

Association Intelligence.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION will be holden in Edinburgh, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the 29th, 30th, and 31st of July.

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

Worcester, April 26th, 1858.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE
MIDLAND. [Annual Meeting.]	Board Room, Corn Exchange, Spalding.	Thurs., June 17th, 2 P.M.
SOUTH EASTERN. [Annual Meeting.]	Pavilion Rooms, Brighton.	Wed., June 23rd, 1 P.M.
EAST ANGLIAN. [Annual Meeting.]	Town Hall, Ipswich.	Friday, June 25, 2 P.M.
LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE. [Annual Meeting.]	Medical Institution, Liverpool.	Wednesday, June 30th.
NORTH WALES. [Annual Meeting.]	Royal Welsh Yacht Club House, Carnarvon.	Tuesday, July 6th, 1 P.M.

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

SOUTH-MIDLAND BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

[Continued from page 439.]

CONSULTATION WITH HOMŒOPATHS.

THE following is a report of the proceedings relating to the consultation with homœopaths, which took place at the annual meeting of the South-Midland Branch, held at Bedford, on Friday, May 21st.

Dr. WEBSTER (Northampton): I rise for the purpose of bringing under your consideration a circumstance that has recently occurred in the district of our South-Midland Branch of the Association, which has created much excitement, and occasioned much discussion, both within and without the profession. As this matter involves medico-ethical considerations, and has happened in the practice of two of our members, a full investigation into the circumstances thereof, and a decided opinion thereon, may justly be expected of this meeting. I am informed that a faithful account has not yet been given to the public; and, before entering upon the subject, it may be desirable that you, sir, should request those two gentlemen, whom we gladly see present to-day, to favour us with authentic details thereof. But, before doing so, I would express a hope that our observations and expressions may be of the most temperate character, and that we shall not be led away into any disquisition upon the merits of allopathy or homœopathy; it being quite sufficient at the present meeting of professionally educated gentlemen to refer to the fact that the latter system has been weighed in the balance of talent, science, earnest and truthful investigation, and has been ever found to be painfully *wanting*. Will you then, sir, solicit from Dr. Paley, of Peterborough, and from Mr. Philbrick, of Stamford, the account of this case?

Dr. PALEY (Peterborough) would have pleasure in stating the facts of the case, which he believed was a very important one, and one in which any medical practitioner might be involved any day. The case was that of a gentleman living near Stamford, who was suffering from paralysis of the left side, and had previously suffered from similar symptoms, though in a much slighter form. He (Dr. Paley) had no doubt that there was some structural disease of the brain, probably of long standing, and therefore did not think it right to adopt active treatment. Retention of urine did not occur till some days afterwards, and then not from any disease of the urinary organs, but as a consequence of the paralysis. Under the treatment prescribed, the patient appeared to him (Dr. Paley) to be doing well; but the wife of the patient, not being satis-

fied, had been very anxious from the first that Dr. Bell, a homœopathic practitioner, should be called in in consultation. Both Mr. Philbrick and himself positively declined to meet Dr. Bell if he came down; and, in consequence of this refusal, a telegraphic message was sent to Dr. Bell to put off his journey for some time. On Sunday afternoon Dr. Bell came down; and here, in speaking of the conduct of others, he (Dr. Paley) would prefer to use only documentary evidence.

In a letter to Mr. Philbrick the lady says: "In answer to your letter and bill, I beg to say that I requested you and Dr. Paley to meet Dr. Bell on Sunday, Feb. 21st, which you both declined to do." In another part, she says: "As soon as Dr. Bell saw the patient, he was much shocked, pronounced him in imminent danger, desired me to send for his brother, as his opinion was, that he would sink in a few days under rhubarb, gentian, etc." He (Dr. Paley) had arranged to go again on Monday; but after Dr. Bell had seen the patient, a polite note was sent explaining the circumstances, and declining his further attendance. From an accident, this note did not arrive in time, and he (Dr. Paley) and Mr. Philbrick saw the patient together on the Monday morning after Dr. Bell had left. The patient then required the use of the catheter; and before considering what farther course they should adopt under the circumstances, they determined first to relieve the patient. This was done; and then Mr. Philbrick was requested to attend with Dr. Bell to perform the necessary operations. After consulting together as to what was the proper course for him (Mr. Philbrick) to pursue, he respectfully but firmly declined to have anything further to do with the case so long as Dr. Bell had charge of the patient. There had been much misrepresentation, but what he had stated were the simple facts of the case. Mr. Philbrick had been accused of "leaving the patient to die" rather than meet Dr. Bell; of having acted from temper, etc. He (Dr. Paley) was present when Mr. Philbrick declined; and he must say that he thought Mr. Philbrick had acted throughout the whole of this painful case with humanity and firmness. The patient was not left in an emergency, the catheter having been used before he left the house. More honourable conduct than that of his friend Mr. Philbrick he had never met with from any practitioner, and he thought he had been most harshly treated.

After Mr. Philbrick declined, he received another letter from the lady, in which she says: "He (Dr. Paley) will be glad to hear that Mr. Jackson came, without making the least difficulty, to perform the operation for the patient this morning, and has not the slightest objection to meeting Dr. Bell, or acting under his directions, which, of course, makes Mr. — very comfortable." In consequence of this intimation, he communicated with Mr. Jackson, who, in his answer, stated, that he was in attendance upon the patient for the purpose of introducing the catheter. In the postscript he stated, "I have never yet seen Dr. Bell; but he and Mr. Fergusson are coming down from London to-night, when I shall have an interview with those gentlemen."

In his last letter to the lady, he (Dr. Paley) remarked, "that the profession do not believe that infinitesimal doses of medicine have any effect in relieving true disease, whatever supposed effect they may have over imaginary disorders; further, they suspect that many of those who profess to follow the system do not fully carry out their own principles, are often obliged, in serious cases, to fall back upon legitimate medicine, and give efficient doses, though in a highly concentrated form. [Laughter.] Regarding, then, the system as a delusion if fully carried out, or as one involving an unworthy deception if evaded, they do not see how, with any regard to their own honour, they could take part in or sanction such a plan of treatment."

With that letter closed the investigation. He hoped the members had come to the conclusion, that he and his friend had acted courteously but firmly. [Hear, hear.] He should just like to call attention to Mr. Fergusson's letter. Mr. Fergusson stated, that he accompanied Dr. Bell to Lincolnshire to see an urgent surgical case! But he (Dr. Paley) would say, that it was scarcely a surgical case at all, and certainly not an urgent one. In another curious letter from the lady, she says, "We did not send for Mr. Fergusson; Dr. Bell brought him." The former gentleman says he does not consult with homœopaths; but if going down to Lincolnshire with Dr. Bell to see a patient, and meeting him and Mr. Jackson at the patient's house he not consulting, he (Dr. Paley) did not know what was. The circumstance of Mr. Fergusson attending the case with Dr. Bell, had left an impression on the minds of people in the neighbourhood, that Mr. Jackson was justified in

so doing. What possible reason was there for bringing Mr. Fergusson down at all? The case must have been extremely exaggerated on the part of some one; but the result of the investigation showed, that the case was not of the character represented to Mr. Fergusson. He knew that attempts had been made to produce an impression prejudicial to Mr. Philbrick and himself, who were accused of having acted from pique, whereas they had been actuated by a sense of duty and honour.

Mr. PHILBRICK had nothing to add to the statement of Dr. Paley; and it would only be occupying the time of the meeting uselessly if he were to make any lengthened observations. He felt he had to choose between his honour and his pocket, and he preferred retaining his honour. [Applause.]

Dr. WEBSTER: After these clear and satisfactory statements, I shall be justified in proposing for your consideration the following resolution:—

"That it is the opinion of this meeting that no honourable man, whether physician or surgeon, can meet in consultation a homœopathic practitioner, or, as such, act in conjunction with him."

The unhappy alliance between Mr. Fergusson and Dr. Bell has called forth several letters, which have found a place in one only, I am sorry to say, of our medical journals;* and after the perusal of those letters in the *Medical Times and Gazette*, the question has arisen in my mind, whether our professional duties to our patients are ever at variance with that proper respect and duty each man owes to himself individually. I do not think they ever are; and I hope to make it appear that if we always entertain a proper appreciation of those duties, they never can be so. If we have no belief in the truth of principles, in the acquisition of which we have all spent so many years of study and research, it is full time they were discarded and some others substituted in their place. But if, to use the words of Dr. Sieveking, "we have the full assurance of the reality of our science, and that we believe what we have learnt, and what we are daily practising," are we true to ourselves, are we just to ourselves, by word or deed, to throw discredit, diffidence, or disbelief into the minds of our patients of the remedial agents or measures we prescribe for their ailments? This is not the way to inspire hope and confidence, oftentimes the means of cure, and at all times so essential in the treatment of the sick, to which, and to dietetic injunctions, the dogmatic homœopath can only trust. Whatever becomes of the aphorism in the letter of 'Justa aut nihil!' "Since homœopathic remedies are nothing, treat them as nothing, and let your patients take them or not, just as they please." Would you be manifesting a faith, a confidence in your own medical creed, or be discharging your duty to your patient, in permitting him to rely for the relief of his malady upon means you conscientiously believe to be worthless? Could you say to your patient, "Do this, or take this, and it is my honest opinion that you will be better?" Another of those aphorisms is, "If you are wanted by a homœopathic patient, go and attend him; do your duty as far as your patient will let you." It is manifestly your duty to yourselves not to incur the responsibility of such a patient, except he can retain his confidence in and act implicitly upon the advice you give him. A third aphorism speaks of the homœopath having as much right to be present at the bedside of a patient as the allopath. Granted; but the patient has not the right to summon you to a consultation with any one whose principles are inevitably antagonistic to your own. I, sir, can only come to the conclusion, that the duty to our patients and ourselves are never at variance. Another writer asks, whether, if a father breaks his arm, the son divides the femoral artery, and the mother has strangulated hernia, the services of an allopathic surgeon are to be withheld because the sufferers believe in homœopathy? This, sir, conveys a sly and unjust aspersion upon the whole medical profession; as I may fearlessly assert, that there is not one man among the thirty thousand of medical practitioners teeming in this land, who would not be first and foremost to stay the ebb of life from serious accident, irrespectively of what the sufferers' opinions might be upon medical points, irrespectively, also, of the creed or practice of any standing by, whether professional or not. But it is a different thing to be asked to meet a homœopath in consultation; the very word implies, that emergency does not exist, that the case will admit of time being spent in careful thought, searching investigation, and the balancing of opinions in mutual deliberation.

* As only one letter, and that an anonymous one, reached us respecting this controversy, this JOURNAL cannot be charged with suppressing correspondence on so important a subject. (EDITOR.)

Our professional duties occupy a second place only; there are other duties, also of a professional nature, of a higher and more serious character, which ought to, and ever will, occupy the first place. We are intrusted with the care of the body and mind; another profession has the holier mission of the care of the sicknesses of the soul. What would a conscientious minister of Christianity say or think if, when summoned to the bedside of the conscience stricken, dying man, to pour the balm of religious consolation into his agonised mind, he were expected to meet, not merely the man who differed with him in the mere form and ceremonies of our faith, but the professed atheist? How could these two hold consultation together? One goes to tell the man, fast sinking into his tomb, that his only hope hereafter is in being a believer; the other tells him to believe nothing about a future state. I beg, gentlemen, to propose for your consideration the above resolution.

Dr. BARKER (Bedford): It is with feelings at the same time of regret and of pleasure that I second this resolution: of regret, because it is necessary to vindicate the honour of our noble profession against one of the worst forms of heresy which ever crept into it: and of pleasure, because so many of our members are inclined to meet together for the purpose of defending that honour when it has been sadly assailed.

