

A Manual of Physiology, including Physiological Anatomy, for the Use of the Medical Student. By WILLIAM B. CARPENTER, M.D., F.R.S., Fullerian Professor of Physiology in the Royal Institution of Great Britain, &c., &c. London. 1846. pp. 582. With numerous Illustrations.

Dr. Carpenter's larger works on the subject of physiology—"Principles of Human Physiology," and "Principles of General and Comparative Physiology," are so well known, and so justly appreciated, that it is scarcely necessary to do more than announce the appearance of the present elementary treatise as being admirably adapted to the purposes of the student. But, though going in a great measure over the same ground, the "Manual" is not to be looked upon as a mere abridgment of the larger and more elaborate works, and being brought up to the present time, will be found to contain additional matter on a subject which, from its nature, must long continue to be in a progressive state. The principle change in the more general character of this volume is in the arrangement of the subject, the reasons for which are given in the prefatory remarks. The author states, that in making this change his object has been "to convey to the student as clear an idea as possible of the principles of the science, to point out the manner in which those principles should be applied, and to give an outline of the most important facts which indicate the nature of the various changes taking place in the living organism." In following out this intention, he has adopted the plan of commencing his "exposition of the characters, of organized structure and of vital phenomena, by a full account of the development and metamorphosis of cells, and of the purposes which these effect in the living body, either in the original or in the altered condition." He further takes occasion to express the opinion that the doctrine of cells is now entitled to hold "the same rank in physiological science as that taken by the doctrine of mutual attraction in general physics, or of elective affinity in chemistry." This portion of the work, nearly a fourth of the whole, is well deserving the attention of the more advanced physiologist, as he will there find a condensed account of the more important information on the subject of cells, which the labours of many excellent observers have recently developed.

Like other of Mr. Churchill's admirable series of manuals for students, this volume contains numerous appropriate, and most beautifully executed wood-engravings. There are also two plates, the one illustrative of various appearances of cells—blood-corpuscles, mucus-globules, and pus-globules; the other representing the principle forms of the nervous centres. There is a curious omission in the descriptive heading of the first of these plates, which it will be well to supply. "The Figures in this Plate," we are informed, "represent the Cells floating in the various animal fluids; and they are

all, with the exception of Figs. 4 and 5, copied from the representations given by M. Donné, in his *Atlas de l'Anatomie Microscopique*. These representations are transcripts of Daguerrotype pictures, obtained from the objects, by a solar microscope, with a magnifying power of 400 diameter." We have the satisfaction of informing our readers that the excepted figures are equally authentic with the Daguerrotype representations copied from M. Donné, and with the figures taken from the works of Mr. Newport, and MM. Blanchard, Guillot and Leuret, in the second plate, for all of which the authorities are carefully enounced. They are most accurate copies from some figures of blood-corpuscles, given by Mr. Addison in his "Physiological Researches."

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

On Wednesday, the 24th June, 1846, the second anniversary meeting of the South-Eastern Branch of the Association was held at Ashford, when the following gentlemen were present:—

William Sibbald, M.D., Maidstone; John Pickance, Penshurst; Charles Leeson Prince, Uckfield; John Beet, Ashford; James Mackness, M.D., Hastings; George Soulbey, M.D., Dover; Henry Pout, Yalding; Henry Imlack, M.D., Sittingbourne; Edward Wallace, Carshalton; Henry Whitfield, Ashford; Charles Wilks, Charing; Francis Ayerst Young, Hawkhurst; William James West, Tunbridge; George Frederick Wilks, Ashford; David Skinner, Headcorn; James Stedman, Guildford; Thomas Hitchings, Seal; Francis Henry Wilson, Rye; Thomas Hunt, Herne Bay; Frederick H. Sankey, Wingham; John Adamson, Rye; Frank W. Pittock, Sellinge; Henry Crawford, Canterbury; George Bottomley, Croydon; Edward Scudamore, M.D., Canterbury; Thomas Martin, Reigate.

Dr. Sibbald having, at the former meeting, been appointed president for the year, took the chair, and delivered the following address.

