

list. In a letter addressed to us, immediately after the formation of the Court-Medical, he gave as his then reason for not allowing the inquiry to proceed, our opposition to his absurd proposal to deposit a hundred pounds a side as a commencement. We mention this to show, that from the beginning Dr. GREGORY had no intention to proceed with the matter. Now, Dr. GREGORY, whose reasons are "thick as blackberries," advances another: he will only be tried by his peers. Probably we shall yet have to record another, or others, if he has an opportunity of writing more letters. It is transparently evident that Dr. GREGORY committed, as he confesses, an error of judgment in the first instance, and his course, as a man of honour, was to have made the amende at once. Had he done so, much vexation and equivocation would have been spared.

MR. WAKLEY'S MEDICAL REFORM BILL.

Our columns are so occupied by the Draft of the Bill for the Regulation of Qualified Medical Practitioners, which Mr. WAKLEY proposes to introduce into Parliament during the ensuing session, that we have no room for our usual "Leader," and very little for any comments on this important document. This we do not regret, because we are unwilling to attempt any analysis or criticism of the proposed measure before our readers have had time to consider its details; and because we have no inclination to obtrude our own views or opinions on them until they can, by acquaintance with the plan suggested, appreciate their justice or correctness. We may, however, be permitted to advise our brethren in the provinces, as indeed we did in the case of Sir JAMES GRAHAM'S Bills, not to commit themselves to any course to be in future pursued respecting the matter until the proper time arrives. We in Ireland are charged with being too precipitate and too ready to decide and act on momentary impulse; but however this may be on other occasions, it has not been so in dealing with those measures of which this is one. Let us therefore give it, as we gave the Bills of Mr. WARBURTON, Mr. HAWES, and Sir JAMES GRAHAM, a fair, candid, and we think we may add, a cordial welcome. It contains provisions of great value, and suggestions worthy of the most favourable consideration, while, as it appears to us, after a hasty perusal, it contains little to which any serious objection can be raised. The registration of regular practitioners, in order to enable the public to recognise quacks and pretenders, may not be so necessary in Ireland as in England; but if conducted in a manner suited to the state of medical practice in this country, it will prove not only harmless but beneficial; and the provision to prevent the appointment of any but legally-qualified medical or surgical practitioners to medical charities, although not absolutely necessary, from our statutes now forbidding it, can do no mischief, and may do good. The proposed enactments to correct the defects in medical education, although not as extensive or comprehensive as "radical" medical reformers may expect, are yet of sufficient power to effect as much as more reasonable men may expect by way of instalment. The repeal of restrictions on practice, and of the laws which disable the practitioners of one part of the kingdom from settling in another, is a most important alteration; and the machinery for expelling⁴ elinquents from our body will perform good service. Taken altogether, Mr. WAKLEY'S Bill appears more likely to pass into law, with, of course, some modifications and amendments, than any of its predecessors. It contains less of what is calculated to provoke hostility, and more to enlist general support, than any of the former schemes, and goes as far towards removing existing abuses as could well be expected, considering existing prejudices and monopolies.—*Dublin Medical Press*, Jan. 13th.

Obituary.

JAMES JOHNSON, ESQ.

DIED, on Sunday, the 27th of December, 1846, at Stonewall Park, Penshurst, Kent, the seat of Edmund Wakefield Mead Waldo, Esq., James Johnson, Esq., Surgeon-Major, late First or Grenadier regiment of Foot Guards, aged fifty-two years.

The subject of this notice was born on the 4th of June, 1795, near Inniskillen, County Fermanagh, Ireland. He evinced, very early, a predilection for the medical profession, and commenced in the Dublin Schools, under the auspices of the celebrated surgeon, Kirby, those studies which were completed at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, under the late Mr. Abernethy.

In March, 1813, Mr. Johnson passed an examination as regimental surgeon, before the Royal College of Surgeons in London, and on the 25th of the same month was appointed hospital assistant. On the 20th of July in the same year, he was gazetted assistant-surgeon in the 102nd (afterwards the 100th) regiment of Foot. On the 9th of August, 1813, he joined his regiment at Bermuda, and in June of the following year proceeded with it to North America, where he remained until October, 1817. On the 15th of May, 1818, he was placed on half-pay, on the reduction of his regiment, and on the 25th of the same month, in consequence of the exceeding high character of his testimonials, was appointed assistant-surgeon in the First or Grenadier regiment of Foot Guards. On the 25th of February, 1819, he was again placed on half-pay on reduction.

