

that, "by the vigorous application of one set of convictions", he "afforded prompt and perfect relief" in a case where Sir W. Jenner and Sir W. Gull had laboured for months in vain. This remedy here termed "a set of convictions" can, I conclude, only mean what Dr. Kidd calls "homœopathic remedies". Let me beg him to drop the metaphor, and tell us in plain language what the medicines and the doses given really were, and why he calls them "homœopathic". Am I wrong in believing that they were remedies whose use both Sir W. Jenner and Sir W. Gull would have sanctioned—which had, in fact, nothing "homœopathic" about them except the name? Every honest man naturally has a rooted objection to throwing dust in his patient's eyes; and it is because we think the term homœopathy blinding and deceptive, that we object to it, and refuse to meet those who use it. It would seem, as I conclude, that we and Dr. Kidd use the same identical remedies and the same doses of them; and that the only difference between us is, that he labels some of them "homœopathic". May we not, then, fairly call upon him, if he desires our professional intercourse, to tell us what these remedies are, and to drop a term which is useless, inapplicable, and misleading? He might thereby assist in a possible healing of this unfortunate professional schism.—

Yours obediently,

W. O. MARKHAM.

London, May 21st, 1881.

SIR,—On joining the College of Physicians, I thought I bound myself neither to practise homœopathy, nor to meet homœopaths; now I am told I was wrong, by four past presidents. They will not allow me to meet honest men, with brains unfortunately so constituted as to make them believe it wrong to treat diseases except by infinitesimal doses of medicine; while, on the other hand, they permit me to meet other homœopaths, who sail under two flags, and who hoist the orthodox or the homœopathic flag, according to the patient's wishes; provided this kind of practitioner promises not to play with infinitesimals, so long as I am meeting him in consultation about some particular case. I regret the advice of the four past presidents in Lord Beaconsfield's case; for, up till then, a refusal to meet a homœopath was accepted as satisfactory, when explained as made obligatory on its members by the College by-laws. Now, we are to some extent obliged to meet homœopaths, unless the College of Physicians reverses the decision of its four past presidents.

I agree with Dr. Handfield Jones respecting the inutility of consulting with those who profess to cure diseases by decillionths of a grain of medicine, but there is more to be said. As men, reputed sane, hold firmly to the most outrageous opinions in religion, politics, and social economy, I am not surprised that men should believe in infinitesimals; but I cannot understand that the same man should believe in the efficacy of infinitesimal doses, and in the value of those traditional doses that have borne the test of modern science. There is an ugly look of unstraightforwardness about this double mode of practice; and the idea must arise in other minds beside my own, that an homœopath who would depreciate the utility of infinitesimals, when in consultation with me, will laugh at me and orthodox doses, when sitting by the bedside of the next patient who wishes to be treated by decillionths. It is quite impossible to make the public understand that a homœopathic doctor is not as good as any of us; but the almost unanimous refusal of medical men to meet homœopaths was an emphatic way of making the public aware, that the medical profession still considers homœopathy to be the most gigantic system of either deception or fraud that has ever been foisted on its ignorance.

It now remains to be seen what steps will be taken in the matter by the Royal College of Physicians; and, if necessary, the opinion of the profession can be obtained through the instrumentality of our JOURNAL.—I am, etc.,

EDWARD JOHN TILT.

THE EDUCATION OF MIDWIVES.

SIR,—Dr. Matthews Duncan's forcible address to the London Obstetrical Society points clearly to the necessity of the profession coming forward for the purpose of taking into its hands the education of women in the elementary principles of midwifery, so that they can be safely entrusted with the management of ordinary cases of parturition. If we wait for the State to move in this important matter, we had better give up the idea; and, if we leave it entirely in the hands of such a learned body as the Council of the Obstetrical Society of London, without doing all we can to further the object so ably advocated by its President, I think the profession, as a whole, would thereby offer serious, although negative, obstacles in the way of its success.

