have much of your space occupied for some time with accounts of the scientific events of this most successful meeting; but I trust you will find room for a narrative of events from an entirely different point of view.

On our arrival on Tuesday, after obtaining our tickets, and finding out our places of abode, beginning the pleasure of finding old friends and making new ones, we dispersed for dinner, previously to the general meeting. As one who has been a recipient of Leeds hospitality in a private house, I can say nothing personally about the catering at the various large hotels of the place. I heard nothing but complete approval expressed.

We more fortunate individuals were entertained as many of us were never entertained before, and met daily parties of distinguished men whose pleasant converse at the table more than equalled their reputation in the world of science. The liveliness of anecdote and the active interchange of thought told well for the bodily and mental state of

no sense justified in making such a statement; that we still use, and have as much confidence as ever in antiseptic treatment; and that we hope shortly, in some way or other, to have Mr. Nunneley's misstatement corrected.

"Any want of success in our practice may fairly be attributed to imperfections in carrying out your rules. Yours truly,  
T. PRIDGIN TEALE."

## MEDICAL NEWS.

**INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.**—The following is a list of the candidates for Her Majesty's Indian Medical Service who were successful at the competitive examination at Chelsea, on August 9th. Forty candidates competed for forty appointments. Thirty-nine were reported qualified. [Maximum number of marks, 3400.]

Order of merit.	Names.	No. of marks.	Order of merit.	Names.	No. of marks.
1.	Duke, O. T.	2,570	21.	Keefer, W. N.	1,655
2.	Nicholson, F.	2,225	22.	Carswell, J. S.	1,650
3.	Gunn, J. S.	2,150	23.	Roe, W. A. C.	1,640
4.	Gregg, W. H.	2,055	24.	Murray, W. F.	1,595
5.	Hendley, T. H.	2,005	25.	Kelly, A. H.	1,575
6.	Ghose, Fakir Chunder	2,000	26.	Robinson, T.	1,570
7.	Sinclair, D.	1,955	27.	Hughes, A. H.	1,565
8.	Seaman, A. B.	1,925	28.	Rutledge, E. B.	1,560
9.	Smyth, F. A.	1,905	29.	Dean, A.	1,510
10.	Salaman, S. M.	1,885	30.	M'Conaghay, W.	1,450
11.	Barker, F. C.	1,870	31.	Waters, G.	1,425
12.	Boyd, H.	1,865	32.	Fawcett, E.	1,410
13.	Strahan, A. B.	1,805	33.	Paterson, F. R.	1,390
14.	Lloyd, J.	1,800	34.	Hastings, W.	1,365
15.	Caldecott, R.	1,770	35.	Spencer, F. C. H.	1,340
16.	Courtney, W. M.	1,770	36.	Wall, R. M.	1,290
17.	Jones, F.	1,755	37.	Jones, H. J.	1,255
18.	Meadows, C. J. W.	1,725	38.	North, J.	1,130
19.	Murphy, P.	1,705	39.	Holl, H. G.	1,090
20.	Martin, D. N.	1,665			

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.**—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, August 19th, 1869.

Baddeley, William, Whalley, Lancashire

Mickle, William Julius, Puckridge, Herts

Nell, Richard Frederick, Warwick

Sneil, Enoch, Leeds

Warburton, Edmund Samuel, Betley, Crewe

Wilson, George, Claverton Street, Pimlico

Wing, Charles Edward, Bury St. Edmunds

Wood, Richard, Malden Road, N.W.

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

Harvey, Christopher, Westminster Hospital Hill, Thomas, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

As an Assistant in compounding and dispensing medicines.

Bird, George William James, Birmingham

### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are declared:—

**ARDEE UNION**, co. Louth—Medical Officer for the Collon Dispensary District (£100 per annum, and Vaccination Fees): applications, 7th Sept.; election, 8th.

**BALLYSHANNON UNION**, co. Donegal—Medical Officer for the Ballintra Dispensary District (£60 per annum, and Vaccination Fees): election, 7th Sept.

**BISHOP AUCKLAND**, co. Durham—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for the Whitworth District.

**BOOTLE HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY**—House-Surgeon (£80 per annum, with board, etc.).

**BOURNEMOUTH GENERAL DISPENSARY**—Resident Surgeon (£100 per annum, with furnished apartments, coal, gas, and attendance): applications, 9th September; duties, 8th October.

**BRANCEPETH COLLIERIES**, co. Durham—Surgeon.

**BRIGHTON AND HOVE LYING-IN INSTITUTION**—Resident House-Surgeon (£100 per annum, with furnished apartments, coal, gas, and attendance): applications, 1st Sept.; election, 9th Sept.