In some way, the transcendental ravings of a German empiric have, in our day, become fashionable, and have found partisans from among a few renegade members of our own profession. Many other delusions might be alluded to which sprang up in days of yore, and became, to a certain extent, fashionable and popular, but at length went the way of all other errors and impositions, and are now known only in history. That homœopathy will follow this course, there can be no doubt. It has well nigh died out in the land which gave it birth, and will, ere long, be found only in the history of great frauds and delusions. Some other form of empiricism will take its place, and have its day; and thus ever will there be a contest between truth and error, between the genuine and the counterfeit, between the true student of nature and of science and the mere worshipper of mammon. We are told that homœopathy receives the attention and support of the noble and exalted of the land. So has every other specimen of charlatanism. During the trial, some years ago, of that notorious empiric St. John Long, one nobleman (now living, I believe) asserted in evidence, that he saw St. John Long extract a cupful of mercury from the head of one of his patients! We are told, too, that the educated and intelligent classes have looked into the subject, and believe in homœopathy; so have they investigated many other forms of error, and have been deceived. Let us only mention the table-turning and spirit-rapping mania which prevailed some time ago. The staunchest advocates of that delusion have been university men, and their advocacy can only be accounted for by supposing that their education has been too restricted. Highly educated as they may have been in the classics and mathematics, their education in the physical sciences has been exceedingly limited, in fact *nil*; consequently they have not been able to discriminate between the real and the sham, between the true and the false, and they have been duped by designing knaves. Did you ever know any one deluded by table-turning—who possessed simply a rudimentary knowledge of electricity and galvanism? Happily, our universities are about to extend their curricula of education, and this evil will be partly corrected.

Lastly, we are taunted with the fact that homœopathy is practised by regularly qualified and well educated members of the profession. Now this is really the most lamentable fact of all. If it were a form of empiricism restricted to those who are without the pale of the profession, we would not trouble ourselves about it, however numerous and however exalted in rank might be its votaries. As a medical system, there is no doubt in the mind of any who has studied it, that homœopathy is a great delusion. Every one who practises it, belongs to one of only two classes; either he believes it, and is himself deluded; or he does not believe it, and practises it for the purpose of deluding others. Now of the first class, whose mental calibre we will not characterise, there are very few, if any, practitioners. Of the second class, it is to be regretted, there are many. One significant fact we will just notice, *en passant*, that we cannot call to mind a single instance of a man joining the ranks of the homœopaths who, at the time of his pretended conversion, enjoyed an extensive practice based upon the legitimate system. This looks very suspicious. In fact, it has been adopted by men who had failed to realise their wishes in the regular mode of practice, or as a stepping stone by young candidates for respectable practice. It is true, that some me-

dical practitioners, and educated men too, seeing that occasionally a respectable patient might be obtained by the concession, have been willing to practise either way, to give the large bolus or the tiny globule, the five-grain dose or the decillionth of a grain dose, according to the choice of the patient!

By some practitioners, homœopathy has been adopted in name and form only; for, under the pretence of giving infinitesimal doses, they have been giving the ordinary doses of active medicinal agents. A case came under my notice a short time ago, in which mercury had been given by a homœopath in such doses as to produce salivation. In fact, it has been proved that in some cases poisonous overdoses have been surreptitiously given, and the poor patient destroyed. All this undoubtedly indicates a sad want of principle, and the time has arrived when every true lover of his profession must take his stand against the imposition.

The immediate cause of this movement you have already heard very ably stated by Dr. Webster, Dr. Paley, and Mr. Philbrick. A distinguished consulting surgeon has been tampering with homœopathy. It is true he repudiated the notion of having consulted with the homœopath; but the line of demarcation between being fetched by, and travelling with, the charlatan, and consulting with him and Mr. Jackson in the patient's house, does not appear to have been very broad, distinct, and satisfactory. It is high time that the profession should cease to treat the subject with apathy. If we in the provinces feel it to be our duty to avoid soiling our hands with quackery, and to forego the fees which are proffered to us from this source, surely it is equally, aye, still more, incumbent upon our more distinguished metropolitan brethren, not to yield to the temptation, not to touch "the unclean thing".

It is a good sign of the times that the medical journals have taken so correct a view of the subject. Some leading articles which have lately appeared deserve to be printed in gold and placed in the library of every true medical man. The sentiments which have been so well expressed by the journals, and which have been broached to-day, are those which are entertained by nineteen-twentieths of the profession. In all probability, very many of the profession feel so strongly on this point, that they would not consult with any one who so far recognised charlatanism as to consult with homœopathic practitioners. I do not hesitate to state, that I would refuse in any case to meet the physician or surgeon who had been known openly and avowedly to have met a homœopath. The time has arrived when the line must be drawn between the true profession and the false profession; between those who boast of their Harvey, Sydenham, Heberden, Jenner, the Hunters, the Coopers, Abernethy, Liston, Brodie, Copland, Bright, Latham, Williams, Watson, Paget, and though last, not least, Richardson (who favours us with his company to-day), and a host of other bright luminaries, and those who glory in Hahnemann, Holloway, Fleischmann, Coffin, Morison, Epps, Lamert, Culverwell, *et hoc genus omne*; between those, in fact, who follow the profession partly, at any rate, from a pure love of it, and those who practise for filthy lucre alone.

In answer to the question, What should be done? I would just throw out the following suggestions:—

1. That every individual member of the profession should, in his own conduct, most jealously regard the honour of the entire body. Attention to this fundamental rule would be all that is required.

2. That a central and extensive Medico-Ethical Association should be established for the purpose of framing a code of ethics adapted to the present condition of the profession. This would also constitute a Court of Appeal. Several smaller ethical associations exist scattered through the country, the parent of them having been established in Manchester eleven years ago. I wrote to the President of the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association, Sir James L. Bardsley, to ascertain if any resolution had been adopted relating to homœopathy. It appears that the first bye-law declares that "no member shall practise professedly or exclusively homœopathy, hydropathy, or Mesmerism"; and in the Code of Etiquette it is declared that "no member shall meet in consultation any medical practitioner who may be inadmissible by the operation of the bye-laws, section first, as a member of this Association." Sir James Bardsley adds:—"I may say that no member of our Association would, under any circumstances, meet in consultation with homœopaths."

3. That petitions should be forwarded to the heads of universities and colleges, urging them to the judicious exercise of

all the power they possess. There can be no doubt that the universities and colleges have been too apathetic. With one exception—that of the College of Surgeons in Edinburgh—I am not aware that any notice has been taken of the dishonourable conduct of their members. An immense amount of good would accrue from a movement in these quarters.

4. That the editors of the Medical Directories be requested to publish a list by itself of the members of the profession practising homœopathy, hydropathy, Mesmerism, etc., instead of incorporating them among the true medical men.

5. That resolutions on the subject be adopted by every meeting of medical men throughout the country, and forwarded to the medical journals for insertion.

Mr. PAGET (Leicester) congratulated the meeting upon the amended resolution, which was a great improvement on the motion as it appeared in the circular calling the meeting. But he would even now venture to suggest that it was not sufficiently explanatory of their object. It appeared to him that the resolution should not only embody the sentiments of the profession, but it should distinctly state the grounds on which they based their opinion. He had drawn up a resolution, which he would read to the meeting: it was as follows:—

"That so long as a system has no higher philosophy than the jargon of 'similia similibus curantur', nor sounder chemistry than the delusion of 'infinite dynamisation', it is degrading to a man of education to be connected with it. He, therefore, who assents to consultation with homœopaths, be they impostors or dupes, forfeits the respect of his professional brethren, and his membership of this Branch of the British Medical Association."

The principle is exactly the same as Dr. Webster's; with the addition that the public would see the grounds upon which the members of this Association arrive at the conclusion that homœopathy is neither sound philosophy nor correct science, but a very absurd affair altogether; that it is not consistent with the honour of the medical profession. The resolution informs the public mind of the reasons and foundation upon which the profession act.

The PRESIDENT agreed with Mr. Paget, that they ought to give the public a clear idea of the why and because of the proceeding. He would suggest to Dr. Webster to embody the resolution of Mr. Paget in his own.

Dr. RICHARDSON thought Dr. Webster's stood very well as an individual resolution; and would suggest that Mr. Paget's resolution be also passed in a substantive form.

Dr. WEBSTER thought, with a slight alteration, Mr. Paget's might be adopted as the first, and his own as the subsequent resolution. But he rather objected to the term "jargon", as too harsh.

Dr. PRIOR (Bedford) inclined to the opinion of Dr. Richardson, that the resolutions might be passed separately. Mr. Paget's resolution stated the more general ground on which they pronounced an opinion condemnatory of homœopathy; and then Dr. Webster's resolution, as an expression of this meeting, would follow as a matter of course. With respect to the word "jargon", it had his entire approval; and he doubted whether any milder term would meet the facts of the case. He thought they would be consulting the interests of science by adopting both resolutions.

Dr. BARKER thought that the two resolutions should be distinct: one referred to the Branch, the other to the profession generally.

After some little discussion on the terms of both propositions—

Dr. WEBSTER said that, with the approbation of the members, he would adopt Mr. Paget's resolution, and transfer his own to that gentleman. He then read the second of the resolutions, as given above.

Dr. BARKER seconded the motion; which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. PAGET then read the first of the resolutions given above, which he moved.

Mr. TERRY seconded the proposition, remarking that he thought it necessary for the honour of the profession that such resolutions should be passed; and expressing a regret that so little notice of this form of quackery had been taken in the JOURNAL of the Association—the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.*

This resolution was also carried by acclamation.

* Mr. Terry seems not to have noticed, that several articles on the subject of homœopathy have lately appeared in the JOURNAL.

Mr. MARRIOTT (Kibworth) said the very honourable conduct of Dr. Paley and Mr. Philbrick was beyond all praise; and demanded an expression of approval from that meeting. He sincerely hoped that the profession generally would follow their excellent example. He could not but express his great regret at the annoyance to which they had been subjected. He would move a vote of thanks to those gentlemen for their honourable and straightforward conduct in the matter which had formed the subject of their deliberation to-day.

Dr. WILLIAMS (Aspley Guise) seconded the motion; which was carried unanimously.

Dr. PALEY briefly thanked the members for this cordial expression of their sympathy. The circumstances had made a strong impression in the neighbourhood; but he was quite sure that all candid persons must admit that he and his friends had honestly performed their duty. [*Hear, hear.*]

The PRESIDENT alluded to the fact of Mr. Fergusson accompanying Dr. Bell; and suggested whether the meeting would not be justified in passing a resolution on the subject. It appeared that there was not the slightest necessity for going to Lincolnshire; and there was no doubt about the consultation.

Mr. PAGET said Mr. Fergusson must have known that Dr. Bell was a homœopathic practitioner when he accompanied him to Lincolnshire; and yet he asserts in his letter that he does not encourage homœopaths; but he (Mr. Paget) would say that he did give encouragement to consult him; and it was a question whether they ought not to pass a resolution condemnatory of the conduct of Mr. Fergusson, and of the practice of meeting a homœopath under any circumstances whatever.

Dr. RICHARDSON said Mr. Fergusson unfortunately was not the only prominent man who favoured homœopaths. It was exceedingly distressing to all honourable men; because, if it were not for the countenance homœopaths received from some members of their own profession, the public would not be duped in the way they have been. He was sorry that Mr. Fergusson in his good-natured way should have allowed himself to attend to the representations of a homœopath. But if they passed a condemnatory resolution, it would be simply making a martyr of him, while the others would go scot free.

