

method be devised for a due supply of genuine remedies, it would be far better to trust the cure of disease to the healing hand of nature, than to disturb her operations by villanous compounds, miscalled medicines.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### VACCINATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

*Thursday, May 20.*

Mr. Fox Maule moved the original clauses in a committee of the whole house.

Mr. F. French moved the addition of the following clauses:—

“(Guardians and overseers to appoint medical practitioners to vaccinate, at an annual stipend.)”

“And be it further declared and enacted, That it shall be lawful for the guardians of every parish or union in England and Ireland, and the overseers of every parish or union in which relief for the poor shall not be administered by guardians, and they are hereby directed, to employ any legally qualified medical practitioner or practitioners for the vaccination of persons resident in such parishes or unions respectively; and to appoint and pay such reasonable annual stipend or remuneration for the same as to the said guardians or overseers shall seem fit, and to defray the same out of any rates or monies which may come into their hands respectively for the relief of the poor, anything in any other act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

“(Who shall be deemed a competent medical practitioner.)”

“And be it further declared and enacted, That no person shall be deemed to be a legally qualified or competent medical practitioner, within the meaning of the said recited act or this act, who shall not be duly authorised by some university or college, or other public body, having authority in that behalf, to practise medicine or surgery.”

He said, the object of the first clause was to enable the guardians to employ medical men to vaccinate the poor without subjecting those gentlemen to the degradation of the contract and tender system—the adoption of which being, according to the act, compulsory, great offence had been thereby given to the medical profession, and in many instances, as for example, in Ennis, Wexford, Fermoy, and Kinsale &c. unions, the act was inoperative, from the dislike of medical men to carry it into effect; this dislike would be removed by enabling guardians, where necessary, to employ vaccinators, at a small annual stipend, when it might be necessary so to do—an option which might be conceded without imposing any additional expense—probably at a less expense than under the present plan; and the guardians and commissioners would always have it in their power to demand returns, and thus to check and control the medical men. As to the unsatisfactory nature of the present plan there was abundant evidence in the number of petitions for a change, which had been presented. (One of these from the College of Surgeons in Ireland, the honourable member here read.) With regard to

the second clause, its object was to define, in a general way, the meaning of the words “medical practitioner.” In the act, two descriptions are given of the persons who should be employed as vaccinators. In the first clause it is enacted, that in England and Wales, the medical practitioner should be “legally qualified,” while in the sixth clause, which relates to Ireland, it is enacted that the practitioner should be “competent,” a discrepancy which gave rise to many inconveniences. In this proposed clause he had adopted a definition already introduced in the Factories Bill, which was sufficiently loose to admit every person having any legal claim to be considered as a medical practitioner.

Mr. F. Maule regretted he could not agree to the introduction of these clauses, as he had brought forward the bill under a pledge that it should only go the length of remedying two defects in the original act. The proposed clauses would alter the principle of remuneration, and would also open up the difficult question of medical qualification.

Mr. Wakley trusted the Hon. Under Secretary would not agree to the proposed clauses. The question had already been fully discussed, and the principle adopted that the payments to medical men employed as vaccinators under the act should be in proportion to the amount of labour done. It must be recollected that inoculation with small-pox had been made penal, and it was therefore necessary that it should be made the interest, as well as the duty, of medical men to seek out cases for vaccination, which they would not do, if, as was now proposed, their remuneration should be made irrespective of the number of persons whom they might successfully vaccinate. He would, therefore, oppose the introduction of the clauses.

Mr. Warburton also opposed the introduction of the clauses, which were negatived without a division.

The bill was then committed.

## ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

*Tuesday, May 11, 1841.*

Dr. WILLIAMS, President.

READ, COLICA PICTONUM, TREATED WITH WARM WATER. BY JOHN WILSON, M. D., PHYSICIAN TO THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

In this paper the author, after referring to the complicated treatment of the disease pursued at the hospital of La Charité, proposes to illustrate two of the remedies there used in combination, namely, enemata and hot-baths.

In six cases of colica Pictorum, some of them of much severity and complicated with paralysis, Dr. Wilson has employed enemata, administered in the hot-bath, in one case by the patient himself, and consisting of the water of the bath. The effect of this combination has been very successful, both in regard to the symptoms of pain and constipation, and to the paralysis, where that existed. In the course of his statements, the author notices the presence of looseness of the gums, blueness of their edges, and a fœtor like that of mercury, where

duty to make, for the well being of the society, and for the benefit of its members.

Mr. PERRY, the secretary, said, he was sure the members would acquit him of having any particular love or affection for long papers. He had no authority to take such unwarrantable liberties with communications as Dr. Copland seemed to think. That power rested with the council. Besides, if he attempted to use the scissors so freely as Dr. C. recommended, he would bring down the wrath of the *genus irritabile* on his head.

