

has been connected, it will, I trust, continue to retain all its dignity, as a mark of our respect, and all its importance, as a pure honorary reward."

It would appear that the president made these remarks lest the old, and long the only, honour should be too much undervalued, as being preceded by the Royal medals. Surely, it must have been intended to have bestowed on DALTON the foremost reward on this occasion!

Is the *first* medal the *last* to be given away? or is it to be understood that the *Royal* honours only *seem* to be complimented?

Having no controversial aim in writing this, I will here end these few remarks on these important medals, the object of which should be ever regarded as identical with that which DAVY states to have animated his inimitable discourses—"to endeavour to keep alive the spirit of philosophical inquiry and the love of scientific glory."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

INQUIRER.

April, 1846.

ON THE DISCOVERY OF THE TRUE PHYSIOLOGY OF THE SPINAL MARROW BY DR. MARSHALL HALL, AND THE AWARD OF THE MEDALS AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your masterly exposition of the hidden proceedings of the Royal Society deserves the thanks of the whole profession—nay, they cannot thank you sufficiently for laying bare to their eyes the abominable disregard of all justice in the awarding of medals, which every one has a right to see honourably and meritoriously adjudged.

I have often wondered (and I am only one among many) at the neglect with which Dr. Grant has been treated for so many years; but the wonder has been transient, not knowing what there might be in the back ground to keep him from occupying a prominent public position in the esteem of his profession. It now appears that the lowest trickery, false assumptions of merit, and unworthy jealousies, have been the cause of this disgraceful omission in his case. Those at whose instance this fault has been committed, doubtless will have their reward, and so be it. But I never dreamt of the great and immortal discoveries of Dr. Marshall Hall having been ever offered for competition (ridiculous) with any papers published of late years in the *Philosophical Transactions*! Why, Sir, 'tis a thing *per se*, and infinitely above deserving the award of a Royal medal—a discovery, by this time, one would hope, engrafted into the minds of all physicians. It would be the acme of ignorance and of presumption for any man to visit the bedside of a patient without a knowledge of the discoveries of Marshall Hall: his name should be dear to all, for his labours, and for the light that has been shed upon medical science. The whole kingdom would be loud in his praise, did they but know the great boon which has been conferred on the community and the world by such godlike revelations. How much pain has been alleviated!—how much suffering averted! How have the minds of men been opened in the investigation of a most important class of diseases, heretofore considered anomalous, and to which no clue to symptoms altogether puzzling and annoying to the physician could be obtained! What confidence has been given to us, and how grateful we ought to be for such rare gifts vouchsafed to man through the Providence of Almighty God! It may be said, that Dr. Marshall Hall was not at first aware of the immense importance of his discoveries, and of their aptitude to receive so thoroughly a practical adaptation; but this is to say only that little things may be added to great ones, and speaks powerfully in favour of the merits of the original discovery.

This is no exaggeration, nor does it partake of any excess of praise to the individual—the truth of the discoveries stands before the whole world, and will continue to be truth, whether it is believed or not. And what is to be the reward of the author?—A Royal medal! Had there been no other awarded, but that to Sir C. Bell, it might now have been bestowed with honour, and have been honoured by its reception; but it is too late. The Royal Society and its secretaries will have their reward, and moreover, the satisfaction of having deprived themselves, by their own hands, of the greatest honour that could have been granted them. Truly, it will be a long time again before they will have an opportunity of rejecting such another offer. But, what is the reward? The acknowledgments and gratitude of all England

will, ere long, be at the feet of the author; the hearts and minds of a great many are at present at his disposal; and I can scarcely believe that the very highest place in the profession will be withheld from one who so richly deserves all the honours it is in our power to bestow.—I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

Clifton, April, 1846.

J. BARRINGTON PROWSE, F.R.C.S.

NEWS, REMARKS, AND CRITICISMS.

