

McCulloch M.D., a medical practitioner qualified for registration under the Medical Act and also to John Waugh Esq. Justice of the Peace for the County of Dumfries & magistrate of the Royal Burgh of Dumfries

"Sworn before me, John Waugh, J.P.

"Attested by me, James Murray McCulloch, M.D. &c.

"John Broatch Surgeon

"Ruthwell."

Thereupon, Dr. Robertson registered the prisoner's name, and transmitted a copy of the entry to Dr. Hawkins. It was sworn that no such name as that of Broatch was to be found in any record of the College of Surgeons for or near any time approaching the alleged date of the diploma. The defence set up was that the diploma had been obtained by the prisoner, but had been lost in 1826; and this he also told to Dr. McCulloch as a reason for not showing it to him when he signed the declaration. The jury found a verdict of guilty, with a recommendation to mercy; and the Lord Justice Clerk passed a sentence of three months imprisonment, remarking, that not only had the prisoner committed an offence himself, but he had implicated others, by imposing on a medical practitioner, who had so far forgotten his position as to aid and abet in the offence, and by deceiving a magistrate by obtaining an attestation which he never would have procured had circumstances been truly explained.

A great stir has lately been made in the scientific assemblies of Paris, regarding the application of a mixture of coal-tar and powdered gypsum as a disinfectant and deodoriser. The mixture is stated to consist of one hundred parts of plaster of Paris, mixed with from one to three parts of coal tar. It was introduced to the notice of the Academy of Sciences in July, by Messrs. Corne and Demeaux, two practitioners at Libos, in the department of the Lot and Garonne. Mr. Corne, it was alleged, observed that a mixture of coal-tar and plaster, in various proportions, had the property of deodorising fetid and putrifying matters; and he proposed its application to the deodorisation of the night-soil in Paris. Dr. Demeaux applied the powder to the offensive discharges from suppurating wounds and gangrenous ulcers, with success. A series of experiments were instituted at the Charité Hospital, under the superintendence of Professor Velpeau, who has given his aid to bring the alleged discovery into notice. An explanation of the mode of action of the powder has been sought to be given; and Messrs. Dumas and Burdell are of opinion that it owes its properties to its power of ozonising the air. The real value of the mixture has probably yet to be ascertained; but, in the mean time, it seems that there is little or no novelty in the alleged discovery. The antiseptic properties of tar were, as is well known, insisted on long ago by Bishop Berkeley. At a recent meeting of the Academy of Sciences, Dr. Bonnafont stated that the disinfectant properties of a mixture of coal-tar and gypsum were known so long ago as 1844 to M. Bayard, who received a silver medal for his communication on the subject; at the same time, he believed Messrs. Corne and Demeaux to have been ignorant of this fact, and accorded to them the merit of its application to wounds and ulcers. The *Edinburgh Medical Journal* for September, in commenting on the subject, remarks that the invention of Messrs. Corne and Demeaux, and its application, have been to a great extent anticipated in Great Britain. A composition, named McDougall's powder, which has been known and used for some time, bears a strong resem-

blance to the French preparation. It consists of carbolic sulphate of lime and magnesia, with five per cent. of carbolate of lime. It seems, therefore, that the efficacy of the powder, in both instances, is due to the carbolic acid, the principal antiseptic and deodorising ingredient in coal-tar.

An attack of diarrhoea last week broke out suddenly, among the inmates of the New Bailey Prison at Salford. On the night of Tuesday, September 27th, there were four prisoners in the hospital; but about three o'clock a considerable number were seized with diarrhoea, and the disease spread so rapidly that on the next (Wednesday) night there were 196 in hospital, of all ages and both sexes, including three of the prison officers. There were 64 women. On Thursday there was an addition of 40 cases, making in all 236, or just one half of the entire prisoners, who were 476 in number. During Thursday night, there were no fresh cases, and on Friday morning nearly the whole of the patients were so far recovered as to be judged fit for removal from hospital. Towards night, however, about fifty of them relapsed; but there were only five new cases among the male, and one among the female prisoners. No deaths are reported to have occurred. At the same time with the epidemic in the prison, cases of diarrhoea in the Hulme Cavalry Barracks were more than usually numerous; but on Friday there was no soldier in the hospital on account of diarrhoea or dysentery. No local cause appears assignable for the attack in the prison; the interior was not long ago whitewashed, and all was clean; the diet had undergone no change.

Association Intelligence.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES.	Hen and Chickens Hotel,	Thursday, Oct. 20th,
[Ordinary Meeting.]	Birmingham.	6 P.M.

** Associates will observe that the day of meeting has been postponed one week—viz., from the 13th to the 20th Oct.

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, October 1859.

EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN BRANCH:
GENERAL MEETING.

A GENERAL meeting of this Branch was held at the Beverley Arms, Beverley, on Thursday, September 22nd, at half-past 2 P.M.; THOMAS SANDWICH, M.D. (Beverley), President, in the Chair. The following members were also present: J. P. Bell, M.D. (Hull); F. Calvert, Esq. (Beverley); Sir H. Cooper, M.D. (Hull); R. M. Craven, Esq. (Hull); O. Daly, M.D. (Hull); J. Dix, Esq. (Hull); H. Gibson, Esq. (Hull); J. Hill, Esq. (South Cave); J. F. Holden, Esq. (Hull); K. King, M.D. (Hull); J. A. Locking, Esq. (Hull); J. Morley, Esq. (Barton); H. Sandwith, M.D. (Hull); S. Watson, Esq. (Cottingham); and as visitors, A. O. Arden, Esq.; R. L. Sleight, Esq.; H. Munroe, M.D. (of Hull); and Dr. Walker (Beverley).

THE ASSOCIATION AND THE JOURNAL.

