

of the dispensary we find that, whereas in 1857 4,616 new patients were admitted, and 22,253 prescriptions were made up (the water-rate must have been unusually heavy that year), in 1859 the number of patients had dwindled to 3,867, and the prescriptions to 20,202!

Dr. Drysdale, it is true, explains away this awkward fact very philosophically. "Conversions to new truths do not take place in a regulated manner, but often seem to stand still for long periods, and then again suddenly numbers follow each other rapidly. For these reasons, corresponding fluctuations must be expected in the apparent success of the undertaking we are all interested in; but these need give rise to no sense of discouragement, or dim in any degree the hopes of the final triumph of homœopathy, which I do not doubt will ere long become the leading principle of rational medicine." Our friends the homœopaths have been so long indulging in the boastful vein, that this new style of encouragement to their innocent followers is quite refreshing. If Dr. Drysdale had been a general, he would have conclusively proved, to his own satisfaction at least, that every retreat was in fact a forced march, and that ultimate victory must be the consequence of running away.

Dr. Drysdale is not much happier, we must confess, in his mode of illustrating his arguments than in his method of encouraging his hearers. For instance, this is his account of the first spring made by homœopathy in Liverpool. In 1841, the Dispensary

"Consisted only of one doctor, two rooms, and one signboard, but as yet no patients. For a time things looked discouraging, and the great difficulty was to make a beginning. Soon, however, a circumstance occurred which showed remarkably how those erred who underrated the intelligence of the working classes. A mechanic happened to be passing along the street, when his attention was attracted by the board, and the word 'homœopathic' roused his curiosity. He went home and consulted his dictionary, but could not find it there; so next day he came to the dispensary to inquire, and finding that it was a medical term, he discovered also that he was ill, and submitted his case. The result was that ultimately he got more than he came for—namely, his mind was enlightened on the meaning of homœopathy, and his body lightened of the ailment that had burdened it."

And this anecdote is put forward as an instance of the intelligence of the working classes! To our minds, it tells quite the other way; for this simpleton, who seems, like many of his betters, to have been taken in by a fine name, immediately discovered that he had a complaint to match it. We are not surprised at homœopathy striking its roots among such "intelligent" working men as this one appears to have been.

But Dr. Drysdale was by no means the only hero of the occasion. Mr. Lewis, announced as a working-man, although he protested he was not a model working man got up for the occasion, set forth the virtues of homœopathy in a totally new light; the new doctrine not only was wonderful in its effects upon the bodies of the patients, but also upon the minds of its practitioners! "All of whom endeavoured to do their duty in a manner characteristic of both gentlemen and Christians;" whilst, on the contrary, the allopaths deceived whilst they administered their nauseous medicines to children, and in this way learned to practise falsehood! We are afraid the working-men of Liverpool will not be proud of their spokesman at the homœopathic banquet; at all events, we trust medical men practising even this quackery will ask themselves if a creed

which condescends to accept the support of such arguments as were given on this occasion, can be worthy of the support of educated men.

Association Intelligence.

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL:—NOTICE OF MEETING.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Committee of Council will be holden in the Lecture Theatre, Cannon Street, Birmingham, on Tuesday, December 4th, at 1.30.

Business:—Election of Editor, and management of the JOURNAL.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D.,

General Secretary.

Worcester, November 26th, 1860.

Editor's Letter Box.

RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE IN THE RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY.

SIR,—In the *Oxford Chronicle* of the 17th of November is an advertisement for candidates to fill the office of House-Surgeon to the Radcliffe Infirmary, requiring that he shall be a member of the Church of England, as well as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and of the Society of Apothecaries. Does membership of the Church of England presume that a man must have been baptised, confirmed, and have taken the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at least four times in the year, as commanded in the twenty-third Canon, and that he attend the Dominical services, and the feasts and fasts of the Church? It is as well to understand what is the meaning of being a member of the Church of England. Never having heard that such a religious qualification is considered necessary in any of our metropolitan or provincial hospitals and infirmaries, it took me greatly by surprise why this exception at Oxford should be the rule of selecting a medical officer to the Radcliffe Infirmary. Is a physician or surgeon more or less fitted to exercise his profession because of his creed? Is the rule founded on monastic, corporate, geographical, or ecclesiastical peculiarities? so that a surgeon who is fit to be a house-surgeon in Edinburgh or Paris, is unfit at Oxford, unless he have the double qualification of membership of the Church of England and of the College of Surgeons. The rule savours strongly of priestcraft,—of the old leaven of religious intolerance and persecution.

