

ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

No. XCVII.

LONDON: FRIDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 10, 1854.

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 Proc. Med. and Surg. Association.

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

THE JOURNAL: LET US TAKE COUNSEL TOGETHER.

WHEN proposals are made with a view to alter that which is generally approved, and which by its fruits is found to be good, a strong spirit of conservatism is invariably excited. Within rational limits, this conservatism is enlightened prudence, because a preference for the lessons of experience over the crude fancies of inexperience is unimpeachable wisdom. But a dislike to change is carried too far, and becomes nothing better than intolerance, when it ignores opposition, resists friendly suggestions for improvement, and refuses to see an alteration in surrounding circumstances. In conducting the JOURNAL of the ASSOCIATION, therefore, we are very anxious to avoid the two extremes to which we have adverted, and to act upon any practicable suggestion which we may receive, provided it is in accordance with the requirements of the majority of our colleagues. We propose often to take counsel with those for whom it is our honour and our high privilege to act; and such a course seems at the present time to be peculiarly seasonable. Various opinions have been lately expressed, both publicly and privately, regarding modifications and extensions in the present plan of the JOURNAL; and some have not been slow to say that we have erred in not carrying new schemes into effect. But, before adopting any of them, we think it right to solicit every member of the ASSOCIATION to aid us with his advice.

As an easy and economical method of obtaining opinions capable of comparison and analysis, a schedule of queries will be circulated in the next number of the JOURNAL. It can be removed (without injury to the work), and returned by post, when the answers have been filled in.

Perfect candour is what we earnestly ask. Each honest response to this appeal will tend to assist us in the discharge of duties which, under the most favourable circumstances, are difficult, and which cannot be regarded as performed aright, unless they are performed in accordance with the general voice of the ASSOCIATION. Early answers—within a month, if possible—will be specially useful.

The substance of the proposed queries is subjoined.

1. State generally your opinion of the JOURNAL as at present conducted.

2. State the manner in which you think the JOURNAL may be improved; and classify your remarks under the following heads. Be particular in specifying the departments which you think may be omitted or curtailed, especially if you name any department which you desire to see extended.

HEADS OF REMARKS.

- A. LEADING ARTICLES.
- B. ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.
- C. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.
- D. PERISCOPEIC REVIEW.
- E. REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.
- F. ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.
- G. EDITOR'S LETTER BOX.
- H. NEWS AND TOPICS OF THE DAY.
- I. MEDICO-METEOROLOGY.

RESERVE FUND OF £1,000 FOR JOURNAL PURPOSES: SECOND LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

SUBSCRIPTIONS come in steadily from day to day. Since the 27th October, the date of the first list, £45 : 7 : 6 has been subscribed by forty members, making the total amount to this date £196 : 14. The third list of subscriptions will appear in the JOURNAL of this day fortnight.

SECOND LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Subscriptions in the First List	£151	6	6
Allison, W. J., Esq., East Retford	1	1	0
Bell, William, M.D., London	1	1	0
Brown, J. D., Esq., Haverfordwest	0	10	6
Black, Cornelius, M.D., Chesterfield	1	1	0
Bullar, Joseph, M.D., Southampton	1	1	0
Bullar, William, M.D., Southampton	1	1	0
Carpenter, A., Esq., Croydon	0	10	0
Cogswell, Charles, M.D., London	1	1	0
Collins, Frederick, M.D., Wanstead, Essex	1	1	0
Congdon, W. D., Esq., Marazion, Cornwall	0	5	0
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Forbes, Sir John, M.D., London	5	5	0
Harrington, I., Esq., Reading	0	10	6
Hodgkin, Thomas, M.D., London	2	2	0
Laurence, J. Z., Esq., London	1	1	0
Littlejohn, H. D., M.D., Edinburgh	0	10	6
Murphy, Edward William, M.D., London	1	1	0
Smith, Thomas, M.D., Cheltenham	1	1	0
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Shapter, T., M.D., Exeter	1	1	0
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Square, W. J., Esq., Plymouth	1	1	0
Steele, A. B., Esq., Liverpool	0	10	6
Thompson, Walter, Esq., Binfield, Wokingham	0	5	0
Thursfield, Richard, Esq., Broseley, Shropshire	1	1	0
Toynbee, Joseph, Esq., London	1	1	0
Turner, R., M.D., Keith, Banffshire	0	10	6
Wales, T. G., Esq., Downham Market	1	1	0
Walford, T. L., Esq., Reading	0	10	6
Watson, Eben, M.D., Glasgow	1	1	0
Webster, George, M.D., Dulwich	1	1	0
Wells, Edward, M.D., Reading	0	10	6
Williams, T., M.D., Swansea	2	2	0
Windsor, John, Esq., Manchester	1	1	0
Woodhouse, R., M.D., Reading	0	10	6
Workman, John W., Esq., Reading	0	10	6

TOTAL.....£196 14 0

again, one half-dozen of cigar-smoking, casino-dancing, insolvent medical students, would do more good than a hundred women with heads full of Tractarian discipline and the doctrines of Doctor Pusey. We are decidedly opposed to the ways of those medical students at home; we dislike those ways; we have an abhorrence of 'latch-keys', and we think casinos, of which they are prime supporters, more dangerous to the morals of society than any public-house kept open for any number of hours on the Sabbath: but we know the English heart—and the Irish, Scotch, and Welsh heart too—and we say, again, that a few of the wildest harem-scarem fellows, that walk the hospitals, would do the poor creatures at Scutari more good than any host of litany-chaunting, genuflecting women, that Puseydom could send forth."

