

THE WEEK.

A PUBLIC meeting on the subject of Poor-law medical reform was held on Thursday last, at the Freemasons' Tavern, under the chairmanship of Mr. Griffin. There were a number of Union medical officers, as well as other practitioners, and a very fair sprinkling of the student element. The proceedings throughout were marked by great unanimity; and the following resolutions were passed (except where otherwise specified) without dissent.

1. Moved by J. ROGERS, M.D. (Soho), seconded by J. MACKINLAY, M.D. (Isleworth), and carried with one dissentient voice only—

"That the following Petition be presented to the House of Commons in favour of the Bill now before Parliament, entitled, 'A Bill on the subject of Poor-law Medical Relief, with a view to improve the Position of the Medical Officers, and to secure more efficient Relief to the Poorer Classes'."

2. Moved by G. E. NICHOLAS, Esq. (Wandsworth), seconded by C. E. WELCH, Esq. (Bethnal Green), and carried with one dissentient voice—

"That the following memorial be presented to the Poor-law Board, praying them to support the Bill now before Parliament, entitled 'A Bill,' etc." (as above.)

3. Moved by R. H. WHITEMAN, Esq. (Putney), and seconded by R. GRIMBLEY, Esq. (Banbury)—

"That it is the opinion of this meeting that all Poor-law Medical Officers who have not already petitioned the House of Commons in favour of Mr. Pigott's Bill should do so without loss of time, and use their best exertions to obtain the support of the ratepayers and medical profession in their respective localities."

4. Moved by R. H. WHITEMAN, Esq. (Putney), and seconded by Mr. MASON (Middlesex Hospital)—

"That the thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Pigott, Mr. Scholefield, and Mr. Briscoe, the introducers of the Bill into Parliament; and that they be respectfully requested to use every means in their power to carry the Bill with the amendments suggested through the House."

5. Moved by G. POUND, Esq. (Odiham), and seconded by W. T. FOX, M.D. (Broughton)—

"That the thanks of the meeting be given to the Proprietors and Editors of the *Lancet*, *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, *Medical Times and Gazette*, and *Medical Circular*, for the aid they have given the Poor-Law Medical Officers in the gratuitous insertion of an extensive correspondence on the Poor-Law Medical Relief, and for the series of leading articles they have written in aid of the cause of the much-oppressed Poor-Law Medical Officers."

6. Moved by C. KIDD, M.D., and seconded by W. T. FOX, M.D. (Broughton) and H. SUTHERIN, Esq. (London)—

"That the thanks of the meeting are due and are hereby given to the Students of the various Metropolitan Hospitals who have so readily come forward to assist the Poor-law Medical Officers in their arduous struggle to obtain an Act of Parliament 'For the better Regulation of Medical Relief to the Poorer Classes in England and Wales.'"

The proceedings were concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. Griffin, passed on the motion of G. ROSS, Esq. (Farringdon Street), and seconded by James Cooper, Esq., of Cromer. The petition and the memorial referred to in the above resolutions were laid on the table, and received a large number of signatures. It is to be hoped that every effort will be made to support at least the general principles of Mr. Pigott's Bill. The union medical officers, it must be remembered, cannot "strike" in a body, as the London cabmen did some years ago.

Common humanity to their patients prevents this from being even thought of, and binds them to their work. This consideration should afford an additional and powerful motive to every honest man to do his best in obtaining for them that measure of justice which their cause demands.

It will be remembered that for some time a struggle has been going on at the Bedford Infirmary relative to the right of the medical staff to take their seats at the weekly committee of the Board. The medical men with much spirit determined sometime since to resign in a body unless their just demands in this respect were granted, and sent in a notification to that effect. The question again came before the Board at the quarterly meeting of the Governors on Monday week, and eventually it was decided that the medical officers are to be annually appointed on the weekly committee. Thus, by unanimity and firmness, the medical men have triumphed, as they always will do. The result of the Bedford General Infirmary struggle will, we hope, give heart to all medical officers whose past claims to take their seats at board meetings have hitherto been rejected.

Association Intelligence.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES.	Hen and Chickens Hotel, Birmingham.	Thursday, April 19th, 6 P.M.
[Ordinary Meeting.]		

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS, AND PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE following are the Laws of the Association 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."

"If any member's subscription remain unpaid twelve months after it shall have become due, the publications of the Society shall be withheld from such member until his arrears be paid."

"The name of no member shall remain on the books of the Association, whose arrears extend over three years; but the omission of the name from the list of members shall not be deemed, either in honour or equity, to relieve any member from his liability for the subscriptions due for the period during which he has availed himself of the privileges of membership."

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 can also 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., by post-office order, payable at the Western Central District Office, High Holborn.