The financial condition of the Association was brought forward by Mr. DIX, who read the following remarks:—

Perhaps the most important topic discussed at the recent Liverpool meeting was the debt of the Association, which has been spoken of as the only cloud which cast a shadow over a gathering otherwise brilliant, happy, and successful in every respect. It is, no doubt, a very serious subject; it concerns us all individually; for, as a speaker well observed the other day, some time or other these liabilities must be discharged. Every well-wisher to the Association would be glad to know that this debt was cancelled; and the Council of the Association very naturally and properly brought forward a scheme for its liquidation. Their plan, which seems to have been considered the only feasible and practicable one, was to invite voluntary subscriptions; and Mr. Terry of Northampton appears to have volunteered to take active steps in soliciting donations. Accordingly, a letter from him, sent to Mr. Locking, in virtue of his position as Local Secretary, was brought under the notice of the Council of this Branch at our last meeting of Committee; and, in consequence of what then transpired, I introduce the subject for our consideration to-day; and, as my object is to elicit the opinions of others, rather than to give prominence to my own, I shall endeavour to make my remarks suggestive of discussion, not exhaustive of the whole matter.

I suppose that an honest man, on finding that his expenditure had exceeded his income, would first ask himself this question: How has the money gone—what has it all been spent about? This is a very short and simple question; and, in our case, the answer is as simple, and even shorter—viz., the JOURNAL. This is a fact so obvious and indisputable that I need not dwell on it. Should any new member not quite understand it, I would merely refer him to the Treasurer's account, published at page 628 of the JOURNAL, August 6th, 1859, from which it will be found that, with the exception of the meagre salary of the General Secretary, the whole amount of the subscriptions of our associates is expended on the JOURNAL. But it seems to me that, at the Liverpool meeting, there existed a disinclination to look this fact fairly in the face: it was hinted at, rather than outspoken. Sir John Forbes, it is true, spoke of this debt as the natural and necessary condition of the Association, so long as we each received for our annual guinea a journal "as good as any other weekly journal which cost 33s. a year"; and he suggested that the cost of the JOURNAL should be defrayed by a subscription distinct and separate from the subscription to the Association. Other members endeavoured to saddle the debt upon the JOURNAL—undoubtedly the right horse—and make it pay for itself, by enforcing an extra charge for its postage.

Neither of these schemes was favourably received; but, during this discussion, surely this question must have presented itself to the minds of many then present.—What is this JOURNAL, that we should expend so much thereon; which swallows up all our subscriptions, the whole of which are inadequate to its maintenance; and for the sake of which we have been for years past, and still remain, considerably in debt? I am surprised, I say, that this point was not openly mooted on that occasion; for surely it must have occurred to the minds of many. However this may have been, it is this aspect of the matter which I commend to your careful consideration to-day.

And first, I would ask, Is the weekly JOURNAL (in its present costly shape) in any way essential to our existence as an Association? *Prima facie*, one would really be led to think so, from the single circumstance that it has been maintained for so many years, at a cost considerably beyond the whole amount of

our income;* and I have no doubt that this is the feeling of many of our associates, by some of whom the JOURNAL has been spoken of as "the root and the sap of the Association". And yet I am not aware of any precedent, or of a single valid reason for this opinion. If there be any such reasons, they will probably be brought out during this discussion; but I for one shall hear them for the first time. Nor shall I be surprised to find that some will agree with me in considering this JOURNAL as a sore let and hindrance to the extension of our members, and to our spread and power as an Association, as I shall presently show. My own feeling is, and has long been, that, so far from being of advantage to us, it is an incubus, and a stumbling-block in our path; and I proceed to give some reasons for the views I hold.

I am not aware that the opinions of the editor are of any greater force or value upon our affairs in general than those of any other individual member of the Association; but, at all events, in this matter he may be justly considered the mouth-piece of the JOURNAL, and the counsel for the defence of its cause. Accordingly, I would ask your attention for a few moments to the leading article of June 25th, printed at page 506, headed "Medical Societies and our Branches". In it, the editor points out that "a number of isolated medical societies are in existence throughout the country, which might, with a little management, be induced to amalgamate with our Branches"; and then occurs this very opportune, though rather ominous sentence: "Now, there are doubtless very many members of local medical associations, who are deterred from joining Branches of our Association, although otherwise inclined to do so, for the reason that membership of the Association implies an annual guinea subscription." This statement is a truism. We are doubtless, all of us, conversant with examples; and it need not by any means be limited to "members of local medical associations", but may be taken to represent the position of a very considerable proportion of the profession at large. As a commentary thereon, let me ask, why is the annual subscription of the Association one guinea?

Now, I have already shown that, in a pecuniary sense, this guinea subscription and the JOURNAL are convertible terms, inasmuch as the whole of the subscriptions are absorbed in the cost of the JOURNAL;+ and whatever other advantages attach to membership of the Association, they are either costless altogether, or, as in the case of the Branches, are made an extra charge over and above the yearly guinea subscription. Hence it follows (unless there is some flaw in my argument) that the JOURNAL is the real obstacle to the enlistment of these outlying societies, and of numerous other medical brethren of various grades. I do not start this as a theory merely, but I put it to you, fellow-associates, individually.—Is there any one in this room who cannot call to mind some one friend or more—desirable as members, too—whom he could immediately induce to join the Association, were it not for the expense of the annual subscription, or—as we may fairly put it—the cost of the JOURNAL? Still further to give this a practical shape, I do not hesitate, Mr. President, to announce myself responsible for at least half a dozen recruits on the terms I shall hereafter mention. One would almost imagine that some such feeling as this unconsciously arose in the mind of the editor himself when, in the same article, he goes on to advise that the law should be altered so as to allow of the institution of a new condition of semi-membership, so to speak; to wit, *local members*, with *local privileges*, for the cost of the *local subscription* only. Surely a more suicidal proposition never emanated from brain of editor; for, unless I am greatly mistaken, so soon as this becomes a law of the Association, so soon and so surely is his occupation gone.

