

means so condemnatory of the use of all laxatives as on that occasion.

The College of Physicians also passed a unanimous resolution strongly approving of the establishment, as in 1832, of Houses of Refuge for the removal of the healthy from localities threatened with a severe visitation of the epidemic. This measure was carried through energetically by the Edinburgh Board of Health during the first epidemic; so that at one period upwards of 700 persons from infected districts were lodged under observation in Houses of Refuge, but allowed to go to their usual places of work.

CENTRAL BOARD OF HEALTH, DUBLIN.

ABSTRACT OF NOTIFICATION RESPECTING THE CHOLERA.

The commissioners of health, after mature consideration, do not advise that cholera should be met by an extended system of hospital accommodation, such as is needful in epidemics of fever, but recommend, in preference, a general system of prompt and efficient dispensary relief.

To afford this immediate relief, the commissioners of health recommend that every existing medical institution, whether hospital or dispensary, should be open day and night, during the prevalence of cholera, to all applicants, without distinction, where all who apply should obtain, without a moment's delay, advice and medicine; and from which all the poor who may be unable to leave their dwellings, may be visited with promptitude, and supplied with medicine at home, or transferred, if requisite, to hospital.

To effect these objects, the following arrangements are recommended:—

1. The prescribing room of every medical institution, whether hospital or dispensary, should be open day and night, without intermission, during the prevalence of cholera, and a medical officer should be in constant attendance to prescribe for all applicants.

2. Each hospital and dispensary should have a certain district allotted to it, and the attending porter or clerk should keep a book, in which he should enter the names and residences of all applicants for relief within the district, who are unable to leave their homes. The books should show the time of application, and the name and residence of the patient.

3. A second medical officer should be constantly in readiness to receive the names of all such applicants, and to proceed without delay to visit them. The visiting physician, instead of writing a prescription at the residence of the patient, should be provided with a small portable pocket-medicine-box, containing,—

Carbonate of ammonia, in waxed papers, each paper containing 40 grains, with the following printed directions on the outside:—"Dissolve this powder in half a pint of water, give two tablespoonfuls every hour."

Compound powder of chalk with opium—(Pulv. cretæ c. opio,) in packets, each paper containing 10 grains of the powder, with printed directions:—"One powder every half-hour until the looseness ceases."

Pills of powdered opium, each containing one quarter of a grain of opium, and two grains of powdered ginger, made up with oil of peppermint, with a printed label:—"Opium pills, one every half-hour until the looseness ceases."

Pills of mercury and opium, each containing one quarter of a grain of calomel, two grains of hydrargyrum c. creta (mercury with chalk), and a quarter of a grain of opium, made up with oil of caraway, with a printed label:—"Mercury and opium pills, one every half-hour."

Bottles (one or two ounce phials, with cork stoppers).

1. Containing—Tincture of opium (laudanum).
2. " Hoffman's liquor.
3. " Tincture of rhatany.
4. " Creasote.

Along with the box should be carried a small jar of strong brown mustard.

The commissioners do not recommend that fluid applications of any kind should be employed in frictions on the body or limbs, as the cold consequent on prolonged exposure and evaporation more than counterbalances any supposed good effect from friction, which, if at all used, should be made merely with the warm hand, without disturbing the bed-clothes. The commissioners also advise that when patients suffer from thirst, they should in general be permitted to drink freely, as experience shows that the denial of drink does not check vomiting, while it increases very much the suffering of

the patient, from the burning thirst that so often accompanies the disease.

PRECAUTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS OF HEALTH.

Shun damp and low situations, and, if possible, quit dwellings in such places, during the prevalence of cholera; keep your houses and rooms dry, and the windows and doors open as much and as long as the weather will permit. An abundant supply of fresh air is as necessary during the night as in the day.

Remove all stagnant water and dung heaps from around your dwellings, and clean out all sewers without delay. Do these things at once, without waiting for the outbreak of the disease.

Avoid chills; do not wear wet clothes a moment longer than can be avoided. Wear a flannel belt round the stomach and loins—make use of plain wholesome food, in the solid rather than in the liquid form—abstain from fruit, raw and ill-cooked vegetables, pastry, smoked and hard salted meats, and salted fish, pork, cider, stale or sour malt drinks, pickles, and all articles of diet that from experience are known to have a purgative effect.

Avoid purgative medicines, particularly castor oil, seidlitz powders, and salts.

Be very careful that the water used as drink is of good quality.