**BROMSGROVE UNION**, Worcestershire—Medical Officer for the Romsley District (£12 per annum).

**CARLISLE UNION**—Medical Officer for the Stanwix District (£70 per annum, to include medicine, and extra fees): applications, 8th Sept.; election, 9th Sept.

**CENTRAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL**, Gray's Inn Road—Surgeon.

**DROVERS' SICK AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETY**, "Butchers' Arms," York Road, Islington—Medical Officer: applications, 30th.

**EASTBOURNE UNION**, Sussex—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for District No. 1 (£90 per annum, 1s. each Midwifery case, 2s. 6d. each successful Vaccination, and other extras): applications, and Sept.; election, 3rd Sept.

**GLASGOW UNIVERSITY**—Regius Professor of Surgery.

**GLASSARY**, Argyllshire—Medical Officer for the Kilmichael District: applications, 1st September.

**GLoucester DISPENSARY**—Medical Officer.

**Gloucester GENERAL INFIRMARY**—Assistant-Physician.

**GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL**, Caledonian Road—House-Surgeon (applications, 7th Sept.).

**GUILDFORD UNION**—Medical Officer for the Albury District (£60 per annum, 1s. each case of Midwifery, and other extras): applications, 3rd Sept.; election, 4th Sept.

**KILMUIR**, Parish of, and part of the Parish of Snizort, Isle of Skye (£140 per annum, with house and enclosure of land).

**KINGSBRIDGE UNION**, Devon—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for Stokenham (£45 per annum, and Vaccination Fees): applications, 3rd Sept.; election, 11th Sept.

**LEXDEN AND WINSTREE UNION**, Essex—Medical Officer for District No. 9 (£65 per annum).

**LONDONDERRY COUNTY INFIRMARY**—Surgeon.

**LONDONDERRY GAOL**—Surgeon.

**METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL**, Devonshire Square—Assistant-Physician: applications, 31st August.

**"N." DISTRICT**, GENERAL POST OFFICE—Surgeon.

**NEWENT UNION**, Gloucestershire—Medical Officer for the Redmarley District (£50 per annum.)

**ROYAL GENERAL DISPENSARY**, Bartholomew Close—Physician (£40 per annum): applications, 2nd Sept.; election, 15th Sept.

**ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST**, City Road—Physician.

**ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY**—Physician for the Eastern Districts of London: applications, 28th.

**SANDAY**, Island of, Orkney—Medical Man (public appointment, £50 per annum; population, 2000): applications, 8th Sept.

**SPENNYMOOR**, co. Durham—Certifying Factory Surgeon.

**TIVERTON UNION**, Devon—Medical Officer for the Tiverton East District (£70 per annum): election, 7th Sept.

**TOWER HAMLETS DISPENSARY**, Commercial Road—Medical Resident (£100 per annum, with residence, coal, and candles): applications, 6th Sept.; election, 20th Sept.

**WARNEFORD HOSPITAL**, Leamington—House-Surgeon (£100 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing).

**WEST NORFOLK AND LYNN HOSPITAL**—Physician.

**WHITBY UNION**, Yorkshire—Medical Officer for the Fylingdales District.

**WORKSOP DISPENSARY**—House-Surgeon to dispense, visit out-patients, and act as Honorary Secretary (£60 per annum, with coal, gas, attendance, and furnished apartments): applications, 31st instant; duties, 1st November.

### MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

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

\***CLAY**, Robert H., M.D., appointed Physician to the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital.

**HOPE**, Wm., M.B., appointed Physician-Accoucheur to the Out-patients of Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, Marylebone Road, *vice* Dr. Parson, resigned.

### BIRTHS.

**GROVES**.—On August 14th, at Newland West, Lincoln, the wife of E. Groves, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

**HARRISON**.—On August 17th, at Walsall, the wife of \*A. J. Harrison, M.B., of a daughter.

**MURRAY**.—On August 19th, at Green Street, Grosvenor Square, the wife of Gustavus C. P. Murray, M.D., of a son.

**MURRAY**.—On August 17th, at the Curragh Camp, the wife of W. S. Murray, M.B., Surgeon 66th Regiment, of a son.

**PATERSON**.—On August 21st, at Plumstead, the wife of H. F. Paterson, M.D., Royal Artillery, of a son.

**WOTTON**.—On August 13th, at Bedford Gardens, Kensington, the wife of Henry Wotton, Esq., Surgeon, of a son.

### MARRIAGES.

**ABBOTT**, Henry H., Esq., Bombay Staff Corps, to Susan Georgina, youngest daughter of James SANDERSON, Esq., Deputy Inspector-General, Madras Army, at Edinburgh, on August 15th.