So much for the opinion of the editor of the *News of the World*. Let us now turn from opinions to facts, and see if the opinions have any reliable evidence to support them.

An extract from a correspondent of the *Times*, written at Katcha on October 21st, and published on November 8th, runs as follows. It is painful to transcribe it.

"I cannot conclude my letter without alluding to another just cause of complaint, the effects of which are most terribly felt at the present moment. I mean, the want of assistant-surgeons. You remember, of course, their representations to the Admiralty, that they ought to be treated as officers, and mess in the ward-room; for circumstances have changed, and assistant-surgeons, who were formerly chosen from apothecaries' boys, are now men who have passed the medical colleges, and received the education of gentlemen. The Admiralty was shocked at their request: the consequence is that there are not half a dozen assistant-surgeons in the fleet of the Black Sea. After the action the other day, they were borrowed from one ship by the other, and of course the wounded had to wait hours and hours without having their wounds dressed. The next day, by order of the admiral, all wounded and sick were transported on board the *Vulcan*, in order to go to Therapia. They remained there for more than another day without anybody taking care of them, so that several of the men actually got no food for more than twenty-four hours. And all this on account of the prejudice of a few old gentlemen!"

The questions still remain:—After these disclosures, will the system which the Admiralty has as yet pursued towards medical men be allowed to continue? and will Admiral Dundas, against whom a great and special sin lies in this matter, be permitted to continue in his dogged insolence towards men equally educated with himself, and, if appearances do not quite go for nought, men at least as competent for the discharge of their sacred duties as he is for his? In answer, one thing is certain: the people of this great nation are now willing to support the profession; and, if Captain Boldero will but once more raise his voice in St. Stephen's, his cause and ours has a better chance of being successful than it ever had before.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

In the *ASSOCIATION JOURNAL* for September 15, we reprinted the new regulations for the admission of candidates for the appointment of assistant-surgeon in the service of the East India Company. Since the above date, the following ap-

pendix has been added, to meet the cases of gentlemen who have already commenced practice, and who cannot without great trouble obtain certificates of attendance at an asylum for the insane, or an ophthalmic hospital.

"NOTE—2nd October, 1854. Candidates who may not have been able to attend the practice of an asylum for the insane, or of an ophthalmic hospital, for three months previous to their offering themselves for examination in January 1855, will not be excluded from examination, but will, if successful in obtaining recommendation for appointments, be required to produce certificates of having attended such practice during the interval between the examination and the time of proceeding to India."

This relaxation of the regulations obviates the necessity of any practitioner leaving his avocations for three months to obtain the certificates referred to, on the bare chance of being one of the successful candidates in January 1855.

MILITIA SURGEONS.

THE position of Militia Surgeons must of necessity receive the consideration of Parliament at an early period of the ensuing session. We are glad to find that a reasonable view is taken of the subject by the *Naval and Military Gazette*, in its number for the 4th instant. The following is the passage to which we refer:—

"Now that the militia has, to the extent of seventeen or eighteen regiments, been embodied, it may reasonably be inquired, in what position will government place the surgeons? It is well known that there is scarcely a militia surgeon who has not a considerable private practice; and this, if he accompany his corps, he must necessarily forsake. The sacrifice is more than can be expected from the most patriotic. It cannot be fairly expected that a surgeon in good practice will, for 11s. 4d. a day, relinquish his practice, and follow the drum. Even if he were to do so, he would in vain, on his return, seek to recover his position as a private practitioner.

"Even in stationary quarters, the militia surgeon holds no enviable appointment. He often has to attend, probably at the distance of two or three miles, a number of sergeants, drummers, women, and children, amounting to one hundred, frequently sick, and requiring daily attendance. The surgeon of militia has not any forage for a horse allowed him, nor has he any lodging money, as the adjutant has. The adjutant has forage for the whole year round, and a lodging allowance, or quarters, provided for him. The allowance for medicines and attendance is meagre; and we are only astonished that gentlemen in good practice can be induced to accept the pittance. The question deserves more consideration than it appears to have yet received; and the militia medical officers ought, before being embodied, to memorialize on the subject."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS by Dr. MACKENZIE, Dr. MITCHELL, Dr. C. BLACK, Mr. MALLETT, and Mr. TREND, in our next.

EDITOR'S LETTER BOX. Every communication sent for publication is privately acknowledged, unless a private acknowledgment be superseded by a public notice. When any letter addressed to the Editor asking for or requiring an answer is not acknowledged within a fortnight, the writer ought to ask for an explanation. It will be particularly obliging if gentlemen who do not wish for answers state this.

THE LATE DR. GOLDING BIRD. Our sketch of Dr. BIRD is unavoidably postponed for a week or two. We have to thank several of the friends and fellow pupils of the deceased for useful and interesting information.

CROYDON DISPUTES. The dispute between the majority of the medical gentlemen of Croydon and the Poor Law Guardians involves important questions for the consideration of many members of the Association. We hope to be able to print the official documents and the rival placards in our next, so that all may form their own opinions.