The Royal Colleges of Physicians and of Surgeons of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, do not claim the right of exacting from their candidates their religious creed or faith. They proclaim that they who have passed their medical examinations are fitted to practise and teach the art and science of medicine; they do not demand whether a candidate is a member of the Church of England; whether he assents and consents to each and all the Thirty-nine Articles; the doctrines of the Prayer-book, the Homilies, and Canons; or to the Augsburg Confession of Faith. Do the Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary really believe that adhesion to the Thirty-nine Articles will enable the house-surgeon to set a limb, to extract a stone, and to do his duties to the sick, in every respect, better than if the peculiarity of his metaphysics should tempt him to doubt whether the Articles are in strict accordance with scripture? The science of medicine is not fettered by the formularies of churches and sects: it is the same under every clime and country; it owes no allegiance to lords spiritual and temporal; to kings, or priests, or pope; it has for its basis the truths of philosophical investigation, and its object the alleviation of human sorrow, pain, and infirmity. Any gentleman of right moral principles, common humanity and industry, will fulfil the duties of his office, whether his creed be Anglican, Presbyterian, Catholic, or Independent. A few years ago the legislature abolished the Test and Corporation Acts; Catholic emancipation was carried; and recently the Jews have been admitted into Parliament; the whole constituting a series of progressive enactments to establish the great, just, and generous principle that "No man shall be prejudiced in his civil rights by reason of his religious creed." The healing art extends its

godlike blessings to all alike,—to the Jew and Gentile, to rich and poor, to bond and free. Its maxims are—

"Homo sum, humani nihil a me alienum puto."
 "Tros Tyriusve mihi nullo discrimine agetur."

The good Samaritan did not hesitate to give balm and oil to the wounded man; he did not first ask whether he belonged to the same or different sects of the house of Israel; whether he was Samaritan, Sadducee, or Pharisee. The Holy Gospel sanctions no special claims as appertaining to, nor confers miraculous gifts of healing on, any favoured disciples or sects of men, but bestows its bounties alike to the tribes of Levi and Judah, to the stranger within and without the gate, to the Jew and Gentile. If our northern stars of the Presbyterian church, if the Hunters, Bells and Monros, the Symes or Millars of Edinburgh; if Dupuytren, Velpeau, or Ricord; Scarpa, or Tiedemann, and countless others who have adorned science and surgery, were to offer themselves as candidates for the house-surgeoncy of the Radcliffe Infirmary, they would be rejected! They are not orthodox in the hallowed precincts of Oxford!

Did the liberal Sultan exclude from his armies and hospitals the Christian dogs, the English and French doctors? The Mussulman has shown a more enlightened philosophy than the Christians of Oxford; the Koran was not insisted upon, though the Thirty-nine Articles must be. Let us learn a brilliant example from the pious benefactor, Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, who built and endowed a hospital at Bombay for the sick poor of all nations: he did not impose the Parsee faith on the surgeons of the hospital. Who succoured the stricken and destitute Syrians? The philanthropist Jew, Sir Moses Montefiore, and his philanthropic coadjutor, the amiable and pious Quaker, Dr. Hodgkin.

Sauntering round the new beautiful Museum of Natural History at Oxford, I was delighted to see statues dedicated to the memory and honour of the immortal men of all ages, nations, tongues, and religions—a Walhalla of genius! In a Byzantine building, the primitive style of the architecture of Christianity, are statues erected to Hippocrates, the father of medicine; to Aristotle, the mighty Stagyrte, the father of natural history; and to his disciple of a later age, the celebrated Cuvier. Linnaeus and Priestley, Davy and Dalton, are there, who have shed lustre on the kindred sciences of medicine, botany, and chemistry. There is Leibnitz, the rival of our heaven-descended Newton; and there Watt and Orsted, who have revolutionised the world by their discoveries in steam and electricity; and there is the persecuted Galileo, imprisoned by cruel and ignorant priests, because his celestial discoveries did not harmonise with the religious dogmas of the ruling ecclesiastical polity of the age. Are not these statues suggestive of generous emotions? There are illustrious Pagans, Catholics, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Unitarians, Quakers, and Independents, brought together in the great temple of science. The worshippers of an unknown God, the believers in the ancient oracles, Christians of different denominations, are here honoured as the chosen vessels of intellect. The Thirty-nine Articles and the canons have no supreme rule in this sanctuary of mind.

