

vinced, be effectually put a stop to if the principles upon which our health depends were well engrafted in the minds of society... Something might be done to encourage a taste for this science, by lectures and popular works on the subject. In the hands of the more advanced student, such text-books as those of Carpenter, Lardner, and others, would furnish ample materials of interest and instruction; but amongst the poorer classes, I would suggest the circulation of popular and sound physiological tracts."

These words of Mr. Knaggs are full of sound sense. Sanitary reformers cannot expect to do good until the *principles* of hygiene are taught to the people. We trust that this fact will become generally recognised; and that in future reports, the Society of Arts, to whom the cause of popular education owes so much, will not have to note down the discouraging words—"Physiology, no candidates."

There is to be met with, here and there, and from time to time, a surgeon who refuses to permit the administration of chloroform during operation in cases in which it would be unhesitatingly administered, under like circumstances, by ninety-nine out of every hundred of his professional brethren. We admit that the refusal is founded on motives most conscientious. But is the conscience which thus guides the operator enlightened? is it in accordance with the dictates of reason and plain common sense? We certainly think not. The man who thus acts puts his small and individual experience in competition with the experience of the whole body of the profession. Now, is it reasonable for one man out of the hundred to believe that he alone is right, and that the ninety-nine are all under a delusion; the ninety-nine being men who are all his equals in surgical experience and skill, and many of them vastly his superiors? We venture, raising a voice in behalf of suffering humanity, to suggest to that one man to consider whether he would not act much more rationally, and so more conscientiously, if he were in such case to distrust his own opinion (which is manifestly founded on the narrow basis of his personal experience), and permit his judgment to be guided in this matter by the recorded observations of the whole surgical world? Whoever refuses his patient the blessings of chloroform, and subjects him to the intense agony of a great operation, in cases as above referred to, accepts, in our opinion, a most grave responsibility. We freely confess that we could not have the courage to witness operations performed under such circumstances.

The clairvoyants are a clever tribe; they don't miss a chance. Our readers will remember, that several months ago a dreadful murder was committed in Dublin; and some perhaps may have heard that a clairvoyant was said to have been employed on the occasion to fish out the malefactor, at the instance of a high clerical dignitary, notorious for his logical acumen and want of common sense. The detectives—thick- and clear-sighted—all failed in the attempt. Last week, however, the murderer appears to have been pitched upon; his wife gave the clue, being desirous of saving her husband's soul by hanging his body. At this juncture, as we see in one of the journals, up jumps some pimp to the morbid appetite of marvel-mongers, and declares, that the clairvoyant long ago named the individual in question as the actual sinner. Doubtless the Mesmerists will be shouting their "Io Pœans" on this occasion; and we

may surmise that fresh accessions will be added to their ranks, on account of this brilliant triumph of the black art. We live in an advanced age.

## Association Intelligence.

### BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION will be holden at Nottingham, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 28th, 29th, and 30th of July next.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, *General Secretary*.

Worcester, June 1857.

### BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
NORTH WALES. [Annual Meeting.]	Royal Hotel, Rhyl.	Tues., July 7, 12 noon.
READING. [Annual Meeting.]	George Hotel, Reading.	Wed., July 8, 4 P.M.
BATH AND BRISTOL. [Annual Meeting.]	Bristol Institution, Bristol.	Thurs., July 9, 3 P.M.
METROP. COUNTIES. [Annual Meeting.]	37, Soho Square, London.	Tues., July 14, 3 P.M.
SHROPSHIRE. [Annual Meeting.]	Queen's Head Hotel, Oswestry.	Tuesday, July 14, 2 P.M.

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

### NOTICE OF ADDITION TO LAW VIII, TO BE PROPOSED AT THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING.

I GIVE notice, in compliance with the request of the Committee of Council, that I shall, at the next Annual Meeting, propose that the President of the British Medical Association be, *ex officio*, a member of the Committee of Council.

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

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

THE General Secretary of the British Medical Association begs to call the attention of members 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, *General Secretary*.

Worcester, May 1857

### LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

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

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

## LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE BRANCH:

## ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch was held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall, Preston, on Wednesday, June 24th; LAWRENCE SPENCER, Esq., Mayor of Preston, and President, in the Chair. There were also present: R. Allen, Esq. (Preston); H. Ashton, Esq. (Walton-le-Dale); E. Barnes, Esq. (Leyland); E. Batty, Esq. (Liverpool); W. Bradley, Esq. (Preston); W. Chapman, Esq. (Gartstang); G. Dagliesh, Esq. (Wigan); J. Dickinson, M.D. (Liverpool); F. D. Fletcher, Esq. (Liverpool); R. A. Gaskell, Esq. (St. Helen's); J. B. Gilbertson, Esq. (Preston); B. Gilpin, Esq. (Ulverstone); W. Gradwell, Esq. (Kirkham); B. Haldan, Esq. (Preston); J. Hall, Esq. (Preston); E. Houghton, Esq. (Lytham); G. D. Hunt, Esq. (Fleetwood); T. Inman, M.D. (Liverpool); Ellis Jones, Esq. (Liverpool); E. Lyon, M.D. (Manchester); J. Martin, Esq. (Hindley); R. Martland, M.D. (Blackburn); W. Moore, Esq. (Blackburn); D. Noble, M.D. (Manchester), (Retiring President); J. Noble, Esq. (Preston); E. Richardson, Esq. (Preston); G. Southam, Esq. (Manchester); A. Stokes, M.D. (Liverpool); H. Swift, Esq. (Liverpool); J. Vose, M.D. (Liverpool); A. T. H. Waters, Esq. (Liverpool); R. Wilding, Esq. (Blackburn); W. C. Williamson, Esq. (Manchester); G. Wolstenholme, Esq. (Bolton); also R. Altham, M.D.; W. B. Arminson, M.D.; T. Barton, Esq.; H. H. Carter, Esq.; W. Dunderdale, Esq.; J. H. Hammond, Esq.; W. Howitt, Esq.; T. Monk, Esq.; J. Pilkington, Esq.; J. Rigby, Esq.; W. Smith, Esq.; W. H. Spencer, Esq.;—(all of Preston); J. Berry, Esq. (Leyland); Dr. Bone, staff-surgeon (Barracks, Fulwood); E. Eccles, Esq. (Longridge); E. H. Monks, Esq. (Wigan); J. Pilkington, Esq. (Chorley).

Dr. NOBLE, on taking the chair, congratulated the Branch concerning what might be considered as a very successful meeting. This was of especial consequence, as it had always been somewhat doubtful as to whether a meeting would be likely to succeed in any other town than Liverpool and Manchester within the jurisdiction of the Branch. However, it might be considered that the present meeting was entirely successful. He had great pleasure in calling upon the President-elect to succeed him in this office—a gentleman whom he had known for many years, both as a fellow-apprentice, at least in the same town and locality, a fellow-student in London, and an uninterrupted friend.

Mr. SPENCER having taken the chair,

Dr. NOBLE said that Mr. Hatton, the Secretary, had sent in his resignation; and he was, moreover, unable to attend. He therefore moved that Mr. Southam, of Manchester, be requested to act as Secretary *pro tem*.

Dr. MARTLAND (Blackburn) seconded the proposition, which was agreed to.

