

THE APOTHECARIES' COMPANY

versus

THE DRUGGISTS.

In the "Times" of last Saturday, there is a report of an inquest held on the 24th instant, at New Brentford, on the body of Edward Willet, a child aged two years and eight months, who was attended by a chemist and druggist of the same place. The persons denied the necessity of an inquest, alleging that the friends of the deceased child were quite satisfied with the treatment it had received; but the coroner, Mr. Wakley, issued his warrant forthwith, on the receipt of a letter from Brentford, stating that the child died under suspicious circumstances.

The mother said that her child was taken poorly with a cough, but she thought it of no consequence. She called at the shop of Mr. Squire, chemist, of New Brentford, for a *penny powder* for it. Mr. Squire had no penny powders, but he kept *three-halfpenny* ones. Witness got the powder and thought it made the child comfortable. The child being restless on the following day, Tuesday, she repeated the dose, which was of a blackish colour, and it made the patient vomit. The child had severe fits between this and Wednesday morning, when Mr. Squire was sent for, and saw the child at 6, a.m. He ordered another powder, and three leeches to be applied to the windpipe. He saw the child again at eleven o'clock, when he said it could not live, and seemed sorry that the mother had not sent earlier for him. No "medical man" saw her little boy except Mr. Squire. Mr. Bonney, a surgeon of the place, made a post-mortem examination by order of the coroner, and found inflammation of the larger air passages of the throat and chest, but not higher than the trachea. It was not croup. There were a few flakes of mucus. Mr. Bonney considered it to be the second stage of bronchitis.

A discussion now ensued between the coroner and Mr. Squire's solicitor, as to what the business of a chemist and druggist originally was. Should the Apothecaries' Company bring any ulterior proceedings against his, the solicitor's client, it would be essential it should appear in evidence, that he followed the business of a chemist and druggist. The case of "Greenhough" had not been finally settled, in as much as it had not been removed by writ of error to the House of Lords.

At the coroner's suggestion, the jury returned a verdict that "the child died a natural death from inflammation."

It is understood that the Apothecaries' Company will proceed against Mr. Squire, in the Court of Queen's Bench, for the recovery of the penalty

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

Gentlemen,—I beg leave to transmit to you the enclosed document, and to request that you will be pleased to give it a place in your Journal, as it contains information which is of importance to many members of the profession.

I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,
EDM. BELFOUR, Sec.

Dec. 26, 1841.

"The President and Council finding it necessary to reprint the List of the Members of the College early in the ensuing year, all those members who have not attended to the wishes of the Council, as expressed in their notices of the 8th April, and the 14th October, 1841, are requested to send in their names, with the dates of their diplomas, and their present residences, between the 1st of January and the 1st of February, 1842, on which latter day the List will be sent to press.

"EDM. BELFOUR, Sec."

A BLACK SHEEP.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—Will you, or any of your numerous readers, tell me what I ought to do in the following case:—

I have a son at school in East Kent, who, in November last, got a swelled inguinal gland, which went on to suppuration. He was attended by a surgeon in the village, who has just sent me a bill for £2 14s. 6d., for professional attendance. I have told him I am one of the craft, and that it is contrary to custom, yea even to a proverb, for "dog to eat dog;" but, notwithstanding my remonstrance, he declares, like another Shylock, "he will have de monish," and that no one ever heard of such a monstrous thing as one medical man attending the family of another for nought.

Now, Gentlemen, if you, or any member of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, think I should not be compromising the dignity of the medical profession, by complying with this very unusual demand, I will pay, but not otherwise.

I remain, Gentlemen,

A MEMBER OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION.

Milton, Kent, Dec. 28, 1841.

* * * The author of this communication has furnished us with his name. No medical man, unless one of a very low *caste*, would demand payment for attending the child of a brother practitioner. Shylock, however, can compel our correspondent to give him the "pound of flesh," the law would support him in this unenviable proceeding.

MEDICAL CORONER FOR CHESHIRE.

The contest for this office terminated on Wednesday, the 29th inst., in the election of Mr. Churton, a surgeon. His principal opponent was a Mr. Massey, a druggist, but nephew of the retiring coroner.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

List of Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday, Dec. 17, 1841.

Alexander Back, Riton Oldham, Thomas Cooper Leah, John William Sea, Alfred M'Kinley Millman, Abraham Crawford Swayne, William Boyd, John Laxon Sweet, Frederick Richardson, George Thomas Smeathman.

Friday, Dec. 24, 1841.

F. M. Tweddell, H. G. Bull, F. de P. Carrillo, D. H. B. Haynes, S. J. Thomas, J. Thomas, G. J. Scale, B. Winstone, G. Yeo, J. Spencer, J. Peet, W. B. Hepworth.

CORRESPONDENTS.

Galway.—We have to thank our correspondent for the information relative to the election of medical officers to the Galway workhouse. We shall make use of it on an early occasion.

Sir Benjamin Brodie's Lecture in our next, also the communications of Dr. Knight and Mr. Nottingham.

Received—Communications from Mr. Harvey, Mr. Jameson, a Member of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, Dr. Hocken, Mr. Adams, Mr. Wilson, &c.

Ways and Means of Medical Practitioners, No. III, in our next.

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