

# ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

No. CXXV.

LONDON: FRIDAY EVENING, MAY 25, 1855.

NEW SERIES.

## PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION. 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.

JOHN ROSE CORMACK, *General Secretary.*

37, Russell Square, May 25, 1855.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**NAVAL MEDICAL REFORM.** The communications which we have received from the Students' Naval Medical Reform Association have been attended to. We rejoice to see the spirit and good feeling with which the Students are carrying out their movement, so nobly commenced at their great meeting in St. Martin's Hall. Next week we propose to publish important communications on this subject, and to make some remarks upon the present position of the question. H. F. HAUXWELL, Esq., Guy's Hospital, and E. HARR, Esq., St. George's Hospital, are the Honorary Secretaries of the Association, and, with them, we invite all who wish to hold out a helping hand, to communicate without delay. *There is no time for delay.*

**MEDICAL REFORM.** The most effectual way of enlisting the sympathies of a large number of Members of the House of Commons, is for each town to have its petition presented by its own Member. Forms of Petition may be had from G. W. HASTINGS, Esq., 4, Paper Buildings, Temple, who is Secretary to the Medical Reform Committee of the Association.

COMMUNICATIONS are in type by Dr. ROUTH, Mr. ELLIS JONES, Mr. J. V. SOLOMON, and Mr. DUNN. We have received a number of papers and letters, regarding which we will write to the respective authors.

**BOOKS RECEIVED.** [*\* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.*] 1. HEADLAND [Frederick William, M.B.] An Essay on the Action of Medicines in the System. Second Edition. pp. 396. London: 1855. 2. \* DIXON [James]. A Guide to the Practical Study of Diseases of the Eye, with an outline of their Medical and Operative Treatment. pp. 383. London: 1855. 3. \* REYNOLDS [J. Russell, M.D.] The Diagnosis of Diseases of the Brain, Spinal Cord, Nerves and their Appendages. pp. 251. London: 1855. 4. Fourth Annual Report of the Wilts. County Asylum, for the year 1854. 5. TANNER, T. H., M.D. Manual of Clinical Medicine and Physical Diagnosis. pp. 806. London: 1855.

## "COMPLETE PROTECTION AGAINST QUACKS AND QUACKERY."

### NO. I.

Our advertising columns have already announced to the profession that a complete method of "protection against quacks and quackery" has been discovered and adopted.

That this new and glorious scheme may be brought intelligibly before our readers at one view, we republish the advertisement announcing the discovery, and subjoin certain other documents circulated by the discoverer. The documents speak so eloquently for themselves, that it is hardly necessary to add a word of our own. On future occasions, however, we intend to examine the newly promulgated scheme of protection against quacks and quackery.

### NO. I. THE DISCOVERER'S ADVERTISEMENT OF HIS METHOD OF "AFFORDING TO THE PUBLIC A COMPLETE PROTECTION AGAINST QUACKS AND QUACKERY."

[*From the Association Journal, May 11, 1855.\**]

"GUIDE TO LIVING MEDICAL AUTHORS: with a Classification of the Subjects of their Writings, collated from the 'London and Provincial Medical Directory.'"

"By a reference to this Guide, the sufferer from any disease may ascertain the names and addresses of some of the most distinguished practitioners whose time and talents are devoted to its consideration and treatment, thus affording to the public a complete protection against quacks and quackery."

\* This advertisement appeared in the Times newspaper of the 23rd inst.

"Published weekly in the *Medical Circular*, price 4d., stamped 5d. Office, 20, King William Street, Strand."

NO. II. THE DISCOVERER'S CIRCULAR TO AUTHORS, STATING THE TERMS UPON WHICH HE WILL GUIDE THE PUBLIC TO THEIR CONSULTING ROOMS; AND ALSO CALLING ATTENTION TO HIS NEW METHOD OF TREATING OTORRHOEA.

[*From the Discoverer's lithographed circular.*]

"15, Savile Row, St. James's, May 11, 1855."

"DEAR SIR,—By this post you will receive a copy of the *Medical Circular*, in which you will find the first edition of a 'Guide to Living Medical Authors'. I hope you will approve of my project sufficiently to accord to it your support, by adding the advertisement of your book to the List. The terms are £5 for fifty insertions of six lines, being only 2s. each. Payment in two half-yearly instalments.

"I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

"JAS. YEARSLEY.

"Permit me to call your attention to my paper on 'A New Method of Treating Otorrhœa', which, if adopted, will supersede the use of astringent injections, often so prejudicial to the sense of hearing, and not unattended by risk.—J. Y."

NO. III. EXTRACT FROM THE DISCOVERER'S ADDRESS UPON THE APPEARANCE OF THE FIRST EDITION OF HIS GUIDE TO LIVING MEDICAL AUTHORS.

[*From Medical Circular, May 9.*]

"The reader will see that we have this week commenced a new method of distinguishing between the scientific and regular practitioner in special subjects of disease, and the illiterate and unqualified pretender. The multitude of letters which we are in the habit of receiving from professional as well as from lay readers, asking information with respect to the qualifications of persons advertising their names in connexion with various special maladies, and the perpetual complaints that reach us from the victims of ignorant adventurers, have prompted us to devise a mode by which the public may be able at once to satisfy themselves of the claims of the respective practitioners to confidence. We have a strong conviction that the method which we have adopted will raise up a powerful barrier against the encroachments and frauds of medical impostors of all orders. In our 'Guide to Living Medical Authors', the names of qualified medical practitioners alone will find a place, those of the mere empiric and roving marauder will be carefully excluded; henceforward, then, it will be the fault of the public themselves if they be duped by the stratagems of advertising charlatans.

"The necessity of drawing a broad line of demarcation between the duly qualified practitioner and the pretender has long been acknowledged; it is obviously the interest both of the public and the profession that illegal practice should be discouraged by every attainable means. The 'London and Provincial Medical Directory' acquired the support of the profession, because, among other claims, it was a reliable record of qualified practitioners; and there can be no doubt that it has exercised great influence in exposing the impudent pretensions of artful speculators on the credulity and sufferings of humanity. The 'Directory', however, did not wholly suffice for this object. Quackery is of such a Protean nature, takes so many shapes and disguises, and so artfully clothes itself in the semblance of authority, that it is most difficult to the unlearned public—~~even~~ with the aid of a general 'Medical Directory'—to distinguish