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

In taking the chair, permit me to tender to the members of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch the strong feelings of obligation which I entertain towards them for the honour which they have conferred upon me by electing me to be the President for the ensuing year. I feel deeply sensible of the honour which has been conferred upon me, and of the difficulties I shall have to encounter to discharge the duties of the important office to the satisfaction of the members generally. I feel the difficulties the more, inasmuch as I have to follow one who is so well known, not only on account of his general knowledge, but also by the zeal and energy with which he discharges all public duties which he undertakes. I have great pleasure in welcoming you here; and, in saying so, I am only repeating the good wishes of my fellow-practitioners, who are delighted to have the pleasure of joining you in holding the meeting in Preston; and I assure you they wish through me to tender to you a most cordial welcome. I am satisfied that they will regret—should anything transpire, or should anything be omitted—if the result should be, in the slightest degree, to mar the harmonious proceedings of to-day. There is only one circumstance that tends to discompose myself, and that is the fact of seeing around me at these tables so many persons better fitted, both by their talents and position, to fill the chair which I have now the honour to hold. I regret it, gentlemen, much, because I am satisfied that the person occupying this post must be looked up to, and considered as a worthy representative; and I fear, as the representative of the profession in Preston, you have in me but an indifferent sample. [No, no.] At the same time, though I cannot boast of any literary position—at the same time that I have not done much to advance

my profession as far as the press is concerned, those who know me best will not hesitate to say that, for the last twenty years, I have worked hard, and done all in my power to ameliorate the sufferings of mankind. [Applause.] It is to me a matter of deep regret that we have not amongst us one gentleman whom we may consider the father of the profession in the town. I allude to our old and valued friend Mr. Brown. I am sure it will be painful to many gentlemen around this room to know that he is suffering from affliction—that he is the subject of painful disease; but, although he is so afflicted, I am sure it will be a pleasure to know that his mind is such that he could collect his thoughts; and I assure you that this morning I not only have had a communication from him, but I have his entire permission to submit to you a most interesting case, which, I am sure, will afford the meeting a great amount of pleasure to investigate and observe.

It is usual in meetings of this kind to particularise many of the topics that engross the attention of the medical public; but I rejoice to say that, on the present occasion, there are few subjects that are disturbing the profession. In respect to our Medical Bill, that I think may be considered as settled. There may be some doubt as to whether it will become law during the present session of Parliament; but as to its facts, as to its principles, I think the medical public generally are agreed. I shall not venture to take up your time with any observations in reference to other matters at present before Parliament; but I would venture to remark that there is one subject, to which if I did not draw attention, I should be ill wanting; I allude to the British Medical Association, which has been in existence now upwards of twenty-four years. The Association, when in its infancy, was but small in numbers, but has gradually waxed and grown into great magnitude, enrolling amongst its members above two thousand of the most respectable and painstaking medical men, not only in England, but in other parts of Great Britain. I assure you that it has now become of so much importance that, in my judgment, it is almost a reflection upon any person not to be a member of it. I assure you that these meetings are of all other things the most likely to conduce to an increase in the numbers of that Association; and I can venture to state that those gentlemen who are already members look forward to the Parent meeting, as well as to their Branch meetings, with feelings of great satisfaction. I am satisfied, from what I observed to-day, from the meetings which have already taken place in the early part of the morning, that there have been pleasant recollections of the past; and I hope that the time which has been spent in Preston will not only be spent in conviviality, but in education and medical improvement. There is also one other matter—that is, the subject of the JOURNAL itself. I have pleasure in stating that I have carefully read its pages for the last eight or ten years; and, ever since I began to read them, I have perused them with interest, and have always considered that each week I acquired some fact or other that would be of advantage to me.

The President referred to the advantage which would accrue if the members composing the Association, gentlemen connected with public institutions, and enjoying an extensive practice, would record in the JOURNAL those cases of interest which came under their cognisance. He concluded by calling upon the Secretary to read the report.

## REPORT OF COUNCIL.

Mr. SOUTHAM read the annexed report.

"The Council of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch, in presenting their annual report, have little to dwell upon, so far as regards any active operations, nothing having occurred to engage their special attention.

"Since the last annual meeting in Manchester, important changes have, however, been made in the constitution and rules of the parent society. It is now no longer designated a Provincial Association, but has, by the almost unanimous votes of its members, assumed the title of the British Medical Association.

"By the new form of government adopted, every member of the Association, by joining a Branch, has the right of electing to the General Council; and your Council have to regret that the members do not more readily take advantage of this privilege, as there are upwards of one hundred resident in Lancashire and Cheshire who are not enrolled in the Branch. The Council would here particularly draw the attention of members to the construction of the second clause in the fourth rule, as it now stands, recommended by the Committee appointed to revise the rules to remain intact. By its provisions, all gentle-

men who enter the Parent Association through the portals of the Branch are *ipso facto* members of the Branch; but, as many gentlemen have demurred to this compulsory clause, it will be for the consideration of this meeting to decide whether this rule shall or shall not be altered.

"The rules, modified by the Committee in accordance with the changes adopted in the constitution of the Association at Birmingham, in July 1856, will be laid before the present meeting for approval.

"The great question of Medical Reform has not been lost sight of by your Council; and they have appointed a sub-committee, consisting of Dr. Noble, the President, Dr. Lyon, Mr. Southam, and Mr. Hatton, the Honorary Secretary, to watch the progress of Mr. Headlam's Bill, to which the Association is committed; and to point out to him the discrepancies which at present appear to exist in the measure brought in by him.

"The Honorary Secretary has received the form of a petition from Mr. Griffin, in favour of the Poor-law Medical Officers; and, as it has received the sanction of Sir Charles Hastings, your Council earnestly hope that every member present will unhesitatingly sign it, considering that the object is on behalf of the worst paid of their professional brethren.

"Your Council refer with satisfaction to the Bill introduced by Earl Granville, President of Her Majesty's Privy Council, to restrict and regulate the Sale of Poisons; and, although there are many difficulties attendant upon the subject, your Council hope the legislature will pass such a comprehensive measure as will tend to check the indiscriminate sale of poison to ignorant people, and thus to diminish a very grievous evil, so remarkably increased of late years.

"Your Council also allude with pleasure to the appointment of a commission to inquire into the state of the Army Medical Department, and cannot but refer with feelings of congratulation to the steps so early taken by this Branch on behalf of naval assistant-surgeons, whose position is now so much ameliorated.

"Your Council have pride in the recollection that this important Branch was originally established as an independent society, founded in the small village of Newton, with the view of cordially co-operating with the objects of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association. Now, however, that this latter is characterised by no mere provinciality, but embraces the United Kingdom, they trust that the same cordiality and good feeling which have ever characterised the actions of this Branch may be sustained under the new state of things; and that, now the whole profession are united, without distinction of metropolitan and provincial, all members of the profession will see the advantage of combining in one common brotherhood, to endeavour to enhance its own well-being, and by union of its members as links of one powerful chain."

From the financial statement, it appeared that the balance in hand amounted to £4:8:3.

Dr. DICKINSON (Liverpool) moved that the report of the Council be received, adopted, and printed together with the proceedings of the meeting.

Mr. WOLSTENHOLME (Bolton) seconded the proposition, which was agreed to unanimously.

#### VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING PRESIDENT.

Mr. HOWITT (Preston) moved—

"That the best thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. Noble, the late President, and the other members of the Council, for their services during the past year."

He eulogised Dr. Noble for the energy and perseverance he had displayed in connection with the society. He felt sure that every gentleman present would co-operate with him in giving thanks to Dr. Noble for his services during the past year. The other gentlemen were also entitled to our best thanks for the diligence and activity they had displayed in carrying on the proceedings of the society. He regretted that more members had not joined during the past year, as the society was deserving of the support of every member of the medical profession.

Professor WILLIAMSON (Manchester), in seconding the motion, passed a high eulogy upon Dr. Noble, to whom they ought to feel exceedingly grateful for what he had accomplished. Upon the Council had hitherto depended the amount of success that had accrued. Their prosperity depended upon the way in which the crew worked the vessel, and hitherto they had worked it exceedingly well. [*Applause.*]

The motion was agreed to.

