

officers; the former comprising the whole of the general practitioners, and the latter a physician, who, in this case, is an honorary officer.

3rdly. There is a SECRETARY and Collector, who collects the subscriptions and pays them to the TREASURER, and admits members, subject to the approval of the Committee.

4thly. There is a Committee composed of the minister of religion and some of the principal inhabitants, which meets quarterly. (The medical officers being *ex-officio* members.)

5thly. The ordinary subscribers, on their application for admission, *choose their own medical attendant*, whom they cannot change until the end of the year. On admission, they are each furnished with a printed card, on one side of which is given the name, occupations, residence, and number in family; on the *other*, a scale is printed, on which the Secretary enters the subscriptions as they are paid. This card is presented or sent to the chosen medical attendant when his assistance is required, and which informs him at once who the party is, and shows that he is a member of the dispensary; and also it is seen whether he is entitled to relief, by having paid up his subscription.

6thly. At the annual meeting of the honorary subscribers a report is read, the expenses are paid, and the *surplus* is divided among the ordinary medical attendants, in proper proportions according to *the number of individuals on whom each has been chosen to attend during the year*. (I should state that the patient is found medicine as well as attendance by the medical officer.)

I do not know if other self-aiding dispensaries are conducted exactly on the above principles. I give a detail of the construction of this institution, as being one which has worked well, and is now in the *eleventh year* of its existence. My belief is, that this form of dispensary is as unobjectionable as possible. As it encourages a principle of forethought, combined with a great degree of independence, in the lower classes, it is adapted to the feelings of the age; and as affording a moderate remuneration to the medical attendant, it combines, with benevolence, *justice*. At christenings, marriages, and burials, fees are expected by the ministers and different functionaries connected with these offices. The chaplain of the union receives, at least, an adequate salary for exercising his spiritual calling on the poor. Why, then, should the medical man alone, be expected to perform his arduous—and I may add, serious and responsible duties without any remuneration?

The above-mentioned form of dispensary possesses one great advantage, inasmuch as it does away with the expense of a large building and establishment, whilst it gives equally free, if not *more convenient*, access to the medical attendants.

In large towns, I am well aware that there may be many, who, from not being considered residents, or from other causes may be fit objects for *gratuitous* medical relief, and for whom, under present circumstances, tickets for assistance are now granted. I think this difficulty could be met by a clause in the rules permitting any subscriber to recommend to the medical officers any patient whom he may consider requiring or deserving gratuitous relief; and I am sure no member of our

profession ever does or will withhold his hand or his skill from such cases.

The history of all self-aiding dispensaries, proves the adaptation of their system to the circumstances and feelings of the poor themselves, for *there has never been any deficiency with the ordinary or recipient members*. I have now before me the *ninth* report of the Newmarket Institution, and the *eleventh* of the Sidmouth Dispensary, and in both, the only complaint is against the HONORARY SUBSCRIBERS; thus it may be said, the needle points true in the compass, but the helmsmen (the richer classes) slumber at the wheel.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. D. JEFFREY.

Lowesmoor House,

Worcester, Feb. 12, 1850.

Medical Intelligence.

REPLY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE.

To the Council of the National Institute of Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery.

GENTLEMEN,—

1. In addressing the Council of the National Institute, the Council of the College of Surgeons desire to express their regret that they cannot adopt the views set forth in the "Suggestions" of Mr. BOTTOMLEY, as Chairman of the Committee of Associated Surgeons of England.

2. The Council of the College, thinking it unnecessary to consider the details of the measure therein proposed for the amendment of the Charter of the College of Surgeons, are of opinion, that the admission of surgeons in general practice to the Council of the College would, in converting the College of Surgeons into a College of General Practitioners, prove to be injurious to the best interests of the profession, and of the general practitioners inclusively.

3. They believe that the College would then cease to be regarded as the institution especially designed for the promotion of scientific surgery; and that by admitting to the Council others than those who, as surgeons of hospitals, teachers, eminent practitioners, or original inquirers in surgery, maintain its scientific character, the diploma of the College would lose the high estimation which has hitherto induced those preparing themselves for general practice to seek it voluntarily, as the best guarantee of their surgical qualifications and professional character.

4. They cannot, therefore, consistently with the object for which the College of Surgeons was instituted, consent to any proposal for introducing into the Council those who practise pharmacy.