According to my judgment, sir, it is the Branch meetings, and not the JOURNAL, which might really and truly be designated "the root and sap of the Association". Who amongst us knows anything of the advantages of membership of the British Medical Association, beyond the benefit accruing from the membership of the Branch (*the JOURNAL, of course, always excepted*)? Who amongst us would continue members of the Association at the cost of a yearly guinea, when for an annual half-crown we could have the full privileges of membership of the Branch?‡ These are not mere idle questions; they have a

* The annual income of the Association has for some years exceeded the expenditure on the JOURNAL; and the comparison would be still more advantageous if all the subscriptions were punctually paid. The present debt is in reality a remainder of that which was due at the end of 1855, and which has since been steadily decreasing from nearly £2000 to £900.—EDITOR.

+ Not so. Some portion of the income goes to meet the expenses of the General Council and the salary of the General Secretary, another to liquidate the old debt.—EDITOR.

‡ Mr. Dix takes a very limited view of the utility of Branch meetings. To

wide and important significance, because on the answer which each of us individually would make to them depends probably the views he would entertain on the general question which we are now considering; viz., the desirability or otherwise of continuing the publication of a weekly journal.

And this leads me to the consideration of the next division of my subject; viz., what is the actual value, pecuniary or otherwise, of this our much lauded periodical?

And first, what is the pecuniary value of the JOURNAL? In a recent article, the editor deprecates what he calls "odorous comparisons"* between this and the other weekly journals; yet such comparisons we must make, for I know of no other way of estimating the money value of this or any other concern, than by looking to the state of the market as to the material offered and its price. Judged by this test, is our JOURNAL worth a guinea a-year? With all due deference to the good-natured estimate of Sir John Forbes before mentioned, I humbly submit, that to most of us, it is very dear at the price.

The recipients of the JOURNAL may be divided into two classes, viz., those who trust to the JOURNAL alone for their information on medical matters, and those who read other periodicals. I hope the former are a very limited minority; but to them I would suggest, that theirs would not be a bad investment, except for this reason, that they are leaning on a bruised reed, that they are gradually retrograding and falling into the wake of science; and if, by taking the JOURNAL, and it only, they are deluded into the belief that they are doing justice to themselves, or to their profession, I cannot but advise them to reconsider the matter, and endeavour to avail themselves of other avenues of information. To the others, I need not say, the value of the JOURNAL must be estimated by the amount of original matter which it contains, and which could not be read in other periodicals; and that, so considered, a good deal of the JOURNAL consists of stale news and unprofitable, which either has been or could be read elsewhere.

To analyse this subject, with a view to this discussion, I took up at a venture the JOURNAL of August 20th; and I find therein four of its twenty pages devoted to a report of the proceedings of the medical council, which also appeared in the *Medical Times* and *Lancet* of the same date;† two pages of the transactions of the Medical and Chirurgical Society, the greater part of which had appeared almost word for word in the *Lancet* of August 6th (a fortnight before);‡ three pages about a certain Cornwall Medical Society, which (although printed under the head of Association Intelligence) so far as I can make out, is not a branch of the Association at all;§ and a leading article about "The Purification of the Serpentine"!|| which can scarcely be considered a medical matter at all, and is surely of no special interest to the members of the British Medical Association.¶ Nor is it likely that an article in our JOURNAL, however laudable in intent or powerful in argument, would exercise any influence on the decision of the first Commissioner of Woods and Forests, as to which of the rival schemes he should adopt and patronize. Further on, we find near two pages more occupied by a notification of the accouchements of the wives of medical men, of the marriages and deaths in the profession (in each of which our fellow associates are duly spotted and starred*), and the pass lists of the College and Hall for the preceding weeks, a large proportion of which had appeared in the *Medical Times* and

the members of the locality in which they are held, they furnish the advantages of membership; but what renders them of still greater value, is the publication of their proceedings in the JOURNAL, by which the entire Association is afforded an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the contributions to medical knowledge, or the opinions of any one of its sections.—EDITOR.

* Mr. Dix does not like the quotation "odorous comparisons". Perhaps he is not aware that it is Shakespearean. We refer him to *Much Ado About Nothing*, Act v. Scene 3.—EDITOR.

† Does Mr. Dix mean to say, that we ought not to publish reports of important public proceedings, because the other periodicals are likely to do the same thing at the same time? His argument would lead to the conclusion, that the *Daily News* or *Morning Post* should decline publishing reports of proceedings in Parliament, or in the courts of law, because every one could read them in the *Times*. Mr. Dix omits to observe, that this JOURNAL was in advance of the other periodicals in the report of the proceedings of the Medical Council.—EDITOR.

‡ The subject of obtaining earlier reports of the Medical Societies has been under our consideration, with a view to amendment. It often has happened, that the small size of the JOURNAL, and the pressure of other matter, have caused delay in the publishing of the reports.—EDITOR.

§ If Mr. Dix will read carefully the report of the proceedings of the Cornwall Medical Society, in the JOURNAL of August 20th, he will find that it was resolved that "The Cornwall Medical Society shall still remain a sub-section of the British Medical Association, etc."—EDITOR.

|| Is not a question of hygiene a medical matter, and therefore of more or less interest to the members of the Association.—EDITOR.

