

REPRESENTATION OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN PARLIAMENT.

SIR,—In reading, the other day, a short biography of Dr. John Brady, M.P. for Leitrim, in the *Illustrated London News* for February 7th, 1863, the following paragraph struck me particularly. "We have but to contrast the state of things in continental countries with that in our own, to lend additional light to the question why, in our comprehensive system, are our medical and surgical colleges and schools unrepresented? While to this demand no satisfactory answer can be given, there must remain a serious defect in the system, towards whose perfection it is the duty of all to strive with the utmost of their will and ability."

Surely, sir, this defect in our legislature cannot continue much longer. One would think that the College of Physicians and College of Surgeons in London ought to return at least one member, and likewise the sister colleges in Edinburgh and Dublin. I believe the subject only has to be efficiently and persistently ventilated for the Government to see that something in this direction is urgently required. Could not the Association help this question forward?—Yours truly,
10, Langhorne Gardens, Folkestone. W. J. TYSON.

SIR,—I shall be greatly obliged if you, or any member of the Association who has given special attention to the subject, will publish in the correspondence column a list of the diseases in which the presence of germs has been demonstrated to be the exciting cause. I believe that many besides myself will be glad to receive the information.—I am, etc., L. K.

* * The following diseases have been shown to be caused by micro-organisms: anthrax; septicæmia in mice (three forms); septicæmia in rabbits, fowls, etc., probably the same as Pasteur's "chicken cholera"; pyæmia in rabbits; spreading abscess-formation in rabbits; malignant œdema; progressive necrosis of tissue in mice; symptomatic anthrax: acute tuberculosis in animals (?)—still *sub judice*. The following are very probably due to micro-organisms, but the absolute proof (cultivation apart from the body) has not yet been furnished: relapsing fever; erysipelas; typhoid fever. Several forms of fungi cause general diseases in animals, the diseases being known as actino-mycoses.

DOG-FLAAS.

"A CONSTANT SUBSCRIBER" wishes to know if any of our contributors can inform him whether the flea which infests the dog will spread to man. We believe that the dog-flea will not live or thrive on the human body, but it certainly bites, and causes great annoyance for a few hours.

SIR,—Could you, or any of your readers, kindly tell me how I might obtain a post as surgeon on board a steamer in the Peninsular and Oriental Company?—I am, etc., SURGEON AND PHYSICIAN.

AN UNUSUAL DEMAND.

SIR,—Will you kindly favour me with your opinion in the following case? A gentleman suffered severe injuries from the fault of a public company; the company demanded several medical examinations, which were granted, and took place. At the last consultation, a medical gentleman acting for the company refused to examine the case unless the other medical men, "four in number", left the room. I should like to have the benefit of your opinion as to whether such a course is not decidedly unusual, as it has been my lot to have been employed upon very many similar occasions, without such a demand having been made; and, also, whether it does not infringe upon the etiquette usually observed among members of our profession, in casting an imputation of unfairness upon the medical men then present; and believe me, yours very faithfully,

CHARLES K. D. TANNER, M.D.

Lapps Island, Cork, September 19th, 1882.

* * There can be no question that such a demand is "decidedly unusual"; but we do not think that it necessarily casts an imputation of unfairness upon the other medical men concerned.

"BENTLEY GREEN" should apply to the Secretary, Her Majesty's Convict Prisons, Whitehall.

CAUTION TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

A MAN, about 5 feet 8½ inches in height, and apparently about thirty-five years of age, has been calling and raising money on the false pretence that he is a doctor from a town in Lancashire, and is in temporary difficulty from his own imprudence. He wants "to get an advance sufficient to take him home, and he will remit the amount immediately on his return." He is very plausible, and is very conversant with the names of persons in Inverness and neighbourhood; also with those of professors and medical practitioners of Aberdeen and Edinburgh. The last place at which he was known to be begging is Belfast.

SIR,—A patient of mine, aged 72, has for the last two years suffered from giddiness, which is worse during the morning than any other time. Several of his brothers and sister have suffered severely from gout, and he himself has from subacute gout in the bulb of the great toe. At times, the giddiness is accompanied by a feeling as though the lower extremities were giving way, and that he must fall. The memory is, and has been, quite strong. All through last winter, the tongue was very foul. His chief occupation consists in walking about his grounds, and watching his men at work building, gardening, etc. The pulse has ranged for some time between 76 and 80. I am sending a report of this case in the hope that you will kindly let it appear in your next issue, and that some of your many readers will give me an opinion as to the cause of the above symptoms.—I am, sir, yours truly,
P. B. PRING, Surgeon.

EARTH-CLOSETS.

SIR,—Referring to "M.B.'s" kind reply to the query on this subject, will he be good enough to add the name and address of the publisher of Mr. Armstrong's pamphlet?—I am, etc., J. T.

SYPHILIS.

SIR,—In answer to "A Junior Member of the Profession and Association" (*BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL*, September 16th), I advise him to consult Fournier on *Syphilis v. Marriage*, translated by Alfred Lingard.—I am, etc., E. N. S.

SIR,—Could you, or some of your numerous readers, inform a member of any place where a young man of intemperate habits could be received and looked well after, with a chance of curing him of his propensity. He is of the middle class, but the means of his friends are very limited.—Your obedient servant,
A MEMBER.

SIR,—A young lady, a patient of mine, is anxious to get rid of a moustache, which, if her hair were light, would hardly be enough to show, but, being black, it is very visible. Can any professional brother advise me of an effective and innocuous remedy?—I am, etc., A MEMBER, B.M.A.

THE BOYLSTON PRIZE.

SIR,—Can you or any of your readers inform me where to obtain particulars respecting the "Boylston Medical Prize", the subject for which this year is, I believe, measles?—Yours, etc., MORBILLI.

* * The subjects for 1883 are, 1, Measles, German Measles, and their Counterfeits; 2, the Differential Diagnosis of Abdominal Tumours, especially those connected with the Genito-Urinary Organs. The premium to the author of an essay on either of these subjects, considered worthy of a prize, will be 200 dollars. Full official particulars concerning the prize will be found in the *JOURNAL* of July 30th, 1881, p. 163.

W. S. S. is directed to Section 31 of the Medical Act, 1858, according to which, "registered persons are entitled to practise medicine or surgery, or medicine and surgery, as the case may be, according to their qualification or qualifications."

HISTORY OF TREPHINING.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to say that "Hospital Surgeon" will find what he wants in the seventh volume (page 1, etc.) of the French translation of Sprengel's *History of Medicine*.

ERRATA.—In page 539, third line from the bottom, for "Caye" read "Gaye". In Dr. Harkin's paper on Rheumatism and Gout, in last week's *JOURNAL*, at page 554, after the author's name, add "Foreign Associate of the French Society of Hygiene". On page 555, column 1, line 20, for "were" read "was"; column 2, line 1, omit "soon after"; line 17 from bottom, for "well" read "free"; line 11 from bottom, omit "the absence of the second sound"; line 7 from bottom, for "not was" read "was not". There was an error in Professor K. R. Parker's paper last week (page 571), where it was stated that the "second gill of *Lepidosteus* is rudimentary and evanescent". It does not exist in the larva, but appears afterwards not on the arch, but inside the operculum.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, etc., have been received from:—

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