

ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

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NEW SERIES.

NOTICE: SUBSCRIPTIONS OF MEMBERS.

When Subscriptions are sent by post-office order to the undersigned, it is requested that they be made payable at the General Post Office, London: the letter enclosing the order being addressed to 37, Russell Square.

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On the 8th of June, the next monthly list of subscriptions received for the current year will be published.

JOHN ROSE CORMACK, *General Secretary*.

MR. BOTTOMLEY OF CROYDON commences a long letter (addressed to us on the 11th instant) as follows:—"Sir, I am surprised and greatly disappointed at the silence observed in the columns of the Provincial Association Journal respecting the Royal Benevolent Medical College. I should naturally have turned to the Journal to learn everything about it, but lo! not one word is said. Such silence can only be considered as an insult offered to a member of the Association who is the founder of the College, to whom the greatest praise is due, and also to the other members of the Association who are supporters of the College. Such silence ought not to be tolerated." From the above it is evident that Mr. Bottomley does not read the "Association Journal." It has, on various occasions, been our duty and our high privilege to espouse the noble cause with which Mr. Propert's name is so indissolubly linked. We have inserted every paragraph of news of the College sent to us by Mr. Propert, or his Secretary.

COMMUNICATIONS received from MR. HOUGHTON, MR. JACOES, and MR. J. V. SOLOMON, will be inserted.

SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE. We expect to conclude the evidence in the next and following numbers.

PARAGRAPHS FROM OUR PORTFOLIO.

XXVII. MEDICAL REFORM! The very name is becoming a by-word. The profession is as much united as it ever can be, or as any profession or society ever can be united as to the nature of the measures required for its internal reform: the public are suffering from the want of any means of knowing who are licensed and who are not licensed to practise; yet the Government, utterly ignoring the public, wish to wait till there is more unanimity in the profession. There never can be more harmony of opinion as to the settlement of conflicting interests than there is at present: but are rival corporations the only parties to be consulted? Some of our examining boards are inducing half educated youths "to go up" by advertising a reduction in the modicum of education, and in the strictness of examination. This is done with perfect coolness, and with Government support or connivance, upon pretext of the exigencies of the public service; whereas it is the examination fees, and not patriotism, which prompts to this course of action. Parliament and the public look on complacently, just as if the health of troops could be maintained by such a system—a system which is an outrage upon humanity, and which in the eyes of many is perhaps worse, a terrible pull upon the national purse. The decimation of an army by preventable disease is the scandal of the age, even in a mere financial point of view.

Again, within the last few weeks, his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury has conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine upon a gentleman of whom we will only say that he is not a man whom the profession honours. In the face of all this and other crying evils, the Government propose to postpone Medical Reform till the corporations agree as to the measure which ought to pass! This is a stale and

threadbare fashion of mockery. Parliamentary Reform was not carried by waiting till the boroughmongers were agreed as to the provisions of the Bill carried in 1832: and just in the same way that the people carried a great political reform, so must the profession carry a great Medical Reform measure—in opposition to the self-interest and corruption of corporations originating in and belonging to a past period of history. The Provincial Association measure is avowedly framed on the principles of compromise, and with a view to conciliate the corporations; and if such a measure be thwarted by the corporations, we trust that the profession will rise to a man, cast off the shackles of the existing colleges and corporations, and seize, in the name of humanity, those rights which belong to them, as members of one of the most important and essential sections of the body politic in a civilised community. Some medical corporations may have a reforming spirit: but, speaking generally, we may say that they are wedded to the policy of the period in which they were founded, and are devoid of all sympathy with the more enlightened spirit of the present age.

In a subsequent page will be found an account of a conference between the Reform Committee of our Association and the Home Secretary. There is nothing discouraging in the report of that conference, and we trust that there is something in it which will convince all of us that if we had only a little of that organisation which gives facilities and powers of action to bodies very inferior to us in numbers, we could not fail to be victorious. MIGHT would then be on the side of RIGHT.

XXVIII. ARMY MEDICAL REFORM. If LORD PANMURE does not now eradicate all the diseases of the Army Medical System, it will be from no want of good advice.

Like the "sick man", the Sultan, he seems likely to die of too many doctors, instead of being slowly pressed to death by one. At the same time, as we believe it will be better that the empire of the Caliphs should succumb to the "constitutional" treatment of Western civilization than perish under the brutish surgery of the Czar, so we think it will be more becoming that the Minister-of-War, for his disease of the Army Medical Department, should be put down, *secundem artem*, by the prescriptions of regular practitioners, rather than perish under the aristocratic quackery of routine.

We had intended this week to have reviewed at some length the various schemes which have been placed before Lord Panmure, especially those of Mr. Edwards and "Philo-Medicus", and those contained in the sensible, though heavy petition of the Metropolitan Counties Branch of our own Association. Want of space, however, forbids.

We may say, in brief, that the idea of adopting the French army medical system, with those exceptions which a constitutional instead of an absolute government render imperative, has only been strengthened, in our minds, by the consideration of the schemes referred to. For, indeed, most of what is good in these schemes is contained in the