Lancet a week or two before.* Gentlemen, was not all this, to most of you, stale and unprofitable news? In fact, this seems to me to be one of the characteristics of the JOURNAL, that it is always behind hand. A marked illustration of this is to be found in the reports of the proceedings and papers of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, to which I have already alluded, and which I tested not in this number of the JOURNAL only, but in several other numbers, and with the same results. A still more remarkable instance is the following. The Liverpool meeting was held on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of July. The JOURNAL of the Association, our own organ, had no mention—not a word—of this important event in its issue of July 30th; although, unless I am greatly mistaken, an abstract of the whole proceedings appeared in the *Medical Times* of that date.† To proceed with my analysis—having already disposed of about twelve of the twenty pages—I do not say that there is no new or original matter. Under this head, I may direct your attention to a lecture by Dr. Lionel Beale on urine, on which I should be delighted to hear the opinion of any one who has read it;‡ a paper on pericarditis, by Dr. Markham, whose name is a guarantee for a useful and readable article, and some hospital reports, not without practical value. Nor must I omit to mention a little paragraph under the title of "The Week," which contains this important and interesting announcement, "the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of London have determined to form a joint board for the examination and licensing of the future general practitioners of this country." Here indeed was a piece of genuine news, in which Dr. Wynter had forestalled his brother editors. It has, however, this slight drawback—it was not true. Of course we have all heard that such a scheme is in contemplation, but it is even now still *sub judice*—so far, as I know, it is not even yet a *fait accompli*, and the premature announcement of August 20th ought to have taken the form of prophecy rather than of assertion.

This I believe to be a just analysis of this particular number of the JOURNAL, which, as I took it up, not by choice or selection, but entirely at random, may, for aught I know, be taken as a fair sample of our weekly issue. Will any gentleman be so kind as to give an estimate of its pecuniary worth, either as compared with the other weeklies, or considered *per se*?

Next, let us briefly consider what are the other advantages which we, as an association, are supposed to derive from the JOURNAL. It has been lately put before us as a recruiting element—as an inducement to non-subscribers to join our ranks (see the leader of June 25th to which I have before alluded.) Surely this was never seriously meant. Is there any one here who joined the Association for the sake of the JOURNAL? or who knows any one who *did*? or who *will*? Some such deluded mortals there may be amongst our 2000 associates, and I hope they have been pleased with their bargain.§

Again, we are told that the JOURNAL affords us great facilities for publishing our papers, for putting our ideas into print. Is not this a fallacy? Who can tell me what are these facilities or advantages? If a man has anything worth publishing, he need have no difficulty, so far as I am aware, in gaining admission into the best read periodicals; whereas, if his lucubrations are of no interest but to himself, 'tis but a dangerous privilege that he should have opportunity and inducement for publishing. Indeed, I have often thought that this is one of the disadvantages under which the editor of the JOURNAL labours, viz., that he can have but little discretionary power in respect of the contributions of members of the Association. If he has any such power, he surely sometimes lacks discretion—of which I could point out plenty of examples—but I am anxious to avoid wounding the feelings of any one; my remarks are made with a far different object.

I have now enumerated all, as far as I know, of the assumed advantages of our weekly JOURNAL, and what does it all amount to? I pause for a reply. We shall probably be told that it is as

* Mr. Dix cannot have accurately examined the number of the JOURNAL of which he speaks. His "nearly two pages" are in reality exactly one page, and consisted in part of matter thrust out from the previous number by the report of the Medical Council and other important topics.—EDITOR.

† Mr. Dix is greatly mistaken—no such report appeared in the *Medical Times* or *Lancet* of July 30.—EDITOR.

‡ The italics are Mr. Dix's. It will be observed, that his wish to hear an opinion was met (can we say gratified?) by the observations of Mr. Monroe in the course of the proceedings of the meeting. We must ask our readers—How can an editor be expected to provide good scientific matter for the JOURNAL, if his attempts to do so are to be met with sneers?—EDITOR.

§ We fancy there are many more of these "deluded mortals" than Mr. Dix supposes. At all events, the increase of the Association has never been so great as since it has possessed a weekly organ.—EDITOR.

good as can be at the price it costs. I do not dispute this proposition. I dare say it is. But is it needed at all? Are not the other periodicals sufficient for all useful purposes? I don't deny that the JOURNAL often furnishes us with good papers, but these we should get all the same if our JOURNAL were blotted from existence. Indeed, I fear a useful paper often falls still-born, because it is published in the JOURNAL, and my advice to men about to publish would be this; if you want to be read, don't send your paper to the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL, for it is a well-known fact that its readers beyond the circle of members are very few.* It is to be feared that some even of our members don't duly study their JOURNAL. How few care to preserve it? How few bind it and give it a place on their shelves? To a reading man, the superabundance of periodical literature is a nuisance, because it is absolutely necessary that he should see all that is written. Thus, so long as there are three weekly medical papers, three we must read more or less. Viewed in this light, is not our JOURNAL a supernumerary and a nuisance?†

The most amusing speech in the debate on the debt at the Liverpool meeting was that of Dr. Henry, wherein he mildly suggests that each member should bring in a fresh subscriber. For what object? Not for the benefit of the new comer, but to add to the funds of the Association—to raise more money—and for what? To put into the maw of this insatiable all-devouring JOURNAL. The present JOURNAL costs only about £2000 a year; for £3000 we could have a much improved JOURNAL, but for £4000—he has “carefully calculated it from accurate data”—we might have a really magnificent JOURNAL; its size could be permanently increased, and last, though not least, the paid contributors—of whom he, modest and disinterested man! is one—could be more liberally paid, and all this for a paltry £4000 a-year.‡ Does not this cool proposition raise in your minds this question—Does this JOURNAL exist for the Association, or the Association for the JOURNAL?

To speak more seriously, supposing, from an increase of subscribers, our JOURNAL were so improved as to become the very best of all weekly medical periodicals, what good or useful purpose would it serve? We might increase the number of those to whom I have already alluded, who take the JOURNAL and no other periodical, many of whom, in default of our JOURNAL, would probably contribute to the support of the other established publications, and so we might inflict considerable damage on these publications (some we already do them, no doubt). We might become formidable competitors for public favour; we might even defeat the laudable and hitherto successful results of private enterprise. Is this, I ask, the mission of our Association? Is this the best use we could make of our funds? Yet for such an end we are invited to subscribe £4,000 a year.

