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EDITED FOR THE
PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION,

BY
ROBERT J. N. STREETEN, M.D.,
SECRETARY TO THE ASSOCIATION.

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There is, I fear, too much reason to suspect that the objection has been raised for a specific purpose, and, if gentlemen will give way to such violent hostility, such exaggerated expressions of feeling as those which have been so profusely poured forth at some recent Medical Reform Meetings, they must not complain if their motives are narrowly examined.

No right-minded man, I feel assured, can have read the reports of the meetings I allude to without feelings of indignation and regret. The most able and most honourable members of the profession, men distinguished alike by talent as by integrity, have been held up to public reproach, and I cannot but allude more especially to Sir Benjamin Brodie, who, not shielded by his high position and pre-eminent merit, has been the object of bitterest abuse. I come forward boldly to inform these gentlemen that the profession generally does not concur in their sentiments, that an astounding majority of the surgeons of the present day hold Sir Benjamin Brodie in the very highest esteem, as a man whose contributions in physiology, pathology, and practice, have been of the utmost value. This opinion has been proved by the gratifying mark of esteem which we have lately had the honour of presenting to him.

By a circular, which I received a few days ago, I perceive with regret that even medical pupils and students are invited to join in this movement, they are to enrol themselves gratuitously as members of what is called a Medical Protection Assembly, and to attend meetings where they will hear their teachers denounced in language ill becoming a society of professional men. I cannot conceive anything in worse taste than this, nor anything calculated to do more harm to the rising generation of surgeons. It is a bad specimen of medical reform, and all such proceedings must tend to retard rather than accelerate the progress of any salutary change which might be desired.

I anticipate the observation which these remarks may give rise to, "You have been elected a Fellow, and so you are satisfied with the Charter," but, at the same time, I believe that such remarks will not be made by those who know me; for I can fairly assert that it has ever been the inclination of my mind to hold in high esteem men whom I regard as the light and the honour of our profession, and my earnest endeavour, by all possible means, to induce my younger medical friends and pupils to do the same. Respecting my Fellowship, I would just remark that the honour was unsought and unexpected; at the same time, being far beyond a half-century in years, having served my country for a considerable time in the army, and more especially at the ever memorable battle of Waterloo, being now surgeon to the Northamptonshire Regiment of Militia, and seventeen years surgeon to our large provincial hospital, I could feel no very particular surprise at my name being included. My first intention in writing was merely to allude to Sir Valentine Blake's mistake respecting the Charter of the College of Surgeons, but I have been gradually led on to the observations which have followed, and if they are suitable to your pages, I shall be glad if you will give them a place.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
H. TERRY, F.R.C.S.

Northampton, March 25, 1844.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND
SURGICAL JOURNAL.

Sir,

Allow me, through your valuable Journal, briefly to draw the attention of some of your literary readers to a subject much required by country practitioners, and, indeed, by the profession at large, viz., a supply of good and accurate plates on anatomy, midwifery, diseases of the skin, &c., for reference, published in a

series of numbers, at a cheap rate, followed by a compilation of practical, modern, scientific works, first professional, and then on the collateral sciences, so as to form a good professional and scientific library—a thing so coveted by many of us, yet, from the expense, seldom acquired, but which every other grade has for some time past been furnished with.

Plates and works are occasionally published on the different subjects, but at such prices that few country practitioners can purchase them, although all acknowledge the usefulness of them; and we possess no medical libraries in the country to which we can subscribe and avail ourselves of them by so doing.

A society called the "Sydenham," commenced last year, which held out prospects of fulfilling the above object; it has however, proved a failure, although amply supported by subscribers, from the mismanagement of the council wasting the substance of the society in first publishing the life of Sydenham in Latin, of which not one member in a hundred will ever cut the leaves, and then giving a second edition of the same work (knowing, I suppose, the disinclination there will be to read the Latin copy) in English, which latter alone would have sufficed.

Should the above hint induce any competent person to invent a plan, I am convinced, if it were advertised in the weekly medical publications, numbers of the profession would instantly become subscribers, and amply repay the projector, as it would tend greatly to elevate the "subordinates" in the estimation of the world, by affording them a general source of information on scientific subjects, the common topics of conversation at present, and on which the "doctor's" opinion is always asked and looked upon as an authority.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
Your obedient and humble servant,
A CONSTANT READER AND COUNTRY
PRACTITIONER.

March 28, 1844.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

It is requested that Members of the Association, whose name, address, or designation, may be defective, or incorrectly inserted in the printed list, published with the last volume of the Transactions, will immediately send the alterations which they wish to be made, as the list of members for the 12th volume is now going through the press.

ROBERT J. N. STREETEN,
SECRETARY.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The request of a Member of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association will be complied with next week.

Benevolent Fund.—The letter signed F. W. R. is received. The subject will be brought before the next anniversary meeting at Northampton.

Mr. D. Barker's note shall be attended to.

Communications have been received from Dr. Jeffreys, Mr. Dorrington, Mr. Burman, Dr. Shearman, Mr. Druitt, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Noble, Dr. Oke, Sir John Fife, Mr. O'Connor, Dr. Arnold, Mr. Morris, Dr. Davidson, and Mr. Blagden.

It is requested that all letters and communications be sent to Dr. Streeten, Foregate Street, Worcester. Parcels, and books for review, may be addressed to the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal, care of Mr. Churchill, Princes Street, Soho, London.