

ON THE EXAMINATIONS AT THE COLLEGE AND HALL.

To the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Will you allow me a small space in your journal to correct an error into which your Sexagenarian correspondent has fallen, in common with numerous others.

Your correspondent asserts it as a fact, that the examination at "the Hall" is of a much "more stringent character," and is looked upon with more "apprehension, and a sense of dread," than that at the College of Surgeons.

There is not a more erroneous notion in existence in the profession. I have lately passed the examination at both, and also know the prevalent opinion amongst students, with regard to the relative severity of the two. I studied at one of the largest hospital schools in London, and I know that the students there generally look upon the examination at the College as the more stringent, and also as requiring more time to prepare for it. *A greater number of men are plucked at the College than at the Hall.* A year ago I passed the Hall; the same evening thirteen candidates presented themselves for examination, and *all passed*, and I know that for five examination days succeeding not a single candidate was rejected, although at each Court from eight to fourteen presented themselves. A few weeks afterwards I passed the College; fourteen candidates presented themselves, and *five were plucked*, and for several examination-days before and after that time from three to six men were rejected each time. These statements are *facts*, not speculations, and occurred about the same time that every examined candidate at the Hall passed; and I have no doubt but that during the whole year the number of rejected candidates would be in about the same proportion. Then, how can the examination at the Hall be the more stringent?

The College examiners never hold a court when there are less than twelve candidates to be examined, and sometimes there are sixteen or twenty, yet how seldom do we see twelve or sixteen names down in the pass-list for a single day; I have seen as few as *four*, so that *no less than eight* must have been rejected. I have no hesitation in stating, that so many are never rejected at the Hall. I cannot see how the two examinations can be compared; one requires a sound and extensive knowledge of but a few subjects, the other a mere superficial acquaintance with many; and the examiners themselves have not sufficient knowledge to go very deeply into any subject. One of the examiners told me that ammonia was formed by the *decomposition* of hydrogen and nitrogen!! Fancy two *simple elements* being *decomposed*! If the examiners are no better informed than this one, what is the examination worth? None of them are men known to science, or even to their own profession, except two or three have the reputation of being retired grinders. The examiners at the College are men thoroughly competent to test the candidates in the subjects they profess to examine in, viz., anatomy, physiology, and surgery. Many "Sexagenarians" have fallen into a great mistake when

they suppose that students dread the Hall more than the College: the reverse is *almost always* the fact, and for a very obvious reason, it requires much less time and application to get a smattering knowledge of the multifarious subjects required by the wise sages at the Hall than it does to get a thorough knowledge of the three subjects for the College. The most idle and dissipated student can, by a few week's "grinding," acquire a sufficient acquaintance with the subjects for the Hall, while I doubt if he can know much anatomy without dissection.

But, without stating any more reasons, I think the facts I have given, viz., the proportion of rejected candidates at the two boards, are conclusive. I do not think the examinations either at the Hall or College are worthy of the name,—neither of them test the candidate's knowledge of the most ordinary cases occurring in practice. The examination at the University of London is the only one which can with propriety be called such.

One word with regard to the student having a "competent acquaintance with the French, German, and Italian languages." I heard a most distinguished physician—himself no mean scholar, and certainly the best clinical teacher in London—make the remark, that "a Frenchman would easily write a work in three folio volumes on a *flea's leg*." If this be the fact, would it not be a great waste of time to wade through so much verbiage for so trifling an object?

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

S.

May 19, 1851.

P.S. I have enclosed my card.

Medical Intelligence.

RESOLUTIONS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH, REGARDING PRACTITIONERS OF HOMŒOPATHY.

At Edinburgh, and within the College Hall there, the 9th day of May, 1851, an Extraordinary Meeting of the Royal College was held, pursuant to a resolution agreed to at the last Quarterly Meeting, and of which Extraordinary Meeting due notice was given. The President in the Chair.

The following resolutions were moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed to:—

1. That the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh did, several years ago, publicly express its opinion of homœopathy and homœopathic practitioners, by peremptorily declining to admit into its body a candidate for its Fellowship who belonged to that denomination; and, consequently, that no Fellow of the College can possibly be ignorant of the light in which all those who practice homœopathy are regarded by the College.
2. The College regrets that, notwithstanding this decided expression of its opinion, more than one of

its Fellows, after being admitted in a different character, have endangered the reputation of the College, by becoming homœopathic practitioners; and the College expresses an earnest hope that these Fellows, seeing they have thus virtually separated themselves from the College, will spontaneously sever their further connection with an Institution which repudiates them, and from which they can derive as merely nominal Fellows, nothing else than a false position and a spurious credit.

3. The College feels the more bound thus to express its opinion, seeing that those Fellows who have become homœopaths, and any other medical practitioners who follow homœopathy, must necessarily be aliens to the other Fellows, and to the profession at large; inasmuch as no Fellow of this College, or any other physician can, by any possibility, without derogating from his own honour, and from the honour of the profession, meet practitioners of homœopathy in consultation, or co-operate with them in the other common duties of professional life.