Of course there is no necessary connection between the discontinuance of the JOURNAL and a diminution of the annual guinea subscription. There are plenty of ways of spending any sum of money we may so raise; but in my humble opinion it would be difficult to spend it worse than at present. I would also remind you that I am but arguing against the JOURNAL in its present expensive shape. A periodical of some sort we no doubt need, but it should be the organ of the Association alone, a cheap and simple record of our own transactions and proceedings. These are matters of detail, and subjects for future consideration; but I must confess that I have a strong feeling in favour of lowering the subscription, for I have already shown that all the present advantages of the Association, *except the JOURNAL*, are costless, and I have given reasons for believing that if the cost of admission were lessened, the result would be that scarcely any eligible member of the profession would stand aloof from our Society; we might then become what I most earnestly long for, and hope to live to see, a *Universal Medical Association*, including within our ranks every respectable medical man.

I have already occupied too much of your time, and I must not now dilate upon the desirability of such an union; nor is

it necessary, for it must be sufficiently obvious to every reflecting mind. Suffice it now to say that we should thus become a compact and organised body, banded together not merely for our own but for the public weal; and what, I ask, would so much assist us in assuming that position in the state which we have a right to claim, but have so long sought in vain; what would so much conduce to the advancement of our corporate interests, and to the honour and elevation of our noble but much undervalued profession?

I think, gentlemen, that these advantages can scarcely be over-rated, and I have now only to remind you that our Association offers an admirable and a ready-made nucleus for such a conglomeration, and that the only obstacle is the JOURNAL. Let us, then, use our united endeavours to cast off this mill-stone from about our necks; and, as the first step in this direction, I beg the cordial and unanimous assent of the East York and North Lincoln Branch to the following resolution:—

“That in the opinion of this Branch the funds of the Association are injudiciously expended upon a *weekly* JOURNAL, which is the sole cause of the present financial difficulty, and we believe that the existing debt would be most easily liquidated by a discontinuance of the weekly publication; by which also the number and usefulness of our Society might be largely extended, and its general interests greatly furthered.”

Sir H. COOPER seconded the resolution so far as it went to condemn the *weekly* publication of the JOURNAL. He referred to the appointment at Oxford many years ago, of a committee whose duty it was to consider the propriety of suspending or diminishing the frequency of publication of the JOURNAL, or publishing transactions. After many months the opinion of each member was asked, and he (Sir H. Cooper) was the only one favourable to the suspension of the weekly issue of the JOURNAL. He did not think Mr. Dix would find it easy to obtain the consent of a large number of the members who were accustomed to attend and vote at the annual meetings, as they were just the parties who wished for the continuance of the JOURNAL as a vehicle for their opinions. Sir H. Cooper also referred to the complaint of the editor of want of contributions as an indication that there was no legitimate demand for so frequent a publication of the JOURNAL.

Dr. SANDWICH (Hull) thought, if the JOURNAL were discontinued, it would be desirable to resume the publication of *Transactions*.

Dr. MUNROE, a visitor, thought the JOURNAL was improved, and that it was a disgrace that members did not send communications to the editor. He stated his wish to become a member of the Association next year for the purpose of taking the JOURNAL. He considered the course of lectures by Beale was worth the money. The JOURNAL should be issued weekly or fortnightly; or, in order to lessen expense, an arrangement might be made with the *Lancet* or *Medical Times*, so as to bring the proceedings of the Association under the notice of the profession without its pale.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Dr. SANDWICH (Hull) moved—

“That in the opinion of this meeting, an alteration of the form and frequency of publication of the JOURNAL is desirable, so as not only to lessen the debt, but also to allow of the reissue of *Transactions*.”

Mr. H. GIBSON seconded the motion.

Mr. DRX expressed his gratification at the reception which his speech had met with, and at the cordial and unanimous assent which had been accorded to his resolution. He could not, however, support the addendum of Dr. Sandwith, because it militated against his pet scheme of a diminution of the subscription, with a view to a large increase of the members of the Association. This, however, he knew must be a subject for future consideration, and he believed that his chief object was sufficiently attained. The question had been fairly raised, and would no doubt attract the attention of other Branches, and he entertained sanguine hopes that a thorough ventilation of the subject would lead to good results. He trusted that they had that day taken the first step in a movement which would eventually tend to the advancement of the interests not of the Association alone, but of the medical profession at large.

The motion was carried.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The following communications were read.

1. Address on Antiquarian Pathology. By the President.
2. Case of Extirpation of Head and Neck of Femur in a case of Hip Disease. By R. M. Craven, Esq.

* We regret exceedingly to find, that on two occasions Mr. Dix has deliberately produced the abortion of two of his own literary offspring. *Vide* the JOURNAL, of October 9, 1858, and January 1, 1859.—EDITOR.

† By all means let a man read a dozen periodicals if he pleases. But suppose he requires one only—and there are many with that moderate wish—does Mr. Dix mean to say that he is to pay £1:10 a year for that which he can procure for a guinea?

‡ Mr. Dix must be quoting from a treacherous memory. The concluding part of Dr. Henry's remarks, as reported in the JOURNAL for August 6, was to the effect that the increase of the Members to 3,000 or 4,000 would, after paying all the expenses of an improved JOURNAL, leave a large sum applicable to the furtherance of any object to which the Association might resolve to apply it.—EDITOR.

3. Remarks on the forthcoming British *Pharmacopæia*. By Sir H. Cooper, M.D.
4. On the Use of Tincture of Larch in Pulmonary Hæmorrhage. By O. Daly, M.D.

The proceedings were closed by the members and visitors dining together.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH: ORDINARY MEETING.

