PETITION FROM BRIGHTON.

A PETITION to the House of Commons has recently been presented, and a memorial forwarded to the Right Hon. the Home Secretary, in corresponding terms and spirit, by the general practitioners of Brighton, to the following effect.

The full persuasion of the daily increasing evils which press upon the people of these realms, as well as on the profession itself, in consequence of the laws by which the medical institutions of the country are governed, those laws having been found by experience quite inadequate to the wants of the public and the profession, that consequently the medical question is quite as important to the population at large as it is to the medical profession itself. That the general practitioners constitute at least nine-tenths of the medical profession; that the duties which devolve on them are of vital importance to the public; and that almost the whole population of the country must necessarily be entrusted to their professional skill and care. That the position of this large portion of the profession is to them in many respects grievous and anomalous, and that there is no hope of a satisfactory settlement of the medical question otherwise than by a separate incorporation of those who practise all the branches of the healing art.

The following are the names of the medical gentlemen at Brighton who signed the memorial and petition:—

George Drummond; John Dill; Thomas Allen; James Turner; John P. M. Smith; Thomas B. Winter; William Whitehouse; Richard Dill, M.D.; John Cordy Burrows; Richard E. Rugg; Gavin Elliot Pocock; Daniel Richardson; B. Thomas Seabrook; J. G. Passmore; George Geere; William Scott Watson; William Fry; J. T. Gardner; W. H. Rowe; William Wilton; George Royde; T. R. Simmonds; James L. Hannah, M.D.; William Kibbell, M.D.; Thomas B. Horne; George Battcock.

THE IRISH "MEDICAL CHARITIES BILL."

To the Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart., Her Majesty's Chief Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

The Memorial of the Governor and Council of the Apothecaries' Hall, and of the Committee of the Apothecaries of Ireland,

Humbly Showeth,—That memorialists, acting in concert on behalf of the apothecaries of Ireland, beg to address you in reference to a legislative grievance with which their profession is threatened by the Bill entitled, "A Bill for the better Distribution, Support, and Management of Medical Charities in Ireland," as prepared and brought into Parliament by Sir W. Somerville, and Mr. Solicitor-General for Ireland.

That memorialists, encouraged by your acquaintance with the position of the medical profession in its several departments, and impressed with the conviction of your respect for truth and justice, confidently submit the following statement, the verity of which they are prepared to substantiate, to your favourable consideration.

That Irish apothecaries have, from time immemorial, been acting in the capacity of medical practitioners to the public, and held eligible to fill the situation of medical officers in the Irish charities; that these privileges have been recognised by law, and confirmed by successive statutes, for the last hundred years; and that their system of education entitles them to participate these privileges equally with the other branches of the medical profession.

That the said Bill, in violation of these rights, excludes any mention of the apothecary in its provisions, while it invests a board, composed in part of physicians or surgeons, with full power to fix and declare the qualification and duties which shall be required of all medical officers in the charities.

That memorialists complain that the exclusion of the apothecary from the Bill will militate against their existing rights, and necessarily depreciate the medical status of their profession; while that a board constituted of representatives of the College of Physicians and Surgeons only, must exercise their powers with partiality, and to the exclusion in future of apothecaries from any of the medical offices in the charities.

That memorialists respectfully submit that the change which must (in the event of the said Bill passing the legislature) take place in the existing law as regards the rights and privileges of the members of the respective medical bodies would be most unjust and inequitable, pending the consideration of the subject of medical reform by Parliament.

That memorialists are of opinion, that if the aforesaid "Medical Charities Bill" is intended to operate any change in the existing relation of the medical profession, and thereby to legislate more efficiently for the due supply of properly qualified medical officers for the charities in Ireland, that the enactment should go to the entire extent of requiring that every person to be in future appointed as sole medical officer in any of the charities shall possess the twofold qualification of physician and surgeon, or of surgeon and apothecary, inasmuch as any one of these titles does not of itself imply adequate qualification for the discharge of the complex duties of such office.

That in the absence, however, of any such express provision in the Bill, memorialists conceive their legal eligibility ought not, in justice, to be affected or damaged, but that, as in all preceding enactments of a like nature, the rights of each branch of the medical profession should be equally maintained, and the apothecary be enumerated, as well as the physician and surgeon, in the Bill.

That memorialists have no desire to restrict the power of the board in fixing and declaring the kind and amount of qualification that should be required of medical officers for the different charities, but rather to extend that power, by affording a larger field for the exercise of their discretion, and to choose their medical appointments from.

That memorialists, actuated by these considerations, have called upon the framers of the Bill to introduce such amendments as will, without affecting its general principle, secure the existing rights of the apothecary profession in Ireland; but being disappointed in their expectations, and unwilling to array themselves in hostility against a measure, of which, in many respects, they approve, they have at length taken the liberty of appealing to you, Sir, in the hope that your influence will be available to prevent the injustice they complain of being carried out into law, and in place thereof, to have the Bill so amended, as that the eligibility of the apothecary to fill medical offices in the charities shall be preserved in it, as it has been in previous legislative enactments.

And memorialists will ever pray.

RICHARD BARKER, Chairman.

JOHN BETTY,

DANIEL PAKENHAM, } Secretaries.

Dublin, Apothecaries' Hall, May 24, 1850.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE EXPULSION OF ANOTHER TAPE-WORM
BY THE KOUSSO.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—If you think the following statement worthy of a place in your journal, it will perhaps tend to establish the character of a new specific.

About a year ago, I was consulted by Mr. S—, who laboured under all the symptoms of tape-worm, and who had suffered from it for some years. His health and spirits were very much affected, and he was in constant apprehension of some impending calamity. He had tried numerous anthelmintics, but none succeeded. I prescribed ounce doses of turpentine with castor oil, but without effect. He tried the pomegranate, and also the male fern root. The last-named medicine caused the expulsion of a large portion of the worm, but the head was not discharged.

As his health did not amend, and his anxiety increased, he consulted, by my advice, several eminent men in the metropolis, but he was scarcely benefited by them. Having seen in THE LANCET a favourable report of the efficacy of the Koussou, by Dr. Budd, I strongly advised my patient to try it, and I was so fortunate as to procure for him an introduction to that gentleman, who was so kind as to give him every necessary instruction for taking the medicine. He procured a dose of the Koussou, for which he paid a very large sum. He took the medicine this morning, at seven o'clock. At about ten o'clock he voided the entire animal, fifteen feet long. He informs me that he had little or no pain.

Thus he got rid of a monster which the most famous anthelmintics, and the most drastic purgatives, had for twelve months been unable to dislodge.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Ware, May 29, 1850.

G. C. ARMSTRONG, M.D.