Mr. WATKINS (Towcester) doubted the propriety of passing such a resolution as that suggested by Mr. Paget. For if an urgent case occurred in his district, he doubted whether he would be justified in refusing to meet Mr. Fergusson, even after the passing of that resolution.

Dr. PALEY feared it might lead to great difficulty.

Dr. BARKER said he might give up his patient rather than meet any one who avowedly met homœopathic practitioners. If a man wished him (Dr. Barker) to meet in consultation with another practitioner who encouraged homœopaths, he should refuse.

It was ultimately agreed that a copy of the resolutions which had been adopted should be forwarded to Mr. Fergusson and to Mr. Jackson. It was also agreed that they should be subscribed to by every approving member of the Branch, and forwarded for insertion in the weekly medical journals.

SOUTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

A meeting of members of the South-Western Branch, and of medical men (not members of the Association) residing in the south-west of Devon, was held at the Public Dispensary, Plymouth, on Tuesday, May 25th; J. C. COOKWORTHY, M.D., President of the Branch, in the Chair.

MEDICAL REFORM.

It was unanimously resolved—

"That, inasmuch as the Bill of Mr. Cowper, 'To regulate the Qualifications of Practitioners in Medicine and Surgery,' now before Parliament, seems calculated to remove many of the evils which the public and the profession have so long felt, a petition be prepared, praying that the said Bill may pass into a law during the present session; and that the members for the borough of Plymouth—R. P. Collier, Esq., and James White, Esq.—be requested to present and support it."

[Time not permitting the petition to be sent into the country districts, it was prepared as from "the medical men of Plymouth and the neighbourhood"; and was forwarded, numerously signed, to Mr. Collier, on May 28th.]

EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of the East York and North Lincoln Branch was held at the Infirmary, Hull, on Tuesday, May 25th, at 3 P.M. There were present: HUMPHRY SANDWICH, M.D. (Hull), the retiring President, in the Chair; F. B. Anderson, Esq. (Hessle); J. P. Bell, M.D. (Hull); Sir H. Cooper, M.D. (Hull); Owen Daly, M.D. (Hull); R. M. Craven, jun., Esq. (Hull); J. Dix, Esq. (Hull); W. H. Eddie, Esq. (Barton); H. George, Esq. (North Thoresby); J. H. Hill, Esq. (South Case); J. F. Holden, Esq. (Hull); T. Jackson, Esq. (Welton); Kelburne King, M.D. (Hull); J. A. Locking, Esq. (Hull); and C. Richardson, Esq. (Skirlaugh); and as visitors, Messrs Kevern, H.M.S. Cornwallis, H. Gibson, C. J. Evans, W. B. Hay, J. M'Millan, and R. L. Sleight (Hull).

A letter from Mr. BELL, of Grimsby, the President elect, announcing his resignation of office in consequence of family bereavement, having been read, a resolution expressive of regret at his absence, and sympathy in his affliction, was unanimously agreed to.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE BRANCH.

Messrs. C. B. Moody, T. B. Keeley, G. Holland, and J. Lambden, of Grimsby; H. George, of North Thoresby; S. Watson, Cottingham; and J. Dix, of Hull, members of the Association, were unanimously elected members of the Branch.

ANNUAL MEETING IN 1859: ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Beverley. The appointment of officers was as follows:—*President*—Sir H. Cooper, M.D.; *President-Elect*—Thomas Sandwich, M.D. (Beverley); *Representative to the General Council*—Kelburne King, M.D.; *Secretary*—J. A. Locking, Esq.; *Other Members of Committee*—J. P. Bell, M.D.; R. M. Craven, jun., Esq.; O. Daly, M.D.; W. H. Eddie, Esq.; R. Hardey, Esq.; and W. J. Lunn, M.D.

MEDICAL REFORM.

Sir H. COOPER having taken the chair, the subject of medical reform was brought forward.

Dr. SANDWICH (Hull) moved a resolution—

"That a petition be presented to the House of Commons in favour of Mr. Cowper's Bill."

Dr. BELL having seconded it, the resolution was carried unanimously.

HOMŒOPATHY.

Dr. SANDWICH (Hull) moved the following resolution—

"That this meeting, desirous of maintaining the honour of the profession, as evinced both by a firm adherence to its recognised scientific principles and by a superiority to mercenary motives, hereby records its determination to hold no professional intercourse with homœopaths or empirics of any description."

Mr. GEORGE having seconded it, the resolution was carried unanimously.

CASES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

The following papers were read:

History of a Case of Lithotripsy: By R. M. Craven, jun., Esq. Case of Caries of Spine: By Owen Daly, M.D.

On Hernia: By K. King, M.D. Dr. King advocated Mr. Gay's method of operating.

These papers will be published in the JOURNAL.

The members and their friends closed the proceedings by dining together at Glover's Hotel, under the Presidency of Sir H. Cooper.

READING BRANCH: SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Reading Branch was held at the Royal Berks Hospital on May 26th, to consider the expediency of petitioning in favour of one of the medical Bills before Parliament. There were present—G. MAY, Esq., President-Elect, in the Chair; — Davis, Esq.; Isaac Harrison, Esq.; J. Heynes, Esq.; G. May, jun., Esq.; T. L. Walford, Esq.; E. Wells, M.D.; R. T. Woodhouse, M.D.; J. W. Workman, Esq.; and W. B. Young, Esq.

Mr. G. MAY, jun., proposed—

"That petitions in favour of Mr. Cowper's Bill should be signed by the members of the Association in the several districts of the Reading Branch, and forwarded to members of Parliament for presentation."

This was seconded by Mr. WALFORD, and carried unanimously.

The meeting then adjourned.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Yorkshire Branch was held at the Philosophical Hall, Leeds, on Thursday, May 27th: J. P. GARLICK, Esq., President, in the Chair. There were also present: James Allen, Esq. (York); A. Ball, Esq. (York); B. Dodsworth, Esq. (York); W. Favell, Esq. (Sheffield); R. N. Halliwell, Esq. (Dewsbury); C. N. Hemingway, Esq. (Dewsbury); H. Hemingway, Esq. (Dewsbury); Samuel Hey, Esq. (Leeds); William Hey, Esq. (Leeds); George Hornby, Esq. (York); Thomas Hornby, Esq. (Pocklington); W. D. Husband, Esq. (York); J. I. Ikin, Esq. (Leeds); Henry Jackson, Esq. (Sheffield); William Jackson, Esq. (Sheffield); R. G. Mayne, M.D. (Leeds); S. W. North, Esq. (York); T. Nunneley, Esq. (Leeds); Richard Pullan, Esq. (Hunslet); G. Reedal, Esq. (Sheffield); W. E. Swaine, M.D. (York); G. Shann, M.D. (York); T. P. Teale, Esq., T. P. Teale, jun., Esq. (Leeds); H. Whytehead, M.D. (Crayke).

G. REEDAL, Esq., the retiring President, took the chair; and, after thanking the members for their courtesy and kindness during his year of office, resigned it in favour of J. P. GARLICK, Esq., the President-Elect, who, after a short address, called upon the Secretary to read the

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

"Your Council, according to established custom, proceed briefly to pass in review those subjects affecting the dignity and best interests of the medical profession which have engaged attention since the last annual meeting, and which they think require your attention and consideration.

"Your Council, bearing in mind the important influence exercised by our Association, and considering the amount of assistance rendered by the Branches in attaining its objects and fulfilling its duties, feel it desirable that some expression of opinion should go forth from this meeting indicating the views entertained by the members of this large and important Branch of the British Medical Association.

"Several Bills are now before Parliament, for the reform of the medical profession; but those introduced by Lord Elcho and by Mr. Cowper seem to your Council to best deserve your attention. The two Bills differ principally in their provision for the appointment of a Council and Examining Boards. Lord Elcho rests supreme authority in a Medical Council consisting of the President of the Board of Health for the time being, and twelve other persons appointed by the Crown, not less than nine being qualified to be registered as general practitioners. And he provides for two Examining Boards to be established in each of the three kingdoms; one appointed to examine in preliminary education all students of medicine who are not graduates in Arts; the other for examination in professional education. The professional Boards are to be appointed by the different corporate bodies of the three kingdoms. But the Council is to determine the total number of examiners in each part of the kingdom, and make rules regulating the course of study, age of admission, etc.

"Mr. Cowper provides a Council which shall consist of one person chosen for each of the existing Colleges and Universities, and six other persons nominated by Her Majesty, not being members of Council, or office-bearers in any of the Medical Colleges. He leaves the Examining Boards as at present constituted, but vests the arrangement as to course of study, age, examination, etc., in the Council. In their other provisions, the two Bills are similar.

"Your Council are, however, of opinion that, as Mr. Cowper's Bill does not provide for one common examination; and, as the entire nomination of the Council by the Crown provided by Lord Elcho is not satisfactory,—that no Bill is now before Parliament which offers a satisfactory solution of the subject of medical reform. But they are decidedly of opinion that the Bill introduced by Lord Elcho is most in accordance with the principles for which the Association has been so long contending.

"Your Council have noticed with sympathy the efforts of Mr. Griffin and the Poor-law medical officers in obtaining some redress of their grievances, and have seen with satisfaction the courtesy with which their deputations have been received, and the attention which their complaints have been listened to by the Poor-law Board; showing that the prospects of Poor-law medical reform brighten; and they trust, ere long, that ill-used body of men will see their persevering and praiseworthy efforts crowned with success.

"Much discussion has been recently going on in the medical journals as to the propriety of meeting homœopathic practi-

tioners in consultation; and your Council feel it desirable that some fixed rule should be laid down by this Branch to guide the conduct of its members when called upon to meet persons professing principles so diametrically opposed to those of legitimate medicine. Your Council cannot admit that the surgeon should act differently from his medical brother in this respect, as they feel it degrading to the science of surgery that its followers should give up the medical supervision of their cases.

"Your Council with considerable reluctance call your attention to the state of the JOURNAL. They feel that it is not a fair representation of the influence and intelligence of the members; and feel assured that, if the reason be a pecuniary one, this meeting may well consider whether, by a slight increase in the subscription, the JOURNAL of the British Medical Association might not be rendered a more worthy representative of an Association numbering more than two thousand of the most intelligent and influential members of the medical profession."

Mr. S. HEY moved, Mr. W. JACKSON seconded, and it was resolved—

"That the Report now read be adopted."

MEDICAL REFORM.

Mr. NUNNELEY proposed, Mr. HUSBAND seconded, and it was resolved—

"That this meeting does not approve of either the Bill of Mr. Cowper or of Lord Elcho, as offering a satisfactory solution of the question of medical reform; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to each member of Parliament for a Yorkshire constituency."

Mr. IKIN objected to the resolution, thinking it better to have a Bill of some sort, and afterwards considered it would be easy to get it amended.

Dr. SHANN objected to the last part of the resolution, thinking it unwise to expose our differences to members of Parliament.

Mr. TEALE, in giving the resolution his earnest support, thought that, if we got a bad Bill, we should have to rest satisfied with it for many years.

HOMŒOPATHY.

Mr. TEALE proposed, Dr. SWAINE seconded, and it was unanimously resolved—

"That the members of this Branch pledge themselves neither to meet in consultation, nor to attend in conjunction with, homœopathic practitioners."

Mr. H. JACKSON proposed, Mr. HUSBAND seconded, and it was unanimously resolved—

"That no member of this Branch will meet in consultation any member of the profession who knowingly violates the last resolution."

THE STATE OF THE JOURNAL.

Mr. NORTH proposed, Mr. BALL seconded, and it was resolved—

"That this meeting considers that the JOURNAL does not represent the intelligence and importance of the Association; and that the Central Council be requested to take steps for its improvement."

