

as any that have preceded it. An index affords little scope for an historian; but the history of attempts at legislation for the medical profession, in the present session of Parliament, will be found quite sufficiently treated of, under the following head:—

"Medical Bill, prospect of, 514, 522; forthcoming, 543, 545; expected, 564; in existence, 590; a hitch in, 620; abandoned, 673."

The subject is discussed, as above, with true Roman brevity, and the entry almost equals in terseness the memorable *veni, vidi, vici*, of CÆSAR, in recounting one of his many victories. But the analogy holds good only in part. Although the profession may congratulate themselves that they have "conquered" so far that the intriguers of the Institute have not earwigged the Ministry to much purpose, a more severe and better sustained struggle is necessary ere they can make the legislature adopt a measure calculated to secure the rights for which the great body of the medical profession contend.

LIST OF SENIOR FELLOWS OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

LUKE, JAMES, Surgeon to the London and St. Luke's Hospitals.—1. A paper "On Applying Ligature to a Nævus," *Medical Gazette*. 2. A paper "On Petit's Operation for Hernia," *Medico-Chirurgical Society*, January.

HODGSON, JOSEPH, late Surgeon to the Birmingham Hospital.—1. Jacksonian prize on "Arteries and Veins."

WORMALD, THOMAS, Assistant-Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's, and Surgeon to the Foundling Hospital; late Lecturer on Anatomy in St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School.

PILCHER, GEORGE, Consulting-Surgeon to the Surrey Dispensary; late President of the London Medical Society.—1. A Treatise "On the Structure of the Ear," (Fothergillian prize.) 2. An Essay "On the Physiology of the Spinal Marrow," in the *Transactions* of the Medical Society of London; and contributions to various periodicals.

BISHOP, JOHN, Surgeon to the Northern, and late Senior Surgeon to the Islington, Dispensary. Author of—1. Articles "Larynx" and "Motion," in the *Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology*. 2. A paper "On the Human Voice," in the *Transactions* of the Royal Society. 3. Two prize essays "On the Human and Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of the Mechanism of the Voice," awarded by the French Royal Academy of Medicine. 4. Memoir "On Aphonia and Stammering," in the *Transactions* of the London Medical Society. 5. A series of papers "On Spinal Deformities," in *THE LANCET*.

MACKMURDO, GILBERT, Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, Surgeon to the Ophthalmic Hospital, Surgeon to the City Prisons, Lecturer on Ophthalmic Surgery.

KIERNAN, FRANCIS, Examiner in Anatomy and Physiology at the University of London, Member of the Senate. Author of "Anatomical Researches into the Structure of the Liver," for which a royal medal was awarded.

DALRYMPLE, JOHN, late Surgeon to the Ophthalmic Hospital, Consulting-Surgeon to the North London Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye. Author of—1. A work "On the Anatomy of the Human Eye." 2. "On the Pathology of the Human Eye."

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

HUNTER CLUB.—CIRCULARS OF MR. WORMALD.

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR,—I beg to transmit to you two inclosures, copies of letters I have felt it my duty to write. The original of the document marked (A) I have addressed to the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and also to the President and Court of Examiners. The original of that marked (B) I have sent to all the fellows of the College who reside within reasonable distances of London.

As I consider that, for the present, I have in these letters sufficiently expressed my sentiments of the "John-Hunter Club," and the object of those who have voluntarily formed

themselves into that body, I do not, on this occasion, further trouble you than to request you will oblige me (and I hope I may say the profession) by giving circulation to what I now send you in the next number of your journal.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

Bedford-row, June, 1849.

THOMAS WORMALD.

(B)

SIR,—It is with great reluctance I have to solicit the favour of your perusal of a letter that I have felt under the necessity of addressing to the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, of which the following is a copy:—

(A)

To the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—As my name stands amongst those fellows of the College who are eligible to fill the present vacancies in your Council, I feel it to be an imperative duty to you, to myself, and to the profession, respectfully to call your attention to a circumstance of vital importance.

It is a fact that a number of fellows have formed themselves into a club, called the "John-Hunter Club," and that a principal, if not the sole object of this club, is to control the election of members into the council, by excluding such fellows from a seat in it as may, on any ground whatever, be objectionable to the members of this club; and that they may accomplish their purpose with greater certainty, one of the regulations by which they are governed is, that their minority, upon a vote being taken in their club, shall vote with their majority at the College.

