

ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

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NEW SERIES.

NOTICE.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION.

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.

JOHN ROSE CORMACK,
General Secretary to the Provincial Medical and
Surgical Association.

21, Edwards Street, Portman Square, London,
20th October, 1854.

CHOLERA: WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTIC SYMPTOMS OF THE EPIDEMIC, AND OF OTHER DISEASES NOW PREVAILING?

On August 25th, this question was placed at the head of a short leading article in the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL. It is gratifying to find that the subject has engaged attention; and that several enlightened observers have contributed a share of information towards the solution of this important problem. The concise yet accurate description of the "functional disorders of the alimentary canal", given by Dr. BABINGTON in the JOURNAL of October 6th, and the communications which have been thereby elicited, are valuable contributions towards satisfying a requirement which was thus specified in the leading article to which we have referred:—

"We submit that it is only by all cases of disease being reported at present, and classified after the epidemic has subsided, that we can hope to have data sufficiently broad upon which to base rational opinions."

A great error, and one which has involved the facts bearing on the pathology and treatment of epidemic diseases in almost inextricable confusion, is that, on many occasions, writers on these diseases have assumed as the basis of their description the character which the malady has presented at *some particular period*. One author draws his deductions from cases recorded early in the course of the epidemic, while it has been as yet imperfectly developed; another will allow nothing less than the disease in its most intense stage to form the subject of his remarks; while a third, belonging to a more philosophical, but, unfortunately for medical science, a more rare class of observers, describes the disease in its rise, at its acme, and during its decline, and under all the variations produced in it by climate, constitution, and all the numerous influences which are capable of modifying the appearances which it presents. In this way, three—or at least two—different descriptions of one and the same epidemic have been presented; and the disease, at its commencement, has been made to appear entirely distinct from the same disease at its greatest intensity. And neither of these descriptions, except such as may be furnished by the third class of observers, can probably be regarded as faithful to history. And not only has an individual epidemic been differently described, but modifica-

tions in disease, produced by climate or other causes, are liable to be considered as constituting an entirely distinct affection. Differences in degree have been registered as differences in kind; and thus there has been opposed to the progress of sound medical science a mass of impediments, which, like most other nuisances, will be less easily removed than they have been formed.

We have not to look far before we discover instances of the manner in which accidental varieties may be magnified into distinct genera. The fault is not peculiar to medicine: every student of zoology knows that many times two, three, or even more genera have been formed out of one and the same animal, in different stages of its development. And this is precisely analogous to what has been done by nosologists in regard to disease.

Scarlatina presents itself as a prominent example. Every member of the profession has read of *scarlatina simplex*, *scarlatina maligna*, and *scarlatina anginosa*, as if each was a disease *sui generis*; and yet we find all shades of the disease, from the most severe *scarlatina maligna et anginosa* to a simple transient scarlatinal sore-throat, occurring during the same epidemic, and even at the same moment in the same house. Here we have what are described as different varieties of a disease occurring at the same time, and evidently produced by the same morbid poison.

Then, again, tropical fevers, in their commencement and decline, are observed to present a periodical, and at their acme a continued type—a difference sufficient to cause a single epidemic to be formed into two distinct varieties, according to the enlightened nosology which has been prevalent.

Returning to the immediate subject of our remarks, we find a writer in the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL of November 11th, 1853, thus exposing the erroneous method which has been followed in the investigation of cholera:—

"The majority of authors who have treated of cholera have drawn their descriptions too exclusively from the more appalling forms of the disease, and have too generally spoken of the diarrhoea at the beginning and at the decline of an outbreak as if it were a malady different in kind as well as in degree. . . . The phenomena of aggravated cases, and the appearances found in the bodies of those who have died, have unfortunately formed the chief materials out of which theories have been constructed; and the natural history of the disease, the true key to the mystery, has been nearly neglected."

This is the error which has been generally committed; while other observers have included in their descriptions of cholera various degrees of diarrhoea. In fact, perhaps scarcely any two men will agree in their answer to the question—What is cholera?

That useful institution the East Surrey Cholera Society has fully recognised this difficulty. One of the questions prepared by the Committee on Treatment (*vide ASSOCIATION JOURNAL*, August 25), is the following:

"To secure uniformity of data, will you give, briefly but distinctly, your definition of cholera?"

