

ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

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NEW SERIES.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE EDITOR AND GENERAL SECRETARY TO 37, RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON.

COMMUNICATIONS for publication have been received from Mr. HARRISON, Dr. W. T. GAIRDNER, Mr. AUGUSTIN FRÉ, Mr. H. L. SMITH, and Mr. DUNN.

THE ADVERTISING SOCIETY. No new members have been gazetted. The tone and number of communications which we have received, indicate that, in the Provinces at least, the "London Guide Doctors" are already marked by the profession for the purpose of being carefully avoided. In this way the public are to a certain extent "protected from quacks and quackery". If possible, we will insert some of the letters which we have received on this subject next week.

NAVAL MEDICAL REFORM ASSOCIATION. Some remarks on this Society, which is going on prosperously, we are obliged from want of room, to defer.

BOOKS RECEIVED. [** An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.*] 1. GARROD [Alfred Baring, M.D.] *The Essentials of Materia Medica, Therapeutics, and the Pharmacopœias, for the use of Students and Practitioners.* pp. 282. London: 1855. 2. MILTON [John.] *Practical Remarks on the Treatment of Spermatorrhœa and some forms of Impotence.* Second Edition. pp. 30. London: 1855. 3. HOOKER [Sir W. J., K.H.] *Museum of Economic Botany; or a Popular Guide to the Useful and Remarkable Products of the Museum of the Royal Gardens of Kew.* pp. 80. London: 1855. 4. *Report of the Trial in the Action of Damages at the Instance of George Glover, Esq., against James Syme, Esq.* pp. 108. Edinburgh: 1855. 5. *BIRD [James, M.D.] *The Military Medical Instruction of England compared with that of France; being an Introductory Lecture to a Course of Military Surgery.* pp. 27. London: 1855. 6. *GANGEE [Joseph Sampson.] *On Petit's Operation, and on Purgatives after Herniotomy.* 8vo. pp. 45. London: 1855. 7. *CURLING [T. B.] *Observations on the Diseases of the Rectum.* Second Edition. pp. 129. London: 1855. 8. *NOBLE [Daniel, M.D.] *Elements of Psychological Medicine; being an Introduction to the Practical Study of Insanity.* Second Edition. pp. 356. London: 1855.

PARAGRAPHS FROM OUR PORTFOLIO.

XXXIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM ASSOCIATION. We earnestly request the members of the medical profession to examine the "Official Papers", Nos. 1 and 2, which have been issued by the Administrative Reform Association, so that they may clearly understand that the objects of that society are not those of any mere political party in the State; and that the movement has originated in the prevailing national desire to put "the right men in the right places"—above all, to return the right men to the House of Commons, and make it cease to be the mere arena of political gamblers, which, as Mr. Layard has shown, it now is. The medical profession could do much good service to itself and to the State in assisting to send honest and independent men to Parliament: if there were a hundred members of the House of Commons who acted as reasoning men, from pure motives, and independently, medical reform, and all State reforms, would soon be achieved with speed and with safety. It is peculiarly the duty then of that spurned and insulted profession to which we belong to assist in the great national movement, to join in the demand for administrative reform and to lend their utmost aid in obtaining it. The appeal reaches to the homes and the pockets, as well as to the moral feelings of every one of us. For example, we cite the following from the second "official paper" of the Administrative Reform Association, entitled "*The Devising Heads and the Executive Hands of the English Government; as described by Privy Councillors and Civil Servants themselves.*" It is a quotation from the

statements made by EDWARD ROMILLY, Esq., Chairman of the Board of Audit.

"By the rules and practice now in force every encouragement is given to those who command Government patronage to make the worst choice they can for the public. Abilities and diligence are seldom of any avail in helping to raise the person endowed with them, and without them a provision is insured for life." (*On the Reconstruction of the Civil Service*, p. 279.)

"The first great disadvantage under which the Civil Service labours is to be found in the first appointments. It is, no doubt, very natural that a father who has parliamentary influence, and half a dozen boys, should look to clerkships in a public office as a very safe and comfortable provision for one or two of them. But if he has common prudence and common affection, he will take care not to select for this situation the genius of the family. He can shift for himself in one of the liberal professions, especially if, in addition to powers of mind, he should be blessed with health and strength of body. The one who is destined to the service of the public is the weakest and not the wisest of the brood. He has less chance of raising himself by his own exertions in the world, and is accordingly picked out for a Government office.

"This is the rule. There are, no doubt, exceptions to it; for it does sometimes happen, that a family is not favoured with an invalid or a blockhead; but it is the rule with those who have Government influence, and the exceptions to it are fewer than might be wished."

Incompetence and imbecility, red-tapism and routine, must ever be in the ascendant in all departments of the public service so long as matters remain as they now are; and the medical profession must continue to be badly represented in our fleets, armies, and public boards, so long as gambling for places and power is the chief occupation of the House of Commons.

The newspapers of yesterday reported the speeches delivered at the great meeting in Drury Lane Theatre on Wednesday evening, when the Administrative Reform Association was inaugurated. None, however, but those who were actually present can understand the full import of that assembly. The admission was by tickets only; and yet shortly after the doors were opened, the immense edifice was filled. The calm, eloquent, and unanswerable addresses of Mr. Morley (Chairman), Mr. Layard, M.P., Mr. Lindsay, M.P., Mr. Tite, M.P., and Mr. Otway, M.P., were received with enthusiasm, and the applause with which Mr. Layard was greeted was such as could not have been surpassed in fervour and unmistakeable sincerity. Mr. Layard took occasion, in concluding his address, to refute an allegation which has been promulgated, to the effect that the crusade was not so much against imbecility and incompetence as against the aristocracy of England. He said:—

"It was said that the Association was an attack upon the aristocracy, but its only object was to obtain a proper system of