

MR. GRIFFIN'S APPEAL TO THE POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.

MEETING OF THE OFFICERS OF THE BANBURY UNION.

A MEETING was held on Tuesday last, convened by invitation, at the residence of Mr. Chesterman, Banbury. It consisted of nearly all the medical practitioners resident in the Banbury Union, amongst whom happily the greatest good feeling and unanimity exists.

There were present—Messrs. Chesterman, Morris, Grimby, Botham, and Smiles (of Banbury); Messrs. Colegrave and Hyde (of Bloxham); Mallam (of Hook Norton); and Mc Greal (of Balscott). Messrs. Rye, Griffin, Brayne, Douglass, and Wise (of Banbury), and Pritchard (of Hook Norton), being unavoidably absent, sent letters expressive of their anxious wish to co operate with their medical brethren.

The general conviction was, that the time had now arrived when, by unity of action, and by a well organised and energetic movement amongst the profession, the just rights and fair remuneration of the Poor-Law medical officers might easily be attained; and an earnest desire existed that other localities might evince the same friendly spirit of organisation to obtain their redress. The following resolutions were unanimously carried—

“That this meeting, viewing the dependent position, and badly remunerated services of the Poor-Law medical officer, recognises and hails with satisfaction the present united efforts of the profession to effect a change in the system.

“That this meeting, adopting the recommendation of Mr. Piggott's committee of the House of Commons in 1854, viz., ‘that the salaries be raised and increased, and that the districts be readjusted’, further desires that the medical appointments and duties of the Poor-Law medical officer be placed under the immediate control of a medical inspector, appointed by the Government for that purpose.

“That for the efficient carrying out of the foregoing resolutions it is expedient that a petition be presented to the House of Commons, as early as possible in the forthcoming session, and that the county and borough members be earnestly requested to support its prayer.”

The appointment of Mr. Grimby as Local Secretary, with power to receive a small subscription to defray the incidental expenses, and a vote of thanks to the chairman, terminated these very friendly and, it is to be hoped, useful proceedings.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON. The following papers will be read before this society on Saturday next, Jan. 26th—

Dr. Murphy. On the use of Chloroform in Childbirth.

Dr. Snow. Further Remarks on the Cause and Prevention of Death from Chloroform.

SONGS FOR THE SICK SOLDIERS. The Queen, who has manifested such sympathy for the sick and wounded by presents of various kinds, has again sought to lighten the monotony of hospital routine, by sending several copies of appropriate songs for the amusement of the inmates of the General Hospital, Fort Pitt.

PRIZES. The following are the subjects for competition for the Jacksonian Prize of the Royal College of Surgeons, viz.:—“The Pathology and Treatment of Syphilis” and “An Inquiry into the Nature and Treatment of the different forms of Gangrene”. The prize is twenty guineas. The essays must be sent in to the College before Christmas Day next. The subject for the sixth triennial “Astley Cooper” Prize of Three Hundred Pounds, is on “The Structure and Use of the Thyroid Gland”. The essays to be sent to Guy's Hospital on or before the 1st of January 1859.

A prize of 100 ducats, or £50, will be awarded for the best examination of a series of propositions taken from the treatise “Versuch einer neuen empirischen Begründung der Cholera-wissenschaft, 8vo. Prague: 1844.” The essays may be in English, German, French, or Italian; and sent to Mr. J. G. Calve (the donor of the prize), Prague, before the 31st of July next. Additional particulars may be ascertained of Mr. Churchill, the publisher.

PROFESSOR QUEKETT. A Sherborne newspaper, giving an account of the conversazione at the Archaeological Society's meeting, at Taunton, describes the learned Histologist as a Veterinary Surgeon.

TORTURE IN INDIA. On Saturday, the 27th of October, a magistrate was informed that a man had been brought into Alipore gaol complaining of the injuries he had received. The man's name was Muntoo. He had been arrested as he left the Calcutta gaol on a charge of theft, which he denied, but which he subsequently was induced by the torture to confess. The man had been tortured severely. According to his own account, he had been hung to the rafters by the wrists, severely beaten, and squeezed with a bamboo. His shoulders and loins bore marks of the treatment, and the medical testimony proved that he had sustained severe internal injury. He charged the Thannadar of Kidderpore and his policeman with the crime. It was committed, he said, in the Thannadar's own house, and thither the magistrate proceeded. The bamboo rafter appeared to bear the marks which a heavy rope always leaves on a bamboo. The neighbours testified to screams proceeding from the room. The Jemadar of the Calcutta gaol proved that the victim had left that establishment uninjured; and the local police proved that Muntoo appeared agitated on his return from the Mohurri's house. The fact of torture appeared demonstrated. It remained to ascertain the criminal. Fortunately, direct evidence was not wanting. The case was fully proved, and on the following morning the Mohurri and his accomplices were committed for trial. Ten days after they were working in chains in the Alipore gaol. The chief delinquent had been sentenced to hard labour in irons for seven years, and his accomplices to a somewhat shorter period.

In no European country would the magistrate have first heard of this case from the gaoler. The indignant neighbourhood would have performed his functions. The man's screams were clearly heard, yet no one interfered, or, as far as it appears, even inquired. There was no horror, no excitement, and no sympathy. The witnesses gave their evidence reluctantly; and we question whether the Mohurri is not still considered in his own neighbourhood, and among his own class, an injured man. No Bengalee cares one jot for human suffering, and the fact is at once the true explanation of the practice and the greatest obstacle to its suppression. (*Friend of India.*)

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.

TO DR. H. Y. WHYTEHEAD and other Inquirers. The Journal Fund was proposed by individual members, and it was proposed by it to raise £1000. The Association in their corporate capacity never sanctioned the proposal, and it did not succeed. A notice appeared in the Journal some time since stating that the contributions would be returned, if application were made to the Committee who undertook the management of the Fund.

Communications have been received from:—MR. HUMPHRY (Cambridge); MR. HINGESTON (Brighton); MR. T. W. NUNN; MR. COULSON; MR. DAYMAN (Southampton); MR. G. M. STANSFELD (Redlands); AN ASSOCIATE; MR. C. M. THOMPSON (Westerham); MR. T. NUNNELLY (Leeds); DR. DAY; MR. TOM TAYLOR; DR. EREN WATSON; MR. W. L. BUTTON; SIR CHARLES HASTINGS, M.D.; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; DR. THOMAS KIRKLAND; MR. T. HOLMES (St. George's Hospital); DR. FORBES WINSLOW; MR. FRYER WEBB; DR. THUDICHUM; MR. W. SCOTT; DR. RADFORD; MR. H. W. T. ELLIS (Crowle); and MR. H. W. LEY.

W. W. We should be exceedingly obliged to you if you could do so. Now that the railway is formed between Gloucester and Hereford, it would be easy, we should think, to form a Gloucester, Cheltenham, and Hereford Branch of the Association. As an encouragement to Members to form new Branches, we may state that means have been taken to establish an East of Scotland Branch, and we are in hopes to extend our influence to India by the formation of a Branch in Bengal.

TO SUBSCRIBERS. Subscriptions for the Journal are received at the Office, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields. All post-office orders should be addressed to Mr. THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN, and made payable at the Money Order Office, Strand. We trust that Subscribers previous to the present year will not forget, when they make their payments, that an extra ten shillings is required of them, to pay off all past liabilities.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

1. The Journal of Psychological Medicine. Edited by *Forbes Winslow, M.D., D.C.L.
2. Statistics of Graveyards in Scotland. By John Webster, M.D., F.R.S.