

present at the examination, and who know how to distinguish cadaveric changes from disease,—that some inflammation was existing in the abdomen, and such as must have injuriously affected the vital powers of the deceased.

5th. The verdict of the jury is reprehensible, chiefly from its not expressing, that so far as the evidence went, the death was a natural event, and that no moral or circumstantial evidence had been given to warrant a suspicion of poisoning; the Coroner should have instructed the jury that the medical evidence, if it did not enable them to specify the fatal disease, did exclude a fair presumption of any violent cause. The equivocal nature of his charge demonstrates in a manner never to be forgotten, the importance of a Medical Coroner, or of one whose knowledge of physiology and forensic medicine has been ascertained before his appointment to so responsible an office.

M.D.

Bath, September 24, 1845.

#### GENERAL MEDICAL ANNUITY FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND  
SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

Permit me, through the pages of your Journal, to report to the members of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, the success which has followed the formation of the General Medical Annuity Fund.

An unavoidable delay prevented any of the rules being sent out until yesterday week, since which copies have been forwarded to every member of the Association, as well as to ninety-five medical gentlemen who have applied for them. Our first subscription was received on Wednesday last, and on this day the Treasurer has opened an account with the banker with the sum of £54. 5s. 6d., and we have subscriptions and donations promised amounting to £37. 16s., which I expect will be paid in, in a few days, besides a balance which I have on hand, amounting to £11. 12s. 6d. This, Sir, is a state of things which cannot but prove most satisfactory, but it would be injustice to estimate our present success by the standard of money value, for the kind and generous manner in which the remittances have been made have added a value to the subscriptions high above all pecuniary consideration. There is one enquiry made almost continually by correspondents, whether the subscriptions are payable now or in June next, an enquiry which I am desirous of answering *en masse* through your Journal, by stating that it is highly desirable that all subscriptions should be paid forthwith, as the early investment of our capital will prove of great advantage to the Institution, and moreover many who do not belong to the Association will become subscribers when once they find that the society has obtained a permanent character.

As it is unreasonable to suppose that this society has started into existence with rules so perfect as to need no amendment, may I state, that Mr. Daniell, the managing director, will most gladly receive any hint which may better develop the principles upon which the fund is based for the assistance of the committee at their adjourned meeting, to be held at Northampton in January next,

The object and advantages of this institution cannot too often be brought before the attention of the public, and your readers will render the society an essential service by recommending it to the notice of the profession, for it is surprising what effects can be produced by the thus combined effort of individuals, and although the maxim has obtained that "Union is strength," the medical profession as a body, have yet practically to learn the lesson, that in all matters relating to their interest, there is a power in union which can overcome all obstacles, surmount all difficulties. Our young but rising society affords scope for the development of this principle upon a comprehensive scale, and in its operation, aid and comfort will be secured to many an aged disabled practitioner, and as to the aid afforded to widows and orphans in their affliction, it will not fail to be remembered, that better words than mine have described such services to be "pure and undefiled religion."

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JOSEPH STAINES, Secretary.

Office, Newport Pagnell, Sept. 27, 1845.

#### AFRICAN FEVER ON BOARD THE ECLAIR.

The Eclair, a Government steam sloop, which has been cruising off the coast of Africa, arrived off Portsmouth on the 29th of September, in a fearful state of distress, from some contagious fever. The disease first appeared on board in April last, at Bonavista, an island situated nearly opposite the mouth of the Senegal, though upwards of three hundred miles from the African coast. The names of fifty-six persons who have fallen victims, have already been made known, among which are Captain Estcourt, the commander, and Mr. John Maconchy, and Mr. Charles Hartman, surgeons. Many of the crew are now ill with the fever, and several deaths are stated to have taken place since her arrival.

#### SHEFFIELD MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The first meeting of the fifth Session was held on Thursday, October 2nd, at which Dr. Branson was elected President, and Messrs. Law and Skinner were re-elected Secretaries for the year.

#### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday, October 3rd, 1845:—T. O. Walker; W. H. Day; L. Vaughan; T. T. Kingdon; S. Monckton; J. L. Bailey; R. Faulkner; A. C. Copeman.

#### SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Licentiates, on Thursday, September 25th:—R. Davis, Wrekenton; J. Moore, Moreton-in-the-Marsh; G. N. Grane, London; R. Synnot, London; D. J. Williams, Cape Town.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Dr. Chambers; Mr. H. Featherstonhaugh; Dr. Blackmore; W. A. G.