

Rarely did Dr. Alison emerge, of late years, into public life from his retirement; yet the old indomitable spirit still lurked in his energetic bosom. Two years ago, when a question of great interest was being debated, viz., whether the change which of late years has taken place in the method of treatment of inflammatory diseases is due to a change in the character or type of disease, or to a change in our notions as to the nature of diseased action, and to our improved methods of distinguishing disease, Dr. Alison thought it his duty to come forth to do battle in defence of the change of type theory, which, in the Medico-Chirurgical Society, he argued vigorously, and so logically, by reference to the authority of past ages, and by reference to his own experience and that of those of the present day who have had the largest opportunities of observing and treating disease in every form. His last public appearance was in July 1858, when he presided over the annual meeting of the British Medical Association. Selected by the unanimous voice of the Association as the most worthy among the medical worthies of Scotland, he accepted the office, and threw all his remaining energy, as well as the good qualities of his heart, into the performance of its duties. The offer of the presidency made to him was a compliment justly due to his eminent position, and must have gratified him; but perhaps the effort was too great for his impaired strength. Certainly since that period his health has declined in an increased ratio.

The last days of this true philosopher were spent happily, in the retirement of his beautiful Tusculum, near Colinton. Ever and anon attacks of his malady interrupted his pursuits; but in the interval he read both medical and scientific works, and the lighter works of the day; wrote a good deal, and enjoyed the society of those devoted and attached relatives whose delight and whose life it was to minister to his comfort, and who now sincerely mourn his loss. Dr. Alison married his cousin, Miss Gregory, who, however, predeceased him some years, leaving no issue.

His writings on various topics in medicine, general science, social and political economy, etc., were numerous. His admirable pleadings for poor-law reform are worthy of being remembered. Pitched against such an opponent as Dr. Chalmers, he showed himself worthy of his foe; they were well matched both men of vigorous intellect, of strong steadiness of purpose, both actuated by feelings of the most sincere and ardent benevolence; but the practical and practicable gained the victory over the speculative and impracticable—the compulsory system of poor-law relief being more adapted for society as it is; the voluntary system for society as it might or should be. The former, supported by Dr. Alison, triumphed over the latter as supported by Dr. Chalmers; the result being the new system of poor-laws in Scotland, which, defective in some points as they undoubtedly are, must be confessed to be infinitely superior to the system which they supplanted.

To Dr. Alison, also, the Scotch are greatly indebted for the introduction, though tardy, of the system of registration of births, deaths, and marriages. He took an interest, too, in the question of medical reform. In the ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL, for June 9th, 1854, there is a correspondence between him and Mr. Nunneley, of Leeds, on this subject. He advocated strongly the necessity of a liberal general education as the best training of the mind for professional studies, and as the best means of elevating the profession which he himself so adorned; and he happily lived to see, in the passing of the Medical Act, the dawning of a new and brighter day for the science and art of medicine.

Dr. Alison combined in his person the eminent physician, the earnest philosopher, the unwearied philanthropist, and the sincere christian. Respected and beloved by all classes, he was, in an especial manner, entitled to the appellation of the "friend of the poor." Dr. Alison has departed just as he lived, quietly and peacefully. We shall not soon look upon his like

again. We shall long miss that massy, strongly built bodily frame, which seemed as if it could defy disease and infirmity; that countenance, beaming with intelligence and benevolence; that hand, open as day to melting charity; that kindly voice; that heart, so full of sympathy for human suffering; that vigorous, clear, manly, and persevering intellect, which was exercised untiringly for the good of his species. Of him it may be truly said—more, indeed, than of most men—"He rests from his labours, and his works do follow him." (Abridged from *Edinburgh Evening Courant*, September 24th.)

## Association Intelligence.

### LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Letters or communications for the JOURNAL should be addressed to Dr. WYNTER, Coleherne Court, Old Brompton, S.W.

Letters regarding the business department of the JOURNAL, and corrected proofs, should be sent to 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

A LIST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION will shortly be published in the JOURNAL. Gentlemen whose designations or addresses, as given in the lists published on July 24th and October 9th, 1858, and June 18th, 1859, are inaccurate, will oblige by at once forwarding the necessary corrections to Dr. Williams, Worcester, or Dr. Henry, 37, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
SHROPSHIRE. [Annual Meeting.]	Raven Hotel, Shrewsbury.	Monday, Oct. 3rd, 2½ P.M.
SOUTH MIDLAND. [Ordinary Meeting.]	Swan Hotel, Leighton Buzzard.	Thurs., Oct. 6th, 2 P.M.
BIRMINGHAM AND MID- LAND COUNTIES. [Ordinary Meeting.]	Hen and Chickens Hotel, Birmingham.	Thursday, Oct. 13th, 6 P.M.