Mr. SKEL, the author of the paper, candidly and honourably admitted that it was too long; and said that he was not aware until that evening that it would occupy so much time in reading. He perfectly coincided with the opinions uttered by Dr. Copland,

[Dr. Copland deserves the thanks of the society for the independent manner in which he always stands forward to correct any abuses that may have crept into the management of that body. Indeed, if authors studied their own interest, they would attend more to perspicuity and less to detail than they seem to do at present. The veteran practitioners, who attend the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, do not go there to be lectured. They go with the expectation of obtaining some useful practical information in as condensed a form as possible, and nothing is more painful than to see them disappearing, one by one, from the meeting during the perusal of some tedious and awfully long communication. Long-winded speeches are as bad as long-winded papers, and speakers as well as authors would do well to bear that fact in mind. It will prevent them from wearying the attention and exhausting the patience of their audience. —EDS.]

## OBITUARY.

### DR. HOPE.

WE were incorrect, in stating in the last number of this journal, that Dr. Hope died of a disease of the heart. The cause of Dr. Hope's death was pulmonary consumption, and the lamented occurrence was, we fear, in great measure owing to the very laborious duties which he, for nearly five years, performed as assistant physician to St. George's Hospital. Indeed, we understand that the medical gentlemen who attended Dr. Hope were of opinion that his valuable life might have been prolonged, had he not undermined his constitution by his labours in the cause of science and humanity.

MADAME BOIVIN died at Versailles, of an attack of apoplexy, on Sunday, the 15th of May. There are few who have cultivated more successfully than Madame Boivin the art of midwifery, either as a writer or a practitioner. She was a doctor in medicine, and for many years superintendent of the *Maternité* at Paris. The declining years of Madame Boivin's life were embittered by several misfortunes. She lost a large sum of money by the bankruptcy of some person to whom it was confided; and about the same time had an apoplectic attack which terminated in permanent paralysis. Thus enfeebled in body, and destitute of the means of support, Madame Boivin was received by some relations at Versailles, and obtained a very mo-

derate pension from the governors of the hospitals and the French minister. But the sudden change from affluence and distinction to a state of dependence had a deep effect on her health and spirits, and she gradually sank under it. Madame Boivin was a member of most of the learned societies in Europe, had obtained several decorations, and although many of the German professors were in the habit of addressing her as *vir doctissimus*, she was a woman of the most simple and unoffending manners, and of the most exemplary conduct.—*Journal des Debats*.

DIED at Edinburgh, on Saturday, the 22d of May, Dr. James Hunter, æt. 29, surgeon to the Eye Dispensary of Edinburgh. Ardent and zealous in every department of professional study, Dr. Hunter devoted himself particularly to the Physiology and Pathology of the Eye. A wide career of usefulness and honour appeared to be opening before him, but his severely studious habits undermined his health, and he died after a short illness of inflammation of the spinal cord. He was the author of a treatise "On the Influence of Artificial Light in producing Impaired Vision," in which the whole subject of the effects of artificial light on the eye is treated in a very able and novel manner.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

*List of Gentlemen admitted Members on Wednesday, May 12, 1841.*—George Dickson, Francis George O'Kearney, Edward Stock, Frederick Hodgkinson, James Rogers, Hugh M'Clelland Graham, James Bell Metcalfe, Alexander Duncan, Edward Lawrence, Ireland Gaine.

*Friday, May 14.*—John Miller, Nathaniel Henry Clifton, Samuel Coates, Thomas Lancaster Bele, William Briggs, Josiah Herlis, Taylor Hannah Murison, William Knight, Erskine Allan, John Christie, Thomas Jackson Graham.

*Monday, May 17.*—John Cartwright, William V. W. Langley, John Woodward, William E. Baddeley, William Heygate, Michael Doyle, Philip T. Scott, James Henry, Rowland Rowland, Edwin Fennell, Moses Drake, C. L. Bradley.

*Friday, May 21.*—David Mahony, Daniel Wilson, Robert Horlock, Samuel Newham, William Stoker, Thomas Hodson, Samuel Phillips, Henry Brooking Square, Edward Heath, Robert Boyle Travers, Henry Hodgson Ogle Hay.

*Monday, May 24.*—James Cooper Pigg, George Rodwell, Thomas Wetherall Sproule, John Fewster Dawson, Henry Manning, George Buttler, John Jobson, John Scott, Charles Meeres.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*T. A. S. S.*—The Index to Vol. I. will be published with that of Vol. II. The number of extralicensates who pass the College of Physicians is so small, that it would scarcely be worth while to publish their names.

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