

ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

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NEW SERIES.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE EDITOR AND GENERAL SECRETARY TO 37, RUSSELL SQUARE, LONDON.
COMMUNICATIONS have been received from Mr. RIGDEN, Dr. COWDELL, Dr. LAYCOCK, and Mr. BORHAM.

Dr. MACLOUGHLIN stated in a letter which we published last week, that persons struck with cholera can walk about for pleasure or for business after the blood has ceased to circulate and the heart has ceased to beat. We demanded proofs in a note appended to the letter; and the writer has not been slow to supply us, not only with elaborate reasons, but with cases quite in point. We are in no degree convinced by Dr. MacLoughlin's letter; and we do not think that he is to be trusted as a clinical observer. We have before us a return, ordered (on the motion of Lord Robert Grosvenor) by the House of Commons, on 17th May, 1855, entitled "Copies of Letters addressed to the General Board of Health, complaining of the Omission of any Notice of certain Returns in Relation to the Treatment of Cholera; and Correspondence between the President of the Board and the Medical Council; with Copies of the Returns which have been Rejected by the Medical Council." In this document we find a letter from Dr. MacLoughlin to Hugh Cameron, of a Homoeopathic Hospital, in which occurs the following passage:—"That there may therefore be no misapprehension about the cases I saw in your hospital, I will add, that all I saw were true cases of cholera, in the various stages of the disease; and that I saw several cases which did well under your treatment, which I have no hesitation in saying would have sunk under any other. In conclusion, I must repeat to you, what I have already told you, and what I have told every one with whom I have conversed, that although an allopath by principle, education, and practice, yet was it the will of Providence to afflict me with cholera, and to deprive me of the power of prescribing for myself, I would rather be in the hands of a Homoeopathic than an allopathic adviser."

We place Dr. MacLoughlin's two statements—the one which we published last week, and that which we have now quoted—in the same category; and we can only express regret at having opened our pages to Dr. MacLoughlin's crudities, which may tickle a Homoeopathic lord, but can never satisfy a rational physician.

The statistics of the Homoeopathic Hospital were quoted in Dr. MacLoughlin's Letter in this JOURNAL; and this we admit escaped our notice. We agree with the resolution of the Cholera Committee of the College of Physicians, which declares that the recognition of Homoeopathic statistics "would give an unjustifiable sanction to an empirical practice alike opposed to the maintenance of truth, and to the progress of science."

DEATH OF WILLIAM JAMES WILSON, Esq.

PRESIDENT OF THE
PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

WITH much regret we announce the death of Mr. WILSON, who, as annual President of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, presided over the annual meeting held at Manchester in September last. Mr. Wilson's health had for some time past been evidently broken; and recently it was but too evident that no hope of his recovery could be entertained. He died on the evening of Thursday, the 19th of July, at Tickwood, near Wellington, Shropshire, the residence of W. W. Hull, Esq.

Mr. Wilson, during a long series of years, occupied a very distinguished professional and social position in Manchester. As we hope in an early number to be able to lay before our readers a sketch of his career, we abstain at present from enlarging upon the sad subject of this announcement.

"COMPLETE PROTECTION AGAINST QUACKS AND QUACKERY."

NO. VI.

THE "Guide" editor has privately been very active, during

the last two or three weeks, in threatening the principal victims with "punishment" if they ventured to publish any explanation of the circumstances under which they were, contrary to repeated remonstrances, placed in the lists which we reprinted at pp. 480, 505, and 525 of this volume. Believing, we presume, that private appeals required to be strengthened by a public threat, he distributed on the 25th instant the following, as a notice to his chief correspondent "NEMO":

"NEMO compliments us upon the manner in which we have administered punishment to the CORMACKITES. By this time the profession must see that Cormack is trying to degrade as many persons as he can, in order to keep himself in countenance. We are surprised that there are men to be found who can be deluded by his hypocritical appeals to character and respectability. It is obvious that every man who avows any sympathy for such a fellow runs the risk of being disgraced beyond reparation. We never fling the first stone; but we are never slow in defence. We would have screened Mr. CURLING and Dr. BURROWS, if they had had sufficient sense to be quiet; but they chose to be valiant, and have been punished accordingly. We have a rod in pickle for a few more of these gentry, and we will use it if need be." (*Medical Circular*, 25th July, 1855.)

It is a lamentable fact that respectable members of the profession have been so weak and so timid as to crouch submissively at the sound of bullying language of this description. We have received, however, oral and written evidence of its effects upon gentlemen whose names appear in the £5 per annum list. We have now before us letters which in substance intimate ("for private information only") that the names of the writers were placed in the "Guide" without authority, and contrary to repeated remonstrances, just as were the names of Dr. Burrows and Mr. Curling. These cautious gentlemen are, doubtless, among the "gentry" threatened in the above characteristic extract.

As our attention has been recalled to the "Guide" quackery by "Nemo", we here quote the following passages from the *Medical Times and Gazette* for 22nd July. In doing so, we must also express thanks and satisfaction with the manner in which the attack, begun by us, has been supported by our contemporary, and with the high professional tone and considerate leniency which have characterised his articles on "Guide" supporters and victims.

"We are now happy to announce that Dr. Burrows has himself confirmed the accuracy of our statement, by writing a letter to a contemporary journal, in which he denies having mixed himself up with the unprofessional scheme, developed in the so-called 'Guide.'"

"If," says Dr. Burrows, writing to our contemporary, the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL, 'you had inquired of me whether I approved of such a system, or had authorised the Editor of the