A Dublin paper reports that fever is greatly on the increase in Dublin at the present time; and that within the last few weeks, some of the worst cases of typhus have occurred that have been witnessed there for many years. A brother of the Attorney-General (Dr. Greene) died from fever at Dublin, on Monday, the 5th inst.

MEDICAL TESTIMONIALS. A Correspondent, *Quidam*, has called our attention to the following disgraceful corn-cutting testimonial in a Liverpool paper:—

(From Dr. Macnaught.)

I certify that Mr. L— has extracted from me, effectually, a very painful corn, of long standing, and with immediate relief.

JOHN MACNAUGHT, M.D.

Bedford-street, Liverpool, March 27, 1846.

In the same paper we also find these testimonials:—

(From Dr. Pennell.)

Dr. J. P— has extracted several corns from me with great dexterity and success; and from the opportunity I had of observing his method when removing corns from the feet of one of my children, I am induced to consider his method calculated to effect a permanent cure.

RICHARD LEWIN PENNELL, M.D.

Castle-street, Exeter, July 3rd, 1844.

(From J. Wilson, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.S.)

I have much pleasure in according my most cordial praise of the manner in which Mr. P— extracts corns. He has just removed several corns of a very severe nature from my feet, without causing me any pain, and I strongly recommend any one suffering from a like complaint to immediately call to their aid this experienced gentleman.

J. WILSON, M.D.

38, Charterhouse-square, London, March, 1843.

The members of the profession, in endeavouring to obtain a little notice for themselves, assist in destroying the respectability of the medical body. We verily believe that sweepers of the streets might successfully apply to some practitioners for medical testimonials. In London the odious practice has reached a frightful extent.

NON-PAYMENT OF MEDICAL MEN FOR MEDICO-LEGAL INVESTIGATION.—Mr. Greatwood, of Usk, has addressed a letter to the treasurers of the county of Monmouth, stating, that on Friday morning, the 6th of March, he was requested by Mr. McDonnell to ascertain the facts of an assault having been committed on the person of a female, and afterwards to attend at the clerk's office, to give evidence; but on his arrival there, he was informed that an adjournment had taken place till six o'clock that evening. At the hour appointed he again attended, and made his deposition. A further adjournment then took place till the following Monday, at one o'clock. On that day, when on his way to attend, he saw the constable, who asked him to attend at six o'clock that evening, which he did; and each witness was bound over to give evidence at the assizes held at Monmouth last week. From the nature of the examination, Mr. Greatwood was led to expect that the fee would have been one that would have been just for a magistrate to allow; but on receiving the amount due for attending and giving evidence at the assizes, he found that for all his services, prior to the committal of the prisoner for trial, the magistrate had allowed him the paltry sum of five shillings!

* * Medical practitioners should be made acquainted with the fact that magistrates have no power to compel their making such investigations as referred to by Mr. Greatwood; and whenever, in future, surgeons are requested to do so, they should stipulate beforehand for an adequate fee for their professional services.

Dr. BENCE JONES has been elected physician, and Dr. PITMAN assistant physician, to St. George's hospital.

Dr. SNOW has been appointed lecturer on medical jurisprudence at the Aldersgate School, in the room of Dr. DAVIS, deceased.

QUACKERY.—To the Editor.—Sir: Will you do the respectable portion of the profession of Swansea the justice to place the "magic wand" of your all-powerful judgment upon the enclosed advertisement:—

DR. NICOL having been apprized of the practices of certain persons interested in creating an impression on the public mind that his professional charges are high, thinks it no impropriety to have recourse to this method of opposing their intentions. He begs to state that, as a Surgeon, he charged three shillings for each visit in town, including medicines; and that, since he became a member of the College of Physicians, he has continued to charge only the same fee; but, being prohibited by the statutes of the College from dispensing, the expense of the medicine prescribed now falls upon his patients, as the only equivalent they are required to pay for any advantages they think they may derive from a professional experience of thirty years.—5, Dynevor-place, Swansea, April 14th, 1846."—*Cambrian Advertiser*.