**BUSH**, Charles Arthur, Esq., Surgeon, of Marshfield, Gloucestershire, to Anna, daughter of E. GALE, Esq., of Alton Priors, near Marlborough, on August 6th.

**CROSS**, T. H. Eustace, Esq., Surgeon 53rd Regiment, to Mary Laura, third daughter of R. MARRIOTT, Esq., of Abbot's Hall, Braintree, Essex, at St. James's, Piccadilly, on August 17th.

**OWEN**, Alfred Lloyd, M.B., of York, to Sylvia Caroline, third daughter of W. GIBNEY, M.D., of Torquay, on August 19th.

**WILMOT**, Alfred E., Esq., Surgeon, of Escrick, York, to Mary Macrae, youngest daughter of Charles M. ELDERTON, Esq., barrister-at-law, at St. Gabriel's, Pimlico, on August 17th.

**WOOD**, William F., M.D., Rochdale, to Helena, daughter of John GODFREY, Esq., London, at Paris, on August 16th.

**WRIGHT**, Robert Temple, M.D., Bengal Medical Staff, to Emily, daughter of the Rev. J. THOMPSON, vicar of Easby, on August 12th.

### DEATHS.

**ARCHER**, E., M.D., of King's Lynn, at Hilldrop Crescent, London, on Aug. 12th.

**ATKINSON**.—On August 21st, at Bampton, Oxfordshire, aged 28, Julia, wife of John F. Atkinson, M.D.

\***BRADFORD**, William J., M.B., of Tyndale Place, Islington, at Killowen Point, County of Down, on August 14th.

**BURKE**.—On August 21st, at Richmond, Surrey, Juliana, wife of Joseph Burke, Esq., Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals.

**GUTHRIE**, Alexander, Esq., Surgeon, at Brechin, Forfarshire, on August 22nd.

**JULIUS**.—On August 21st, at Richmond, Ellen Hannah, wife of F. G. Julius, M.D.

**MONTGOMERY**, Howard B., M.D., Surgeon Madras Army, at Madras, aged 43, on July 11th.

**ROBERTSON**.—On August 6th, at South Kensington, Mary, widow of James Robertson, M.D.

**STOCKER**.—On August 21st, at Bampton, Oxfordshire, aged 8 months, Richard Stocker, son of John Sherwood Stocker, M.D., of Montagu Square, London.

**TIDMARSH**, Richard, M.D., late of Adelaide, South Australia, at Greenwich, aged 64, on August 16th.

## OPERATION DAYS AT THE HOSPITALS.

- MONDAY.....Metropolitan Free, 2 P.M.—St. Mark's, 9 A.M. and 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.
- TUESDAY.....Guy's, 1.30 P.M.—Westminster, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—National Orthopaedic Hospital, 2 P.M.
- WEDNESDAY.....St. Mary's, 1.15 P.M.—Middlesex, 1 P.M.—University College, 2 P.M.—London, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—St. Thomas's, 1.30 P.M.—Samaritan Free Hospital for Women and Children, 2.30 P.M.—Great Northern, 2 P.M.
- THURSDAY.....St. George's, 1 P.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 1 P.M.—Royal Orthopaedic, 2 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, 2 P.M.
- FRIDAY.....Westminster Ophthalmic, 1.30 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Central London Ophthalmic, 2 P.M.
- SATURDAY.....St. Thomas's, 9.30 A.M.—St. Bartholomew's, 1.30 P.M.—King's College, 1.30 P.M.—Charing Cross, 2 P.M.—Lock (Clinical Demonstrations and Operations), 1 P.M.—Royal London Ophthalmic, 11 A.M.—Royal Free, 1.30 P.M.—East London Hospital for Children, 2 P.M.

## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*All Letters and Communications for the JOURNAL, to be addressed to the EDITOR, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.*

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

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

**TO PURCHASERS.**—To insure attention, it is requested that all orders sent to the Office for extra copies of the JOURNAL, be accompanied with stamps for the amount.

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

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.**—As an act of justice to those gentlemen who, for various reasons, declined to avail themselves of the privileges offered by this College in 1859, a correspondent proposes the adoption by the College of a bye-law to the following effect; viz.: "Any Licentiate of this College who prior to 1858 held a degree in Medicine from an University in the United Kingdom, and is not engaged in the practice of pharmacy, may be admitted a Member, on signing the bye-laws, and paying the additional fee to that required for the licence."