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

Worcester, March 1860.

thing so delightfully incoherent in reasoning as this:—"What would he (Mr. Dix) have done in such circumstances? I humbly put the question, but cannot pretend to answer it, not having yet attained that high position which makes weight a recommendation, and prolixity a grace of style." What this high position may be, is not very clear; but, supposing Dr. Stewart should ever attain to it, can he explain how it will enable him to divine "what Mr. Dix would have done" under any given circumstances?

Again: "Convince them (the associates) that their own organ is a favourite with the profession, and that their papers will be read and studied in its pages; and they will take a pride in being contributors. . . . I for one shall be happy to contribute, if the necessary funds are not forthcoming, towards the attainment of so desirable a consummation."

The *vis argenti* has no doubt ere this brought about conviction in more ways than one; but what are the funds here alluded to, which are to produce this remarkable revolution in the minds of the readers of the JOURNAL? Peace! captious critic! Surely these are the funds of his *own wit and eloquence*, which Dr. Stewart will henceforth be "happy to contribute" to the adornment and improvement of the JOURNAL.

I am, etc., JOHN DIX.

Hull, April 3rd, 1860.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

LETTER FROM W. FALSHAW, M.D.

SIR,—The perusal of your leading article this day on Poor-law medical reform has afforded me the greatest pleasure, especially the important observations you have made on some of the clauses contained in Mr. Pigott's Bill now before the House of Commons.

Amongst others, you have made some judicious comments on Clause xxxviii, which I consider to be one of the most important in the whole Bill—important alike to the profession and to the public, and one, too, which I think is now imperatively demanded.

It is a strange anomaly that whilst in many countries—even in Scotland—the inquiry into the cause of death is conducted almost exclusively by medical men, in this country (at least, in this part of it), they seem to be studiously excluded from such investigations.

However, my object just now is to give a case which occurred here so recently as Sunday last, which will well illustrate the many benefits likely to accrue from the operation of Clause xxxviii, and strongly corroborate the important remarks you have made on that clause.

Richard Varlow, aged 24 years, was travelling from Colne, where he had been on a visit, to his own home in Rossendale. Arriving at the Ramsbottom station, it was necessary for him to change carriages; and, in trying to do so, he was supported by the bystanders, who saw that he was very ill. He had scarcely reached the platform when he died, apparently from exhaustion. He was in a state of extreme emaciation; and it was soon ascertained that he had been very ill for months previously, and that the cause of his death was phthisis pulmonalis. It was also stated that three or four members of the same family had died within the twelvemonth of the same disease. Much to the surprise of everybody, a coroner's inquest was held.

Now, if Clause xxxviii of Mr. Pigott's Bill had been in operation, the district medical officer would have made an inquiry into the cause of death, which would have been very satisfactory to the public, and especially so to the relatives of the deceased; and, what is of much importance, would probably have furnished the Registrar with a certificate of the *real cause of death*; and with this difference to the country, that, whilst the most satisfactory inquiry would cost but five shillings or thereabouts, the other would probably cost as many guineas. Nor is this the only benefit. The medical man would commence his inquiry *early*. In the above case, if not otherwise engaged, I see no reason why he should not have made an inquiry the same afternoon; and then the relatives could have taken the body home—a matter of no small importance. As it was, the inquest did not take place until Wednesday; so that three whole days elapsed before the body could be recovered. Had the young man died at his own house, even had he been found dead in his own house, there would have been no coroner's inquest; and the cause of death would have been correctly stated by his medical attendant. But his death occurring from home, the country is put to an unnecessary expense; the relatives to additional trouble and mental anxiety; and last,

though not least, the Registrar-General is prevented from receiving a true return of the cause of death, and has probably to put up with such vague expressions as "Died from natural causes", or "Died by the visitation of God".

I am, etc., WILLIAM FALSHAW.

Ramsbottom, April 7th, 1860.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS' AND THE POOR-LAW BOARD.

LETTER FROM G. E. DAY, M.D.

SIR,—May I ask you to find room in your next number for the following extract of a letter which the University authorities have just received from the Assistant Secretary to the Poor-law Board?

"I am directed to state that the evidence now before the Board is sufficient to satisfy them that a person possessing a diploma from the University of St. Andrews is legally qualified to practise medicine. To that extent, therefore, such persons will be eligible to hold the office of Poor-law medical officer, under the order of the Board dated the 10th December, 1859."

I am, etc., GEORGE E. DAY, M.D.,
Professor of Medicine.

United College, St. Andrews, April 1860.

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—

FINCH, Robert, M.D., Blackheath, on April 3rd.

MOLLOY, R., M.D., Clarendon Villas, on April 6.

PARK, Thomas, Esq., Surgeon Royal Artillery, at Stoke Damerell, on April 7.

Of daughters, the wives of—

COBBOLD, T. S., M.D., Norland Square, on March 27.

CHAPMAN, F., Esq., Surgeon, Richmond, on March 31.

