

"Though his recollection of preceding circumstances was strong, his memory of the events of the last three months before his committal by the Speaker seemed entirely gone. During that time he had been drinking as much as fifteen glasses of brandy daily, and this may account for his violence in the House. He had a curious passion for counting, and would carefully number the books or chairs in a room, the tassels of the curtains, or the figures in a picture. He played whist remarkably well, and would recite long speeches with wonderful exactness, sometimes inducing visitors to suspect that he only *feigned* insanity, and was not really insane.

"I had the assistance of Dr. Conolly and Dr. Tweedie in the treatment of his case. He was ordered nutritious but carefully regulated diet, with wine in small quantity every day. Sedatives were tried, but appeared to do mischief; for some time, therefore, bitter tonics, with mineral acids and occasional aperients, formed the sole medical treatment.

"Early in 1853 it became necessary to apply for a Commission of Lunacy, that he might be placed under the protection of the Lord Chancellor, as writs had been granted against him, and his lunacy did not protect his person from arrest. This Commission was issued on the petition of Mr. O'Connor's nephew, and conducted by his own solicitor. The jury, in their verdict, found Mr. O'Connor to have been of unsound mind on and since June 16th, 1852.

"At this time (1853), his disorder had made rapid progress; his speech, formerly only embarrassed, had become unintelligible; his gait unsteady; he balanced himself in walking with great difficulty, with a marked tendency to fall backwards; the tongue could only be protruded by a series of efforts; and the expression of his countenance decidedly altered. His sense of vision was impaired; hearing was not apparently affected. In an affidavit I then made, I stated my conviction that the case was one of general paralysis, and would probably terminate fatally within a few years. I had expressed the same opinion to the Committee of the House twelve months before.

"In the June of the year following (1854), Mr. O'Connor, while sitting in the garden, became suddenly insensible; the attack lasted three minutes; he did not fall; there was severe convulsive twitching of all the facial muscles, followed by rigors. He had had an epileptic seizure some years before. Cotyledon umbilicus was now ordered for him, not with much hope of its doing more than act as a tonic.

"In September, a second fit, more severe, was followed by paralysis of the sphincters; this added much to the difficulty of treating his case. Wine was increased to three glasses during the day, and he regained in some degree his former cheerfulness, walking about, playing billiards, etc., pretty well, but requiring the constant attention of his servant.

"In January, 1855, he had a distinct epileptic fit, convulsions lasting for two hours, and insensibility for the ten following. From that time he could never articulate; he suffered much from cold, and was only able to walk about the room with the assistance of a servant; but he still retained his cheerfulness, and ate and slept well.

"In March, his circulation had become languid to a most remarkable extent; a sore formed on the thigh, and one on the back, in spite of his sitting always on water-cushions, and being kept scrupulously clean. A water-bed was now ordered; the sores healed rapidly, and did not again appear. In June, he became perfectly helpless, unable to lift his hand but by a slow and apparently painful effort; his bowels were very torpid, and the urine required to be occasionally drawn off by a catheter. He had many attacks of convulsions, attempts at lifting him out of bed often producing them. On touching his hand, reflex motions were produced, lasting for some time. His appetite was good; but his power of deglutition so impaired as to render feeding him a matter of great difficulty. Small quantities of animal food were therefore administered to him at short intervals, and his drink was almost confined to warm milk, which continued to be administered during the night. Under this treatment, he did not lose flesh; he seemed cheerful, and pleased at the presence of visitors, though unable to recognise former friends.

"He was removed from Chiswick on 20th August, by the authority of his recently appointed committee, seven men lifting him into the carriage with difficulty. I did not see him again alive.

"It will be observed, that the *post mortem* appearances, so fully described by Dr. Smith and Mr. Clark, account for all the symptoms and corroborate the views as to the nature of his malady entertained, during Mr. O'Connor's lifetime, by his medical attendants.

"HARRINGTON TUKE, M.D.

"Manor House, Chiswick."