#### PLACE OF MEETING IN 1858: ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Dr. INMAN (Liverpool) proposed that the next anniversary meeting be held in Liverpool; and that Ellis Jones, Esq., of Liverpool, be nominated President-elect; and John Hatton, Esq., of Manchester, and James Vose, M.D., of Liverpool, be Vice-Presidents-elect for the ensuing year. In Liverpool there were forty or forty-five members of the Branch—no inconsiderable portion—and out of that number there was scarcely one who had not been induced to join by Mr. Jones. Mr. Hatton had long discharged the duties of Secretary, and Dr. Vose was one who was looked up to not only by the profession in general, but by the intellectual part of the profession in particular.

Mr. A. T. H. WATERS (Liverpool) seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

Dr. VOSE (Liverpool) proposed that Mr. Waters, of Liverpool, should be elected Honorary Secretary in the place of Mr. Hatton, resigned.

Mr. SWIFT (Liverpool) seconded the resolution, stating that Mr. Waters possessed qualities which admirably fitted him to succeed Mr. Hatton.

The motion was carried; and Mr. WATERS returned thanks.

#### VOTE OF THANKS TO MR. HATTON.

Dr. LYON (Manchester) moved—

"That this meeting having heard with regret that Mr. Hatton has decided upon retiring from the honorary secretaryship, record their grateful sense of his able and valuable exertions for a period of fifteen years in support of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the British Medical Association, and at the same time tender to him their best and most ardent thanks."

Mr. ELLIS JONES (Liverpool), in seconding the proposition, bore testimony to the services rendered by Mr. Hatton, and expressed a wish that some substantial token of esteem and respect might be paid to him.

The motion was assented to with applause.

#### COUNCIL OF THE BRANCH.

On the proposition of Mr. GILBERTSON (Preston), seconded by Mr. NOBLE (Preston), the following gentlemen were appointed to constitute the Council of the Branch, in addition to L. Spencer, Esq., President, and Abraham Wood, Esq. (Rochdale), and E. Waters, M.D. (Chester), Vice-Presidents: E. Batty, Esq. (Liverpool); G. M. Davis, Esq. (Liverpool); J. Dickinson, M.D. (Liverpool); W. H. Duncan, M.D. (Liverpool); A. D. Dunstan, Esq. (Holmes Chapel); H. Halkyard, Esq. (Oldham); John Hatton, Esq. (Manchester); Ellis Jones, Esq. (Liverpool); E. Lyon, M.D. (Manchester); P. Macintyre, M.D. (Liverpool); G. Mallett, Esq. (Bolton); T. Mellor, Esq. (Manchester); D. Noble, M.D. (Manchester); T. Radford, M.D. (Manchester); J. Robinson, Esq. (Bolton); J. Sharp, Esq. (Warrington); G. Southam, Esq. (Manchester); G. Turner, M.D. (Stockport); H. Wilson, Esq. (Runcorn); G. Wolstenholme, Esq. (Bolton).

#### REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

The following members were elected representatives of the Branch in the General Council: J. Dickinson, M.D. (Liverpool); T. Inman, M.D. (Liverpool); Ellis Jones, Esq. (Liverpool); E. Lyon, M.D. (Manchester); D. Noble, M.D. (Manchester); G. Southam, Esq. (Manchester); L. Spencer, Esq. (Preston); J. Vose, M.D. (Liverpool); E. Waters, M.D. (Chester); A. T. H. Waters, Esq. (Liverpool).

#### POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

A petition to Parliament was adopted, praying for relief for Poor-law surgeons.

#### CASES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

The case submitted by Mr. BROWN was brought forward and inspected by the members.

Dr. NOBLE read a paper on "The Use of Opiates in the Treatment of Insanity."

A discussion followed, in which Dr. Inman, Dr. Vose, Mr. Waters, Professor Williamson, Mr. Ellis Jones, and others, took part.

Professor WILLIAMSON then read a paper on "Some practical Points in the Treatment of Diseases of the Ear."

On the proposition of Mr. SOUTHAM, seconded by Dr. VOSE, a vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Noble and Professor Williamson, for their papers.

A request that he would allow his essay to appear in the JOURNAL was declined by Dr. Noble, he being under a prior engagement to publish it in another paper.

Mr. JONES remarked that it was exceedingly essential that the members of the Association should support the Editor of their own JOURNAL by all the literary and scientific contributions it was in their power to give.

#### VOTE OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT.

Dr. NOBLE moved, seconded by Dr. INMAN, that a vote of thanks be rendered to the Chairman, not only as President of the present meeting, but also for his exercise of the presidency since he undertook that office.

The motion was carried with acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN returned his acknowledgments, and thanked every member for the kindness and courtesy he had received. [*Applause.*]

The proceedings of the meeting terminated at three o'clock in the afternoon.

#### THE DINNER.

The dinner took place at the Assembly Room, Bull Hotel; about sixty gentlemen were present. His Worship the Mayor presided, supported by the Rev. Canon Parr, Dr. Vose, Mr. Waters, Mr. Southam, etc. Mr. W. Howitt occupied the vice-chair. The cloth having been drawn, and the loyal toasts drunk,

The CHAIRMAN proposed "The Bishop and Clergy of the diocese," joining with the toast the health of the Vicar of Preston.

The Rev. Canon PARR returned thanks, and proposed "The Army and Navy." He looked upon those bodies, not to be used for aggression, but for defence. He looked upon the army and navy in any country, efficiently maintained, as the best guarantees for the security of that country in peace and quietness. [*Cheers.*]

The toast was drunk with applause, and was responded to by Mr. Hammond.

Dr. LYON, in an appropriate speech, proposed "The British Medical Association," which was enthusiastically received.

Professor WILLIAMSON gave "The Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the British Medical Association." It was a proof of the wisdom of their founders that they made the body to which they belonged a union. They clearly understood the fact suggested by some of the political governments of the world that had existed throughout all time, that a federal union was the true idea which ought to pervade the mass of those who would give strength and vigour and perennial youth to any body. The object was to secure that union that could only spring from unity of thought, from sympathy of feeling, from congeniality of nature, and from a number of those elements which could only be found when men were brought frequently together, when they knew one another, when they respected one another, and loved one another; in fact, when they were so united in all that was good and elevating, that at the most insignificant signal they were prepared to act in harmonious co-operation. Alluding to the practical utility of the Association, he said it was recognised, and universally allowed that when Mr. Headlam's Bill became law (and it would become law sooner or later), it was substantially their work. [*Cheers.*]

The VICE-CHAIRMAN proposed the health of Dr. Noble, Dr. Inman, and Mr. Dagliesh, in a brief speech, in which he passed a high encomium upon each of those gentlemen.

Dr. NOBLE was delighted to have this opportunity of meeting so many old friends in the place of his nativity and youth. It was quite plain that if any body of men would accomplish good in any particular era, it must be by corresponding with the spirit of the times; and, if one thing was more clear than another, it was that results affecting the community were to be effected by association, and not by autocracy. Individuals themselves were powerless, but when associated they became potent for achieving great results; and he did contend that the British Medical Association, of which the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch was an integral part, had accomplished good indeed. It was a question sometimes asked by the querulous, and sometimes in scorn, "What have you done? What is the use of your Association? If I join it, what shall I get?" Now, they had nothing to say to such parties. The inspiring motive for a man to become a member must be a feeling of professional chivalry, and a trust that good would come.

Mr. DAGLIESH also returned thanks.

Dr. VOSE proposed the health of the President, which toast was drunk with great acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN returned thanks.

Mr. SOUTHAM proposed the healths of the President elect and the Vice-Presidents.

Mr. JONES responded.

Mr. BATTY gave "The Council," coupled with the name of Mr. Wolstenholme.

Mr. JONES gave the toast of Mr. Hatton, the late honorary secretary. The toast was heartily responded to.

