

OBITUARY.

By THOMAS MELLOR, Esq.

On the 21st ultimo, at Manchester, Thomas Fawcington, Esq., in the forty-eighth year of his age.

The loss of this excellent surgeon, and truly upright man, will long be felt by those who enjoyed the privilege of his society and friendship. Possessed of an untiring zeal for the advancement of his profession, whose resources on several occasions he contributed very materially to extend, he was no less distinguished amongst his brother practitioners for the unflinching honor and integrity which ever characterised his intercourse with them and the public at large. He had been engaged in active practice for a period of about twenty years, the greater portion of which was most laboriously devoted to the cultivation of morbid anatomy, regardless alike of the sacrifice of much personal comfort, and large pecuniary expenditure involved therein. A lasting monument of these labors has resulted in the formation of a very extensive museum, rich in almost every variety of diseased structure, but peculiarly valuable with reference to the several morbid changes of which the bones and mucous membranes are the seat. A catalogue of all the specimens has been published, containing, in relation to very many of them, a brief but luminous sketch of the principal symptoms observed during the progress of the several diseases of which the former are the products. The osseous preparations are most beautifully displayed, comprehending a very perfect series, from those which indicate the anatomical structure and nutritive process of healthy bone (all very minutely injected), to the appearances observed after fracture, and the means employed by nature for its reparation. But it is to the pathological specimens that the merit of excellence pre-eminently belongs. In these is comprised almost every variety of morbid change of which the osseous structure is susceptible, and the extremely beautiful and striking manner in which they are severally preserved affords a ready clue to their elucidation. Amongst these I may briefly allude to a preparation of malacosteom of the pelvis, the singularity of which consists in its having occurred at an advanced period of life—viz., seventy-three—the woman from whom it was removed having previously given birth to a numerous family, without any difficulty or delay in the process.

Amidst much that would amply merit a more detailed notice, but for its too great encroachment upon your space, it would be wrong to omit all allusion to the extensive and truly interesting series of preparations illustrative of the healthy and diseased conditions of the mucous membranes. The nature of the changes which these structures undergo in disease was ever a favorite subject of investigation with the late Mr. F.; and I have little hesitation in affirming that, under this head, there does not exist any collection more valuable, either in point of intrinsic excellence, or in the completeness by which every link in the chain of morbid products, as applicable to the above structure, is characterised. To each specimen is appended a succinct history of the symptoms observed during life; and what considerably enhances their value is the circumstance of colored drawings having been made with the utmost fidelity from the

parts in a recent state, by which the otherwise evanescent characters of disease are made to stand out in prominent relief.

About seven years ago Mr. F. was elected to the important office of surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, an appointment most congenial to his wishes, and associated with many of the happiest reminiscences of his medical career. For a considerable period prior to this appointment he had filled the chair of anatomical lecturer at the late school of anatomy and medicine in Marsden-street. In this capacity he was very successful in diffusing a large amount of interest over a subject too frequently regarded as destitute of this quality; and by those students whose privilege it was to hear him, his valuable prelections will not readily be forgotten. As a writer, Mr. F. was very favorably known to the professional public. His "Case of Melanosis," illustrated by many accurate and very beautiful drawings, published at a period when the pathology of that singular disease was but imperfectly understood, gained him no inconsiderable celebrity; and I am not aware that up to this time anything very material has been added towards the more complete elucidation of the phenomena of that morbid condition. My deceased friend was likewise the author of a valuable paper on subcutaneous Nævus, in which the method of treatment by the seton was vindicated, and several cases, with drawings, adduced to prove the efficacy of the plan proposed—a mode of cure which, although not originating with the writer of the essay in question, was at least more clearly and definitely brought to bear upon the treatment of this affection than had been accomplished by previous surgeons.

Mr. F. was fortunate enough to enjoy a considerable share of public patronage, an advantage which, although so far indicative of the estimation in which his professional services were held, was mainly prized for the opportunity thereby afforded him of extending the resources of his art, and maintaining that high sense of honor of which his whole medical career was one bright practical exemplification. Few practitioners, probably, have descended to the grave more sincerely lamented both by his numerous patients and his medical brethren, many of whom accompanied his remains to their final resting-place. By his former pupils he was universally esteemed, and the premature loss to them of his valuable counsel and friendship will long cause his memory to be neither "unwept nor unhonored."

MR. MEREDITH AND THE LUDLOW UNION.

We have received several numbers of the "Ten Towns' Messenger" containing a report of an investigation, held by the guardians of the Ludlow Union, relative to the conduct of Mr. Meredith in a case of alleged neglect of a pauper. The newspaper report is so extremely imperfect that we cannot venture to offer any remarks on the case. The charge brought against Mr. Meredith was not supported by a particle of evidence, and that meritorious officer was "fully acquitted of the neglect imputed to him by the Rev. Mr. Walcot."