5. The Council of the College are no less adverse to the proposal of instituting a "National College of Medicine and Surgery," intended more or less to supersede the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, and

the Society of Apothecaries. They are convinced that the proposal of the Chairman of the Associated Surgeons viz., "That the new College must be independent of all others, and must possess the right of granting diplomas in medicine and surgery, which shall entitle the holders to practise in all the departments of medical and surgical science, and to fill all Government and public appointments"—tends inevitably to abolish those distinctions which have been hitherto beneficially recognised, as marking the relative claims of medical practitioners to the confidence of the public, and which, by preserving the highest standard of education in those who have the means of attaining it, maintain and elevate the character of the whole profession. And they especially hold that it would most injuriously affect the interest of every one calling himself a medical practitioner to diminish the authority or contract the influence of the College of Physicians, seeing that the general character and respectability of the profession not only depend greatly upon the character of those who are distinguished members of it, but that the Fellows of the College of Physicians have ever been distinguished by the same education and training as the gentry of the country, by their learning and attainments in literature, by the aid which they have given to the progress of science, and by their association with the learned and scientific bodies of the metropolis.

6. Further, the Council of the College, in relation to the amended Charter proposed by the Chairman of the Associated Surgeons, are bound to state that they have assented to certain "Heads" or "Principles," agreed to at the Conference held at the College of Physicians conjointly with the representatives of the College of Physicians, of the Society of Apothecaries, and of the National Institute, and designed to be incorporated as a Bill for the regulation of the Profession; and as this Bill is intended to provide for the institution of a College of General Practitioners, they are precluded by their present engagements from reopening the question of any organic reform in the constitution of the corporate bodies of the medical profession.

7. At the same time, the Council of the College take leave to impress on the attention of the Council of the National Institute, that the College of Surgeons can in fairness be held responsible for the performance of such engagements *only* under the acknowledgment by the other contracting parties, and in this instance by the National Institute, of their reciprocal responsibility.

8. The College of Surgeons consented originally to the institution of a new College as one "for the more efficient performance of the duties confided to the Society of Apothecaries."

9. That the "Principles" of the Bill in question were framed in accordance with this intention, is incontestably proved by the provision that no one shall be registered as a general practitioner, unless he "shall also have been examined and admitted as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons."

10. If, then, according to the provisions of the projected Bill, no one can be licensed for "general practice," except by possessing a double qualification,—that is, letters testimonial from the College of Surgeons, and letters testimonial from the College of General Practitioners,—the Council need not point out the

inevitable conclusion, that the object of the Bill ever has been, that the qualification in Surgery shall be determined by the College of Surgeons, and the qualification in other branches of Medicine by the College of General Practitioners, and that it never could have been contemplated to transfer from the College of Surgeons to the proposed College of General Practitioners the *legal right*, or *any part of the legal right* of regulating the education of Surgeons, of instituting examinations of their qualifications, and of granting to them letters testimonial of their fitness to practise surgery.

11. Nevertheless, it cannot be doubted by the Council of the College, after a careful consideration of the proceedings of the National Institute, in connexion with the conference held at the Hanover-square Rooms, on the 20th of November, together with expressions reiterated in their third annual Report, of August, 1849, that it is the intention of the National Institute to obtain, if possible, the right of regulating the education of surgeons, and of inquiring by examination into their qualifications for practice, in the Charter which they seek to obtain from her Majesty for incorporating their association under the style and title of a royal college. And the Council of this College feel it incumbent on them to declare, that, consistently with their oaths and their duty to the public, they cannot surrender any portion of the right and privileges which they possess, of being the sole public body in England entitled to regulate the education of surgeons, and to authorize them to practise surgery throughout her Majesty's dominions; and therefore the Council feel, not only justified but called upon to require that the College of General Practitioners shall, in conformity with the practice of the College of Surgeons and the Society of Apothecaries, state in their diploma, a certificate of qualification, the subjects on which their members or licentiates shall have been examined, and found qualified—viz., medicine, pharmacy, and midwifery.

