WE regret to have to record the death of Dr. William Richardson, of Kilburn, at the age of sixty-four. The deceased gentleman was M.D. of St. Andrews and M.R.C.P. London. He was the author of a book entitled "Remarks on Diabetes and its Treatment."

THE *Army and Navy Gazette* states that Brigadier-General Campbell, C.B., has been compelled to run away from the War Office in consequence of the extremely foul condition of the atmosphere in the establishment.

THE will and codicil of the late Mr. John Churchill, the well known medical publisher, were proved on the 6th inst., the personal estate being sworn under £60,000.

THE *Pall Mall Gazette* states that several ships have recently arrived from the East with cases of scurvy on board.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

"DIPSOMANIA."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The greatest of all our evils in the present day, the fundamental cause of all crime and misery, intoxication, is naturally the most frequent subject of discussion. It is to be lamented that the scientific term used in the discussion is neither accurate nor applicable. The word "dipsomania," by which the effects of excessive indulgence in spirituous liquors are meant to be described, is a mere euphuism, unworthy of the grave importance of the subject which it is meant to elucidate. If it is at all desirable to use a Greek word for an evil condition of modern society it should at least be accurate, and not, as now, be unintelligible even to the nation from whom the term is borrowed. Dipsomania, literally construed from the Greek, means "madness induced by thirst." Now it is not thirst which induces the evil habit of drinking. People fall into the terrible condition of drunkenness, not by the desire to assuage thirst, but by compliance with a sensual gratification of tasting spirit, and for the enjoyment of obliviousness and relief from painful or troublesome feelings. In the case of the beer-drinkers there may be some sense of thirst to be alleviated, but it is not this class who suffer from maniacal excitement. The hideous, crying source of crime and misery is, indulgence in spirituous liquors. The Greek word for inebriety is *Méθη*. "Methomania" would, in regard to classical derivation, be the correct word, and it would be comprehended by every modern Greek. The Greeks of the present day have a saying, *Méθη μικρά πάντα ἐστίν*—"Inebriety is a minor madness."

Your obedient servant,

Berkeley-square, Sept. 18th, 1875.

JAMES ALDERSON.

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It is surprising that no one has replied to Dr. Kebbell's letter in THE LANCET of 28th ult., on the subject of the proposed visit of the Association to this town, since the facts so temperately related by him are most damaging, and should either be met and disposed of, or be acknowledged as ground sufficient for the abandonment of the project. The resident supporters of the invitation are warm on the subject, as is sufficiently proved by the readiness they have shown to do battle for it; their reticence therefore on this particular occasion can only be regarded as evidence of their inability to answer the letter in question.

But members who reside at a distance, and who consequently are unacquainted with the views and opinions of those concerned on the spot, might have been expected to show their interest by making inquiry into a matter that is certainly of importance to the Association.

Perhaps, however, it would be fair to assume that in their minds Dr. Kebbell's statements were, after all, but the embodiment of personal views, and as such liable to the suspicion of partiality and incompleteness; and, if so, they might not unnaturally await some explanation or further evidence of their validity. If this supposition be correct, what such persons require they may easily be furnished with; it lies on the surface, and is, in short, no other than the unpopularity of the Association itself amongst us.

I forbear to occupy your space with reasons and facts in proof of this position, and, unless challenged, will content myself with the assertion that we are at once grievously disappointed in the weak and barren policy of the Association, and profoundly distrustful of the *Journal* which seems to be its only outcome.

In the local controversy on the subject, as is, perhaps, natural, a good deal of personal feeling has been evoked. But in reality all such considerations are quite irrelevant, and ought to be dismissed without further thought. It is the Association itself, as at present conducted, that is obnoxious; and that being so, no one can be surprised that we so far refuse to condone its *laches* as to invite those responsible for them as guests in our midst.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

R. BRANWELL.

Montpelier-place, Brighton, September 21st, 1875.

THE LATE DR. MAUNSELL, OF DUBLIN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I think it right to inform the readers of your journal that a memorial fund is about being raised in order to show a recognition of the late Dr. Maunsell's literary services to the public, the medical profession, and especially to the Poor-law service of the United Kingdom. The desirability of such a movement was thought of immediately after his death; but some delay was occasioned by the necessity of consulting the feelings of the family. His widow, however, having consented to receive a memorial, the difficulty has been removed. We shall have a special meeting in Dublin on Friday, the 24th inst., for the purpose of starting an organisation to carry out this object. Meanwhile subscriptions will be thankfully received by Dr. Joseph Rogers, 33, Dean-street, Soho, London; Dr. Grimshaw, 13, Molesworth-street, Dublin; and by myself.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

23, North Frederick-street, Dublin,
Sept. 20th, 1875.

ALBERT O. SPEEDY.

The following subscriptions to the Maunsell Memorial Fund have been announced:—

Sir William Jenner, Bart.	£5	5	0
Sir Dominic Corrigan, Bart.	2	0	0
Dr. Banks	2	2	0
Dr. Robert M'Donnell, F.R.S.	2	2	0
Sir William Wilde	1	1	0
Dr. Cruise	2	2	0
M. J. Kilgariff, F.R.C.S.I.	5	0	0
Dr. Dudley White, No. 3, North City Dispensary	1	1	0
Dr. Speedy, No. 3, North City Dispensary	5	0	0
Lambert Ormsby, F.R.C.S.I.	1	1	0
Dr. R. T. Wilson, No. 2, North City Dispensary	1	1	0
Dr. Joseph E. Kenny, No. 2, North City Dispensary	1	1	0
Dr. John A. Byrne, No. 4, South City Dispensary	1	1	0
Dr. Smyly	5	0	0
Dr. Edward Moran	1	1	0
Dr. Spencer, Burton Port, Co. Donegal	1	1	0
Dr. James Shaw, Dublin	0	10	6
E. P. Ward, No. 3, North City Dispensary	0	5	0
Dr. Edmund B. Blakely	1	1	0
Dr. Baxter	1	0	0
Dr. Atthill	2	2	0
E. S. O'Grady, F.R.C.S.I.	5	5	0
Dr. M'Clintock, F.R.C.S.I.	3	0	0
Dr. Kidd, F.R.C.S.I.	3	3	0
Dr. Grimshaw	1	1	0
Professor M'Dowel	1	0	0
Charles P. Moore, South City Dispensary	2	2	0
Dr. Churchill	2	2	0
Dr. Ross Maguire, Castleknock Dispensary	1	0	0
George Porter, F.R.C.S.I.	2	2	0
John M'Donnell, M.D., Medical Commissioner, Local Government Board, Ireland	5	0	0
R. W. S. Maybury, Queen's Bench	1	1	0
Dr. Joseph Rogers, ex-President English Poor-law Medical Officers' Association, London	2	2	0
Dr. Cameron, City Analyst	1	1	0
Dr. Peel, No. 5, City Dispensary	5	5	0
Dr. J. F. Pollock, Blackrock, Co. Dublin	1	1	0
Dr. Hyman Marks, South City Dispensary	2	2	0
Henry G. Sadler, Esq.	1	1	0