

ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

NO. CXVI.

LONDON: FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 23, 1855.

NEW SERIES.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CIVIL HOSPITALS IN THE EAST. In order to prevent misconceptions and inconvenience, we are requested to state that Mr. GRAINGER was engaged merely in reference to the Smyrna Hospital; and that his duties in connection with that establishment have now ceased. Mr. FULLER has completed the staff for Eupatoria, and most of those appointed proceeded to the East from Plymouth on Tuesday last, by the City of Aberdeen. The original list has, we learn, been altered since we received it, in some important particulars, so that we delay its publication for a week.

DR. LYON'S PROTEST. Up to the time of our going to press, no official report for publication had reached us of the proceedings at the Special Meeting of the General Council, held at Worcester on the 15th instant; but we may state that as a resolution was passed at that meeting, regarding the publication of its proceedings in the JOURNAL, we expect to receive an account of them for next week's number. The meeting authorised the Treasurer to pay the General Secretary (in accordance with the resolution passed at Manchester), up to the date of the next annual meeting.

DR. AIKENHEAD AND MR. HATTON. We cannot insert any more correspondence upon this subject in the body of the Journal. The letters of Drs. Aikenhead and Allen are therefore, by the desire of their authors, inserted as advertisements.

COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE EDITOR AND GENERAL SECRETARY may, after the 25th instant, be addressed to his residence, 37, RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON.

BOOKS RECEIVED. [*An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.*] 1. SYME [James, Esq.] On Stricture of the Urethra and Fistula in Perineo. pp. 109. Edin. 1855. Second Edition. 2. * BALFOUR, J. H., M.D. Biographical Sketch of the late Dr. Golding Bird. pp. 67. Edinburgh: 1855.

PARAGRAPHS FROM OUR PORTFOLIO.

VIII. NAVY MEDICAL SERVICE. The united and emphatic manner in which the Medical Students of the United Kingdom have declined, for a slight temporary boon, to be the means of degrading that profession which they are preparing to enter, is one of the most hopeful symptoms of the present time. The question was quite a student's question; and the firm and temperate manner in which the students have dealt with it speaks well for the future of our profession, when these young men shall occupy the places of those whom time is now daily removing with sure and steady hand.

It is important to remember that the resolutions adopted by the various recent meetings of medical students did not originate in any spontaneous agitation among the pupils of the different medical schools, but arose as the replies to the following official notice issued by the Admiralty.

"NOTICE.

"Medical students are required as dressers for service on the home or Baltic stations, subject to the following regulations, or such others as the Lords of the Admiralty, from time to time, may find it necessary to direct:—

"I. That medical students between the ages of eighteen and twenty-two be entered for temporary service of home or Baltic stations; the period of service to extend from about 1st April to the 31st of October.

"II. That they shall produce the following testimonials as to their character and education:—Certificates signed by the professors and lecturers on medicine and surgery; of their being of good moral character, of sound health, and capable of performing the duties of an hospital dresser; of their having attended one course of lectures on anatomy, one on surgery, one on theory and practice of medicine, one in chemistry and materia medica; to be of six months' duration.

"III. That they have been engaged at least six months in compounding and dispensing medicines.

"IV. That they have attended the practice of an hospital, poor-house, or dispensary, for six months.

"V. Candidates will be required to undergo an examination at the Admiralty as to their professional acquirements; such examination to be in accordance with the preceding rudimentary scale of education.

"VI. If found qualified, they will be admitted into the service for the before-mentioned period; and, in order that they may have the opportunity of resuming their studies during the winter, they will be discharged from it at one of the principal seaports in this country about September or October.

"VII. Their pay shall be at the rate of six shillings per day with rations. Their rank to be equal but subordinate to that of the acting assistant-surgeon.

"VIII. They will be required to join the midshipmen's mess, paying monthly, as supernumeraries, their share of the expenses; in default of payment, their arrears will be deducted from their pay when discharged.

"IX. Finally, should they be able to obtain certificates of good conduct from the captains and surgeons of the ship or ships in which they have served, on being discharged they will be allowed a gratuity of £25."

IX. DR. MEYER continues to form the subject of discussion in professional circles; and we are still asked, *Who is Dr. Meyer? Why was Dr. Meyer appointed as the chief of the Smyrna Hospital Staff?* By and bye we expect that materials will be collected for a true and complete history of this Magnus Apollo. In addition to our statements in Paragraph VII, p. 247, we have received several particulars, the correctness of which can best be tested by the public ordeal to which we now subject them. The subjoined details embrace recent rumours, some of which ought, if possible, to be contradicted on authority.

Dr. Meyer first started as a physician in London; but being unsuccessful, he emigrated to Australia, where he set up as a dairyman. Before leaving this country, he married a Miss Shuttleworth, a niece of the then Bishop of Chichester, and a first cousin of the lady who afterwards became the wife of Dr. Kay, now Sir J. Kay Shuttleworth. Milk and butter having brought Dr. Meyer to "pot", he went over to Van Diemen's Land, where he got the appointment to which we referred last week. Having had to do with convicts, we suppose he is looked upon by official persons as peculiarly qualified to treat soldiers. If his appointment did not originate in this mistake on the part of the Government, we may suspect that it is a job, in accomplishing which the influence of Sir J. Kay Shuttleworth has played an important part.

Truly there is much hard and harassing work before us, ere we can hope to say that in medicine, merit is, or is likely to be, the passport to honours and emoluments.