I would, therefore, suggest that every medical school throughout the kingdom be advised by the General Medical Council to give a three months' course of lectures on midwifery to women; that, on comple-

tion of this course, there should be an examination; and, on the student giving proof that she is possessed of a fair amount of theoretical knowledge, then, before granting her a certificate, she shall be required to attend six cases under the surveillance of the staff of a maternity hospital, workhouse, or dispensary, or recognised practitioner; after which, the licence to practise shall be given. By this means, we might easily and inexpensively educate a body of women who would relieve a proportionate number of the profession from one of its most irksome and unprofitable obligations. I know nothing more degrading than that a man of culture and refinement should, by the force of circumstances, be compelled to sit for many consecutive hours in a hovel where the moral atmosphere is as vulgar and depressing as its physical is foul and repellant. The sooner this *scandalum magnatum* is removed from our ranks the better; and the only way of accomplishing it is to afford the means of education in as many centres of our population as possible to women as midwives—women whose social position and mental endowments shall, in a great measure, be in perfect harmony with those of the class they are likely to be called upon to attend; this would prove a great benefit to the poor—a very godsend to the medical profession.—I am, etc.,

A. S. MYRTLE, M.D.

Harrogate.

MEDICAL EDUCATION.

SIR,—Permit me to announce that a general meeting of the profession in this Branch will be held at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, on Tuesday, May 31st, at 3.30 P.M., for the purpose of considering the report on medical education recently issued by the Committee of Council, and the question of medical reform; and to pass resolutions thereon. Dr. Withers Moore of Brighton, President of the Branch, will take the Chair. Invitations have been issued, by order of the Council, to every member of the profession resident in the counties of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex.—I am, etc.,

CHARLES PARSONS, M.D.,

May 23rd, 1881.

Honorary Secretary, South-Eastern Branch.

OBITUARY.

JAMES SHERLOCK, M.D., M.R.C.P.,

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE WORCESTER CITY AND COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM.

ANOTHER valuable life has been prematurely taken from amongst us. Dr. Sherlock, who, for twenty-seven years, held the post of Physician to, and Medical Superintendent of, the Worcester City and County Asylum, died on Friday, the 13th instant, at the early age of fifty-three, after an illness of only three days.

For some time past, Dr. Sherlock's health had given anxiety to his friends. A tendency to ill-developed gout, accompanied by a somewhat weak circulation, had lately shown itself; a condition generated, doubtless, by the incessant demands upon his strength which nearly thirty years of conscientious discharge of the laborious and trying duties of a large asylum had made upon his constitution. Dr. Sherlock was seized with acute congestion of the liver on Tuesday, May 10th. On the following Thursday, the base of the right lung became affected; the congestion extending during the night to the whole of both lungs, which overloaded the weakened heart, and death took place at half-past eleven on the following morning.

Dr. Sherlock was one of several excellent asylum-superintendents who had the advantage of a training for their special work under the late Dr. Skae, of the Royal Asylum, Edinburgh. After taking his degree at the University there, he became assistant to Dr. Skae; and, as soon as he had made himself master of the details of asylum-practice, he was appointed Superintendent of James Murray's Asylum at Perth. When still only twenty-six years of age, through the recommendation of Dr. Skae, supported by that of the then chairman Mr. Carter, he was appointed to the more responsible post at Worcester. At that time, the inmates of the latter asylum numbered only about 250, whereas now they amount to nearly 800. The development, by frequent enlargements, to its present size, and the character, second to none in the kingdom, to which the asylum at Powick has attained, are mainly due to the unwearied efforts of Dr. Sherlock to attain for his asylum the highest point of efficiency. But he never suffered the laudable desire to keep down expenses to interfere with the efficiency as to means of cure, or with the comforts of the unfortunate patients under his care. Consequently, the loss of so valuable an officer is most keenly felt by the Committee of Management, who, at all times, have placed the utmost confidence in their superintendent; for, whilst maintaining, as it is right they should do, a vigilant supervision of the work at the asylum, they have always most generously supported their chief