

mental culture and good fellowship of provincial surgeons. It must have been gratifying to Mr. CARTWRIGHT to observe the fact, that many surgeons from different parts of Shropshire attended to join his townsmen in the respect paid to his worth. The civic compliment thus appropriately voted to Mr. CARTWRIGHT must be an encouragement to other surgeons in the provinces, and serve to show that a man may be a good citizen, a sound practitioner, and a reformer of professional abuses, without forfeiting the admiration and respect of the public. We congratulate Mr. CARTWRIGHT on the honours he has so well deserved at the hands of his fellow townsmen; for we, like themselves, know and value his eminent merits and abilities.

### SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARIES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Putney, Jan. 3, 1851.

DR. CORMACK presents his compliments to the Editor of THE LANCET, and requests the favour of a place for the following correspondence:—

#### 1.—DR. LITTLE to DR. CORMACK.

DR. LITTLE requests the favour of Dr. Cormack's company at a conversazione, to be held here on Monday, the 23rd of December, at eight P.M., for the purpose of considering whether the provident dispensary system of Mr. Smith, of Southam, is not calculated to benefit the humbler classes of society, and perfectly reconcilable with the interests of the medical profession.

Finsbury-square, Dec. 10, 1850.

#### 2.—DR. CORMACK'S reply to DR. LITTLE.

Putney, Dec. 19, 1850.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge, with many thanks, your invitation to a conversazione at your house on the 23rd current, "to consider whether the provident dispensary system of Mr. Smith, of Southam, is not calculated to benefit the humbler classes of society, and perfectly reconcilable with the interests of the medical profession."

Now, this question was answered in the affirmative by a large meeting, held on the 29th of July, in the Hanover-square Rooms, and presided over by Mr. Benjamin B. Cabbell, and in the proceedings of that meeting I took a prominent part. I did so, however, upon the distinct understanding that the rules were to be submitted to me at an early period, when I would be free to join the Society, or to keep aloof from it. I stated publicly the only grounds on which I could give my adherence; and, as I have not seen, publicly or privately, any rules sanctioned by the council, and as I have no accurate cognizance of anything which has been done by that body, I feel it quite necessary at this stage to keep entirely aloof from your private meetings. If the points for which I contended are prominently set forth in a public manifesto, and authorized by a council composed of influential gentlemen willing for and apt at business, you will find no more zealous friend than me; but I do feel, that the present reluctance to publish rules and names has, in the mean time, damped my ardour.

You will fully understand my scruples when you read the enclosed, which is the report of my speech at the Hanover-square Rooms, above referred to.\*

I will thank you to read this letter to Mr. Hawker, and also to your assembled friends, if you think it of sufficient importance.

I am, my dear Sir, very truly yours,

To Dr. Little.

JOHN ROSE CORMACK.

\* The following is an extract from the report of my speech, as given in the *London Journal of Medicine*, for September, 1850, to which I desired to draw Dr. Little's attention:—

"The Society must at once form, and from the commencement of its operations be guided by, a stringent code of ethics; and no dispensary should be recognised as under the wing of the Society, unless all the officers placed themselves under its jurisdiction. If the Society refused to sanction a dispensary in any district, till there had been obtained the approbation of a majority of its legally-qualified practitioners; and if all qualified practitioners were entitled to participate, on an equal footing, in the medical management, he (Dr. Cormack) did not see how the profession could oppose, or be in any way jealous of Mr. Smith's schemes. It was only upon the distinct understanding that the Self-supporting Dispensaries—or Provident Dispensaries, as he preferred to call them—were to be open to the whole profession, and to be so conducted as not to injure legitimate practice in poor neighbourhoods, that he (Dr. Cormack) gave his support to the present movement. He thought that the boon proposed by Mr. Smith might be extended to the industrious classes, without injuring even the humblest members of the medical profession."

#### 3.—DR. CORMACK to MR. HAWKER.

January 2, 1851.

DEAR SIR,—In a note which I have this moment received from a medical friend, I am informed that my name appears in a printed paper, circulated by you, purporting to be the names of the Council of the London Self-supporting Dispensary Society. You surely have not placed me under the necessity of publicly stating, that I expressly told you and Mr. Smith, that I would not join the Society or the Council till I had seen the rules, and knew who my colleagues were to be. You long ago engaged to comply with both requests; but you have not done so.

If there be actually in circulation any printed list of the Council, I will be glad to receive one, and if my name be in it, I beg that you will immediately erase it.

Yours truly,

To T. D. Hawker, Esq.

JOHN ROSE CORMACK.

#### 4.—DR. CORMACK to MR. H. L. SMITH.

Putney, January 8, 1851.

MY DEAR SIR,—I wrote to Mr. Hawker on the 2nd, requesting him to tell me if he had circulated a printed paper (of the existence of which I had accidentally heard) in which my name appeared as a member of the Council of the Self-supporting Dispensary Society. He has not even acknowledged the receipt of my letter; but, after some difficulty, I have procured a copy of the paper referred to, and find that it contains my name. I am not vain enough to imagine that my aid can be of much value to you; but I am determined not to allow my public declaration at the Hanover-square Rooms, and many private statements which I have made to the same effect, to be stultified by the unauthorized introduction of my name into a list of office-bearers, who may hold opinions very different from those which I approve, and am anxious to see carried out. We may be at one as to the soundness of an abstract principle, but in details we may have no community of sentiment.