Abstain from stimulants unless prescribed as remedies under medical advice. In former visitations of cholera, many persons, both rich and poor, resorted to the use of stimulants, —wine, whisky, brandy, &c.,—under the false impression that what was sometimes useful as a cure, was also good as a preventive. This is a great error; stimulants, frequently taken, or taken in excess, are followed by collapse, which predisposes to the disease, and the general health, moreover, is seriously and permanently injured by the practice. In fine, shun damp places, particularly for sleeping; breathe the pure air; observe cleanliness; keep the surface of the body warm; avoid fatigues, and excesses of all kinds; use wholesome plain food; live temperately; preserve, as much as possible, a state of general good health, and you will have adopted the best safeguards against cholera.

Notice.—If attacked by diarrhœa or looseness of the bowels, however slight, whether with or without pain, apply without a moment's delay, at the dispensary in where medical relief will be given at any hour of the day or night.

Should you be attacked with diarrhœa or looseness of the bowels, with or without pains, and that medical advice is not at hand, go at once to bed, wrap yourself in warm blankets, roll a swathe of warm flannel, sprinkled with hot spirits of turpentine, or whisky, closely round the body, extending from the chest to the hips, and take a teaspoonful of brandy or whisky in a little water, with fifteen drops of laudanum, repeating it every hour, if the attack be not checked, until a third dose has been taken, but do not venture farther in the use of laudanum without medical advice.

By order of the Commissioners,

W. H. HOPPER, Secretary.

Central Board of Health, Dublin, 1848.

THE BENEVOLENT FUND OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

THIS Society is, strictly speaking, a benevolent or charitable institution, founded and promoted for the express purpose of assisting our professional brethren, when struggling under the pressure of disease or other calamities. Contributions are received from all persons friendly to the objects of the Society, though belonging neither to the Association nor to the profession. The object of the fund is the relief of medical men* and their families under severe and urgent distress, occasioned by sickness, accident, or any other calamity. The claims of contributors, as far as possible, have the preference; but contributions to the fund give no claim of right to relief, the fund being one of pure charity, each case being judged according to the urgency of the distress. Under circumstances of peculiar emergency, relief may be extended to the widows and orphans of medical men, it being understood that it is not the design of this fund to relieve medical men from the necessity of providing for their families by ordinary life insurances, and

* The Society will not acknowledge any one as a fit object of relief who has not received a regular professional education, and who is not either a doctor of physic, or a member of the College of Surgeons, or of the Apothecaries' Company.

such other means as prudence dictates. The management of the fund is conducted by a committee of the contributing members, annually appointed. The business of this Society is managed by a president, four trustees, a treasurer and secretary, and a committee.

As soon as possible, after applications for relief have been made, it will be the duty of the committee thoroughly to investigate the nature of the claims; and having satisfied themselves that the case is worthy of the bounty of the Society, to decide upon the amount of relief they think ought to be administered.

When two or more cases are presented about the same time, if all cannot be satisfied, the committee shall be guided entirely by the urgency of the claims in apportioning the bounty of the Society.

On other occasions, where the claims are nearly equal, priority of application shall direct their decision.

All monies received by the committee are to be paid into the hands of the treasurer as soon as possible; and it shall be his duty immediately to deposit the same with the bankers of the Society.

The annual subscriptions are to be devoted exclusively to meet those applications for relief from medical men and their families, which have been especially contemplated in the formation of the Society. From the same source, likewise, are to be defrayed the expenses which may be incurred in the management of the Society.

The bequests and donations are to be regularly put out to interest, as an accumulating fund, the interest of the same being regularly appropriated to increase the capital, till the sum accumulated shall amount to £2000.

When a fixed annual income shall have thus been obtained from the interest of the accumulated capital, that income may be applied, with the concurrence of a majority of the committee, to the granting of pensions, or annuities, to such deserving members of the profession as may have been rendered incapable of following their profession, by age, disease, or any other infirmity.

The sum lent in no case to exceed £100.

The borrower to have the use of that sum, without interest, on giving good and sufficient security that it shall be repaid to the Society at the end of twelve months, at the latest. The same regulations to be followed in cases of this kind as in those laid down in respect of annuities.

All communications to the committee to be addressed to the treasurer and secretary, W. Newnham, Esq., Farnham, Surrey.

Abstract of the Report for 1848.—The committee of the benevolent fund rejoice to announce more cheering prospects; a new, and on the whole a successful, effort has been made to revive and extend the influence of the Society beyond the limits which it had previously held. The number of their friends has been augmented, and their pecuniary resources have been increased beyond their most sanguine expectations; yet the donation fund is not available for the relief of present misery, and cannot be so for some years, unless a greater effort be made to bring it up to that sum, at which the Association has fixed that the income arising from its capital may be distributed in the relief of the necessitous.

The committee also call attention to the fact, that every year is marked by mortality among their friends; hence the great importance that each one should work while he has the power, and contribute something towards the permanence of so invaluable an institution.

