

# ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

No. C.

LONDON: FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 1, 1854.

NEW SERIES.

## NOTICE.

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS are particularly thanked for the attention which they have generally paid to the circular recently issued regarding arrears.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for the current year became due on the 1st day of January last; and subscriptions for next year will be due on January 1st, 1855. Members are requested to make their post office orders payable at the General Post Office, London. Subscriptions may be paid at the Office of the JOURNAL, 37 Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, during business hours.

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General Secretary to the Prov. Med. and Surg. Association.

21, Edwards Street, Portman Square, London.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BOOKS RECEIVED. \*An asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association:—

FLETCHER, F. D. John Hunter: his Life and Works. Introductory Lecture Session 1851-55, delivered at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary School of Medicine. Pamphlet, 8vo. Liverpool: 1854.

\*JONES, C. Handfield, M.B., and SILVERING, E. H., M.D. A Manual of Pathological Anatomy. pp. 738. London: 1854.

KIRKPATRICK, Thomas S., M.D. Construction, Organization, and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane. 8vo., pp. 80. Philadelphia: 1854.

PISCATOR. Choice and Cookery. J. Fish. 2nd edition. 12mo. pp. 291. London: 1854.

SWAN, Joseph. The Brain in Relation to the Mind. pp. 113. Lond.: 1854.

TOD, David. A Disquisition on certain Parts and Properties of the Blood. pp. 263. London: 1854.

What to Observe at the Bedside and after Death in Medical Cases. 2nd edition. pp. 156. London: 1854.

COMPLETE SETS. In compliance with the notice of the 17th ultimo, we have to thank several gentlemen for sending us copies of numbers of which the stock at the office had been exhausted. Members who got imperfect sets upon entering the Association some months ago, or on being reinstated after suspension for arrears, are requested to apply by letter for the numbers of which their sets are deficient, before Dec. 11th; after which date, should any numbers of the current year remain on hand, they will be sold in the office at the usual price to members and others who may ask for them.

EXPENSE OF THE JOURNAL. We decline to insert any more letters upon this subject. The dispute is simply one of words. The income from the JOURNAL is deducted from its expenses by Mr. Michael, and not by Sir Charles Hastings. If this be remembered, the apparent discrepancy is reconciled.

QUERIES. We have to thank 120 members for sending returns. As we expected, the suggestions in matters of detail and taste are not only contradictory, but are as various as are the minds of the individual suggesters; yet, collectively, the returns are very valuable. We never meant to shrink one iota from the inherent responsibility of the editorial office by issuing the queries. The plan, the manner, and the selection of matter for publication, the editor of a journal is of necessity alone responsible for, in a moral, a literary, and a legal sense; but still, he may be permitted to invite an expression of opinion from his colleagues. We trust, therefore, that those members who take an interest in the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL, will favour us at once with succinct and definite answers to some, or all, of the queries. The returns received before the 1st of January will be bound up and preserved for reference. The present inquiry will be held as closed at that date. We have already received hints which can be turned to good account.

LAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION. The Secretaries to the Committee for revising the laws upon the basis of a representative government, are Dr. Barclay of Leicester, and Mr. P. Martin of Reigate. We refer inquirers to these gentlemen. Vide JOURNAL, p. 870.

METEOROLOGY. There is a strong desire with many scientific members to contribute to this department; and we have been urged to increase it by another weekly page. We think it best to state now, that for valid reasons we have finally determined to decline these kind proposals, and not to give up more space to this department, so far, at least, as the stated tables are concerned. The deductions from these tables will soon form an interesting feature in the Journal.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS have been received from Mr. HARE, Dr. LINDSAY, and will be inserted.

## "HARMONY" IN THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

THE prosperity of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society is an object of importance to the whole profession. With all its imperfections, it is undoubtedly a great and useful institution; and we trust, therefore, that it may

emerge from its present controversy in a healthier and a happier state than it has recently enjoyed. It is currently averred that timid counsels have stunted the supply of its recruits, and damaged its old prestige; but, if that be true, let its leaders boldly unfurl and sternly defend the banner on which the noble objects for which it was established are inscribed, and the errors of the past will be forgotten and forgiven. Let science, truth, and honour, be the only recognised watchwords, and let "harmony" be looked on as nothing when weighed in the balance against these priceless gems. Let high principles be carried out, and then assuredly the Society will become greater, nobler, and more useful than it now is, or ever has been.

The nature of the controversy to which we refer has been fully explained in former pages of this year's volume; and the following manifesto, issued by the Council on the 15th ult., will recall, in spite of partial colouring, the principal incidents of the struggle between the majority of the Fellows and the Council.

"33, Berners Street, November 15th, 1854.

"SIR,—We are directed by the Council of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society to transmit to you the following statement.

"We have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servants,

"W. R. BASHAM,  
HOLMES COOTE, } Secretaries.

"On the 27th of June last, the President and Council of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society received a parcel, wherein were contained a number of printed papers, each endorsed with a direction to Dr. Barclay, and representing apparently the return to some circular issued by that gentleman.

"The contents of each printed paper ran as follows:—

"We, the undersigned Fellows of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, feeling dissatisfaction at the recent proceedings of the President and Council of the Society, in first acknowledging their inability to come to any decision on the resolutions of the annual meeting held on the 1st of March, in any other way than by convening a special meeting of the Fellows in order to ascertain the wishes of the majority; and, secondly, after having convened such special meeting, in not carrying out the opinion of the majority, both as it was expressed at the annual meeting, and as it was recorded in certain requisitions subsequently presented to the Council; do, hereby, without offering any opinion on the merits of the said resolutions and requisitions, protest against the course pursued by the President and Council, as unprecedented and injurious to the best interests of the Society."

"To these papers were attached the signatures of 61 out of the 338 resident, and 40 out of the 230 non-resident Fellows, of whom the Society consists. Contrary to what is usual with such communications, the parcel was not accompanied by any letter or message denoting from whom it came, or who might be able to authenticate its contents.

"The Council might fairly claim the right of leaving unnoticed a protest so irregularly made. Waving this point, however, and admitting the signatures as genuine, the Council must express their unanimous opinion that the course adopted by the promoters of this protest—the course of canvassing the Society in printed circulars, by unauthorised persons, and on *ex parte* statements—is one hostile to the constitution of the Society, and extremely dangerous to its best interests. Having regard to these interests, and to the great scientific objects for which the Society was established, the Council would earnestly deprecate the continuance or repetition of such irregular and injurious agitation.

"In reference to the present case, it appears to the Council