MEDICAL REFORM.

The following memorial was forwarded, on Saturday last, to Sir James Graham, from the Manchester Council of the Newton Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association:—

*To the Right Hon. Sir James Robert Graham, Bart.,
Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the
Home Department.*

SIR,—The members of the Manchester Council of the Newton Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, understanding, from what occurred in the House of Commons on the 25th of April, that it is your intention shortly to introduce a bill for the better regulation of the medical profession, respectfully, but earnestly, request that a thorough and searching investigation be instituted into its present state, before any changes be made in the constitution of the colleges already existing, or any bill for the general regulation of the profession be introduced.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

(Signed,)

Edward Holme, M.D.; Edmd. Lyon, M.D.; J. Black, M.D.; John Marshall, M.D.; W. Jas. Wilson; James Ainsworth; Thomas Turner; Wm. Goodlad; Joseph Jerdan; John Boutflower; Robert Thorpe.

JOHN HATTON, Hon. Sec.

INDIAN HEMP.

Dr. F. J. Farre has published, in the "Medical Gazette," the following description of the apocynum cannabinum, which is employed by salesmen as a substitute for the cannabis:—

The *apocynum cannabinum* is sold in London under the name of "Indian hemp." It is a native of Canada and Virginia, and has no resemblance to the true hemp, except in possessing a tough fibrous bark, which is applicable to the same purposes in the arts. In the U. S. Pharmacopœia it is termed "Indian hemp." The official part is the root, which is powerfully emetic and cathartic; but the part which I have seen supplied as Indian hemp consists of the leaves and the follicles filled with numerous silky seeds. As the follicles are two to three inches long, and the silky seeds are abundant, they can hardly have escaped the notice of those who may have inadvertently used this article under the idea that it was the hemp from India. The true Indian hemp, or "gungat," is our common hemp, and consists of the flowering branches, two or three feet long, nearly destitute of leaves, and having the flowers and fruit (hemp seed) agglutinated together by the resinous secretion. As the most powerful antispasmodic properties have been attributed to this plant, it is important that no false conclusions should be drawn in consequence of the employment of a wrong article. I am not aware that any real Indian

hemp is at present in this country, except the supply recently brought by Dr. O'Shaughnessy, and left with Mr. Squire, of Oxford-street. We have, at present, little experience of the medicinal properties of English hemp. A hotter climate, a more intense light, and a different soil, may give to it properties which are scarcely developed in this country; but as the resinous secretion is not wanting here it appears deserving of a careful trial.

PAROCHIAL MEDICAL RELIEF.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—I have just read, in your Journal of last week, a letter on "Parochial Medical Relief," from a gentleman who signs it "A Provincial Surgeon," in which he has thought it right to attribute motives and actions to me which, it would appear, he would be thoroughly ashamed of having attributed to himself, and yet, without knowing anything about the facts of the case, he does not hesitate in declaring I have been guilty of.

I am sure he will forgive my saying, there is not one single word of truth in any one bad or doubtful motive or action he has supposed me to be guilty of, as I do his having hazarded them. If he is desirous of other information on any of the points he has alluded to, he will do me the favor to address me on the subject.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. J. GUTHRIE.

4, Berekley-street, May 10, 1843.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

Members admitted Friday, May 5, 1843.

A. G. Canton, H. Lang, S. E. R. Jones, F. Sopwith, W. L. Echlin, R. N. Rubidge, J. Blaxland, W. W. Wildey, W. B. Kellock, C. Hall, T. B. Cowherd.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.

Licentiates admitted Thursday, May 11, 1843.

Alfred Ebsworth, William Smith, Walter Haldenby, Alfred Nicholas Jones, Luke Coates Helsop, James Phillips, William Hart, John Wells Wainwright, James Artis Carruthers.

ERRATUM.

The passage at the bottom of p. 113, col. 2, of our last Number should run thus: "We cannot but declare our sincere pleasure at the fact now manifest, that the long dormant spirit of the profession, has at length, roused to action."

JOURNALS AND BOOKS FOR REVIEW TO BE FORWARDED (CARRIAGE PAID), TO THE PUBLISHER, 356, STRAND.
LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS TO DR. HENNIS GREEN, 58, MARGARET STREET,
CAVENDISH SQUARE, LONDON.

Printed by SAMUEL TAYLOR, at his Office, No. 2, George-yard, Drury-court, Strand, in the Parish of St. Mary-le-Strand; and Published by HENRY RENSHAW at his residence, No. 356, Strand.—Saturday, May 13, 1843.