The requirements of the candidates for the Radcliffe Infirmary are incompatible with the age in which we live; such requirements are exploded in Catholic Belgium, France, and now in Italy, in America, and in Turkey; they are unbecoming a liberal, an enlightened, a Christian country. It is unworthy of the Governors of the Radcliffe Infirmary to impose a religious restriction on any medical officer who is otherwise fitted for the duties of his office; and it is earnestly hoped that the Governors will rescind that obnoxious requirement, will conform to the more generous and just tendencies of the times, and give that right of religious freedom to others which they claim for themselves.

I am, etc.,

R. W., *Physician to a Hospital.*

November 28th.

THE SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

SIR,—I observe with much pleasure, as I am sure a vast number of others must do, that the Council of the College of Surgeons has voted two hundred guineas out of the funds of the Institution, for the purpose of presenting a piece of plate to their long tried, trusty, and right worthy secretary, Edmund Belfour. The sum is small enough in all conscience; but let us "not look a gift-horse in the mouth," especially as we have a rider at hand.

As Mr. Belfour's tenure of office has been of no ordinary duration, and his services of no common kind or limited value, I would suggest (although assuredly I am very far from being alone, or first in conceiving the idea) that a fair opportunity now offers to the members and fellows generally to endorse the feeling of the Council by subscribing their individual quota to a more useful present than a piece of plate so accorded can possibly be rendered, in the shape of a purse of gold.

I therefore beg to submit to the members of the Council that, having given as much out of the College money as they have felt justified in voting, a roomy margin for adding their own guineas remains to them, especially to those who have had the honour of the office of president, and the assistance of the secretary. I am confident their example would not only be respected, but readily responded to by every fellow and every member who has the means at command to bear merited testimony to one who has done so much to uphold and advance the respectability of the body of the profession.

I would recommend that a committee be formed forthwith, for the purpose of carrying out at once the project I have thus feebly advocated. And, as "bis dat qui cito dat," or, in other words, that is most palatable which is not kept too long, I would advise that the subscription should be closed in three months from the time it is opened; and that a guinea should (excepting always from members of the Council) be the maximum of contributions. More Mr. Secretary Belfour would, I am persuaded, regard as anything but a compliment; and less would not be esteemed less favourably than the widow's mite.

There is not in my opinion a medical periodical that will not echo all I have said of the deserts of Mr. Belfour.

I am, etc., AN ASSOCIATE.

November 28th, 1860.

P.S. I enclose my card, as I wish not to claim a start in advance, where all would be proud to take the lead and none would like to be outrun.

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, Charles G., M.D., Sloane Street, on November 24.
 FOWLER, Robert, M.D., 145, Bishopsgate Street Without, on November 24.
 REED, Daniel, M.D., Hazelwood, Banffshire, on November 22.
 SHONE, W. J., Esq., Harbury, Warwickshire, on November 22.
 SKRIMSHIRE, George, Esq., 6, Crescent Place, Blackfriars, on November 20.

Of daughters, the wives of—

HORTON, Charles, M.D., Bromsgrove, on November 25.
 *MACAULAY, Thomas, jun., Esq., Kibworth, on November 25.
 RANDALL, John, M.D., 14, Portman Street, on November 20.
 THANE, W. D., Esq., 15, Park Place Villas, Maida Hill West, on November 21. (Stillborn.)

MARRIAGES.