Dr. DUNCAN proposed the health of Mr. Waters, the newly appointed secretary.

Mr. WATERS briefly responded, and gave "The new members," to which Mr. Hunt replied.

Mr. SWIFT proposed "The visitors," which was acknowledged by Mr. Hall.

Other toasts followed, and the proceedings terminated about half-past seven o'clock.

## Editor's Letter Box.

### POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

LETTER FROM RICHARD GRIFFIN, ESQ.

SIR,—During the last eighteen months Union medical affairs have occupied much space in your valuable columns. Glad should I be, could I say this is the last epistle I shall write on the subject of Poor-law; but alas! we have still to fight the hard battle of right against might. I must therefore crave further indulgence, and a continuance of your able and generous assistance.

On June 25th, the President of the Poor-Law Board, in reply to Sir John Trollope, said, "that an order had recently been issued by the Poor-Law Board, directing that the appointments of medical officers to Poor-law Unions should be made permanent. Their salaries were fixed by the Poor-law Guardians, and the funds from which they were paid were partly the rates levied in their districts, and partly a vote of that House. In those cases in which the remuneration was extremely low, the Poor-law Board endeavoured to procure an addition to it, but he was sorry to say that, generally speaking, the Poor-law guardians were not disposed to agree with the Poor-law Board as to the propriety of such addition. Unless the Poor-law Board entered into a violent contest with the Boards or Guardians on that subject—which he was not all prepared to do—it would be difficult indeed to obtain an increase of the salaries. He ought at the same time to state that, in a great number of Unions, the medical officers were sufficiently remunerated. There could be no doubt that the great body of them discharged their duties with fidelity and diligence. Any one acquainted with the present operation of the Poor-law must admit that a great improvement had been effected in the administration of medical relief to the poor. [*Hear.*] He could not hold out any hopes to the medical officers that their salaries would be increased by means of an increased vote of the House, because the House was reluctant to grant even the usual vote under the head of Poor-law medical relief. As occasion permitted, the area within which the medical officers had to discharge their duties would be diminished."

The first part of Mr. Bouverie's speech is intended to imply that one cause of our complaint is removed, as the "order" recently issued makes us permanent officers. That it is not so I have shown in my letter to the Poor-law Board on the 20th instant. The order is prospective, and does nothing for the present officers, and very little for those to be hereafter appointed, as it is still clogged with residence in the district as a *sine quâ non* for permanency of office. I trust, however, my medical brethren will not be disheartened by the general tenor of Mr. Bouverie's reply, which is not more discouraging than was the opposition to the repeal of the corn laws; yet that measure was ultimately carried, and why should not ours?

The President of the Poor-law Board compliments us on our "fidelity and diligence"—goodly traits in our character, truly; but words alone, however gratifying, will not pay our druggists' bills. We require something more tangible, and must have it, too, before we cease to agitate. My medical brethren must continue to send in their petitions to the House, and to make interest with its members. That considerable progress has been made, is testified by the promises of support which so many of the Union surgeons have already received from their representatives. I, however, fear we shall not do much this session, hurried as it is, and opposed as we are, by Government, as it is clearly evinced by the statement of the President that he is "not prepared to enter into a violent contest with the Boards of Guardians on the subject." He is not, in fact,

prepared to support his officers in their claims for redress. We must, therefore, to quote his own words, prove our "fidelity and diligence", by a firm resolve to obtain the fruits of the verdict already recorded in our favour by the Select Committee of the House of Commons on medical relief, which made its report in 1854.

Our organisation is daily becoming more perfect; we are supported by the Royal College of Surgeons and the Company of Apothecaries; and I may say by nearly the entire profession. About three hundred petitions have already been presented; many of them contain the names of men of high standing; some of the clergy have also signed in our favour; and one petition has the name of the chairman of a board of guardians conjoined with many magistrates and ratepayers.

Let my friends continue to furnish me with the names of the petitioners, and the means to carry on the war, and the fault shall not be mine if victory does not ultimately crown our efforts.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD GRIFFIN.

12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, June 27th, 1857.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received a communication from a nobleman, well known by name to the profession, and if his lordship display only one-half the energy in support of our cause that he has shown in opposition to Mr. Headlam's Bill, we shall have a staunch advocate. Lord Elcho concludes his letter with the following words:—"I am unable to take any steps in the present session as regards the grievances of the Poor-Law Medical Officers; but I shall be very glad, if you have no more worthy advocate, to turn my attention to the subject next session."

## Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday, June 25th.

### METROPOLITAN WORKHOUSES.

VISCOUNT RAYNHAM moved for a Select Committee "to inquire into the condition and administration of metropolitan workhouses, and into the arrangements made by the parochial authorities for relieving the poor." He said that since attention was called to this subject, matters had become worse and worse in most of the metropolitan workhouses. A recent blue-book from the Poor-Law Board contained nothing but accounts of mismanagement in Marylebone and St. Pancras Workhouses. The inspectors described it as "most horrible". Since then, St. Pancras may have been somewhat improved, but that was owing to an inquiry instituted by the Poor-Law Board; and further inquiry might cause similar improvements in other workhouses. One great defect is the want of classification, the dissolute being mingled with the deserving. It is also notorious that the guardians screw down the salaries of officials to the lowest point; and porters are selected for their harshness and skill in driving the poor from the doors, and in preventing casual poor from obtaining relief. They are intrusted with a discretion which they are unfit to assume, and which it is illegal to exercise. Moreover, pauper nurses are employed whose old age and infirmities render them unfit for the duties. The wards are also overcrowded, and the guardians ought to be compelled to remove pauper children to the country. The evil would also be further reduced if the guardians abandoned their too parsimonious principles. The constitution of the Board of Guardians is wholly at variance with the rights of the inmates, as guardians are elected merely on pledges to reduce the expenditure. Last year, a widow—a lunatic—fifty-nine years of age, committed suicide, owing to the neglect of the medical officer at Hampstead; and the coroner's jury severely censured the two relieving officers; and many other cases had occurred where the inhumanity of the officers had caused suffering and death.

Mr. D. NICOL seconded the motion for inquiry.

Mr. WILLIAMS said the general administration of Marylebone was marked by humanity and attention to the poor. All the clergy of the district were *ex officio* members. The officers also were fully competent to their duties, and they were amply paid.

Mr. BOUVIERIE said there were twenty-four workhouses in the metropolis; and the proposed inquiry would not be complete this session. He would not say that the administration of the Poor-Law in Marylebone and St. Pancras was perfectly

satisfactory, but it had much improved since the Poor-Law Board made their report. The Poor-Law Board has now sufficient powers of revision; and if any particular case of hardship be complained of, he would be ready to investigate it.

Mr. P. W. MARTIN said the Poor-Law Board's report was made in January 1856; yet in October 1856, Mr. Hall reported that the regulations of the Poor-Law Board were still disobeyed, and the state of the wards was described as "horrible".

Mr. H. DRUMMOND said that Mr. Bouvierie's speech had added to his conviction that inquiry was necessary.

Alderman COPELAND also supported inquiry.

Sir J. PAKINGTON said that although the metropolitan workhouses were in an unsatisfactory condition, yet as Mr. Bouvierie had promised to rectify the evils, the motion ought to be withdrawn.

The House then divided. The numbers were—for Viscount Raynham's motion, 52; against it, 73: majority against it, 11. The motion was therefore lost.

