

Frederic Farre and Thomas H. Wakley, Esq., were then proposed, drunk with much enthusiasm, and responded to by Dr. Farre, on behalf of himself and colleague, in appropriate terms.

Several other toasts followed, and the meeting was not concluded until a late hour.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

POOR-LAW MEDICAL REFORM ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall feel obliged by your allowing me to inform the Poor-law medical officers that although Mr. Pigott was unable to bring forward the Bill on the evening first intended, in consequence of the discussion on the new tariff occupying so much time, he assures me he will take the earliest opportunity of doing so. In a letter I received this morning from him is the following:—"We lose nothing by this delay; it gives opportunity for talking it over with members." It is possible that before this letter reaches you leave may have been given to introduce the Bill; be this as it may, I strongly advise the medical officers to continue to send to the House their petitions, of which up to the present time about sixty only have been presented. I also urge upon them to write to each of the members of Parliament with whom they are acquainted, and endeavour to obtain his support of the measure when introduced. Two hundred gentlemen have sent me their subscriptions this year, but this is a very small proportion of the three thousand. Surely gentlemen can hardly be aware that if this measure be carried in the shape proposed, upwards of £200,000 a year will be added to the incomes of the Poor-law medical officers as a body. Two or three officers have written to me within the last few days, forwarding subscriptions, but saying they will not be benefited by the measure; in each of these cases I have proved to them that their incomes will be doubled by the three elements of payment alone, omitting altogether the gain which will accrue by other clauses in the Bill. The great object of my obtaining money is that I may be enabled to give every possible publicity to our complaints and the mode of redress. I am at this time writing a commentary on each section of the Bill, which I intend to send to the members of Parliament as soon as it is fairly before the House, in order that the necessity for each clause may be thoroughly understood, and that easy reference may be made to the arguments in support of it. Everything at present looks propitious; and if the Bill should not be carried this session, it will be mainly owing to the apathy of the profession.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Royal-terrace, Weymouth, March 3rd, 1860.

RICHARD GRIFFIN.

A MEETING of students was held in the anatomical theatre of Guy's Hospital, on the 2nd instant, for the purpose of determining what steps should be taken in order to co-operate with the other metropolitan schools in favour of Poor-law Medical Reform. The chair having been taken by A. E. DURHAM, Esq., the following resolutions were proposed and carried:—

Proposed by Mr. FAGGE, and seconded by Mr. MERCER,—
"That this meeting sympathizes with the movement in favour of Poor-law Medical Reform."

Proposed by Mr. GAYLEARD, and seconded by Mr. MEGGY,—
"That this meeting is willing to co-operate cordially with the other medical schools in promoting the objects of the Association."

Proposed by Mr. ATWELL, and seconded by Mr. MAY,—
"That two delegates be sent from this school to concert measures with the representatives of the other schools."

Proposed by Mr. GALTON, and seconded by Mr. CANN,—
"That this meeting is of opinion that separate petitions from the different medical schools will further the cause more than any general meeting of students."

Amendment proposed by Mr. MEGGY, and seconded by Mr. GAYLEARD,—
"That an aggregate meeting of the students of the several medical schools should be called, at which further measures might be deliberated upon."

Proposed by Mr. WOODMAN, and seconded by Mr. TURNER,—
"That this meeting pledges itself to defray, by subsequent subscriptions, any incidental expenses which may arise in the course of the proceedings."

JOHN THOS. MERCER, *Hon. Sec.*

THE COLLEGE OF DENTISTS AND THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

(LETTER FROM MR. S. L. RYMER.)

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—For more than three years past the dental profession has been divided in opinion as to the best means of organizing its members into something like a compact body; and this division of opinion has naturally delayed indefinitely the common object.

The first successful movement towards a reform of the profession was made in 1856, when several meetings, open to all dentists alike, and called by public advertisement, were held. This movement resulted in the establishment, without a dissentient voice, of the College of Dentists of England, possessing a constitution founded on the principle that dentists should be an independent body—that dentists were capable of imparting instruction to pupils, and of superintending examinations as to proficiency, independently of any other institution.