Is it an honourable way to resuscitate a vanishing practice? Is it worthy of an extra-licentiate? Would it not be contemptible in any tradesman? Are we *all* to resort to such soliciting advertisements?—Your obedient servant,

April, 1846.

A SWANSEA PRACTITIONER.

* * Any criticism from our pen in this case is, surely, unnecessary. Dr. Nicol has written himself down,—has penned his own proscription from the pale of the profession. But is not the advertisement a forgery? Is it possible that an extra-licentiate of the College of Physicians of London has thus disgraced himself? Such an advertisement would be a fitting placard from a chimney-sweep, or a hawker of tin-kettles. The author of it cannot be considered as belonging to the ranks of the respectable members of the profession. Sincerely do we hope that it will prove to be a forgery.

MILITIA SERVICE.—To the Editor.—Sir: You some time since recommended that every surgeon should endeavour to interest the members of Parliament for his particular locality in obtaining exemption from the militia service for medical men of all denominations. But should such a liberal measure not be granted by the legislature, it appears to me that, at least, the ill-paid union medical officers (for whom Sir Robert Peel seems to entertain some compassion) should be placed on an equal footing with tax-gatherers and other servants of her Majesty, who, by the present Act, are not eligible to serve. Your notice of this suggestion, either in your far-famed journal, or at the proper time, in Parliament, will add to the many obligations which are due to you from all branches of the profession.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ONE OF THE ILL-PAID.

THE CHOLERA IN THE EAST.—An Indian Gazette speaks of the recent occurrence of cholera at Secunderabad, in the Nizam's dominions, from which a British officer, his wife and child, died in the course of two successive days, and one of their servants subsequently. A fatal epidemic is also said to be raging at the present time amongst cattle in Russia, Northern Persia, and Central Asia.

RESTRAINTS FOR QUACKS.—To the Editor.—Sir: I quite agree with your correspondent, Dr. R. Barnes, in his note on "New Restraints for Quacks," reported in *THE LANCET*, April 11th, p. 422, but for the more effectually carrying out his proposition, beg to suggest, that in addition to Registrars, that every Coroner, Justice of Peace, Clerk of Court, and others, should be possessed of a copy of the Medical Directory, which contains a faithful record of every qualified medical practitioner, within five miles of the General Post-Office. Without some such recognised guide, the former must be much at a loss to decide whether they shall register in the qualified or unqualified column, consequently, the returns, as at present made, must be exceedingly incorrect, particularly where the registrars are non-medical. In all the latter, it would direct them who to pay, and who not, as witnesses.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM SELF.

Lucas-place West, Commercial-road, April, 1846.

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.—The annual distribution of prizes at this school took place on the 9th ult., on which occasion, Mr. Hunt, the treasurer of the hospital, presided. After an address on the state of the school by Mr. Arnott, one of the surgeons, and chairman of the school, the prizes and certificates of honour were awarded to the following gentlemen:—

Medicine.—First prize, Mr. A. D. Home; second ditto, Mr. Sydney G. Bousfield; honorary certificate, Mr. Augustus Grant.

Surgery.—Prize, Mr. Bousfield; honorary certificate, Mr. Grant.

Physiology.—Prize, Mr. Bousfield; honorary certificate, Mr. Boyers.

Anatomy.—Prize, Mr. Boyers; honorary certificate, Mr. Pates.

Materia Medica.—First prize, Mr. Boyers; second ditto, Mr. Clapham.

Chemistry.—Prize, Mr. John Day.

Midwifery.—Prize, Mr. Arthur Smith.

Forensic Medicine.—Prize, Mr. Bousfield; honorary certificate, Mr. Roberts.

Botany.—Prize, Mr. Clapham; honorary certificate, Mr. A. Smith.

