

sold to a single individual, non-medical, and to whom the vendor was a stranger.

Mr. Sweet accidentally met with it, where it had been brought as a present to a poor person, just as brandy or tea would be brought, and with as little precaution; and he wisely and kindly prevented further mischief by his timely interference.

Whether the Legislature, with a due regard to the "salus populi," should be called upon for some further enactment, after what has been done in regard to arsenic, the Association, (the members of which constitute the best judges of the evils arising from the indiscriminate use of laudanum,) can decide. No better court of appeal in such a case could be found than that to which these remarks are now submitted.

A. W. DAVIS, M.D.

Tenbury, July 23, 1851.

ON MENTAL ALIENATION.

To the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Mental alienation has been defined by Esquirol as a cerebral affection, ordinarily chronic, characterized by disorders of sensibility, of intelligence, and of the will. It is to this form that I more particularly submit my remarks.

It has been said, like wine, to develop the private feelings, sentiments, and disguised ideas of its subject—in fact, to unlock the closet of the human mind; it is undoubtedly true, that in many instances, the moving springs of conduct, and the probable reason which led to the outbreak of the malady, can be traced.

It is true that, in a large establishment, an epitome of the world can be found—the same ideas, the same envies, the same passions, the same mixture of misery and happiness! But here the effects are more decidedly marked, because there is none, or but little restraint placed upon actions, as the passions have become stronger than the reason. Even in the limited number of a small private establishment, marked differences occur; all the shades of human desires and aspirations are discernable; very frequently, though, a more guarded mode of conduct may be maintained, the result, as I apprehend, of the facility afforded of stricter observation. This will seldom deceive the experienced eye.

I am not writing an essay; and it is by no means my intention to go through the symptoms of mental alienation; generally speaking, there is some defect in one, two, or all, of the external senses, but almost invariably egotism. The inmates pay very little attention to one another,—their own wants, wishes, condition, and comforts must be immediately attended to; and often jealousies arise from what may be considered a preference shown to another.

In regulating all this, in endeavouring to bring better sentiments into play—to restore to reason distorted intellect, how often is the manager of a private establishment disturbed and prevented by the interference and conversation of injudicious friends, and by the wrong-timed observation and directions of those

who doubtless consider they are moving in their path of duty, but who appear to reason from general principles on individual cases. Who can so well observe the bearings of a patient's mental infirmity as one who sees frequently, and writes down regularly, the different phases of the disease.

Again, it is seldom that a patient is placed under private care at the first outbreak; most frequently an attendant is procured, and medical means are resorted to. This may occasionally answer in violent cases, and in some first instances, but it is more generally attended with false hopes, much anxiety, and increased expense. At length a private establishment is chosen. By this time the mental affection has taken deep root, and the bodily condition of the patient not improved by various modes of treatment. In difficult cases it is probable that some time must elapse before the key-note of the mind can be obtained. Upon many subjects the patient may talk well and compare justly; and a mistaken notion emanates as to any actual insanity prevailing. Of this, frequent examples are enumerated in all books treating upon the subject. Nevertheless, I consider this form of the disease is frequently lost sight of, and that present appearances are not unfrequently admitted as the standard of mental health.

Many suicides have been committed in consequence of this error.

I remain, yours obediently,

E. B.

Medical Intelligence.

HOMEOPATHY AND THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

The following requisition to the Council of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society is in course of being signed. We understand that it will be presented at the commencement of the Session in November:—

"We, the undersigned Fellows of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, being convinced that the doctrines of homeopathy and mesmerism are utterly fallacious, and inconsistent with the facts of medical science, hold that they are unworthy to be professed, or in any way countenanced by members of this Society, the object of which is the promotion of a sound knowledge of medicine and surgery. We therefore request the Council to take this subject into consideration, with the view to prepare regulations whereby all homeopathic, mesmeric, and similar irregular practitioners shall be excluded from the Fellowship of this Chartered Corporation. And we hereby request the Council, with as little delay as possible, to summon a special general meeting of the Fellows to resolve on the same."

THE HOMEOPATHS.

We understand that a motion was brought forward at the Medical Society of University College, to expel certain members who practise homeopathy.

THE SALE OF ARSENIC.

Mr. Sefton, druggist, of Accrington, has been prosecuted for not strictly obeying Lord Carlisle's Act. He sold the arsenic in the presence of a man who signed a book as witness; but he did not colour the mineral with indigo or soot, and the purchaser was under age. Mr. Sefton pleaded that he did not know it was necessary to colour the arsenic, and he thought the purchaser was of age. The Magistrates fined him £5 only, the full penalty being £20.

A NEW QUACKERY.

