

AN APPEAL: THE RAWLE FUND.

MR. W. BROOK (Fareham) has received in aid of Mr. Rawle (see BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of July 3rd) the following sums in addition to those previously noted:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. C. E. Winkworth	0 10 6
A. O. A.	10 0 0
Mr. Bretherton	1 0 0

Any further sum would be highly acceptable, as the total at present received is only £24 5s. 6d.

DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF THE PROFESSION ON THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

"NOT A CLUB DOCTOR" writes as follows: I have been favoured with circulars expressing the views of most of the candidates in the field, but I regret to note the absence from all of them of any proposal for dealing with what appears to me to be a most vital point as regards the status of our profession at large, and of general practitioners in particular, namely, the question of fees charged for professional services, and the lamentable amount of underselling which prevails amongst a considerable section of our body, and nowhere perhaps to a greater extent than in the metropolis, where it is by no means uncommon to find men driving their brougham and pair, visiting and supplying medicine for the modest remuneration of eighteen pence. To this abuse is referable, I believe, that absence of good fellowship which prevails to such an extent in our ranks, each man regarding his neighbour as an opponent, rather than a fellow-worker; it contributes in no small degree to lower our prestige in the eyes of the public. It prevails in no other profession; why should it in ours, the most noble of all? I would venture to suggest, therefore, that a fixed scale of minimum charges be formulated, and made compulsory on all practitioners, and that legal powers be obtained to compel their observance; thus, for example, 2s. 6d. to be the minimum fee for consultation and medicine, or visit and medicine within a definite limit, rural or urban, as the case may be. One guinea to be the minimum midwifery fee (to meet the legitimate wants of the poorer classes, I would advocate the locating of certificated midwives in all populous centres). Clubs (a) of men only, as Oddfellows, etc., three shillings per quarter per man; (b) family clubs, such as prevail in all manufacturing and colliery districts, six shillings per quarter each family.

The miserable stipend doled out at present for this class of contract work is in the main attributable to the unhealthy competition among general practitioners for all such appointments, each underselling the other; so that the successful candidate tries to do as little as he can for his money. This class of practice I regard as the *bête noire* of the profession.

The same remarks also apply to union appointments, whose niggardly salaries are also kept so low by competition—a grievance which can easily be amended by a general refusal to accept them except for adequate remuneration, and the establishment of a proper *esprit de corps* amongst us.

I would like to have answered by anticipation certain objections to which the proposal I have indicated is open; but your request for brevity is before my eyes.

THE FOOTBALL-ACCIDENT SEASON.

MR. HOWARD LOWE, Medical Officer (Trinity College, Glenalmond, N.B.), writes: Your note under the above heading, in the JOURNAL of October 30th, serves a good purpose in recalling attention to the frequency of accidents from football, but I think you would be doing a greater service to the science of hygiene if you would promote an inquiry into the causes of the accidents, with a view to procuring such alterations of the rules of the game as would prevent or minimise them, instead of advocating the suppression of what, all who have played it will tell you, is one of the most exhilarating and health-giving of our out-door sports. In schools such as this, it would be impossible to over-estimate the importance of football to the boys, both physically and morally, coming, as it does, at a time of year when so few out-door games are possible.

But also in the case of medical students, and other young men who have to live in the centre of our large towns, I submit that football supplies a much needed opportunity for vigorous exercise in the open air, and affords a powerful counter-attraction to the pleasures of town-life (which, even when harmless, have little to recommend them physically). The way in which accidents occur could, in nearly all cases, be ascertained, and such an investigation would, I think, soon lead to their almost entire prevention.

MR. W. S. GODFREY (Northampton) writes: I read with some amount of indignation your article entitled "The Football-Accident Season"; it is really and truly a misrepresentation of the facts of the game. That football is a somewhat dangerous game I do not deny; I do deny that it is more dangerous than hunting; and can say, without fear of contradiction, that there is little to choose between the dangers of football and cricket. Taking my own personal experience, I have now played each game for ten years, and, up to this moment, have received no serious injury from either game. During the whole of these football seasons I have scarcely missed playing on any one Saturday, and have often, also, played on a Thursday. I have received no injury sufficient to prevent me playing on each succeeding Saturday until this year, when, owing to a breach of the rules in being "mauled" after I had "called down," received a trivial injury which prevented me from playing on the next Saturday; but I was again in the football field in a county match on the Thursday following. During my whole experience, I have seen but two accidents in the football field (other than the most trivial), and these were but simple fractures.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS etc., have been received from:

Mr. Thorburn, Manchester; The Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh; Mr. J. Whitehouse, Sunderland; Mr. P. Mail, Bradford, Yorks.; Mr. G. Stillingfleet Johnson, London; Dr. A. Corry, Tredegar, Monmouthshire; Mr. J. Alcock, Burslem; Mr. F. Howard Humphries, Edinburgh; Mr. A. R. Barnes, Boreham, Hastings; Mr. F. E. Hart, Geraldton, West Australia; Mr. Shirley Murphy, London; Dr. Andrew Wilson, Edinburgh; Our Newcastle Correspondent; Dr. Bernard O'Connor, London; Miss Chadwick, Tunbridge Wells; Mr. T. Holmes, London; Mr. N. Dobson, Clifton; Mr. Frederick Treves, London; Mr. E. Creswell Baber, Brighton; Mr. E. Davies, Vochriw; Dr. Theodore Cash, London; Mr. W. Barnes, Manchester; Dr. David B. Smith, Woolston; Mr. Mayo Robson, Leeds; Mr. W. Boulting, London; Messrs. F. King and Co., Limited, Belfast; Dr. W. J. Magee, Bolton; Dr. Stockwell,