A theological prize, the gift of the Rev. D. Laing, the chaplain to the hospital, was gained by Mr. Boyers. At the conclusion of the meeting, a vote of thanks was moved to the chairman; and it was proposed by Dr. Merriman, and resolved, that the thanks of the governors were due to the lecturers for their endeavours, during the past session, to uphold the character and advance the prosperity of the school.

THE APPOINTMENT IN THE HALSTEAD UNION.—To the Editor.—Sir: Your Halstead Correspondent (page 451) accuses our Board of Guardians,—1st, Of "actually appointing as medical officer, a man who was neither a licentiate of Apothecaries' Hall, nor a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons;" 2ndly, of subsequently appointing the unqualified assistant of this non-qualified officer. As to the first charge against an absentee, I answer, that when I became assistant, I believed my employer to be a qualified man, and so did the guardians, and so did your correspondent, for years, and they are no more to blame for our belief than is your correspondent. How unjust, then, to reflect on the Board of Guardians! And what becomes of the force of such a charge? What the object of it? As to myself, when I was honoured by the appointment, I had for years held the diploma of surgery and medicine of the University of Glasgow, in which school I studied six years. No man knows better than you, Sir, that the poor-law commissioners sanctioned such appointments, provided the candidate held a like qualification, and my becoming a licentiate of the English Hall was voluntary on my part. As to being liable to attend 5000 paupers, the number in our schedule never much exceeded 1000, and the entire population last census was 5710! I, for my part, think that all misrepresentations are bad, but the accused absentee, who holds both a Scotch diploma and a London physician's licence, if publicly attacked at all, ought to have been attacked when he was present to answer for himself. It is not my business to defend him, but if any blame was attachable to the guardians, it equally belonged to your Halstead correspondent for tolerating the really unqualified but apparently qualified practitioner as his rival, especially so with regard to a medical man; surely a rival medical man ought to have been more competent to detect a want of real qualification than a Board of Guardians.—I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Halstead, April, 1846.

D. SINCLAIR.

QUACKERY.—To the Editor.—Sir: It is almost impossible for those who reside among the better educated masses in large towns, to form any idea of the extent to which the rural population is imposed upon by ignoramuses and impostors. We have white-witches, and black-witches, charmers of burns and scalds, casters of nativities, and foretellers of the fate of parturient women. Within a few miles of this town, a large district is medically superintended by one of the "Gipsy tribe," and in such estimation is he held by the people, that when opposed by a regular practitioner as candidate for surgeon to a club, the latter stood no chance at all. There are many such adventurers in this part, who, if we may judge from their outward appearance and their physiognomies, are better off than some of those who are entitled to attach M.R.C.S. &c. to their names. I was in a chemist's shop last week, when the following prescription was presented by one of these general practitioners, in his own hand-writing, to be made up, as I understood, for the servant of a noble lord living in the neighbourhood:—

"Jolop; Pil a Cosha; Bitter Hallos; Rubbub; Saint James, in Powder; Ass petito; Craim a torter—two pen-north of each; Bolis Powder [*Anglice*, borax]; Bold Alma-nack."

The case for which all these things were prescribed was one of pericarditis and dropsy. It may appear inconceivable how such men can find patients, yet, if we may judge by their frequent orders on the chemist, they must have much to do. Besides, they do nothing else; and some of them keep a horse or a pony. I will not pretend to find a remedy for such evils, but content myself with exposing facts.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant, O. O. O.

Mr. GREEN, one of the council of the College of Surgeons, has been appointed a Commissioner of the Pentonville prison.