## THE GALIGNANI HOSPITAL, PARIS.

**SIR**,—I have just read the interesting and valuable letter of Dr. Cormack, in your last issue. He has given a faithful account of what has befallen our poor little hospital. It is scarcely credible that such an exquisite little establishment should have been so wilfully sacrificed, when apparently everything had been accomplished to make it as perfect as possible, and to secure it in perpetuity to the English poor in Paris. I have great hopes that Dr. Cormack's letter may be the means of calling attention to the present unaccountable state of affairs, and that our hospital may be revived. There is, however, only one remedy—to obtain another site, and erect another building. I am, etc.,

CHARLES SHRIMPTON, Physician in Charge of the Galignani Hospital.  
17, Rue d'Anjou St. Honoré, Paris, August 23rd, 1869.

## VACCINATION.

**SIR**,—Regarding the increasing spirit of dissatisfaction attached to compulsory vaccination, I think it only right to mention that I have lately had under my care four cases of secondary abscess or ulceration resulting from this operation. There is no doubt in my mind that hereditary syphilis is the true explanation of symptoms attributed to vaccination in the majority of instances; but, on the other hand, impure vaccine, and want of skill on the part of the operator, have much to do with the untoward results. I would recommend a return to the original source of vaccine, and prolong the optional term from three to twelve months.

London, August 1869. I am, etc., N. HECKFORD.

**MR. ALFRED GODFRAY** (St. Helier's) should apply to the Registrar-General, Somerset House.

## NOISES IN THE HEAD.

**SIR**,—Some months ago, you kindly inserted a letter from me in your JOURNAL, relative to the above affection, but which failed in attracting notice. May I again ask the favour of your inserting the enclosed, with the view of obtaining an opinion from some of your correspondents, upon the subject of these "very obscure" and hitherto little considered affections, under which I have suffered for nearly two years, commencing with intense neuralgia of a branch of the seventh nerve supplying the hyo-glossus muscle, and culminating seven months afterwards in vomiting quantities of bile of a highly vitiated character, with alarming prostration. I am now in fair health. The neuralgia, I am thankful to say, has not since returned; but the noises in the head are most persistent, and resemble scissor-grinding, with the occasional chirping of the cricket. They are *absent at dinner*, and for *an hour or so afterwards*. My age is 62. I have suffered from fever, ague, and dysentery, in China, etc.; also from gout.

Trusting you will excuse my again troubling you, I am, etc.,  
A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND RETIRED  
August 1869. ARMY MEDICAL OFFICER.

We are indebted to correspondents for the following periodicals, containing news reports and other matters of medical interest:—The Wiltshire County Mirror, August 18th; The New York Medical Gazette, August 7th; The Parochial Critic, August 18th; The New York Medical Record, August 7th; The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, August 5th; The Aberdeen Free Press, August 17th; The Yorkshire Post, August 21st; The Alahabad Pioneer, June 18th; The Manchester Guardian, August 12th; The Delhi Gazette, May 8th; The Belfast News-Letter, August 19th.

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.**—Advertisements should be forwarded direct to the Printing-Office, 37, Great Queen Street, W.C., addressed to Mr. Richards, not later than *Thursday*, twelve o'clock.

## THE CONSTITUTION OF THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

**SIR**,—Nearly two years ago, you were good enough to give insertion to a letter of mine concerning the proposed alteration in the constitution of the Medical Council. In that letter, I endeavoured to show that the Council, as at present constituted, is not (properly speaking) a representative body at all, and that it was never designed by the Legislature to be a representative body. At the same time, whilst guarding myself from admitting that the constitution of the Council is incapable of amendment, I ventured to hint that, in seeking for improvement, we should, as a matter of policy, shun the imputation of self-interest; or, in other words, that we should not lead the Government and Legislature to imagine that merely in the interests of our profession we seek to alter the constitution of a body which was instituted for the benefit of the public.

Since the publication of my letter, I have, "through the loopholes of retreat", sedulously watched the progress of the movement in favour of the "direct representation of the profession" in the Medical Council; and, at the risk of being stigmatised as pig-headed, I confess that my opinions on the subject remain unchanged. I still believe that any alteration of the Council which would convert it into a representative body (in the sense contemplated by the Association), would be absolutely injurious to the profession.

Admitting that the Council has not been so successful as we could desire in the promotion of the objects for which it was created, I nevertheless believe that its shortcomings are more fairly to be attributed to the want of power than to the want of will and ability, or to the want of "direct representation". In the absence of increased powers conferred by the Legislature, no amount of direct representation of the profession—no increase in the number of its members—can render the Council more capable of achieving its objects than it is at present. In the interest of the public, it is my firm conviction that the Council should not only be endowed with additional power, but that the number of its members should be considerably diminished. A reform in this direction is that which, in my opinion, ought to be strenuously demanded by the nation at large.