BRANCH COUNCIL FOR 1858-9.

Mr. KEYWORTH proposed, Mr. HEMINGWAY seconded, and it was resolved—

"That the gentlemen forming the Council of the Branch be re-elected."

REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

It was proposed by Mr. ALLEN, seconded by Mr. H. JACKSON, and resolved—

"That the following members be nominated to represent the Yorkshire Branch in the General Council for the ensuing year:—H. Whytehead, M.D. (Crayke); W. D. Husband, Esq. (York); C. Chadwick, M.D.; Wm. Hey, Esq.; T. Nunneley, Esq. (Leeds); G. Reedal, Esq.; and William Jackson, Esq. (Sheffield)."

PLACE OF MEETING FOR NEXT YEAR.

Mr. IKIN proposed, Dr. WHYTEHEAD seconded, and it was unanimously resolved—

"That the next place of meeting be York; and that W. D. Husband, Esq., be the President-Elect."

VOTES OF THANKS.

Mr. TEALE proposed, Mr. ALLEN seconded, and it was carried by acclamation—

"That the thanks of this meeting be given to G. Reedal, Esq., the retiring President, for his services during the past year."

Mr. George Hornby was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer, with thanks for his past services.

AMPUTATION BY A LONG AND A SHORT RECTANGULAR FLAP.
BY T. P. TEALE, ESQ.

Mr. TEALE showed to the members several cases on which this operation had been performed, and the result was in all an excellent stump, soft and loose, and able to bear about half the weight of the body without pain; thus enabling the patients to walk well by means of an artificial limb. His cases, extending over three years, showed the mortality from this operation very much less than the average mortality from amputations performed in the usual way.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Teale; and a general wish expressed that he would publish his observations at an early opportunity.

The members and visitors afterwards dined together at the Scarborough Hotel; William Hey, Esq., occupying the chair; the President, J. P. Garlick, Esq., being prevented by recent domestic affliction.

Editor's Letter Box.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

LETTER FROM JOHN PROPERT, ESQ.

SIR,—Certain letters having been published in the *BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, in reference to the affairs of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, which I cannot but think may to some extent mislead those of the Governors who may not have inquired into the facts of the case, I trust you will allow me as briefly as possible, and once for all, to reply to them.

The allegations of mismanagement on the part of the Council appear to be founded on certain statements which were diligently circulated among the friends of the institution some months ago, in the form of a pamphlet, entitled *A Report of a Sub-Committee of Governors*, the avowed object of which was to support the interests of the exhibitors of the College. By pointing out to your readers the errors and misstatements of this pamphlet, I shall, I trust, remove from all reasonable minds any unhappy impression which it may have produced.

The charges therein brought against the proceedings of the Council may be briefly comprehended under four heads,—namely, “extravagant outlay”; “misapplication of funds”; “obtaining inordinate power by procuring an Act of Parliament for the purpose of depriving the exhibitors of a cheap education”; and “extravagance in the board and education of the exhibitors”.

1. With regard to the first of these charges, extravagant outlay in the building and arrangements of the College, I have only to say that whereas in the pamphlet it is stated that the building cost £45,000, the fact is that the cost, including that of the chapel, was only £35,000. Here, then, is a fundamental error of ten thousand pounds at the outset; and this is, I grieve to say, but a sample of the rest. As to the outlay exceeding the original estimate, this was rendered unavoidable, by the extraordinary rise in the price of labour and materials, and by many other unforeseen difficulties which intervened between the period when the estimate was made, and that in which the building was commenced; to which may be added that the state of the funds seemed to justify the Council in providing a third room for the accommodation of the pensioners.

2. The second charge, that of misapplication of funds, is equally unfounded. The grounds of this allegation are only apparent, not real, and have arisen from an economical arrangement which could not be explained in the balance sheet, but which was fully explained in the report read to the Governors at the last annual meeting.

3. The third charge is also founded on misrepresentation and error. The Council *did not obtain inordinate power* by procuring an Act of Parliament for the purpose of depriving the exhibitors of a cheap education. On the contrary, they *lost* the power of carrying out their original intention and most earnest wish of providing a first rate education for the sons of medical men at £30 per annum; and they lost it not by any act of their own, but by an Act of Parliament which was *forced upon them much against their will*. This also was fully explained by Mr. Freshfield at the annual meeting of Governors.

4. The charge of excessive outlay in the board and education of the exhibitors, which charge is attempted to be carried home by figures, is also utterly unfounded. The attempt to show that the expenses of a school at Epsom can be easily reduced to the sum required for a certain school at about one-eighth of the distance from the London markets, is preposterous; and the proposal to reduce the expenses by such petty suicidal economy as abolishing the London office, making no charge for wear and tear of fittings, charging the charitable fund with the whole of the headmaster's fees as chaplain, and with the insurance of the school furniture (which last item would save each exhibitor the heavy expense of ten pence per annum!)—these, and similar suggestions gravely proposed in the pamphlet, but too plainly show that the search for grievances is desperate, and that the animus of the malcontents is not such as to entitle their representations to any great amount of respect.

Having thus replied to the charges which have been brought against the Council, I may be allowed to ask, on what are these objectors intent? If they indulge a vain and frantic wish to pull down this noble edifice about their ears, I can understand their proceedings. If not, I ask, *what possible good, end how it will, can this factious opposition effect?*

I am, etc., JOHN PROPERT, Treasurer.

New Cavendish Street, May 30th, 1858.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE; ADJOURNED GENERAL MEETING.

LETTER FROM ROBERT FREEMAN, ESQ., SECRETARY.

SIR,—I am directed by the Council to inform you that it has been determined that the Adjourned Annual General Meeting shall commence at two o'clock in the afternoon, instead of at three o'clock, as originally proposed. The meeting will accordingly take place at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, the 8th of June, at two o'clock precisely, when the Right Hon. the Earl Manvers, President of the College, will take the chair.

The first business of the adjourned meeting will be the election of new members of council; but, in accordance with a desire which has been communicated to the council, the ballot for this purpose will not be opened until after Mr. Cattlin and the seconder of his list have again spoken on the subject.

The council think it right to take this opportunity of stating, in the most distinct terms; that they have not, and never have had, the slightest wish to stop fair discussion, either with respect to the election of new members of their own body, or with respect to any other subject which, consistently with the laws of the College, can be brought forward at a general meeting.

I am, etc.,

ROBERT FREEMAN, Secretary.

37, Soho Square, London, W., May 27th, 1858.

PAYMENT OF POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.

LETTER FROM J. R. SALTER, ESQ.

SIR,—Of all animals, considering the cheapness with which they are kept, and the amount of labour they are expected to perform, perhaps the very worst served are the poor man's donkey and doctor. Of course, a donkey is admirably adapted to the purposes required of him; he does not cut a very brilliant figure, nor presume to rival 'Toxophilite'; but with a few thistles, and many whacks, he is made to perform the duties imposed on him. Is there no analogy between him and the “officers” attached to the medical department of the Poor-law? Will it ever be different? I fear the time is far distant; and that it is the truth, as Mr. Paget of Leicester has said, “a melancholy truth, that the remedy must come from the profession.” Yes; it will be only by a well organised rebellion; by a firm and determined cry of “Repeal of the Union!” and by a thorough strike for augmentation of wages, that any advantageous change can be effected. “*L'union fait la force*”; herein lies much of the melancholy, for I should as soon expect to see the sun return several degrees backward to lengthen the beauty of some summer's day, as to look forward to the bright prospect of seeing anything like a firm and determined union between the poor-law medical officers, to decline their appointments on the present humiliating terms.

The great question is, Why do medical men accept these appointments? I suppose the answer would be, 1st, To keep other men out, and so diminish opposition; and 2nd, That by acquiring the care of the poor, they hope to gain some of the

rich. Now the guardians are, no doubt, well up to these influences, and nothing could possibly serve their purpose better. The practitioner of some standing and experience will not give up this lucrative appointment, because he is naturally jealous and fearful, and does not desire to have another man running over his own ground, upon the principle that, although there may be bread and cheese for one, there is only starvation for two; and thus the guardians secure the services of an able man of some standing cheaply. But if a man with good practice will have nothing more to do with it, the contract is advertised, and down comes a tyro from town with his infinite ability, his multitude of prize books, with gilded arms on them, his certificates of eminence, his academical honours, and with every letter of the alphabet stitched on to his name. Now all this alphabetical increase to his surname costs a small trifle in its acquisition; and for the principal sum so expended, surely there ought to be some fair and just return for the investment. But in summer, when a market is glutted, one must make cheap offers for stinking fish; and thus, Master Masculine Medical Minerva is offered, for disseminating his wisdom over 10,000 acres with 20,000 poor, something like 10d. per head, with the additional promise of 10s. for presiding over such midwifery cases as he is legally called upon to attend, viz. such as require three or four days for their completion, placenta prævia, placenta left *minus* cord in the top of an hour-glass, ten-inched hydrocephalic heads that have to go through two-and-a-half-inched pelvis; in fact, all the skimmings of the cream of this delightful practice, which so often affords such delightful occupation in such delightful places.

Surely the practitioner of some standing and success is only too glad, when the time comes that he can afford to give up this magnificent situation; but the young gentleman from town has to make his way in the world; he strives to be most winning and agreeable in his manners; he is most painstaking and assiduous in his new and arduous duties; he is here, there, and everywhere; yet perhaps the sum received for his pay, as per contract, will barely keep his horse on his legs, and still he hopes and struggles and struggles and hopes, and there is all praise and no complaints of neglect, and why? Simply because he dare not, he cannot afford to be complained of; his reputation for assiduity, and strict observance of all his duties, is the very stepping stone by which he hopes to rise; it is by the blessings and thanks of the poor that he hopes to win the good opinions of the rich, and when the former cease, the latter will soon disappear. And so it should be; because any man who takes upon himself duties and responsibilities may, with justice and honour, hope that by properly fulfilling them he may profit by them; but what man can stand this system who has not a tolerable backbone? and if it be not a strong one, it cracks and he smashes, and there is an end of it; and thus many men of promise and intelligence work well and cruelly cheap, whilst the guardians profit by a system which raises hope for success in the future, by making men servile and needy for the present.

If, in the military service of this country, an assistant-surgeon gets his £150, with comparatively light duties, and his regiment under his nose, why should the civil service receive, as in the case of some medical districts, wages that would be refused by many a general servant, who was likewise promised to be supplied with livery, beer, tea, and all besides? Yes, it is a disgrace to offer the sums that are offered to some gentlemen for their services; and it is a still greater disgrace to think that some gentlemen will continue to accept them, and so long as men will continue to do so, it will be idle to grumble and complain. Fair, honourable, and legitimate practice despises quacks, and sets her face against homœopathic doses. Why, then, should she not point the finger of scorn against him who receives homœopathic fees and underbids his brother? And glad, indeed, should I be to see every medical officer of the district I live in unite and strike for a fairer remuneration, and I for one would never move one inch to offer myself as a candidate for any one of the vacancies, unless it was fairly and honourably open to me.

I am, etc.,

J. R. SALTER.

Honiton, May 31st, 1858.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM.

LETTER FROM RICHARD GRIFFIN, ESQ.

SIR,—I shall be obliged for space to inform the Poor-law Medical Officers that I have this day forwarded a report of the deputation to the Poor-law board to each of those with whose addresses I am acquainted; but as there may have been

changes since the list was published in January last, I beg to say, that should any gentleman have been omitted, he shall be furnished with a copy on sending me his address.

I am, etc.

RICHARD GRIFFIN.

12, Royal Terrace, Weymouth, May 27th, 1858."

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Friday, May 28th, 1858.

PURIFICATION OF THE THAMES.

