THE SPIRITED SURGEONS OF SHROPSHIRE

are already in a state of activity. We quote the following from an excellent letter, which has been addressed by Mr. BROOKES, Surgeon, of Much-Wenlock, to the Editor of the *Shrewsbury Chronicle*:—

"I had begun to think that my Shropshire friends had taken a rather too long nap, and that it was necessary to remind them that their Enemy, the National Association, never sleeps, but is incessant in its endeavours to reduce the Provincial Surgeons,—men who have always upheld the dignity of their profession,—to the level of mere Apothecaries and quack Members of the College. It may, perhaps, be remarked, that ample opportunity will be afforded for discussing these matters, and making the necessary arrangements for carrying out our views before the meeting of Parliament; but time steals on; and it should be recollected that the Medical Profession is one not easily organized for self-protection, however great may be the dangers which menace it. My friend, Mr. Cartwright, of Oswestry, has, I know, been unremitting in his exertions in our good cause; he has spared neither time nor trouble, having been in constant communication with the London Committee, and its talented Secretary, Mr. Drewry Otley, on the important subject of Medical Reform; but having elected our representatives, we are not, therefore, justified in remaining passive spectators of the contest; the cause is essentially our own: one which deeply concerns not merely the present but the future race of medical men, and more especially their Patients, whose health and lives will depend upon the acquirements of their medical attendants. A permanent and generally useful Association should be formed in Shropshire, in place of the Provincial Association, which is perfectly *useless* as respects its influence on the education, government, and protection of the Medical Profession. Other Counties would soon follow Our example, and, in the course of two or three months, we might confidently hope to see all the respectable members of the College throughout the kingdom united into one powerful body, whose Collective Opinion could not fail of having influence with the Minister, the House of Commons, and the Council of the College."

TOBACCO IN NEURALGIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As I may be said to have brought forward, or revived, if you will, the use of tobacco in neuralgia, I beg leave to make a few remarks on the subject, intending them as a final reply; unless, indeed, I should be called upon, by name, to afford any further explanation.

It appears that some of your correspondents have failed in procuring that success which has attended my use, and that of many others, of the extract of tobacco; and I explain this in a two-fold manner:—First, the extract which they have employed is a stimulant, while mine is a narcotic: secondly, they have merely laid it on the skin, forgetting that nature has provided us with a horny, unorganized epidermis, for the express purpose of defending us from external agencies, and that, unless that epidermis be abraded, or broken in some way, any applications to the surface have very little effect on the parts beneath; so that all medicated fomentations and poultices are merely exhibitions of warmth and moisture, which, by the perspiration they excite in the parts, set the current outwards to the surface, and thus repel the medicinal agent. Bearing this in view, my plan has been to force the ointment through the epidermis by actual inunction.

It is also necessary, concurrently with the use of the tobacco, to pay attention, as in every other ailment, to the primæ viz; that is to say, to keep the bowels open, for this not only tends to the general health, but also favours absorption; and I confess, I should entertain a very poor opinion of the abilities of any practitioner who should undertake the treatment of ever so trifling a case of any kind, and did not see to this, the most important of all our functions.

Finally, I may acquaint you, that I frequently receive assurances from other gentlemen, often strangers to me, that they have experienced the good effects of the tobacco, both in their patients, and in their own persons; though some state that they have found the pure extract more efficacious than the ointment. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

JOHN CHIPPENDALE.

69, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn, October 21st, 1845.

THE DISEASES OF WARM CLIMATES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The yellow fever, which has just come to such close quarters with us, induces me to offer a suggestion to certain powers.

I have often thought what a great desideratum it would be, to have a few lectures, in each course of practice of medicine, on the diseases of hot climates, the West Indies, Africa, and the East Indies, delivered by one who has seen and treated them. There must be many in this country well capable to impart such instruction, and whose co-operation with lecturers on the subject could easily be obtained, and prove of most important value to the student, who has the intention to visit those climates, either as "officer" or "practitioner." I have seen many well-educated, clever young men, come to the West Indies, and feel quite at a loss, when called upon to prescribe for persons labouring under yellow fever; the scrap of knowledge picked up in England being worse than useless, for it is erroneous, being imparted from mere theory. Yellow fever is such a quick-running disease that there is no time to consult authors; the practice must be prompt, and at the fingers' end of the medical man. Frequently, in three days its fatal work is done. For myself, I can well feel what would be the thoughts of one who, called upon to treat so virulent a disease, finds himself abroad. When I first went to the West Indies, I was "Resident Medical Officer of the Demerara Seamen's Hospital," where I have frequently had no less than one hundred and seventy cases of yellow fever, two-thirds with black vomit, many with the premonitory vomit, and others in all the various stages; I, however, had the good fortune to have learned much from my late father, who, as a naval surgeon, had frequently treated, as well as had himself, that fever; thus I was better armed than many,—and glad was I to find such the case.

How great would be the boon then to young men, intended for either the naval or army service, if they had some instruction in these particular cases imparted by practical men; and I hope, that when I suggest to the two Boards, that they should turn their attention to the getting such lectures delivered, and make it afterwards imperative on those who offer themselves as candidates, to have steadily attended and studied them, that some good may arise from it. To the private lecturers I also offer the same suggestion, and think that their usefulness would be much increased by the addition. Hoping that this may meet attention in the proper quarters, and, if you think it worthy of a thought, a line from your powerful pen,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. ROWE,
Member of the Royal College
of Physicians, London, and
late Resident Medical Officer
of the Demerara Seamen's
Hospital.

Twickenham, Oct. 20th, 1845.

THE MAD MEMORIAL OF THE ["FELLOWS."]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have been amused by the perusal of a memorial to Sir James Graham, said to be unanimously adopted at a meeting of Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, held on the 9th of October, 1845, at the Golden-cross, Charing-cross, Robert Martin, Esq., of Holbrook, in the chair, which memorial has been sent into the country for signatures.

The memorialists are evidently afraid of the influence which the Bristol Association of Surgeons may have with the Secretary of State, and are endeavouring, with all their might, to counteract it.

Recollecting, as I do, hearing Mr. Martin, before he submitted himself to an examination for the Fellowship, attack the conduct of the Council of the College, in stronger language than the Bristol Association uses, before several medical men, I can only say, as to him, "tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis." I have also heard many Fellows of the College, who had the honour conferred on them *without* examination, stigmatize the conduct of the college as most unjust, and I must think, with all due deference to the sixty-eight gentlemen who have submitted to the degradation of a second examination at the college (many of them grey-headed men), that they might have trusted to their established professional character for the confidence of the public, and, at any rate, not have endeavoured to embarrass their brethren in a struggle