Perhaps nothing could more plainly show the unsatisfactory character of the notions which prevail regarding the

DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM IN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL. On Tuesday, October 17th, an inquest was held by Mr. Wallby on the body of George Sandys, aged 28. The deceased had died in University College Hospital, while under the influence of chloroform, which had been administered under the direction of Mr. Erichsen, preparatory to puncturing the bladder for the relief of retention of urine consequent on stricture. From a drachm and a half to two drachms were administered on lint; but, before the actual commencement of the operation, the patient's breathing became stertorous, and his face flushed; and he died, in spite of attempts to produce artificial respiration, the administration of stimulants, etc. Mr. Erichsen, who made a *post mortem* examination, believed death to have been caused by paralysis of the heart, owing to fatty degeneration, and immediately produced by chloroform. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

THE LATE DR. ROUPELL. The committee of the Holloway and North Islington Dispensary held a meeting on Monday evening, October 9th (S. Lewis, Esq., in the chair), at the Dispensary house of the institution, when the following resolution, in connexion with the late lamented gentleman, was passed unanimously:—"Resolved, That this meeting desires to express its deep sense of the loss the charity has sustained by the lamented death of its senior consulting-physician, Dr. Roupell. He took a warm interest in the affairs of the institution, to which he was a liberal contributor; and when the epidemic prevailed in 1849, he suggested the formation of a convalescent fund for supplying patients recovering from sickness with wine and nourishing food, which has since proved a great boon to the suffering poor. His eminent talents, agreeable manners, and affectionate disposition, were highly appreciated by the several members of the medical staff, who, with the committee and the governors at large, sincerely lament his loss."

KNIGHTHOOD OF DR. HENRY COOPER, OF HULL. At the visit of the Queen to Hull on the 14th instant, Her Majesty was pleased to confer the honour of knighthood on the Mayor of that town, Dr. (now Sir) Henry Cooper, Physician to the Hull General Dispensary, and a member of the Council of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS:—PASS LIST. At the usual Quarterly Meeting of the Comitia Majora, held on Saturday, September 30th, the following gentlemen, having passed the necessary examinations for the Diploma, were admitted members of the College:—Dr. Griffith, Wellington Street; Dr. Hawksley, George Street, Hanover Square; Dr. Bowker, New South Wales; Dr. Martyn, Bristol; and Dr. Cockle, Guildford Street.

Also, Dr. Jones, Heidelberg, and Dr. Gilmour, Liverpool, were admitted Extra Licentiates.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS:—PASS LIST. Licentiates in Midwifery admitted at a meeting of the Board of Examiners on October 3rd:—Edwin Bennett, Dorchester, diploma of membership dated February 27th, 1852; John Jones, Duffryn, Merionethshire, August 5th, 1851; Edward Hooper May, Tottenham, April 21st, 1854; Edward Austen Steddy, Chatham, April 3rd, 1854; Henry John Thorp, Maldon, Essex, June 23rd, 1854; Ambrose Blithe Vise, Holbeach, Lincolnshire, April 21st, 1854.

FELLOWS admitted at the last meeting of the Council:—Edward Westall, Croydon, diploma of membership dated March 4th, 1831; Henry Coles, Hammersmith, June 17th, 1828; Stephen Franklin Bridge, Wellington, Somerset, December 18th, 1812; Robert Shipman, Grantham, July 1st, 1839; John Tossill Veitch, Jermyn Street, July 5th, 1839; and Henry Scott, Adelaide, Australia, May 25th, 1832.

The Rev. Dr. Francis T. McDougall, Bishop of Borneo, was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons at a recent meeting of the Council. He was admitted as a member of the College on June 3rd, 1839.

MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners on Friday, October 6th:—Henry Walter Bellew, H.E.I.C.S., Bengal; Edward Hare Bromley, Beaufort Iron Works, Monmouthshire; Augustus Meyers Corbett, Kingston, Canada West; John Croft, Lower Clapton; Henry Dodd, Durham; Alexander Grant, Aberdeen; Sydney Poole Lowdell, Royal Mail Service; Henry Marshall, Edinburgh; William Newman, Bradfield, Sheffield.

