

a gentleman called from the Ayre's Quay Bottle Company, and requested Mr. Torbock to spare no pains for her recovery, and they would bear all expenses. The attendance of the plaintiff was required for about four months; and some time after her restoration to health, he made out his bill. At the professional rate of charges, the amount exceeded 50*l.*; but the plaintiff, taking into consideration all the circumstances of the case, struck off 10*l.*, and sent in a bill for 40*l.* 5*s.* The defendants, however, objected to the sum charged, and proposed a reference. The plaintiff at once acceded to the proposal, and referees were appointed; but they could not come to an agreement, and the plaintiff was compelled to seek redress in a court of law. The defendants seemed to think, that the plaintiff ought to have sent them such a bill as he would have presented to the poor woman herself, had the payment of the charge devolved upon her. This was obviously absurd. The injury was caused by the defendants, and it was only fair that the bill should be made out according to their station in life, and not with reference to the poverty of the aged widow. The plaintiff, with a commendable spirit, had made a very handsome deduction, in consideration of the sacrifice which the defendants were called upon to make; but with this they were not satisfied, and he had very properly resisted their attempt to deprive him of the fair remuneration of his skill and attention.

The particulars of the case, as stated by the learned counsel, having been established by several witnesses, Mr. John Croudace and Mr. Edward Malin proved that the charge was a reasonable one, and that the medicines and attendances were all required.

The defence set up by Mr. Dundas for Messrs. Laing & Co. was, that the charge was exorbitant, and that the surgeon's bill should have been made out with reference to the humble condition of the poor patient, and not to that of the defendants.

In support of this theory, Mr. George Green, of Sunderland, Mr. William Green, of Durham, Mr. W. J. Dodd, of Monkwearmouth, and Mr. William Mordey, of Sunderland, were called to demonstrate the exorbitant nature of the charge; these gentlemen would have thought from ten to twenty pounds amply sufficient remuneration.

The learned judge, (Baron Rolfe,) in his address to the jury, observed, that there existed an anomalous state of things in the medical profession—a system of charging different rates to the rich and the poor, the rich making some atonement to medical gentlemen for the sacrifice which they made in their attendance on the poor. This was, in many respects, a beneficial state of things; and it raised a question for the jury in this case, viz. whether the bill of the plaintiff ought to be regulated by the high or the low scale of charges. The defendants had requested the plaintiff to attend upon the poor woman—and to bestow every possible attention upon the case. They had made themselves liable to payment of the bill; and the jury were to decide whether the charge ought to be regulated by the circumstances of the defendants or the patient. If the former, the weight of evidence, he thought, went to show that the sum paid into court was not sufficient; if the latter, then it seemed to him that it ought to suffice.

Verdict for the plaintiff for 40*l.* 5*s.*

SIR ASTLEY COOPER, BART. F.R.S.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—Many inquiries having been made as to the appearance of a "Life of Sir Astley Cooper," I beg to inform you, for the information of the profession, that this distinguished surgeon has left ample materials for a most interesting biography, now in the hands of his nephew, Bransby Cooper, Esq. by whom the whole will be arranged and prepared for speedy publication.

A new edition of his beautifully illustrated work on the

"Testis," which received the author's final additions, has passed through the press. The plates are now in process of colouring, and the volume will be issued during the present month.

His work on "Dislocations" I am now preparing to publish on an octavo size, with the plates re-drawn, engraved on wood in the best style, and printed with the text, carefully edited, with additions, by B. Cooper, Esq. This practical work will be offered at a price to make it available to every student of surgery.—I am, your obedient servant,

JOHN CHURCHILL.

Prince's-street, Soho, March 1st, 1841.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MARCH 8.

NEW POOR-LAW BILL.

MR. WAKLEY, after some observations on the proposed alterations of Lord John Russell, asked the noble lord whether it was his intention to make any change with respect to the medical department under the bill. He was aware that several deputations of medical men had waited on the noble lord, and that several very important suggestions as to the best mode of medical attendance and treatment in unions had been made, and he hoped that as he was then about to remodel the bill, he would introduce and give his sanction to some of those salutary medical improvements which had been suggested.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL replied, that it had been found that great improvements had been already made in the medical department, under the authority and inspection of the guardians; and he thought it would be much better to leave it under such *improving care*, than to make it the subject of special legislative enactment.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

AT a meeting of the council, on Wednesday, the 3d instant, Benjamin Travers, Esq. was elected an examiner, and John Flint South, Esq., (both of St. Thomas's Hospital,) a member of the council, in the vacancies occasioned by the lamented decease of Sir Astley Paston Cooper, Bart.

LIST OF GENTLEMEN ADMITTED MEMBERS,

On Friday, March 5, 1841.

John Wheatley Hiron, Smith Hobson, George Thomas Vicary, Raymond Levi Haynes, John Spencer, Charles Colville Turner, Henry James Penny, Frederick Wright, William Todd White, John Buck Stedman, John Gray, Walter Rice Howell Barker, Edward Brunker Thring, Richard Yaul.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL

JOURNAL, Edited by Dr. HENNIS GREEN (London), and Dr. STREETEN (Worcester).

At a late branch-meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association at Bridgewater, it was unanimously resolved, "That the meeting take this opportunity of strongly stating their satisfaction that the PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL has been established, and pledge themselves to give their cordial support to the Editors in their laudable undertaking."

The chief objects of the JOURNAL are—1st, To represent in an adequate manner, Medical Science in the Provinces. 2d, To serve as an organ of communication between the members of the different Associations throughout the Kingdom. The JOURNAL (being stamped) can be forwarded by post to any part of the British dominions.

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