

THE ELECTION AT THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—SIR: As a member of the British Medical Association, I feel it my duty to protest against the course taken by the Association in the instance of the election to the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons. One of the chief objects of the British Medical Association, as it appears to me, is, or ought to be, the endeavour to promote unity and harmony amongst its members; but this object is necessarily frustrated when the Association proceeds to the selection of one of its members in preference to another, as its favoured candidate for a vacant office. In the present instance, and also on the occasion of the election of 1865, I feel that I have just reason to complain of this preference, and the more so, as the rights of seniority are, in my case, ignored by the Association. It cannot be doubted that I am the senior candidate in the field; and, unless in my professional career I have acted in a manner dishonourable to the profession of which I am a member, or am of proved incompetency, I can see no reason why I should be discountenanced pushed aside to make way for a junior, however superior to my own and brilliant his qualifications may be. Such a proceeding amounts practically to the verdict, that I am unfit for the office for which I have the honour to be a candidate.

I beg the insertion of this note in the JOURNAL of the British Medical Association; and am, etc.,

ERASMUS WILSON, F.R.S.

17, Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square, June 12th, 1866.

VOLUNTEER UNIFORMS.—SIR: In reply to the inquiry of F.R.C.S., in your issue of May 26th, the following may prove useful to all volunteer surgeons. Their appointments ought to be similar to those in the regular service; the volunteer using silver where gold is used in the regulars, and *vice versa*. Thus—

Surgeons. The tunic and trousers of their corps; cocked hat with green plume, silver loop and button, and silver tassels; black pouch belt, with medical staff star in front, silver ends, buckle, and slide. The pouch is not a cartridge-box, but a case of instruments, similar to a pocket-case, which folds up, to resemble a pouch. **Black sword-belt**, except in the artillery, which is *white*. In corps where dress-belts are worn, such as the artillery, the surgeons and assistant-surgeons wear the silver sword-belt on state occasions; but all the medical service are restricted to the black pouch-belt. The lace on the tunic of the surgeon is the same as the major's, with the major's gold star on the collar.

The surgeon wears spurs, being a field officer, and of major's rank; and here I may give a hint to all surgeons. When they make their annual return of taxable articles, they should, if they keep a horse or horses, accompany their return with a certificate from their commanding officer, to the effect that, "being a field officer of volunteers, they have used a horse in Her Majesty's service within the year", and claim exemption from the tax for one horse.

The assistant-surgeon differs from the surgeon only in the absence of spurs, and wearing the lieutenant's lace and collar badges; unless he be of five years' standing, when he ranks as captain, and wears the lace and badge of such. The assistant-surgeon of a company is the same as assistant-surgeon.

Trusting this information may be of service to the medical officers of volunteers generally, I am, etc.,

May 29th, 1866.

VOLUNTEER SURGEON.

CLITORIDOTOMY.—SIR: I have no intention of entering upon the discussion of the propriety or the value of the removal of the clitoris as a curative measure, which is engaging the attention of some of your correspondents, and prefer to clothe myself "under the mantle of an anonymous contribution." But I would suggest that the first point to determine should be, whether or not the clitoris is of any importance to the female. The old opinion—"as the clitoris is the seat of pleasure during the act of coitus, nymphomania might possibly be cured by extirpating the organ"—appears to be too hastily assumed as correct. I venture to call this opinion in question, and even to go so far as to say that it is of little importance whether it be present or is absent. No doubt, it is largely supplied with spinal nerves; which are, apparently, for no one has ever traced them, distributed to the glans, and is endowed with much sensibility. But the lower portion of the vagina, and the organs in the vulva, receive an equal amount of spinal nerves from the same source, and are equally sensitive organs; whilst the erectile tissue at the lower and anterior part of the vagina, immediately behind the symphysis pubis, is furnished with even a larger supply of spinal nerves than the preceding organs. There can be no difficulty in determining what organ or organs are the seat of pleasure during coitus, if this has not been already decided by the cases recorded. But I venture to say, it is in these last named organs, and especially in the vaginal erectile tissue, that the chief seat of pleasure is placed. The vagina is not a mere sheath which receives the male intro-mittent organ, but a part largely supplied with sentient nerves and largely endowed with sensation. It is these parts which are chiefly engaged in the act of coition; and, so long as their sensibility remains, it is of little import whether the clitoris be present, or have been removed.

The operation for the removal of the clitoris is easily performed, and is devoid of danger—its removal of little consequence, except in very exceptional cases. Why then should such importance be attached to a harmless operative procedure upon so rudimentary an organ?