Mr. Johnson now returned to his native country, and stood successfully a most severely contested election for the Dispensary of Manorhamilton. He did not long hold this appointment, having been called, 23rd Nov. 1820, upon full pay of the Grenadier Guards. On the 13th of March, 1828, he was promoted to the rank of battalion-surgeon, and on the 17th of April, 1840, to that of surgeon-major. Having completed his full period of service, he retired 7th of February, 1845.

On his retirement, the medical officers of the Household Brigade, at a dinner given him on the occasion, February 12th, 1845, presented him with a silver tea service, "as a testimony of the high esteem and regard in which he was held by them, and expressive of the deep and lasting regret they felt at parting with so valued a friend."

Whilst the medical officers of the brigade were thus testifying their respect and sorrow, the commanding officer of his own regiment, not less sensible of the loss the regiment had sustained by his retirement, issued the following regimental order:—

"REGIMENTAL ORDER.

"Feb. 8th, 1845.

"The retirement of Surgeon-Major Johnson being notified in yesterday's *Gazette*, Colonel Clive cannot allow Mr. Johnson to quit the service without returning him his best thanks, and expressing his regrets that the Grenadier Guards should lose those services which have so long been devoted to the benefit of the regiment.

"Colonel Clive feels assured, and begs to convey that assurance to Mr. Johnson, that every member of the regiment—those who have themselves been indebted to Mr. Johnson's skill, kindness, and attention, and those who have witnessed those qualities in his treatment of others, will unite with their commanding officer in offering to Mr. Johnson their best wishes for his future welfare.

"(Signed) ALEXANDER GORDON, Adj. Gren. Guards."

As an officer, Mr. Johnson commanded, by his manly and straightforward conduct, the respect and veneration of those over whom he was placed. If he did not exact of his subordinates a rigid performance of their several duties, he yet, by the scrupulous discharge of his own, set them an example which they could not fail to follow.

As a medical man, his perceptions were keen, his diagnosis accurate, his judgment matured, and his treatment vigorous and successful. No private consideration was allowed, even for an instant, to step in between him and his duty. The welfare of his patients was his first care: his anxiety for their recovery was unbounded. Hour after hour, day after day, night after night, was he to be found at the bed-side of the sick and of the dying, ministering, with the most unwearied solicitude, to their every want, not only as their medical attendant, but as their kind and tender nurse.

Mr. Johnson's intellects were of the highest order, and his judgment sound and matured. He possessed in an eminent

degree the faculty of analyzing the most complex subjects, and, by a kind of intuitive and inherent power, stripping them of all their difficulties and subtleties, and reducing them to the level of the meanest capacity. He exhibited the most undaunted courage, the most unflinching straightforwardness of purpose, a high and manly bearing, a keen sense of honour, with an ineffable contempt and loathing for the slightest deviation from the strict line of gentlemanly conduct.

Mr. Johnson, though naturally of retiring habits, possessed strong feelings, a warm and generous heart, a kind and gentle amiableness of disposition, and character, which secured for him the friendship and regard of all who knew him.

As a friend, Mr. Johnson is mourned by a large circle, by whom he was esteemed, beloved, and idolized.

Mr. Johnson did not long survive to enjoy the ease and retirement of private life. He sunk from repeated attacks of hæmatemesis from visceral disease, the consequence, in all probability, of typhus fever, of which he was the subject in January, 1833, in common with many of the men of his regiment, which was then quartered in the Tower of London.

The first symptoms of the fatal disease under which his athletic and robust frame subsequently sunk, made their appearance during some gymnastic exercises in which he had been indulging at Greenwich, in August, 1844. After a sudden fainting, he passed inky discharges from the bowels, which continued for many months.

In May, 1845, he had just reached Inniskillen, (from England,) when he complained of chilliness. During the night he vomited several pints of florid blood, and passed a large quantity of dark blood per anum. The hæmorrhage from the stomach and bowels continued with almost unabated violence for five days and nights, when it suddenly ceased.

From this attack he was slowly recovering, and had reached his home, Swanlinbar, when, in June, the hæmorrhage returned as violently as before, though its duration was much shorter.

The consequence of these repeated losses of blood was anasarca and ascites, to an extent threatening suffocation. The opinions of the highest medical authorities in Dublin confirmed the views of his medical attendants that the operation of paracentesis should be had recourse to without delay; but to this he objected on account of the extreme tenderness of the abdomen on pressure. Eventually the kidneys carried off the effused fluid, and he regained a moderate share of health, and returned to England.

In August, 1846, when at Brighton, he became the subject of jaundice, which continued, more or less, during a period of three months. During this time the alvine dejections were, for the most part, slate-coloured, and the urine of a deep saffron hue.

