

SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARIES.

LETTER FROM H. L. SMITH, Esq.

SIR.—The advertisement which appears in this paper announces that the committee of the Society for the Extension of Dispensaries on the Self-supporting principle throughout the kingdom, are desirous of assisting in establishing provident or self-supporting dispensaries, where there is a reasonable probability of adequate support. A preference will, of course, be given to those places where the population is the most dense, and the greatest number of medical men are willing to co-operate. These institutions are based on the principle of mutual assurance and indemnity, and on the knowledge that the contributions of a large number of persons, though separately small and scarcely worthy of notice, are in the aggregate larger and of more importance than the isolated wealth, however large, of individuals. It is by means of this principle alone, that that large body of the community, which however industrious and worthy, is always poor and unable to pay for good medical attendance, can be saved from death and beggary, or patented quackery. The importance of this principle is also rapidly becoming known to these classes: and the establishment of provident and self-supporting dispensaries has become one of the requirements of the age, and must soon become general throughout the kingdom.

It is therefore necessary that medical men, especially the young, should at once turn their attention to the subject, and carefully and dispassionately consider how far their interest and duties will be affected by them. Believing that the time and real interest of the medical practitioner is inseparable from that of his patients, I have no doubt that it will on examination be found that these institutions advance both the honour and the profit of the profession. They who have no opportunity, under the present arrangements, of earning social distinction, and who have only their character and their skill as their outfit, ought to make themselves acquainted with the best means of making their skill available to the greatest number of their suffering fellow-creatures; to them especially are these institutions likely to be of great service, and to them do the committee look for hearty co-operation.

I am, etc., H. L. SMITH.

Southam, August 23rd, 1858.

Medical News.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS, AND APPOINTMENTS.

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

BIRTHS.

MALAN. On August 18th, at Geneva, the wife of H. V. Malan, M.D., of a son.

REMINGTON. On August 19th, at Grove Place, North Brixton, the wife of Thomas Remington, Esq., Surgeon, of twin daughters.

MARRIAGES.

BIRD—ADAMS. Bird, Frederick William, Esq., youngest son of the late Adam Bird, Esq., Surgeon, of West Stockwith, Notts, to Harriet Eliza, daughter of William Adams, Esq., of Datchet, on August 19th.

FORREST—JENKINS. Forrest, John, M.D., C.B., Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, to Emma, daughter of the late George H. Jenkins, Esq., at Gibraltar, on August 12th.

WHYMPER—BECK. *Whympere, George Hughes, Esq., Surgeon, of Walsall, to Ellen, daughter of the late Lancelot Beck, Esq., of Redlands, near Bristol, at Wall Church, near Lichfield, on August 19th.

WOOD—WARD. Wood, John, Esq., Surgeon, of Montague Street, Russell Square, and King's College, to Mary Ann, only daughter of William Ward, Esq., of Richmond, at Chiswick, on August 19th.

DEATHS.

ASHWELL. On August 23rd, at 5, Upper Wimpole Street, Dora Ellen, third daughter of the late Samuel Ashwell, M.D., aged 23.

BRANDRETH, J. P., M.D., at Broad Green, near Liverpool, aged 76, on August 18th.

BURROWS. On August 21st, while visiting her son, Dr. Burrows, at Upper Sheen, Sophia, widow of the late George Mann Burrows, M.D., aged 90.

COOPER. On August 19th, at New Brentford, Clarence Boyd, youngest child of George Francis Cooper, M.D., aged 17 months.

PALMER. On August 14th, at the residence of his uncle, Dr. Davey, Northwoods, near Bristol, aged 4 years and 11 months, Francis Drake, youngest son of Charles Palmer, M.D., H.E.I.C.S., of Howrah, near Calcutta.

RENTON, David William, Esq., late Assistant-Surgeon in the Punjab, at Bedford, aged 28, on August 18th.

PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. FELLOWS admitted at a meeting of the Council, on Thursday, August 12th:—

BOND, John, Grafton Street, Fitzroy Square: diploma of membership dated April 26th, 1836

BRYAN, John Morgan, Northampton: April 29th, 1833

CHADWICK, Samuel Taylor, Bolton-le-Moors: April 29, 1831

HETLEY, Frederick, Norwood: May 15, 1843

LEACH, Richard, Blackburn: May 17th, 1843

SPURRELL, Flaxman, Bexley Heath: March 9th, 1838

At the same meeting of the Council—

INGLIS, Alexander Monro, Worcester

ROOKE, William Forster, Scarborough

Were admitted *ad eundem* members of the College. These gentlemen had previously been admitted Licentiates of the Edinburgh College of Surgeons: their diplomas bearing date respectively June 21st, 1854, and April 23rd, 1855.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON. M.B. First Examination. 1858. Examination for Honours.

Anatomy and Physiology.