MURCHISON, Chas., M.D., Sackville Street, on April 1. (Child survived only a few hours.)

MARRIAGES.

BLICK, Charles, Esq., son of the late R. Blick, Esq., Surgeon, of Sutton Coldfield, to Harriet, eldest daughter of *George N. SWINSON, Esq., of Leamington, on April 3.

FARR, Septimus B., Esq., Surgeon, of Hemel Hempstead, to Frances A., eldest daughter of George A. SMITH, Esq., of Hemel Hempstead, on April 4.

DEATHS.

ABERCROMBIE, John, Esq., late Surgeon 19th Light Dragoons, at 25, Kensington Square, aged 82, on April 3.

ATKINSON, J. J., Esq., retired Surgeon Bombay Army, at Pinhoe, near Exeter, aged 44, on March 29.

*COLLISON, Robert, Esq., at Newport Pagnell, suddenly, aged 78, on April 3.

COTTON. On April 4th, at 46, Clarges Street, aged 6, Sarah, youngest child of Richard P. Cotton, M.D.

EDIE, John, Esq., Surgeon, at Liverpool, on March 28.

ELLIS. On April 6th, at 63, Sloane Street, aged 4, Florence Mary, daughter of Robert Ellis, Esq., Surgeon.

FISHER. On April 6th, at Cambridge, aged 30, Catherine M., wife of *William W. Fisher, M.D., Downing Professor of Medicine in the University.

FITZPATRICK. On March 7th, at Bath, William J. W., eldest son of John FitzPatrick, M.D., Madras Army.

GUISLAIN, Joseph, M.D., at Ghent, aged 63, on April 1. Dr. Guislain was one of the public inspectors of asylums in Belgium, and was well known for his contributions to psychological medicine.

MALDEN, Jonas, M.D., late of Worcester, aged 68, at Cheltenham, on March 31.

PERRY, William D., M.D., at Everton, aged 63, on April 6.

ROWDON. On April 1st, aged 9 months, Katherine Agnes, infant daughter of Henry M. Rowdon, M.D., Nottingham Place, W.

SKEETE, Edward, M.D., on March 25.

SUGGATE. On March 26th, at Greenwich, aged 67, the widow of H. E. Suggate, Esq., Surgeon R.N.

SYMPSON. On March 27th, at Lincoln, aged 32, Caroline, wife of *Thomas Sympton, Esq.

APPOINTMENTS.

*SKINNER, Thomas, M.D., appointed one of the Honorary Medical Officers to the Northern Dispensary, Liverpool.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. At the Comitia Majora, held on Monday, April 2nd, the following gentleman, having undergone the necessary examination, was admitted a member of the College:—

DIXON, Frederick B., M.D., Hoxton

At the same Comitia, the following gentlemen, having been previously elected under the temporary by-laws (no longer in force), were also admitted members of the College:—

ARMSTRONG, A., M.D., Malta	MACKAY, George, M.D., Royal
DUIGAN, Daniel John, M.D.,	Naval Hospital, Plymouth
H.M.S. <i>Vulture</i>	MACKAY, Alexander E., M.D.,
LAIRD, Samuel, M.D., Douglas,	H.M.S. <i>Royal Albert</i>
Isle of Man	RAYNER, Edward, M.D., Paris

APOTHECARIES' HALL. LICENTIATES admitted on *Thursday, March 29th, 1860*:—

AXFORD, Charles J., Staunton	PAINE, William, Topsham
DAWSON, Frederick, Islington	ROBERTS, Carr H., Shaftesbury
DEAN, Thomas, Paddock, Huddersfield	RODGERS, F. J., Helston
EDGER, Wm., Polton, Barnstaple	SHORTO, J. R., Southampton
HAWTHORN, H. J., Uttoxeter	SUTTON, Henry G., Ilminster
HIND, Charles W., Swindon	THOMAS, Benjamin, Llanelly
	WATKINS, Walter, Brecon

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

BARTLETT, Thomas H., Birmingham	MAJOR, George A., Guy's Hospital
ELLIS, Edward, University College	SMITH, Robert C., Manchester School
HARVEY, Wm., Penzance	SUTTON, F. J., Ilminster
HUNTER, R. H., Tottenham	THOMPSON, H., Westerham

Thursday, April 5th.