On the 29th day of October, when at Stonewall Park, he vomited, without any previous indisposition, two pounds and three-quarters of florid blood; another similar vomiting followed twelve hours afterwards; and at the expiration of thirty-eight more hours, he suddenly fainted, the pulse was lost at the wrist, and he appeared to be dying. This attack, which was unattended with vomiting, was followed by a large discharge of blood per anum. From this he again gradually rallied and was enabled to take gentle exercise in the park. His appetite and spirits returned, and he flattered himself he might yet do well. But on the morning of the 14th of December, he suddenly fainted whilst eating his breakfast, and some hours afterwards voided, per anum, a large quantity of coagulated blood, resembling black currant jelly. About four o'clock in the afternoon of the 24th of December, whilst eating his dinner, which consisted of fish only, he again fainted. At eleven at night, vomiting of dark fluid blood commenced, which continued with little intermission until five A.M. of Christmas-day. The vomiting returned at two P.M., and continued for about an hour. From this time he gradually sank, and died, at half-past four P.M., on Sunday, the 27th of December.

An examination of the body was made on the morning of Monday, the 28th, sixteen hours after death, by his relative, Dr. Dundas, and Dr. Pickford, formerly of the Grenadier Guards, when the following appearances were met with:—On opening the abdomen, the diaphragm was found flaccid and hanging down into the cavity of the abdomen. The spleen was enlarged and bloodless, and firmer than natural, and its capsule about one-third of an inch thick. This organ was adherent to the diaphragm and lining membrane of the costæ.

The liver was somewhat less than natural, and in a state of genuine cirrhosis throughout; the lobulus Spigelii was the least affected. This organ tore under the finger. The gall-bladder was full of healthy bile; the liver was firmly bound to the diaphragm, and to the lining membrane of the costæ,

by fleshy bands. The ascending portion of the colon was firmly adherent to the inferior surface of the liver, and sent a solid band into the fossa umbilicalis.

There was no communication between this bowel and the liver. The stomach was opened throughout, and the duodenum and jejunum, but nowhere could any ulceration or open vessel be discovered.

The exsanguineous condition of the viscera militated against any opening of a vessel being found. The aorta was actually empty, a perfect "air-tube," as well as the veins. There was not blood enough left in the body to soil a cambric handkerchief.

The whole of the viscera were removed from the body, and upwards of two hours occupied in their examination. Lungs healthy; heart empty and flabby.

Mr. Johnson was buried on Saturday, the 2nd January, 1847, in the chancel of Hever Church, Kent. His body was followed to the grave by a large number of old and attached friends and brother officers, the pall being borne by three officers of his own regiment, and by the Surgeon-major of the Scots Fusilier Guards.

REPORT BY DR. WEBSTER, OF DULWICH, AND DR. W. TYLER SMITH, OF THE PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO THE COURT-MEDICAL FOR INQUIRING INTO THE COMPLAINT OF MR. WIGAN AGAINST DR. GEORGE GREGORY.

THE profession have already been made acquainted with the particulars of the cause of difference between Mr. Wigan and Dr. Gregory. In substance, Mr. Wigan (*vide THE LANCET*, Oct. 10th) charged Dr. Gregory with a breach of professional etiquette in having visited a patient under Mr. Wigan's care, in his absence; with injuring him by subverting his opinions, and declaring the patient in danger; and with refusing to give any explanation when called upon to do so by Mr. Wigan.

On the point of etiquette which was referred to the proposed court-medical, the undersigned do not, as the arbitrators appointed by Mr. Wigan only, offer any opinion, but as, for reasons which will appear, the court-medical has not been proceeded with, they feel it due to Mr. Wigan and the profession, to state the circumstances under which its proceedings were stayed.

After the complaint of Mr. Wigan had been made public, and the Editor of *THE LANCET* had suggested the propriety of referring the matter to a court-medical, Dr. Gregory published a letter, treating the whole affair as a joke, expressing a perfect willingness to appeal to the proposed court-medical, and professing to anticipate great pleasure from the examination of the witnesses on such a trial. At about the same time, however, Mr. Wigan received a private letter threatening him with an action at law, and referring him to his attorney.

A severe domestic bereavement prevented Mr. Wigan from making any immediate reply to this, or to Dr. Gregory's next proposal, which was, that the matter should be settled between Dr. Gregory, Mr. F—, (the husband of the patient,) and Mr. Wigan himself.

