

ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

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LONDON: FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 10, 1854.

NEW SERIES.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE LATE MR. SHEPPARD—A biographical sketch from the pen of Sir C. Hastings in our next.

LETTERS, ETC., FOR THE EDITOR, may be addressed as formerly, or to 21, EDWARDS STREET, PORTMAN SQUARE, where members may see the Editor, on *Wednesdays, between 12 and 1 o'clock.*

ANNIVERSARY MEETING AT MANCHESTER: OFFICIAL NOTICE.

AT a meeting of the Executive Committee for conducting the ensuing Anniversary Meeting, held March 7th, 1854, W. J. WILSON, Esq., in the Chair, it was unanimously resolved—

“That the ensuing Anniversary Meeting of the PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION be held at Manchester, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 12th, 13th, and 14th of September.

JOHN HATTON, *Hon. Sec. to the Committee.*

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

WE are authorised to state that our next week's impression will contain an official notice of a SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION to be held in London on or about the 25th inst. The object of the proposed meeting is to afford to the members of the Association an opportunity of considering a report from the Reform Committee and of determining upon proceedings which it may be necessary to adopt regarding the bill of the Association.

We have not the slightest doubt that if the meeting be well attended, and if it exhibit as much of the spirit of conciliation as has hitherto characterised the discussions of the Association regarding Reform, a *great bill* may be sent into the House of Commons with the approval of many of the corporations and with the sanction of nine-tenths of the whole profession. In any case, the Reform Committee discharge themselves of a heavy responsibility by calling a special meeting of their constituents.

MR. BRADY'S REGISTRATION BILL.

WE have been informed on good authority that Mr. Brady's Medical Registration Bill has been in the mean time withdrawn, so that it may be reintroduced to the House of Commons in a very much altered form. This to a certain extent is satisfactory; but we can hardly see how anything short of an entirely new Bill can be a safe Registration Bill; and we are strongly of opinion that it would not be wise for the profession to abandon the struggle for a comprehensive measure of Medical Reform, in the hope that

by so doing an improved edition of Mr. Brady's Bill may be thereby secured as “an instalment” during the present session. It must also be remembered, that as the Bill was once already withdrawn and reintroduced in an altered shape, the same process may be again and again repeated. The Bill as it at present stands—whatever its authors may have intended—practically reenacts vexatious restrictions and penal laws which have happily become obsolete.

We hope that our readers will examine the Bill for themselves; and then if they agree with us in this opinion, lose no time in representing to Lord Palmerston its obnoxious character, and in forwarding petitions against it to the House of Commons. A good system of Registration may be well worth fighting for, should we be defeated in carrying a larger measure; but for the profession at the present juncture to abandon without a struggle its full claim of rights for a system of registration still *in nubibus*, would assuredly be premature, if not indeed very reckless.

THE LONDON HOSPITAL: ELECTION.

THE active canvass which has been going on for some weeks past for the office of Assistant-Physician to the London Hospital, terminated, on Wednesday last, in the election of DR. ANDREW CLARK, by a majority of 38. The following was the state of the poll:—

CLARK.			RAMSKILL.		
Votes	.	248	Votes	.	243
Proxies	.	106	Proxies	.	73
Total . . . 354			Total . . . 316		

Now, in the result of this contest, without in the least degree entering into the merits of the different candidates, we see high cause of congratulation, inasmuch as we have before us an evidence that a body medico-politic may be unanimous, and consequently successful; for the great fact is, that the medical staff of the London Hospital, which does not, as a rule, interfere with elections, did in this case interpose the barrier of its influence, and doubtlessly secured the success of the man considered to be the most eligible.

Another question in relation to this matter now arises; but, from its extensive and important bearings, we cannot now enter fully upon it, and therefore we put our ideas in a categorical form. Why are the candidates for the medical and surgical appointments to most of our large hospitals subjected to an always expensive, toilsome, and very often an unpleasant canvass, among men many of whom know little of, and care less for, medical acquirements? The Chaplain of the London Hospital is appointed by the House Committee—to save the cloth from the degradation of a personal canvass. Such was the case, at least, we understand, at the last appointment of Chaplain to the London Hospital. Why should some similar arrangement not be made with the medical and surgical officers? Surely, by the aid of the medical staff, the House Committee could