

ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL

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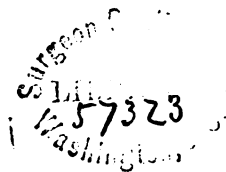
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BY

ANDREW WYNTER, M.D.

VOLUME FOR 1856.

[FOURTH VOLUME OF THE NEW SERIES.]



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alleged to be forgeries. The analysis of the stomach and intestines of the prisoner's wife, and of his brother, Walter Palmer (both of whose bodies were exhumed last week), is still going on by Professor Taylor; and, although the analysis is at present incomplete, a small portion of arsenic has been discovered in the intestines of Mrs. Palmer, on whose life there was an assurance of £13,000, and which the prisoner had shortly before wished to increase to nearly double that amount. It is not improbable but that six or seven other bodies will be exhumed before the investigation of the case is completed; one of which is said to be that of a gentleman from London, who, a year or two ago, visited the prisoner for the purpose of receiving payment of a large debt owing him, and who, after four or five days' illness, died at the prisoner's house, although previously in good health. Every effort to find the betting-book of the deceased Mr. Cook, has at present proved fruitless.

The deceased Mrs. Palmer was a ward in Chancery. During a long period before her marriage to Palmer, her guardian resolutely opposed the union, and the Master in Chancery also withheld his consent for some time. Yielding, however, to the entreaties of the young lady herself, both objectors subsequently ceased their opposition, and the marriage ensued. Respecting the sporting proceedings of both the prisoner and Cook, and the great intimacy which subsisted between them, a sporting paper says:—"Among sporting men the subject of the alleged murder, or murders, is still the ruling topic of conversation; and the sensation which was created on the first disclosure of the horrid particulars, is rather deepened than diminished. Both Palmer and the deceased were well known to every person connected with the turf. Their horses were trained together; they lived on the most intimate terms, and invariably lodged at the same hotel at the different race meetings which they frequented. They were believed to be confederates in racing matters; and poor Cook placed the most implicit confidence in Palmer's judgment. Of Palmer he would always speak familiarly as 'the Doctor'. Once, in the month of October, Palmer was driving Cook to Rugeley in a gig, when the vehicle upset; but we believe that Palmer was the more injured of the two. Palmer was considered to be rather a fortunate man on the turf, and a quiet, careful better. He won some large stakes in the course of his time. Mr. Cook had a long career of ill luck. His losses during the past season could not have fallen far short of £7,000. By the success of his mare, Polestar, however, at Worcester and Shrewsbury, he won nearly a moiety of that amount."

We have ascertained that William Palmer, the person accused of the murder, is a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. His name will be found in the College list as having been admitted a member on the 10th of August 1846; prior to which he acted as House Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, at which institution his medical studies were completed.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE. On Friday a deputation from the council waited on the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, to request that his lordship would preside at the fourth Anniversary Festival of this much needed institution, which his lordship kindly consented to do, and has appointed Wednesday the 2nd of April next, for holding the festival, at the Freemasons' Tavern. As it will be the first festival since the opening of the College, there will, doubtless, be a very large muster of its most influential friends and supporters on the occasion.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH. At the Annual Election Meeting of the Royal College of Physicians, held on the 6th December, 1855, the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—*President:* Dr. James Begbie. *Vice-President:* Dr. Thomas Stewart Traill. *Other Members of Council:* Dr. Robert Christison, Dr. William Sellar, Dr. Alexander Wood, Dr. John G. M. Burt, Dr. John Taylor. *Censors:* Dr. Patrick Fairbairn, Dr. James Young Simpson. *Examiners of Foreign Graduates:* The President, Dr. Robert Christison, Dr. William Sellar, Dr. John Moir, Dr. Alexander Wood, Dr. John Coldstream, Dr. David MacLagan. *Treasurer:* Dr. John Taylor. *Secretary:* Dr. Alexander Wood. *Librarian:* Dr. John Brown. *Fiscal:* Dr. James Andrew. *Keeper of Museum:* Dr. James Stark. *Clerk:* Mr. James D. Haig. *Under-Librarian:* Mr. John Small. *Officer:* Thomas Marshall.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY. The following paper will be read on Monday, January 7th, at 8 P.M., "The Prophylaxis of Cholera by some of the Vegetable and Mineral Acids," by Mr. Tucker.

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.

Members should remember that corrections for the current week's JOURNAL should not arrive later than Wednesday.

THE METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS. In consequence of the reduction in the size of the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL, we have been obliged to discontinue the Table of Observations. Valuable as this Table was, we felt, nevertheless, that much of its interest was taken away by the publication of the Board of Health Returns, and we felt also, that to render it the source from which any general law could be deduced, a much larger number of returns than we could possibly give publicly to, would be required. To those Gentlemen who have so long kindly favoured us with these returns, we have already acknowledged our obligations.

ALTERATIONS OF ADDRESS. All communications from Members, regarding changes of Address, should be addressed to the Publisher of the Journal, Mr. HONEYMAN, 37, Great Queen Street.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from Dr. W. FARR, Mr. JOHN COWLEY, Mr. G. B. MASFEN, Mr. THOMAS GREENWOOD, Dr. GIBB, Dr. JOHN DILL (Manchester), Mr. J. W. JEANS, Mr. POLLOCK, Dr. BALLARD, Dr. BLACK, Dr. HOSKINS, Mr. JOSEPH WALKER (Burslem), Dr. GREENHILL, Dr. BRITTON, Mr. PRICHARD, Mr. G. TREND, Mr. G. HUMPHREY, Dr. CROKER, Mr. GEORGE KING, A VILLAGE SURGEON, Mr. J. WHEATCROFT, and Mr. W. T. BELL.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

[* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

1. The Retrospect of Medicine. Edited by W. Braithwaite. Vol. XXXII. July—December, 1855. London: 1855.
2. Report of the North Staffordshire Medical Society for the year 1855. Pamphlet, pp. 10. Burslem: 1855.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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