### POOR LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.

In answer to Sir J. TROLLOPE,

Mr. BOUVIERIE said, that an order had recently been issued by the Poor-law Board directing that the appointments of medical officers to Poor-law Unions should be made permanent. Their salaries were fixed by the Poor-law Guardians, and the funds from which they were paid were partly the rates levied in their districts, and partly a vote of that House. In those cases in which the remuneration was extremely low, the Poor-law Board endeavoured to procure an addition to it, but he was sorry to say that, generally speaking, the Poor-law Guardians were not disposed to agree with the Poor-law Board as to the propriety of such addition. Unless the Poor-law Board entered into a violent contest with the Boards of Guardians on that subject—which he was not at all prepared to do—it would be difficult indeed to obtain an increase of the salaries. He ought at the same time to state that, in a great number of Unions, the medical officers were sufficiently remunerated. There could be no doubt that the great body of them discharged their duties with fidelity and diligence. Any one acquainted with the present operation of the Poor-law, must admit that a great improvement had been effected in the administration of medical relief to the poor. [Hear.] He could not hold out any hopes to the medical officers that their salaries would be increased by means of an increased vote of the House, because the House was reluctant to grant even the usual vote under the head of Poor-Law Medical Relief. As occasion permitted, the area within which the medical officers had to discharge their duties would be diminished.

Wednesday, July 1st.

### MEDICAL PROFESSION (No. 1) BILL.

Mr. HEADLAM moved that this Bill be read a second time.

Mr. CROFT moved that the Bill be read a second time on that day six months. In the course of last year, Mr. Headlam introduced a measure, on which considerable labour had been bestowed, and which to a great extent elicited the united support of the medical profession, more especially of the British Medical Association. To secure the unanimity necessary to success, it was framed on the principle of compromise. With the view to carry out that spirit in the fullest sense, and to do justice to certain Universities and other bodies, Lord Elcho brought forward a second Bill. Both the measures were read a second time, and referred to a select committee. The consequence was the framing of a measure considerably modifying the one proposed by Mr. Headlam, and assuming the form now presented to the House by the Medical Profession (No. 3) Bill, introduced by Lord Elcho. In the shape in which that Bill came down from the committee, it almost entirely coincided with the measure proposed by the British Medical Association. Everything was in fair train, but the late period at which the committee concluded their labours rendered it necessary that the matter should stand over. Since then Mr. Headlam introduced a Bill. It was certainly not a little extraordinary that Mr. Headlam should almost wholly disregard the decision of the committee, and should again introduce a Bill nearly identical with that brought in by him in the session of 1856. The Bill completely consulted the interests of the corporations. He (Mr. Croft) did not want to upset vested interests; but he was indisposed to continue these corporations in the possession of privileges no longer suited to the spirit of our times. Bill No. 3 dealt tenderly with vested interests; it did not sweep away the medical corporations, which had undoubtedly done much good

in their time, and which might continue to be beneficial to the profession if put on a sound basis; but it did not compel students, before they could be admitted to practise, to pay heavy fees to these bodies. Another distinction between the Bills referred to the medical council. Last session, he (Mr. Craufurd) was much wedded to the representative principle. But the discussion in the committee, and the consideration of the evidence, had induced him to change his opinion. Though in theory a representative council might be best, it would be impossible for such a body to work in a satisfactory manner; from its size it would be unwieldy and unmanageable, and though nominally based on representation, it would not have within itself the element of responsibility. [*Hear, hear.*] On the other hand, a council nominated by the Government would be responsible to the country through Government. He would not, by throwing sop to the corporations, attempt to conciliate bodies which had hitherto stood very much in the way of medical reform; and he therefore moved that the Bill be read a second time that day six months.

Mr. BLACK seconded the amendment.

Viscount BURY approved of Mr. Headlam's Bill. Though the licensing bodies might have failed, when acting singly, to use their power with good effect, that was no reason why they should fail when they were able to combine with one another for the advancement of the common object. He feared lest the system of Government nomination, as proposed in Lord Elcho's Bill, should be used as a political engine; that when one party was in power the most necessary qualification for members of the council would be that they should be good Whigs, and so with the other side of the House. He would also support Mr. Headlam's Bill, because it provided no exclusion for what were called medical heresies.

Colonel SYKES concurred in the principle of representation as opposed to that of nomination by the Crown. He thought, however, that Mr. Headlam's Bill unnecessarily multiplied examinations and fees, and ignored the University element. He should oppose Mr. Headlam's Bill; and would also vote against Lord Elcho's measure, because it was based on the principle of nomination.

Colonel FRENCH thought the amendments of Lord Elcho might be introduced into Mr. Headlam's Bill in committee.

Mr. W. EWART opposed Mr. Headlam's Bill.

Mr. HATCHELL supported Mr. Headlam's Bill.

Mr. BLACK believed that the best test of a medical man's competency was the opinion of the public, and that, however rigid might be the system of medical examination, men incompetent to practise would succeed in obtaining certificates of competency from examiners. Before a man was allowed to practise he ought to be examined by competent persons; but why should he, after having obtained a certificate of competency, be called upon to enter into a corporation. There ought not to be any class distinctions in the medical profession. He (Mr. Black) had no desire to injure the ancient medical institutions; they had been of great service, but he thought it should be optional with physicians or surgeons to enter them, and not compulsory. The majority of the profession would, no doubt, seek admission into them.

Mr. GROGAN said Mr. Black wanted to have free trade in the medical profession as well as in manufactures; but all States had found it necessary to prevent the care of the public health from being intrusted to incompetent men. [*Hear, hear.*] The Government could not dispense with a compulsory system of education as a preliminary to the practice. The medical profession had attained high eminence without Government interference, and he hoped that that House would resist any attempt to place it under the control of a Government nominee.

Mr. NEATE deprecated the custom of undervaluing the ancient institutions. Free trade and unrestricted competition were very good in but very bad out of their place. [*Hear.*] It was to monopoly that much of our progress in arts and sciences was due. That remark applied to the medical more than to any other learned profession. Did the House wish to see free trade extended to the legal profession or to the church? He was speaking as if Mr. Headlam's Bill would sanction monopoly. But it would admit everybody to qualify himself for the medical profession; but it would also require, as it ought to do, that it should be ascertained whether he had qualified himself before he was permitted to practise. The College of Physicians was, no doubt, for a time actuated by a spirit of selfishness and exclusiveness, but it was now determined to meet, as far as possible, the requirements of the present state of society. [*Hear.*] It was for the interest of the State at

large to maintain, in some shape or other, professional aristocracies.

Mr. VANCE supported Mr. Headlam's Bill.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE objected to both the Bills. The examination of practitioners ought not to be reserved either to self-elected bodies or by nominees of the Crown. Though they had a State Church and State law, the public did not want State physic. The chartered bodies which it was sought to protect had always stood in the way of improvement. This was shown by the incarceration of the inventor of the tourniquet; and the first prescriber of cantharides had been sent to Newgate at the instance of the head of the College of Physicians. He was opposed to the system of registration.

Mr. BLAKE opposed the Bill No. 1, giving preference to the measure of Lord Elcho.

Mr. BRISCOE supported the second reading of the Bill.