Friday, October 13th:—James Fitzjames West, Kensington; James Eli Lawrence, East India Road, Poplar; Henry H. Vernon, Cambridge; Christopher Foy, Calcutta; Henry Edwards, Solihull, Warwick.

APOTHECARIES' HALL:—PASS LIST. Thursday, September 14th:—Edward Thomas Hall; George Hazel, Crawley Street, St. Pancras; James Eli Lawrence, East India Road, Poplar; Charles Buckworth Herne Soame, Elston, near Bedford.

Thursday, September 28th, 1854:—Thomas Corne Miller, Bedworth; Peter O'Connell, Waterford, Ireland; James Thomas Paul, Southsea, Hants; Thomas Newland Trew, West Indies.

Thursday, October 5th:—Henry Walter Bellew, H.E.I.C. Service, Bengal; Joseph Dickson, Whitehaven; Ambrose Blithe Vise, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.

APPOINTMENTS.

[*An asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

*LAURENCE, John Zachariah, Esq., elected Surgeon to the Northern and the Farringdon Dispensaries.

OBITUARY.

[*An asterisk is prefixed to the names of those who at the time of their decease were Members of the Association.]

LEWIS, Theophilus Caractacus, M.D., Surgeon to the Tower Hamlets Militia, at North Side, Bethnal Green, aged 35, on September 19.

MITCHELL, John, M.D., Staff Surgeon in Lord Lucan's Cavalry division, on board H.M. steamship *Sidon*, off the Alma river, on September 23.

MUIR, William, Esq., Surgeon, at Glasgow, on September 29.

ROWLAND, Richard, M.D., of Woburn Place, Russell Square, at Brighton, on October 4.

SHAW, Courtland S., M.D., Magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Pembroke, at Cheltenham, aged 42, on October 3.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[*An asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

BALLARD, Edward, M.D. PAIN AFTER FOOD, AND ITS TREATMENT. 8vo. pp. 136. London: 1854.

BEASLEY, Henry. THE BOOK OF PRESCRIPTIONS. pp. 543. London: 1854.

CARPENTER, William B., M.D., F.R.S. PRINCIPLES OF COMPARATIVE PHYSIOLOGY. Fourth edition. pp. 770. London: 1854.

*CHILDS, G. Borlase, Esq. A FEW PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS ON INJURIES INCIDENTAL TO WARFARE. pp. 48. London: 1854.

DAVIES, Herbert, M.D. LECTURES ON THE PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS OF THE DISEASES OF THE LUNGS AND HEART. Second edition, revised and enlarged. pp. 304. London: 1854.

GAMGEE, Joseph S. THE ADVANTAGES OF THE STARCHED APPARATUS IN THE TREATMENT OF FRACTURES AND DISEASES OF JOINTS. pp. 89. London: 1853.

GAMGEE, J. S. OSSERVAZIONI SUL REGIME DIETETICO DEI MALATI CHIRURGICI. pp. 13. Firenze: 1854.

GAS POISONS, AND THEIR REMEDY. [Reprinted from the *Mining Journal*, 1854.] Pamphlet, pp. 24. London: 1854.

NEVINS, J. B., M.D. TRANSLATION OF THE NEW LONDON PHARMACOPEIA. Second edition. London: 1854.

SKEY, Frederick C., F.R.S. THE RELATIVE MERIT OF THE TWO OPERATIONS FOR STONE. pp. 55. London: 1854.

STANHOPE, Earl. A DISCOURSE ON MEDICAL BOTANY. pp. 47. London: 1854.

TANNER, T. H., M.D. MEDICAL FORMULE. pp. 63. London: 1854.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. Volume Fifth. pp. 371. London: 1854.

WARD, Nathaniel. A MEMOIR OF STRANGULATED HERNIA. London: 1854.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS by Dr. HODGKIN and Dr. LINDSAY are in type, and will appear as speedily as possible.

LETTERS ON CHOLERA have been received in great numbers. We regret that want of space has obliged us to print only a selection from them.

LETTERS containing aspersions on individuals and offensive misrepresentations are not suited to this Journal.

THOUSAND POUNDS FUND FOR JOURNAL PURPOSES. A list of subscribers will be published next week, after which, circulars will be issued.

LETTERS, ETC., FOR THE EDITOR AND SECRETARY, may be addressed to 21, EDWARDS STREET, PORTMAN SQUARE.