

of the insurer—our patient—and therefore they have nothing to do with it; but this I deny. It is evidently far more for the protection of the office, as surely the regular medical attendant must be far better acquainted with the constitution (and consequently the value of the life) of an individual, than a stranger, and therefore his opinion must be of the greatest value to the office, if a strictly honest one. I received a letter from the "Gresham Assurance Company" a few days since respecting the life of a patient of mine, and I returned the form unanswered, stating that I had determined never again to answer any such letter from any Insurance Company without a fee. I have not heard from the office since. I have been induced to trouble you with this letter, hoping that it may lead others to follow my example, and thus show ourselves to be a little more alive to our own interests.

I am, Sir,

Faithfully yours,

S. GEORGE SLOMAN.

Farnham, January 2, 1850.

*To the Editors of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal.*

GENTLEMEN,—As the subject of the remuneration of medical men by Life Assurance Offices is one of considerable importance to us as a body, and has been frequently alluded to in the *Journal*, more especially in the number for April 4, 1849, (where I observe a list of offices given which do remunerate medical men for their report,) I am induced to send you a correspondence I have recently had with the Argus Life Office, which I trust you will insert in an *early* number of the *Journal*. The facts of the case are, I think, so conclusive, that they require no comment from me. I may add that I was induced to make the inquiry respecting the usual fee from the perusal of the excellent article in the number of this *Journal* already quoted, believing that if medical men were generally to adopt that course, those offices which have not as yet adopted the system of remunerating medical men would be compelled to do so from a regard to their own interests.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours truly,

HENRY TERRY, Jun.

Northampton, Dec. 28, 1849.

(Copy.)

Northampton, 18th December, 1849.

SIR,—A series of questions having been forwarded to me from your office on September 13th last, respecting the health of —, of this town, I wrote back to your Secretary, requesting to be informed officially whether the office would pay me the usual fee on such occasions, the old practice of receiving such fee from the party insuring, and not from the office, being found practically most inconvenient, and being exploded by the great majority of offices. To such letter I have not as yet received a reply, and therefore, as I stated in my letter to the office, have not answered the question sent to me. I was therefore not a little surprised, on casually alluding to the subject with Mr. —, to

hear that the assurance on his life was duly effected at the time, and probably a few days after my letter was written. I cannot but feel that this is not very *courteous*, to say the least, towards a medical man, and I should be glad to hear some explanation of the subject.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. TERRY, Jun.,

To the Resident Director,

Argus Life Assurance Company.

(Copy.)

Argus Life Office, 39, Throgmorton Street,

London, 19th December, 1849.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of yesterday, and to inform you that this Company, in common with four-fifths (?) of the assurance offices, does not pay two medical fees. Our medical referee who examined Mr. —, was paid for his report, and the Directors do not feel themselves justified in incurring a second expense. Had Mr. —'s proposal, his friend's report, or the Company's examiner disclosed any fact of importance, Mr. — would have been required to remunerate you for answering the questions alluded to, and failing that, the proposal would have been declined,

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(For EDWARD BATES,)

GEORGE CLARK.

H. Terry, jun., Esq., Surgeon,  
Northampton.

## Medical Intelligence.

### HEADS OF A BILL FOR MEDICAL REFORM.

By PROFESSOR SYME, Edinburgh.

1. There shall be established a Council, to be called the "Medical Council," and to be charged with regulating the Education for General Medical Practice.
2. The Council shall consist of twelve Members of the Medical Profession appointed by her Majesty, with advice of her Majesty's Privy Council—six being resident in England, three in Scotland, and three in Ireland.
3. The Members of the Council shall continue in office during her Majesty's pleasure, and in the event of vacancies occurring, shall have their places supplied as originally.
4. The Council shall choose one of their number for Chairman, preferring the senior in case of an equality of votes; and shall also appoint a General Secretary, with Local Secretaries for Scotland and Ireland.
5. The Members of the Council shall be remunerated for their loss of time and travelling expenses; and the Secretaries shall receive salaries, to be regulated by Government.
6. The Medical Council, within a specified period, shall determine, (1). The Amount of Preliminary Study to be required before the commencement of

Professional Education; (2). The period of Medical Study to be required from Candidates; (3). The Courses of Lectures or other Exercises necessary for their Education; (4). The Schools of Medicine and Surgery to be recognised as affording the necessary qualification; and, (5). The lowest age at which the Licence for General Practice should be given.