I am, etc., F.R.S.

June 4th, 1866.

STATISTICS OF CANCER.—Mr. Moore has the pleasure to acknowledge the return of "Registers for Cases of Cancer", from T. W. Benfield, F.R.C.S., Leicester; John Barclay, M.D., Banff; Arthur Ransome, M.D., and Rawson Senior, Esq., Bowdon, Manchester; T. W. Nunn, F.R.C.S., 8, Stratford Place, London.

THE GRIFFIN TESTIMONIAL.—SIR: In consequence of the paucity of my answers in favour thereof, the Committee of the above Fund has given up the idea of a banquet to Mr. Griffin.

As doubtless the College election will bring some medical men to London, it is intended to make the presentation on July 5th proximo, unless the Poor-Law Board should fix some other day to receive Mr. Griffin's deputation. In this latter case, the Testimonial will be given him immediately after the interview with the President.

The time and place will be duly notified by printed circular.

The Testimonial is now on view at the manufacturers, Messrs. Mappin and Webb, 71 and 72, Cornhill.

Intending subscribers, who have not forwarded me either their subscriptions or their *cartes de visite*, will obligingly do so without delay.

I am, etc., ROBERT FOWLER, M.D.,

Treasurer and Hon. Sec.

145, Bishopsgate Street Without, June 13th, 1866.

COMMUNICATIONS have been received from:—Mr. RICHARD GRIFFIN; Mr. McKEAND; Mr. A. C. MACLAREN; SIR HENRY COOPER; Dr. J. B. PITT; Mr. R. S. FOWLER; Dr. D. NOBLE; AN OLD HAND; Dr. THOMAS SKINNER; Dr. HEYGATE; Dr. JAMES RUSSELL; Dr. T. SHAFER; Dr. G. JOHNSON; Dr. C. HANDFIELD JONES; Dr. BROADBENT; Dr. THORNBURN; Mr. REYNOLDS; Mr. PARKER; Dr. T. M. ROOKE; Dr. H. MACKINTOSH; Mr. J. BAXTER LANGLEY; OBSERVER; Dr. R. FOWLER; Dr. W. M. KELLY; Dr. S. H. STEEL; Dr. SMALLMAN; Mr. T. M. STONE; Mr. ERASMUS WILSON; THE HON. SECRETARIES OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY; Mr. BREMIDGE; Dr. E. CRISP; Dr. C. R. DRYSDALE; and Dr. A. GAMGEE.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ESTABLISHED 1843.

Mr. J. Baxter Langley, M.R.C.S.
Eng., F.L.S. (late of King's College, London), PROFESSIONAL AGENCY, 50, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

Somerset.—On the sea coast, a transferable Practice for sale. Established five years. Annual returns upwards of £500. Easily worked appointments yield £100 a year, and afford an excellent introduction to family practice. Premium moderate. Satisfactory reasons for retirement.—Address "T., 939," Mr. Langley, as above.

In an agricultural district, a good Country Practice for transfer. Income £450 a year. Appointments £130. House (with ten acres of land, optional) rent £35. Premium moderate, and in part payable by instalments.—Address "T., 938," Mr. Langley, as above.

Partnership.—There is an opening for a junior partner in a London practice yielding from £1600 to £1700 a year. Midwifery fees from £1:1 to £5:5, the average being £3:3.—Address "T., 937," Mr. Langley, as above.

South Coast.—In a good town, an old established Practice for transfer, in consequence of the ill health of the vendor. Income (exclusive of consultations and cash receipts which have not been booked) £750. Appointments £200. No midwifery under £1:1. The whole connexion is believed to be transferable.—Address "T., 933," Mr. Langley, as above.

London.—For immediate transfer, an easily worked private Practice in a populous district. Average receipts for last three years £500. Appointments £150. Cash receipts during the year £170. No assistant kept. No horse required.—Address "T., 930," Mr. Langley, as above.

Devon.—In one of the most thriving towns, with a population of nearly two thousand, a Practice for transfer. The opposition is quite unimportant. Average income about £500. References can be given to some of the leading medical men in the county. Appointments £100. House and very convenient premises, garden and field; rent £30.—Address "T., 915," Mr. Langley, as above.

Surgical Instruments.—Arnold & SONS continue to supply Instruments of the best workmanship at moderate prices, manufactured on the premises under their own superintendence.

ARNOLD & SONS, 35 and 36 West Smithfield, E.C.
Established 1819.