

# ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

No. XCV.

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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 Prov. Med. and Surg. Association.

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

## THE FUND OF £1000 FOR JOURNAL PURPOSES: FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

WITH feelings of no ordinary satisfaction, we place before the members of the ASSOCIATION the first list of subscriptions to the fund of £1000 for Journal purposes. This day fortnight the second list will appear. Contributions may either be forwarded at once, or along with the annual subscriptions for 1855 in January: but it is important that the amount of each member's donation should now be known.

The object of the Fund has already been stated. In consequence of the majority of members being constantly in arrear with their subscriptions, it has once or twice happened that private individuals have had to make temporary advances to the Journal management. This, we admit, is not likely to be again required; but there is still, as an incubus upon us, an adoption of the credit in place of the ready money system, which is a great disadvantage. It is obviously of the highest importance to accomplish, as quickly as possible, two radical reforms in our finance: the first is, to enforce the law without fear or favour as regards the payment of subscriptions; and the second is, to adopt the ready money system of business in conducting the Journal. The first reform, after so long a period of laxity, cannot without unkindness be abruptly carried out; nor, indeed, can it be fully accomplished under the present laws. Much, however, has already been effected in this direction, without legal compulsion, by members feeling that tardy and irregular payments were prejudicial to the reputation of the ASSOCIATION as a professional body, and a great impediment to the full development of the Journal as its organ. The second reform, which is equally vital, would be very simple if all the outstanding subscriptions—still nearly £1000—were at once paid up: but, as that cannot be hoped for, the Reserve Fund is required for our temporary use. In the Committee of the Reserve Fund, the Journal will have a creditor who exacts no interest for his loan, and who asks no bond for repayment. The advantage of a loan without any of its usual inconveniences will thus be fully realised.

From the subjoined list, it will be seen that £151:6:6 has been subscribed by 102 members. This is encouraging; but the letters which have accompanied the donations are

even more valuable than the money gifts, for they breathe from all parts of the kingdom a spirit of mutual goodwill and generosity, combined with a staunch determination which is abundantly sufficient to surmount all obstacles, defeat all hostile tactics, and hand down the PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION to unborn generations as a great and glorious National Institution.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE JOURNAL RESERVE FUND.

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undoubtedly caused by the want of all precaution in procuring and purifying the water for drinking. It is not the province of any scientific man to attend to the subject; the soldier is allowed to drink any water that comes in his way; he thus gets dysentery, fever, cholera, or any communicable disease which there may be in the country through which he passes, and it spreads to a fearful extent.

### THE EASTERN DISPENSARY OF BATH AND ITS MEDICAL OFFICERS.

AT p. 981 will be found a pretty full report of a most painful discussion regarding the conduct of the six medical officers of the Eastern Dispensary of Bath. On the one side stands alone Dr. Tunstall,—and on the other are ranged the five gentlemen who were recently his colleagues. The committee of the Dispensary judged that it was expedient to get rid of Dr. Tunstall, and to retain the other five gentlemen: the general meeting of contributors, when called upon to confirm a resolution of the committee to that effect, rejected it by a majority of thirteen to eleven, after a two hours' discussion. The occurrence of such unseemly public discussions upon questions of medical ethics among the fellow officers of public charities, might be prevented were it established as a fundamental rule in such institutions, that in all professional disputes among members of the staff the voice of the majority was to be decisive. Sydney Smith said that it was "a pity that the world was not ruled by minorities, as minorities were invariably in the right": but so long as the majorities and not the minorities of the Houses of Parliament are permitted to make the laws of this country, it will be found expedient to give majorities the precedence over minorities in all matters of law and authority.

### CHRISTIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

IN a previous number (p. 930), we copied from an Edinburgh publication a short account of a new Society which has been formed in London under the auspices of some of the medical teachers of the metropolitan and provincial schools. In pursuance of the objects which these gentlemen have in view, Mr. GRAINGER, F.R.S., a member of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, has been selected to deliver an address to the medical students of London in the [lower] Exeter Hall, on Friday, November 10th, at 8 p.m. It is to be hoped that this meeting will be numerously attended, not only by students, but by such of their professional seniors as are disposed to countenance this effort to raise the moral and religious character of the rising generation of medical practitioners.

To this noble enterprise we wish all possible success. Believing as we do most sincerely (and as we formerly remarked), that medical science has advanced, and is advancing, by rapid strides; feeling as we do that the medical profession is inferior to no other,—we are anxious that all its professors—whether they minister in peace or on gory battle-fields, in the palaces of kings or in the cabins of the poor—should be deeply impressed with the dignity, the sacredness, and the awful responsibility of their high calling. Were we each as individuals to correctly realise our position, the profession as a whole would at once be elevated in utility and public estimation far above that point to which

the most disinterested and enlightened legislation could raise it. As has been truly and eloquently written by Dr. George Wilson, in his discourse on the "Sacredness of Medicine": "The sphere of other men's labours is bounded by time. The great paintings, and sculptures, and temples of this world; its fleets and its arsenals, its handiworks of all kinds, will be left behind on the shore of this dead earth, and be found not in the world to come. But to our calling belongs this strange peculiarity, that the objects of our art are as immortal as ourselves. They will go before us, or accompany us, or follow us, and be all forthcoming at the great day. We shall meet our patients again, and have to answer to God in their hearing for all that we did to them whilst we were together upon earth."

### HOW ARE WE TO HAVE ACCURATE HISTORIES OF EPIDEMICS?

AT p. 978 we publish a letter from an eminent epidemiologist, which we hope will receive the favourable attention which it so peculiarly merits. An immense amount of valuable data, for the illustration of the natural history of epidemic disease, might be obtained by the associated action of our members; and indeed, as Dr. MILROY remarks, "if only a hundred members of the Association, in different parts of the country where the present epidemic has been felt, would take the trouble to communicate to the JOURNAL accurately ascertained information on a few points, some most interesting information would be obtained." The question is constantly addressed to us, Why does the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL not do for epidemiology that which it is so well doing for meteorology? Knowing that it is only by associated action and weekly publication that great things can be done for epidemiology, we are very desirous to make the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL the permanent record and the circulating medium of the valuable observations on the prevalent type of epidemic and other diseases which are daily made, and too often lost sight of, by a large majority of our body. A great amount of valuable information on cholera has been already published in this Journal: but what is wanted is the establishment of a permanent weekly report on points specially bearing upon epidemics, in fact, a weekly epidemiological page. We shall be glad to receive suggestions for the construction of an epidemiological page from those who are interested in seeing such a project usefully carried out.

We need hardly add that answers to Dr. Milroy's queries will be valuable and acceptable contributions to this Journal. We know the *esprit de corps* is strong among us, and that hundreds experience with Mr. HINTON [p. 953] "that there is a great charm, something peculiarly pleasant in the feeling that the writer, though unknown possibly to many of us personally, is yet 'a friend and a brother', and therefore a person to whom we should not hesitate to apply for information."

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

EDITOR'S LETTER BOX. Gentlemen are requested to write with the greatest possible succinctness. We have not room for a tenth part of the matter sent for publication in the Letter Box.

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