

I think it would be perfectly possible by proper organisation and combination to place the Poor-law service in as good an average position as regards income and leisure as is enjoyed by the Established Church in England, and that until such a position is achieved it would be impossible to be in any way content.

But so far as I can see no corporation considers it its duty to make itself a rallying centre for those weak and scattered units of the Poor-law service, or ever endeavours to urge upon Parliament the absolute need of its improvement in pay and allowances.

But it has always surprised me that the British Medical Association, that great organisation in which our hopes of the future of medicine are entirely bound up, should not take a more definite line of action towards the Poor-law service. While it is using great efforts to remedy the grievances of army and navy doctors, of ship-surgeons, endeavouring to reform habitual drunkards, and carrying out varied schemes for progress, it seems to me to have neglected the largest, the most important, and I will say, the most oppressed class of all, the oppressed sections of medical men.

When I think how month after month Dr. Rogers, Dr. Barnes, Mr. Baldock, and others of that gallant band, meet together to discuss the most painful cases of bullying, of harsh treatment, of petty meanness, of absence of sympathy, and often of real cruelty, I am compelled to say that I do not know any group of men in our profession who are, single handed, without funds, without support from without, doing a more honourable nor a more self-sacrificing work. Carrying on a large correspondence, often aiding in law expenses, constantly making journeys to give evidence in case of great oppression, advising some lonely and single-handed doctor, who in a remote district is fighting an uphill battle against oppression, I will say that I know no man in the profession who is doing so much for it as Dr. Rogers of Soho Square.

But it is very lamentable that it should be so, for if the full strength of the powerful British Medical Association were brought to bear on many of these questions, a real progress would be made, and reforms urgently needed would be carried out. But to achieve such reforms, it seems to me that the British Medical Association should formulate certain principles and educate its members to achieve them.

It seems to me an absolute combination, or trades union, in the larger and better sense, is needed to bring the Poor-law medical service into its proper position. Once certain defined principles were formulated which should be absolutely just to the profession and country. It should be perfectly legitimate and moral to use the whole force of the Association to carry the points. Any medical man who would, from selfish motives, break down the rules so formulated, should not remain in the Association, as he would be an absolute enemy to the profession and the public.

I would suggest the following for consideration.

1. A distinct and separate committee of the British Medical Association Board should be formed in London as a Poor-law, or Local Government Committee, to watch the progress of all subjects connected with these important matters. This committee should receive all complaints or demands for advice from Poor-law Medical Officers. It should consist of a certain number of medical men trained in Poor-law work, some sanitary and medical specialists, and a certain number of retired officials of the medical services of the Army and Navy, men trained to official method, and to the working of official systems. These latter officials would be able for many years to come to give advice, and to quote precedents for progressive action. Such a committee, speaking in the name of your most powerful organisation, would have great weight, would free the Poor-law Medical Officers from supporting a separate association of their own, and eventually draw into the British Medical Association a very large contingent of Poor-law doctors.

Why this has not been done long ago I cannot understand.

2. *Legal Advice.*—This committee which I propose would employ a legal adviser, of special knowledge in all points concerning local government rules. He would give legal advice; frame new drafts of law; attend, if necessary, to defend in trials where Poor-law questions were raised; and thus save the pockets and anxieties of our weaker brothers, who have often, out of their narrow pay, to fight corporations and boards with money and legal advice at their back. It is absolutely pitiful to consider the sufferings these badly-paid and overworked Poor-law medical officers have to undergo in endeavouring, in courts of law, to obtain their just rights.

3. *Pay.*—A minimum pay should be laid down, and that it should be progressive, and increase by regular increments, as in all branches of the public service.

4. *Districts.*—The enormous districts now existing should be split up into smaller and more manageable ones.

5. *Medicines.*—As far as practicable, medicines should be supplied by the State, and not by the individual; and a paid dispenser should be sanctioned, when needed.

6. *Pension.*—A definite pension at fifty-five years of age, or stated time, be compulsory.

7. *Pensions to Widows.*—When a medical man dies of disease contracted on duty, his widow should have a claim for pension, like an officer's widow in the army.

8. *Leave.*—A regular annual leave, without providing a substitute, should be granted to all Poor-law officers.

9. The relations between masters of workhouses and the medical officers should be placed on an entirely different basis; and the medical officer should be absolutely free from interference in his duties.