The ordinary meeting of this Branch was held at the York House, Bath, on Sept. 22nd, under the presidency of J. G. DAVEY, M.D., of Northwoods. There were present: J. S. Bartrum, Esq. (Bath); J. Beddoe, M.D. (Bristol); E. Boulton, Esq. (Bath); W. Bush, Esq. (Bath); G. C. Corbould, Esq. (Bristol); W. J. Church, Esq. (Bath); W. Davies, M.D. (Bath); G. W. Dyke, M.D. (Chippenham); F. Flower, Esq. (Chilcompton); A. S. Fowler, Esq. (Bath); E. L. Fox, M.D. (Bristol); Jas. Godfrey, Esq. (Bristol); J. M. Granville, Esq. (Bristol); C. Harper, Esq. (Bathaston); W. Henderson, M.D. (Bristol); W. B. Herapath, M.D. (Bristol); J. Hinton, Esq. (Charterhouse Hinton); R. C. B. Holland, Esq. (Bath); J. C. Jennings, Esq. (Malmesbury); G. C. Kenrick, Esq. (Melksham); Jos. Lancaster, M.D. (Bristol); S. Martyn, M.D. (Bristol); F. Mason, Esq. (Bath); E. S. Mayor, Esq. (Bristol); Jos. Metford, Esq. (Bristol); Jos. Parsons, Esq. (Beckington); T. J. C. Powell, Esq. (Bristol); A. Prichard, Esq. (Bristol); E. Skeate, Esq. (Bath); J. Soden, Esq. (Bath); J. K. Spender, Esq. (Bath); R. U. Stone, Esq. (Bath); Jas. Taylor, Esq. (Bristol); Jas. Tunstall, M.D. (Bath); W. White, Esq. (Frome); W. Willett, Esq. (Bristol); J. G. Wilson, Esq. (Bristol); G. Vicary, Esq. (Warminster). There were present as visitors, Messrs. Fox, Freeman, and Mayor.

NEW MEMBER.

Clement Smith Barter, Esq., of Bath, was proposed, balloted for, and unanimously elected a member of this Branch.

CASES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

The following papers were read:—

1. Case of Lumbricus. By A. Prichard, Esq.
2. Case of Angina Pectoris. By F. Mason, Esq.
3. Case of Disease of the Femur: with Remarks. By E. Boulton, Esq.

[These papers, with the discussions on them, have been received for publication in the JOURNAL.]

4. *Diphtheria*. Dr. DAVIES brought forward the subject of diphtheria, suggesting that it should be fully discussed at a future meeting. He mentioned the case of a death arising from the false membrane becoming suddenly detached during sleep, and falling on the glottis.

Dr. HERAPATH observed, that diphtheria is not always of an asthenic character.

Dr. DAVEY confirmed this observation, and stated that many cases were not asthenic for the first twelve or twenty hours. Acute febrile symptoms are of short duration; and care must be taken not to use measures of too active a character, or collapse may suddenly supervene.

Mr. JENNINGS had seen two hundred cases of diphtheria, and found emetics in the early stages most important, followed by calomel and chlorine gas and quinine. In most cases, emetics might be given up to the third day. In two cases, tartar emetic would not act, but sulphate of zinc had the desired effect. He frequently found that the mucous membrane was deprived of sensibility, and tracheotomy was worse than useless.

Mr. SODEN stated that the first case in his practice occurred last December; since then, he had not met with it until July and August. Although cases had been very rare in towns, it has prevailed most extensively in some country districts, especially in the vale of Wiltshire from Swindon to Box. How far this has been accidental, cannot yet be seen; but the most intelligent informants from this district were unanimous that there could be no mistake in the nature of the complaint.

Drs. LANCASTER, DYKE, and TUNSTALL, made further observations, when it was finally proposed by Dr. DAVIES, and agreed to by the meeting, that a circular should be sent to the practitioners of the surrounding district, asking them to furnish certain particulars as to the character and treatment of diphtheria as observed by them; and that the matter should be brought forward by Dr. Davies, and discussed, at the next meeting of the Branch, at Bristol, in November.

MEDICAL REGISTRATION.

The subject of medical registration was introduced by the PRESIDENT, who stated that, although some months since the Council had very coolly received the proposal of forming a Registration Society, yet, having seen how well the Act worked in the hands of the societies in London and elsewhere, the time had arrived when the subject might be reopened with advantage.

Dr. HERAPATH and Mr. GODFREY gave an account of the working of a small society in Bristol, and urged upon the meeting the necessity of taking steps to uphold the dignity of the profession in this district.

Dr. LANCASTER did not think the subject could be brought forward without notice; which was overruled by the President, in accordance with Rule 8.

Mr. BUSH and several other members considered that the Association should confine itself solely to matters of a scientific character, and not mix itself up with legal proceedings; and that, if any Registration Society be formed, it should be one distinct from the Association.

It was ultimately proposed by Dr. HERAPATH, seconded by Dr. TUNSTALL, and carried by a majority—

“That it is desirable that a general meeting of the profession of this district should be called, to take into consideration the question of the propriety of forming a local Medical Registration Society, for looking after the general welfare of the profession.”

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

MARRIAGES.

AYERST, the Rev. W., of Calcutta, to Ellen S. H., third daughter of G. H. DRAWBRIDGE, M.B., of Rochester, on Sept. 28th.

FULLER, Captain Abraham Richard, of the Bengal Artillery, to Catherine Agnes, youngest daughter of the late Richard ARMSTRONG, M.D., Inspector of Hospitals, Royal Navy, on October 4th.

HACKNEY, John, Esq., Surgeon, of Pentonville Road, to Elizabeth, relict of the late Captain BLACKMAN, of Boreham, Sussex, on October 4th.

* SILVESTER, Thomas H., M.D., of Clapham, to Annie, daughter of the late Henry DOBBS, Esq., of Norwood Green, at Clifton, on September 27th.

WEST, R. Eliot, Esq., Surgeon, of Tavistock, to Kate Scobell, only surviving daughter of Josiah GLENCROSS, Esq., of Devonport, on September 27th.

DEATHS.

MONCKTON. On September 29th, at Brenchley, Kent, aged 3½, Stephen Holland, son of S. Monckton, M.D.

WINDUS, F. J., Esq., Civil Surgeon, at Chicacole, Madras, aged 31, on August 10th.

APPOINTMENTS.