Lord ELCHO claimed to be actuated by a sense of public duty alone in bringing forward his Bill. It had been said that he desired to obstruct medical reform, and to rival his hon. and learned friend. So far from that being the case, he was most anxious to remove the anomalies of the medical profession, and to effect some measure of reform. As regarded the imputation of rivalry, he (Lord Elcho) had not only no wish to set himself up against Mr. Headlam, but when his hon. and learned friend had given notice of the Bill, he (Lord Elcho) had asked him if it was the same as the amended Bill of last session; because, if so, he would support it. And it was only because it was not the Bill of the Committee, but the same Bill, with the exception of an alteration in the constitution of the council, that had been brought in by Mr. Headlam in the beginning of 1856, that he opposed it. He, however, wished to discuss the question on the broad principle of the Bill, and not to mix up with it any details. He would, however, first read to the House the names of the Committee on the Bill of 1856. They were Mr. Cowper, then President of the Board of Health; Mr. Brady, Sir W. Heathcote, Mr. Napier, Mr. Black, Mr. Bell, Mr. Howard, Mr. Headlam, Mr. Craufurd, Mr. Strutt (now Lord Belper), Mr. A. Hastie, Mr. Percy, Lord R. Grosvenor, Colonel Dunne, and Lord Elcho. This Committee were all but unanimous in recommending the Bill which he (Lord Elcho) had introduced; and, with one exception (that of Colonel Dunne, now not in Parliament), they had promised to support it. The main principle of Mr. Headlam's Bill was to give a monopoly of the medical education of the country to the corporations. The Bill made it compulsory on every member of a university to be examined before one of the corporations before he could be registered; and another clause obliged a practitioner to reside two years in one country before he could be registered. The reason for the latter clause, as far as he (Lord Elcho) could make it out, was a certain degree of jealousy of Scotch doctors, which had always existed in this country. Scotch doctors, however, went through a strict examination, and stood as high in the world of science as gentlemen who had received diplomas from English colleges. Mr. Neate had argued in favour of monopolies; but scientific monopolies had always worked injuriously for the people of this country. The practice of granting medical licenses had long been exercised by the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, and Dublin. In 1854, a Bill was passed, putting the London University on the same footing in that respect as the Universities he had named; and Mr. Headlam had supported an amendment to place the University of Durham in a similar position. In France, the power of granting medical licenses rested solely with the University of Paris. In Germany and Italy, the power of granting such licenses was in a government board. The rights of the Scotch Universities to grant medical degrees originated in bulls of the Popes, in which the same privileges were conceded as were held by Paris and Bologna. Some strong grounds ought to be adduced in support of a proposal, not only to perpetuate an old monopoly, but to give the holders of that monopoly powers which they had not hitherto possessed. It had been stated by Mr. Lawrence, before the Committee, that Scotch medical degrees were useless; but from a letter from Dr. Reid, who was medical examiner at St. Andrew's in 1847, it would appear that no degree was granted at that University without a strict examination in accordance with the regulations of 1826. It also appeared that a large number of the candidates rejected were members of the College of Surgeons of England. These medical corporations, like corporations of trades, had their roots in mediæval times. He wished to know whether, in 1857, the House was so satisfied with corporate bodies, that they would give them powers which they never had possessed. He should not object to giving them a fair



share of power, but he was opposed to granting them a complete monopoly. He would now say a few words with reference to his own Bill. The main objection to it was that the council ought to be representative. He believed that the best council would be one nominated by the Crown, with the Secretary for the Home Department, or some other high officer of state, at its head. By that means a proper council would be formed, and security would be obtained that the power of the Crown would not be abused. The question whether the corporations should obtain a monopoly or not was not a question for consideration in committee. The Bill of Mr. Headlam was taken by the Select Committee for a basis, but it was so altered that scarcely any part of the original was left. He would state what medical corporations themselves said of his Bill. The Dublin Apothecaries' Company stated that it was characterised by an equitable adjustment of the rights of all parties, and they prayed that it might pass at once. The Edinburgh College of Physicians last year also expressed a hope that the Bill would pass. The British Medical Association, with reference to the Bill of the Select Committee, said last year that they were desirous of seeing it become law. He had another test by which to judge of the Bill. It had been said that the opinion of foreigners on what passed in this country was the same as the judgment of posterity. He had received a letter from medical men in Jersey, expressing their wish that a clause might be introduced into the Bill to bring them under its operation. Mr. Warburton, a member of the senate of the University of London, had given, on part of that body, the preference to his over that of Mr. Headlam's. The recommendations of the Edinburgh College of Physicians on the constitution of the Council were nearly similar to the provisions of the Bill. Another objection of the corporations to the Bill was the establishment of one Board. Now, he had to remind the House that they were legislating, not for the rich man, who could afford his guinea, but for the public. Ample security was taken that no person's name should be on the registry unless he was qualified. When once a candidate's name was on the registry he was to be considered as a licentiate in medicine and surgery; but the medical corporations and the Universities would be left to compete with each other, so as to induce the licentiate to take a higher step. He would now say a word on the question of this being "a Scotch job." He believed that his proposal would be advantageous to Scotland; but others would be equally gainers. He had, however, held but little communication with the Scotch Universities. It had been also said that the greatest unanimity prevailed in the profession with regard to Mr. Headlam's Bill. He admitted that by some *hocus pocus* the names of the hon. member for the University of Oxford and of the hon. and learned member for the University of Dublin were now on the back of Mr. Headlam's Bill, and he gave his hon. friend full credit for the diplomatic tact which he had shown in getting his Bill endorsed with the names of those two honourable members. Last year the names of Mr. Craufurd and Mr. Brady appeared upon Mr. Headlam's Bill; and it might naturally have been supposed that when the hon. member for Newcastle-on-Tyne introduced this session another measure of medical reform, he would again have placed their names upon the Bill. Mr. Headlam, however, had not said a word on the subject to one of these gentlemen. This seemed rather sharp practice; and consequently he (Lord Elcho) asked Mr. Craufurd and Mr. Brady to allow their names to be placed upon the Bill which he introduced. They unhesitatingly consented, and he obtained leave to bring in the Medical Profession No. 2 Bill. The next day Mr. Brady requested him, as a personal favour, to take his name off the Bill; stating that, from peculiar circumstances connected with his position in Ireland, he did not wish to meddle any more with medical reform. He (Lord Elcho) acceded to the hon. gentleman's request; but he had to get the order for the Bill discharged, and to obtain leave to introduce the Medical Profession No. 3 Bill. He had been denounced in a document emanating from the College of Physicians, for having interfered with the unanimity of the profession. But the Bill was not so much his as that of the Select Committee. The unanimity of the medical corporations as to the Bill was more apparent than real. In truth, there was no unanimity on the subject. He was enabled to say that the committee of the British Medical Association had never authorised any of their body to go with the deputation to Lord Palmerston. The day after the deputation went to Lord Palmerston a letter appeared, saying that the gentlemen who professed to represent the College of Surgeons had no right to speak in the name of the profession. Attempts had been made

to place legislation on this subject upon the ground of unanimity, but he trusted he had shown that that unanimity did not exist. Indeed, the interests of the Universities and of the corporate bodies were so discordant, that it was impossible to establish unanimity. Let the House do what was right, without waiting for the consent of the profession; and they would ultimately find that they had done that which would be for the benefit of both the public at large and the profession. The mission of the physician was a high one; but physicians were but men; and the House had to deal with them in their corporate, and not in their individual capacity; and he therefore trusted that hon. members would not yield so far to that influence which physicians deservedly had upon all classes of society. He hoped the House would reject the monopolising Bill of the corporations, and adopt the measure of the Select Committee. [*Cheers.*]