4. That, although the College has not thought it expedient hitherto to take any active steps for disclaiming those Fellows who have become homœopathic practitioners subsequently to their admission to the College, nevertheless, since it has the power of dealing summarily with those who act in a manner so unbecoming the character of a physician, it reserves its right to exercise that power when it shall be so advised.

Signed in name, and by authority, of the College,

J. Y. SIMPSON, President.

BRITISH MEDICAL FUND.

A meeting of the medical gentlemen of Worcester and the neighbourhood was held in the Council Room of the Worcestershire Natural History Society, on Monday, the 12th instant, for the purpose of receiving from Mr. Hawtayne, the Secretary of the "British Medical Fund," a statement in reference to the objects of that institution. Amongst the gentlemen present were Dr. Malden, Messrs. Carden, J. H. Walsh, T. Walsh, Shelton, Jones, Davis, Jeffery, Busigny of Ombersley, &c. Dr. Malden was requested to take the chair, and having opened the proceedings by some lengthened and appropriate observations on the object of the meeting and on the advantages calculated to result from such an institution as that they were now called upon to support, the secretary at once proceeded to a detail of the various objects and benefits contemplated by the Society, and expressed his gratification that throughout his provincial visitation it had hitherto met with the warmest encouragement and support.

Several questions having been put to the secretary and answered satisfactorily, the following resolutions were proposed and carried unanimously:—

1st. "That this meeting highly approves of the principles and objects of the 'British Medical Fund,' and strongly recommends the Society to the profession at large for encouragement and support."

2nd. "That the best thanks of this meeting and of the profession generally, are due to Dr. Forbes and the

Directors of the British Medical Fund, for their zealous and indefatigable exertions in establishing the institution."

3rd. "That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Hawtayne, the Secretary of the British Medical Fund, for his satisfactory explanation of the nature of the Society."

A vote of thanks having been offered to Dr. Malden, for his very able and courteous conduct in the chair and for his kindness in presiding on this occasion, the meeting separated.

We understand similar meetings are being held in various towns throughout the kingdom, in favour of this praiseworthy Institution.

EXAMINATIONS AT ABERDEEN.

A correspondent, having obtained the degree of M.D. at the last examination at King's College, Aberdeen, requests us to publish the following list of the chief subjects included in the examination to which he was subjected, as some guide to those who may go up hereafter for that dignity. He mentions, however, that the subjects of the examination of each candidate were different.

First Examiner: General physiology of secretion and nutrition; minute anatomy of liver; composition of bile; use in digestion; physiology of digestion; anatomy of intestinal canal; minute anatomy of kidney; secretion of urine; urinary deposits; different diatheses; composition of urea and uric acid; effects of urea in circulation; minute anatomy of testis, its secretion; anatomy of male organs of generation; physiology of respiration; asphyxia; respiration in lower animals; chemical condition of blood, arterial and venous, healthy and diseased; effect of tying renal vein, portal vein; foetal circulation; placental circulation; origin of cerebral nerves; eighth pair; branches, distribution, &c.

Second Examiner: Differences between scarlatina and measles; symptoms; pathology; treatment of different forms of each; sequela of each, and treatment; diseased condition of urine; croup; objections to tracheotomy in it; spasmodic croup; peritonitis; acute and puerperal phlebitis; phlegmasia dolens; puerperal mania; erysipelas, all its forms and treatment; delirium tremens; cerebritis and meningitis; gaol fever; pleuritis and pneumonia; their stethoscopic signs and different stages, &c.

Third Examiner: Surgical diseases of head, and operations for injuries, especially fractures and concussion, dislocation and fractures; erysipelas after injuries; abscess; gangrene, &c.

Fourth Examiner: The preparations of iron in the Pharmacopœia; doses, strength, uses, &c.; mode of preparing the principal of them; preparations of mercury in Pharmacopœia; doses, uses, &c.; mode of preparing calomel and bichloride; tests for latter; effects and antidotes as a poison; treatment; ditto ditto for arsenic; chemistry of hydracids, hydrocarbons, hydrates, compounds of chlorine with oxygen, &c.; writing prescriptions in Latin, abbreviations, &c.—*Lancet*.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.

The Court of Examiners have resolved:—

"1. That a preliminary examination for junior students of the medical profession would be desirable, as an important auxiliary to their subsequent professional studies.

"2. That such examination should comprise an inquiry into the student's knowledge of the Latin and Greek languages, and of the elements of mathematics.

"3. That students should be admissible to such examination at any period from the date of their apprenticeship to the completion of the first winter session of their curriculum.

"4. That such examination should, in the first instance, include the following subjects, viz.:—

"1. The first book of Virgil's *Æneid* and Cicero's *Oration for Milo*.

