

ever, from expressing our astonishment at the low opinion the Editor of the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL appears to have of the editorial position. We do not hesitate to say that no high-minded, independent man would ever suspect another of degrading himself to be the organ of any publisher, and that any one who would accuse a brother Editor of allowing a proprietor to act in the manner imputed to Mr. Churchill, must have very different ideas of the duties of the editorial office from those entertained by us. Had any such imputation been insinuated in other publications, we should have passed it over without notice or contradiction; but it is gravely published by one who affixes his name to a Journal that is regarded as the organ of an Association which was powerful and respected. Now that it has sunk to the position of a Society for the production of a weekly Journal, which it is only enabled to support by soliciting for advertisements from Mr. Churchill and other medical publishers; from the proprietors of the Iodine Spa, Stringfellow's battery, the resilient bodice; for M. Bourjeaud's Cautions against his shameless imitators; for notices of the cantharidine tissue, patent trusses, elastic stockings, old port, pale sherry, malt whiskey, pale ale, and various other matters which lead to the entry 'Bad debts' in the Annual Financial Statement of the Council, it is not for us to say how much of its power and respectability have been lost; but as it still numbers among its members men of the highest character and noble reputation, many of the oldest and most influential of whom are active in their exertions to restore the body to its former high position, we say to them, that the imputation cast upon us in their Journal is absolutely without foundation.

"Before concluding, we must say that a Journal cannot be considered as passing from its legitimate province when it comments on the proceedings or position of a public association. We find that last year £200 was voted from the funds of the Association to the Reform Committee, but that this year the Committee is 'to be thrown upon the private generosity of the profession'; that the publication of a weekly Journal has increased the expenditure of the Society until it is 'greater than at any former period', and cannot be borne unless the income be steadily increased; that the Council are obliged to express regret in announcing, that the Transactions, which have always been a striking feature in the proceedings, in all probability will not be continued, because the expenditure on the Journal is so large 'as to leave little room to hope that a surplus will be left for the publication of Transactions'; that the Society had to pay £876 from its funds for the support of the Journal for six months; that it cannot support its own Journal without the assistance of advertisements; that many influential members of the Association are very unwilling to give up the publication of the Transactions, and do not think that a 'weekly Journal, or a Journal at all, is necessary for the prosperity of the Association'; that the largest Association of our profession has departed from its original objects, and has become a sort of club, for the publication of a Journal, to which the accession of new members is attributed, and which absorbs nearly all its revenue; that this diversion of funds from their legitimate object has led to divisions in the body, and openly expressed wishes from members that their money was otherwise expended, and that those gentlemen who wished to have a Journal should pay an additional subscription for it; and, lastly, that the Editor of their own Journal has acknowledged that the Association has become 'IN OUR CHARACTER OF PUBLISHERS, A TRADING FIRM CARRYING ON AN ACCIDENTAL COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE!!' When all this is forced upon our attention, it is impossible to pass it over without comment, and we claim the right of making our comments freely, without incurring the charge of doing so from interested motives. There might at first sight appear to be some plausibility in a charge of rivalry; but a little consideration will show, that a Journal which publishes none of the lectures or hospital reports, which are the chief features of the *Medical Times and Gazette*; which is seldom used by men of great eminence as a medium for the publication of original communications; which publishes reports of societies and other medical intelligence long after they have appeared in our columns; and which only circulates among members of the Association, cannot be considered as a rival of ours. We have never regarded it in that light; and we repeat that we have a right to criticise the conduct of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association; that we do so upon purely public grounds, and with no interested motive whatever; that neither Mr. Churchill nor the other proprietors interfere, directly or indirectly, either with the Editor or with any of the gentlemen who assist him in the editorial department; and that, if any of our remarks should call for a reply, that reply should relate to the facts we adduce,

and the arguments we found on them, and should not consist of unfounded charges against either Mr. Churchill or the Editor of this Journal.

"We sincerely trust that this will be the last time we shall have to write on such a subject, as it is our earnest desire not to enter into disputes with other Journals, but to pursue, steadily and uninterruptedly, our attempts to lay before our readers rather what is important to them than interesting to ourselves, and to make this Journal the repertory of the advancing medical knowledge of the age."

It is evident from the last paragraph of this invaluable document, that our friend did not willingly, but under the constraining influence of love and duty, step aside to recommend an extinguisher being placed upon us. We therefore once more tender thanks to our affectionate gratuitous adviser; and, in doing so, we beg to assure him that he has thoroughly convinced us of our immense inferiority to him, as well as of the small repute of the contributors to the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL, in comparison with those illustrious men who now illuminate the pages of that Journal, which, as we can never forget, once conveyed weekly to the world the lofty ethics of a HEALY.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**NEW MEMBERS.** Gentlemen who wish to be proposed as members of the PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION, are requested to specify to their proposers whether they desire their membership to commence before, or at 1st January 1854. The annual subscription is due immediately on election for the year during which the election takes place, and in advance on every succeeding first of January.

**MEMBERS IN ARREARS** are particularly requested to read the official notice published last week at p. 1029, as Law XXIV is to be enforced with strictness.

**ADDRESSES OF MEMBERS.** The printing of the covers of the JOURNAL for next year is about to commence. Members who wish any alteration made in their addresses are therefore requested to make a legible communication without delay to the publisher.

**LIST OF MEMBERS.** It is not proposed to reprint this list at present; but we intend to give all the corrections of it which we have received, in an early number. Twenty members have joined the Association since the list was published on the 21st of October, so that the total number of members for 1853 is now 1046, of whom 486 have entered since the 1st January last.

**VACCINATION.** Letters again unavoidably postponed.

**MILITIA SURGEONS.** Letters in our next.

**AN OPHTHALMIC SURGEON** has not communicated his name.

**AUTOBIOGRAPHIES.** An opportunity is likely soon to occur such as E. R. desires. We cannot say more in this place, and therefore request our correspondent to communicate his name in confidence.

**ADVERTISEMENTS TOO LATE.** After our arrangements for going to press were completed, several advertisements arrived. The long advertisement of new contributors to the Medical Benevolent College will appear next week. Advertisers are particularly requested to deliver long advertisements on Tuesday. Short advertisements are in time up to six p.m. on Wednesday.

**COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE EDITOR** may be sent to the Editor's residence, Essex House, Putney, London: or to the office of the Journal. Letters requiring immediate attention and revised proofs ought invariably to be sent to Putney.