The committee have termed their institution invaluable, and they have done so advisedly; because it extends relief to worthy objects in deepest distress, and for whom no other mode of relief is available; and they would further add, that by a trifling sacrifice from all their associates, their funds would be immediately placed in such a position as to enable them to give relief in some degree proportioned to the necessities for which it is claimed.

During the past year the number of cases relieved has been somewhat less than during the preceding.

The committee especially present their thanks to those ladies who have, during the last year, so considerably promoted their object by collecting donations from their friends. Even in the earlier days of the Association, the ladies of Worcester, of Warrington, and other places, have been the foremost among their indefatigable friends; and they earnestly entreat these ladies generally, to afford the institution, especially the donation fund, the benefit of their untiring exertions, and of their unsurpassed benevolence.

The committee desire to record their grateful sense of the

services of their late treasurer and secretary, Dr. W. Conolly, and anxious to connect his name as closely as possible with their institution, they have entreated him to become one of the trustees to the fund: to this arrangement he has kindly assented.

JOHN BARON, M.D., President.
WM. NEWNHAM, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

The financial statement of the year ending June 30th 1848, shows the *Donation Fund* to have amounted to 1290*l.* 17*s.*, and that bank stock, to the amount of 1183*l.*, had been purchased in the same year. The *Subscription Fund* had amounted to 319*l.* 16*s.*; the benevolent aid afforded absorbed 177*l.* 10*s.*, and the total expenditure 217*l.*, leaving in the hands of the treasurer a total amount of 206*l.* 8*s.* derived from both funds.

Donations and subscriptions on behalf of the benevolent fund are most earnestly and respectfully solicited, and will be most thankfully received and acknowledged by any member of the committee—viz., Dr. Baron, Dr. W. Conolly, Dr. Bernard, Dr. Cannon, and C. T. Cooke, Esq., all of Cheltenham; by Dr. Hastings, or Dr. Streeten, of Worcester; and by the treasurer, Mr. Newnham, of Farnham; or they may be paid to Sir John Lubbock and Co., bankers, London, in the name of "Mr. Newnham," to the account of the Farnham Bank.

Correspondence.

— "Audi alteram partem."

ON THE TREATMENT OF BLENNORRHAGIA IN THE FEMALE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

"Tantæne animis doctoribus iræ?"

SIR,—I am aware that personal discussions ought to find no place in a scientific journal like yours, but I must beg that you will make an exception in my favour, and afford me an opportunity of briefly replying to Dr. R. G. Mayne's uncourteous letter, (*THE LANCET*, Oct. 21, 1848, page 461.) It is generally admitted that an author who wilfully publishes his opinions, tacitly invites discussion at the hands of whomsoever the matter may interest; the expression *obtrusive meddling*, as applied to my communication by Dr. R. G. Mayne, is therefore as illogical as it is impolite. Thus far I have the supporters of good sense and good breeding on my side. Dr. R. G. Mayne is quite at liberty to reject one and all the opinions of M. Ricord, but surely he can do so without resorting to personalities regarding myself. Perhaps he thinks, however, as he cannot strike the master, he will at least have a good rap at the man! But even so, does Dr. R. G. Mayne mean to keep the field of pathological and therapeutical inquiry, as regards the generative system, all to himself? or is he attempting to interdict to any member of the profession ingress into the same? Are Dr. R. G. Mayne's productions of that hallowed and immaculate description that they must not be breathed at? Does this gentleman mean to chain down criticism, and awe it into silence by a few ill-natured strokes of his pen? If Dr. R. G. Mayne is so loth to have his doctrines *meddled* with, he must refrain from publishing them, or else be particularly careful not to attribute to the authorities he quotes, opinions which they do not entertain. It is extremely likely that Dr. R. G. Mayne's paper on *Blennorrhagia* in the Female would have entirely escaped my attention, had he not introduced into it a reference to M. Ricord, which reference happened to be incorrect; and I imagine that Dr. R. G. Mayne had hardly any occasion for the mighty outburst of wrath he has indulged in, when I pointed out, in proper and courteous language, that he had been labouring under a misapprehension. What can have nettled Dr. R. G. Mayne in this simple and gentlemanly course? Is it, perhaps, that I ventured to express an opinion in favour of Dr. Egan's practice? This seems verily to be the crime which has brought down upon me all Dr. R. G. Mayne's ire. But am I guilty of presumption for having stated* that the question would PROBABLY be decided for Dr. Egan? Dr. R. G. Mayne must be very tender on this point. Yet as Dr. Egan, M. Ricord, and M. Piorry, obtained no results from copal injections, I still think that I was justified in considering the opinion of these authorities as PROBABLY the correct one. If Dr. R. G. Mayne has not leisure, although a subscriber to *THE LANCET*,

* *THE LANCET*, Sept. 16, 1848, page 326.