In Naumberg a man named Mahner is preaching the necessity of a new regeneration, not in the spiritual, but physical sense. He warns a sickly race that it must return to the lost state of "primitive health," or *Urgesundheit*, as the means of more fully enjoying life, and attaining a patriarchal old age. It is to be secured by a diet of bread and water, going barefoot, and letting the hair and beard grow; in short, making a nearer approach to man's original state in costume than the decencies or prejudices of modern society will altogether permit. On this topic he has been lecturing to a chosen few, but his doctrines do not seem to take, bread and water not being tempting, even with four-score years promised as the prize of self-denial. It is also said that the apostle does not fully act up to his own precepts, preferring a well-spread table and every variety of wine or beer to the pure element; but this may be a calumny of the hotel keepers. The German journals are perpetually turning up some eccentricity of this sort; to prepare or preserve health, the oddest "cures" are resorted to. A section of the public seems determined to escape the hands of the faculty, and die by some irregular process, rather than with the aid of medicine. In a single advertising sheet could recently be counted up a water cure, a grape cure, a milk cure, and a hunger cure; to these must be added another just getting into vogue—some of the former having had their day—it is the cure by muscular exercise, by which cripples from rheumatism are put through a course of gymnastics; and dancing is prescribed for the gout. These, however, are all merely cures or remedies; the "primitive health" theory is founded on a system of living which would literally make "man's life as cheap as beasts," without much prolonging it. As far as hair and beard go, many of the Berliners are meeting the Naumberg preacher more than half way.—*Lancet*.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM.

An influential meeting of the friends and supporters of the Queen's College, Birmingham, was held in the Town Hall of that town, on Tuesday, the 7th instant, on the occasion of the presentation by the Queen of Her Majesty's portrait to the institution, and the distribution of annual prizes to the students. In the absence of Lord Lyttelton, the Principal of the College, the Rev. Chancellor Law, Vice-Principal,

presided. The following prizes were then distributed to the successful students by the respective professors of the several classes:—

Warneford Medals, Banks, Franks; Warneford Scholarships, Waller, Webb; Governors' Gold Medals, Russell, Rowland; Warden's Senior Theological Prize, Oakes; Medal in Anatomy, Russell; Certificate ditto, Coleman; Medal in Surgery, Webb; Certificate ditto, Russell; Certificate Practice of Physic, Banks, John Smith, *æquales*; Medal in Forensic Medicine, Franks; Medal in Midwifery Class, Webb; Second Medal ditto, Perry; Certificate of Honour, Stillman; Medal in Materia Medica, Harris; Certificate ditto, Franks; Medal—Botany, Harris; Medals in Chemistry, Franks, Wilkinson, *æquales*; Certificate, Cantrell; Book—Demonstrations, Franks; Law Professor's Prize, Suckling.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION AT APOTHECARIES' HALL.

We are happy to observe that the remarks which were made some months since in the *Lancet*, upon the propriety of the junior members of our profession presenting themselves for the preliminary examination in classics and mathematics at Apothecaries' Hall, have been so warmly responded to. We are informed that nearly one hundred candidates have entered their names for this trial; and, as will be perceived, the Examiners have found it necessary to commence their duties three hours earlier than was originally intended. As it will be utterly impossible to conclude the examinations in one day, the proceedings are to be resumed on the Monday and Tuesday following.

It has been intimated to us that the Greek part of the examination will, upon the present occasion, be limited to the Gospel of St. Luke; but that, if any candidate should object, upon religious or other grounds, to the New Testament, he may be examined in the first book of Xenophon's *Anabasis*, if he prefer it.—*Lancet*

APPOINTMENTS.

MILITARY.—83rd Foot: Assistant-Surgeon Edwd. Touch, M.D., from the staff, to be Assistant-Surgeon, vice Innes, who exchanges. Hospital Staff: Assistant-Surgeon John Henry Kerr Innes, from the 83rd Foot, to be Assistant-Surgeon to the forces, vice Touch, who exchanges.

NAVAL.—Surgeon, Thomas R. H. Thompson, M.D. (1851), to be Surgeon-Superintendent of the *Marion*, convict ship. Surgeon, Frederick W. Le Grand (1839) to be Surgeon-Superintendent of the *Marion*, convict ship, in the room of Thomas R. H. Thomson.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

The following gentlemen were admitted members on Tuesday, the 30th ultimo:—Dr. Barron, St. Thomas's Street, Southwark; Dr. Habershon, Finsbury Circus; Dr. Parker, London Hospital. Also Dr. Thornton, Norwich, was admitted an extra-licentiate.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

The annual distribution of prizes took place in the Board-room of the hospital—the Right Hon. Sir F. Pollock, Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, presiding.