"2. The Greek Testament to the end of the Acts of the Apostles; or, the first book of Xenophon's *Anabasis*, at the option of the candidate.

"3. Algebra, as far as Simple Equations.

"4. The first book of Euclid's *Elements*.

"5. That the student who passes this examination satisfactorily should not be subject to any subsequent examination in Latin, except the *Pharmacopœia Londinensis* and *Prescriptions*.

"6. That students who have not passed this examination should for the present be allowed, as heretofore, to undergo the preliminary examination in *Celsus* and *Gregory*, after they have completed two winter sessions of their medical studies."

DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM.

A death from the effects of chloroform, administered with a view to its anæsthetic action, is reported from the Stepley Union-house. The unfortunate man was a baker. The dose given of the chloroform was small; half a drachm being employed first, and, that failing to produce any action, another half drachm was used, and the fatal result occurred. The surgeon who administered it said that he had examined the man and found nothing to prohibit its use. He attributed the death to a peculiar idiosyncrasy, rendering the man very susceptible of the action of the chloroform; that is to say, he did not know in what way to account for it. The manner in which the chloroform was administered is not mentioned.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted members on the 9th instant:—Francis Trevelyan Buckland, Deanery, Westminster; Alfred Carpenter, Rothwell, Northamptonshire; Wm. Tait Carr, Aberdeen; Frederick James Chaldecott, Dorking, Surrey; Fohn Fountain, Cowley, Uxbridge, Middlesex; Albert William Hanford, Nottingham; Ebenezer Moore, Islington; Henry Power, London; Henry Simpson, Chester; Thomas Henry Cornelius, Vauxhall Road, Pimlico; Edward George Wake, Hull; William Warwick, Belfast; Richard Wellings, Ravenstone, Leicestershire; John Wilde, Islington; Edwin Wilson, Hyde, Cheshire.

Gentlemen admitted members on the 16th instant:—Lancelot Armstrong, Camberwell; Thomas Britton, York; Geo. Brennan, Cork; John Davis, Sunderland; Nevill Jackson, Stamford, Lincolnshire; Edward Lang, Dublin; Edward Ralfs, Tunbridge, Kent; Jacobus Silverman, Middlesex Place, Paddington; Thomas White, Chester. Frederick Wm. Wilders, Chesterton, Huntingdonshire.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

The following gentlemen were admitted members on May 8th, 1851;—Thos. Bickerton, Liverpool; Henry George, Kirton Lindsey; William Edward Hayman, Abingdon, Berks; Thomas Lancaster, Badcliffe Bridge; John Davies Weaver, Chester.

The following gentlemen were also admitted members on the 15th instant:—Thomas Dicklinson, Chelsea; Joseph Earle; James Gardner, Worthing; David Johnson, Horsmonden, Kent; George Stunt; Stephen Chapman Townsend, Crediton, Devon.

OBITUARY.

May 16th, at York Terrace, Regent's Park, Charles Shillito, M.D., formerly of the West Essex Militia; and late of Putney, aged 69.

May 17th, Dr. Edward Clark Baker, late of Walcot Terrace, aged 48, of consumption.

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

Practical Remarks on the Treatment of Aneurism by Compression. By Joseph Tuffnell, M.R.S.A., &c., &c. Dublin: Fannin and Co. London: J. Churchill, 1851. pp. 154.

On the Structure of the Membrana Tympani of the Human Ear. By Joseph Toynbee, F.R.S., &c., &c. London, 1851. 4to, pp. 10.

An Inaugural Essay on Zoo-Adynamia. By George J. Ziegler, M.D. Philadelphia, 1850.

London Journal of Medicine—May, 1851.

Monthly Journal of Medical Science—May, 1851.

On Excision of the Enlarged Tonsil, and its consequences in cases of Deafness. By W. Harvey, M.R.C.S., &c. London: H. Renshaw. 1850. pp. 121.

On the Mode of Origin, and Propagation of the Epidemic Cholera in Huddersfield and its neighbourhood in the autumn of 1849. By John Taylor, M.D., London, &c., &c. London: Tyler. 1851.

Dublin Quarterly Journal—May, 1851.

The Medical Examiner, Philadelphia—March and April, 1851.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH.

The annual meeting of this Branch will be held at the Squirrel Hotel, Wellington, on Wednesday, June 4th proximo. W. Trevor, Esq., President; S. F. Bridge, Esq., President-elect. The chair will be taken at two o'clock P.M.

FRANCIS HENRY WOODFORDE,

Secretary.

Taunton, May 22, 1851.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Dr. Cotton, Mr. Clapp, Mr. Green, Mr. Duke, Mr. Propert, Dr. Radford, Mr. Beard, Mr. Deans, Mr. Godfrey.

Doubtful.—There can be no doubt that the gentleman referred to is capable of procreation. There are many cases proving the fact both in the domestic animals and in man. We are ourselves aware of two cases in which children have been got after the removal of one testicle.

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.