

For some years it has been my intention to lay before the Provincial Association some views likely to prevent the adulteration of food and drink, and if such measures can be successfully carried into effect, I think it will reflect credit on our Association, for it must undoubtedly prove a benefit to mankind.

It is well known that some of the innkeepers, of the lower stamp, use drugs in ale of most dangerous and deleterious qualities—such as tobacco, *cocculus Indicus*; and also others of less noxious qualities—grains of Paradise, gentian, quassia, &c.

If these crying evils were introduced before Parliament, our wise legislators would doubtless be able to adopt measures to protect the public from the direful consequences that too often ensue from this gross fraud. It must be evident that the influence of these narcotic beverages too often produces most serious diseases in the brain and digestive organs.\*

If Government would send out six or twelve analytical chemists, the fines would remunerate them; and when they detect any person indulging in these base practices, a fine may be inflicted for the first offence, and a removal of the license for the second, or in any gross case, imprisonment. Stringent measures like these would soon remedy the evil.

I think no public body can be so safely entrusted with this important subject as the medical profession, and I wish such a boon to mankind to emanate from our valuable Association.

Alum and bone dust is constantly used in bread to make it white and light; chalk and other substances, and lately sugar of lead has been used by mistake, in the place of alum, and nearly one thousand persons seriously injured in health. Sugar of lead is frequently used to improve acid wines, cider, &c.

The drugs that are used in ale and porter save a great quantity of hops and malt.

A respectable maltster told me the following anecdote:—A customer of his one night became intoxicated, went to sleep, and neglected his brewing of ale; a considerable portion boiled over and was lost. He received a severe reprimand from his wife. Oh! said he, I can make that all quite right by a pound of tobacco, which poison he actually used to make up the deficiency; and he frequently told the maltster that the colliers and other persons told him it was the best ale he ever possessed, because it was dark coloured, strong, and intoxicating.

In this town I have often heard of persons taking their friends to certain low public houses, to make them gloriously tipsy for three-pence, and have myself known persons suffer severely from small quantities of this unwholesome beverage. At present there is a fine for drugging ale, porter, &c., when it is proved by the excisemen finding the ingredients in the barrels, and fines were occasionally inflicted in earlier years; but in modern days brewers make an infusion of these articles, and pour it into the barrels, consequently the exciseman's knowledge is of no use whatever. One analytical chemist would be of more benefit than a

thousand excisemen, for he could apply tests that would satisfy a scientific public. Druggists sell articles of this nature for brewing, called "The Stuff."

## Medical Intelligence.

### THE LATE MR. CHARLES ASTON KEY.

We have this week to announce the death of this distinguished surgeon, and we copy from our contemporary, the *Medical Gazette*, the following particulars:—

It appears that the deceased did not complain of indisposition until eleven o'clock on the morning of Wednesday, the 22nd instant, and that he died from the effects of a severe attack of malignant cholera at seven o'clock on the morning of the 23rd, after an illness of about twenty hours. Every effort was made to save a life so valuable to the profession, but in vain.

Mr. C. A. Key became a member of the College of Surgeons on the 5th of January, 1821. He soon after assisted Sir Astley Cooper in the delivery of the Anatomical Lectures at St. Thomas's Hospital. In the year 1823, he succeeded Mr. Lucas as Surgeon to Guy's Hospital, and soon acquired great repute as an operator. His dexterity as a lithotomist made him generally known to the profession.

On the separation of Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals as medical schools, Mr. Key became jointly with the late Mr. Morgan, Professor of Surgery; and this post he held until a few years since, when the Chair of Surgery was taken by Mr. Bransby Cooper.

In 1843, Mr. Key became under the Charter a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and in 1845 he was elected by the Fellows a Member of the Council. At the time of his death he was senior surgeon to Guy's Hospital, and surgeon in ordinary to His Royal Highness Prince Albert. Mr. Key was not a large contributor to medical literature,—a circumstance which is probably to be ascribed to the very extensive practice in which he has been for some years engaged. His writings chiefly consist of folio monographs, on Lithotomy and Hernia, and of some casual contributions to the pages of this and other journals. The deceased had a highly cultivated mind, and devoted part of his leisure time to the study of chemistry and physics. His untimely loss will be deeply regretted not only by those who knew him in private life, but by the whole profession.

### ROYAL INFIRMARY FOR CHILDREN.

Dr. S. Wm. J. Merriman has been elected one of the Physicians to the Royal Infirmary for Children.

### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

FIRST EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF M.B.—1849.

*Examination for Honours.*

*Anatomy and Physiology.*—Charles Pardey—*Exhibition and Gold Medal*—King's College; Henry Thompson—*Gold Medal*—University College; Richd. Neale, University College; Thomas James Duthoit,

\* See Accum's work.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital; George May, King's College; John Phillipson Langham, University College; Edward Abraham Hancock Head, King's College.

