

Medical Intelligence.

(From our own Correspondent.)

LONDON, AUGUST 16, 1852.

It is not an easy task at this period of the year to pen a lay article *de omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis*, for the recess of Parliament has been followed by that of the profession, and physicians and surgeons, after toiling hardly during the winter, spring, and summer months, are now scattering in all directions, and seeking a holiday, wherever taste, pleasure, health, or duty may direct them; but little is doing consequently, and even that little is scarcely worth recording.

Notwithstanding the decided character of the resolutions passed at the Brighton meeting of the Association, there are occasional rumors that some medical men do not hesitate, or scarcely hesitate, to meet professionally, the practisers of homœopathy, of course merely to ascertain the existence and character of a disease, or to confirm the diagnosis already made, the homœopath being then permitted or left to treat the malady, the nature of which he could not recognize, according to the approved principles and precepts enunciated by Hahnemann and his disciples. When a legitimate member of the profession has been decoyed stealthily into a consultation, he supposes the person he is about to meet to be, like himself, a true and honest practitioner of medicine, according to the principles usually taught in the schools; but if, finding at the time, or afterwards, that he has been entrapped, he indignantly denounces the cheat, and refuses to hold further intercourse with the empiric, we may pity him for his misfortune, and must acknowledge him to be still strictly entitled to his legitimate status and honors among us. Such a case has occurred of late years, but the unfortunate consultee was not deemed to be free from participating in the wrongdoing of the consultant. Fierce and angry accusations were launched against him, and for some time he felt the sad results in a considerable diminution of his consulting practice. Some, however, are bolder than he was, and recklessly declare that a consultation with a homœopath is not beyond their province, provided they participate not in the very act of prescribing homœopathically.

Although some very gross cases connected with that mode of "practising" have occurred, and been exposed from time to time, it cannot be said that the heresy is failing in the estimation of the public. The plausibility of its professors, and the speciousness with which they urge their charges against legitimate medicine, exert a certain influence for a time on the public mind; and, although some of those who have tried the system, have abandoned it, from its utter inutility in repelling the attacks of serious disease, fresh victims are readily obtained, their minds being imposed upon, and deluded by the boasting details of cures effected by the system *a la Holloway ou Morison*, "when the most eminent in the profession had declared the disease to be utterly incurable;" or, "when the patient had been dismissed without benefit from three or four metropolitan hospitals, and from some half-dozen provincial ones." By old hacknied boasts such as these, and by the specious reasoning urged in favor of their dogmata, greatly influenced also by the desire to avoid taking large and continued doses of drugs, persons of education, and even of considerable acquirements, fall into the trap, are completely gulled for a time, and for as long as the delusion endures, swell the train of the "learned professors," or may even vibrate between the two systems of homœopathy and hydropathy.

Among other instances of the spread of this delusion for the present, may be mentioned the fact, that a physician in a large practice at the West End, chiefly

among the nobility, has experienced latterly a considerable reduction in his yearly income, to the amount of some hundreds, resulting from the falling off of several of his accustomed *clientelle*. It is not an unusual thing for the educated classes especially to take up with the heresy for a short time, captivated by the delusive argument used in its favour, and probably also by the excitement attending the having recourse to that which is to them a novelty, more especially since the stir made in the ranks of the profession against it, and the absolute separation of the withered and dead branch from the tree of medical science. It is, indeed, much to be feared that the fierce and determined onslaught made on its professors, has contributed not a little to its present increased popularity; for the public, looking upon it as a mere quarrel among the doctors, naturally lean to those who seek for, and obtain the greatest notoriety, and in that no one can deny that our opponents have the palm.

Meanwhile there is an anecdote current which exhibits their pretensions to science and to minute accuracy in semeiology and the effects of drugs in a ridiculous point of view. At a public dinner, one of their principal authorities—to borrow a word from our continental brethren—assisted, whom we shall designate for the nonce as Dr. X. After partaking freely of many of the delicacies which were before him, the doctor, who is somewhat of a *bon vivant*, and understands the art of carving to perfection, was called upon to cut up a turkey for the benefit of all around. This duty having been properly performed, Dr. X. was observed to place a tit-bit from the bird in his own plate, but studiously to avoid the seasoning, which, however, he had liberally dispensed to the other guests at the table. This peculiar abstinence elicited a remark, and the question speedily followed as to the why and wherefore Dr. X. did not ornament his plate with the seasoning, it being so agreeable an addition to the bird's flesh. Assuming a serious and grave look, the doctor shook his head most sagely, and declared "he did not partake of it; it was most dangerous." "Dangerous! how? what harm can a little seasoning do you? Come Doctor, take some; you'll enjoy the turkey much more if you do." "Much obliged, my dear sir," was the reply of the alarmed homœopath, "but indeed I dare not; it contains parsley, you know, and that may cause a serious COLLAPSE!" To those who had watched the prowess of the learned doctor at the dinner, and the energy with which he had despatched fish, flesh, and fowl, washing them down with repeated libations of champagne and other rich wines, the source of the anticipated collapse was very clear, and quite independent of a very small modicum of parsley.