By such proceedings, if sanctioned or endured, it must be evident, that at every election the most meritorious and honourable aspirants to the distinction of being members of your council may have their views capriciously and most unjustly frustrated; and as it has come to my knowledge that my introduction into the Council will be opposed at the approaching election by this club, I feel bound to submit to you, that a club organized for the purpose I have mentioned, (avowedly or not,) and assuming to interfere, as I have been informed the members of that club do intend to interpose, on the 5th of July next, must be regarded by you as subversive of every principle of fair election, and as a most unwarrantable usurpation of the high and important rights and privileges of honourable, independent, and honest electors.

I protest even against the legality of the acts of such a combination of persons, and earnestly solicit your very serious attention to proceedings so likely to affect irreparable injury, to entail dishonour on the profession, and, in my humble opinion, so eminently deserving the immediate notice of the Council.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

Your very obedient servant,

THOMAS WORMALD.

I cannot entertain a doubt that the great majority of the fellows of the College will feel that the formation of the "John-Hunter Club" and its object are inimical to their own most valued interests, independence, honour, and dignity. If gentlemen will consent to belong to such a club, and should the profession countenance it, every fellow who may hereafter desire to become a member of the Council must descend from a reliance upon the public reputation a long series of laborious years in his profession has earned for him, to seek favour at the hands of such a body as I have referred to, or be reduced to the necessity of making a personal canvass of the electors previous to every election, to which I am persuaded the fellows at large will not and ought not to submit. It is well known that for fourteen years I was uninterruptedly occupied as a public lecturer on practical anatomy at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, which, during that period, boasted of being the largest school in the empire, and hundreds, if it were necessary, would willingly testify to my capability and usefulness throughout that time; that I have for the last eleven years been assistant-surgeon at the same hospital, and as no man can adduce one solitary objection to my character as a properly educated and experienced surgeon, I confidently put it to every fellow of the College, whether he can approve of this self-constituted body meeting in private, and, for reasons wholly concealed from the individual they may be about to injure, combining to detract from his character, and to deprive him of his legitimate position in his profession.

I entertain the unhesitating assurance that you will view the circumstances I have now detailed as I believe every upright mind must regard them, as being undeniably prejudicial to the best interests of the profession, and only meriting general condemnation.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
THOMAS WORMALD.

THE LECTURES OF DR. WALSHE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to transmit to you the inclosed letter from Professor Walshe, by which you will learn, that owing to many pressing engagements, he will be, at present, unable to revise any more lectures.

For my own part, I can speak confidently that it was Dr. Walshe's intention to prolong the course considerably; but his private engagements being so numerous—owing to his recent appointment as "Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine," for the duties of which he has, in some degree, to prepare before October—he is reluctantly compelled to discontinue the revision of his clinical lectures.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Nottingham Dispensary, June 25, 1849. WILLIAM TIDMAS.

ON THE BEST MODE OF APPLYING PRESSURE OR SUPPORT TO ULCERS; AND COMBINING WITH IT PROPER REGULATION OF TEMPERATURE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—When advertng, on a late occasion, to a series of claims, by different parties for originality, respecting a suggestion for suppressing uterine hæmorrhage; and for the purpose, principally, of pointing out an important defect in certain of the suggested plans, I took the opportunity of commenting on the singular circumstance, that an expedient on nearly the same principle, which is admirably adapted for producing pressure on ulcers, had not yet been substituted for the old and imperfect plans employed for this purpose.

These observations, it appears, by a paper in *THE LANCET* of the 23rd, have given great offence to Mr. Critchett, a recent writer on ulcers, and he has assailed what he supposes to be my substitute for the old plan, which he recommends, with everything available to be found in the arsenals of *Punch* and "Joe Miller." As it would seem to be a principal object of the lucubrations of this merry gentleman to make his readers laugh, he will not, perhaps, be much concerned to find, that he has been, unconsciously, promoting their hilarity by the very amusing proceeding of exhausting his store of jokes on a blunder of his own. My paper contains no allusion to the air-pad, which he so unmercifully ridicules, although it is, probably, not ill adapted for the purpose in question. In my communication to *THE LANCET*, I refer to the pressure of water, not of air, as a support to the weakened parts, and to regulation of the temperature by a current of the same fluid; and the fact that I insist on, the necessity of so regulating the temperature, at the same time that the pressure is applied, ought, I think, to have prevented such a blunder in the most inattentive reader, possessing an ordinary share of perspicacity. Mr. Critchett, in his next attack on fluid pressure, must provide a new set of jests appropriate to the subject; and "drown" its reputation, or prevent, at least, the current apparatus from being "current" in the profession.

