

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL.

[WITH SUPPLEMENT.]

EDITED BY DR. HENNIS GREEN AND DR. STREETEN.

No. 3. Vol. I.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1840.

PRICE SEVENPENCE.
[STAMPED EDITION EIGHTPENCE.]

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INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

TO THE STUDENTS AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY, PINE-STREET, MANCHESTER, FOR THE WINTER SESSION OF 1840—41.

BY THOMAS TURNER, ESQ.

MR. TURNER commenced his address, which was wholly extemporaneous, in the following terms:—

GENTLEMEN,—This is the fourth time that I have had the honour of appearing before you to deliver the introductory address at the opening of the session of this school. The first time was in 1825, now fifteen years ago, when this school was first organized, and when I had to perform the difficult task of convincing you that the period had arrived when it was necessary to extend the plan of medical education, in order to meet the intellectual activity of the times in which we live. The manner in which the proposal was received was encouraging in some quarters, but in others discouraging. However, success followed our endeavours, and very soon there manifested itself that break of morn which has now dawned into perfect day. The second occasion on which I had to appear before you to deliver an introductory address, was at the opening of this institution. Some of you will remember, that the original Pine-street school occupied only one half of the site of the present building; and was entered only by the street behind. We have been unwilling to relinquish a name to which some importance, and, I flatter myself, some degree of celebrity is attached; and we have therefore designated it, and shall continue to designate it, "The Pine-street School." We undertook to raise this building at our own expense, and thereby gave an unequivocal proof of our zeal in the cause of provincial medical education. The third occasion on which I had an opportunity of appearing before you, was to announce the retirement of Mr. Jordan, as an anatomical lecturer, the duties of which office he had usefully and satisfactorily filled for a period of nearly twenty years—(applause)—and that he was pleased to bequeath to this institution his best wishes and interests. And now I am deputed by my colleagues to appear before you, to open the budget for the present season; and it gives me un-mixed pleasure to state *in limine*, that the cause which has separated the profession and the town for years past, in reference to medical education, has ceased to exist. The gentlemen connected with the Marsden-street institution have resigned their duties; and have manifested towards this school the most unequivocal evidence of good feeling, in the circumstance of their having consigned over to us their library for the benefit of our society—(applause);—and, as an act of reciprocity, we have received their per-

petual students within the walls of this institution. This mutual feeling must testify very strongly, that the opposition between us, as rival schools, had never been carried on with that bitter and unforgiving enmity which too often marks the course of rivals; and it will show, moreover, that rivalry and friendship are not incompatible associates. And now that we are in sole possession of the ground wherein to sow the seeds of medical knowledge in this district; now that we are in possession, directly or indirectly, of the influence of our medical brethren and of the town,—we cannot doubt but that the harvest will be abundant. We must, however, bear in mind, that this result will be determined by the seed-time: it is therefore of the utmost importance, that we should all cooperate in the diligent cultivation of the soil, and in sowing the best possible seed, in order that we may verify that truth, which comes from unerring authority, that "according as we sow, so shall we reap." And, lastly, it behoves us to state unequivocally, that our success will depend upon the manner in which we may choose to cultivate the minds of the rising members of our profession. Having thus given assurance of peace at home, I have the pleasure of congratulating you on the circumstance of our being at peace too with foreign powers,—I allude to the College of Surgeons. This is a conquest we have been endeavouring to gain, ever since we established this school;—to place this school on precisely the same footing with the London schools, has long been the object of our ambition, and this, I am happy to tell you, has now been accomplished. (Applause.) Thus there exist now no by-laws in favour of metropolitan schools,—no monopoly; and as evenhanded justice holds the scales with regard to privileges, we must use our best exertions, and put our most vigorous efforts into the scale, and see whether by these means we cannot turn the balance in our favour. This must be our aim and object; but let us bear in mind that, while pursuing it, our course towards our metropolitan rivals must be in every way friendly, and characterised by nothing but honourable emulation. Our success, I anticipate, will then be secure.

The common language of the day is, "that all men seem to be abroad and stirring." This is the language of the newspapers; and, as a friend of mine has written, so much is this the case in the present day, that even the very infant is sent to be drilled. However, the man of observation will easily discover the increased and increasing intelligence of the people; and he will deduce from it inferences of a most important kind in reference to ourselves. We live at a period which is distinguished by the cultivation of intellect and the progress of enterprise; and every man seems to have his attention directed to the best means of educating all descriptions of persons, so as to qualify them to perform