

expanded into its present magnitude, and become the residence of numerous members of the profession, it cannot but happen that among them your workmen should have their predilections for particular ones; and it is hard that, in the absence of valid reasons to the contrary, they should not be allowed to indulge them without, as at present, being obliged to pay two.

"Were this compulsory system discontinued, and the men allowed to be free agents, they would, as in other towns, form medical clubs among themselves, and select their own surgeons. As connected with this subject, I would advert to the establishment of an infirmary here, and the great benefit it would be to the lower grades of your workmen, when suffering from accidents or disease; their own abodes being so entirely destitute of those appliances and aids to medical treatment which are essential to its efficiency.

"In addressing these observations to you, I utterly disclaim the slightest reflection on the gentlemen whom you have nominated for your workmen; but I deny the present necessity for the existence at Merthyr of a monopoly which coerces those workmen by forced payments for what they frequently choose not to avail themselves of, and tends to throw the whole surgical practice of its vast manufacturing and mining population into the hands of a few, to the exclusion of others equally qualified, who, from birth, long residence, etc., have a fair right to a participation of that practice.

"From your position as sole proprietors of the extensive iron and coal mines of this neighbourhood, and as employers of the great numbers therein engaged, whom this question closely affects, and from the injustice it involves, I submit that it has imperative claims on your consideration. There are also other invidious points connected with it, but which, being more strictly professional, I shall not trouble you with.

"Having thus publicly, and as briefly as possible, drawn your attention to this subject, I cannot conclude without expressing a conviction that you must at once see that its oppressive character and unfairness are too apparent to be denied, and that it places Merthyr in a peculiar and exceptional position as regards the medical aid afforded to the immense majority of its inhabitants.

"I subscribe myself your obedient servant,

"E. DAVIES, Surgeon.]

"Merthyr, August 1854."

## EDITOR'S LETTER BOX.

### DR. MEYER, CHIEF PHYSICIAN OF THE HOSPITAL AT SMYRNA.

SIR,—I do not often see the ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL; but this morning Nos. cxv and cxvii fell into my hands; the former containing some editorial observations on the appointment of Dr. Meyer to the Smyrna Hospital, and the latter a letter from Sir John Forbes, animadverting in unjustifiably severe terms upon your editorial remarks.

Sir John speaks of the high medical testimony in Dr. Meyer's favour; but he does not enlighten you as to the sources of that testimony, nor as to how it was obtained. Sir John also states that Dr. Meyer "obtained the office he now holds through no intrigue, or court favour, or family connexion, or 'interest', in the ordinary conventional sense of the word."

Now, I know something of Dr. Meyer's history; and you will judge from the following statement how far it was possible for Dr. Meyer to obtain, in a legitimate manner, high medical testimony to his fitness for his present responsible office; and how far he is deficient in family connexion and interest.

Dr. Meyer, while quite a young man, married (*fourteen years ago*) a daughter of James Shuttleworth, Esq. Mr. Shuttleworth formerly possessed large landed property in Lancashire, and was a great friend and supporter of the "Derby" family. Immediately on his marriage, Dr. Meyer sailed, as an emigrant, for Adelaide, Australia; but, after four years' trial, he failed to establish himself there to his satisfaction. He then, through the interest of Lord Stanley (the present Earl Derby), got appointed superintendent of a convict lunatic asylum near Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land, in which colony he remained until the beginning of last year, when he returned to this country, after an absence of fourteen years. Dr. Meyer's wife is a first cousin of Lady Kay Shuttleworth. He is also a personal friend of Mr. Sidney Herbert, and therefore is neither so devoid of family connexion nor of "interest" as Sir John Forbes would make you believe.

I have given you this slight sketch, the truth of which I can vouch for, thinking that, in the discharge of a public duty, you have received harsh treatment at the hands of Sir John, who appears to have forgotten his own antecedents as an editor.

In confidence, I enclose my name and address. I do not desire collision with Sir John Forbes; so, to your readers [I remain,

ALIIQUIS.

April 10th, 1855.

[Seeing that Dr. Meyer was not known to the medical profession till he was appointed to the Smyrna Hospital, we again, in the name of that profession, declare his appointment to have been utterly indefensible. Where are his vaunted testimonials? This is not, as some pretend, a petty personal question; it is a public question, and as such we intend fearlessly to handle it. EDITOR.]

### THE INTRODUCTION OF COD-LIVER OIL INTO MEDICAL PRACTICE.

SIR,—Your correspondent signing himself "Justice to Manchester" has noticed with becoming spirit the strange assertion in the current number of the *Monthly Journal*, that the introduction of the use of cod-liver oil into this country is due to Professor Bennett. To that gentleman's visit to Germany, and his access to many German contributions upon the value of this medicine, those who were not previously acquainted with its extensive continental employment were certainly much indebted; but it is well worthy of remark, that the ablest foreign writers upon the virtues of this remedy had not failed to give due praise and credit to Dr. Percival, Mr. Darbey, Dr. Kay, and Dr. Bardsley of Manchester; referring to its introduction into the Manchester Infirmary in the year 1776, and to its continued and successful use there in the treatment of obstinate chronic rheumatism and other maladies.

The works on cod-liver oil which the writer in the *Monthly Journal* professes to review are those of Dr. De Jongh and Taufflieb; but, had he availed himself of the information contained in the first of these treatises, pages 2 and 3, assuredly he would have abstained from depriving the Manchester physicians of a merit which is candidly and justly awarded to them by this learned author.

I am, etc.,

A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

London, April 17th, 1855.

## NEWS AND TOPICS OF THE DAY.

### APPOINTMENTS.

[\*An asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

CANTON, Edwin, Esq., elected Surgeon of the Charing Cross Hospital, in the room of John Avery, Esq., deceased.

LYONS, Robert D., M.B., of Dublin, appointed Pathologist to the Military Hospital at Scutari.

MUSSON, William Edward, Esq., elected House Surgeon to the County Hospital, Lincoln.

SMITH, F. P., Esq., elected House Surgeon to the Bath United Hospital.

VINCENT, J. A., Esq., elected House Surgeon to the Wigan Dispensary, in the room of — Roocroft, Esq.

### OBITUARY.

[\*An asterisk is prefixed to names of Members of the Association.]

BLAKE, Andrew Edward, Esq., of fever, taken in the discharge of his duties as resident-pupil at the Whitworth Hospital, Dublin, aged 20, on March 29th.

HARKER, Thomas, Esq. (late of Hutton Rudby, near Yarm), at 18, High Ousegate, York, aged 62, on April 12th.

YARRATH, —, Esq., partner of Mr. G. Parsons, at Long Sutton, on April 10th.

### PASS LISTS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS. The following gentlemen having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners on April 13th:—

BRIESTOCKE, Newton Thomas, Milford Haven  
CHATTERTON, James Thorpe, Coborn Road, Bow Road  
DENSHAM, William, Crediton, Devonshire  
GRAY, William, Army