Admitting that mechanical support, or pressure, is the great principle in the cure of most kinds of ulcer, the comparative merits of the different modes of giving it, may be stated in very few words. A well-applied bandage, and a number of strips of plaster, according to Baynton's suggestions, adopted but not improved by the Scotts, are very similar in their effects. Both, as compared with each other, have their respective advantages and disadvantages; and it is hard to say which is generally preferable; but as compared with the pressure of water in the current apparatus, which gives both equable pressure, and uniformly maintains the appropriate temperature, they have the following great defects:—

1st. When much inflammation, or irritation, exists in an ulcer, it is highly desirable to remove it by reducing, or otherwise altering, the temperature of the part, but this can hardly be done while plasters or bandages are used.

2ndly. The pressure of solids (as that of plasters or bandages may be termed) is not uniform; the higher points of the sore

and the surrounding parts are much pressed upon, while the lower parts of the surface are not at all supported. A bladder containing water, on the other hand, sinks into an unequal surface, and applies the same pressure to every part of it.

3rdly. If it be desirable to increase or decrease the pressure, as it often will be in the course of the day, from the pain produced, or other reasons, this can only be effected in the case of solid pressure, by the removal and re-application of the dressings; and owing to the surgeon's absence, it is seldom done when required; whereas all that is requisite, when fluid pressure is used, may be done in an instant, by the patient himself, as he has only to diminish the weight of water by lowering the reservoir, or raising the limb.

From the possession of these advantages, the surgeon will find, that by the aid of the current apparatus, he will not only cure ulcers much more rapidly than by other means, and with much less suffering to the patient, but he will be able to obtain cures not otherwise to be accomplished.

That I am not an opponent of Baynton's method, under certain circumstances, will appear by the following extract, from my recently published work, on the remedial and anæsthetic uses of severe cold or congelation:—

"In many diseases of this class, (cutaneous diseases,) the arresting of the existing inflammatory action, and the removal of the morbid sensibility, are not enough. There is wanted besides, a support to the weakened, and probably distended vessels; and this support is best afforded by the expedient which I have devised for combining perfectly equal pressure, with an uniform and appropriate temperature. I have already published cases of eczema so treated, in the work describing that apparatus; and the same principle, or combination of principles, is applicable with equal advantage to the treatment of the greater number of the varieties of ulcer. But, in curing these, it is sometimes of importance that the patient should be enabled to walk as soon as possible; and in two cases of this description I have found congelation of much use in at once removing the morbid sensibility, so as to permit the immediate application of Baynton's mode of treatment."

In answer to an objection that has been made to the current apparatus, that it is complex and inconveniently bulky, I may be permitted to conclude this paper by another extract from the same work, showing that the simplicity of the means as compared with efficient bandaging or strapping, ought to be reckoned one of its great advantages over them:—

"The 'current apparatus' here alluded to, is not yet well understood by the profession. The writer of the notice of my work on Indigestion, in the *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*, April 1848, after stating that the apparatus perfectly supplies a great desideratum in practical medicine, and at last enables us to use with efficiency two potent therapeutical agents, regrets that it must necessarily be bulky, and consequently hardly portable. Now the truth is, that all which the practitioner has often to provide—viz., a bladder and two long flexible tubes, may be packed into less bulk than an 8oz. phial; and since the introduction of gutta percha, need not cost half-a-crown. The fountain reservoir supplying the current, may consist of a wash-hand basin, with three or four quart bottles of water inverted in it. As to the apprehended difficulty of using this expedient; there is at present under my care, a patient with deep-seated disease of the leg, whose servant not only applies it every night, in order that her mistress may sleep, in consequence of the relief from pain which the constant current procures, but who renews the bladder from day to day, or as often as is necessary; and a late patient of the Dispensary, (residing at 16, Sun-street,) with the assistance only of her daughter, kept up a current for three days and nights, for the cure of ulceration of the leg, that had resisted every other means for a period of nine years. The servant alluded to was well practised in the use of the current apparatus, previous to this application of it, for she herself was cured by it, about two years since, of an obstinate disease of the skin, and her case is mentioned in the last page of the treatise referred to."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JAMES ARNOTT, M.D.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL RELIEF.—MR. RAYNER AND THE ETON BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On Tuesday, the 19th inst., the second trial took place, before J. H. Roe, Esq., at the county court held at Uxbridge, myself, plaintiff, *versus* the board of guardians of the Eton Union. Mr. S. Carter appeared as counsel on my behalf, and