Mr. GRIFFITH asked the First Commissioner of Works whether the principle just put forth by Dr. Odling, the officer of health for Lambeth, that the perpetual agitation of the water of the Thames, and the flux and reflux of the tide, affected the oxidisation of decomposing matters to that extent "that he has never been able to detect sulphuretted hydrogen in Thames water", might not be well worthy of further investigation, as offering possibly the means of escaping the hazardous and expensive drainage engineering undertakings that had been under consideration?

Lord J. MANNERS said, that a select committee of that House had sat upon the subject, and any opinion he might give would therefore carry with it very little weight. If Dr. Odling was unable to discover sulphuretted hydrogen in the Thames water, he would recommend the hon. gentleman to inquire whether he was equally unable to discover it in the Thames air.

Monday, May 30th.

SMALLPOX.

Mr. MONSELL asked the Vice-President of the Privy Council Committee, whether his attention had been called to the fact, that out of 1,636 deaths reported to have taken place from all causes in the quarter ending the 31st of March, 1858, at Burton-on-Trent, Sheffield, and Merthyr Tydvil, 419 were reported to have been caused by smallpox; and whether he proposed to introduce any amendment of the Vaccination Act.

Mr. ADDERLEY admitted that smallpox had been unusually fatal in its effects, in other places as well as in those mentioned, but he attributed it quite as much to bad vaccination as to neglect of vaccination. The subject had engaged his serious attention for some time past, and he believed that the second clause in the Public Health Bill, which stood for a second reading that night, would meet the object which the hon. gentleman had in view, without the introduction of any separate Bill upon the subject.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

In reply to Mr. PALK,

Mr. ADDERLEY said, that the Public Health Bill would not in any way affect the present medical officer of the Board of Health. Under the Local Government Bill the powers of the Board of Health would expire altogether, and of course the staff would expire with it, but the duties entailed by that Bill on the Home office would probably require the employment of a medical officer.

Wednesday, June 2nd.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS BILL.

Mr. COWPER, in moving the second reading of this Bill, said he took it for granted that the necessity for legislation on this subject was universally admitted. If there was objection anywhere, it probably arose from those persons who were not members of the medical profession, but who wished to be supposed to belong to it—the class of uneducated ignorant quacks who practised on the credulity of the public, and who hoped, in the present disorganised, anomalous, and chaotic state of the profession, to pass for what they were not. [*Hear, hear.*] There were three objects which all the persons who had prepared Bills on this subject had kept in view. These were—1. To raise to a uniform standard the education and consequent qualifications of all persons who entered the medical profession. 2. To have an authoritative register, clearly defining, and accessible to the most ordinary persons, those who have attained the prescribed qualification. 3. The removal of all those local jurisdictions which restricted a competent man from practising in any other part of the country than that in which the licens-

ing body which passed him existed. To take any one of these three propositions separate from the others would be highly injurious to the profession, and he might observe also that it would be disadvantageous to give to small licensing bodies a power of competing fully in that respect with larger and higher schools of instruction. [*Hear, hear.*] The council proposed by the Bill would be elected by the different examining bodies, so that if any injustice were complained of, a member of the body in question would be present to defend its proceedings. If the council, representing as it would, all the branches of the medical profession, including the universities, should commit any injustice, an appeal against its decision would lie to the Privy Council. Some objection was made to the plan of registry proposed by his Bill, and it was said that it did not distinguish between physicians and other members of the medical profession. It might be asserted with regard to physicians, that nine-tenths of the number of patients were not under their treatment. He proposed to extend the power now possessed by the Universities or by the Apothecaries' Society to the persons registered according to the Bill. He did not think it possible by law to erect the physician into a class, separate and distinct from the rest of the profession, because physicians were a class not created by law. He did not, however, propose to touch the privileges of the physician as regarded their charter, so that they had no reason to complain. As to the objections of the College of Surgeons, he believed that their apprehensions of a diminution of their pecuniary resources, in the event of the passing of the Bill, were not well founded. The medical practitioners throughout the country, numbering about 14,000, and who were represented by the British Medical Association, were favourable to his Bill. Upwards of one hundred petitions from medical practitioners had been presented in favour of his Bill, and at the end of last week there had been only one petition against it. He had reason to maintain, therefore, that the great bulk of the profession wished to see his Bill pass into a law, and he believed that its provisions would be beneficial to the community.

Mr. BLACK said that the House had seen five medical Bills in three years. So far from any legislation being wanted, he believed that the best medical Bill would be one to repeal all previous legislation on the subject. He would move that the three Bills be all thrown out together. [*A laugh.*]

The question that the Bill be now read a second time was then put by the Speaker, who declared it to be carried.

Mr. COWPER moved that the Bill be committed on Tuesday next.

Mr. BLACK moved as an amendment that the Bill be committed on that day six months.

Mr. BRADY believed that if the Bill passed it would tend to elevate the profession, and to secure a more efficient body of practitioners. [*Hear.*]

Mr. WALPOLE was inclined to think that the House had failed to adopt any Bill upon this subject, because so many vague propositions had been brought forward, and no definite plan in reference to the evils complained of or the remedies to be applied had been suggested in a simple form which would meet with general concurrence. The Bill of the hon. and learned member for Newcastle, the Bill of the noble lord the member for Haddingtonshire, the Bill of the right hon. gentlemen now under discussion, and the Bill of the hon. member for Finsbury, all contained principles worthy of adoption; yet in each there were some points to which the House ought not to assent. [*Hear.*] The difficulties in the way of dealing with the subject sprang from its being founded upon circumstances and laws which were totally incompatible with the age in which we lived, from its involving in consequence many anomalies and absurdities in reference to the privileges conferred either on medical bodies or bodies which had the power of conferring medical degrees, which could not be exercised, or, if exercised, would not be advantageous to the community, and from their having to deal with interests of a most conflicting character in the endeavour to get rid of those anomalies and absurdities. Even when the right hon. baronet the member for Carlisle was a member of one of the most powerful governments which had been seen for years, he found it impossible to frame a measure satisfactory to all parties; and although a select committee had been brought to a sort of compromise in order to settle the question, no sooner did they recommence the discussion in the House than they branched off in different directions and took different sides upon matters whereon they were unanimously agreed in the committee upstairs. He need not, therefore, apologize for stating that he could make no suggestion for the settlement of the question. [*Hear, hear.*] Upon the

whole he had come to the conclusion that the best thing to do was to point out as clearly as he could the different evils of which the community had a right to complain, the different modes in which they were to be got rid of, and in reference to the three Bills, how far the evils might be got rid of, and how far remedies might be applied. The first great evil was that they had begun upon the wrong basis. In the middle ages, the medical profession had got into the hands of the ecclesiastical authorities, who were unwilling to undertake the surgical part of it, and hence the separation of the two branches. From that time to the present, the anomaly had existed of different licenses or degrees in different parts of the kingdom. There was a medical body with powers to exercise exclusive authority within seven miles of London, and the universities inherited from the ecclesiastical authorities the power of conferring degrees, giving a privilege to practise over other parts of England. In Scotland, the colleges of St. Andrews, Aberdeen, and Glasgow had the power of conferring degrees extending over the whole of the country, and not excepting the area of the capital, because the College of Physicians in Edinburgh had not that exclusive authority which was possessed by the College of Physicians in London. He might show that the rivalry between those colleges in conferring degrees led to nominal or worse than nominal examinations. [*Hear.*] Another point of difference between Scotland and England was, that while in England surgeons were distinct from apothecaries, in Scotland they were combined. In Ireland, the Dublin University had the same privilege of conferring degrees as the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and, added to that, Parliament had given to the colleges of Cork, Galway, and Belfast, affiliated to the Queen's University, "the same privileges as those conferred on the universities of England," without defining or describing the extent of those privileges, so that at this moment they did not know whether the Queen's University in Ireland had power to extend permission to practise in other parts of England. The inference which he wished to have drawn was, that instead of continuing that anomalous state of things, instead of preserving exclusive privileges in one part of the kingdom, and instead of depriving the public of the right of calling in the advice which they believed to be the best, they should establish the principle of reciprocity of practice in all parts of the United Kingdom. [*Hear, hear.*] That was the first great principle. The second point was to form a register, which should not merely be a register of names, but should indicate whether the qualifications possessed by the persons in the register were such as entitled them to hold themselves out as practitioners. The third point was to constitute a council, which should be a supervising and controlling authority, and then the question arose how the council should be constituted. His opinion was, that the proposal of the right hon. gentleman (Mr. Cowper) was the best—viz., to make the council consist partly of representatives from the different medical corporations, and partly of nominees by the Crown, so as to give confidence to the public as well as to the profession. He believed that they would do well to confine medical reform to those three points,—reciprocity, a register, and a council. As to reciprocity, the Bill of the hon. member for Finsbury gave it complete. The hon. member for Haddingtonshire confounded and blended together, instead of keeping distinct and independent, the different medical corporations; and he thought that a change which would be detrimental, because fair rivalry and competition would still exist if the medical bodies were kept distinct. The right hon. gentleman, whose Bill was under discussion, simply provided that every person registered might practise medicine or surgery, or medicine and surgery. As to the register, the hon. member for Finsbury gave any person a right to register, whether he had gone through any examination or not, and the public could not know whether the person registered was a duly qualified practitioner. The hon. member for Haddingtonshire provided that the registration should take place after the examinations—one preliminary and one professional, but he thought the effect would be to establish a *minimum* standard of qualification. The right hon. member for Hertford intended to keep the different examining bodies with distinct and independent powers, but inserted the words, "subject to the council," which would have the same effect of inducing a *minimum* standard of qualification, which he thought every one must deprecate. As to the council, the hon. member for Finsbury proposed no council at all, but only a substitute for one, which was defective. The hon. member for Haddingtonshire proposed a council wholly nominated by the Queen. The right hon. member for Hertford proposed a mixed council of representatives and nominees. He had already expressed his preference

for the last form of council, but he wished the right hon. gentleman would consider carefully the enormous powers which were to be given to the council, and the want of provisions for keeping alive the distinct and independent character of the different medical bodies. [*Hear, hear.*] By legislating soundly on these three particulars—reciprocity of practice, a register of duly qualified practitioners, and the establishment of an authority partly constituted on the representative principle and partly on the principle of appointing persons who would be permanently resident here,—more would be done to reconcile conflicting interests than by taking any one of the Bills separately. That course would be satisfactory generally to the profession and to the public at large, it would be safe and prudent, and it would remove all serious impediments to legislating this session. He would recommend, therefore, that the Bills of the hon. member for Finsbury and the noble lord the member for Haddingtonshire should be withdrawn, and that all sides should unite in endeavouring so to amend the Bill of the right hon. member for Hertford as to make it satisfactory to all parties. He should be most happy to give every assistance in his power to the attainment of this object. [*Hear, hear.*]

Mr. HEADLAM said he had no fault to find with the principles laid down by the right hon. gentleman; but the best course would be, instead of leaving it to private members, himself to introduce the amendments which he thought necessary to carry them into effect.

