

and ignorant, are supported and maintained by the very heads of our profession—physicians? And thus they are encouraged and set forth to the public in a way that has caused quite a disorder and subversion of things; and druggists are made to usurp the position of the regular practitioners, a class of men, not much, if any, inferior to many of the physicians themselves. In this manner a scourge is going on, though secretly or rather heedlessly working, yet not on this account the less fatal and destructive, and has destroyed, and is destroying more lives than the sword or the cholera. This is no chimera or vision of the imagination, but a picture, too true, of the actual state of the profession.

Speaking of quacks,—who are the greatest? The druggists. And who are their chief supporters? No other than the very heads, as they are styled, of our profession. Language is not sufficiently strong to set this forth to the public in its proper light to warn them of their danger. One way there is, and only one way, to account for this strange inconsistency in the profession; and if there is any other, I should thank you to inform me. The physicians are jealous of the apothecaries; or rather, I should say, of the general practitioners. This ought not to be, and so long as it does exist, both the public health and the general welfare of the profession must inevitably suffer. Let the physician, the general practitioner, and the surgeon, become on *real* terms of friendship and amity; all jealousy and selfishness put away, so as to act with candour and integrity towards each other; unite in *one body* to discountenance and abolish, as far as lies in their power, all illegal dabbling in medicine. The physician and the surgeon should support and encourage the apothecary—or rather general practitioner; and the general practitioner, the physician and the surgeon, so that they would mutually maintain and support each other; and, for the better and more effectually accomplishing this object, I should recommend that a society or societies should be formed, supported by public contributions, open to all classes of men, with one common fund, to co-operate with the Apothecaries' Act, which at present is the only protection, in exposing the great danger of all illegal practice, and abolishing it by taking such steps as the society shall from time to time think proper to adopt. Such a society to be styled the "Medical and General Protection Society," which would not only promote a friendly feeling and good understanding amongst its members generally, but tend also much to the benefit of all, both in a pecuniary and scientific sense.

The press is the organ and the only medium through which to inform the public of a *TRUE SENSE* of their *great danger*, by intrusting their lives to such illegal and ignorant pretenders; and thus, in an especial manner, does it come under the fifth object of your Journal.

INSANITY IN EGYPT.

The following extract from a clever work just published, conveys a wretched picture of the condition of the insane in Egypt. It is to be hoped that Ibrahim Pacha was not allowed to leave this country without witnessing the treatment pursued at Hanwell and others of our best conducted asylums.

"The saddest sight I have seen in Cairo is the

Mooristan or mad-house—misery mitigated by nothing but its own oblivious antidote—'Razing the written troubles of the brain.'

"A horrid court-yard, surrounded by tiers of iron cages, where men are cooped, and sometimes chained, with less of space, air, light, and cleanliness, than are allowed to a wild beast in one of our travelling menageries. Poor helpless wretches!—the moping idiot, the gay madman, the furious maniac,—sullen and weeping, laughing and singing, grinning, howling, and tearing behind the bars;—of all the fearful 'ills that flesh is heir to,' this overthrow of reason is surely the most painful to look upon.

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'Membrorum damno major Dementia.'

I saw one poor patient brought out of his den and set at liberty; he lay for a few minutes upon a filthy mat on the stone pavement, his features drawn, livid, and stiff—a shudder passed through his wasted frame, and he was dead!

"After several visits, I have established an acquaintance with two or three, and make them presents of bread and tobacco, for which they are very eager. One captive, quiet, self-collected, and handsome featured, tells a long well-sustained story of female jealousy and a family conspiracy to obtain his property and confine him for life; he stoutly maintains that he is as much in his senses as anyman in Muzr—a strong reason for doubting the tale, which if true, would have driven a philosopher crazy. My new servant, *Black Omar*, who stands interpreter, believes every word, and thinks it no uncommon case; he tells me that *snake broth* is the 'sovereign's't thing on earth' for these mental maladies, and that no other medicine is used in the Mooristan, save the iron-chained collar and the bastinado."—*Nozrāni in Egypt and Syria*.

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

On Monday, Oct. 26th, Dr. Smith, late senior Physician to the Leeds Public Dispensary, was elected Physician to the Cheltenham General Hospital and Dispensary.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday, Nov. 6th, 1846:—R. H. Leach; T. W. Bradley; W. B. Beatson; R. Gething; J. Rambant; H. Murney; J. Bland; J. Barber; F. Hope; H. Sandwith; J. T. Brooke.

OBITUARY.

Died October 29th, in Upper Gower Street, aged 75, George Mann Burrows, Esq., M.D., F.L.S.

October 29th, Richard Martin, Esq., Surgeon, Chatham, Kent.

Lately, at Paris, M. Poirson, late Surgeon-in-Chief of the Military Hospital of Gros Caillou, Member of the Académie de Médecine, and Knight of the Legion of Honour.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. C. Hawkins; the Sheffield Medical Society; Dr. Cullen.