

MR. FERGUSSON AND CONSULTATIONS
WITH HOMŒOQUACKS.

SIR,—Mr. Fergusson has, in the last number of the *Lancet*, given some explanation of his presumed alliance with homœopathy; and he has done so in a way which, in my opinion, puts him only more deeply in the mire. It is clear from his own avowal that he does meet homœopaths on equal terms; for he is “occasionally consulted by homœopaths, and, hearing their history of the case in clearer terms than from the patient”, he gives his surgical opinion. What broader avowal could any one make of his consorting with quackery? Where is the difference between this conduct and “consultation”? He listens to the homœopath’s account of a case; he asks him questions as to its history and symptoms, and elicits the homœopath’s interpretation of them. He then gives his own opinion. If this is not consultation with quacks, I ask again, what is? We, here in the provinces at least, are not keen-witted enough to see the difference; and if Mr. Fergusson should ever have to deplore the scarcity of patients recommended to him from this locality, he has only his own professional backslidings to blame. I may beg him to be assured that no reputable member of the profession in this county will sanction a patient’s consulting any metropolitan surgeon or physician who is not clear of the taint of consorting with quackery.

I am, etc.,
A NORFOLK SURGEON.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON. At the Comitia Majora, held on Friday, July 19th, Moxon, Walter, M.B., Finsbury Place having undergone the necessary examination, was duly admitted a member of the College.

At the same Comitia, the following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examination, and satisfied the College of their proficiency in the science and practice of medicine and midwifery, were duly admitted to practise physic as Licentiates of the College:—

Davidson, Nathaniel, Charles Street, Manchester Square
Day, William Henry, M.D., Newmarket
Folkes, William, Dukinfield
Freer, John Henry, Rugeley, Staffordshire
Hewlett, Richard William, Harrow
Howitt, George Enoch, Wednesbury, Staffordshire
Moore, George, Hanley
Pratt, Thomas Octavius, Cardiff
Starling, John, Bishop Stortford
Squire, William, Orchard Street, Portman Square
Worts, Edwin, Colchester

The following passed the first part of the professional examination for the licence on the 12th inst.:—

Rickards, Walter, University College Hospital
Rix, Samuel Babüt, Middlesex Hospital
Roberts, John, University College Hospital
Smith, Edward, St. George’s Hospital

APPOINTMENTS.

BURKE, John P., M.D., to be Medical Storekeeper at Malta.
GALLAGHER, John, M.D., to be Medical Storekeeper at Plymouth, vice Beith.
GRIGOR, Robert, M.D., to be Medical Storekeeper at Deptford Victualling Yard, vice Graham.
MAGILL, Martin, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Imperieuse*.
MULVANY, John, Esq., Acting Assistant-Surgeon, to the *Imperieuse*.

VOLUNTEER CORPS. The following appointments have been made (A.V.=Artillery Volunteers; R.V.=Rifle Volunteers):—

BATE, H. F., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 19th Middlesex R.V.
MYERS, H. K., Esq., to be Assistant-Surgeon 37th Middlesex R.V.
SCLANDERS, A., M.D., to be Assistant-Surgeon 1st Nairnshire A.V.

To be Honorary Assistant-Surgeons:—

CLOWES, F., Esq., 4th Westmoreland R.V.
PLAYNE, A., M.D., 5th Berks R.V.

BIRTHS.

CARTER. On July 20th, at Potter Newton, near Leeds, the wife of *J. B. Carter, M.R.C.S., of a son.
DIXON. On July 18th, at Greatford, Denbighshire, the wife of *Hal-lam Moore Dixon, L.R.C.P. Ed., of a son.

DEATHS.

GREENHOW, Edward, M.D., at Munshaugh House, Northumberland, aged 70, on July 14.
RYND, Francis, Esq., Surgeon, Dublin, suddenly, on July 19th.

INDIAN MEDICAL OFFICERS. In the House of Commons, a few days ago, Sir C. Wood stated, in reply to Mr. Bazley, that the whole question of the Indian medical service was under the consideration of the Government. Nothing could be done until an answer had been received from India; but the matter must be settled before long.

THE GOOD OLD TIMES OF BLEEDING. In 1649, Guy Patin wrote:—“M. Waleus, Professor of Anatomy at Leyden, died a few months ago, of a malignant fever. He was only bled twice in nine days, and consequently was roasted to death (*est mort rôté*). My son was ill at the same time, but I recovered him from his continued fever by the aid of twenty good bleedings from the arms and feet, and a dozen good purges of senna.”

WOODEN LEG-ACY. The late I. N. Bowditch, of Boston, among other bequests, left to the Massachusetts General Hospital 5,000 dollars, as a fund, to be called the “wooden leg fund,” the income to be applied toward defraying the expenses of wooden legs for patients who have been obliged to submit to amputation. In the distribution of this income, he desires that female patients should be preferred to males, and young patients to old ones.

SECOND VERMONT REGIMENT. The Burlington *Free Press* thus speaks of the appointments of Surgeon H. N. Ballou, and Assistant-Surgeon B. W. Carpenter:—“Doctors Ballou and Carpenter are well fitted by character, experience, and standing as men and in their profession, for their responsible posts, and the health of the regiment can be committed to their care with entire confidence. There will be no neglect of sick soldiers, from the booziness of the surgeons, while they retain their posts, nor will the assistant be heard to wish that he had under his care a regiment of raw *Irishmen*, instead of these Vermonters, who thought they must be treated like gentlemen.”

NAVAL MEDICAL SUPPLEMENTAL FUND SOCIETY BILL. has been read a second time. Lord Chelmsford said that his attention had been called to this subject that afternoon, by a petition from some widows of naval medical officers, which he had declined to present because he thought that the petitioners asked for some concessions to which they had no claim. There were, however, some things for which they were anxious, which perhaps the noble duke might be disposed to concede. One was that a trustee of this fund should be appointed to represent their interests; and the other that it should be understood—as he believed was the case—that the Admiralty would under this Bill have the power to increase the pensions of medical officers, if the fund would bear it, to an amount above £26 13s. 4d.—The Duke of Somerset said that he was anxious to do all he could to satisfy the wishes of the annuitants, and at the same time protect the public interests. He would communicate with the noble lord, and see what arrangement could be made to secure those objects.

SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. RYND OF DUBLIN. On Friday evening, July 19, about ten o’clock, as Mr. Rynd, an eminent surgeon of Dublin, was driving into town through the village of Clontarf, his phaeton accidentally threw down a woman at a turn of the road. Surgeon Rynd