While these proceedings were being conducted thus openly, eighteen dentists who were of opinion that a dental certificate from the College of Surgeons would meet the requirements of the profession (as I did myself until an independent existence was shown to be possible), instead of attending the general meetings, some of which consisted of more than two hundred practitioners, and stating their views in a straightforward manner, as they had the opportunity of doing, chose to ignore the public movement altogether, although they knew it to be "a fact." They determined to hold no arguments with their brethren in practice; they considered that to them alone should be entrusted the interests of the profession. So, to endeavour to stay the legitimate movement without delay, a meeting of the eighteen gentlemen was called, a memorial to the College of Surgeons embodying their ideas was "hastily prepared" and signed, and at once forwarded to the Council of that institution. From this secret conclave, and "hastily prepared" memorial, the determination of the Council of the College of Surgeons to grant dental certificates has been arrived at.

I shall not now stay to show why the memorial was *hastily prepared*, as I have the authority of one who signed it to prove that it was. Suffice it to say, two parties exist in the dental profession—one advocating the cause of independence, as represented by the College of Dentists; the other, the cause of dependence, as represented by the Odontological Society: the origin of each being borne in mind.

Up to this time there has been much unnecessary warmth of feeling exhibited in controversy; but not more, perhaps, than is common to reformatory movements carried on without unanimity. The controversy, however, was for the most part confined to the profession, until Tuesday last, when the opponents of the College of Dentists committed themselves in a manner which, I think, will open the eyes of the world to the unjustifiable spirit of bitterness with which the College has had to contend, and with which it has contended, and will, in all probability, continue to contend successfully. I refer, Sir, to an advertisement in *The Times* of Tuesday, the 28th ult., in which attacks and statements are made, which might have been passed over if published through a legitimate medium, but which must now be regarded by every honourable man as entirely unbefitting those who would wish to be looked upon with respect.

I believe this proceeding will recoil upon its projectors with threefold force, for the gauntlet having been thrown down in the presence of the public, in the presence of the public it must be taken up; and, for my own part, I have no doubt as to the result, if open conduct and sound principle are more in accordance with the views of Englishmen than surreptitious actions and doubtful policy.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

North-end, Croydon, March, 1860.

S. L. RYMER.

H O M E O P A T H Y.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg leave to communicate to you the following fact, which I witnessed with my own eyes:—

Some time ago, a friend of mine, a firm believer in homoeopathy, provided himself with a medicine chest, supplied to him by the famous chemist in the neighbourhood of Hanover-square, well stocked with globules of all sorts. He went abroad, and I used to meet him frequently at the house of a mutual friend. One evening he was exhibiting his medicine chest and

his globules, and expatiating largely on their wonderful properties, when a gentleman, who happened to be present, in order to convince him of his folly, emptied the contents of every bottle into his hand, and swallowed them all one after another! I saw him repeatedly for days together afterwards, and I can state positively that he received no damage whatever from his supper on globules of arnica, arsenic, mercury, belladonna, aconite, dulcamara, nux vomica, hyoscyamus, besides a host of other harmless medicines!

I wrote to Dr. Laurie, and to Mr. Headland, the chemist, mentioning this fact, and asking for an explanation. I need hardly tell you that no explanation could be offered. I enclose Mr. Headland's letter for your inspection.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

H.M.S. Edgar, Feb. 1860.

J. MILNER, Chaplain R.N.

P.S.—There must have been at least 500 globules in each bottle.

MR. T. WAKLEY'S STRICTURE TUBES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have been a medical practitioner on this coast for the last eleven years, and by far the most troublesome disease I have met with has been stricture of the urethra, and particularly the permanent and irritable stricture, where the smallest-sized bougie could not be inserted. After reading one of Mr. Thomas Wakley's papers, published in THE LANCET of 1858, I sent to London for a case of his tubular instruments. Since I received them, I have had under treatment twelve patients troubled with stricture of the urethra, in whom all the characteristic symptoms were present.

In British Columbia, Victoria, Vancouver's Island, and Washington Territory, the natives communicate a virulent variety of gonorrhœa to the white people, which, if not attended to on the appearance of the first symptoms, causes stricture of the urethra in a number of cases.

One of the above twelve patients, M. B—, aged forty-nine years, nervous and emaciated, had been afflicted with stricture for twenty-two years, and had consulted a number of medical men of experience without any relief, until about three months ago he came under my care. Before using the tubular instruments I could not insert a No. 1 or 2 wax bougie into the stricture, which was situated in the membranous portion of the urethra. I placed him under the influence of chloroform, and then passed the director and tubes, as recommended by Mr. Wakley. The patient continued to improve from the first introduction of the tubes. Previous to that time he could only micturate drop by drop, with excruciating pain; then he could pass his urine in a small stream, without any straining or pain. Twenty days after commencing the treatment, he lost the appearance of anxiety previously noticed, had gained flesh, and "felt a new man," passing his urine in a full and continuous stream.

