

Again, the assertion that persons so seized could not bear to be touched, was met by cases in which the victims had actually implored to have their limbs rubbed. This positive testimony completely disposed of the mere suppositions on the other side, derived from the behaviour of the lower animals while suffering under the action of strychnine.

The extreme interest which attaches to the general medical testimony, and to the discussion of the means by which the poisoner most probably dispatched his victim, would take up so much room in our crowded columns, that we are forced to defer our remarks upon them until next week. It is but fair to state, that the prisoner's friends pretend to be confident they shall yet be able to overthrow the medical evidence upon which he has been convicted.

THE MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND.

THE Biennial Dinner of the Medical Benevolent Fund will be held at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate Street, on the 4th of June. The Right Honourable Henry Labouchere, M.P., has consented to take the Chair.

In directing attention to this fact, we can only reiterate what has been again and again said in this JOURNAL, as to the claims of our Medical Benevolent Fund. Those, however, who know little of it, may be informed that its object is to afford pecuniary relief to distressed medical men and their families. Sometimes the relief is in the form of sums of money, varying from £5 to £20; while to other applicants annuities are granted. An extract or two from the Report, read before the last Annual Meeting of our Association, seem to us to be appropriately capable of reproduction in this place.

"Your Committee have to record with thankful and grateful hearts that the income of your Society during the past year has exceeded the preceding one. In the annexed cash account it will be found that the sum of £1,161 : 10 : 8 has been received in donations and subscriptions (the donations last year were larger owing to the receipt of £700 at the biennial dinner), and that your Trustees have invested £215 : 14 : 6 in Bank Stock, making a total of £4,199 : 9 funded property, the income from which is available for the granting of annuities. The balance in the hands of your Treasurer amounts to £107 : 3 : 0. The number of cases relieved, sixty-two; the number of persons benefited, three hundred and ten; and the number of annuitants, eleven.

"It is a subject for regret that the Medical Benevolent Fund should have comparatively so few supporters from the affluent in the profession; and it is believed that if the claims of this Society were brought more prominently and pressingly before them, and they were assured that the funds were distributed with great discrimination, only to the necessitous and deserving, and that the expenses were kept within the lowest possible limit, many would feel only too happy to assist in this work of benevolence, making your Committee the almoners of their bounty.

"To accomplish this end, the means that would suggest themselves are, that every one interested in this charitable work should endeavour to interest others also, and by freely distributing 'Appeals' setting forth the history and constitution of the Fund, the amount of professional wretchedness, suffering, and privation which come before them for relief, and which can only be accomplished through the agency of the Benevolent Fund, no other institution existing for the granting immediate relief to such cases."

Association Intelligence.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the Association will be held in Birmingham, on the 29th, 30th, and 31st days of July next.

A new Code of Laws will be proposed; the Report of the Council will be presented; and papers of practical and scientific interest will be read.

Further particulars will be published after the next Meeting of the Executive Council.

It is requested that members who wish to read papers, will send an early intimation to

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *Secretary.*

Worcester, May 1856.

ELECTION OF GENERAL COUNCIL.

DR. WILLIAMS begs respectfully to remind the Hon. Secretaries of the Branches, that the following Law, made at the last Annual Meeting, for the election of the General Council, will be acted upon in Birmingham, on the 29th of July next.

"ELECTION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

"Law 26.—Each District Branch shall, at a meeting to be held before the General Annual Meeting, proceed to nominate members who shall represent the Branch in the General Council for the ensuing year, according to the following scheme:—In a Branch consisting of less than thirty members, the President for the year shall be declared sole representative, with the addition of the Acting Honorary Secretary; if the members amount to thirty or more, and for every complete number of twenty additional members beyond thirty, each Branch shall be entitled to choose *one* representative. A complete list of the members thus chosen shall be sent to the General Secretary at least a fortnight before the Annual Meeting, and they shall continue in office till the close of the official year, when they may be either re-appointed or superseded.

Worcester, May 19th, 1856.

THE LAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION: NOTICE OF MOTION.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,—In accordance with the decision of the Special Meeting held in Birmingham, I give notice that it will be my duty to propose, at the next Annual Meeting, the two following resolutions; together with such other changes in the Laws of the Association as were adopted at the last meeting of the Laws Committee, and will be published in the next number of the JOURNAL.

Resolution 1.—That the name of the Association be changed to "British Medical Association".

Resolution 2.—That the Council of the Association be elected on the principle of absolute representation, so that each member of the general body may have, by his representative, a voice in the management of its affairs.

Yours, etc.,

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *Secretary.*

Worcester, May 18th, 1856.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH.

THE time is approaching when it will be necessary, according to the rules passed at the last anniversary at York, for each Branch of the Association to nominate a certain number of representatives to the General Council, in proportion to the strength of the Branch.

There are many associates resident in Lancashire and Cheshire who have not signified to me their wish to become members of our Branch; and since, as I read the rule, *only members have the power to vote*, I shall be obliged if those gentlemen who are not already enrolled will favour me with their names previous to the meeting of the Council, which will shortly be held, in order that a complete list may be presentable on that occasion.

JOHN HARTON, *Hon. Secretary.*

293, Oxford Street, Manchester, May 2nd, 1856.

have ever regarded it as one of the greatest—though certainly not the most injurious—of the many delusions that have dishonoured medical science since its origin.

"Believe me, my dear Sir, yours faithfully, JOHN FORBES.
"To Dr. Radclyffe Hall, Torquay."

HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH: ANNUAL FESTIVAL. The seventy-fourth Anniversary of the Society was held in the Royal Hotel, Princes Street, on Saturday the 12th of April. It was numerously attended by all ranks of the profession in town, and by brethren from the country. Among the strangers present, were J. Dingwall Fordyce, Esq., advocate, Dr. Velten, from Aix-la-Chapelle, Dr. Campbell Stewart, of New York, and Dr. Wilkes, from London. Dr. James L. Bryden, the successful competitor for the prize awarded by the Society for the best essay *On the Production of Sugar in the Human Economy*, was also there, as the Society's guest. The President, Dr. Malcolm, delivered a very interesting address on the Early History of Midwifery in the Scottish Capital. Professor Simpson moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Malcolm for the admirable paper to which they had listened with such pleasure. The company then adjourned to the dining-hall, where an ample repast was spread: Dr. Malcolm acting as chairman, and Dr. Inglis as croupier. After the usual toasts, Professor Bennett proposed the health of Dr. Bryden, and alluded, in flattering terms, to the excellence of the essay which had obtained for him the honour of the Society's prize. Professor Simpson proposed 'the Visitors', a toast which was warmly responded to, and elicited interesting replies. The Bard of the Society, Dr. D. MacLagan, at the request of the President, then read and presented to Dr. Seller the diploma of *Doctor Hilaritatis*, which had been unanimously conferred upon him at last year's meeting. Dr. Seller replied in a Latin ode, in which the honour was acknowledged in flowing classical numbers. Various other toasts were proposed, including the 'University', the 'Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons', etc., etc., and the company broke up at a late hour, evidently well pleased with the pleasant intercourse they had enjoyed. The Society has this year received an accession of strength in the persons of Dr. Charles Wilson, Dr. Laycock, Mr. Lister, and Dr. Thomson of Dalkeith.—*Edinburgh Medical Journal.*

GROSVENOR PLACE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE. On Friday, May 2nd, the Annual Distribution of Prizes took place at the Grosvenor Place School of Anatomy. Dr. J. B. Daniell took the Chair on the occasion; as the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, after having been pleased to acquiesce in the wishes of the Committee, to preside at the distribution, was unavoidably prevented at the last moment. The report was then read by Dr. Lankester, in which he alluded to the great loss the School had sustained by the death of Mr. Pilcher, who, after occupying the Chair of Surgery for twelve years, had been cut off in the midst of his duties. Prizes and certificates of honour were then awarded to the students who had shewn themselves most proficient in the various classes. Dr. Lankester, in an able speech on behalf of the lecturers, presented Mr. Ernest A. Hart with a beautiful silver inkstand, in acknowledgment of the great services the School had derived from his exertions during the past session. Mr. Hart, in reply, acknowledged the pride and regard in which he should ever hold that mark of esteem the lecturers had been pleased to confer upon him; and said he was directed by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor to state his intention of presenting as a prize a Gold Medal to the student shewing himself most proficient in general subjects. A vote of thanks was proposed to the Chairman by Dr. Lankester, seconded by Mr. Bloxam; and the meeting separated.

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 report of the Annual Meeting of the Yorkshire Branch shall appear next week.

TO CORRESPONDENTS AND CONTRIBUTORS. Pressure of matter compels us to omit MR. AUGUSTIN PRICHARD's interesting Report of Cases of Tetanus; MR. HOLMES' paper on Aneurism treated by Compression; and several other valuable contributions, which we should otherwise have published this week.

Communications have been received from:—MR. T. HOLMES; MR. AUGUSTIN PRICHARD; MR. JOHN HATTON; MR. THOMAS BARKER; MR. W. MATTERSON; DR. S. W. J. MERRIMAN; DR. HANFIELD JONES; DR. JOHN COCKLE; MR. JOHN WINDSOR; DR. HONORIN; MR. EDWARD JACKSON (Sheffield); DR. WILLIAMS; DR. A. WHYTE BARCLAY; MR. J. K. SPENDER; SIR JOHN FORBES; MR. THOMAS NUNNELLY; MR. WILLIAM THOMAS; MR. JOHN BOWIE; DR. LANKESTER; MR. W. T. FERNIE; and DR. WILLIAM BUDD.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

1. Physicians and Physic. By * James Y. Simpson, M.D., F.R.S.E. pp. 133. Edinburgh: A. and C. Black.
2. The Obstetric Memoirs and Contributions of James Y. Simpson, M.D., F.R.S.E. Edited by W. O. Priestly, M.D., Edinburgh; and Horatio K. Storer, M.D., Boston, U.S. Vol. 2. Edinburgh: A. and C. Black.
3. On Calculous Diseases and its Consequences: being the Croonian Lectures for the Year 1856. By G. Owen Rees, M.D., F.R.S. London: Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.
4. The Medical Remembrancer. A Book of Emergencies. By E. B. L. Shaw. Fourth Edition. Re-written and much enlarged, by Jonathan Hutchinson. London: John Churchill.
5. Clinical Researches on Disease in India. By Charles Morehead, M.D., Principal of Grant Medical College, &c. Two Volumes. London: Longmans. 1856.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Just published, in fcap 8vo.

The complete Hand-book of Obstetric SURGERY, or Short Rules of Practice in every emergency, from the simplest to the most formidable operations connected with the science of Obstetrics. By CHARLES CLAY, M.D., etc., etc.
London: HENRY RENSCHAW, 356, Strand.

University of London.—Notice is

HEREBY GIVEN, That by the Resignation of Joseph Hodgson, Esq., F.R.S., the Office of EXAMINER in SURGERY in this University is vacant.

The Election to this office will take place on Wednesday, the 9th JULY next; and Candidates must announce their names to the Registrar on or before the 2nd July. By order of the Senate,

WM. B. CARPENTER, Registrar.

Burlington House, May 22, 1856.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Association Medical Journal.—Office—37, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, LONDON.

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