

deliberative committees, or sub-committees—we had enough of these. By assigning to Dr. Hastings the duty of representing it, the Association will confide in a tried officer, who will perform that duty so as to call for the gratitude of the members; whilst this selection will set aside all chance of injury to the good cause by difference of opinion; and this is a point of some importance, for the question of reform was unquestionably damaged by the Exeter-hall congress.

Dr. Hastings' lucrative practice opposes the only obstacle we can see; but, there can be little doubt, that gentleman would, at the request of the council, make some effort (notwithstanding his numerous engagements) to undertake a mission so important to the interests of all members of his profession.

There are many of the leading fellows of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons who do not go perhaps quite far enough, but *are* advocates of improvement; amongst these the first place must be assigned to Sir Benjamin Brodie, the sincerity and *bonâ fide* character of whose views regarding medical reform cannot be questioned by any one who calls to mind his resignation of his appointment at St. George's Hospital, an act clearly showing that the guiding principle of his public conduct is the wish to act rightly and generously. Is there any one more likely than Dr. Hastings to win over such men by temperate argument and the weight of his personal character, and thus gain their aid in procuring a satisfactory measure of reform?

It will be objected to me, that no good can be effected by a friendly attitude towards such men, who can be frightened but not persuaded. I am altogether of a different opinion; much, I fancy, may be done by colloquial reasoning, conducted temperately. Indeed, the advantages of accomplishing a degree of improvement in the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, sufficiently extensive to remove all grounds of dissatisfaction, by enrolling in the registry of the colleges all who possess diplomas, are so obvious, that one cannot but wonder at the infatuation of those who oppose such a step. To prove how advantageous to the institutions reform would be, the present state of the London College of Physicians should be compared with that it would be raised to by a general enrolment of all the physicians. Should the provincial physicians now in practice be admitted on payment of a registry fee of five pounds, a very large sum would be procured, and, for the future, the college would receive a flourishing income in consequence of its diploma being made, by stringent enactment, essential to the country physician.

Human nature is now the same as in the reign of Domitian, and nothing can be truer than the words of the Roman satirist—

"Nil habet infelix paupertas durius in se,
Quam quod ridiculos homines facit"——.

words, the force of which should certainly be felt by the College of Physicians, the poverty of which exposes it to the sneers of its enemies, and ren-

ders it unable to command the respect of the other branch of the profession or of the public. Let the fellows consider the very different position the college would occupy with the number of its members and its funds more than quadrupled. Let those of them (and they are not a few) who can boast of talent and scientific enthusiasm, place before their eyes what they may easily possess, a magnificent library and museum, truly worthy of the most civilised and powerful empire in the world, and compare with those attainable acquisitions the present state of their library and museum and the phthisical state of the college purse—let them, I say, place before their mind's eye these images of plump health contrasted with emaciation, and decide whether it is prudent they should persevere in their present Trappist-like self-denial, their self-inflicted poverty?

It can easily be shown that very extensive reforms may become law without injury to the other colleges, although they would not *profit* by it in the same way and to the same extent as the College of Physicians. But, Gentlemen, I have already occupied so large a portion of your space, it is full time I should conclude, and subscribe myself

Your very obedient servant,

MEDICUS.

Dec. 28, 1842.

EAST SUFFOLK AND IPSWICH HOSPITAL.

Dr. Durrant has been appointed one of the physicians to the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

War-office, December 27.

33rd Foot—Assistant-surgeon Frank Andrews, from the 1st West India Regiment, to be assistant-surgeon, vice Bowlby, deceased.

90th—William Maclise, gent., to be assistant-surgeon, vice Cowper, appointed to the Staff.

1st West India Regiment—Thomas James Holmes, gent., to be assistant-surgeon, vice Andrews, appointed to the 33rd Foot.

3rd West India Regiment—William Robert Renwick, gent., to be assistant-surgeon, vice Stewart, deceased.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

Members admitted Friday, December 23, 1842.

J. Drury, F. Morgan, W. Peskett, H. Horsfall, D. Sinclair, J. Percival, H. W. King.

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