I think it right to acquaint you with the improper treatment which I have received at the hands of your secretary, and with the fact that I have desired him to remove my name from the list of the Council, in which he never had my authority to place it, except under conditions which he never complied with. Be assured that I am as much as ever the warm friend of the principle of providence for sickness being fostered among those who claim medical aid in public institutions.

Yours very sincerely,

To H. L. Smith, Esq.

JOHN ROSE CORMACK.

### ATTENDANCE ON CLINICAL MEDICINE AT HOSPITALS.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DR. NELSON, PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL MEDICINE, QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM, AND THE COURT OF EXAMINERS OF THE SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

To H. Blatch, Esq., Secretary to the Society of Apothecaries.

Queen's College, Birmingham, Dec. 12, 1850.

DEAR SIR,—Will you oblige me by giving me some clear and settled idea on the following subject:—Your Society's rules, as exhibited in the Student's Number of THE LANCET (Sept. 28, 1850), declare very distinctly, that each student who commenced his studies on or after Oct. 1, 1849, must produce before his examination certificates of having attended a summer course of lectures in clinical medicine during his second year, and a winter course during his third. Physicians of hospitals, according to duty, are naturally desirous of doing all in their power for pupils; at the same time, it must be confessed that their lectures are seldom attended by the body of clinical students. Now, this is found to be due to an existing impression, both among students, and some professors, that the certificates of such attendance, though stated as necessary in your printed rules, are not *imperative* or *essential*, but simply *formal*. I quite coincide with the important view which your board attaches to clinical instruction; but should like to be assured, on undoubted authority, that the rules laid down in this respect are really meant to be carried out, and that the court intend to second the efforts of clinical professors by looking as much to their certificates as to those of others. So far as I can learn, similar impressions seem to exist amongst the students of other English schools—and therefore the board, in their accustomed zeal for improving medical education, might, perhaps, with advantage, take some means of making their sentiments decidedly understood throughout the country. The clinical professors have no pecuniary

interest in this matter, as all is included in the hospital fees, and therefore, while endeavouring to excite some zeal for practical study, they only desire the real welfare of their students. That much ardour, to a certain extent, does exist here, is proved by the fact of twelve gentlemen having put down their names, voluntarily, for examination by me; but I do think it only just to such as entertain the above impression, that the rule should be clearly understood; as, in the event of any such impression being continued, and proving erroneous, they might, at the end of their three or four years of study, and just, perhaps, as they looked forward to some immediate appointment, find themselves in a very awkward and unexpected relation to your board, such as might damage their worldly prospects through life.

I am, dear Sir, your faithful servant,

D. NELSON, M.D. Edin.  
Physician to the Queen's Hospital, and  
Professor of Clinical Medicine.

To Dr. D. Nelson, Queen's College, Birmingham.

DEAR SIR,—The Court of Examiners of the Society of Apothecaries have directed me to forward to you the following reply to your letter of the 12th inst.—

That the Court of Examiners do not desire to limit or to define the plan to be pursued by the physicians of hospitals in delivering clinical instruction to their pupils; but the Court wish that it may be distinctly understood that they consider such instruction as imperatively necessary, and that attendance upon it should be enforced in such a manner as the physicians may think expedient.

The Court, in proof of their desire to encourage a regular and definite system of clinical instruction, beg to refer to the last copy of their regulations, page 10, wherein it is stated that a certificate of attendance upon a course of not less than seventy-five lectures on clinical medicine, delivered by a distinct professor, will be received in place of the second course upon the theory and practice of medicine.

But as some of the schools are not yet provided with distinct professors of clinical medicine, the court at present leave the mode of clinical instruction to be arranged by the physicians, but they repeat that they consider such instruction to be *imperative* in all the schools, and that the part of the schedule appropriated to clinical lectures should be filled up only after a *bonâ fide* attendance, as in the case of the other lectures.

I remain, dear Sir, &c.,

Dec. 27, 1850.

HENRY BLATCH.