GERVIS, Henry (Exhibition and Gold Medal), St. Thomas's Hospital

LLOYD, Francis (Gold Medal), St. Bartholomew's Hospital

GIBSON, Francis Wm., B.A., University College

BRACEY, Charles James, Queen's College, Birmingham

EASTON, John, King's College

NEESOM, Joseph, Leeds School of Medicine

EVANS, George Moule, King's College } Equal.

MORETON, Thomas, St. Thomas's Hospital } Equal.

Chemistry.

SAUNDERS, George J. S. (Exhibition and Gold Medal), King's College

EASTON, John (Gold Medal), King's College

ATCHLEY, George Frederick, King's College

NEESOM, Joseph, Leeds School of Medicine

ATWELL, Gregory Haines, Guy's Hospital

GERVIS, Henry, St. Thomas's Hospital

LLOYD, Francis, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

WOAKES, Edward, St. Thomas's Hospital

WOODFORDE, Alfred, University College } Equal.

Materia Medica and Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

ATCHLEY, George F. (Exhibition and Gold Medal), King's College

EASTON, John (Gold Medal), King's College

GERVIS, Henry, St. Thomas's Hospital

SAUNDERS, George J. Symes, King's College } Equal.

WOAKES, Edward, St. Thomas's Hospital

LLOYD, Francis, St. Bartholomew's Hospital

HELLICAR, Charles Joseph, Bristol Medical School

Structural and Physiological Botany.

WOODFORDE, Alfred, University College

ATCHLEY, George Frederick, King's College

GERVIS, Henry, St. Thomas's Hospital

SAUNDERS, George J. Symes, King's College

APOTHECARIES' HALL. Members admitted on Thursday, August 12th, 1858:—

DAY, Edwin Edmund, Acton, Middlesex

GIBSON, Thomas, Orton, Westmorland

MEDD, John, jun., Stockport

NOBLE, Thomas

OLDFMAN, John, Gainsborough

PHILLIPS, Daniel Weld, Hales Owen, Worcestershire

WILLIAMS, John James, Northamptonshire

In addition, six gentlemen passed their first examination.

Thursday, August 19th:—

MORRIS, William Henry, Studley, Warwickshire
SMITHERS, Bartholomew Drummond, Brighton
In addition, five gentlemen passed their first examination.

HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING
AUGUST 14TH, 1858.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE returns of the metropolitan registrars are still of a satisfactory character. In the week that ended last Saturday (August 21st), the deaths registered were 1112, of which 569 were those of males, and 543 those of females. In the corresponding weeks of 1849 and 1854, when so many lives were destroyed by cholera and diarrhoea, the deaths rose to 2230 in the former year, and to 1833 in the latter. In the corresponding weeks of the ten years 1848-57, the average mortality was 1259. The deaths of last week occurred in an increased population; and the present rate of mortality is therefore comparatively low, being 273 below the corrected average deaths in London. Of the 1112 persons who died, 614 were under 20 years of age; 136 were 20 and under 40; 148 were 40 to 60; 161 were 60 to 80; and 40 were 80 years of age and upwards.

The births registered exceeded the deaths by 446.

The zymotic class of diseases caused 379 deaths, or about one-third of the total mortality, including 22 by measles, 105 by scarlatina, 28 by whooping-cough, 43 by typhus and other continued fevers, 113 by diarrhoea, 10 by cholera, etc. To the constitutional class of diseases 215 deaths were registered: of this number, phthisis or consumption was fatal to 116—96 of whom were between the ages of 20 and 60.

In the local class of diseases, 294 deaths occurred; in the developmental class of diseases, 145 deaths; in violent causes, 54; and in fifteen deaths, the cause was not specified or ill-defined.

Scarlatina (diphtheria) is much above the average. The deaths during the last six weeks were 73, 58, 78, 86, 85, and 105 respectively; last week, with the exception of seven persons, all the deaths from this disease occurred among children under ten years of age. At 25, High Street, St. Giles, the two children of a printer, aged one and two years, died of scarlatina maligna. Mr. Faulkner, the medical attendant, describes this house as inhabited by 33 or 34 persons—18 of whom are children, all more or less bearing traces of illness in their features. For the last two years, there has been no stink-trap in the sink in the basement floor; the tenants of this house have been inhaling the poisonous gases evolved from the sewers, and four persons have died within the last three weeks.

At 9, Kenning's Buildings, Rotherhithe, the son of a labourer, aged two years, died from cholera (twelve hours). Mr. Bayley, the registrar, adds:—"Complaint was made of an obnoxious smell arising from a gully in front of this house, and several persons in its vicinity have been attacked with illness."

Three persons whose deaths were registered attained the advanced age of 90 years and upwards.