Various schemes have been proposed for the employment, for useful purposes, of the balance of the money, amounting, it is said, to £150,000, realised by the Great Exhibition; but the plan now proposed, which has been attributed to His Royal Highness Prince Albert, transcends them all in utility and excellence. It is said that the Prince has proposed to found a grand Industrial College,—a home for the arts and sciences,—an University of science, literature, and fine arts. It has even been asserted that the Prime Minister is prepared to make a national endowment in its behalf, worthy of the country and of the interests to be served. It is a part of the scheme to bring together the National Gallery, the learned societies, the Society of Arts, the School of Mines, and all other institutions having a close connection with science and the arts; a reform and re-arrangement long and earnestly demanded by all thinking *savans*. The whole is to be arranged with a view to practical results; science and industry, for the first time in this country, being brought together in close relation. How much better is a vast, original, and extensive plan like this, for the advancement of science and literature, than those meagre and paltry arrangements by which the total amount was to be

frittered away in small sums;—here a full hundred for endowing a professorship, there a similar sum for establishing reading-rooms, and there again for forming a museum, an athenæum, a club-house, or a lyceum, until the total £150,000 might have been spent in ways and means, to the satisfaction of a few jobbers, but not for the interest and benefit of the many, nor of the country at large. The plan is truly original in its whole, although a part thereof was proposed some years since; and a hope then existed that it would be carried into effect. We allude to that part of it which proposes the embodiment together of the learned societies. It was proposed that all those societies which had natural history in some one or other of its branches for their basis, such as the Linnæan, the Botanical, the Medico-Botanical, the Chemical, etc., etc., should be united; the several societies being, as it were, sections of the whole, with each its separate staff of officers to manage their own pecuniary affairs; all meeting in one house, and contributing a certain proportion to the general expenses. Why so comprehensive and so useful a plan fell through we never could learn; but we presume it arose from the difficulty of getting so many persons to act usefully together, and from the jealousy of some of the officers, who perhaps were unwilling to officiate for a section, when they had previously been, and were then, in office for an independent society. The sooner the plan now in contemplation is carried out in its entirety the better for science; as some, at least, of the learned societies are involved in considerable pecuniary difficulties, and may be compelled, for want of means, to close altogether, and to dissolve if not thus assisted. This has been the case indeed within the last eighteen months, as regards one of the above-named societies, which, after a career of about thirty years, during which the chief men of science in this country, on the Continent, and in America, have been enrolled in its list of members, ordinary or honorary, has been compelled to retire from the arena of sciences, overburdened and borne down by a weight of debt left its Council as a legacy by a former official, which debt hung like a mill-stone round its neck, until it was overwhelmed and lost in the deep waters. Had the plan we have alluded to been carried out, this sacrifice would, in all probability, have been prevented.

The latest mortality records for the past week state the proportion of deaths within the bills to be,—from diarrhoea 213; and from cholera (English of course) 21; 16 children, and five persons above the age of fifteen died from the last-named disease; 192 children and 21 adults from diarrhoea; sixteen of the cases of cholera occurred on the north, and five on the south side of the Thames. Meanwhile a far more fearful visitant is rapidly approaching, for the third time within twenty years: the deadly epidemic of Jessoré is about to assail the inhabitants of this empire; and but little, if anything, has been done to disarm the disease of its awful powers, and to render the inhabited places as wholesome and healthy as they ought to be. Following the same course as in its previous visitations, the cholera has entered Europe through Russia, and, after lingering there for several months, and committing frightful devastations among a most uncleanly people, it has passed into Russian Poland and invaded the kingdom (formerly the principality) of Warsaw, in the capital of which from fifty to sixty lives are daily sacrificed, a holocaust on the altar of filth—personal and municipal—drunkenness, and all evil passions, and consequently of epidemic disease. In Kalisch, also in Russian Poland, a town of considerable commerce and opulence, the mortality attendant on the disease has been very high indeed; and in Posen, four-fifths of those attacked perish. Since the appearance of this pestilence in Russian Poland, it has broken out in Dantzic, and there its ravages, it is to be feared, will be most dreadful and extensive. Everything betokens that it is hastening