SMITH, H. J., Esq., Surgeon, to Annie, daughter of F. ROBERTSON, Esq., late Collector of Bellary, India, at St. Pancras, on November 14.
 TAYLER, William H., Esq., Surgeon, to Mary Ann, widow of the late John C. BRISTOW, Esq., of Ullswater, at St. George's, Hanover Square, on November 21.
 *THOMPSON, Charles R., Esq., of Westerham, to Emma, third surviving daughter of the late James G. L. TRIMBEY, Esq., of Binfield Lodge, Berks, at Oxted, on November 21.
 TURNER, William F. J., Esq., Surgeon, Ryde, to Mary E. K., eldest daughter of Thomas S. HARVEY, Esq., Clarendon Villas, Notting Hill, on November 27.

DEATHS.

COLES, James, Esq., Surgeon, at Weston-super-Mare, aged 57, on November 20.
 EVANS. On November 23, at 6, Rifle Terrace, Bayswater, Jane W., wife of *John Evans, M.D.
 HALAHAN, —, M.D., Inspector-General of Hospitals, aged 70, in Guernsey, on November 23.

KITCHENER. On November 18, at Boyne Terrace, Jersey, aged 23, Isabel E., wife of Thomas Kitchener, M.D.
SPETTIGUE. On November 24, at Exmouth, aged 58, Sophia, wife of John Spettigue, Esq., Surgeon.
THOMSON, Wm., M.D., at Exeter, aged 61, on November 25.
YOUNG. On November 18, at Gresford Cottage, Wrexham, aged 3 months, the infant son of Lake Young, Esq., Surgeon.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. FELLOWS admitted at a meeting of the Court of Examiners, on November 20th:—

BURY, George William Fleetwood, Whetstone, Middlesex; diploma of membership dated Dec. 12, 1850
CLAPTON, William, St. Thomas's Hospital; March 20, 1857
CROSLY, Thomas B., Finsbury Place; May 21, 1852
DUDLEY, William Lewis, M.D., St. Andrew's, Bogata, New Granada; December 20, 1846
GILL, Walter Battershell, M.D.Lond., Cambridge Place, Regent's Park; April 0, 1857
SMITH, Eustace, M.B.Lond., Leamington; Nov. 5, 1858
WOODHOUSE, Thomas James, Wells Street, Hackney; March 20, 1857

It may not perhaps be generally known, that by a recent regulation of the Council of the College, Graduates in Medicine of the Universities of London, Oxford, and Cambridge, are admitted to the Fellowship after having passed the professional examination in Surgery only.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. LICENTIATES admitted on *Thursday, November 22nd, 1860:*—

HOYLE, William, Slaithwaite, Yorkshire
ILIFFE, Robert, Coventry
SAVAGE, James, Bridlington Quay, Yorkshire
STEELE, James, Lancaster
WILLIAM, John, Dyffryn, Merionethshire

A PROSECUTION UNDER THE MEDICAL ACT.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, on November 21st, before Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, and Justices Wightman, Hill, and Blackburn, a case was tried, which had been stated by the stipendiary magistrate of Liverpool for the opinion of this court, and it raised the question whether the facts set forth in the case were sufficient in law to warrant the conviction of the respondent, whom the magistrate had declined to convict of an offence against the 40th section of the new Medical Act (the 21st and 22d of Victoria, cap. 90).

It appeared that the appellant, Arthur Brown Steele, hon. secretary to the Liverpool Medical Registration Society, had caused the respondent, John Hamilton, to be summoned before the magistrate upon an information which charged that he, on the 21st of February, 1860, wilfully and falsely pretended to be a surgeon, general practitioner or apothecary, and used the name of surgeon, general practitioner or apothecary, or some name, title, addition, or description implying that he was registered under the Medical Act, or that he was recognised by law as a surgeon, practitioner in medicine, or apothecary, whereby he became liable to a penalty of £20. When the respondent appeared before the magistrate, it was proved that he had signed the following certificate:—

"Medical Certificate."

"I hereby certify that I attended William Hayes, late of 110, Mill Street, that died the 21st day of February; cause of death, enteritis; and that I have no reason to attribute his death to poison, violence, or criminal neglect. "JOHN HAMILTON.

"Profession, Botanic Surgeon,

"day of February 22, 1860. "Residence, 94, Mill Street."