#### PRESENTATION OF A TESTIMONIAL TO MR. CARTWRIGHT, FOR HIS SERVICES TO THE TOWN OF OSWESTRY.

ON Thursday, Dec. 26th last, a large concourse of inhabitants of the borough and vicinity of Oswestry, assembled in the Powis Market Hall in that town, for the purpose of presenting a suitable acknowledgment to Mr. Cartwright, surgeon, of Oswestry, for his long continued and successful exertions for the commercial benefit of the town in which he resides. The testimonial consisted of a handsome silver salver, a tureen, and four corner dishes, which had been purchased by subscriptions amounting to £258 4s., and obtained through Mr. Gregory, silversmith, Cross Street, Oswestry. On the salver was the following inscription:—"This salver, a tureen, and corner dishes, were presented to Peploe Cartwright, Esq., by the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Oswestry, in testimony of their sense of his many public services in forwarding the improvements of the town, and in particular for his able, zealous, and untiring exertions in promoting the establishment of the fair and market accommodation, successfully brought to completion A.D. 1850." Above the inscription was engraved the arms of the borough; beneath were the arms of Mr. Cartwright. The weight of the salver was 125 ounces, the four corner dishes 205 ounces, and the tureen 89 ounces 10 dwts. They were of the melon pattern, and were exceedingly chaste works of art. The hall was crowded to overflowing, at the upper end of which a very commodious gallery was erected for the accommodation of ladies, a great number of whom were present.

The mayor having taken the chair, the above memento of respect from his fellow-townsmen was presented to Mr. Cartwright by the recorder of the borough, J. R. Kenyon, Esq., from whose lengthened address we extract the following passages:—"Sir, the especial service mentioned in the inscription on this plate, is the promotion by your able, zealous, and

untiring exertions of the new accommodations for our fairs and markets; and well may those exertions be called untiring, for they have extended over nearly twenty years, and your zeal has never flagged. There are few who do not remember what inconvenience was felt from the want of proper accommodations for our fairs and markets. The inconvenience extended to every one. The fairs and markets were held in the streets, and crowded and obstructed them, and were not only disagreeable but dangerous to the inhabitants of the town, and to persons passing through it. . . . The corporation was not insensible of the evil, and by-laws were made to remove or palliate it, but by-laws could not effect a cure, for the evil was not owing to a want of regulation, or to the misconduct of those who frequented the fairs and markets, but to a want of room in which the cattle fairs of the town might be properly carried on." The recorder then proceeded to describe that the zeal and activity of Mr. Cartwright had been mainly instrumental in effecting the purchase of the tolls from Lord Powis, in procuring better accommodation for the fairs and markets, and in obtaining the Act of Parliament necessary to sanction the alterations, which had terminated in the erection of the new market house. In his address he also conveyed to Mr. Cartwright expressions of the sentiments of his fellow-townsmen in the following terms:—"Is counsel wanted in the municipal government of the town? you are there to give it;—are improvements wanted? you are amongst the foremost to promote them;—are charities to be aided? you are ready to help;—and here, though it may not be strictly in accordance with our subject, I cannot but notice that you have earned and gained from many of our poorer brethren, by your kind acts to them, blessings and prayers, which outvalue any mere earthly gift; and among all classes you have been a promoter of good will and friendly feeling."

Mr. Cartwright replied in appropriate terms, both at that time and after his health had been drunk at the dinner which followed.—The toast of the medical profession of Shropshire was responded to by Mr. W. J. Clement, a leading practitioner in Shrewsbury, from whose admirable address we extract the following passages:—"He had had some little experience in public dinners, and in the usual routine of toasts. They always had the army, the navy, the church, and others given from the chair, and responded to; but with one or two trifling exceptions, they completely avoided all allusion to that noble profession to which he belonged. (Hear.) . . . He would not attempt to contrast it with any other profession, though it would not lose by the contrast, for amongst them he could boast of men as learned, as virtuous, as eminent, as any profession. (Cheers.) But however much they might excel, they had great reason to complain that while the great soldier, the slaughterer of thousands of his fellow-men, receives his patents of nobility, and his pension descending to several generations, the professors of medicine, who are instrumental in rescuing from a premature death millions of mortals, were allowed to die "unwept, unhonoured, and unsung." (Applause.) He could not more forcibly illustrate this view of the case than by referring to the great and good Dr. Jenner, certainly one of the most disinterested of the human kind, who did not receive so much for his invaluable discovery of vaccination as a nobleman would upon going out upon a foreign embassy. . . . Ours is an ennobling profession, though few favours were conferred upon its members. Their names never appeared in the Gazette, unless sometimes in the list of bankrupts. We are not like the army, the navy, or the church. We are not like our honoured friend (Mr. Kenyon), with the prospect before him of some day attaining the eminence. (Hear.) Neither have we the prospect of commercial success. Many among us have toiled from youth to age, and find that even in our last days we must still toil on and on to support ourselves. But yet, among all our trials and difficulties and disappointments, we have still this feeling left us—our profession is a noble—a humane one (cheers); and it brings us into close relation with all classes of our fellow beings, and into that state of feeling which makes us satisfied with our arduous duties. (Cheers.) To say nothing about the triumphs of our art derived from our profession, is it not a pleasure to feel that we have restored to a desponding family a father to whom they looked for support—to give back to a devoted husband the wife of his bosom, the sharer of his joys and the partner of his sorrows,—is it no happiness to restore to anxious parents their darling child, their dearest hope? (Hear.) And though we are not always able to rob the grim tyrant Death of his victim, we have the power to assuage the pangs of the fatal hour, and to strew in some measure the pathway to the dismal grave with flowers. . . . He was much pleased that such honour had been paid to his friend Mr. Cartwright. He had