

March, is well calculated to excite these reflections ; such insolence of place and assumption of power have rarely been exhibited with equal effrontery, and I cannot but think the worthy Editor has, in his efforts to perpetuate agitation, and thereby increase the sale of his publication, been led beyond the bounds of his usual sagacity. I should gladly learn on what grounds these self-elected potentates, Bottomley, Wakley, and Co., assure themselves of the undoubted support of 1300 Members and Fellows of the College of Surgeons, and I venture to predict that when they call their muster-roll, they will be astonished at the thinness of their ranks. The lover of novelty, the seeker of place, and those who, having nothing to lose, hope to gain something in the scramble, may be there ; but depend on it, Sir, there are very many who would prefer to be door-keepers in the College of the immortal Hunter, to the possession of the highest honors in that of Bottomley and Co.

I am, Mr. Editor,

ONE OF THE THIRTEEN THOUSAND.

March 12, 1850.

To the Editors of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal.

GENTLEMEN.—I cordially agree with the principle avowed in the concluding paragraph of your leading article of the 6th instant, for the guidance of our Association in the present crisis of medical affairs, and though little disposed to take part in any controversy, I esteem it a duty to record my *non placet* against the lately published offer of the Council of the College of Surgeons to the older members of that corporation.

As no honour can result from the possession of the Fellowship obtained in the way proposed, the privilege of an elective voice would appear to be the sole good in prospect, to acquire which, the invidious inconvenience of a certificate of character (humourously treated by a correspondent in your last number) and the palpable injustice of paying ten guineas, are proposed. To the first of these, it is true, that I, as a member of a public service, am not exposed ; but I contend for the principle—others are. To the second a vast number of my contemporaries and juniors were not subjected, on their election at the will of the Council. Now, if even-handed justice is to be awarded, this must not be. No fee should be demanded. To those gentlemen who have acquired the Fellowship by voluntary examination and purchase, the honour, with its attendant profit, may, it is possible, prove a sufficient reward for the outlay. Their case, however, I humbly opine, can in no way operate as a precedent against those, who, while they fully prize the corporate right of election, are not disposed to meet the pecuniary mulct required in exchange. Perhaps the simplest remedy, as the case now stands (for complicated indeed it is) would be to confer the elective franchise, without alteration of title, on all members whose standing on the College list is anterior to the Charter of 1843 ; but I am by no means certain that this concession would meet the evil. One thing is clear, that ere long, the onward progress of reform must claim the privilege for every member along with his diploma. The present anomaly will not be

tolerated by educated men surrounded by free institutions.

As to the formation of a College of General Practitioners, I confess that I am somewhat at issue with the opinions so often put forth in your leaders on this subject, though by no means a thick and thin advocate for that measure in the face of a better arrangement. Virtually, the profession is, to all intents and purposes, as palpably and definitely divided into three estates as it could possibly become by any ulterior legislation ; moreover, in the present state of the negotiations, each licentiate of the projected new college must be a member of the College of Surgeons. There could not, then, occur any loss of *status* ; on the other hand, increase of respectability must result from *enlarged education*—the avowed object of the Council of the National Institute ; and as the representations of that body stoutly contend for the control of their curriculum in all its requirements, there can be no room for suspicion that its details would be disproportioned.

I might, and perhaps ought, to extend these short remarks to various other points, quite as salient as those selected ; but as brevity is desirable, where so many, probably, will adopt the same mode of appeal, I shall conclude by reminding you, that many and serious objections exist against the ready solution of the difficulty, beyond the mere exclusion of obstetrics and pharmacy from the Council at Lincoln's Inn Fields ; and further, that although it be most desirable that all surgeons should be incorporated and *enfranchised* in the College of Surgeons, this must be regarded solely as a step towards a vital reform and comprehensive remodeling of the whole machinery of our profession.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your humble servant,

G. E. FORMAN,

Surgeon, R.N., M.R.C.S., 1819.

Teignmouth, March 13, 1850.

Medical Intelligence.

TESTIMONIAL TO WILLIAM BUSH, ESQ.

We have much pleasure in stating that a very handsome silver library inkstand has been presented to the above gentleman, in the presence of the parochial Clergy, and a large number of the inhabitants of the parish of Weston, bearing the following inscription :—“Presented to William Bush, Esq., one of the medical officers of the Bath Union, by 456 contributors, consisting chiefly of the poor of Weston, with whom the subscription originated, in grateful testimony of the kindness, skill, and unwearied attention, with which he devoted himself to the service of the sick in that parish, during the prevalence of cholera in the year 1849.” It is gratifying to remark, that the idea of presenting a testimonial to Mr. Bush emanated, in this instance, from the poor, many of whom experienced his valuable and zealous attention during the time of the late epidemic ; but the subscription was by no means confined to this class, and we have reason to know that the same feelings of respect and gratitude towards

that gentleman pervade every rank of society in the parish of Weston: indeed, the kindness and skill which he displayed, in his treatment of cholera patients, was such as to merit the warmest approbation of all who had an opportunity of observing the exemplary manner in which he discharged his professional duties on that trying occasion.