It was also proved that over the door of the house where the respondent carried on his business was painted in large legible letters, "J. Hamilton, Surgeon," and, in very small characters underneath, "Boston, U.S.;" and, upon a glass panel of the door itself was painted, "J. Hamilton, anti-registered Surgeon." The words "anti-registered" were considerably smaller than the words "J. Hamilton, Surgeon," and so as to be illegible, except upon close inspection. The magistrate dismissed the information; but being required by the appellant to state a case, he submitted the following question to this court, viz. "Whether the evidence was sufficient in law to warrant a conviction under the 40th section of the Medical Act. If the court are of opinion that the evidence was sufficient in law, then the magistrate prays the court to make such order or conviction as the court shall think fit."

Mr. L. TEMPLE, who appeared for the appellant, feared the case must be governed by the decision in the Court of Common Pleas, "*Pedgrift v. Chevallier*" (20, L. J., M. C., 225), unless it could be shown that the respondent was not in practice before the 1st of August, 1815. Nothing was stated on that subject in the case; but as the respondent, he believed, was only about 40 years of age, he applied that the case might be sent back to be amended.

Mr. COOK EVANS (with whom was Mr. Seymour), for the respondent, said the case had already been before two magistrates, both of whom had refused to convict, and he hoped the case would not be sent back. He should contend that the case was concluded by the decision in the Common Pleas, where it had been held that for a person merely to call himself a surgeon, without being duly registered, was no offence against the 40th section.

Mr. TEMPLE contended that the respondent had falsely pretended to be a surgeon by signing a medical certificate for burial. The 37th section of the Medical Act enacted that no certificate required by any Act of Parliament should be valid unless the person signing the same be registered under the Act.

Mr. EVANS said that the 37th section referred to cases where the certificate of a surgeon was required—for instance, in the case of an insane person whom it might be proposed to send to a lunatic asylum. But the certificate as to the cause of death might be given by any person who was present at the death.

Mr. Justice HILL referred to the 25th section of the Registration Act (6th and 7th William IV, cap. 80), and said that was so.

Mr. Justice BLACKBURN thought that part of the case was disposed of.

Mr. TEMPLE proceeded to call attention to the case, in which it was found that the words "anti-registered" were written in very small letters only, so as to be illegible except upon close inspection.

Mr. Justice WIGHTMAN referred to the 40th section, and suggested that, to bring the case within it, it must be shown that the party falsely pretended to be a surgeon, etc., "implying that he is registered under the Act, or that he is recognised by law as a physician, or surgeon," etc. The words of the section were,—

"Any person who shall wilfully and falsely pretend to be or take or use the name of a physician, doctor of medicine, licentiate in medicine and surgery, bachelor of medicine, surgeon, general practitioner, or apothecary, or any name, title, or addition, or description implying that he is registered under this Act, or that he is recognised by law as a physician, or surgeon, licentiate in medicine and surgery, or a practitioner in medicine, or an apothecary, shall, upon a summary conviction for any such offence, pay a sum not exceeding £20."

Lord Chief Justice COCKBURN said there was nothing in the Act to prevent a person from merely practising as a surgeon without being registered. His Lordship thought the decision of the magistrates should be affirmed; but at the same time, he thought that a person who wrote "anti-registered" in very small letters was not entitled to costs.

The other Judges were of the same opinion.

Judgment affirmed without costs.

POLITICS IN MEDICINE. A meeting of the Southern medical students in New York was held on the evening of November 9th, at the Breckenridge head-quarters on Broadway, opposite Astor Place, to take action as to whether they should go home or remain, since Mr. Lincoln has been elected. The Hon. Mr. Clinton, of Mississippi, Dr. Sims, of this city, Captain Morgan, of Tennessee, Colonel Dick, of Maryland, and General Bynum, of Tennessee, addressed the meeting. The spirit of the assemblage was decidedly in favour of disunion, and of Southerners leaving the city immediately. Speakers favouring these views were applauded, while those advocating milder measures were hissed down.

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. P. H. WILLIAMS. On November 23rd, a very handsome and valuable time-piece was presented to Dr. Philip H. Williams, of Worcester, with a purse containing one hundred and twenty-five sovereigns, as an acknowledgment, by the subscribers to the Dispensary in that city, of his services rendered to that Institution during the period of twelve years.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY. On Monday, December 3rd, a paper will be read on "Cholera at St. Jago, Cape de Verdes, in 1860," by Dr. Francisco Frederico Hopfers.