MR. NAPIER supported the Bill of Mr. Headlam. He believed that nothing better fitted men to attain distinction in any profession, and to render benefits to society, than the enlightened liberal education which was obtained in the universities. He considered that the great fault of legal, military, and medical education was the maintenance of systems of narrow and exclusive training, instead of providing a system of general enlightened education in schools and universities open to all, and then having separate establishments for subsequent military, or legal, or medical instruction. His anxiety was that the House, in dealing with a question of this nature, should proceed upon enlightened educational principles. The subject now under consideration had been referred to a select committee; and the chief difficulty experienced by that committee was in bringing into harmony and co-operation the great bodies connected with the medical profession which were at variance. It was most important that an enlightened system of medical education should be established, but that object could only be effected by concessions on both sides. The bodies to which he had referred met in conference; they considered the measure which was presented to them; and after various meetings and discussions, they at length arrived at something like common agreement. That was the reason that his name appeared on the back of this Bill, as representing the University of Dublin. Undoubtedly this Bill and that of Lord Elcho were utterly irreconcilable. Who were the persons who objected to the Bill of Mr. Headlam? He did not wish to say anything disrespectful of Scotland; but although her universities had produced eminent men, the reputation of the Scotch degrees had been greatly depreciated. Irishmen who were unable to pass for degrees in their own country went over to Scotland in order to obtain them. The Scotch Universities did not require degrees in arts before degrees in medicine were conferred. The Bill of Mr. Headlam required that before a man was licensed as a physician he should have taken a degree in arts and medicine in some university. The Bill of Lord Elcho would, on the contrary, reduce all medical men to the common level of the general practitioner, and would only require the *minimum* of education. The noble lord maintained the right of the universities to grant licenses to practise, but he (Mr. Napier) thought the function of the universities should be to afford a sound preliminary and preparatory training, leaving to other bodies the duty of licensing. He contended they ought to take the very highest standard of education, and the question was how was that to be provided. It was often said that, as a body, the members of the medical profession were not equally well educated with the bar and the church. He thought the reason was that the education of the medical practitioner had heretofore been much too exclusive, and did not embrace a preliminary general education. He trusted that the House would not give way to the suggestions made by the opponents of Mr. Headlam's Bill, emanating, as those suggestions did, from quarters where at present no adequate education was given, and where the governing bodies wanted to have power to dispose of an inferior article in the market. He thought the medical profession had not been fairly treated in this country. It ought to rank almost as high as the theological profession, for a man could be the priest of his own family, but he could not be the physician of his own family. It had, however, never been held in anything like equal esteem with the profession either of theology or of the law. He could not understand why that should be, seeing how intimately our moral and physical qualities were blended together, and how delicate and important in the last degree were the functions which medical practitioners were constantly called on to discharge. Believing that the Bill of Mr. Headlam would have the effect of insuring a higher amount of general and professional edu-

cation, and of elevating the profession generally, and knowing that it had the approval of his constituents, he gave it his most cordial support. [*Hear, hear.*]

Mr. COWPER hardly expected that Mr. Napier, who represented a university in that house, would have taken the course he had on this occasion. The Bill of Mr. Headlam took from the universities the power which they possessed by law of giving licenses to medical practitioners; and what was the equivalent they were to receive in return? By the Bill No. 3 they would receive what he (Mr. Cowper) thought was a proper equivalent—namely, that they would have the power of nominating the examiners who were to examine in arts and the sciences connected with medicine, while the medical corporations would nominate the examiners who were to examine with a view to practise. When Mr. Napier found fault with the education given at the universities he must have alluded to places where the education was of an inferior description; but he would ask him to look not merely to those universities, but also to the universities of London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, which were medical schools; and especially to that of Edinburgh, where the theory of medicine was not merely taught, but also the practice in the most eminent degree. The subject of medical reform occupied a singular position with regard to the question of unanimity. Mr. Headlam stated when he sought to introduce his Bill of last year that it had received the unanimous assent of the general body of the medical profession; but when the House went into committee upon it no less than fifty-one amendments were suggested to the measure; and, indeed, the opposition to the Bill from every quarter of the House was so manifest that Mr. Headlam found it out of the question to attempt to carry the measure further, and he took the very wise course of agreeing to a suggestion to refer it to a select committee. When it was referred to a select committee there was really unanimity; because the only division of importance that arose was on a motion as to the constitution of the council, which was carried by a majority of eight to two. As to the constitution of the council he (Mr. Cowper) would much rather see the representative principle adopted; but he still thought the influence of the Crown ought to be felt in that body; and if the nomination of the Crown was not to be recognized there ought to be a provision by which the decrees and resolutions of that council should not come into effect unless they had the approval of Her Majesty by the advice of the Privy Council. One great defect under the present system was the want of proper qualification among a large number of persons who were yet held to be qualified by law. Several hon. gentlemen had assumed that the present state of the law in respect to qualification was all that could be required; but he, on the contrary, believed it was very imperfect, and that the Bill of Mr. Headlam, instead of providing an adequate remedy, rather aggravated the evil than otherwise. Believing that its effects would be to lower instead of raising the standard of qualification, he should be compelled to vote against the second reading. [The right hon. gentleman was proceeding to point out in detail what he considered the defects of the Bill of Mr. Headlam, but the impatience of the House for a division was such that he was obliged to desist for a time.] He said that the Bill of Mr. Headlam was in his opinion an attempt to maintain the defects of the existing system, and was objectionable in that it did not substitute a better examination for the present imperfect one, and that it did not provide for an improvement in the standard of qualification of the general practitioner. If the House rejected the Bill No. 1, it would not be compelled to accept No. 3. The Government were not in any way bound to support the Bill No. 3; but as the poor in the rural districts must be dependent for their health, and even for their lives, upon the proper qualifications of general practitioners, he had felt it his duty to state to the House his views upon the measure which was now under consideration. [*Cries of Divide! divide!*]

Mr. HEADLAM would refer to the history of this question a little before last session. In the year 1844, after investigations by committees of the House, Sir J. Graham brought in a Bill which was in all respects identical with that which he (Mr. Headlam) had submitted to the House [*Hear, hear*]; and in the following year another Bill of precisely similar character, and containing the same recognition of the rights and privileges of corporations as he had embodied in his measure, was introduced by the same right hon. baronet. Unfortunately, the medical profession did not give to those Bills the support which they deserved, and they were lost. At last the profession had attained a degree of unanimity in favour of this Bill, which, considering the conflict of privileges, rights, and interests, was

something wonderful; and he thought it was not too much to ask that the House should at least read a second time a measure which was so recommended and so sanctioned. Last year he introduced, on behalf of the British Medical Association, not on behalf of these corporate bodies, a Bill in which regard was paid to their rights and privileges. That Bill was read a second time without opposition. When it was proposed to go into committee, the Secretary of State for the Home Department opposed this proceeding, and on a division the matter was referred to a select committee, of which, in the natural course of things, he (Mr. Headlam) should have been chairman. At first, however, he declined to be even a member of the committee. The then President of the Board of Health nominated it, presided over it, and introduced into the Bill which emanated from it those clauses of which he now complained, which would entirely destroy all the organisation which had grown up within the medical profession, and subject that profession to a council, to be nominated by the Crown, and of which the President of the Board of Health would be the head. If he had nothing to do with the medical profession, he should, on constitutional grounds, to the utmost of his ability, oppose the clauses which would thus subject that profession to the control of the Crown. [*Hear, hear.*] There were many reasons why it was not desirable that this council should be nominated by the Crown; but the strongest of these was, that it was from this council alone that the right to practise could be obtained. Such a constitution would place the profession entirely at the mercy of the Crown. [*Hear, hear.*] It was the duty of the House in some measure to consider the rights and feelings of the medical profession; and he would undertake to say that the members of that profession generally objected to the Bill of the noble lord (Lord Elcho), and that the assents which he had obtained were mainly attributable to some trifling objections which were entertained to parts of his (Mr. Headlam's) measure. In the course of the last autumn a compromise had been come to, and endeavours had been made to settle this question by mutual concessions. It was not right that any hon. member should endeavour to revive differences. [*Hear, hear.*] He objected to Lord Elcho's Bill, because the council was to be nominated by the Crown, because it would entirely destroy all the organisation which had grown up within the profession, and because it made the *minimum* of education the sole barrier over which a man must pass before he entered the profession.

Mr. CONINGHAM would vote against both Bills.

The House then divided, when the numbers were—

For the second reading .. ..	225
Against .. ..	78
Majority .. ..	147

The Bill was therefore read a second time. The committee was fixed for Wednesday next.