Dr. Gregory now definitively offered to abide by the decision of a court-medical, and took the initiative by naming Sir James Eyre and Dr. John Webster as his referees. Mr. Wigan immediately accepted the challenge, naming the undersigned as his assessors.

Before, however, the names were published, Dr. Gregory addressed a letter to the Editor of *THE LANCET*, proposing so many conditions for the conduct of the investigation, such as the deposit of one hundred pounds by each party in the hands of the judges, and the payment of the judges for providing a dinner to them, and for the payment of any fine which the court might think proper to inflict, as to raise a suspicion that Dr. Gregory did not in reality desire any such mode of arbitrament.

After the appointment of the four arbitrators, a meeting took place at the house of Dr. J. Webster, in Brook-street, to arrange the proceedings, and elect a chairman; but at this meeting, to the surprise of all parties, a letter from Dr. Gregory to Mr. Wigan was read, in which Dr. Gregory stated that, upon reflection, he begged to abandon all idea of a court-medical. In the absence of all direct communication to themselves from Dr. Gregory, Sir James Eyre and Dr. John Webster at once considered themselves precluded from further interposition.

Dr. Gregory next addressed a letter to Dr. George Webster, of Dulwich, requesting him to arbitrate the matter solely, and to decide on any form of apology that might be considered

due from him to Mr. Wigan. Dr. Gregory also sent, notwithstanding this, a full letter of apology to Mr. Wigan direct.

On Dr. Webster, of Dulwich, declining to act in the manner proposed, from motives of delicacy towards Sir James Eyre and Dr. J. Webster, who had been formally named as his referees by Dr. Gregory, and both of whom expressed the utmost willingness to act, Dr. Gregory desired both the undersigned to undertake the adjustment of the matter. This was considered unbecoming towards Sir James Eyre and Dr. J. Webster, and was therefore declined.

In the meantime, Dr. Gregory had addressed several letters to Mr. Wigan's referees, explanatory of the part he had taken in the case of Mrs. F—, the patient respecting whom the difference had arisen, and respecting the motives which had actuated him. The substance of these explanations was, that Dr. Gregory had been called to see the patient, Mrs. F—, by her husband, expressly to give an opinion, whether Mr. Wigan had neglected the patient—whether he had taken a correct view of her case—and whether he ought, in justice to his wife, to continue Mr. Wigan in attendance. The sole ground for suspecting Mr. Wigan seemed to rest on his not having visited his patient till after six o'clock on the day in question; but Mr. Wigan considered her recovering; and it did not appear that she was at all worse on that day, or that Mr. Wigan had been sent for, though he lived in the adjoining street. Regarding the propriety of calling in Mr. Wigan to set him right with his patient, Dr. Gregory admitted that, looking back upon the matter, he was satisfied that it would have been better to have sent for Mr. Wigan, but that at the time he thought it most prudent not to do so. Mr. F— did not express any wish either way. He considered the doubts expressed by Mr. F—in the light of a confidential communication, not to be divulged to Mr. Wigan. Dr. Gregory further stated, that he told Mr. F—, Mr. Wigan was doing everything that was right for Mrs. F——that she was in a fever, and he could not consider any patient in a fever free from danger—that he considered she should have been seen earlier in the day—and that he prescribed a medicine similar to that already sent by Mr. Wigan, leaving the patient to take which of the two she chose.

The friends of Mrs. F— were, however, much alarmed after the visit of Dr. Gregory. They understood him to say that she might die in twenty-four hours—that she was suffering from a twenty-five day fever, and would not in any case be free from danger till that time had passed. This, with the publicity given to the matter among the friends and neighbours of the patient, in Mr. Wigan's own immediate neighbourhood, was the cause of his seeking so immediate an interview with Dr. Gregory.

In his visit to Dr. Gregory, Mr. Wigan was accompanied by Mr. Eyre, of Fitzroy-street, the gentleman with whom he had served his apprenticeship; and on learning that Dr. Gregory was dining at the house of Mr. Craddock, and had left directions to be sent for, they proceeded there, thinking a word would settle the matter, and wishing to save him trouble.

On meeting Dr. Gregory, however, it was impossible to obtain any satisfactory explanation whatever; some altercation took place; Mr. Eyre openly charged Dr. Gregory with a breach of professional etiquette, and the parties separated. Dr. Gregory afterwards stated, in his letters of explanation, that he felt irritated at the interruption of dinner, and the interference of a third party, with whose name, intentions, and profession, he was unacquainted. In the excitement, a formal introduction seems to have been omitted. Mr. Wigan's apology was, the urgency of the case, his having left the patient and her friends impressed with the idea that she would die within the twenty-four hours, and the consequences of such an event threatening him with serious injury in his practice.

