

## JUNIOR MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—In accordance with the resolutions which you kindly reported in your last number, certain propositions have been drawn up, which will during the present or the following week be submitted for the official approval of the members of the local Hospital Societies. These propositions will be seen from copy enclosed to affirm the desirability of founding a Junior Medical Society, and ask for the appointment of a representative council to draw up a constitution. As to the abstract question of desirability, I found when I first agitated this matter two years since, as now, a general unanimity. But some practical difficulties have been started, as to which I should like, with your permission, to say a few words, in anticipation of the discussions at the local Societies.

The most important objection raised has been the suggestion that it might injure the local Societies. I think it will not be difficult to prevent any injury to these Societies, and by judicious arrangements it will be very possible to make it auxiliary to their interests.

To this end it would seem desirable that—

1. The Junior Medical Society should be constituted essentially as a union of the existing Hospital Medical Societies, in the same sense as a university is a union of colleges, each retaining its own individual activity.

2. Its constitution should be based on theirs.

3. The avenue to membership should be through those Societies—I think solely through them.

4. Its meetings should not take place too frequently—perhaps not more than once a month; otherwise they would interfere too much with the ordinary meetings of the local Hospital Societies.

5. Wherever it could be arranged, the meetings should be held at the various hospitals, each in turn. No additional subscription need be exacted for entrance. The small funds necessary could well be supplied by a subscription from each Society as a body.

If these propositions be considered at the approaching meetings, I think it will be seen that the Society will thus afford a common occasional meeting ground for all the most intelligent students, who will be encouraged to join their local Society, in part from the desire to assist at these occasional general gatherings. If the meetings do not occur more frequently than six or eight times a year, they will not by their frequency satiate the appetite for local discussions. It might be part of the programme of the united Society to promote the interests of the local Societies in various ways which now suggest themselves to me, but of which the further consideration may perhaps better be left to the subsequent deliberation of the Council of the Society. Everyone will appreciate the good effect of the more intelligent and really earnest students meeting each other occasionally in friendly intellectual converse at their respective "medical homes," as Mr. Alexander Squire has very happily called the London hospitals. And I trust that I may be excused for bringing the above suggestions, by your help, before the notice of the students about to consider this matter finally at their meetings. I do so because I have reason to hope that they may conciliate general favour and permanent support to the proposed Society.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your faithful servant,

Wimpole-street, February, 1861.

ERNEST HART.

P.S.—It is for many reasons desirable that the meetings to consider the subjoined resolutions be held without avoidable delay.

## JUNIOR MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

At a meeting of the Provisional Committee, held on Saturday, February 2nd, at 69, Wimpole street, Mr. CLARKE, Treasurer of King's College Medical Society, was voted to the chair; Mr. ALEXANDER SQUIRE, President of the University College Medical Society, was elected Hon. Sec. *pro tem*.

It was moved by Mr. ERNEST HART, seconded by Mr. WORKMAN, of King's College, and carried unanimously,—  
"That the delegates from each hospital now present do communicate to their respective hospitals the following resolutions:—

I. "That it is highly desirable to institute a Junior Medical Society of London, as a means of promoting an intellectual and personal fellowship amongst the students of the various metropolitan schools, now devoid of any medium of friendly communication, and that such Society should be formed by a union of existing Hospital Medical Societies.

II. "That the objects of the Society should be:—1. To obtain papers from its members, explaining the opinions and practice in vogue at the various hospitals, and treating of all other appropriate subjects in the domains of Medicine, Surgery, and the allied sciences. 2. To examine and discuss pathological specimens exhibited by the members. 3. By affording facilities for the professional association of students from the various schools, to increase their mutual acquaintance, and to encourage a feeling of sympathy and union in their general body.

III. "That each Hospital Society be requested to appoint two representatives, and that the gentlemen so appointed shall meet within three weeks from this date, shall draw up a proposed constitution for the Society, and subsequently submit it to a general meeting of the members of the various societies hereafter to be convened.

IV. "That the following gentlemen be now appointed to act as a temporary sub-committee, to receive communications, and for other business purposes:—Mr. Alexander Squire, Mr. Clarke, and Mr. Ernest Hart."

## PROPOSED MEMORIAL TO DR. BALY.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—In common with the great bulk of the profession, I feel that something ought to be done to mark our high esteem and regret for the fate of Dr. Baly. The loss to the profession generally is severe, but it is more especially so to those who had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Baly at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where, both as an individual and a teacher, he was worthily beloved. I feel sure that many, who, like myself, have reaped the benefit of Dr. Baly's skill and devotion to the instruction of the students, would like to raise some mark of respect to his memory. How this is to be accomplished I leave to older heads and those who are on the spot.

Devon, Feb. 1861.

NON IMMEMOR BENEFICII.

## THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—I have just returned the following general answer to the customary modest request of one of the *advice-gratis* order of life assurance companies—the "Consolidated Assurance," to wit.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Alford, Lincolnshire, Feb. 1861.

R. U. WEST, M.D., &c.

(COPY.)

"I decline to answer this long string of questions without a fee from your office. It is all nonsense your telling me it is 'for his benefit.' I could not answer them truly for *his* benefit. In short, if I am to act as his *advocate* in the business, I should feel bound to answer every question as favourably for his interest—or, to use your own words, *for his benefit*—as I could.

"I little thought when, a few months ago, I was receiving week by week your outrageous puffs of the wonders of *consolidated* assurance, that you would ever have the consolidated assurance to ask me for *advice gratis*.

"I am, Sir, yours &c.,

"Jan. 30th, 1861."

"R. U. WEST, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

## DEATH FROM MENTAL DEPRESSION AND CHLOROFORM.

—M. Cazenave, of Bordeaux, was lately called some distance to amputate the leg of a gentleman, aged forty, whose horse had fallen upon the limb. Several hours elapsed between the accident and the intended operation; and when M. Cazenave had finished his preparations, aided by two medical practitioners who had been called in soon after the mishap, he exhorted the patient to take courage, as the latter was extremely depressed at the idea of losing his leg, and often broke out in loud lamentations. It was agreed, upon the patient's request, that chloroform should be used; but as his spirits were so bad, and the powers of life low, M. Cazenave resolved to withhold the chloroform, asking the medical man who was about to give it to feign the administration of the anæsthetic. The handkerchief was therefore held at a great distance from the face, but the patient had hardly made four hurried inspirations when respiration ceased, and the action of the heart stopped. All the means resorted to in order to revive the patient were unavailing. M. Cazenave considers that the chloroform had nothing to do with this result; it is probable, however, that the melancholy event was due to mental depression aided by the chloroform.