Mr. WALPOLE.—I should have no objection to do that. [*Hear, hear.*]

Mr. HEADLAM.—If the right hon. gentleman would do that, the chances of legislating satisfactorily this year would be much increased. The medical profession had great reason to complain of former Governments in this matter, for they had not only refused to bring in Bills of their own to remedy the anomalies which they admitted, but they had interfered with the progress of Bills brought in by private members. There was considerable unanimity of opinion in the medical profession as to the reciprocity of practice, and the expediency of establishing as good an education as could be obtained, with an examination which would be at the same time a satisfactory test of proficiency, without being so high as to discourage persons from entering the profession, and so increasing the number of unlicensed practitioners. If legislation were confined to those points, there need be no difficulty in passing a useful Bill this session. His objection to these three Bills was, that they were based on the theories of individual members, which had no chance of being passed into law or of being accepted by the profession. Though the Bill which he had himself introduced last year had been defeated by the opposition of the right hon. gentleman the member for Hertford, he should not retaliate upon him on the present occasion, but, on the contrary, would give every assistance in his power towards introducing such amendments in this Bill as would make it satisfactory to the profession and the public at large.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE thought the Home Secretary had very fairly dealt with the objections to these three Bills, and the best course which could now be taken would be for the government to introduce a Bill of their own, instead of merely bringing forward amendments in the measure of the right hon. member for Hertford. He himself should be very glad to withdraw his own Bill, so as to leave the field open to them. The system of register which he had proposed to establish was an important step in medical reform; but the question of medical education was attended with so many difficulties that he scarcely thought the House could be induced to come to any agreement on it. The question of the granting of diplomas, which was, to a great extent, a matter of fees, was equally difficult. He had seen so much of the jealousies and bickerings of the profession, that he was not surprised at the unwillingness of the government to touch the subject. A register such as that proposed by his Bill was the chief thing needed; and as for the medical reform in general, there could not be a worse tribunal than the House of Commons to judge and decide on it. If they stuck to political reforms and clerical reforms there would be work enough, but he would advise them to have nothing to do with the doctors. [*Laughter.*]

Lord ELCHO said the register of the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Duncombe's) Bill would give no security that persons placed on it were thoroughly qualified for the profession. It would perpetuate the evils of the present system, and would, in fact, simply be an official Medical Directory. With regard to the Bill which had been introduced last year by the hon. and learned member for Newcastle, the manner in which it proposed to carry out his principles was most objectionable. It

benefited the corporations by doing gross injustice to the universities. One of the chief things to be guarded against was the rendering too stringent the powers of these corporations; and he warned the House against the efforts which those bodies would be certain to make to carry out their aim when the Bill got into committee. After referring to the leading provisions of the several measures before the House, the noble lord said, that his object in introducing a Bill with respect to the medical profession, had not been that he might attach his name to a measure of medical reform, but that he might prevent another proposition from becoming law which he believed would have been most unjust in its operation. Recognising in the Bill of the right hon. member for Hertford the principle of sound medical reform, and believing that it would have a better chance of passing than his own Bill, he should withdraw the measure which stood in his name, and should be happy to render all the assistance in his power in perfecting the Bill of the right hon. gentleman. In the event of no Bill being passed this year, he suggested to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, that he should issue a Royal Commission to inquire into the subject.

Mr. LEFROY and Mr. GROGAN expressed their approbation of the Bill of the right hon. member for Hertford.

Mr. COWPER briefly replied.

After a few words from Mr. Craufurd and Mr. Hadfield,

Mr. BLACK withdrew his amendment, and the Bill was ordered to be committed.

Mr. DUNCOMBE postponed, till the 23rd inst., the motion for the second reading of his Medical Profession and Medical Corporation Bill; and

On the motion of Lord ELCHO, the order for the second reading of his Medical Profession Bill was discharged.

PETITIONS.

Petitions in favour of Mr. Cowper's Bill have been presented from members, and also from the Council, of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch; from the members, and also from the Council, of the Liverpool Medical Institution; from the physicians and surgeons of the Liverpool Royal Infirmary; and from medical practitioners residing in Tullamore (King's County), Vale of Clyde, Carrick-on-Suir, Waterford, Wednesbury and Darlaston, Worcester, Bideford, Huddersfield, Wirksworth, Plymouth, and Dudley, Leamington, Wolverhampton, and Manchester.

A petition against Lord Elcho's Bill has been presented from Stirling.

A petition in favour of Mr. Duncombe's Bill has been presented from inhabitants of St. George's-in-the-East.

Petitions from followers of Dr. Coffin's medico-botanical system, praying for equal rights with medical practitioners, have been presented from inhabitants of Cleckheaton, Stafford, Bradford, Faversham and vicinity, Thornton and vicinity, Bury St. Edmunds, Oxford, York, and Swindon; and one petition, from the practitioners and adherents of Dr. Coffin's system, prays "that in any legislation upon the medical profession the same rights and privileges that are accorded to other medical practitioners in Great Britain and Ireland may be accorded to them, and that they may have authority of appointing a Court of Examiners to grant licenses to the competent."

A petition against Mr. Cowper's Bill has been presented from the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

The following petition has been presented by the Royal College of Physicians against all the medical Bills:—

"To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled,

"The humble petition of the President and College or Commonality of the Faculty of Physic in London, under their Common Seal, SHEWETH—

"That your petitioners are informed that no less than three medical Bills are now before your honourable House, every one of which will, in the opinion of your petitioners, both fail in some instances to remove evils which have long and justly been complained of, and will in others introduce evils worse than those which it removes.

"That the Bill 'To alter and amend the Laws regulating the Medical Profession,' brought in by Lord Elcho, Mr. Fitzroy, and Mr. Craufurd, will destroy the machinery which now exists for testing the education and competency of medical practitioners, and will substitute for it a system open to the great objection of establishing a minimum standard of qualification, which will be accepted, nevertheless, as sufficient for every kind of practice, whereby too little inducement will be left to seek qualifications of a higher order.

"That the Bill 'To regulate the qualifications of Practitioners in Medicine and Surgery,' brought in by Mr. Cowper, Mr. Kinnaird, and Mr. Brady, will perpetuate one of the worst evils from which medical education at present suffers, viz., that the number of examining and licensing bodies is much too great. That all of these bodies are, by this Bill, to be represented in a Council having not merely administrative power, such as might safely be entrusted to a representative Council for the purpose of carrying out principles established in the Bill, but having power to make orders and regulations as to questions which the Bill itself should decide, relative to the construction of Examining Boards, the assignment of their privileges, and the discipline and government of the whole profession.

"That a Council possessed of powers so extensive, representing at the same time so many conflicting interests, and composed of members sent from localities so distant and wide apart, will be far more likely to keep the profession in an unsettled and agitated state, than to promote its peace and permanent good order.

"That by the Bill 'To define the rights of Members of the Medical Profession, and to protect the public from the abuses of Medical Corporations,' brought in by Mr. Thomas Duncombe and Mr. Butler, all persons possessing any kind of medical or surgical qualification, whatever may have been their education and studies, and whatever therefore may be the nature and value of their diplomas or licenses, will be allowed to be registered alike, and to practise, as they shall choose, in any branch of the profession.

"That if it were proposed that every person possessing any kind of legal or clerical qualification should be allowed to exercise every function, or to hold any office in the law or church, respectively, your petitioners are persuaded that such a proposition would not be entertained by your Honourable House. And they know of no reason why an enactment so levelling, so discouraging, and therefore so detrimental to the interests of science and learning, should be forcibly imposed upon the medical profession.

"Your petitioners, being convinced that none of these Bills will prove conducive to the best interests of the medical profession or of the public, humbly pray that no one of them may be suffered to become law.

"They would earnestly implore the legislature to amend the laws relating to the medical profession, which grievously need amendment, by measures different from those now proposed, and by a Bill better calculated to promote the good of the profession and the public, than any one of the medical Bills now before your Honourable House.

"And your petitioners will ever pray, etc."

Petitions in favour of increased remuneration have been presented from the medical officers of the following unions: Gloucester, Wells, Woodbridge, and Halifax.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

- ROUTH. On May 28th, at 52, Montagu Square, the wife of *C. H. F. Routh, M.D., of a daughter.
SPRY. On March 20th, at Ajmere, East Indies, the wife of H. W. Spry, Esq., Civil Surgeon, of a son.
TUKÉ. On May 30th, at Chiswick, the wife of *Harrington Tuké, M.D., of a son.
WIGHT. On May 29th, at Grazeley Lodge, near Reading, the wife of Robert Wight, M.D., late Senior Surgeon Madras Establishment, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

- DIXON—BEAVAN. DIXON, Frederick, Esq., Surgeon, to Anna Selina, daughter of the late Henry Beavan, Esq., of Kingston, Herefordshire, at St. Andrew's, Holborn, on June 1st.
GILL—JACKSON. GILL, Thomas Bullen, Esq., Surgeon, of York Place, Islington Green, to Flora Julia, second surviving daughter of Benjamin Watson Jackson, Esq., of Finchley, at St. James's Church, on May 26th.

DEATHS.

- BULL, Thomas, M.D., formerly of Finsbury Square, at Brighton, aged 51, on May 31st.
LANKESTER. On May 29th, at 8, Savile Row, Eva, third daughter of *Edwin Lankester, M.D., F.R.S., aged 5.
MACLAGAN. On May 27th, at Berwick-upon-Tweed, David Smeiton, only son of Philip MacLagan, M.D.
MOGRIDGE, Theodore Hands, M.D., at Sidmouth, aged 47, on May 24th.
*ROWLAND, William, M.D., at Swansea, aged 55, lately.
VEVERS. On May 31st, at Hereford, Maria Elizabeth, wife of Henry Vevers, Esq., Surgeon, aged 35.
WALL. On May 30th, Emily Sarah, daughter of *Abiathar Brown Wall, Esq., Surgeon, of Bayswater.
WIDMER, the Honourable Christopher, M.D., at Toronto, aged 77, on May 3rd.

APPOINTMENTS.

- *GRIFFITH, Thomas Taylor, Esq., F.R.C.S., Member of the Committee of Council, appointed Justice of the Peace for the Borough of Wrexham.
*WILLIAMS, Edward, M.D., President of the North Wales Branch, appointed Justice of the Peace for the Borough of Wrexham.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. MEMBERS admitted at the meeting of the Court of Examiners, on Friday, May 28th, 1858:—

- CRESSWELL, Alfred, Frederick Place, Gray's Inn Road
CRUICKSHANK, John, Fochabers, N.B.
EWEN, Arthur Benjamin, Long Sutton, Lincolnshire
JEAFFRESON, John Blackett, Islington
LOCKWOOD, Joseph, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield
MACCABE, Francis Xavier Frederick, Hastings
PEARSE, Arthur, Norwich
SAMS, John Sutton, Blackheath
SOMER, James, St. Cleather, Cornwall
TOMLINSON, Edward Denham, Wakefield, Yorkshire
WATSON, James, Loughborough, Leicestershire

At the same meeting of the Court—

- COOKE, George Pardoe, of H.M. Dockyard, Woolwich, passed his examination for Naval Surgeon. This gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the College: his diploma bearing date May 7th last.

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING MAY 29TH, 1858.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE deaths registered in London, which in the two previous weeks were successively 1057 and 1082, rose in the week ending last Saturday to 1106, of which 576 were deaths of males, and 530 those of females. In the ten years 1848-57 the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1004; but, as the deaths of last week occurred in an increased population, they can only be compared with the average, after the latter is raised in proportion to the increase, a correction which will make it 1104. Hence it appears that the rate of mortality that prevailed last week agrees with the average, as calculated from ten years experience at the end of May.

The births of last week exceed the deaths in the same period by 586.

By comparing the results of the last two weeks with reference to the causes of death, it will be seen that while zymotic diseases have decreased from 269 to 259, and local diseases from 420 to 406, those of the "constitutional" class have increased from 210 deaths to 565, and have produced the increase in the total number of deaths which is shown above. Phthisis (or consumption) is the special disease to which this result is due; for whereas it was fatal in the previous week in 117 cases, last week it was fatal in 169. The corrected average for this disease for last week is 149. Small-pox was fatal in 5 cases; measles decreased from 60 to 45, whooping-cough from 72 to 61. There were 14 deaths from diarrhoea, the corrected average being 19. No case of cholera was returned. Of four nonagenarians whose deaths were registered, the two oldest were widows, one of whom died at the age of 96 years in Fulham Workhouse, the other at 97 years in St. Luke's Workhouse.