Bruton; Mr. A. Hill Griffith, Manchester; Dr. Fishbourne, London; Secretary of the State Board of Health, Albany, New York; The Honorary Secretaries, Hospitals Association; Dr. Rogers, London; Mr. J. Irving, Huddersfield; Mr. G. W. Bloxam, London; Mr. W. H. Pearce, Bromley; Mrs. Bree, Long Melford; Dr. Davies, Chicago; Mr. W. Curran, London; Dr. A. H. V. Lewers, London; Our Manchester Correspondent; Mr. J. Williams, Brecon; Dr. Edge, Manchester; The Honorary Secretary of the Harveian Society, London; Dr. Goodhart, London; Sir B. W. Foster, Birmingham; Mr. F. Horricks, St. Kilda, Melbourne; Mr. J. Dixon, Dorking; Dr. W. Murrell, London; Mr. S. V. Instone, London; Mr. W. Jago, Brighton; Dr. S. D. Darbshire, Oxford; Mr. J. V. Heale, Orpington; Mr. W. J. Gurly, Leyton; Mr. W. L. Hunter, Pudsey; Mr. B. H. Allen, Hastings; Dr. Creswell Rich, Liverpool; Mr. J. B. Mattison, Brooklyn; Mr. Ellis Lever, Manchester; Mr. Ernest E. Maddox, Over Norton, Chipping Norton; Mr. E. O. Day, London; Mr. P. W. Fraser, London; Dr. Nathan Allen, Toronto; Mr. J. Hargreave Mawson, Bradford; Dr. F. Foote, Rotherham; Mr. F. J. Grindon, Olney; Dr. J. Buxton, Blackpool; Mr. George Eastes, London; Mr. F. Keene, London; Mr. George Stoker, London; Dr. W. Hale White, London; Dr. Mosse, London; Mr. James Oliver, London; Dr. F. H. Sinclair, Belfast; Mr. A. E. Bath, Devonport; Dr. J. Hutchison, Shawlands, Glasgow; Mr. T. Duncan, Kinross, N.B.; Dr. A. Mantle, Stanley, Durham; Mr. J. Firth, Worthing; Mr. W. A. Aiken, Leamington; Mr. W. Duncan, Ridgway, Frome; Mr. C. H. Phillips, Hanley; Messrs. Burgoyne and Co., London; Mr. George E. Walker, Liverpool; Dr. W. Hepenhol Ormsby, Dublin; Dr. Lowe, London; Dr. R. J. Collie, Sunderland; Dr. M. R. Ryan, Chatham; Mr. C. Greville, Birmingham; Mr. F. H. Thompson, Cleobury Mortimer; Mr. E. Godwin Clayton, London; Dr. C. Roberts, London; The Honorary Secretary of the Nottingham Medico-Chirurgical Society; Dr. C. A. Morris, Liverpool; Mr. Simeon Snell, Sheffield; Mr. D. G. Thin, Kingstown; Mr. C. Harris, Whitehaven; Mr. J. G. Roberts, Amlwch, Anglesey; Dr. Mackey, Hove, Brighton; Mr. W. Eassie, London; Messrs. T. Brainsby and Sons, Peterborough; Dr. J. Hurley, Bath; Mr. H. T. Batchelor, Queenstown, Cape Colony; Dr. J. W. Hunt, London; Dr. C. R. Illingworth, Accrington; Mr. J. W. Irvine, Accrington; Mr. C. H. Wells, London; Dr. W. A. Algie, Portpatrick; Mr. Edmund Owen, London; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Dr. W. Ireland, Prestopans; Mr. Adams Frost, London; Mr. Reginald Harrison, Liverpool; Dr. Robert Saundby, Birmingham; Mr. Bruce Clarke, London; Dr. R. H. Hingston Fox, London; Dr. Steavenson, London; Mr. Robert Kirk, Glasgow; Our Belfast Correspondent; Dr. J. Hughlings Jackson, London; Dr. Thomas Oliver, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. A. Cohen, London; Our Edinburgh Correspondent; Mr. J. H. Morgan, London; Mr. Mark H. Judge, London; Professor Thomas R. Fraser, Edinburgh; Mr. E. H. Andrews, Watford; Dr. J. Stuart Nairne, Glasgow; Mr. H. Hall, Birmingham; Dr. Playfair, Sunderland; The Secretary to the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain; The Secretary of the University of London; Mr. James West, London; Mr. T. Spurgin, London; Mr. J. R. Upton, London; Dr. J. R. Kealy, Gosport; Mr. H. T. Butlin, London; Mr. Meredith, London; Dr. A. P. Fiddian, Cardiff; Dr. Biss, London; Mr. Victor Horsley, London; Dr. G. V. Poore, London; Mr. J. Herbert Menzies, London; Dr. F. R. Lee Strathy, Harboune; Mr. James Fallon, Dublin; Dr. J. W. Moore, Dublin; Dr. Sheen, Cardiff; Mr. L. M. Snow, Brabourne; Dr. Maxwell, London; Sir T. Spencer Wells, London; Mr. J. B. Medland, London; The Dean of St. Mary's Hospital School; Dr. Urquhart, Perth; Mr. J. Booth Clarkson, London; Mr. E. Sandwell, London; Dr. Sturges, London; Dr. Felix Semon, London; etc.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Calendar of University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire: Fourth Session, 1886-87. Cardiff: D. Owen and Co. 1886.

Ambulance Lectures. By J. M. H. Martin, M.D., with illustrations. London: J. and A. Churchill. 1886.

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