

ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

No. CXXXV.

LONDON: FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 3, 1855.

NEW SERIES.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

WANT OF SPACE obliges us to defer Lectures and other Original Communications. For the same reason some papers must be altogether declined, and many must remain under consideration for a little longer. The advertisement of the Benevolent College will occupy eight pages of our next impression; it was impossible to insert it this week. The Communications of Dr. MORFAT, Mr. DUNN, Mr. ROSCOW, and Dr. GEORGE WILLIS, are in type.

QUERIES. The writer of the following letter has forwarded his name and address.

Sir,—I shall feel much obliged if you will kindly inform me through the medium of our Journal, whether something may not be done to efface the puckered cicatrix of scarulous ulcers on the neck, which in women are so very conspicuous. Say, enclosing the cicatrix in an elliptical incision, and bringing together the edges with a suture; or would a Tagliacotian operation be preferable? Also, what is the best thing to be done when a man becomes prematurely bald? A very puzzling question, and one very often asked to
July 28th, 1855. A YOUNG PRACTITIONER.

NON-DELIVERY OF THE JOURNAL. Fourteen copies of last week's number of the JOURNAL have been returned to our office by the Post-Office, deprived of their covers. We hence infer that an equal number of members did not receive the Journal last Saturday. The names of two of these we have ascertained, and have forwarded them Journals; and we shall be obliged if the remaining gentlemen who have not received the Journal will communicate the fact to the publisher, Mr. HOSKINMAN, who will supply the missing numbers. A portion of one of the torn covers came back to us, in a state which shewed that the Journal had been done up by the publisher in a secure manner as any one could reasonably desire; and that the accident which has caused so much inconvenience is evidently the result of rough usage in transmission through the Post-Office.

SCUTARI AND THE CRIMINAL. The Journal, we hear, does not arrive regularly, but it is always sent. Apply to the Post-Office.

ZEN. Motions, of which notice has been given, cannot be withdrawn without consent of the Annual Meeting. If the gentleman referred to does not, when called on, move in accordance with his notice, the President will, as a matter of course, put the motion, and leave the Meeting to deal with it as it may deem fit.

BOOKS RECEIVED. [* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.] 1. OWEN [Richard, F.R.S.] Lectures on Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of the Invertebrate Animals. Second Edition. pp. 686. London: 1855. 2. MANN [Robert James, M.D.] Philosophy of Reproduction. pp. 160. London: 1855. 3. *BROWN [B. W.] The Structure and Physiology of the Eye as affording Evidence of Design. pp. 44. Loughborough: 1855. 4. *CRAIG [James] The Law of the Coroner: and Medical Evidence in Criminal Cases in Scotland. pp. 29. Edinburgh: 1855. 5. *HUNT [Thomas]. Influence of the Human Instinct in the Prevention and Cure of Disease. Pamphlet. pp. 14. London: 1855. 6. The Body, Mind, and Spirit. pp. 125. London: 1855.

CAN THE PLAN AND MANNER OF THE "JOURNAL" BE IMPROVED?

On November 17th of last year, there was issued to every member of the Association a series of queries under the above heading. Previously, or indeed contemporaneously with this movement, a strenuous effort was made to raise a "RESERVE FUND of One Thousand Pounds for JOURNAL purposes."

For the information of our readers, we wish to say a very few words with reference to both of these projects; and we regret that, from the overwhelming mass of matter now in type, and waiting for publication, we have not space to say all that we could desire.

The RESERVE FUND opened auspiciously; but the exertions of its best friends were chilled by various occurrences; and no efforts at collection were made after it became apparent that some of the old members of the Association looked with distrust upon what was calculated to give increased popularity, power, and permanence to the JOURNAL. Under

these circumstances, we had no encouragement, and, perhaps, not even any right, to urge upon the members the duty of establishing the Fund. Should no further steps be taken to establish a Reserve Fund, the subscriptions to the proposed £1,000 Fund which have been paid will be returned, minus a small deduction, *pro rata*, for postage and other expenses. We trust, however, that a movement, which we know to have been pure and generous in its origin, and which we think both right and needful, may not be abandoned. The vote of an Annual Meeting, in favour of a voluntary donation of a thousand pounds, is all that is required to enable that amount of money to be raised at once for JOURNAL extension and improvement. Our own feeling on the subject is this: that if the JOURNAL is not to be supported in accordance with its pretensions and exigencies, it had better be abandoned altogether. The ASSOCIATION has only to will it, and it can secure to its members the best medical journal that can be produced in this or any other country.

With regard to the QUERIES, we may state, that the information elicited was chiefly remarkable for the uniformity of its tone of approval of the plan and management of the JOURNAL. Out of 220 who made returns, there were not a dozen who expressed any decided dislike to the JOURNAL; though the returns embraced every possible diversity of opinion in regard to the propriety of amplifying or diminishing the extent of particular departments. The space occupied by Association Intelligence was pretty frequently complained of; and not a few grudged the page devoted weekly to Medico-Meteorology. There was nothing, however, in the returns regarded as a whole, which justified us in making any change whatever in the plan and manner of conducting the JOURNAL; as it was very evident that an attempt to please all would have ended in our displeasing everybody. Our object, therefore, has been to conduct the JOURNAL in accordance with correct professional feeling, and in harmony with the declared objects of the PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION. The great extent to which scientific information has been displaced by Association Intelligence and the fleeting topics of the day, we regret, in common with others; but it must be remembered that our JOURNAL is not exclusively a Journal of Medical Science, and is indeed primarily an ASSOCIATION reporter, and the social newspaper of our society. If we are to have a complete scientific department in the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL, it must be obtained chiefly by extending the size of the publication, and not by rendering it a less perfect medium of communication between the members of the Association. We are far from thinking that reports of