MIDLAND BRANCH. The quarterly meeting of this Branch is postponed.

[To prevent delay, Reports of Branch Meetings should be sent direct to the office, 37, Great Queen Street.]

### ADMISSION OF MEMBERS, AND PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE General Secretary of the British Medical Association begs to call attention to the Laws regarding the ADMISSION of MEMBERS, and the PAYMENT of their SUBSCRIPTIONS.

"*Admission of Members.* Any qualified medical practitioner, not disqualified by any bye-law, who shall be recommended as eligible by any *three* members, shall be admitted a member at any time by the Committee of Council, or by the Council of any Branch."

"*Subscriptions.* The subscription to the Association shall be One Guinea annually; and each member, on paying his subscription, shall be entitled to receive the publications of the Association for the current year. The subscription shall date from the 1st January in each year, and shall be considered as due unless notice of withdrawal be given in writing to the Secretary on or before the 25th of December previous."

Either of the following modes of payment may be adopted:—

1. Payment by Post-Office Order to the Treasurer (Sir C. Hastings, M.D., Worcester), or to the undersigned.

2. Payment to the Secretary of the Branch to which the member belongs.

3. Members residing in the Metropolis and vicinity can make their payments through the publisher of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, Mr. Thomas John Honeyman, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

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

Worcester, September 1859.

The above explanation will, I hope, serve to disarm the just indignation of "Senex."

I can further assure him that I would not give to any patient, rich or poor, any remedy that I would not administer to me or mine. I am, etc., "CENSURED."

September 26th, 1859.

## Medical News.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

\* In these lists, an asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.

#### BIRTHS.

Of sons, the wives of—

- \*BROWN, John D., M.D., Rochester, on September 22nd.
- \*CARPENTER, Alfred, M.B., at Croydon, on September 27th.
- HORTON, Charles, M.D., Bromsgrove, lately.
- \*OAKLEY, Charles, Esq., Shrewsbury, on Sept. 24th.
- PARTRIDGE, Richard, Esq., 17, New Street, on September 24.
- ROWE, T. S., M.D., at Margate, on September 27th.

Of daughters, the wives of—

- \*BRINTON, Wm., M.D., at 20, Brook Street, W., on Sept. 21.
- COCKELL, F. E., Esq., Surgeon, at Dalston, on Sept. 22nd.
- \*NEWMAN, W., M.B., at Fulbeck, on September 20th.
- STEVENS, N. H., Esq., Surgeon, Finsbury Circus, on Sept. 26.
- PRIESTLEY, W. O., M.D., at 31, Somerset St., on Sept. 23rd.

#### MARRIAGES.

- AUSTEN, John I., Esq., Old Charlton, to Margaret Maria, youngest daughter of George Lewis, M.D., of Wiesbaden, at Frankfort-on-the-Maine, on September 20th.
- DICKINSON, Jonathan, Esq., Surgeon, Middlesborough, to Margaret Ann, youngest daughter of the late John CLOUGH, Esq., Gateshead, on September 21st.
- FISHER, Charles H., M.D., of Sittingbourne, to Ellen, second daughter of H. ORFEUR, Esq., of Yarmouth, at Bungay, on September 20th.
- HEWARD, Thomas S., L.R.C.P.Ed., of Grosvenor Street, to Sarah, youngest daughter of the late Edward ROBERTS, Esq., of Chester, on September 27th.
- McLONG, the Rev. Edward, to Mary Craven, daughter of the late Wm. BANNISTER, Esq., Surgeon Madras Army, on September 21st.
- SCOTT, the Rev. Thomas S., curate of Penge, to Louisa, second daughter of \*Allen DUKE, M.D., of Chichester, on Sept. 27.
- WILLIAMSON, James, M.D., London, to Emma, only daughter of the late N. B. FISHER, Esq., Surgeon, Bungay, on September 20th.

#### DEATHS.

- \*ALISON, William P., M.D., F.R.S.E., at Colinton, Edinburgh, aged 69, on September 22nd.
- BROWN. On August 26, at Poona, aged 26, Catherine Louisa, wife of G. F. H. Brown, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon Bombay Army.
- DOMVILLE. On September 24th, at Greenwich, aged 65, Mary Efford, widow of the late James Domville, M.D., Deputy Inspector of Hospitals and Fleets.
- McCHEANE, Thomas, M.D., at Lyttelton, New Zealand, aged 37, on May 16th.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

- \*HORE, Henry A., Esq., appointed Surgeon, and \*LEONARD, Crosby, Esq., appointed Assistant-Surgeon, to the Bristol Volunteer Rifle Corps.
- \*INMAN, Thomas, M.D.Lond., Physician to the Liverpool Northern Hospital, appointed Physician to the Liverpool Royal Infirmary.