CHOLERA IN MILLBANK PRISON. On Monday, Oct. 22nd, Mr. Bedford, coroner for Westminster, held an inquest at the Millbank Penitentiary, relative to the death of Henry Edwards, an inmate of the prison, who died from Asiatic cholera, which disease has again made its appearance in the gaol within the last few days. Seven cases have occurred, and the case under inquiry made the third death. The deceased was admitted into the prison on the 7th of September, having been sentenced at the Staffordshire Assizes to four years penal servitude. He was taken ill on Friday, Oct. 19th, and died on the following day. The jury returned a verdict simply of "Death from Asiatic cholera", and the investigation terminated.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE. The reception of twenty pensioners into the Royal Medical Benevolent College took place on Wednesday last, October 24th. Mr. Probert having determined to inaugurate the important event in proper English fashion, a substantial banquet was prepared, to which all the pensioners were invited, together with the more prominent friends and supporters of the institution. The festival was held in the principal refectory, Mr. Probert presiding, and the newly received pensioners forming the principal portion of the company. The chairman gave the usual loyal toasts, with a special compliment to Prince Albert and the Prince of Wales for their early patronage and persevering support of the undertaking. An emphatic and distinct compliment was paid to Earl Manvers, the liberal patron of the College, after which the various functionaries of the institution were toasted in succession, and, finally, the pensioners themselves, whose position was recognised with not less delicacy than benevolence by the chairman. To this toast Mr. Goldstone, formerly of Bath, returned appropriate thanks, and the evening's proceedings terminated, after having secured the entire satisfaction of every one present. In the course of the evening Mr. Donald King, the eminent vocalist, sang several appropriate songs. (*Abridged from Daily News, October 25th.*)

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. We understand that the senate has received a communication from Sir George Grey, intimating that in the opinion of the government the senate ought to concede the points upon which they have so long opposed the graduates, and that that body ought now to be admitted into the university, with the privileges of convocation and the right to nominate members of the senate.

GLASGOW MEDICAL SOCIETY. At an ordinary meeting of this Society, held on Tuesday evening, October 16th, in the Faculty Hall, St. Enoch's Square, the following gentlemen were elected office-bearers for the ensuing session; viz., William Lyon, Esq., *President*; Dr. Bell and Dr. J. Adams, *Vice-Presidents*; Dr. J. Fraser, *Treasurer*; and Dr. J. G. Wilson, *Secretary*.

APOTHECARIES' HALL: CLASSICAL EXAMINATION. The subjects of the Preliminary Classical and Mathematical Examination at Apothecaries' Hall for the session 1855-6 are, in Greek—the Gospel of St. Matthew, the Fourth Book of Homer's Iliad; in Latin—the First Book of the Odes of Horace, and Cicero de Amicitia; the First Book of Euclid, Algebra, and Common Arithmetic.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS and other COMMUNICATIONS for the JOURNAL should be directed to the private address of the Editor, 39, Curzon Street, May Fair.

TO CONTRIBUTORS. The Editor would feel glad if Members of the Association and others would cooperate with him in establishing as a rule, that in future no paper for publication shall exceed two pages of the Journal in length. If the writers of long communications knew as well as the Editor does, that lengthy papers *always* deter the reader from commencing them, this great evil would never arise. Brevity is the soul of medical writing—still more than of wit.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from DR. HITCHMAN, DR. COWAN, MR. ANCELL, DR. G. WERTER, DR. DAVEY, MR. J. V. SOLOMON, DR. MERRIMAN, MR. QUAIN, DR. CORMACK, MR. HUSBAND, MR. HOLMES, MR. H. ALFORD, MR. THOMPSON, MR. JORDAN, MR. WILSON, MR. ANDERSON, DR. PATHE, and MR. ERLIN CLARKE.

MR. HENRY ALFORD. We shall be very glad of the Reports mentioned. We trust, however, that our Correspondent will remember that we shall endeavour, as far as possible, to restrict papers to two pages in length, and as much shorter as they can be rendered.

DR. DAVEY. The remainder of your Lectures shall be shortly published if you will kindly favour us with them; but we trust they will be somewhat condensed, as hitherto they have generally occupied five pages of the JOURNAL.

BOOKS RECEIVED. [* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.] 1. MILTON (John L.) Practical Remarks on the Treatment of Spematorrhoea. Third Edition. pp. 30. London: 1855. 2. CERRÉ (Edwards, M.D.) A Treatise on the Structure and Use of the Spleen; being one of the three unsuccessful Essays for the Astley Cooper Prize. pp. 198. London: 1855. 3. SCOTT (Roger W., M.D.) The Studies and Duties of the Medical Student: being the Introductory Lecture of the Session 1855-6, delivered at the Liverpool Northern Hospital, October 8, 1856. pp. 36. Liverpool: 1856.