

ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF ASYLUMS AND HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE. On Monday afternoon, a special meeting of this Association was, by desire of the President, Dr. Conolly, D.C.L., held at the Great Western Hotel, Paddington, to take into consideration the provisions of Mr. Walpole's new Lunacy Bills, and proposed select committee of inquiry into the operation of the existing lunacy laws. The President took the chair; and, in addition to Dr. Conolly, there were present, among numerous medical officers of lunacy asylums, Dr. Bucknill, Dr. Lockhart Robertson (Hon. Secretary of the Association), Dr. Stevens, Dr. Davey, Dr. Wynter, Dr. Hood, Dr. Forbes Winslow, Dr. Burnett, Dr. Bartlett, Dr. Blandford, Dr. Harrington Tuke, Dr. Boisragon, Dr. Webster, Dr. Wood, Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Miller, Dr. Prichard, Dr. Stillwell, Dr. Stevenson Bushnan, Dr. Chevalier, Mr. Bolden, etc. The chairman, in opening the proceedings, reviewed the provisions of the Bills referred to, and stated his objections to them. A special committee of the members of the committee of management of the Association was then appointed to cooperate with the committee at Edinburgh in watching the further proceedings in the case of these Bills before Parliament; and Mr. E. Conolly, barrister-at-law, was appointed honorary secretary. The injurious portion of the Bills, and the blame and discredit they cast on the whole body of medical men engaged in the treatment of lunatic diseases, and keeping private asylums for the insane, were then expatiated upon at some length by Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Burnett, Dr. Forbes Winslow, and Dr. Bucknill; after which Dr. Davey moved a resolution, which was unanimously carried, that the meeting deprecated most strongly the provisions in the Bills for the appointment of medical examiners, and receiving their reports. Another resolution was also passed, protesting against practitioners in lunacy being precluded from signing certificates. On the motion of Dr. Forbes Winslow, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to consider a plan to be submitted to Mr. Walpole:—Dr. Conolly, Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Tuke, Dr. Bucknill, W. Ley, Esq., Dr. Stevens, Dr. Lockhart Robertson, Dr. Seaton, Sir C. Hastings, Dr. Forbes Winslow, Dr. Wood, Dr. Hood, Dr. Wynter, Dr. Paul, and the Scotch and Irish Secretaries of the Association.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD. Mr. Scholefield, M.P., has revived his Bill "For Preventing the Adulteration of Articles of Food or Drink." It imposes a penalty (not yet fixed) on every person vending or exposing for sale any article of food or drink with which, to the knowledge of such person, any noxious ingredient has been mixed. More than this, the name, residence, and offence, of the offender will be published (at his own expense) in the newspapers or otherwise, at the discretion of the magistrates. Vestries and district boards and town councils are authorised to appoint analysts, possessing competent medical, chemical, and microscopical knowledge. Purchasers of provisions may have their purchases (of food and drink) analysed by these officials on payment of a fee of 2s. 6d. to 10s. 6d., and the certificate of the analyst will be made evidence against the fraudulent vendor. The Privy Council is empowered to cause analyses to be made, and to regulate the use of materials or ingredients distinct from the natural composition of any article of food or drink with which it may be mixed. Thus chicory, used to adulterate coffee; *cocculus indicus* and treacle, used by brewers to adulterate porter; red lead, used to make "cayenne pepper;" vitriol, used to counterfeit acetic acid, or vinegar; and logwood, used in the manufacture of "port wine," would come within this category. The Act is not to extend to either of the sister kingdoms.

THE STAMP DUTY ON DIPLOMAS. A deputation on the subject of the repeal of the stamp duty on the diploma of a fellow, and on the licence to practise physic granted by the Royal College of Physicians of London, had an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Wednesday last, at his official residence in Downing Street. The deputation consisted of Dr. Mayo, President of the College; Dr. Francis Hawkins; Dr. Alderson, Treasurer; Dr. Sutherland, Senior Censor; Dr. Pitman, Registrar; and Mr. Barrow, M.P.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM. At a Convocation held on March 1, graces were passed to the effect that the medical school of King's College, London, and the senior medical department of Queen's College, Birmingham, shall each be held to be a medical school, at which students in medicine may be permitted to pursue their studies, under the regulation Tit. viii., § iv., ¶ 3, 4, 6. A grace was passed for setting the University seal to a memorial praying for the remission of the stamp duty on the license and diploma of the Royal College of Physicians.

LONDON MEDICAL REGISTRATION ASSOCIATION. The monthly meeting of the General Committee, which was numerous attended, was held on Wednesday evening last at the British Coffee House; Dr. Kirby in the chair. Dr. Webster, of Northampton, was present as a deputation from the local Association established in that town. In consequence of letters of warning issued by the Association, several notorious advertising quacks presented themselves before the Committee, to make certain statements in reference to their conduct and their misdoings. After hearing these statements, the Committee distinctly informed them that they were acting illegally, and that it was the intention of the Association to prosecute in all cases coming under the cognisance of the Act. One of the applicants begged for time, inasmuch as he had several touters now employed whom he could not inform of the decision of the Committee within a fortnight. Another stated that he had a large stock of advertising bills on hand, and begged the indulgence of the Committee to allow of their distribution. The Chairman remarked to both applicants, that they had admitted the illegality of their practice, and, if they persisted in their evil courses, the Association would certainly prosecute. As for the handbills which the latter applicant modestly proposed to circulate to the injury of the junior members of the medical profession, the Chairman suggested that they should be committed to the flames. The precise position that the chemists might assume, and the dangers they would run in attempting to practise illegally, were also pointed out to this person, who had commenced his statements by asserting that he first began business as a chemist, and, finding he could not succeed, added the quack-advertising by hand-bills, etc., as a means of eking out a livelihood for himself. This person, it should be stated, expressed himself in very peculiar English. The recent bye-laws of the College of Physicians on the question of prosecuting impostors, and the funds for undertaking them; the supply of certificates of death by persons not registered; the relations of the central to local associations, and many other subjects, were carefully deliberated on and ably discussed. It is intended by this Association that a "prosecution fund" shall be immediately established for the purpose of protecting the interests of the legally-qualified members of the medical profession against unqualified pretenders.

RECREATION GROUNDS FOR THE PEOPLE. A Bill of Mr. Slaney, M.P., Mr. Thornely, M.P., and Mr. Mackinnon, M.P., provides that six acres of land in any one parish may be legally conveyed to trustees, to be held by them as open public grounds for the resort and recreation of adults, and as playgrounds for children and youth. Personal property not exceeding £1,000 may be bequeathed for the same purpose. This Act only benefits England and Wales.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY. On Monday, March 7th, a paper will be read "On the Advantages to be obtained from a more extensively organised system of Sanitary Supervision;" by H. J. Paine, Esq., of Cardiff.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENTS should always enclose their names to the Editor; not for publication, but in token of good faith. No attention can be paid to communications not thus authenticated.

Communications have been received from:—MR. CROSBY LEONARD; DR. C. HANDFIELD JONES; MR. W. MINSHULL; DR. PURSELL; MR. T. W. NUNN; SCOTUS; MR. H. TERRY, JUN.; DR. A. W. WILLIAMS; DR. OKE; DR. BARCLAY; MR. J. A. HINGESTON; MR. T. HOLMES; AN UNIVERSITY PHYSICIAN; DR. McWILLIAM; MR. J. W. BARNES; DR. COLEMAN; DR. L. NEWNHAM; DR. T. SKINNER; MR. H. W. T. ELLIS; L. M. D.; VINDEX; MR. SOLOMON; MR. T. M. STONE; MR. G. TERRY; and MR. G. HORNBY.

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