

his younger friends present to strive to tread in the same steps of uprightness and honesty, even if they could not reach the same intellectual excellence or professional position as the chairman.

This was suitably responded to by the Chairman, who next proposed the health of the visitors, which was answered by Professor Stromeyer, who, while acknowledging the compliment made him by making him a guest, claimed the privilege of being an old student of St. Thomas's. The professor made an excellent speech in extremely good English.

Mr. Heckstall Smith next gave the toast of "Success to the Biennial Festival," and spoke in warm terms of the pleasure which these biennial meetings afforded to men of his time, as well as to the younger of the old students.

The Chairman next proposed the honorary secretaries, Dr. Rayner and Mr. Wagstaffe, who were called upon to respond.

The dinner terminated about ten o'clock, after a most successful meeting, rendered no less pleasant by the small number of toasts, and the reasonable length of the speeches.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of this Association held at the Medical Club on Tuesday, May 28th, certain amendments to the Public Health Bill were read and discussed. A resolution was then proposed by Mr. Wickham Barnes, and seconded by Dr. Montague Thomas, honorary secretaries to the Association—"That this meeting thoroughly approves of, and will endeavour to support, the 13th Clause of the Public Health Bill appointing Poor-law medical officers health officers, seeing in that clause an earnest endeavour on the part of the President of the Local Government Board to improve the status as well as the remuneration of the Poor-law medical officers." Considerable discussion followed, the opinion of the meeting being that the clause had not been properly understood by its opponents, it having been viewed by them in too narrow and suspicious a light. On the resolution being put to the meeting it was carried. Mr. Barnes then proposed that a memorial be addressed to Mr. Stansfeld, praying that a Superannuation Clause be added to the Bill; but, though the meeting was unanimous in the object of the resolution, it was considered advisable to wait for another opportunity. A communication having been read by the President from Dr. Maunsell, of Dublin, relative to a Bill to amend the Act providing for superannuation allowances to officers, it was proposed by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Dr. Vance, and carried,—"That it is desirable, in the opinion of this Association, that a clause should be introduced into the Bill so that union officers shall include medical officers of the dispensaries of such unions, and that the words 'superintendent registrars' shall be followed by the words 'and registrars,' so that the dispensary physicians of Ireland may be able to compute the fees from registration in estimating their salary for the purpose of superannuation; and this Association pledges itself to exert its parliamentary influence in aid of the above amendment."

THE MEDICAL CLUB.

The opening house dinner of the season was held at the Club on Tuesday, May 28th, on which occasion the chair was occupied by J. Brady, Esq., M.P., and a very agreeable evening was the result. Amongst the company present were the Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron, the Hon. Smee Ayrton, M.P., Mr. Roger Eykyn, M.P., Mr. Maguire, M.P., Mr. Mitchell Henry, M.P., Sir Charles Locock, Sir William Fergusson, Mr. Edward Cock, Mr. Erasmus Wilson, Mr. Teevan, &c. &c. On Thursday, the 3rd instant, an extraordinary general meeting was held at the Club, to take into consideration and decide upon the course to be adopted in consequence of the retirement of the present hon. secretary, Dr. Lory Marsh. There was a large attendance of members. A letter was read to the meeting from Captain Valpy, a member, offering to "purchase the Club," and requesting to be proposed as the future proprietor. It was ultimately unanimously resolved that the Club should be continued on the proprietary principle.

SUPERANNUATION (POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS IRELAND) BILL.

WE beg to call the particular attention of the profession to the following Bill, which has been brought in by Lord Hartington and the Irish Attorney-General. As it stands, this measure will exclude dispensary medical officers, &c., from its benefits.

Dr. Maunsell proposes, as amendments, the passages which we have printed in italics, and we trust that the profession will insist on their adoption.

UNION [*and Dispensary*] OFFICERS (IRELAND) SUPERANNUATION.

A BILL to amend the Act[s] providing Superannuation allowances to officers of unions [*and of dispensary districts of such unions*] in Ireland.

Whereas it is expedient that the Act[s] of the twenty-eighth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter twenty-six, [*and of the thirty-second and thirty-third years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter fifty*] providing superannuation for officers of unions in Ireland, [*and for medical officers of Poor-law unions, and of dispensary districts of such unions in Ireland*] should be amended,

Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. *Short title.*—This Act and the recited Act[s] may be cited together for all purposes as "the Union [*and Dispensary*] Officers (Ireland) Superannuation Acts 1866, [1869], and 1872.

2. *Superintendent registrars to be deemed union officers.*—The superintendent registrar [*and the registrars*] of births, deaths, and marriages appointed in any union in Ireland shall be deemed officer[s] within the operation of the recited Act[s] and in computing the salary of any officer of a union [*or dispensary district of such union*] under the recited Act[s] and this Act the amount of the emoluments of his office on the average of the three years concluded in the last preceding quarter may be taken into calculation by the guardians, and charged upon the rates of the union at large.

THE TATTOOED MAN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I was present at the Vienna Medical Society when the famous tattooed man was displayed to the members. Many of them were by this time tolerably familiar with his appearance, and the real interest of the evening centered in a learned professor who had undertaken to decipher the red dots freely scattered among the many elaborate and beautiful figures on the skin. After some difficulty, arising from the very formless character of the inscriptions, they were at last pronounced to be written in the Birmehse language, and much confirmation is thus given to the striking theory of Dr. Gascoigne. It was felt at the time that the man's statement of his own case savoured strongly of romance, and that the punishment of a pirate by a semi-barbarous tribe like the Tartans would probably have assumed a more summary form than ornamenting his body with the most exquisitely graven designs. It now seems much more probable, as suggested by the local papers at the time, that he had voluntarily submitted to a painful operation in hopes of reaping his reward from the curiosity of the public. It would be interesting to know whether in Chalmers' case any glandular enlargement was observed. Virchow (Cellular Pathology) has described and figured the deposit of pigment which invariably occurs in the first group of lymphatic glands adjoining tattooed skin, and it was considered somewhat remarkable that careful search could detect none of that engorgement which so extensive a surface irritation might have been expected to produce on the Viennese specimen. Possibly, however, the absorption of a certain amount of colouring matter is not necessarily attended by enlargement of the gland sufficient to be felt by the finger.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

May, 1872.

ROBERT FARQUHARSON.