To achieve such results, it is necessary to explain fully to the students of medicine and young practitioners the evils of the present system; and to show them that reform cannot come without combination, and a distinct refusal to accept Poor-law work. The students know nothing of the drawbacks of the present system; but they must be educated about it, if any progress is to come.

With such rules in force, the Poor-law service would become a good service, and would retain its men for years, and with such a service much of the work now done without fees, as charity, would be paid for by the State, which is only right and just to the profession.

There must be tens of thousands of pounds of bad debts owing to the medical profession in England; but if a man had a fair salary and a small district the loss would not be so serious as it now is, and a man would make an income by his State-paid salary in combination with his fees as a clergyman does. A clergyman has a settled income, and receives a fee for marriages, burials, etc., and this will probably be the future of the medical profession.

Medical men not holding these appointments could then send any patients who were not able to pay to the District Medical Officer, and in this way the leisure of the profession would be increased, and its income not diminished.

Of the need of leisure for medical men, one might write volumes. The want of it to me seems to be the killing evil of civil practice, and it reacts most injuriously on the culture and status of the whole profession.

G. J. H. EVATT, M.D.,
Surgeon-Major, A.M.D.

Woolwich, July, 1883.

MILITARY AND NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

ARMY MEDICAL SCHOOL.

THE summer session of the Army Medical School terminated on Monday, the 6th inst., when the prizes at the disposal of the Senate of the School were handed to the successful competitors, before a large assembly of distinguished officers and other visitors, by Sir Galbraith Logan, K.C.B., who was Director-General of the Army Medical Department between the years 1867 and 1874. During the period Sir Galbraith Logan occupied this high position, he always exhibited a strong personal interest in the school, and took an active part in its administration; and, as he mentioned in commencing his address, in acceding to the request of the Senate to distribute the prizes, and to deliver some remarks on the present occasion, he had been chiefly prompted by the strong desire he felt to show publicly the great value he still attached to the establishment.

In commencing the proceedings, the lists of the surgeons on probation, who had passed successfully through the courses of special instruction for the medical departments of Her Majesty's British and Indian armies, were read by Surgeon-General Longmore, C.B., together with various reports on the results of the examinations, intended for the information of the Secretaries of State for War and India.

A notable feature of the present session has been that all the prizes, with a single exception, have been carried off by one of the surgeons on probation, Mr. J. M. Young, of the Indian Medical Service. This gentleman, we are informed, acquired his professional education at Glasgow and Vienna. In handing to Mr. Young, in succession, the Herbert, Martin, Parkes, and Montefiore medals and prizes, Sir Galbraith Logan made many happy references to the advantages that might be hoped for to the public service, from the superior ability which Mr. Young had manifested in the several branches of professional knowledge which the rewards represented; and he dwelt also, with much feeling, on the high characters and

distinguished services of Dr. Parkes and Sir Ranald Martin, with both of whom he had been on terms of intimate friendship, and to perpetuate whose memories the medals bearing their names had been founded. He said he could not imagine two nobler patterns of life to set before the young surgeons for imitation than the lives and careers of those eminent members of the medical profession in the two branches of the military service, the British and the Indian, to which Dr. Parkes and Sir Ranald Martin had respectively belonged. We cannot reproduce the whole of Sir Galbraith Logan's address, which extended over a wide range, and was listened to with marked attention; but one fact that he mentioned, in the course of his remarks, has not, so far as we are aware, been hitherto brought to notice in the manner which it seems to deserve, and we therefore repeat it. In speaking of the excellent manner in which the medical service was conducted during the recent campaign in Egypt, as shown by the professional results, and when particularly alluding to the changes that had taken place in the manner of treating Egyptian ophthalmia, Sir Galbraith stated that while, as now well known, not a single case of blindness had resulted from the late campaign, on the other hand, in the earlier campaign under Sir Ralph Abercrombie, not only was an enormous expense entailed on the State in pensioning the very large number of soldiers who became deprived of sight from the disease, but, beyond that, the ophthalmia acquired such an obstinate character, and proved so infectious among the men who escaped from the extreme result of blindness, that, as regarded some of the regiments which served in that war, the disease was not eradicated from them for five and twenty years afterwards. Thus a great additional cost was entailed, both in the disability for service and necessary hospital treatment which the persistence of the disease led to, as well as the invaliding and discharge from the army, which its consequences, in numerous instances, rendered unavoidable.

