assured. It is when the proposed is rejected that the medical man may be prejudiced in the eyes of his patient or friend, and therefore he feels he is entitled to a certain indemnification at least from the office, as his certificate may have saved them a serious and early contingency of loss, while he himself may have suffered.

From what may be athered from our journals, the profession seems to urge upon the Assurance Offices the direct payment by them of fees, for their preliminary certificates, whether favourable or otherwise to the proposer, and some members of the profession have absolutely refused to take any notice of the schedules, except accompanied with the fee. Several new offices have yielded to this demand, or have spontaneously adopted this boon to the profession, but I do not think this liberal system will be soon, if ever, adopted by the old-established offices. They perhaps feel their independence, and may, when resisted, only take lives that are certified as very eligible by their own Medical Referee, to whom all cases, in any circumstance, are referred.

I may say, as a Referee for a few offices, that, with the two certificates from the friends and neighbours of the applicants, as to his moral and personal habits, and my own examination of the person, I feel pretty confident in delivering such a declaration on the case, as shall be satisfactory and safe for the office to follow. Indeed, I remember two cases which were certified as good lives, by the preliminary medical certificates, and which I declared ineligible. They both died within eighteen months, and between them three thousand pounds were saved to the office.

If the fees were always indiscriminately paid by the offices, on presenting the schedules, whether issuing in an assurance or not, I fear the sharp minds of the Managers and Secretaries of the offices, would be suspicious that collusive applications would be tendered to them on lives, of which no doubt could exist of their ineligibility, and yet the fee would be demanded and paid. It would be uncharitable to say such things would take place; but men in business are often alive to possibilities, and when we consider that there are irregular members in the profession, whose certificates on these occasions are unquestioned and paid attention to, we may not be surprised at the probability of such suspicions being entertained.

Such being a part of the unsatisfactory state of things between the assurance offices and medical practitioners, it is very desirable not only for the promotion and facile accomplishment of life-assurance among all classes of the community, but for the respect and honour in which the profession should be held, that some arrangement should be generally adopted to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

As I have surmised, I do think that the offices in general, and above all, those of long-established companies, will never consent to pay indiscriminately, all the fees for medical certificates, from the proposer's medical attendant, whether the assurance is effected or no. It would be also unfair to the medical certifier, if he should run any risks or have any difficulty in getting his fee paid, under the like alternative. It seems, moreover, hard, that the office should pay a fine for an improper or ineligible proposal, especially when they have their own Medical Referee to pay for their protection. It appears then, to the writer, as it has done to a few others, who have publicly noticed the subject. among whom may be mentioned a writer in the late series of the British and Foreign Medical Review, that a fair arrangement might be made by the applicant for life assurance, lodging, in the first instance, the fee for the medical certificate, when he makes the reference to his medical friend or attendant, which fee will be paid to the medical practitioner along with the schedules when sent, or when returned. If the assurance is not effected or accepted, this fee not to be returned to the unsuccessful applicant; but if the life is found eligible and the assurance effected, then, in that case, the fee to be paid by and at the cost of the office, and the fee that was lodged by the applicant, to be returned to him, or be placed to his credit with the office. Such a system as this, with a scale of fees graduated according to the amount of the policy, appears the most likely to fulfil all reasonable wishes on the subject, and to obviate all those unpleasant contretemps and bickerings that occasionally occur between some offices and a few of the more exacting members of the profession.

It may be observed, that in any case, considerable responsibility is attached to a medical certificate to an assurance office, but it is much greater when the assurance is effected on the premises; but even here the responsibility lies more on the applicant himself, especially if he has concealead ever having any fits or having spat blood, and which may be unknown to the medical certifier, and cannot be detected by the Medical Referee from anything that may be told him at the time. It is, however, when the life is not accepted, that the medical certifier may feel some delicacy towards asking for his fee from the unsuccessful applicantperhaps his friend and patient, and whom he may have declared ineligible for assurance. These unpleasant occasions cannot, notwithstanding, be avoided by members of a truthful profession; but it is desiderated that the above plan will, in a great measure, facilitate the transaction, and smooth the course and end of the procedure.

December 3, 1850.

J. B.

# Medical Intelligence.

## APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. Erasmus Wilson has been appointed Chairman of the sectional committee for the exhibition of surgical instruments at the forthcoming display of the industry of all nations.

Dr. Stevenson Bushnan has been elected Senior-Physician to the Metropolitan Free Hospital.

Mr. R. A. Stafford has been appointed by the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons to deliver the annual oration in memory of John Hunter, the founder of the museum bearing his name.