* ASHDOWN, George, Esq., appointed Surgeon to the General Infirmary, Northampton, in the room of * Henry Terry, Esq., resigned.

BRADAZON, A. B., Esq., appointed Surgeon; and

* MANN, R. M., Esq., appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the Sixth Lancashire Volunteer Rifles.

PASS LISTS.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. LICENTIATES admitted on Thursday, September 29th, 1859:—

ARMINSON, John, Preston	JACKSON, John, Leicester
GAYE, Arthur C., Minehead	PARKER, Robert, Churton
GREENWOOD, Newton, Truro	RISTE, William, Bere Regis
HORSLEY, Henry, Croydon	SHEPHERD, J. B., Skidhill, Kent

The following gentlemen, on the same day, passed their first examination:—

BOWLING, Thos., Birmingham	LEE, L. J., Devonshire Square
HUME, H., Newcastle-on-Tyne	WISE, Wm. C., Plumstead
KITCHING, Thomas, Bow	WITHER, F. O. B., Basingstoke

HEALTH OF LONDON—OCTOBER 1st, 1859.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

	Births.	Deaths.
During week	{ Boys .. 812 Girls .. 766 }	1578 .. 1014
Average of corresponding weeks 1849-58..	1621 ..	1141·5

The following were among the causes of death:—diarrhœa, 40; cholera (in infants), 2; scarlatina, 80; diphtheria, 17; small-pox, 19 (15 children and 4 adults); measles, 17; ague, 4; remittent fever, 2; rheumatism, 8. Of bricklayers, 1 died last week; carpenters, 2; carpenters' wives, 1; carpenters' children, 17; painters, 6; painters' wife, 1; painters' children, 7; plasterer, 1.

Barometer:

Highest (Mon.) 29.92; lowest (Wed.) 29.54; mean 29.724 in.

Thermometer:

In sun—highest (Thurs.) 85°; lowest (Fri.) 61·5°.

In shade—highest (Sun.) 70.0°; lowest (Thurs.) 49.1°.

Mean—58.7°; difference from mean of 43 yrs. +4.4°.

Range—during week, 20.9°; mean daily, 12.8°.

Mean humidity of air (saturation=100), 86.

Mean direction of wind, S.W.—Rain in inches, 1.69.

THE LONDON MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION. A meeting of the Committee was held at the offices of the Association, No. 5, Charing Cross, on Wednesday evening last, Dr. Kirby in the Chair. A large amount of correspondence was read. Amongst the resolutions agreed to was one that the question of the right of dentists to assume the title of "surgeon"-dentists should be immediately brought to an issue, and the steps to be taken were determined on. Votes having been taken, it was unanimously carried that several other prosecutions should be commenced; and, as will be seen by an advertisement in our columns, the annual general meeting of the Association was fixed to take place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Thursday, the 3rd of November ensuing.

THE MILANESE PRACTITIONERS IN THE LATE WAR. The *Piedmontese Gazette* publishes a letter from Dr. Cuvellier, chief physician to the French military hospitals of Milan, addressed by him to the Milanese practitioners, who, in a body, had volunteered their services in the hospitals. In this letter, Dr. Cuvellier confirms what was stated at the time of the unexampled zeal displayed by all the members of the faculty. After Magenta, 2400 wounded were brought in the first day, and their number rose to 10,000 on the following. Night and day did physicians and surgeons labour without intermission, in giving their aid to all these patients, whatever their nation. Dr. Cuvellier confirms the fact of upwards of three hundred elegant equipages arriving at the railway station to convey the wounded to the hospitals as they arrived on the night of June 27th, after the battle of Solferino. The streets were lined with national guards on the occasion, and the conveying of the wounded took place by torchlight amid the profoundest silence. "The honour of this fairy-like organisation," the doctor adds, "belongs to the Potesta, Count Belgiojoso, to the Sanitary Commission, and to all the members of the municipality."

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE. On Monday afternoon the distribution of prizes in the faculty of medicine took place at this college, under the presidency of Sir Charles H. Goldsmid, Bart. The report for the past year, read by the Dean, stated that during that period there had been 198 medical students, of whom 53 were new students. In November last, four members of the college had obtained the degree of M.D. in the University of London, all of whom had been placed in the first division. At the examination of M.B., gold medals had been awarded to Mr. Bazire and Mr. E. W. Thomas. At the examination of undergraduates for M.B., in August, 1858, Mr. A. Woodford had been placed first; and at the same examination in August 1859, Mr. C. Bastion, Mr. S. J. Gee, and Mr. W. J. Smith, had received gold medals, and, in addition, Mr. Gee had received the £30 exhibition. The University College Longridge prize, and the Atkinson Morley surgical scholarship, had both been awarded to Mr. Kempster. Out of forty candidates at the examination for the medical service of Majesty's forces in India, in January, Mr. W. E. Allen had had the first place, Dr. Fawcus the sixth, and Mr. E. Selons the ninth. The college had lost

the services of Dr. Carpenter, as Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, which office had been filled by Dr. Harley. In the museum there had been improvements in the arrangements for the collection of anatomical and pathological specimens, and in zoology and comparative anatomy. An annual exhibition, to be called the "Filliter Exhibition," as a prize for proficiency in pathological anatomy, had been founded by the father of the late Dr. Filliter, a former distinguished pupil of the medical school. Dr. Johnston had enriched the museum of natural history, with specimens from Java. The report also bore testimony to the zealous and enlightened spirit which prevailed among the students. The prizes were then distributed.

FUNERAL OF DR. ALISON. The remains of this distinguished and much lamented professor, received the honour of a public funeral, at Edinburgh, on Wednesday week. Sir Archibald Alison, brother of the deceased, was the chief mourner, and in addition to a large company of private mourners, the funeral was attended by the magistrates and council in their official robes, the professors of the university, the members of the different medical corporations, the Royal Society, etc. After service in St. John's episcopal chapel, conducted by the Very Rev. Dean Ramsay, and other clergymen, the body was interred in the burying ground attached to the chapel, in presence of a large assemblage of spectators.