After the proceedings in the lecture-hall were concluded, the company was entertained at luncheon by the officers of the Army Medical Staff, in their spacious messroom.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. July 26th, 1883.

Admitted Members:

Coxwell, Charles Fillingham, M.B.Camb., London Hospital, E.
Fox, Thomas Colcott, M.B.Lond., 14, Harley Street, W.
Griffith, Walter Spencer Anderson, L.R.C.P., 66, Guildford Street, W.C.
Jenkins, Edward Johnstone, M.B.Oxon., St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.
Kilner, Walter John, M.B.Camb., 104, Ladbroke Grove Road, W.
Krauss, Adolph, M.D.Munich, German Hospital, Dalston, E.
Nias, Joseph Baldwin, M.B.Oxon., 56, Montague Square, W.
Paget, William Smith, M.D.Lond., Great Crosby, Liverpool.
Syers, Henry Walter, M.D.Camb., Pokedown, Bournemouth.

Admitted Fellow:

Osler, William, M.D.McGill, Montreal.

Admitted Licentiate:

Audland, William Edward, 22, Merrick Square, S.E.
Barefoot, John Richard, 121, Chesterton Road, W.
Barron, Hunter Jackson, M.B.Edin., 10, Endsleigh Street, W.C.
Bassett-Smith, Percy William, 62, Alexandra Road, N.W.
Beales, Thomas William Lewis, 190, Holland Road, W.
Blagg, Arthur Frederick, Infirmary, Rochdale.
Cardozo, Samuel Nunez, 68, Guildford Street, W.C.
Carlyon, Edward Tresidddy, 12, River Street, E.C.
Cleaver, William Fidler, M.D.Kingston, 18, Easy Row, Birmingham.
Collins, Edward Treacher, 1, Albert Terrace, N.W.
Collins, Octavius Augustus Glasier, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C.
D'Aguiar, João Gomes, 18, Edward Street, N.W.
Dalton, Arthur John, 2, Roslin Villas, South Norwood, S.E.
Davies, A. Cluneglas, Portfaen, Lampeter.
Dowson, John, Guy's Hospital, S.E.
Edwards, Arthur Rea, King's College Hospital, W.C.
Embleton, Dennis Cawood, 3, Park Crescent, N.W.
Gardavia, Naoroji Baranji, 3, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.
Gardner, Thomas Frederick, University Hospital, W.C.
Green, Charles David, 73, Shadwell Road, S.E.
Gunn, Donald Stilwell, 51, Park Village East, N.W.
Hodges, Herbert Chamney, Watton, Hertford.
Howard, Heaton Clark, 102, Lansdowne Road, S.W.
Hubbard, Arthur John, 1, Ladbroke Terrace, W.
Jennings, Robert, Haslingden, Manchester.
Johnston, George David, St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E.
Knill, Edwin Gilmore, 55, Torrington Square, W.C.
Latham, John Simpson, M.D.McGill, 2, Cornwall Road, Stroud Green, N.
Littlewood, John Osroft, Guy's Hospital, S.E.
Llewellyn, David William Henry, St. Thomas's Hospital, S.E.
Mason, Arthur Henry, 15, Granby Street, N.W.
Maughan, James, 111, Bedford Street, Liverpool.
Payne, Frank Cobham, Flaistow, E.
Pinching, Horace Henderson, 14, Milner Street, S.W.

Polson, James Ronald, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove.
Pomfret, Henry Waytes, Hollingworth, Manchester.
Roberts, Arthur Henry, Greenhill Road, N.W.
Robinson, Clement Sumner, St. George's Hospital S.W.
Rogers, Frederick Arthur, Grange Road, Ealing, W.
Salter, Stephen Thomas, 28, Woburn Place, W.C.
Schofield, Alfred Taylor, 28, Cambridge Gardens, W.
Shone, William Vernon, 15, Granby Street, N.W.
Square, James Elliot, 22, Eastbourne Terrace, W.
Stroyan, Frederick, 8, Milman Street, W.C.
Tresidder, Harry Innis, Dulwich, S.E.
Waldy, John, 62, Stafford Place, S.W.
Walker, Charles Rotherham, Gainsborough House, Leytonstone, E.
Walker, John William, 9, Liddington Place, N.W.
Walsh, John Henry Tull, Cancer Hospital, Brompton, S.W.
Ward, Anthony Arthur, 33, Walpole Street, W.
Williams, John Worthy, 58, Acre Lane, S.W.
Wilson, Alexander, Royal Infirmary, Manchester.
Withers, Oliver, New Basford, Nottingham.
Wood, Edward Archer, 17, St. Mary's Square, W.
Wright, Gaskoin Richard Morden, 128, Walworth Road, S.E.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—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 July 18th. [This list has been accidentally omitted.]