Dr. Gregory, after sending the apology to Mr. Wigan, complained that Mr. Wigan did not show the same inclination as himself to forgive, and to heal the breach. It is here necessary to state, that the sole reason, on the part of Mr. Wigan and the undersigned—for not immediately accepting and publishing the apology of Dr. Gregory, and so settling the matter at once, was a feeling that the apology was much too humble, and that Dr. Gregory required to be defended from himself.

After these occurrences, as the undersigned—both in justice to Mr. Wigan and Dr. Gregory, and from feelings of delicacy towards Sir J. Eyre and Dr. J. Webster—still declined to act alone, Dr. Gregory wrote a request that his letters of explanation might all be returned to him, in order, as he explicitly stated, that he might place them in the hands of Sir James Eyre and Dr. J. Webster, and abide by their advice. With this distinct understanding they were returned to him.

But instead of doing this, Dr. Gregory next informed us,

that he had done all that he considered necessary for his own justification, and that he should now proceed to place the matter in the hands of the President and Fellows of the College of Physicians.

On our addressing him respecting his former intention, and the vacillating conduct he had pursued, and still urging him to allow the matter to be arranged amicably, as at first proposed, the only replies received were, acknowledgments of the letters, and an intimation of his having placed them in the hands of Dr. Paris.

In conclusion, we cannot but regret being obliged to make the present statement.

Mr. Wigan was passive throughout, after placing the matter in our hands. Both Sir James Eyre and Dr. J. Webster expressed their perfect willingness to act; and we had no other feeling than a desire to promote mutual explanation and apology, where apology seemed due, whether from Dr. Gregory or Mr. Wigan. Dr. Gregory's conduct alone prevented this. We have already expressed our opinion that Dr. Gregory's apology was couched in terms which we considered too strong; and we are not prepared to say that some explanation should not have been given to Dr. Gregory and Mr. Craddock, by Mr. Wigan and Mr. Eyre. We now feel very strongly, that, from the first, Dr. Gregory has continually evaded anything like a decision upon his interference with Mr. Wigan's patient, as well before as since the appointment of the members of the court-medical. We ground this opinion upon his first public appeal to a court-medical, followed by a private hint of legal proceedings against Mr. Wigan; his public declaration of his willingness to submit to any investigation, with the fullest confidence in his cause, followed by the instant willingness to admit himself wrong, and to retract, upon the actual nomination of the members of the court; at one time pertinaciously defending himself, and at another expressing a wish that the court-medical should not proceed, as he had, on consultation with his friends, found such reasons for mistrusting his own judgment as to prefer tending an apology. Indeed, at every new phase of the proceedings, Dr. Gregory has been ready with some new excuse for not permitting the arrangement of the matter.

GEORGE WEBSTER.
W. TYLER SMITH.

Jan. 1847.

Operations Without Pain.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

THE following are the brief, though accurate particulars of the case which occurred lately at St. George's Hospital, where amputation of the leg was performed by Mr. Henry James Johnson, on a patient previously rendered insensible by the sulphuric ether.

The subject of the operation was a young man, about twenty-four years of age, the son of a farmer near Wisbeach, in Norfolk. He was tall, rather spare, and though of a nervous temperament, composed and resolute. He was evidently possessed of the will to submit to any experiment, and the courage to carry it out.

In the latter part of 1845, he began to feel pain in his left ankle, which induced him, about Christmas of that year, to apply to a neighbouring bone-setter. This professional gentleman assured him that the bones of the joint were "out," manipulated them severely, and then told him they were "in again." But he was none the better, notwithstanding, and therefore consulted the bone-setter a second time, with the same assurances, operation, and success. In September, 1846, he went to another bone-setter, who, wiser or more honest than the first, said that the bone was not out at all. In December, the poor fellow entered St. George's, worn with pain, and presenting every symptom of ulceration of the cartilages of the ankle-joint. On the 20th of the month, without any very ostensible cause, unless great suffering were such, he was seized with maniacal delirium. This was calmed by opiates, and a moderate allowance of gin. It is right to observe, in reference to the latter, that the patient had always been temperate in his habits, and stimulants were administered, not because they were rendered necessary by custom, but because his appetite was destroyed, and his health impaired, by the long continuance of a painful malady.

Such was the person whose limb Mr. Henry James Johnson was called on to remove. It had been agreed, in consultation, to administer the ether with care, the maniacal attack, arguing, as it did, a possible tendency to cerebral congestion, calling for more than usual circumspection. The patient himself