

ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

No. CXXXI.

LONDON: FRIDAY EVENING, JULY 6, 1855.

NEW SERIES.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE: NEW POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS. The new Newspaper Stamp Act, which came into force on the 30th June, permits all stamped papers to be posted to places in the United Kingdom within fifteen days from the date of publication.

After fifteen days from the date of publication, newspapers may be sent under the regulations of the book-post: viz. under 4 oz. for 1d.; under 8 oz. for 2d.; under 1 lb. for 3d.; and 2d. for each additional eight ounces or fraction of eight ounces.

The ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL has been duly registered at the Post Office (in accordance with the Act) for transmission to foreign countries. It must be posted within fifteen days from the date of publication, otherwise it will be charged by weight.

Attention is specially directed to the necessity of folding the Journal, when transmitted by post, so that the stamp may be conspicuously exposed to view.

DUBLIN HOSPITAL GAZETTE. The Editor of the Gazette is quite welcome to make such extracts from the ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL as he may think right: but we should be obliged if he would extend to us the courtesy which is usual among respectable periodicals—that of acknowledging the source whence the borrowed articles have been derived. We make these remarks in consequence of having observed that at least six articles, which were prepared for the ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL, have been, since the middle of March, copied *verbatim* into the *Dublin Hospital Gazette* without the least acknowledgment. Several foreign journals of good repute, and one pseudo-medical English paper act in the same way towards us.

THE MEDICAL REFORM BILL.

THE Medical Reform Bill of the Association, having been read a first time, and ordered to be printed, is now fairly before Parliament, and will receive, we trust, from the members of our body, and the profession generally, the strong support which it merits. It is not probable, it is true, that the measure will pass this session. The press of legislative business, which has already brought about the sacrifice of some valuable Bills, would prove under any circumstances a serious obstacle; but, in addition to this, a sort of pledge was given to Sir George Grey by the deputation which waited upon him on May 17th [*vide* ASSOCIATION JOURNAL for May 18th], that the Bill having been read a first time with the assent of Government, should not be pushed forward *this session*. Of course, this understanding does not refer to the future; and an early opportunity will be taken when Parliament again meets to introduce the Bill, with a view to its enactment into law. The favour with which it will then be received by the House of Commons will a good deal depend on the feeling now manifested in regard to it by the medical profession.

At the present moment, therefore, it is most important that petitions in favour of the Bill should be sent up from all parts of the kingdom. The following form is sufficient, though concise, and has already been adopted in some cases; but it may easily be varied in accordance with the wishes of the petitioners:

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled—the humble Petition of the undersigned members of the medical profession residing at —

SHEWETH—

That the laws affecting the medical profession are in a confused and unsatisfactory state. That a Bill, entitled “A Bill to alter and amend the laws regulating the medical profession”, is now before your Honourable House; and that the said Bill is, in the judgment of your petitioners, well calculated to remove the aforesaid confusion and uncertainty.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that the said Bill may pass into law.

And your petitioners will ever pray, etc.

[Signatures.]

We would throw out a hint to those who may send up petitions, that it will probably save them future trouble, if they have *two* forms prepared, and obtain signatures to them:—one to be forwarded immediately for presentation; the other to be kept ready for next session. Any of the gentlemen whose names are on the back of the Bill—Mr. Headlam, Mr. Brady, and Mr. Craufurd—will gladly receive and present petitions. The better course, however, is to entrust the petitions to the members representing the localities from which they are sent up.

We take this opportunity of contradicting the extraordinary misrepresentation which has been put forth concerning one of the provisions of the Bill. It has been stated that the graduates of Aberdeen and St. Andrews are excluded from the register; whereas the 20th section expressly includes the medical graduates of all universities in the United Kingdom. A reference to the Bill will at once expose the error.

There may be minor and technical defects in this measure; but, as a whole, it is the most liberal and comprehensive scheme for medical reform which has ever been brought forward. We trust to see it triumphantly carried through Parliament; and that it may be so carried, we urge upon the profession to give it their immediate, their zealous, and their persevering support.

[Copies of the Bill may be had by applying to Mr. Headlam. It is, with a few amendments (a list of which we will publish next week), the same Bill which appeared at page 814 of the JOURNAL for September 8th, 1855.]

SANITARY LEGISLATION.

NO. VII.

NUISANCES REMOVAL AND DISEASES PREVENTION ACTS—CONSOLIDATION AND AMENDMENT BILL.

THE Bill, whose title is placed at the head of this article, proposes to repeal the whole of the existing Acts of 1848