DR. SMETHURST. This prisoner still remains in Horsemonger Lane Gaol, under a respited sentence of death, and not the least intimation appears to have been given as to what will be the final decision of the advisers of the Crown in reference to his ultimate fate. In answer to inquiries that have been made of the gaol officials, it has been stated that no communication whatever has been received from the Home Office respecting the prisoner, except the order for his respite, and this is all they know upon the subject; but every day an order is expected from the Secretary of State, directing what punishment shall be inflicted in lieu of the capital sentence. During the last few days a paragraph, copied from an evening journal, has been going the round of the papers, to the effect that inquiries were being instituted with regard to other crimes supposed to have been committed by the prisoner. But from all the information that can be acquired from the best sources, it appears that this statement is entirely without foundation, and that no such inquiries are going on; the only question under consideration being what ought to be done with the prisoner under the very peculiar circumstances of the case.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR THE MILITIA. The annexed circular has been directed to commanding officers of militia regiments and barrack masters, by the Earl of Ripon, the Under Secretary of State for War:—

War Office, September 19th, 1859.

"Circular, No. 361, containing regulations for hiring property for the use of the War Department generally being inapplicable for the provision of hospital accommodation for militia regiments at the annual training periods, Mr. Secretary Herbert has been pleased to approve of the following regulations of hiring for the object named, which are to be strictly followed in all future cases. When a regiment is about to be assembled for training, the officer commanding will report to the Secretary of State for War, as early as convenient, the necessity for providing hospital accommodation, stating whether there is any infirmary or public building available for the purpose. If not, he will state the lowest rate at which a suitable house or rooms, approved by the surgeon of the regiment, can be obtained for the training period. The report is to be sent, in the latter case, through the barrack master of the district, who, in forwarding it, will state, from his experience and knowledge, whether he considers the rent demanded to be reasonable, but he is not to proceed to the station to make inquiries without directions from this office. On the hire being approved, it will be communicated to the officer commanding, and to the barrack master, and the latter will supply such hospital furniture and bedding as the officer commanding may deem necessary, reporting the expense of carriage for sanction. The bedding, etc., is to be duly removed at the expiration of the training period. When it is proposed to accommodate the sick of a regiment in a hospital attached to barracks, barrack masters will, in Great Britain, forward the application of the officer commanding, to the Inspector General of Fortifications; but in Ireland this application should be sent to the deputy quartermaster general in Dublin, agreeably to the circular memorandum of the 2nd August, 1859."

TO CORRESPONDENTS.**POSTAGE OF MANUSCRIPT AND PRINTED MATTER.**

Any amount of manuscript or printed matter, singly or together, provided it contains nothing in the form of a written letter, is transmitted through the post, in packets *open at the ends*, at the following rates: not exceeding 4 ounces, one penny; above 4 and not exceeding 8 ounces, twopence; above 8 ounces and not exceeding 1 pound, fourpence; for every additional half-pound or under, twopence.

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENTS should always enclose their names to the Editor; not for publication, but in token of good faith. No attention can be paid to communications not thus authenticated.

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

NOTICE.—DR. WYNTER will feel obliged if the Associates will address all Post Office Orders in payment of Subscriptions, to the Publisher, MR. THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C., "Bloomsbury Branch"; and he would also feel obliged by their sending all communications respecting the non-receipt of the Journal, to the same address; as both these matters are out of the province of the Editor.

Communications have been received from:—MR. J. A. LOCKING; DR. KING; MR. W. CORNEY; MR. F. G. HARCOURT; DR. JAMES RUSSELL; DR. COLLINGWOOD; DR. JNO. COCKLE; DR. W. O. MARKHAM; MR. DIX; DR. W. B. MUSHET; MR. T. HOLMES; MR. H. R. HAMILTON; MR. C. OAKLEY; MR. J. THORLEY; MR. J. V. SOLOMON; MR. R. M. MANN; MR. G. ASHDOWN; DR. H. SANDWITH; MR. NAPPER; CHIRURGICUS; DR. LADD; and MR. STONE.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

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

1. A Practical Account of General Paralysis; its Mental and Physical Symptoms, Statistics, Causes, Seat, and Treatment. By THOMAS J. AUSTIN, M.R.C.S. Eng. London: Churchill. 1859.
2. On the Diseases and Injuries of the Joints. Clinical and Pathological Observations. By THOMAS BRYANT, F.R.C.S. London: Churchill. 1859.
3. Phthisis and the Stethoscope: or the Physical Signs of Consumption. By R. PAYNE COTTON, M.D. 2nd Edition. London: Churchill. 1859.
4. Statistics of Small Pox and Vaccination in the United Kingdom: and the Necessity for a better System of Vaccination in Ireland. By WILLIAM MOORE, A.B., M.B. Dublin: Fannin and Co. 1859.
5. The Ulster Revival and its Physiological Agencies. By the Rev. JAMES MCCOSH, LL.D. Belfast: C. Aitchison. 1859.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Fourth Edition, just published, price 2s. 6d., by post for 32 stamps.

A Guide to the Treatment of DISEASES OF THE SKIN; for the Use of the Student and General Practitioner. By THOMAS HUNT, Surgeon to the Western Dispensary for Diseases of the Skin. This edition contains two new chapters; one on the Vegetable Parasites of the Human Skin, the other on Metastasis in its practical bearings.

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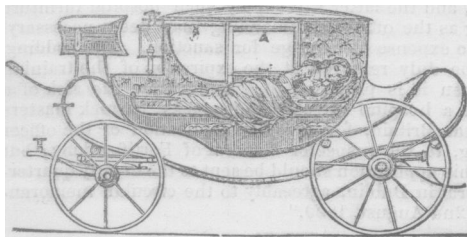
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