hitherwards on the wings of the winds; and yet this overgrown and over-peopled world-metropolis, is in no respect better prepared to stay its ravages than it was in 1849, and scarcely more so than in 1831-32, when it was encountered in England. We have, to be sure, a General Board of Health, with a paid medical member, and a legal member, who is in truth its dictator; and they have published some neat blue books on quarantine, cholera, &c., but in no other way have they been of service in affording us the means, under Providence, to quell the ravages of the destroyer. The atrociously filthy condition of the habitations in which the poor herd together remains much the same; fever is as prevalent in their districts as ever; and although the wretched beings are constantly decimated by disease, the vacancies thus made are rapidly filled up, and the crop for disease and death to gather is as large, or larger than ever it was.

The malignant conjunction of the stars, which, as the astrologers have it, is so productive of disease, is not confined to the human race; epizootics have been very fatal throughout the kingdom, so much so indeed that the Royal Agricultural Assurance Society have had to pay upwards of £200,000 during the past year, in consequence of the mortality attendant on the epizootic among the cattle. Equally unfortunate is the progress of disease amongst vegetation. The blight has again, for the sixth or seventh time, attacked the potato, and that esculent in Ireland may be regarded as almost lost, at all events in many places scarcely half the crop will be gathered in, and in some, perhaps, not that. The reports throughout the length and the breadth of the land, are, that unless by Divine Providence, a larger amount of the potato be saved than is expected, another famine, followed by pestilence, may be anticipated. The blight has shown itself also in many places in England, but not so extensively as in the sister country, as that tuber is here only regarded as an adjuvant to the disease, ease, and not as the principal and sole food of the peasantry. Besides the potato, the beans have been more or less affected, and the vineyards in the south of France, in Italy, in Spain, especially in the neighbourhood of Malaga, and in Portugal and Malta, have been so seriously diseased as almost to involve their utter loss. Burgundy has in a great degree escaped; but, *en revanche*, in Madeira, it is said, all the vineyards have been involved in one common destruction, so that that celebrated wine, formerly so great a favourite with the gentry, may be as thoroughly lost to the epicure as are several of the more favourite wines of the ancients. The inhabitants of Madeira have petitioned for leave to cultivate tobacco, to repair the pecuniary loss sustained by the destruction of the vines. John Bull will feel vexed at the loss of the Portuguese wines; but as it is a well-known fact that more Port (!) is sold in London in one year, than is manufactured in Portugal in three, he may still obtain his "London particular," as we believe the logwood tree is still uninjured. The disease by which the vines have suffered, is called the "*MAUGRA*," or "*OIDIUM*," and it appears at first like small dust on the green berry, causing the fruit to burst, and ultimately to become putrid. It is said that a deep incision in the trunk of the vine, near the root, has been extensively tried in Savoy, and everywhere with success in curing the disease. So simple a remedy ought to be made extensively known in the vine-growing countries.

This long catalogue of ills affecting man, as well as the animal and vegetable kingdom, may be closed by the announcement that an unknown disease has attacked the currant plant, which blackens and rots the fruit in one night. The same malady—a variety, probably, of the *Maugra*—has also attacked the currants of the Ionian islands, and it is believed that not one-fourth of the crop will be preserved. Sad news, again, for John Bull; what will he do without his port and his Christmas plum-pudding?

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

The following gentlemen were admitted on the 30th ult.:—Joseph Fenn Allnutt, Australia; Henry Adye, Bradford, Wiltshire; Barnabus Barrett, Shrewsbury; Joseph Lewis, Cardiff, Glamorganshire; Edwin Moore, Highgate; George Puckle, Camberwell; James Lewis Sanders, Chelsea; Charles Taylor, Nottingham; Leonard, Keatley Yelf, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

The following gentlemen were admitted on the 2nd instant:—Frank Lane Bindley, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire; Thomas Coghlan, Cork; John Coogan, Cork; William Henry Cufande, Acle, Norwich; Walter Humphries, Cork; Samuel Job, Bawtry, Yorkshire; William Lichfield, Southampton; Joseph Beauchamp Matthews, Weston-on-the-Green, Oxon; Thadeus Leyden Molony, Ennistymon, co. Clare; Daniel Hack Tuke, York.

The following gentlemen were admitted on the 4th instant:—John Edmunds, Bangor-Iscoed, Flintshire; Joshua Lever, Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire; John Noble, York; George Bell Poppelwell, North Shields, Northumberland; Lewis Robert Ramond, Lower Sydenham, Kent; Richard Patrick Burke Taafe, London; Frederick Edmund West, Dublin.