Messrs. Arthur Overton, Horncastle, and W. O. Travis, Liverpool, of the Liverpool School of Medicine; A. M. Jackson, Great Grimsby, and A. G. Southcombe, Bath, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; W. A. Gostling, Diss, of University College; G. F. Stericker, Pickering, of the Leeds School of Medicine; R. D. Pedley, Stockwell, of St. Thomas's Hospital.

Six candidates who passed in Surgery at previous meetings of the Court, having subsequently obtained medical qualifications, were admitted Members, viz.:

Messrs. J. W. Papillon, L.S.A., Reading, L. A. Morgan, M.B.Durh., Myddelton Square, J. E. Dunn, L.R.C.P.Ed., Preston, and J. L. W. Kitching, L.S.A., Derby, of St. Thomas's Hospital; A. H. Gordon, L.R.C.P.Ed., Belsize Park, of King's College; A. H. Roberts, L.R.C.P.L., Hampstead, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

One candidate, who had previously qualified in Surgery and Midwifery, having passed in Medicine, was admitted a Member, viz.:

Mr. A. E. Foster, Bradford, of the Leeds School of Medicine.

Seven candidates passed in Surgery, and, when qualified in Medicine and Midwifery, will be admitted members. Five candidates were referred to their professional studies for six months, four for three months, and one candidate for twelve months.

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 the 26th ultimo, viz.:

Messrs. J. J. Faraker, L.S.A., Cheshunt, and A. L. Tiremans, L.S.A., Howden, Yorkshire, students of Guy's Hospital; S. N. R. P. Griffin, L.S.A., Padstow, Cornwall, of St. Mary's Hospital; F. J. Stevens, L.S.A., King Street, Kensington, of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; C. T. Street, Barneby, Lincolnshire, of St. George's Hospital; S. S. Merrifield, L.S.A., Plymouth, of King's College; William Dudley, L.S.A., Kidderminster, of the Birmingham School of Medicine; and W. V. Shone, L.R.C.P.Lond., Great Marlow, of University College.

Four gentlemen passed in Surgery, and, when qualified in Medicine, will be admitted Members of the College. Nine candidates, having failed to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of the Court of Examiners, were referred to their professional studies for six months, three for three months, and two for nine months.

The following gentlemen passed on the 27th ultimo, viz.:

Messrs. W. J. Parkinson, Bradford, Yorkshire, W. H. Brenton, L.S.A., Plymouth, and J. S. Jago, L.S.A., Torpoint, Cornwall, of Guy's Hospital; S. S. Short, L.S.A., Edgbaston, James Hodges, L.S.A., Henley-on-Thames, and W. F. Lace, L.S.A., Pill, near Bristol, of King's College; A. W. Ogle, L.S.A., Sevenoaks, and J. G. D'Aguiar, L.S.A., British Guiana, of the Middlesex Hospital; N. S. Wood, Knightsbridge, of St. George's Hospital; H. R. Spencer, L.S.A., Atherstone, Warwickshire, and D. S. Gunn, L.R.C.P.L., Park Village East, N.W., of University College.

Three gentlemen passed in Surgery, and, when qualified in Medicine, will be admitted members of the College. Nine candidates were referred for six months, one for three months, one for nine months, and one for twelve months.

The following gentlemen passed on the 30th ultimo, viz.:

Messrs. E. H. Myddelton-Gavey, L.S.A., Hilldrop Crescent, N., of St. Bartholomew's Hospital; E. H. Tension, L.S.A., Uxbridge Road, of University College.

Nine candidates were referred.

UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN.—*Summer Commencements, 1883.*—On day and Saturday, June 29th and 30th, the following were among the degrees conferred in the presence of the Senate in the Examination Hall of Trinity College by the University "Caput," consisting of the Right Hon. J. T. Ball, LL.D., Vice-Chancellor, the Very Rev. the Provost of Trinity College, and the Rev. J. W. Barlow, M.A., Senior Master *non-regent* :