ADAMS, Thomas R., Kilmoganny, Ireland	MARCH, Henry C., Newbury
DRAKE, Thomas, Kingsclere	MERRYWEATHER, Philip E. C., Sydney
EGLES, Gabriel M., Barcombe, Lewes	MITCHELL, T. C., Bedford
FARRANT, Samuel, Collumpton	MOCKRIDGE, John, Army
GODFRAY, Charles Le V., Jersey	PONKER, George F., Henley-on-Thames
GODWIN, C. H. Y., Winchester	STILLWELL, James
GRAHAM, A. F., Liverpool	WARBURTON, James P., Betley
HARRIS, A. B., Mevagissey	Newcastle-under-Lyne
HARRIS, Wm. J., Worthing	WISE, Wm. C., Plumstead
MANNING, Frederick N., Milton, Northampton	YOUNG, Edward P., Henley-on-Thames

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

EVANS, D. N., Edinburgh	LEE, Herbert G., Manchester
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THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE following memorial has been addressed to the Medical Council by the North Staffordshire Medical Registration Association:—

To the Members of the Medical Council of the United Kingdom.

GENTLEMEN,—Having heard with surprise and regret that the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons have admitted to examination and granted diplomas to persons who have in no way complied with their regulations laid down for the course of study and hospital attendance; and having also seen that the Royal College of Surgeons justify their proceedings by complaining of the highly penal clauses of the new Medical Act,

We, the North Staffordshire Medical Registration Association, beg to protest against such proceedings, on the following grounds:—

1. That this Society considers the new Medical Act to be a great boon and protection to the profession; that it has been obtained with great difficulty, and deserves the warmest support both from the profession and Royal College of Surgeons,

whereas this act of the latter materially tends to neutralise its effects; and

2. That it greatly depreciates the value of the diplomas of the Royal College of Surgeons, which is in itself a great act of injustice to those already holding them, and tends to lower the honour and dignity of the profession.

This Society, therefore, earnestly entreats you to exercise the powers given you by the new Medical Act, to constrain the Royal College of Surgeons to act in accordance with the regulations laid down for the admission to the examination for the diploma of membership of the Royal College of Surgeons; as this Society considers the course they are adopting at present to be inconsistent with the dignity and interests of the profession.

SAM. MAYER TURNER, *Chairman.*

JAMES YATES, *Hon. Sec.*

Newcastle-under-Lyme, April 9, 1860.

The following memorial has also been issued by the Birmingham and Midland Counties Medical Registration Association:—

To the President and Members of the Medical Council.

We the undersigned, President, Vice-Presidents, and Committee of the Birmingham and Midland Counties Medical Registration Association, beg respectfully to call your immediate attention to a practice of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, of granting its diploma to persons who have not undergone the usual preliminary course of professional education.

Such irregular grants of diplomas have been not unfrequent of late; and examples of the exercise of such discretionary powers on the part of the Council of the College of Surgeons having come under our immediate notice, we thought it our duty to forward to the said Council a strong remonstrance upon the subject; and we received a reply, the purport of which was to justify the proceedings of the College of Surgeons, on the ground of "the stringency of the Medical Act".

This explanation appears to us (and we believe to the profession generally) as wholly unsatisfactory; for we are firmly and decidedly of opinion, that the recent course of action of the College of Surgeons, while it is extremely unjust towards the present members of that body, can neither conduce to the good of the public nor the dignity of the profession.

We believe these irregular grants of diplomas to be in direct contravention both of the letter and of the spirit of recent legislation; and considering as we do, that the members of the Medical Council are the proper guardians and exponents of the Medical Act, we are most anxious to elicit their opinion, at their earliest convenience, with reference to the question at issue between the College of Surgeons and (we may fairly say) the whole body of the profession.

BELL FLETCHER, M.D., *President.*

JOHN ANTHONY, M.D., Birmingham

THOMAS TAYLOR, Birmingham

EDWARD MOORE, Halesowen

Vice-Presidents.

Committee—Saml. Berry (Birmingham); S. A. Bindley (Birmingham); John Carter (Edgbaston); Thos. P. Heslop, M.D. (Birmingham); W. Lees Underhill (Tipton); Edwin Chesshire (Birmingham); Oliver Pemberton (Birmingham); John Postgate (Birmingham); Walter C. Freer (Birmingham); George Yates (Birmingham); Charles Townsend (Birmingham); C. S. Meeke (Birmingham); John Warnock (Birmingham); G. R. Yelloly (Birmingham); K. C. R. Jordan (Birmingham).

SAMUEL SPRATLEY, *Hon. Sec.*

THE JACKSONIAN PRIZE. At a meeting of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, on the 12th instant, the Jacksonian Prize of Twenty Guineas was awarded to Mr. John Whitaker Hulke, F.R.C.S., assistant-surgeon to the King's College and Royal Ophthalmic Hospitals, for his essay on the morbid changes in the retina as seen in the eye of the living person, and after removal from the body, together with the symptoms associated with the several morbid conditions, illustrated by cases, drawings, and preparations. At the same time, an honorarium was awarded to Mr. Charles Bader, a member of the College, for his dissertation on the same subject.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON. On Thursday, April 19th, a paper will be read by Dr. Fuller, "On the successful Treatment of Hooping-Cough by Sulphate of Zinc and Belladonna."