TREATMENT OF QUACKERY IN FRANCE.—Jean Canard was brought before the Correctional Police, charged with the sale of secret remedies, the composition of which is not indicated in the codex. He pleaded that these medicines, which were composed of a powder, were given by him for the relief of the unfortunate. It was, however, proved that he had demanded from some persons whom he had supplied with this vegetable powder, thirty, fifty, one hundred, and even two hundred francs. He was condemned in a fine of six hundred francs, and further sentenced, as being a former offender, to ten days' imprisonment. A herbist, named Repiquel, at the barrier of Fontainebleau, accused of illegally practising medicine and pharmacy, was fined fifteen francs for his practice of medicine, and five hundred francs for the sale of pharmaceutical preparations. Charles Drouhin, herbist, living in the Rue des Tournelles, was fined five hundred francs for illegally practising pharmacy. Denis de Saint Pierre was fined five hundred francs for the sale of secret remedies and pharmaceutical preparations.—*Prov. Jour.* April 22.

QUACK ADVERTISEMENTS.—*To the Editor.*—Sir: I regard the accompanying little pamphlet as the *ne plus ultra* of empirical advertisements. Can we wonder that obscure practitioners should seek notoriety by attaching their names to certificates in favour of "Solomon's spectacles," "Green-ginger wine," or anything else, when the *élite* of the profession sanction such monstrous proceedings? The following is emblazoned on the cover:—

"SO-AND-SO'S EMOLLIENT TEETHING-STICKS,

"Patronized by the most eminent physicians. The following names are inserted *by permission*:—Dr. MERRIMAN, M.D.; Sir JAMES CLARK, Bart.; Dr. JAMES JOHNSON; Dr. LOCOCK; Dr. ASHWELL, M.D."

Mr. Squire has "certified" that these sticks contain nothing deleterious. How should they, being composed of nothing in the world but bees-wax and sugar? Continue your exertions, Sir, and this "offence in high places" must come to an end. Faithfully yours, A. B.

London, April 20th.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

The following gentlemen were admitted fellows of this college on the 16th inst.—viz., Messrs. J. Nottingham, Liverpool; C. B. Rose, Swaffham, Norfolk; G. D. Pollock, Sackville-street; H. B. Norman, Duchess-street, Portland-place; H. Bell, Yarmouth.—17th inst.: J. R. Reece, A. Halley, J. Brady, F. F. Allen, A. McMahon, E. L. West, D. L. Morgan, F. G. Broxholm, A. G. Fenwick, W. C. Tucker, C. Broughton, W. Delpratt.

CORRESPONDENTS.

In reply to several letters which have been addressed to us on the subject of a proposed plan for the subject of an institution—many of them being strongly condemnatory, on the supposition that it is to be confined to general practitioners,—we think it right to withhold their publication until the result of the conference between the sub-committee of the National Association and the deputation of the Associated Surgeons is communicated to the profession. Far better would it be that all the medical reform associations should cease to exist, than that their continuation should be the means of maintaining a spirit of hostility amongst the different classes of the profession, and in perpetuating those divisions which are calculated to detract from the respectability and influence of the surgeons who are engaged in the general practice of their profession. We sincerely hope that the provision in the scheme, to which so many of our correspondents have taken an angry exception, has not been by them correctly interpreted. In a few days, the required explanation will be obtained.

Our columns are extremely crowded; but we will endeavour to find room for the letter of Mr. James Arnott (Brighton), although, as a principle, we have found it to be necessary to exclude from our pages notices on the offences of ignorant reviewers.

M.R.C.S. and L.A.C.—It is a grossly impertinent demand on the part of the registrar, and there does not exist the slightest legal authority for making it. Such a scandalous insult ought to be reported to the Registrar-general of births and deaths, at Somerset House.

The note of Mr. James D— (Birkenhead) has been received. The title that he names should be placed within the power of legal adoption on the part of every member of the profession.

M. D., (London),—after reading the report of the Associated Committee of Surgeons, on Monday evening last, will acknowledge the propriety of not publishing his letter in *THE LANCET* of this week. The question is still *sub judice*, and sincerely do we hope that it will have an amicable termination. So long as the dissensions and distraction in the profession last, precisely so long shall we remain without any just law for our government.