Thirty-seven deaths are returned as having arisen from the developmental diseases of children, of which 18 are ascribed to

premature birth, 2 to cyanosis, 3 to spina bifida, 3 to other malformations, and 11 to teething.

Last week, the births of 904 boys and 788 girls, in all 1692 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1848-57, the average number was 1527.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.772 in. The lowest barometrical reading was 29.24 in. on Monday; and the highest 30.39 in. on Wednesday. The mean temperature of the week was 53.9°, which is 0.9° below the average of the same week in forty-three years. The highest point attained by the thermometer in the shade was 75° on Saturday; the lowest point was 38.9° on Wednesday; the extreme range of temperature in the week was therefore 36.1°. The mean daily range was 20.2°. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 57.7°. The mean dew-point temperature was 46.3°; and the difference between this and the mean air temperature was 7.6°. The mean degree of humidity was 78, complete saturation being represented by 100. The wind blew generally from the south-west. The amount of rain was 0.73 in., most of which fell on Sunday and Monday. Heavy showers of hail and rain fell frequently on Sunday; and thunder was heard about noon.

MEDICAL INSTITUTION, LIVERPOOL: ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO MEDICAL CHARITIES.

A SPECIAL Meeting of the members was held at their rooms, Mount Pleasant, on Tuesday evening, May 25th, for the purpose of considering the propriety of again addressing the Committees of the Public Charities of Liverpool, on the subject of the present mode of conducting the election of their honorary medical officers, whereby a canvass, personally or by the active agency of friends, is rendered necessary—a proceeding which is considered by the profession to place them in a false and undignified position.

The Chair was taken by Dr. Macintyre, Vice-President of the Institution.

Mr. DESMOND moved the first resolution. He briefly stated the circumstances that led to the present movement, which commenced in 1856, when an address was forwarded to all the public charities of the town; and the recommendations of the profession were acted upon by the Southern Hospital, and more recently by the St. Anne's Dispensary. To illustrate how harassing it must be to the trustees to exercise their privilege of voting, even after being canvassed, Mr. Desmond alluded to the fact that, at the last two elections for honorary surgeons to the Liverpool Dispensaries, out of 1,200 governors who were entitled to vote, there were polled at the election in September 1856—for the first candidate, only 36; for the second, 26; and for the third, 15 votes: and at the election in April 1857, the votes were—for the first candidate, 56; and for the second, 36. He moved—

“That this meeting views with much satisfaction the alterations made by some of the public charities, whereby the election of honorary medical officers is for the future to be carried on without canvassing; but it has also to regret that this mode of election has not been more generally adopted.”

This resolution was seconded by Dr. CAMERON; and, having been put to the meeting, was carried by acclamation.

Dr. VOSE stated that, having held office in several public institutions, he could bear testimony to the undignified and false position in which medical men were placed, when forced to canvass with the view of obtaining an appointment; and he considered that this mode of election gave an overwhelming advantage to those candidates who had numerous friends, irrespectively of their professional abilities. He felt great pleasure in submitting to the meeting the following resolution—

“That our Secretary be requested again to call the attention of the committees of the public charities to the letter from the Institution, dated April 21st, 1856; and once more to urge upon them the desirableness of making such alterations in the present mode of electing their medical officers as will effectually put a stop to canvassing, and meet the wishes of the medical profession.”

This resolution was seconded by Dr. IMLACH, who had been a member of the original Committee appointed to consider this question. He assured the meeting that he felt warmly interested in the success of the present movement.

Several members expressed similar sentiments in support of the resolution, which, having been put to the meeting, was carried by acclamation.

Dr. DICKINSON moved the next resolution—

“That the thanks of this meeting be conveyed to the Governors of the Southern Hospital, and of St. Anne's Dispensary, for having so far acted in conformity with the suggestions of the profession.”

He regretted that he had been unavoidably absent from town when this important question had been brought under the consideration of the profession; and added, that his personal experience had convinced him of the great objections to the system of canvassing for public medical appointments. The alterations adopted by the Southern Hospital and the St. Anne's Dispensary met with his cordial approval, and deserved the best thanks of the profession.

The motion was seconded by Mr. GRIMSDALE, who impressed upon the meeting the necessity of individual exertion on the part of all those who already held appointments in any of the medical charities of the town, with the view of urging the trustees to take this subject into consideration.

The resolution was then put by the Chairman, and carried unanimously.

After a few remarks by some of the members, and the usual vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting separated.

The following is a copy of the letter alluded to in the second resolution:—

“Medical Institution, April 21st, 1856.

“SIR,—At a special meeting of the members of the Medical Institution, held on the 10th instant, it was unanimously resolved—

“That, in the opinion of this society, the present mode of electing honorary medical officers to the public charities, and the canvassing consequent thereon, are highly objectionable, being derogatory to the dignity of the profession, and harassing to the trustees.”

“Dr. Vose, Dr. Macintyre, Dr. Ferguson, Mr. Long, and Dr. Imlach, were appointed a Committee to carry out the views of the meeting; and they are desirous of ascertaining whether your Committee sympathises with the movement, as they then hope to be able to propose a plan by which all canvassing, whether by personal application, by circular, or by advertisement, may be avoided.

“I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,
“H. IMLACH, Secretary to the Committee.”

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREW'S:—MEDICAL EXAMINATION PAPERS. MAY 1858.

THE following were the questions proposed to the candidates for the degree of M.D. at the recent examination:—

First Examination. First Part. Passage from Celsus to be translated into English. Give the derivations and primary meanings of the following words: *Ægophony*, biology, diarrhoea, gastrodynia, lithotomy, orthopnoea, pleximeter.

Second Part. (N.B. Those who are not candidates for honours are not expected to answer the questions to which an asterisk is prefixed.) *Chemistry.* 1. State the source, mode of extraction, and properties of iodine. Give the test for it. What is the derivation of the name? 2. Enumerate the compounds of mercury used in medicine; stating their composition, and giving the tests for their presence in solution. 3. Write in formulæ the composition of the following substances: nitre, Glauber's salt, coal gas, laughing gas, triple phosphate. *4. Enumerate the different urinary calculi; giving such chemical characters and tests as would serve to determine each. *Materia Medica.* 5. Name the chemical substances which are used as caustics. What are the principal uses of this class of remedies, and how would you be guided in your selection of the appropriate substance? 6. What are the chief uses and ordinary doses of the pharmacopœial preparations of arsenic, zinc, and lead? 7. What are the antidotes to be employed in cases of poisoning with oxalic acid, corrosive sublimate, and sugar of lead? 8. What are the principal varieties of aloes, and how would you distinguish one from another? Compare the purgative action of aloes with that of rhubarb, senna, and jalap. *9. What alkaloids are yielded by the solanaceæ employed in medicine? State briefly their chemical characters and their physiological action. 10. Write a Latin prescription (without using abbreviations or symbols) for a draught suitable for a case of tape-worm; also for an anodyne draught or mixture suitable for a case of impacted biliary calculus.

Second Examination. Anatomy and Physiology. 1. Describe the muscles which take their origin from the inner condyle of the humerus. 2. How is the cervical plexus formed?

Describe the principal branches of this plexus. 3. Describe the articulation of the lower jaw and the movements of mastication. 4. What is supposed to be the function of the pancreas? *5. Give a sketch of the anatomy and functions of the sympathetic nerve.

Third Examination. (N.B. In answering the practical questions, the examiners require every candidate to specify the mode of treatment which he is in the habit of adopting, and the doses of the medicines which he prescribes.) *Pathology and Practice of Physic.* 1. In what diseases do we find the red corpuscles and the fibrine of the blood deviating from the normal standard? What is generally the proper treatment when the corpuscles are diminished in number? 2. Describe the symptoms and treatment of chronic gastritis. 3. Describe the progress of the physical signs in a case of rheumatic pericarditis going on to adhesion, and state what treatment you would adopt. 4. With what diseases is hæmatemesis commonly associated, and what are the chief means of checking it? *5. What are the pustular diseases of the skin? Describe the symptoms and treatment of any two of them. Are any skin diseases supposed to originate in vegetable cryptogamic growths? State what you know on this subject.

Fourth Examination. Surgery. 1. Give an account of what is known respecting the hereditary transmission of syphilis from either parent; state the effects produced by syphilis on the fœtus; and the symptoms and treatment of the disease in the infant. *2. Under what circumstances is it requisite to make an artificial pupil; and what modes of operation are suitable to the various cases? 3. Describe the process of reparation in a fractured bone. *Midwifery.* 4. What are the various causes of "lingering labour," and what the mode of management appropriate for each? 5. In what circumstances is ergot of rye useful, and what are the precautions necessary in administering it? 6. What are the symptoms of retroversion of the uterus in the pregnant and in the unimpregnated state, and how is the accident to be treated?

Fifth Examination. Cases. 1. In a case of heart-disease there are increased percussion-dulness, and diffused pulsation in epigastrium, together with a weak and small pulse, and a strongly marked second sound over the left border of the sternum, about the level of the third and fourth costal cartilages. There is a loud murmur with the first sound of the heart, distinct below the nipple, indistinct at base, inaudible in the neck. The veins of the neck are turgid in coughing and pulsate slightly. The point where the apex beats cannot be ascertained. With these signs are associated dyspnœa, hæmoptysis, dulness on percussion in the right back over the base of the lung, crepitating râle, and some degree of tubular respiration. The urine is scanty, high coloured, of high density, faintly albuminous. There is dropsy of the feet and abdomen; the liver is enlarged; and there is slight jaundice. You are requested to discuss in writing: (1) The probable state of all the organs and functions mentioned above. (2) The probable order of occurrence of the morbid phenomena. (3) The prognosis and treatment. 2. A. B., an unmarried woman, aged 25, complains of pain in small of back, extending to sacrum, to the flanks, and to the pelvis. These symptoms lead to an examination of the urine, which is discovered to contain both pus and blood in appreciable amount. A further examination takes place with the view of discovering the source of this alteration of the urine. You are requested to state in detail what would require to be ascertained, in order to avoid error and fix the diagnosis. 3. A woman, on the third day after delivery, had a severe rigor, followed by fever, great tenderness of the whole abdomen, and obstinate vomiting; the pulse was very rapid, the skin dry and hot, and the lochial discharge was suppressed; the abdomen became tympanitic, and the patient lay on her back with her knees drawn upwards. She sunk rapidly; restless delirium preceding death. Another patient in the like circumstances was also seized with a rigor, followed by fulness in the uterine region, which was painful on firm pressure; her pulse was rapid and feeble, her tongue brown and dry, and there soon came on a typhoid state with low muttering delirium. One of her thighs became swollen, tense, and painful; and her breathing was rapid and oppressed for a day or two before death. What was the pathology of these cases respectively, and what the morbid appearances which you would have expected to find on dissection?

DR. BROWN-SÉQUARD. This distinguished physiologist brought his interesting course of lectures at the Royal College of Surgeons to a close on Thursday last. They have been numerously attended by many of the leading men of the profession.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE: STATEMENT OF THE DISSENTIENT GOVERNORS.

1. THAT in 1855 the Council of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, without fully consulting the Governors, obtained an "Act of Incorporation," the provisions of which were such as to preclude the subscribers from an effective control over the management of the College.

2. That by virtue of the powers thus reserved to itself, the Council has, 1st. Improvidently administered the funds committed to its charge; 2nd. Misapplied monies subscribed for special purposes; and 3d. Unjustly deprived the sons of living medical men of restricted income of the cheap education originally promised.

