

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 by PROFESSOR LAURIE, MR. DURN, and DR. MAC-LOUGHLIN are in type. Papers have been received from MR. RIDGEN, MR. BROWN, and DR. DAVEY.

By ACT OF PARLIAMENT newspapers must now be so folded as to have the stamp on the outside, otherwise the recipient has to pay one penny. The Stamp Office has not the requisite machinery to stamp the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL, and others of that form and size, so as to make it possible in the folding of every sheet to have the stamp on the outside. To comply as far as possible with the Act, the stamps of last week's impression were all made clearly visible; but nevertheless the Post Office authorities have mulcted our readers in sundry pence. We print the following as one of about twenty similar letters which we have received.

"Clifton, July 8th.

"SIR,—May I call your attention to the inclosed [the cover of ASSOCIATION JOURNAL], which will fully explain itself. The Post Office authorities are veraciously particular. The stamp was not outside, but I could plainly see it.

"Yours faithfully, C. BROWN."

The authorities at the Stamp Office, anxious to save us from the authorities at the Post Office, have, we learn, stamped in the proper place with the hand, the paper required for this week's Journal. This is so far well: but in these war times, when schemes of taxation must be thought of, we submit that a useful hint has been obtained by Parliament requiring one government department to fine the public for not doing that which another government department renders impossible. If the principle were fully carried out, a large revenue might be obtained. In the mean time, as this new method of taxation has not received the sanction of Parliament, we must be allowed to say that it is vexatious, illegal, and deserving of severe punishment. Of course we shall be told that nobody is to blame—that it is only the system, etc. etc.

THE JOURNAL AND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION. In reply to numerous inquiries which we are constantly receiving on these subjects, a statement has been prepared which we hope to be able to publish next week, and so answer satisfactorily, and in sufficient detail, all the questions which we receive. Referring to these points in private letters is impossible.

ERRATA. In the review of Dr. NOBLE'S *Elements of Psychological Medicine*, in last number of this Journal, at p. 626, col. i, line 14 from the bottom, for "a physical disorder," read *apprecial* disorder." At p. 627, col. i, line 45, for "particular irritation of the blood," read "particular *citation* of the blood." And in the same col., at line 56, for "incident *motor* impression," read "incident *excitor* impression."

"COMPLETE PROTECTION AGAINST QUACKS AND QUACKERY."

NO. V.

On the 29th June, we concluded some remarks upon "Complete Protection against Quacks and Quackery", with the following paragraph:—

"We do not regard that paper (*Medical Circular*) as within the pale of respectable journalism; and it is only when we see such men as Dr. Burrows, Dr. Billing, Mr. Fergusson, and others, who are called the 'heads of the profession', mixed up with its unprofessional projects, that we—regardless of all personal considerations—touch so foul a thing as the *Medical Circular*, speak out plainly in the name and on behalf of our insulted colleagues, and do what we can to stem a tide of licentiousness, which, if allowed to flow, would soon make the profession of medicine the scorn and the derision of all honourable and educated gentlemen." (pp. 600 and 601.)

On the 5th instant, we received a letter from Dr. Bur-

rows, complaining of the manner in which his name had been introduced in the above passage. The letter of Dr. Burrows was not, as we have since been informed by that gentleman, intended for publication. In a note now before us, he says:—"As I never sent a letter for publication in any medical journal, so I am very unwilling to begin that course now." Dr. Burrows has, however, kindly consented to allow his letter to appear, upon our assuring him that a statement had been industriously propagated in many quarters that "the Guide" had his sanction.

The following is the letter of Dr. Burrows to which we refer:—

"18 Cavendish Square, July 4th, 1855.

"DEAR SIR,—It appears to me that it would have been more just and more courteous on your part, as Editor of the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL, to have held some communication, direct or indirect, with me, before you insinuated, in a leading article of that journal, that I was mixed up with unprofessional projects of the Editor of the *Medical Circular*. You have not, indeed, in your leading article of June 29th, distinctly specified the unprofessional projects to which you allude; but I presume you refer to the system of advertising the literary works of medical authors, with *their addresses prefixed*; and to the publication of the *names and addresses of certain individuals* who have written on different branches of medical and surgical science, in the recent numbers of the *Medical Circular*. Now, if, before you made this unjust imputation against me, you had inquired of me whether I approved of such a system, or had authorised the Editor of the *Medical Circular* to advertise my work *On Disorders of the Cerebral Circulation*, with my address prefixed, or to place my name in the *partial lists* of writers on different branches of medicine and surgery, you would have learnt that I strongly disapproved of such a system of advertising, and had twice remonstrated (by letter) with the Editor of the *Medical Circular* for making such use of my name; and had desired it might be omitted from such lists of authors. Indeed, to express my disapproval most strongly, I informed the Editor of the *Medical Circular* that he could not do me a greater professional injury than by placing my name in such partial lists.

"Presuming that these are the unprofessional projects to which you allude in your leading article of June 29th, and having on my part not only repudiated such a system, but having remonstrated with the Editor of the *Medical Circular* upon the subject, I shall now look to your sense of justice that, as you have made use of my name in connexion with your argument, and cast an imputation upon me, you will take an early opportunity of withdrawing it, and of making some amends for hurting my feelings.

"If you had referred to the last number of the *Medical Circular* (of June 27th), you would have found my name omitted, as I had desired, from the lists of living authors; but my letters of remonstrance to the Editor of that journal bear date May 15th and June 20th.

"I cannot, however, conclude this note without expressing my deliberate opinion that, if the Editors of the different medical periodicals would from time to time publish full, fair, and complete lists of authors upon different branches of medi-