7. The Medical Council, within a specified period, shall sanction or constitute in London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, Examining Boards from the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, the Societies of Apothecaries in London and Dublin, and the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in Glasgow, for bestowing the License of General Practice.

8. The Examiners shall be appointed by the different Bodies on whose part they act, and shall conduct their proceedings in conformity with regulations sanctioned or established by the Council.

9. The Members of the Council shall be empowered to be present at, and also to inspect the Records of, Examinations for the License of General Practice.

10. The Council shall make an equitable arrangement for the division of Fees paid for the License thus conferred, between the different bodies represented in the Boards of Examiners.

11. The Council shall annually publish a List of Practitioners qualified under the Act; together with those actually engaged in practice previously to its enactment, with a qualification from at least one of the legally recognized bodies; setting forth the degrees, diplomas, or other honorary distinctions they may have acquired.

12. All the persons thus registered shall have the free right of practising Physic, Surgery, and Obstetrics, with or without the dispensing of Drugs, in any part of her Majesty's dominions.

13. The Council shall be empowered to erase from the Register the Names of Persons judicially convicted of felonious acts.

14. There shall be Penalties exacted by summary process for assuming, without due authority, any title contained in the Register; and also for engaging in Medical or Surgical Practice without a License.

15. All previous Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with the above-mentioned provisions, shall be repealed.

16. The expense incurred by the Medical Council shall be defrayed from fees paid for registration.—*Medical Gazette*.

## COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

The Council held a meeting on Thursday last, which lasted three hours; the Shropshire and Manchester Memorials were received and read; but no resolution was passed by the Council except one for an adjournment. Considering the tardy proceedings of the Council, and the length of time which has elapsed since the resolution for an amended Charter was passed, but which has not yet reached its destination, it looks as though the meeting of Parliament would arrive before the Council has put itself in communication with Sir George Grey.—*Lancet*.

## HUNTERIAN ORATION.

The Council of the Royal College of Surgeons have just announced that the Oration annually delivered in the theatre of the institution, in memory of the immortal Hunter, will be given, as usual, on the 14th instant, by Mr. Frederick Carpenter Skey, one of the surgeons of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

## PHYSICIAN TO THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

We believe the vacancy caused in the medical staff of this hospital by the retirement of Dr. G. M. Latham, will be filled by the appointment of Dr. A. P. Stewart.

## BREACH OF COVENANT IN SALE OF PRACTICE.

In the Court of Exchequer, in the early part of the week, an action was brought by Mr. Atkins, a surgeon residing at Hoxton, against Dr. Kinnier, from whom he had purchased a practice in the above-named locality. One of the covenants of the agreement was, that Dr. Kinnier should not live or practise within three miles of his former residence. Dr. Kinnier removed to Trinity Square, Borough, and the action was brought on the breach of covenant, Trinity Square being slightly within the three miles, as measured by surveyors. The defence set up was, that the common route of the omnibus from the Borough to Hoxton was upwards of three miles. The jury, however, in which verdict the judge concurred, considered that the covenant had been broken, and special damages, to the extent of £1000 were awarded, with liberty to move that the damages be reduced to a nominal sum, on the grounds of the defence set up.

## ADULTERATION OF OPIUM.

It would appear, according to Landerer, that they sell in the East, under the name of opium, an extract of *glaucium rubrum*, an annual belonging to the *Papaveraceæ*. Almost all the opium sold in the bazaars of Smyrna, as well as the *theriaca*, or *mithridate*, which may be procured in these bazaars for a few paras, is prepared from this plant. A herbalist of Athens, who mistook it for a poppy, made an extract of it, partly by means of incisions carried into the stems, and partly by a decoction of the fresh plant, and sold it to various apothecaries as opium. This extract of *glaucium* exhaled a narcotic smell, and tasted as bitter as opium, so that it, in fact, bore a great resemblance to the bad Smyrna variety.

## WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

It is reported that arrangements are on the *tapis* by which this School will shortly be recognised by the Council of the College of Surgeons.