First. Extravagance and mismanagement. a. The estimated cost of the buildings was £18,000. For this money there were to have been residences for 104 pensioners, accommodation for 100 scholars, and a chapel. The architect's plan, which is very simple and has not been materially departed from, is not yet completed, although more than £36,000 have been expended in building purposes. The scholastic department proper accommodates 110 boys, but, on the other hand, there are residences provided for only 20 pensioners.

b. The law expenses alone, up to 1856, amounted to £1780, exclusive of the cost of the "Act of Incorporation."

c. The architect, whose commission on his original estimate (at 5 per cent) would have been £900, has already received, on account, the large sum of £1600.

d. The Council has received upwards of £50,000 in subscriptions and donations; out of that sum only £2500 have been expended in the education of free scholars, and only £193! in grants to resident pensioners. Nevertheless, the Council has already mortgaged the land and buildings for £7000. The pensioners received in 1856 only £5 each, and in 1857 only £10 each, without any further allowance for servant, board, or clothing.

e. That the Council managed the funds entrusted to its care so as to sustain a loss of £1169 on their investments.

Second. Misapplication of special funds. a. In accordance with the 6th Clause of the Act of Incorporation, the Surrey Benevolent Medical Society paid £2000 to the "endowment fund" of the College to secure certain privileges to four scholars. The Council, instead of funding the £2000 as they were bound to do by their 9th Bye law, employed it for other purposes. Other monies were subscribed especially to the "endowment fund." Yet no endowment fund was formed with those sums.

b. £2760 were specially subscribed to build a chapel. In December 1856, only £150 had been devoted to this object, the remainder had been otherwise spent.

Third. Unjust increase of charge to paying Scholars, so-called *Exhibitioners.* a. By the original prospectus, a first class education was promised to the sons of medical men for £25. This was an original feature of the scheme. It was to be a boon, not to the rich, for they could not need it, but to those who were unable to pay for their sons the ordinary cost of a good education. These scholars were termed "Exhibitioners," and the council were charged with the duty of selecting those entitled to benefit by the boon. This charge, when the school opened, had been raised to £30, including the use of books.

b. When the boys (who had been removed from other schools) had been at the College for nearly a year, the charge was raised to £40, and enforced against the boys already in the institution.

The dissentients to these acts of the council leave the evidence of mismanagement, extravagance, and misapplication of funds to speak for itself. The Council up to the present moment has made no reply to the charges against them on these heads, except by asserting in their report the flourishing state of the College. The matter of the school, however, has been replied to. We will briefly state the arguments on the two sides.

Council.

That the Act of Incorporation, Clause 38, forbids the application of any portion of the funds of the College to assist in the maintenance and education of paying scholars, sons of medical men, so-called *Exhibitioners.* They

Dissentient Governors.

That the 38th Clause of the Act of Incorporation does not forbid the application of a portion of the funds of the College, if necessary, to assist in maintaining and educating *Exhibitioners*; because this cheap, high-class education to the sons of needy medical men is one of the main objects of the founda-

are supported in this interpretation of the Act by the opinion of Mr. Freshfield (a member of the Council), and by that of Mr. Willcock, whose opinion was taken after the charge had been increased.

That the *prime cost* of each scholar is £38:16:2 per annum, and consequently that this at least must be charged.

tion, being prominently put forward in the original prospectus as well as in that issued after the Act was passed, and also because the Act must not (as a private Act) be so interpreted as to involve a compulsory alteration in the plan and laws of the institution which existed at the time of the passing of the Act, and upon the faith of which the public had subscribed their money. The dissentient Governors are supported by the opinion of Messrs. Frere and Co., and also of Mr. Roundell Palmer. The case submitted to Mr. Palmer has been published.

That under good management the *prime cost* would not exceed £30.

That, in the estimate of the Council, there are charges which are unreasonable and exorbitant, viz., Office expenses to the extent of £238:10 per ann. for 150 boys.

A charge for wear and tear of furniture and fittings and of linen, to the extent of £712:2 per ann. for 150 scholars.

Extravagant expenditure in the domestic arrangements of the school, as compared with other similar establishments for the sons of professional men.

3. The dissentient Governors further complain of the unfair conduct of the authorities of the College in the following particulars:—

At the Extraordinary Meeting, April 3rd, 1857, convened by requisition, signed by 147 Governors, to consider the increased charge to exhibitors, and other important business, John Labouchere, Esq., in the chair, fair and full discussion was suppressed, and the meeting was broken up without completing the business for which it was called. Prior to this meeting, a

letter, calculated to prejudice the Governors, was circulated by the *Treasurer*.

At the Annual General Meeting 1857, it was ordered by the meeting, that "A balance sheet of the accounts of the College, from the beginning of the undertaking till December 31st, 1856, be printed and circulated", with a view to exhibit the liabilities and assets of the College. *This Order has been disregarded*; a mere divided and obscure statement of the receipts and expenditure, *not* showing the liabilities, was substituted by the Council.

At the Annual General Meeting, held May 11th, 1858, John Labouchere, Esq., having been again placed in the chair, discussion was a second time completely stifled, and the meeting conducted with such partiality as to draw forth a protest even from adherents of the Council. Prior to this meeting, the *Treasurer* again addressed a letter to many Governors, calculated to influence an important election. (See report in *Morning Post*, May 13th, 1858, and *Morning Herald*, May 12th and 14th, 1858.)

Signed, on behalf of the Committee.

WM. CHOLMELEY, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

June 1, 1858.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY. On Monday, June 7th, there will be read a paper: "Distribution of the Mortality from Hydrophobia in England, in illustration of certain peculiarities in the mode of extension and prevalence of Epidemic Diseases: with Suggestions for the better observation of Epidemics", by J. N. Radcliffe, Esq.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

PROFESSOR SIMPSON'S communication is unavoidably postponed till next week.

Communications have been received from: — MR. L. E. DESMOND; MR. RICHARD GRIFFIN; MR. W. A. P. DICKIN; MR. ERLIN CLARKE; DR. J. C. COOKWORTHY; DR. T. H. BARKER; MR. GEORGE MAY, JUN.; MR. PROPERT; MR. WEEDEN COOKE; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; MR. T. HOLMES; MR. J. C. GLENDON; THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON; DR. CHEVALLIER; H. M. (Paris); DR. MCWILLIAM; MR. G. HORNBY; MR. J. A. LOCKING; MR. J. R. SALTER; MR. R. FREEMAN; MR. DAVID THOMPSON; MR. WILLIAM HOAR; DR. CAMERON; MR. STONE; PROFESSOR SIMPSON; MR. PETER MARTIN; MR. J. LLOYD; M.D.; DR. W. CHOLMELEY; MR. R. S. STEDMAN; MR. HUTCHINSON; MR. POPE; DR. W. F. WADE; DR. T. SKINNER; and MR. D. KENT JONES.

H O M Œ O P A T H Y.

At the Anniversary Meeting of the South Midland Branch of the British Medical Association, held at Bedford, on Friday, May 21st, 1858, it was unanimously resolved:—

That so long as a system has no higher philosophy than the jargon of "*similia similibus curantur*," nor sounder chemistry than the delusion of "*infinite dynamisation*," it is degrading to a man of education to be connected with it. He, therefore, who assents to consultation with Homœopaths, be they impostors or dupes, forfeits the respect of his professional brethren, and his membership of this Branch of the British Medical Association.

That it is the opinion of this Meeting that no honourable man, whether Physician or Surgeon, can meet in consultation a Homœopathic practitioner, or, as such, act in conjunction with him.

Signed,

EDWARD DANIELL, *President*.

Ashdown, G. Northampton
Barker, T. H., M.D., Bedford
Barr, W. A., M.D., Northampton
Blower, W., Bedford
Bryan, J. M., M.D., Northampton
Ceeley, Robert, Aylesbury
Clark, Thomas, Wellingborough
Collier, T., Towcester
Denne, William, Bedford
Denne, J., Winslow
Dix, F. W., Long Buckby
Dulley, Benjamin, Wellingborough
Farmer, John, Silverstone
Francis, D. J. T., M.D., Northampton
Francis, John, Market Harborough
Fraser, H., Weedon
Gibbon, W., Kettering
Godfrey, Joseph J., Great Barford
Grindon, G. H., Olney
Hammond, G., Irthlingborough
Hemming, H. H., Kimbolton

Heygate, T. N., M.D., Hanslope
Hurst, R. C., Bedford
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Marsack, B., Olney
Marshall, F. H., Moulton
Martin, J. C., Oundle
Mash, James, Northampton
Mault, Samuel, M.D., Fenny Stratford
McLosky, Peter, M.D., Rothwell
Nesbitt, P. R., M.D., Northampton
Paget, Thomas, Leicester
Paley, W., M.D., Peterborough
Percival, William, Northampton
Philbrick, T., Stamford
Prior, C. E., M.D., Bedford
Prichard, Thomas, M.D., Abington Abbey
Purday, H., Wollaston
Richardson, B. W., M.D., London
Robertson, Archibald, M.D., F.R.S., Northampton

Sharman, G. C., Wellingborough
Slinn, W. S., Ampthill
Southam, F., Wausford
Spurgin, B., Thrapston
Starling, Thomas J., Higham Ferrars
Stedman, R. S. (Hon. Secretary), Sharnbrook
Stowe, W., Buckingham
Terry, H., Sen., Northampton
Terry, H., Jun. (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer), Northampton
Thurnall, William, Bedford
Vessey, Henry, Woburn
Watkins, R. W., Towcester
Webster, J. H., M.D., Northampton
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PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, General Secretary.

Worcester, January 7th, 1858.

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V.R.

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74, Wimpole Street, Cavendish Square, May 11th, 1858.

I have carefully examined, both chemically and microscopically, samples of the Patent Corn Flour of Messrs. Brown and Polson, of Paisley. One of these was submitted to me by the Agents, while others were procured by myself for my own satisfaction, from retail vendors of the article: I found it to consist in all cases exclusively of the granules or flour of Indian Corn. This preparation is a great favourite with me, and I confidently recommend it for all the purposes for which arrowroot is applicable; I have invariably found it to give great satisfaction, and generally to be much preferred to arrowroot. It possesses a particularly pleasant flavour, far more agreeable than that of arrowroot, is light, wholesome, and of easy digestibility. The Patent Corn Flour of Messrs. Brown and Polson is prepared most carefully, and is superior to anything brought under my notice for similar purposes.

ARTHUR HILL HASSALL, M.D.

Author of "Food and its Adulterations," "Adulterations Detected," etc., etc.

The Laboratory, London Hospital, May 14th, 1858.

The Patent Corn Flour of Messrs. Brown and Polson, of Paisley, having come under my notice, I have examined its chemical and dietetical properties, and I find it to be pure farina of Indian corn. It is remarkably free from all impurities, and a very wholesome and palatable article of diet.

HENRY LETHBY, M.B.,
 Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology in the
 Medical College of the London Hospital, and
 Officer of Health for the City of London.

Royal College of Chemistry, Liverpool, Oct. 28th, 1857.

I have made a careful analysis of Brown and Polson's Indian Corn Flour, which I purchased at a respectable grocer's in this town. Without the slightest hesitation, I pronounce it to be perfectly pure and wholesome, and quite equal, if not superior to arrowroot. It has been made into puddings, etc., under my inspection; and, although analysis proved it to be a most beautiful preparation, still the culinary results far exceeded my expectations. On incineration, it only yielded about a quarter per cent. of inorganic salts.

SHERIDAN MUSPRATT, F.R.S.E., M.R.I.A.,
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