I am by no means indifferent to the necessity which exists for the efficient conduct of the internal government of our profession, and the due promotion of its material interests. But it strikes me that we already possess a body which, with the requisite modifications, might safely be entrusted with these important duties. The British Medical Association is daily becoming more and more a power in the State; and if it could be incorporated by Royal Charter or Act of Parliament, and endowed by the Legislature with adequate authority, its Council, impartially elected, would be more aptly suited to deal with the varied questions which concern the personal welfare of the profession than the "General Council of Medical Education and Registration", which has its own specific duties to perform. This is merely designed as a crude suggestion, which may or may not be deemed worthy of consideration by the leading members of the Association.

Possibly, the above suggestion comes too late; for it would appear that the Association is firmly resolved on the conversion of the Medical Council into a representative body, with manifold additional duties and burdens. If such be the case, I am glad that the motion of my distinguished countryman, Professor Haughton, "that the graduates and licentiates of the Universities and Medical Corporations should have the power of electing their own representatives on the Medical Council", was adopted at the late meeting of the Association at Leeds. As a choice of evils, I say I am glad that this resolution was adopted, because I believe that this mode of election must in a great degree tend to neutralise the antagonism which would otherwise assuredly exist between the members of the Medical Council chosen by the profession at large and those nominated by the Universities and Corporations—an antagonism which, for obvious reasons, cannot be too strongly deprecated. The objections to Dr. Haughton's proposal, which were advanced by some influential members of the Association, do not appear to me to carry any weight. I only regret that Dr. Haughton seemed inclined to give way with regard to the admissibility of "licentiates" to vote at the election of the contemplated representatives. Why not? I have a word or two to say on this head; but, in mercy to your valuable space, I shall refrain for the present, trusting that you will kindly permit me to return to the subject.

I am, etc., EDWARD BEWLEY, L.K.Q.C.P., etc.  
Edington, Clara, King's County, August 1869.

## COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, ETC., have been received from:—

Dr. B. Kelly, Dublin; Dr. W. Ogle, Derby; Dr. Bateman, Norwich; Mr. T. R. Jessop, Leeds; Dr. Robertson, Brixton; Mr. A. Godfray, Jersey; Dr. W. V. Bird, Liverpool; Dr. H. Paterson, Plumstead; The Secretary of the University of Edinburgh; Mr. J. B. Holloway; Mr. J. V. Solomon, Birmingham; Mr. N. Heckford, London; Mr. H. Moody, London; Mr. H. Bewley, London; and Mr. W. Hope, London.

## LETTERS, ETC. (with enclosures) from:—

Mr. F. Le Gros Clark, London; Dr. J. Hughes Bennett, Edinburgh; Dr. Septimus Gibbon, London; Dr. Lockhart Clarke, London; Mr. C. G. Wheelhouse, Leeds; Dr. Macleod, Glasgow; Mr. Hulke, London; Dr. Bäumler, London; Dr. Leared, London; Mr. B. Biower, Liverpool; W. S. R.; Capt. E. Hopton, 88th Regiment, Murree, India; Mr. W. Curran, Murree, India; Dr. G. H. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. H. Denne, Birmingham; Dr. J. Sawyer, Birmingham; Mr. J. Hutchins, London; Mr. D. Davies, Bristol; Dr. A. J. Harrison, Walsall; Mr. H. C. Hopkins, Totnes; Mr. J. E. Owen, Totnes; Dr. A. Wiltshire, London; Mr. G. T. Sandiford, Folkestone; Mr. R. Harrison, Liverpool; Dr. G. F. Burder, Bristol; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall, Ireland; Dr. Wm. Farr, London; The Secretary of the Royal Society of Medicine; The Registrar-General of Ireland; The Registrar-General of England; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; Dr. Lomas, London; Dr. Treutler, Kew; Mr. T. Pope, Cleobury Mortimer; Mr. T. H. Bartleet, Birmingham; Dr. W. Fergus, Marlborough; Mr. J. Martin, Portlaw; Mr. D. H. Dye, London; Mr. J. Birchall, Macclesfield; Dr. C. H. Leet, Dublin; Dr. B. W. Foster, Birmingham; Dr. T. P. Heslop, Birmingham; Mr. T. P. Teale, Leeds; Dr. J. Lister, Glasgow; Mr. D. Stone, Manchester; Our Birmingham Correspondent; and Dr. J. Tucker, Sligo.