TESTIMONIAL TO THOS. S. FLETCHER, ESQ., BROMSGROVE.

On Saturday, the 9th inst., a silver tea service was presented to Thomas Fletcher, Esq., in testimony of his assiduous exertions during the prevalence of the cholera in the summer of 1849. The coffee-pot and tea-pot bore the following inscription:—"Presented to T. S. Fletcher, Esq., surgeon, by the inhabitants of Stoke Prior and a few other friends, to mark their sense of his unwearied exertions, professional skill, and great kindness to the poor, during the prevalence of the cholera in the summer of 1849."

NAVAL APPOINTMENTS.

Surgeons, A. R. Bradford, of the *Blenheim*, to the *Assistance*; J. L. Donnett to the *Assistance*; G. D. Maclaren to the *Blenheim*.—*Assistant-Surgeons*, S. M. C. Steele to the *Arethusa*; T. R. Piethorn and R. King to the *Pioneer*; J. Ward to the *Assistance*; W. Patrick to the *Dasher*.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday, March 1st, 1850:—Victor Poulin de Bois Angers, Brompton, Middlesex; Hugh Henshall Broughton, Preston, Lancashire; Edmund Brown, Sloane Square, Chelsea; William Henchman Clubbe, Beccles, Suffolk; Robert Christopher Frost, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northumberland; John James Ridge, Gravesend, Kent; Alfred Taylor, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northumberland.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Thursday, February 28, 1850:—George Charles Armstrong, Ware, Herts; John Wellington Clements, Pocklington; John Page Cooper, London; Edmund Grosvenor Goulden, Hazelgrove, Cheshire; James Samuel Seyer Lang, Yatton, Somerset; William Foot Vidal, Aveley, Essex; Alfred Whittle, Liverpool; Charles Nelson Wilkinson, R.N., South Lambeth..

OBITUARY.

At Epsom, on Wednesday, the 6th instant, John Allen, Esq., surgeon. He was born in 1787, at Crief, and educated at the University of St. Andrew's, where he greatly distinguished himself. In 1809 he entered the navy medical service, was present at the engagement in Basque Roads, on which occasion he received a silver medal for his services, and in the following year was promoted to the rank of full surgeon. He served in H.M.S. *Rover*, *Helena*, *Emerald*, &c., until the peace, when he retired on half pay, and accompanied

the Earl of Selkirk on a tour through Canada and the United States. On his return he settled in London, but afterwards, on account of impaired health, removed to Epsom, where he continued in the successful practice of his profession until his death. Mr. Allan had throughout his career attached to himself in firmest friendship all who had the opportunity of estimating the excellent qualities of his head and heart. He was a member of our Association, and a contributor to this and several other medical periodicals.

March 9th, at Little Holland House, Kensington, George Pardoe, M.D.

March 9th, at Kentish Town, after a protracted illness, John Malyn, Esq., F.R.C.S., aged 48, many years Surgeon to the Western Dispensary, and Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology at the Westminster Hospital School of Medicine.

March 11th, suddenly, and whilst attending a patient, R. Boley, Esq., of Ashley Hill, Bristol.

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

The Fifth Report of the Visitors of the County Lunatic Asylum at Hanwell, January, 1850.

Eight Report of the Secretary and Treasurer of the Birmingham and Midland Counties' Pathological Society, January, 1850.

A Treatise on the Inflammations of the Eye-ball. By Arthur Jacob, M.D., F.R.C.S. Dublin: Medical Press Office. 1849. 8vo, pp. 340.

An Inquiry how far Consumption is Curable, with Observations on the Treatment, and Cases Illustrating the Efficacy of Cod-liver Oil. By James Turnbull, M.D. London: John Churchill. Pamphlet.

The Charlestown Medical Journal and Review, January, 1850.

The New York Journal of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences, January, 1850.

CORRIGENDA.

In Mr. Williams's paper on "Cholera," at page 121 of our last number, the following errata occurred, owing to the mistakes of the amanuensis employed to transcribe it:—

For Dr. Russell read Dr. Roupell, of St. Bartholomew's.

For Petersburgh read Peterborough.

Towards the close of the paper it is said,—“the sick that needed it were visited each day,” instead of “four times each day,” which was the fact.

In the case of “Puerperal Convulsions,” (in the same number,) the date when Mr. Williams was first called to the patient was omitted, viz., the 23rd of October last.

In the same paper, for “on the 27th catamenia all night,” read “catamenia all right.”

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Dr. Oke, Mr. Newnham, Mr. Rackham, Mr. Macauley, Dr. Brown, Mr. Pope, Dr. Russell, Mr. Newhouse, Dr. Ferguson Branson, and Mr. King. 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 of the Association.