The other patients labouring under the same disease are either well or getting rapidly better under the same plan of treatment. The guides and tubes are my great "stand-by." I have deposited the old sounds, dilators, catheters, and bougies on my shelves, never more to be used by me, with the exception of catheters in cases of retention of urine, and I have great doubts in my mind if the above-named directors are not preferable and easier of introduction.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Olympia, Washington Territory, 1859. M. P. BURNS, Surgeon.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Amongst the numerous reports and opinions regarding the practice and advancement of medical and surgical science which are weekly expounded in your able journal, I consider none more deserving of notice than the efficient method adopted within the last few years by Mr. T. Wakley in the treatment of urethral stricture. I beg, therefore, to subjoin the particulars of my own case, leaving it to others of my professional brethren, of more ability, to institute comparisons between its obvious efficiency and merits, and the protracted, dangerous, and often inefficient treatment usually adopted.

Symptoms of stricture—an almost impassable stricture—developed themselves, in my case, about twelve or thirteen years back; and having consulted, and persevered in the treatment recommended by, some of the most eminent of my profession, without deriving benefit, while symptoms were even manifesting themselves of a tendency to invade the prostatic portion of the urethra, thus interfering with my professional pursuits, I

consulted Mr. T. Wakley; and after submitting to his treatment, I soon found the symptoms, both local and general, completely relieved, and was able, in the short period of two months, to pass with facility a No. 10 catheter.

I trust the manifest importance of this mode of treatment will become generally known, as I have no doubt, from my personal experience, its merits will ultimately demand our attention and approval.

I have the honour to be, Sir, yours obediently,

March, 1860. A PRACTITIONER OF 19 YEARS' STANDING.

(I enclose my card.)

ON THE INJURIOUS EFFECTS OF WHITE LEAD AS A PAINT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Our attention has been drawn to-day to the excellent letter of Dr. Hassall in your last number, and believing that it will give you pleasure to hear that the consumption of oxide of zinc as a substitute for white lead in the manufacture of paint is gradually increasing in this country, we hasten to inform you that our importations of the oxide of zinc at the present time are at the rate of about 1000 tons per annum, with every indication of an increased demand; while the Government returns for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1856, show an importation of only 235 tons from all sources. There is a large field for Dr. Hassall's exertions, as the consumption of white lead is still nearly 100 to 1 of zinc. We had, with the rest of the world, a general impression that the use of white lead paint was deleterious, but we are surprised indeed to learn that it is the cause of so much disease and suffering.

The two slight commercial objections named in Dr. Hassall's letter to the universal use of zinc no longer exist, for the "body" is now sufficiently dense for all paint purposes, and the manner of using it differs in no material respect from the common process of lead painting. A clean brush, and the paint pure, without any adulteration, are the two all-important considerations.

Until within the past two years, the price of the pure oxide of zinc has been higher than the best white lead. It is now much lower, in consequence of an improved and patented system of manufacture.

The real cause of the large consumption of white lead, to the almost entire exclusion of zinc, arises from the fact that white lead can be adulterated with barytes and other cheap ingredients, without being detected by the eye; and the paint so made affords a large profit to the manufacturer and contractor: whereas, the oxide of zinc has but little affinity for foreign substances, and must necessarily be sold pure to make a good and saleable pigment.

The commercial advantages of durability, cheapness, and beauty, are all, as stated by Dr. Hassall, in favour of zinc. France, the United States, and Russia prescribe its use in all important Government works, and it is largely used by the East India Company; yet the English authorities seem indifferent to the subject.

The statements contained in Dr. Hassall's letter of the serious consequences arising from the use of lead paint, not only to workmen, but to others, induce us to hope that you will, on the ground of humanity alone, use your great influence to promote the use of zinc paint as a substitute for lead; and we cannot better close than with a quotation from Dr. Hassall's letter, where he says:—

"It rests with the medical profession to enlighten the public on the subject, and thus ensure the more general adoption of zinc as a paint."—We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

Bread-street, Cheapside, March, 1860.

COATES AND Co.

THE COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS AND MESSRS. HORTON AND MEREDITH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In compliance with a resolution of the Plymouth Medical Society, passed at a meeting held on the 17th of February, I send you a copy of an address to the General Council of Medical Education and Registration, signed by fifty-six fellows and members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, whom you will greatly oblige by giving their address a place in THE LANCET.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. C. COOKWORTHY, M.D., Hon. Sec.

Plymouth, March 3rd, 1860.