#### MEDICAL BILL (No. 3).

LORD ELCHO said that, as he understood that the discussion which had just concluded had been upon both these Bills, and the result of the division was in favour of No. 1, and against No. 3, he should not at present attempt to proceed further with the latter. At the same time, as he ventured to prophesy that the Bill No. 1 would not pass into law this session, he gave notice that, if the Government did not take up the question, he should next year reproduce the Bill No. 3 in its present form. Under these circumstances, he moved that the order of the day for the second reading of the Medical Bill No. 3 should be read and discharged.

The order was accordingly read and discharged.

## Medical News.

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

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

#### BIRTHS.

- \*DUNCAN. On June 24th, at Tunbridge Wells, the wife of Robert Duncan, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.
- NEWINGTON. On June 19th, at Ticehurst, the wife of S. Newington, M.D., of a daughter.
- PRANCE. On June 30th, at Plymouth, the wife of Charles R. Prance, M.D., of a daughter.



## MARRIAGES.

BLUMFIELD—BOWER. BLUMFIELD, J., M.D., to Ellen, daughter of the late V. Bower, Esq., of Peckham Rye, at St. Giles', Camberwell, on June 27th.

COMBS—PHILCOX. COMBS, James W., Esq., Surgeon, Burwash, Sussex, to Louisa, only daughter of James Philcox, Esq., Solicitor, of the same place, on June 23rd.

PEARCE—GRAHAM. PEARCE, Ravenhill, M.D., of Brighton, to Jane, only daughter of Nathaniel Graham, Esq., of Pinner, Middlesex, at Hove Church, Sussex, on June 27th.

RODEN—GIBBONS. \*RODEN, Sargeant S., M.D., of Droitwich, to Clara, only daughter of the late W. Gibbons, Esq., of Richmond, Surrey, at Richmond, on June 25th.

SOPWITH—DEANE. \*SOPWITH, Henry L., Esq., Surgeon, of Tunbridge Wells, to Matilda, only surviving daughter of Charles Deane, Esq., late of Blandford Place, Regent's Park, at the Rectory Church, St. Marylebone, on June 25th.

WOLLEN—WINKLES. WOLLEN, John Lloyd, M.D., to Jessie Kezia Maria, youngest daughter of Henry Winkles, Esq., of Hendon, Middlesex, at the British Embassy in Dresden, on June 24th.

## DEATHS.

CARSWELL, Sir Robert, M.D., Physician in Ordinary to the King of the Belgians, and formerly Professor of Pathological Anatomy in University College, London, at Lacken, near Brussels, aged 64, on June 15th.

HOLLAND. On June 25th, Harriet Anne Edgar, wife of Joseph Holland, Esq., Surgeon, of Prestwich, Lancashire.

## PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS. At the usual Quarterly Meeting of the Comitia Majora, held on Thursday, June 25th, the following gentlemen having passed the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College:—

Dr. STALLARD, Leicester  
Dr. HARRIS, Great Ormond Street  
Dr. MEYER, London  
Dr. CECIL HASTINGS, Albemarle Street  
Dr. MOON, Brighton

Also, as Extra Licentiates:—

Dr. ALCOCK, Evesham  
Dr. LANCASTER, Clifton

At the same Comitia, the following gentlemen were elected Censors for the ensuing year:—

Dr. JEAFFRESON, Finsbury Square  
Dr. PITMAN, Montague Place  
Dr. BENICE JONES, Brook Street  
Dr. RISDON BENNETT, Finsbury Square

The following gentlemen were also chosen Fellows of the College:—

Dr. LISTER, Madeira  
Dr. CHOWNE, Connaught Place West  
Dr. CAPE, Curzon Street  
Dr. ROXBURGH, Gloucester Place  
Dr. CHILD, Devonshire Terrace, Hyde Park  
Dr. OLDHAM, Finsbury Square  
Dr. BURSLEM, Bournemouth  
Dr. STUART BABINGTON, Hertford Street, May Fair  
Dr. SYMONDS, Clifton  
Dr. EVANS, Birmingham

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, June 26th, 1857:—

BARRETT, John Topping, Oldham, Lancashire  
BOOTH, Brabazon Shiels, Darver Castle, co. Louth  
HAYDEN, Robert Owen, Caernarvon  
HICKS, Robert, Lewisham  
KERSHAW, Joseph, Manchester  
LOWE, Edwin, George Street, Hanover Square  
McCLEMENT, Richard Carr, Larne, co. Antrim  
RUFFE, Richard Edwin, Tamworth, Staffordshire  
TAIT, Greville Ewing, Heytesbury, Wiltshire

APOTHECARIES' HALL. Members admitted on Thursday, June 25th, 1857:—

AYLING, George Frederick, Great Portland Street (as an assistant)  
BROOKS, Arthur D'Oyley, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon  
HAYES, Richard Henry, Langton, Staffordshire  
PILCHER, Edward William Humphrey, Arundel Terrace, Islington  
TAIT, Robert, Coldstream, N.B.

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING  
JUNE 27TH, 1857.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE number of deaths registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday (27th June) was 1005. In the ten years 1847-56, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1090; but as the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, the average should be raised, with a view to comparison, proportionally to the increase, in which case it will become 1199. The deaths now returned were therefore less by 194 than would have occurred if the average rate of mortality towards the end of June had prevailed.

The deaths produced by the zymotic or epidemic class of diseases were last week 195; the corrected average of corresponding weeks is 264. The mortality of this class is considerably less than usual; and on reference to particular heads, it will be seen that the reduction is in typhus (including common fever), scarlatina, and small-pox. Four cases of small-pox and one of varicella (chicken-pox) were fatal in the week. Although the heat was excessive, and the mean temperature of last week higher by 8° than that of the previous three weeks, the mortality from diarrhoea has not yet shown any important increase; the weekly deaths from this complaint during June having been 26, 20, 35, and 33. Besides the 33 of last week, three deaths of children were registered as caused by "English cholera", and "cholera infantum". Hooping-cough, which carried off 46 children, and, in the next place, measles, which carried off 36, are at present the most fatal diseases of the zymotic description. Three deaths from measles are returned from each of the following sub-districts:—West Hackney, St. Clement Danes, and Mile End Old Town Lower. Five children died of hooping-cough in the sub-district of St. Leonard, Shore-ditch. Three persons are recorded as having died of intemperance, besides six cases in which the cause of death is stated to be delirium tremens. A death which occurred in May, and on which an inquest was held, was caused by starvation. The two eldest persons in the returns are women, aged respectively 91 and 95 years.

Last week the births of 867 boys and 805 girls, in all 1672 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56 the average number was 1568.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 30.058 in. The mean daily reading was above 30 in., on five days; the highest reading attained was 30.25 in., on Thursday. The mean temperature of the week was 67.3°, which is 6.9° above the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). On four days the mean temperature was from 8° to 10° above the average. The highest temperature in the shade occurred on Saturday, and was 88.5°; the highest in the sun occurred on the same day, and was 116°. The lowest temperature was 50.7°, on Thursday; and the range of the week was 37.8°. The mean dew-point temperature was 58.2°, and the difference between this and the mean temperature of the air was 9.1°. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 65.8°. On Saturday, the thermometer in the river rose to 71.7°. The air was frequently calm. Rain fell on Sunday to the amount of 0.21 in.; none fell during the rest of the week.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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.

Communications have been received from:—DR. J. G. DAVEY; DR. COLLET; MR. W. I. COX; MR. A. T. H. WATERS; MR. E. CLARKE; DR. R. U. WEST; MR. GRIFFIN; THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS; DR. B. W. RICHARDSON; REV. J. McBEAN; MR. P. MARTIN; MR. JOSEPH WHITE; DR. VINEN; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; DR. J. STRUTHERS; DR. MCINTYRE; MR. STONE; DR. J. SLOANE; DR. NUTTALL; and DR. G. G. ROGERS.

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