Sir John Slade, Bart., M.D., and Dr. Stevenson Bushnan, have been appointed Physicians, and Mr. Borlase Childs, F.R.C.S., Surgeon, to the National Guardian Assurance Society.

#### UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

M.B. SECOND EXAMINATION-1850.-PASS EXAMI-NATION.

#### First Division.

## Bristowe, J. Syer, St. Thomas's Hospital.

Growse, Robert, Guy's Hospital.

Hewitt, W. M. G., University College.

Lewis, R. B., Leeds School of Medicine.

Manley, Edmund, Royal Manchester School of Medicine.

Salter, Henry Hyde, King's College. Shearman, C. J., University College. Thornton, William Henry, Royal Manchester School of Medicine.

#### Second Division.

Filliter, William, University College. Heale, J. N., St. Thomas's Hospital.

Jones, Jas., Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. Robertson, James, St. Thomas's Hospital.

#### EXAMINATION FOR HONOURS.

#### Physiology and Comparative Anatomy.

Bristowe, J. Syer (gold	ר ו	St.	Thomas's
medal) Growse, Robert, (gold	Equal.	, F	Iospital.
medal)		Guv	s Hospital.

Hewitt, W. M. G., University College, Shearman, C. J., University College.

#### Surgery.

Bristowe, John Syer (scholarship and gold medal), St. Thomas's Hospital.

Lewis, Robert Benson (gold medal), Leeds School of Medicine.

Growse, Robert, Guy's Hospital.

Shearman, C. J., University College.

Hewitt, W. M. G., University College.

#### Medicine.

Crowse, Robert (scholarship and gold medal), Guy's Hospital.

Shearman, Charles James (gold medal), University College.

Bristowe, J. Syer, St. Thomas's Hospital.

Lewis R. B., Leeds School of Medicine.

Hewitt, W. M. G., University College.

#### Midwifery.

Hewitt, W. M. G., University College.

#### M.D. EXAMINATION-1850.

#### First Division.

Baines, Matthew, King's College.

Barron, Bdward Enfield, Guy's Hospital.

Birkett, George, Charing Cross Hospital. Carlill, J. Burford, University College.

Eade, Peter, King's College. Edwards, W. T., University College. Elam, Charles, Leeds School of Medicine.

Monckton, Stephen, King's College.

Ransom, W. H., University College. Sankey, W. H. O., St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Wilks, Samuel, Guy's Hospital.

Second Division. Ayre, William, London Hospital. Heale, James Newton, St. Thomas's Hospital.

## **ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.**

Gentlemen admitted members on Friday, December 13th :- John Craven, York ; James Charles Dickinson, London; Joseph Earle, Grosvenor Street, West; Edmund Lord Hudson, Bacup, Rochdale, Lancashire; John Phillipson Langham, Her Majesty's Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire; Henry Maund, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire; Ashby Greenaugh Osborn, North-ampton; Francis Henry Plumptre, Queen's Square, Bloomsbury; Alexander Myall Robinson, Newbury, Berkshire; Robert Rygate, Colet Place, Commercial Road; John Davies Weaver, Chester; George Webster, Dulwich, Surrey.

George Everest, Michael Walling, and David Lloyd Morgan, passed their examination for naval surgeons.

#### OBITUARY.

November 28th, drowned at sea, in the wreck of the Helena Sloman. Dr. Edward Lutz. of Wurtemberg. aged 36.

November 28th, on board the barque Clara, off the Island of St. George, John Garnett Courtenay, Esq., Staff Surgeon, late principal medical officer of New Zealand.

December 1st, at Ordnance Place, Chatham, Patrick Brodie, Esq., late Assistant Surgeon 13th Light Infantry

December 10th, at 64, Hoxton Old Town, George Thomas Heath, M.D., aged 67.

December 12th, at Campden New Town, Robert Calvert, M.D., Deputy Inspector of Military Hospitals, aged 68.

December 13th, at Uxbridge, Richard Andrews, Esq., Surgeon, formerly of Great Stanmore, Middlesex, aged 76

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- Communications have been received from Mr. Harvey, the Epidemiological Society, Dr. Forbes Winslow, Mr. Noble, Birmingham Pathological Society, Dr. Duncan, Mr. Cooksey, Mr. Estlin, Mr. Harrinson.
- It is requested that all letters and communications connected with the Editorial department 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.
- It is also particularly requested that all post-office orders should be sent either to the Treasurer or Secretary, who alone have the power of giving receipts.

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