#### HEALTH OF LONDON—SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1859.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.	Deaths.
During week .....	{ Boys .. 886 Girls .. 866 }	1752 .. 1058
Average of corresponding weeks 1849-58..	1572 ..	1031
The decrease in fatal cases of diarrhœa is shown by the		
	804	

numbers of the last three weeks, which were 148, 82, and 61. Of those returned as cholera or choleraic diarrhœa, last week gives only 3, and these occurred to infants. Scarlatina destroyed 83 lives. Small-pox was fatal last week in 23 cases; syphilis in 10; delirium tremens in 4; intemperance in 4. Five nonagenarians died, all women, the oldest of whom was 96 years, and died at the Female Almshouses, Whitechapel. Of bricklayers, 3 died last week, of bricklayers' children, 7; of carpenters, 6 died, of carpenters' wives, 7, of carpenters' children, 25; of painters, 3 died, of painters' children, 12; of plasterers' children, 2 died. At the census of 1851, there were in London 13,919 bricklayers; 23,453 carpenters; 15,369 painters; 4,378 plasterers.

#### Barometer:

Highest (Sun.) 29.888; lowest (Wed.) 29.288; mean 29.652 in.

#### Thermometer:

In sun—highest (Sat.) 87.2°; lowest (Sun.) 68.0°.  
In shade—highest (Sat.) 76°; lowest (Tues.) 41.5°.  
Mean—56.5°; difference from mean of 43 yrs.+1°.  
Range—during week, 34.5°; mean daily, 19.1°.

Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 78.

Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 0.64.

ARMY MEDICAL STAFF CORPS. On Monday, an order was forwarded to all the military hospitals from the Medical Department, for a number of volunteers from the Medical Staff Corps for the Army Hospital Corps. The volunteers are to receive instruction for three months in the surgery at Chatham Garrison, to qualify themselves for compounding medicines. Those who are found to be qualified, after an examination by a board of officers, are to receive one shilling per day, in addition to their pay. Seven intelligent young men at Fort Pitt and at the Garrison Hospital, volunteered as soon as the order was read.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH. Sir David Brewster has been elected, by the Town Council of Edinburgh, Principal of the University of Edinburgh. The appointment creates a vacancy in the principalship of the University of St. Andrews.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS. The *Edinburgh Evening Courant* of September 24, says: We are requested to state that there is no authority whatever for the paragraph which has been going the rounds of the newspapers to the effect that "the Professors of this University have received notice that the Royal Commissioners intend to issue an ordinance requiring one year's residence from every candidate for a medical degree at that University."

A FRENCH IDEA OF SMOKING IN ENGLAND. The *Athenæum* says, that "M. Bouisson, of Montpellier, has been wasting a fine imagination on the abuses of tobacco. Sylvester himself scarcely battered and shattered the pipe of peace with more acrimony than M. Bouisson, who calls upon his medical brethren throughout the world to lay down their own cigars, and menace every smoker of Cuba and Latakia with early death. His statistics are marvellous and appalling. For example, he denounces to us the fact, that in England 'boys smoke from 5 o'clock in the afternoon till 3 o'clock in the morning,' and that 'children of ten years old are known to consume as many as forty cigars in a day.'"

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. T. T. Apply to either of the Secretaries of the Metropolitan Counties Branch—Dr. Stewart, 74, Grosvenor Street, W.; or Dr. Henry, 37, Gt. Queen Street, W.C.

Communications have been received from:—MR. T. W. NUNN; DR. JAMES RUSSELL; DR. LIONEL BEALE; DR. E. CRISP; MR. F. G. HARCOURT; DR. HYDE SALTER; DR. T. H. JACKSON; MR. W. MARTIN; DR. W. OGLE; DR. T. HERBERT BARKER; DR. B. W. RICHARDSON; MR. CHAS. OAKLEY; MR. J. A. METCALFE; DR. W. O. MARKHAM; DR. SLOANE; MR. T. HOLMES; DR. T. INMAN; DR. T. LITTLETON; DR. HUMPHRY SANDWITH; MR. A. FRICHARD; DR. F. J. BROWN; DR. STYRAP; MR. J. V. SOLOMON; MR. JAMES REID; MR. W. MARTIN; DR. H. GOODE; CENSURED; A LICENTATE, EDIN.; DR. THOS. SANDWICH; MR. S. B. FARR; DR. WHITEHEAD; MR. T. TAPLIN; DR. TREVOR MORRIS; THE SECRETARIES OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL, ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL, AND WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL; AND THE SECRETARY OF THE COLLEGE OF DENTISTS.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

1. Lectures on the Diseases of Infancy and Childhood. By Charles West, M.D. 4th edition, revised and enlarged. London: Longmans. 1859.
2. A Statistical Investigation into the Mortality of the Miners in the District of Lelant. By \*Richard Q. Couch, F.R.C.S.