## APPOINTMENT.

John Topham, M.D., Physician to the South Staffordshire General Hospital, Wolverhampton, has been unanimously elected Consulting Physician to the Bridgnorth Infirmary.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

At the last meeting of the *Comitia Majora*, the following gentlemen were admitted Licentiates of the College:—C. M., Babington, M.A., Chester Street, Belgrave Square; William Brinton, M.D., Bloomsbury Street; —Frere, M.D., Queen Street, May Fair; Stephen Jennings Goodfellow, M.D., Bloomsbury Square; Clement Hue, M.A., Bedford Square; Alex. Patrick Stewart, M.D., Grosvenor Street, Grosvenor Square; J. Goodman, M.D., of Manchester, was elected an Extra Licentiate.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted Members at the last Meeting of the Court of Examiners:—Henry Collins, Birmingham; Henry Smyth Locock, Lee Park, Blackheath; Henry Thomas Spratt, Bridge Street, Southwark; John Sherwood Stocker, Baker Street, Portman Square. We understand eight candidates for the diploma were rejected at the above meeting of the Board.

### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Thursday, January 10th, 1850:—Walter Arthur, Liverpool; Henry Scholfield Johnson, Liverpool.

### OBITUARY.

December 27th, aged 51, at his residence, Bath, Francis Hunt, Esq., M.R.C.S.

### BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

Le Cholera; considérée dans son point de vue Psychologique. Par le Dr. Forbes Winslow. Traduit de l'Anglais par Edouard Colmache. Pamphlet. Paris. 1849.

Medical Examiner and Record of Medical Science. September—October—November. Philadelphia.

A Plea of Humanity in behalf of Medical Education. The Annual Address before the New York State Medical Society. By Alexander Stevens, M.D. New York. 1849.

Kinesopathy, or the Cure of Diseases by Specific, Active, and Passive Movements. By August. Georgii.

\*. A new humbug, professing to cure all diseases by gymnastics. The author has surely made a mistake in sending his pamphlet to us, it must have been intended for the *Court Journal*.

On the Practical Study of Physic; an Introductory Lecture, delivered at Queen's College, Birmingham. By Dr. Nelson. 1849.

A few Suggestions on Consumption. By Robert Hull, M.D. Churchill. 1849. pp. 158.

On the Nature and Treatment of Diseases of the Kidney connected with Albuminous Urine—(Morbus Brightii.) By G. O. Rees, M.D., F.R.S. London: Longman and Co. 1850. 8vo. pp. 134.

Monthly Retrospect of the Medical Sciences—January to December. 1849. Edinburgh: Sutherland and Knox. London: John Churchill.

Twelfth Annual Report of the Suffolk Lunatic Asylum. 1849.

Notes of Experiments with Thoughts on Electricity. By Charles Chalmers Merchiston. Edinburgh: Sutherland and Knox. London: Simpkin and Co. Pamphlet.

On Healthy and Diseased Structure, and the True Principles of Treatment for the Cure of Disease, especially Consumption and Scrofula, founded on Microscopical Analysis. By W. Addison, M.D., F.R.S. London: John Churchill. 1849. 8vo. pp. 320.

Contributions to Mental Pathology, with Introductory Observations, containing the Past and Present state of the Insane in Ceylon, &c. By J. G. Davey, Licentiate of the College of Physicians, London, &c., &c. London: John Churchill. 1850. 8vo. pp. 276.

The Journal of Psychological Medicine and Mental Pathology—January. 1850.

London Journal of Medicine—January. 1850.

Monthly Journal of Medical Science—January. 1850.

### 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 Subscriptions 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; or, if more convenient, to the Local Secretaries in their own District Branch.

Members who wish to propose Associates are reminded, that as the subscription commences the first of January, it is the most convenient time to introduce new members.

A few volumes of the *Transactions* remaining on hand. Any gentlemen wishing to complete their sets may be supplied, at a very small charge, by communicating with the Secretary.

JAMES P. SHEPPARD,

Secretary to the Association.

Worcester, January 1, 1850.

### ERRATUM.

In Dr. May's paper, page 9, col. 1, Case 2nd, for June read January.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Dr. Davies, Mr. Smerdon, Birmingham Pathological Society, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Pickop.

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.