In addition to the scholarships, the following prizes and certificates were presented by the Lord Chief Baron, with some appropriate remarks with each:—

Anatomy, Senior Class: Prize, Mr. George Nayler; certificate, Mr. W. J. Williams. Junior Class: Prize, Mr. Oscar Byrne; certificates, Mr. G. Y. Hunter and Mr. J. Penny.—*Physiology*: Prize, Mr. J. R. Davern; certificate, Mr. J. S. Dodd.—*Botany*: Prize, Mr. W. R. Cornish; additional prize, Mr. J. Penny.—*Chemistry*: Prizes, Mr. W. R. Cornish and Mr. J. Penny.—*Practical Chemistry*: Prize, Mr. Wyndow; additional prize, Mr. C. Royston; certificates, Mr. W. Jane and Mr. Jeckell.—*Materia Medica*: Prize, Mr. J. Penny; certificates, Mr. W. R. Cornish and Mr. G. Y. Hunter.—*Medical Jurisprudence*: Prize, Mr. Bolton; certificate, Mr. Firth.—*Midwifery*: Prize, Mr. W. B. Harrison; certificate, Mr. C. Royston.—*Practice of Physic*: Prize, Mr. W. B. Stephens; certificates, Mr. H. V. Carter and Mr. Francis Day.—*Surgery*: Prize, Mr. H. V. Carter; certificates, Mr. Francis Day and Mr. W. B. Stephens.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

The following gentlemen were admitted members on the 3rd inst.:—Charles Thompson Abbott, Nenagh, county Tipperary; Charles Coates, Leeds; Edward John Complin, Charterhouse Square; John Davies, Brecon; George Graham, Cootehill, county Cavan; Henry Joseph Herschel Griesbach, Millington, Yorkshire; Henry Hanks, Malmesbury, Wiltshire; Thomas Le Gay Holthouse, Australia; Thos. S. Hollingsworth, Leicester Square; Lawrence Francis Mahony, Bedford Square, East; Thomas Whitefield, Millman Street; Joseph Coleman Wright, Dublin.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted on Thursday, September 25th:—James Black, Chesterfield, Derby; Henry Walter Bucknill, Rugby, Warwick; William Hill Clarkson, Ledbury, Hereford; George Jonathan Mitchinson, Carrington, Boston.

Gentlemen admitted on Thursday, October 2nd:—Leonard George Boor, London; Charles William Chaldecott, Dorking, Surrey; William Henry Cutts, Chesterfield; James Harnett Dowling, Cerne Abbas; Henry Gramshaw, Gravesend; John Graham, Rochford, Essex; Francis Nuttall, Bury, Lancashire; James Parkinson Scowcroft, Bolton-le-Moors; John Joseph Whiting, Lynn Regis.

OBITUARY.

On the 2nd inst., at St. Margaret's Terrace, Cheltenham, John Baron, M.D., F.R.S.

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

On the Pathological Anatomy of Bronchitis. By W. T. Gairdner, M.D., &c. Edinburgh: Sutherland and Knox. 1851.

The Journal of Psychological Medicine. October, 1851.

Monthly Journal of Medical Science. October, 1851. London Journal of Medicine. October, 1851.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

SUFFOLK BRANCH.

Mr. C. R. Bree, of Stowmarket, having resigned his office of local Secretary to the above Branch, all letters in connection with the Suffolk Branch must be addressed to Dr. Kirkman, of Melton, Suffolk, who has been appointed his successor; it is therefore requested that all those gentlemen, (members of the Suffolk Branch), who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year, will be good enough to forward the same to Dr. Kirkman.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

Mr. W. Matterson, of York, has succeeded Mr. W. D. Husband as local Secretary to the above Branch; all letters and communications in connection with the Yorkshire Branch must be addressed to Mr. W. Matterson, and all members of that Branch who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year, are requested to transmit them to Mr. Matterson.

SHROPSHIRE BRANCH.

Mr. Humphreys, of Shrewsbury, has been associated with Dr. Drury, of that place, as joint local Secretary. All communications in connection with the Shropshire Branch may be addressed to either of those gentlemen, and by whom subscriptions and arrears will be received.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

Gentlemen who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year, or who are in arrears, are requested to forward the amount due either to the Secretary of the district in which they reside, or to the Treasurer or Secretary of the Association at Worcester.

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.

JAMES P. SHEPPARD, Secretary.

Worcester, September, 1851.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received several communications relative to the proposed prizes for "Hospital Reports," and in answer to these inquiries we beg to state, that the reports must be sent in to the Editors of the *Journal* during the year specified, but they may relate to cases of any previous year. They may also be sent in separately, or not, as most convenient, and with or without remarks. The hospitals in which they occur must be specified in the report, and also the name of the surgeon or physician in attendance.

Communications have been received from Mr. Humphry, Mr. Collett, Mr. Richardson, Dr. Cullen, Dr. Watts, Mr. Solomon, Dr. Whitton, W. E., Birmingham Pathological Society, Mr. Bainbrigge, An M.D. out of Practice, Mr. Wills, and Mr. Foster.

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 James P. Sheppard, Esq., the Secretary of the Association.