*Chemistry.*—Charles Pardey—*Gold Medal*—King's College; William Odling—*Gold Medal*—Guy's Hospital; Edward Abraham Hancock Head, King's College; Henry Thomson, University College.

*Materia Medica and Pharmaceutical Chemistry.*—George May—*Exhibition and Gold Medal*—King's College; Wm. Odling—*Gold Medal*—Guy's Hospital; Charles Pardey, King's College; Joseph Houlton, Charing Cross Hospital; Richard Neale, University College; Edward Abraham Hancock Head, King's College; John Sherwood Stocker, Guy's Hospital.

*Botany.*—Charles Pardey—*Gold Medal*—King's College; Richard Neale, University College; William Odling, Guy's Hospital.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

**THE COLLEGE LIBRARY.**—The library of the Royal College of Surgeons was closed on the 24th ult., and will re-open on the 25th of September, after which the hours of attendance, in pursuance of a request made to the Council, will be from twelve to six, instead of ten till four, as heretofore.

**THE COURT OF EXAMINERS.**—The Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons have been meeting three times a week lately, for the examination of candidates for their diploma. From our published lists it will be seen, that in one week they assembled four times, including the occasions for the examinations for the "fellowship," of which, by-the-by, there will be only one more before the new regulations come into force, for examining junior candidates as to their proficiency in the Greek and Latin languages.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday, August 17th, 1849:—Bagley Thomas Hunter Bell, Pocklington, Yorkshire; James Hannan, Limerick; John Abernethy Kingdon, Bank Buildings, City; Charles William Sadler Large, Camberwell; Charles Caulfield Moore, Brimpsfield, Gloucestershire; Thomas Mills, Tipton, Staffordshire; Wm. Watts Thetford, Dublin.

### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Thursday, August 16th, 1849:—William Clapham Cantley, Hedon, Hull; Thomas Edis; Thomas Brutton Kenderdine, Stafford; Wm. Bellhouse Minwood, Manchester; John Adams Palin; Francis Henry Vertue.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Thursday, August 23rd, 1849:—Benjamin Webster, Morley Lodge, Leeds; Rawson Senior, Batley, near Dewsbury, Yorkshire; John Earnshaw, Clitheroe, Lancashire; George Burnham, Great Grimsby.

### OBITUARY.

On the 18th instant, at 22, Charlotte Street, Leith, Walter Bruce, M.D.

On the 21st instant, at 14, Clerk Street, Edinburgh, Dr. George Wigton.

On the 24th instant, aged 53, Dr. John Udny, M.D., Surgeon Superintendent of the Cholera Hospital, Texteth Park.

On the 25th instant, at Glasgow, William Crawford, Esq., M.D., late of Port-Glasgow.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

First Principles of Medicine. By A. Billing, M.D., A.M., F.R.S. Fifth edition. London: S. Highley. 1849. 8vo, pp. 332.

A Treatise on Cholera. By Nathaniel Alcock, A.B., M.B. London: John Churchill. 1849. 8vo, pp. 189.

The Pathology, Treatment, and Prevention of Cholera. By G. Fife, M.D. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. 1848. 8vo, pp. 20.

Proceedings of the Westminster Medical Society, Session 1848-9.

Some Account of the Life, Writings, and Character of the late James Cowles Prichard, M.D., F.R.S., M.R.I.A. By John Addington Symonds, M.D. 1849. 8vo, pp. 54.

Portraits of the Diseases of the Scalp. By Walter Cooper Dundy, Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary for Children. Part 2nd. London: Samuel Highley. 1849.

Oppenheim's Zeitschrift für die gesammte Medicin, &c. Nos. 34, and 5, March, April, and May, 1849.

Every Man his Own Doctor.—The Cold Water, Tepid Water, and Friction Cure, &c. By Captain R. T. Claridge.

Mémoire sur le Développement, les Causes, et le Traitement du Choléra. Par Ch. Doorjak. Saint-Petersbourg. 1848.

### PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

#### NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

The Secretary presents his compliments to those members of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association whose Subscriptions remain in Arrear, and begs respectfully to call their attention to the following Law, which was passed unanimously at the Anniversary Meeting, held at Bath, in 1848:—

"If any Member's Subscription remain unpaid twelve months after it shall have become due, the Medical Journal and other publications of the Society shall be withheld from such Member till his arrears be paid."

He earnestly entreats all those gentlemen whose Subscriptions are now in arrear, that they will cause them to be paid, either to himself, or to the Treasurer, Dr. Hastings, without further delay.

JAMES P. SHEPPARD,

Secretary to the Association.

Worcester, August 6th, 1849.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Dr. Duncan, Mr. Collins, Mr. Williams, Dr. Ogier Ward.

In consequence of the lamented death of Dr. Streeten, it is requested that all letters and communications be sent to J. H. Walsh, Esq., Foregate Street, Worcester. Parcels and books for review may be addressed to the care of Mr. Churchill, Princes Street, Soho.