Last week the births of 812 boys and 746 girls, in all 1558 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1848-57 the average number was 1518.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean readings of the barometer in the week was 29.689 in. The daily mean temperature was 63.3°, or 2.2° above the average, but ranged from 83.0° to 47.8°. On Saturday, the thermometer on the grass indicated 32.2°; the highest reading in the sun was 104.6°, on Thursday. The mean dew-point was 53.6°, and the difference between that and the air 9.7°. The wind veered about and changed from south-west to north-west. The sky for the most part was cloudy throughout the week. Rain fell on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday; and on Saturday, rain fell generally till evening.

THE MEDICAL COUNCIL.

The following memorial has been addressed to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association:—

To the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

This memorial of the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association respectfully sheweth—

That under the new Medical Act, 21 and 22 Vict., cap. xc, six members are to be nominated by the Crown to the "General Council".

That each university, college, or licensing body, named in the Act, will send its own representatives to the Council.

That it is highly expedient that surgeons in general practice, having more than one qualification, and constituting a large majority of the medical profession, should be represented in the aforesaid Council.

Your memorialists, therefore, respectfully pray—

That in the nomination of members by the Crown, the interests of the general practitioners in medicine and surgery should be consulted, by the appointment of members of their own grade, either in London or in the provinces.

Signed on behalf of the Manchester Medico-Ethical Association,

JOSEPH STONE, M.D. } Honorary
JONATHAN WILSON. } Secretaries.
Manchester, August 21st, 1858.

THE MILITARY LUNATIC ASYLUM AT CHATHAM. Mr. Gaskin, one of the Commissioners in Lunacy, accompanied by Dr. J. R. Taylor, C.B., principal medical officer at Chatham, and Colonel M. Williams, commanding Royal Engineer, paid a visit to the Military Lunatic Asylum at Fort Pitt, Chatham, on Monday and Tuesday, for the purpose of making an inspection of that establishment. The asylum is built within the fortifications, the site being well chosen. At the present time it is filled with patients, nearly the whole of whom have been sent home insane from India and the colonies. On each day the Commissioner spent several hours in the asylum, and instituted a rigid inspection of every part of the establishment. Several of the arrangements connected with the asylum appear to be faulty, and are required to be immediately remedied. The building itself is not large enough to contain the number of insane soldiers who are at present occupying it with a due regard to their health and personal comfort. The exercise-grounds, too, were found to be exceedingly confined, the patients having but a comparatively very limited space in which to take exercise, while in wet and damp weather they are almost precluded from taking any exercise at all, except under a covered walk or verandah. The Commissioner, during his inspection, made several suggestions to the military authorities, having for their object the comfort of the insane patients. There are scarcely any amusements provided for the patients, and directions were given that they should be allowed to play various games—as billiards, bowls, and other things—to excite their attention and stimulate their activity. The entire establishment was found to be in very good order. The Commissioner during his visit minutely inspected the several wards, sleeping-rooms, bath-rooms, cooking-house, etc., all of which are in a satisfactory state.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THOUGHTS, IN RE APOTHECARY. DEDICATED TO THE SINGLESTICKS OF THE PROFESSION.

To pass, or not to pass, that is the question.
Whether 't were nobler 'gainst the law to practise,
And set the Hall or College at defiance,
Or to grind up for the Apothecaries,
And by thus grinding pass them? To grind—to pass
The Hall—and passing thus, to say we mend
The bother and the thousand natural ills
Physic is heir to 't is a consumption
Devoutly to be wished. To grind? To pass?
To pass! perchance be plucked—eye, there's the rub.
For in thus trying to pass, what slips may come
Ere we have shuffled through that dreadful hall
Must give us pause:—there's the respect
That makes th'unqualified so long hang back.
Who'd be unqualified
And fear to even gather in his bills,
But that the dread of something like being plucked,—
That most unpleasant nuisance, from whose slur
No Doctor e'er recovers,—puzzles the will,
And makes us rather bear those ills we have
Than fly to others that we know not of?
Thus passing doth make cowards of us all,
And thus the doctor's air of re-solution
Is sicklied with the dread of getting plucked:
And good intentions of great pith and moment,
With this regard, their currents turn away
And lose the name of action. D.

Communications have been received from:—DR. LAYCOCK; MR. A. W. DUMVILLE; MR. S. DREW; DR. LADE; DR. H. LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS; MR. H. L. SMITH; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; DR. H. HAYNES; MR. C. HALLETT; DR. W. P. ALISON; DR. MATTHEWS DUNCAN; DR. JOSEPH STONE; MR. YEARSLEY; MR. R. GRIFFIN; DR. T. OGIER WARD; PROFESSOR MILLER; MR. HOLMES COOTE; DR. JOHN WATSON; MR. H. G. TREND; DR. T. SKINNER; MR. F. H. HARTSHORNE; MR. WILLIAM BLOWER; MR. T. HOLMES; DR. A. WOOD; DR. J. G. DAVEY; MR. G. WHYMPER; and MR. T. M. STONE.