

# ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

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NEW SERIES.

## PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS:—OFFICIAL NOTICE.

Gentlemen who have not paid their Subscriptions, are respectfully called upon to remit them forthwith to the Treasurer of the Association, SIR CHARLES HASTINGS, Worcester: to the General Secretary; or to the Local Secretaries.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR BECAME DUE ON THE 1ST OF JANUARY, by all who did not resign, or otherwise cease to be Members before that day.

N.B.—THIS PART OF RULE XXIV WILL BE STRICTLY CARRIED OUT.

JAMES P. SHEPPARD,

Secretary to the Association.

Worcester, January 28th, 1854.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY. DR. MURPHY has resigned the Fellowship of this Society, so that the steps proposed to secure him a seat in the Council are needless. THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS takes place on March 1st: and the meeting is likely to be more than usually interesting. On the 14th of March, Dr. RANSOM is to be again subjected to the ordeal of a ballot. A strong muster of liberal Fellows is generally talked of.

MEDICAL REFORM BILL. For information, apply to G. W. Hastings, Esq., 4, Paper Buildings, Temple. Mr. Hastings is Secretary to the Committee who prepared the Bill.

## STATE MEDICINE IN PARIS.

It is well known that the Emperor LOUIS NAPOLEON paid much attention, during his exile in this country, to the working of British institutions. The actual business of our vestries and boards of guardians, as well as the arrangements and management of model lodging-houses, baths and wash-houses, and other older designs for improving the health and comfort of the poor, it is said, were the special objects of his careful attention. The effect of his English experience was seen on his advent to power. One of his first acts was to send a commission to this country to investigate the new baths and wash-houses, and to construct similar buildings, as well as model lodging-houses, in Paris. He has lately followed our plan of giving medical relief to the poor at their own houses, adapting it to the French system. Until lately the only resource of the necessitous poor, when ill, has been to be admitted into a hospital. There were no places similar to our dispensaries or unions, by which the poor without resources could be attended, when ill, at their own houses, and this deficiency he has supplied according to a plan of which we gave an account in the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL for 1853, p. 1143, and which we again briefly refer to for the information of those members who have not had an opportunity of seeing the numbers of last year. A board is formed, called the *Bureau de bienfaisance*, and a staff of 150 medical officers appointed, to be divided

amongst the twelve municipal divisions (*arrondissements*) of Paris. A house is appointed, like our dispensaries, in in each district, where the out-patients are seen, and where the medical officer regularly attends to those who do not require to be visited at home. All the poor who ask for attendance have to register their names at the office. An inspector is to visit those who are attended at their homes once a-week, who is furnished with a form to be filled in with questions relating to the attention paid by the medical man to the patient. A committee, consisting of the president, secretary, treasurer, inspector, and the medical officer, meet every week to examine the visiting returns of the inspector, to investigate every particular connected with the service of the sick, and to provide linen, food, and other things necessary. The plan is carried out by the municipal council of each *arrondissement*. The salaries of the medical officers vary from 1,000f. to 600f. The plan was generally adopted on the 1st of January.

We have had ample experience in this country of the advantages to the poor of medical aid, when sick, at the public expense, and whatever defects there may be in the medical arrangements under our poor-law and dispensaries, they are still the most magnificent and munificent provision of a great country for her sick poor which the world has ever seen. We doubt not that when the French carry out the same principle, they will do it effectually, bringing to it that spirit of order and system which belongs to their character; and we trust they will ensure the success by a fair and just remuneration of the actual workers—the medical officers.

No one can now visit Paris, after an interval of several years, without being struck with its sanitary improvements. The foot pavements to every street, the excellent pavements of the streets, the streams of water regularly turned on the gutters, the complete system of scavenging, and the large openings and new streets cut through the densest quarters, are changes which must be very useful in a sanitary point of view. The streets are clean and sweet, instead of the reverse. The authorities have done much, but there are still two deficiencies. What is needful to make Paris healthy is a supply of water at the tops of the houses, and a complete system of sewerage. No one who visits Paris need be told of the offensive smell, even in the best hotels. The reason is, that there are water-closets without water; that is to say, pans with pipes, conveying the excretion into some moveable tub; and, although this may be regularly emptied, yet the smell from the foul unwashed pipe is loathsome, and must be the cause of disease. We would strongly direct the attention of the medical officers of the French hospitals to this nuisance, which exists even in their own wards. Some of the wards of the *Hôtel Dieu* are most offensive to an English nose, from the foul water-closets; and in such the mortality must be high. If the present Emperor, who has the power, will cause all the houses of Paris to be supplied with water, and with efficient drains, he will not only employ the workmen, but will confer on