12. Considering, moreover, that the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons have taken steps which are publicly known to be in progress for the removal of those grievances, declared both by the National Institute and the Associated Surgeons to have been the cause of their original formation, the Council of the College might rather have expected, that the incorporation of any new medical body, to be endowed with surgical privileges, would have been deemed unnecessary, but at all events they will consider it to be their duty to oppose every attempt which may be made, either by the National Institute, the Associated Surgeons, or any other body of gentlemen, to usurp the rights and privileges of the Royal College of Surgeons, whether it be sought to be accomplished by means of a Charter or by an Act of Parliament.

13. Finally, if it were thought advisable that any alteration should be made in the measures projected, and now in progress, for the re-organization of the medical profession, the Council of the College of Surgeons have no hesitation in saying that they would greatly prefer to the establishment of any new corporate body, that the examinations into the medical qualifications of general practitioners should be entrusted to the College of Physicians, as more consonant with the

dignity and interests of the profession, and especially of the general practitioners; and should the College of Physicians and the Society of Apothecaries agree in the requisite preconditions, the Council of the College of Surgeons would cordially concur in a plan for a reconstruction of the medical profession, which they deliberately and conscientiously believe would best conduce to the peace and permanent well-being of the profession, whose efficiency is inseparably associated with the needs and welfare of the country.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

EDMUND BELFOUR, Secretary.

Royal College of Surgeons of England,
February 5, 1849.

PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Regulations of the Council of the College of Surgeons relative to the admission to the Fellowship of Members of twenty years' standing.

To admit to the Fellowship, upon payment of the usual fee of ten guineas, those gentlemen who were members of the College at the date of the Charter of her present Majesty, and of twenty years' standing, who shall be desirous thereof, and shall be recommended to the Council by six Fellows.

That the following be the terms of such recommendation—viz.,

We, the undersigned Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, do, from our personal knowledge of the high moral character and professional attainments of A. B., of C, declare, that, in our opinion, he is deserving of the honour of the Fellowship, and that he does not openly trade in medicines. We therefore recommend the said A. B. to the Council, to be admitted a Fellow of the College.

That members in the army and navy be admitted to the Fellowship under the like conditions, their certificate and recommendation being to the same effect, and signed by six Fellows, or by the heads of the medical department of the respective services.

That members in the service of the East India Company be admitted to the Fellowship under the like conditions, their certificate and recommendation being to the same effect, and signed by six Fellows, or by the Secretary of the Military Department of the Company.

That members resident in the Colonies be admitted to the Fellowship under the like conditions, their certificate and recommendation being to the same effect, and signed by six Fellows, or by the governor of the colony, and certified by the Colonial Secretary.

That the application of every member for admission to the Fellowship, in the manner above provided for, shall be accompanied by a declaration, signed by himself, that he does not openly trade in medicines.

That this Council do, from year to year, admit to the Fellowship, under the foregoing conditions, the members of the College at the date of the Charter of her present Majesty, as they shall respectively become members of twenty years' standing, until the whole of the list of members at that date shall be gone through.

That when the sanction of Sir George Grey shall be obtained to such proposed application to the Crown, the several foregoing resolutions be made public, in such manner as the President shall direct.

APPOINTMENTS.

On the 6th inst. Dr. Forbes Winslow, Editor of the *Journal of Psychological Medicine*, was balloted for, and duly elected, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

Dr. A. P. Stewart has been elected Assistant-Physician to the Middlesex Hospital, without opposition.

OBITUARY.

February 9th, after a severe illness, Richard Lowe, Esq., Senior Surgeon to the Bristol Infirmary.

February 11th, at his residence, Church Lane, Handsworth, George Swinson, Esq., in the 86th year of his age. The deceased gentleman must have been one of the oldest members of the Royal College of Surgeons, having passed his examination April 5th, 1787.

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.

JAMES P. SHEPPARD,

Secretary to the Association.

Worcester, January 1, 1850.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Professor Sands Cox, Mr. King, Mr. John Jones, Dr. Black, Dr. Turley, and Dr. Durrant.

We observe in the number of the *Medical Times* for the 9th of February, that the Editor has expressed his astonishment that Mr. Morris's "Case of Morbus Coxarius" should have appeared in this Journal, as an *original communication*; we beg, however, to assure him that it was forwarded to us by that gentleman, with an additional note of the progress of the case, and a wish expressed to have it published as soon as practicable, which we at some inconvenience complied with.

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. But all communications respecting the routine business of the Association should be forwarded to the Secretary, as above directed.