

agreed with us in our treatment, &c. Late that evening I found him in a dying state, gradually sinking. He was in a torpid state, from which, however, he could easily be roused, and then his intellects were clear. He had no paralysis. His death took place about ten o'clock on Saturday morning. He was perfectly composed, and took an affectionate leave of myself and others, reminding me that for thirty-five years we had lived together in an uninterrupted friendship. Twenty hours after death I made a *post-mortem* examination, in the presence of Mr. Clayton, Dr. James Johnstone, Dr. Bell Fletcher, and my son. His body, with the slightest possible exception, was in a healthy state. The blood was unusually fluid. Witness described the appearances, which presented nothing remarkable, and concluded by attributing death to the accumulated doses of the aconite depressing the nervous system.

In answer to some questions put by jurors,

Mr. Russell said that such doses would not be likely to leave traces in a *post-mortem* examination beyond a fluidity in the blood. Had deceased been a younger man, in all probability he would have recovered from the shock of the medicine. Aconite is little used, and he was not prepared to say that ten drops would produce fatal effects.

The Coroner then briefly alluded to the circumstances which had induced the family to request an inquiry into the melancholy event, an event which he, in common with the medical profession generally, most sincerely deplored. The deceased was respected and honoured in life, and his loss so calamitously brought about, would be extensively and deeply felt by more than one class of society.

The jury then gave in a verdict of "Accidental death from an overdose of aconite taken medicinally by the deceased."

BRITISH MEDICINE IN SYRIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

I am favoured with the file of the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, through my friend Dr. Hodgkin, which he says you were kind enough to supply to us at this remote quarter of the world, and for which please accept my most grateful thanks. You will be pleased to hear that my labours here have been very successful; the numbers relieved up to this date is over seven thousand, of all sects, classes, and colours. I visit the *Harems* of the most fanatical Turks and Moslems, and attend the Pasha, and all the official personages. Latterly I am consulted a good deal on the diseases of females, which, considering their natural habits of seclusion, is a great privilege, and one of the best proofs of how soon and efficiently I have overcome the prejudices of the inhabitants of one of the most fanatical cities, and the strong-hold of Moslem bigotry, in the East. The cases of insanity are now discharged cured, and the cases operated have proved successful. Our summer is set in early; thermometer at mid-day from 88° to 92°, and in the shade falling 15° and 20° at night and morning. The sickly months are July and August; sometimes the end of June and beginning of September are sickly. The country is now destroyed

by locusts, and the people always anticipate distress and disease when these make their appearance in such swarms.

With many thanks,

I am yours very truly,

JAMES B. THOMPSON, A.B., M.D.,

Chief Medical Officer.

British Hospital, Damascus,
July 9, 1845.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

The following notice of motion, to be taken into consideration at the next Anniversary, was given by Mr. Martin, at Sheffield:—

"That in future, wherever a branch of this Association is established, every candidate for admission into the Association, residing within the district of a branch, shall be received as a member through that branch. And wherever there may not be a branch of the Association, by the proposition of two members, through a member of the Council."

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted members on Monday, August 4, 1845:—J. H. Worrall; J. W. Meeson; A. Jackson; G. Browne; F. A. Kingdon; F. Hatchard; S. Ross.

Admitted Friday, August 8:—W. Wadham; F. Whitborn; J. E. Snow; H. J. G. Young; R. T. Fletcher; J. McCraith.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Licentiates on Friday, Aug. 1:—H. Bencroft, Barnstaple; E. P. Downs, Stockport; A. Henry, Kingsbridge; G. W. Bagg, Colchester; G. Andrews, Manchester; G. McHenry, Liverpool.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Remarks on Medical Reform, and on Sir James Graham's Medical Bill. By Lucius, late Censor, in a Royal College of Physicians. Second Edition. London: Whittaker and Co., 1845. 8vo. pp. 57.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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, Princess Street, Soho.