A Licentiate and Member of Two Colleges.—The Committee could scarcely have taken a more decisive step in the right direction, than that of voluntarily abandoning its permanent character and becoming again a provisional committee, for the execution of specific purposes, a description of which is to be submitted to the consideration of the profession at a public meeting. After such a proceeding we are not disposed to dwell upon past occurrences. We want peace and union.

The letters of D. S. E. and Mr. Thomas Wilson (Hull) will be inserted.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.—Sir: What may be considered to be a fair remuneration fee for reducing a large inguinal hernia, in the case of a person in tolerable circumstances, living at a distance in the country, at three o'clock, A.M., with detention during three hours.—Yours respectfully, Scotland, April 9th, 1846.

A SUBSCRIBER.

* * Two or three guineas.—Ed. L.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.—Sir: It is the practice of some physicians and surgeons, who are not apothecaries, to supply their patients with medicines, without charging for the same. Such practitioners are paid for their advice and attendance only. Is this practice legal? or, in other words, are these gentlemen practising as apothecaries or not?—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, W. P.

* * If they supply medicines to their patients in such cases, such physicians and surgeons are practising as apothecaries.—Ed. L.

QUACKERY.—*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*—Sir: The card referred to by your correspondent (page 452,) was printed by me some years back, at that over-anxious period the first onset of practice, and was never circulated. It must have been obtained by *stealthy means*; and therefore I am not surprised that no name and address accompanied same. I would beg to add that the only card circulated in my practice is the enclosed. [A mere visiting card. Ed. L.] I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

HENRY TAYNTON.

7, Bedford-place, Commercial-road East, April 20th.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.—Sir: In your notice to correspondents last week, it appears that one of them has only done things by halves, respecting Mr. Taynton, of Bedford-place, Commercial-road East. I beg to remind you that this is the same gentleman whose twin compilation of card and pamphlet, headed "Medical Aid in Time of Sickness," purporting that the advertiser would attend patients *within three miles, and include physic in the charge of one shilling*, I sent you, accompanied by a letter showing the advertiser's contemptible appropriation of an observation that fell from you at an inquest, so ingeniously turned to his own account. Three thousand copies of these card-pamphlets, I stated, were circulated three days after the advertiser had signed his name at the Tower-Hamlets Medical Association in favour of upholding "the respectability, and supporting the interests of the profession." Your answer to this will be found among the notices to correspondents, November 9th, 1844. Signing myself now, as then, your obedient servant,

ONE WHO GIVES VALUE FOR A SHILLING.

Tower-Hamlets, April 21, 1846.

O. P. would not be prosecuted as a quack, but he might, nevertheless, be proceeded against by the Company for violating one of the clauses of the Apothecaries' Act.

Mr. S. S. Faulks.—The medical gentlemen in question are legally qualified practitioners, and as they do nothing more than practise medicine, (for however numerous the branches, the science is but one,) it is not wise to find the same kind of fault with them for embracing in their proceedings all those branches as should be visited upon them for encouraging the quackish labours of unqualified practitioners.

Assuredly, it would prove to be an error. What would be that NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE, SURGERY, and MIDWIFERY, which excluded from it such surgeons as Sir BENJAMIN BRODIE and Mr. LISTON; and such physicians as HARVEY, CULLEN, DENMAN, and HUNTER? It is impossible to believe that the stipulation has been properly interpreted. A general union of this kind would prove the salvation of the profession. The system of quackery is now receiving a check, but it can only be put down and kept down by obtaining increased power for the respectable and qualified members of the profession.

Mr. Herapath's paper is unavoidably postponed this week.

Communications have been received from—Mr. Dickinson, Wigmore-street; Dr. Taylor, University College; Mr. Jones; Mr. Gate, Tunbridge Wells; one of the Ill-paid; a Subscriber for seventeen years; a Reader; Dr. Bird, Swansea, (with a pamphlet and newspapers;) Mr. Chelton; Mr. Horne; Mr. S. Hall; Adelphos; and Mr. S. Rodick.