

ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

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LONDON: FRIDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 24, 1854.

NEW SERIES.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BONE-SETTING is an entire delusion. There is in ninety-nine out of one hundred cases treated by bone-setters neither fracture nor displacement. Belief in bone-setting is as remarkable as belief in witchcraft or homœopathy. A correspondent, alluding to our article on the Wiesbeck demonstration, says:—"The son of Mr. Mason is now in training for legitimate practice, and is apprenticed to a surgeon in a distant county. There is therefore some ground to hope that 'bone-setting' in the Fens may become ere long a matter of history. When the vested interest inherited by the present possessor of the craft and mystery shall in due time lapse or become extinguished, it is not impossible that the well-known name of Mason may be associated with the more honourable, though less lucrative, career of legal and scientific surgery."

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS by Dr. HODGKIN, Mr. GANGE, Mr. HINGESTON, and Mr. PROWSE, are unavoidably delayed.

LETTER BOX. The letters of Mr. ANGELL, Mr. GREAVES, Mr. HUSSEY, Mr. CARPENTER, and Dr. BUDD, have been in type since last week, and will be inserted with the least possible delay. We have received numerous replies to the letter of Mr. PRICHARD, in last number; but they must, we think, be set aside, to make room for matter of more general interest. Mr. P. may be right or wrong, but the subject is stale and threadbare.

QUERIES. Sixty answers have been received.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS (to the extent of £30 : 6) have been received since the 10th instant from twenty-five individuals. The total amount of subscriptions to this date is £227.

THIRD LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Subscriptions in First and Second Lists	£198 14 0
A Friend (Lancashire)	0 10 6
Anderson, Andrew, M.D., Glasgow	1 1 0
Bakewell, Samuel, Esq., Church Stretton, Salop	0 10 0
Berry, J. M., M.D., Tunbridge Wells	0 10 6
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Spendler, J. K., Esq., Bath	0 10 0
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Toogood, B., Esq., Torquay, Devonshire	1 1 0

TOTAL.....£227 0 0

The next list will be published this day month.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ARMY APOTHECARIES.

We learn from a decree bearing the signature of the Secretary of War, and published at p. 1047 of last number, that the office of apothecary has been re-established in the army. This new medical officer is to take rank as a lieutenant, and after fifteen years' service as junior captain. He is to receive as pay 9s. per day on his first appointment; 10s. 6d. after five years' service; 12s. after ten years; 13s. 6d. after fifteen years; 16s. 6d. after twenty years; and 18s. after thirty years. He is also to have an allowance for a servant,

for lodging and fuel if not provided with quarters, and for forage for a horse if he keeps one.

The half-pay allowance will run as follows: after ten years' service, 5s. per day; after fifteen years, 6s.; after twenty years, 7s.; after twenty-five years, 8s.; and after thirty years, 9s. The apothecary will not be able to claim the privilege of retirement under thirty years, unless disabled by ill health from following his duties.

It remains yet to be seen what are the qualifications required by the government for this office of apothecary, and what the nature of the duties he is to perform. Speaking from first impressions, and reserving our opinion on the matter for a future time, we cannot but fear that the re-establishment of army apothecaries will give rise to great and serious difficulties. For it is scarcely likely that men, who are by law "apothecaries" from having undergone the now stringent examination at the Hall, will submit to be thrust into the ignoble position of merely administering medicine at the surgeon's dictum. Surely the old and discreditable strife of Prescriber *versus* Apothecary, now so quietly ceasing under the influence of an improved state of feeling and education amongst the members of the profession, is not about to be relighted by the strong hand of ministerial authority?

STATE OF THE NORFOLK COUNTY ASYLUM.

IN the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL of Nov. 3rd (p. 1002) we gave the particulars of an inquest lately held at the Thorpe Asylum, on the body of Wm. Sizer, a patient who died in that institution, from fracture of eight ribs, and fracture of the sternum.

In analysing the account of this case, we are surprised to notice the position which the steward is permitted to assume, who seemed to take upon himself the responsibility of deciding as to what mental and bodily condition the man was in on admission; showing to us pretty clearly that the medical officers of that asylum must be subservient to him, and therefore that in it a medical officer is almost superfluous. Thus, the attendant reported the steward, who, because he could not see the patient himself, directs that the resident medical officer shall be sent for; and he leaves the patient "under the care of the medical officer"! Things are come to a pretty pass, when the ex-ward attendant, viz., the Thorpe steward, decides upon the proper duties of the medical officer.

As there was little evidence to show how the patient had received so much violence, the jury stated that there was "great mystery in the case". We ourselves are inclined to think, not only that there was great mystery in the case, but great cruelty also; and we trust that the Commissioners in Lunacy will bring under the notice of the Secretary of State the condition and management of the "the ill-managed asylum of the county of Norfolk", as Dr. Conolly