The following gentlemen were admitted on the 6th instant:—Thomas Bray, Dublin; Garret Butler, Dublin; Henry Richard Foquett, Lucknow, Bengal; James Hurd Keeling, Edinburgh; Robert Leys, Banchoory, Kincardineshire; Charles Benjamin Mosse, Carlow; Malim Sharman, Birmingham; John Mortlock Tronson, Dublin.

The following gentlemen were admitted on the 9th instant:—Walter Bernard, Cork; Hallam Moore Dixon, Cape of Good Hope; William Archibald Garrington, Portsea; Alexander Robert Hudson, Fermanagh, Enniskillen; George Lawson, Forest Hill, Sydenham; James Henry Lewis, Kinsale, co. Cork; William O'Connor, Munster; Edward Tenison Ryan, New York; Henry William Spry, Trinidad Place, Islington.

THE FELLOWSHIP.—The following gentlemen were admitted to the Fellowship on the 10th inst.:—Peter Hinckes Bird, Spring Gardens, diploma of membership dated May 19, 1848; Cornelius Black, Chesterfield, May 3, 1844; Archibald Prentice Childs, Bungay, August 10, 1849; Harvey Ludlow, Paternoster Row, June 22, 1849; William Scovell Savory, Charterhouse Square, Dec. 8, 1847.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted members on the 29th July:—Matthew Corner, Whitby, Yorkshire; Charles Thick Eves, Cheltenham; Noah Fox, Nottingham; Augustus Brabius Webb Greatrex, Eccleshall; Charles Hooper, Buntingford, Herts; Frederic Francis Ormond, Plymouth; George Simpson, India; John Cuthbert Whaley, Kilburn.

Gentlemen admitted members on the 5th August:—Edward Hare Bromley, Rippingale; William Adcock Burrows; Charles Moore Jessop, Bilton Hall, Yorkshire; William Edward Robbs, Grantham; Henry Little Sequeira, London.

UNIVERSITY AND KING'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN.

At the August graduation at this University, the degree of M.D., was conferred on the following gentlemen, who were examined in the various branches of medicine, and found duly qualified:—John Morgan Bryan, Northampton; Thomas Collins, Aberdeen; Charles Henry Dunhill, London; John Boon Hayes,

Birmingham; William Aston Lewis, London; Peter William Long, Ireland; Thomas Morris, London; James Orwin, Salop; James Hollins Pickford, Brighton; William Callender Tidy, London; Daniel Henry George Wildbore, London; James Goodchild Wakley, London.

OBITUARY.

July 27, aged 63, Erasmus L. Devonald, Esq., surgeon, of 71, Great Tichfield Street, and 6, Howey Place, London.

August 6, at Wootton-under-Edge, Robert Bailey, Esq., surgeon, aged 74.

August 8, at his residence, Pucklechurch, Gloucestershire, aged 66, John Champeny Swayne, Esq., M.R.C.S., late of Berkeley Square, Bristol.

August 3rd, at Brighton, after a severe illness, Richard Ebsworth, Esq., surgeon, of Shillingford, in the 42nd year of his age.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

In addition to the names published in the last *Journal* as being appointed of the Council, that of WM. MATTERSON, jun., Esq., Local Secretary for Yorkshire, was *accidentally omitted*.

W. P. BROOKES, Esq., was also appointed Local Secretary for Cheltenham, and

ELLIS JONES, Esq., Local Secretary for Liverpool.

In consequence of the great accession of new members during the present year, the first eight numbers of the volume now in course of publication are out of print.

J. P. SHEPPARD.

Worcester, August 17th, 1852.

Secretary.

ERRATA.

In our report of the Anniversary Meeting, at page 404, column 2, line 14, the following correction is required:—For "read by the House Surgeon, Mr. Hussey," read—"read by E. L. Hussey, Esq., F.R.C.S.E., one of the Surgeons to the Infirmary." The paper consisted of a statistical account of all operations performed in that (the Radcliffe) Infirmary for some years past.

The following error also occurred in Dr. Whiting's speech, in proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Wilkinson, after the reading of the Address in Medicine:—Page 404, col. 1, line 9, for "philosophical lectures," read "physiological lectures;" line 11, for "the general thanks of the town," read "the thanks of many in the town."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Dr. Oke, Mr. Martin, Dr. McWilliams, Justice to Worcester, Mr. King, University of London, Publicus, Mr. Paul, Nil Desperandum, Dr. Whiting, Dr. Garstang, Mr. Harricks, Mr. Roe.

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.