

hold office in any capacity under the auspices of the Royal Free Hospital. The allegiance which I owe to my profession, no less than my duty to myself, require the resignation of my Lectureships at the Medical College; and this resignation I must request you to be good enough to lay before the proprietors. I desire, however, to carry out my determination in the manner which will inflict the least inconvenience on the proprietors and on my colleague, as well as on those students who have honoured me by attendance on my lectures, and who will claim my signature to their certificates of attendance on the class of Medicine. I am consequently willing to continue my lectures on the subjects which have been allotted to me in the course now in progress, unless my colleague, Dr. Hassall, will relieve me of them; or until some other gentleman shall be appointed for the purpose.

"Believe me, dear sir, yours truly,

"To W. H. FENN, Esq.,
Registrar of the Medical College of
the Royal Free Hospital."
"EDWARD BALLARD."

THE DEATH BLOW TO MEDICAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

We are happy to announce to our readers that the system of biographical puffing, commenced by one of our contemporaries, and continued, *haud passibus æquis*, by another, has come to a premature termination; and that its death knell has been sounded by one of the most numerous and respectable assemblies of medical gentlemen ever congregated in this metropolis. Every allusion made to the autobiographical quackery was eagerly caught up, and the vigorous denunciations which it received at the hands of the principal speakers were reciprocated with enthusiastic cheering by the hundreds who thronged the spacious rooms on this occasion. Practitioners of every rank and grade, drawn together not only from London and its suburbs, but also from distant provinces of the empire, have thus recorded their unanimous opinion of the disreputable system to which we allude; and we cannot but congratulate ourselves that we were the first to direct the current of public indignation against a practice originating in pecuniary motives, and fostered by individual vanity; or tolerated from the fear of unscrupulous writers. For a considerable period we fought this battle alone; but when it became evident that victory would crown our exertions, we observed the approach of allies whose advent was wholly unexpected, and who, though bringing up the rear, were no less welcome. We are happy in particular to announce the adhesion of our contemporary, the *Medical Times*, who has condescended to borrow some of "our thunder"; and who, in a leader of last week, on the "Puff Biographical", has dealt a rather telling blow upon the expiring adversary, in language which is the counterpart of that which has often appeared in our pages.

To assert the purity of our own motives, and the correctness of our judgment in the course which we have thought it our duty to take, we always felt to be an unnecessary task. Conscious of our integrity, we have allowed the venomous shafts with which we have been assailed to rebound blunted from the shield of truth. Indeed, from the quarter in which the biographies have been carried to the most nauseous extent, we deem abuse and vituperation to be the highest honour which we can possibly receive. If we had preferred praise, we presume we might have obtained it on the same, or perhaps on cheaper terms, than many other gentlemen whose puffs and Daguerreotype portraits have amused the profession and perhaps astonished themselves, in the pages of the *Medical Circular*.

Mr. James Yearsley, who is the accredited proprietor of that journal, addressed a letter to Dr. Cormack last summer,

inviting him to sit for his portrait, and to contribute the materials for his biography. Dr. Cormack did not answer the letter. He consequently had the satisfaction of being in the first instance biographically slandered and misrepresented, and of being menaced with more biographical calumny upon the occasion of his firing the first shot at "unprofessional advertising in its most sickening, most demoralising, and most flagrant form". After the verdict of the large and influential meeting at the Hanover Square Rooms, and the pungent remarks of the various speakers who addressed the assembly, we are sincerely thankful that we have been made the subject of vituperation and not of eulogy in the pages of the *Medical Circular*. We only wish that some of our friends had sooner felt with us that

A vile encomium doubly ridiculous,
There's nothing blackens like the praise of fools.

OBITUARY NOTICE OF THE LATE EDWARD WALLIS, ESQ., OF HULL.

This lamented individual expired at Hessle, near Hull, Jan. 1st, 1854, after about a week's illness, from an attack of pneumonia, in the forty-eighth year of his age.

[A Biographical Sketch of this estimable man appeared in our first edition, p. 50.]

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

VETERINARY MEDICINES: their Actions and Uses. By FINLAY DUN, V.S. Edinburgh: 1854.

HANDBOOK OF CHEMISTRY. By F. A. ABEL and C. L. BLOXAM. London: 1854.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY. By W. DICKINSON. London: 1853.

[Notices of these works appeared in our first edition.]

PERISCOPIC REVIEW.

THICKNESS OF ARTICULAR CARTILAGE AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE.

CASE OF CHLOROMA.

TREATMENT OF INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION BY OPIUM.

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA IN CATTLE: EXPERIMENTS OF DR. WILLEMS ON INOCULATION.

PURE OIL OF BITTER ALMONDS NOT POISONOUS.

[The articles of which the above are the titles appeared in our first edition.]

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

CANCER OF VAGINA AND UTERUS. BY B. W. RICHARDSON, ESQ.

EXCISION OF PART OF THE FOOT. BY JOHN GAY, ESQ.

SALUTARY INFLUENCE OF PURULENT DISCHARGES. BY C. H. ROGERS-HARRISON, ESQ.

[Abstracts of these papers, and of the discussions which took place when they were read, appeared in our first edition.]

EDITOR'S LETTER BOX.

THE COMPULSORY VACCINATION ACT. By GEORGE BOTTOMLEY, Esq.

UNPAID MEDICAL SERVICES EXACTED BY THE STATE.

[These letters appeared in our first edition.]