Permit me, gentlemen, with all sincerity, to thank you for the honour conferred upon me, by placing me in my present position; and to assure you that it is with no affectation of humility that I have to express my regret that the duties which it involves had not fallen into other and abler hands. The objects in furtherance of which we are this day met, and which have led to the formation of the different District Branches of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, are in unison with and for the purpose of carrying out the views of the parent society. These must be familiar to all of you through the medium of its different publications, and may be succinctly stated to be—the advancement of medical science in its various branches, the promotion of harmony and good feeling among its members, and the maintenance of the honour and respectability of the profession in general.

The volumes of the Transactions already published, replete as these are with papers of much value and interest, attest the zeal and assiduity with which the

advancement of medical science is cultivated; and the numbers of the weekly Journal are enriched by much useful and practical information, derived from the wide field of observation which is open to those who practise in the provinces, and form a ready medium through which such information can be collected and concentrated.

It is, however, more especially with reference to the fifth and last object to which the attention of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association is directed, that I conceive our District Branches are calculated to effect most good. This is said to be—"The maintenance of the honour and respectability of the profession generally in the provinces, by promoting friendly intercourse and free communication of its members, and by establishing among them the harmony and good feeling which ought to characterise a liberal profession." Engaged as all of us are in the circumscribed sphere of our individual duties, it is with sincere pleasure that many look forward to meetings of this kind; where the associates of early youth, or the friends of more mature years, are brought together, who have but few opportunities of otherwise meeting; and where others become acquainted who may hitherto have been unknown—thus engendering mutual regard: or if unhappily any collision of interests may have occurred amongst others, such meetings as the present may prove the happy means of removing any feelings of estrangement, or animosity, which might have grown up betwixt them.

There are but few occurrences of general interest to the profession which have taken place since the date of our last meeting, which present themselves for observation on this occasion. The *questio vexata* of Medical Reform would appear, for the present, to be laid aside; and though I for one have long felt the necessity of some such measure, in the greatly altered and improved state of our profession, I cannot but think that the failure of the one recently before parliament affords no just ground for regret. It was constructed upon too narrow a basis, and the information upon which it was founded, was derived from a one-sided, and therefore too interested a source. Nor do I imagine we can hope for any satisfactory legislation upon this subject, until every available means is employed to collect the opinions of the profession generally, instead of consulting that only of a particular clique; and in the language of one of the late Presidents of the General Association, I would further say—gentlemen, "that reform will not be *just*, unless the claims and interests of the present race of practitioners are fully attended to; nor *wise*, unless ample provision is made for future improvement; nor *fair to the community*, unless the welfare of all be consulted."

But although there is no immediate prospect of any measure of the kind, I think I may congratulate the present meeting upon the improved position which the profession begin to hold—more particularly with the different branches of the legislature: more respect and deference appears to be paid to their opinions; and a disposition is evinced to pay more regard to their interests. In the act passed in the last session of parliament, for the care and management of the insane, a recommendation is made to the magistrates of counties, to afford retiring pensions to the different officers of

County Asylums; and this on a scale of liberality which evinces the estimation in which the labours of that most useful and inadequately rewarded class of our profession are regarded. The intimation, likewise, which was given at the commencement of the present session, that the expenses of the medical treatment of paupers should in part become chargeable on the consolidated fund, will have the effect of rendering the position of medical officers of unions more independent of boards of guardians than they are at present, and evinces a disposition of those in authority to estimate more justly the labours of the country practitioners. The contemplated measure for the improvement of the health of towns, which was introduced during the last session of parliament, but which the state of public business has prevented being brought forward in the present, is founded on the reports of some of the most eminent men in our profession, and thus evinces the respect with which the opinions of medical men are now regarded—and a greater disposition is manifested to be guided by them, in all matters connected with the public health, than has heretofore been the case in this country.

The estimation, however, in which we are held by the public must ever, in an essential degree, depend upon ourselves, and our conduct towards each other—upon ourselves so far as our conduct is guided by a high standard of morality, and by a strict observance of those principles of honour and rectitude which ought to influence the members of a liberal profession. It has been well observed, both at some of the general meetings of the Association, and at some of those of District Branches, that the principal reform to which we ought to direct our attention is less that of a corporate, than of a personal nature; and more particularly as regards the bearing of medical men towards each other. Nothing tends more to lower the profession in public estimation than the exhibition of those petty jealousies and squabbles which too frequently disgrace it, emanating, as these in general do, from motives of a sordid and selfish nature.

I am well aware that there are many instances of heart-burnings and jealousies, giving rise to such outbreaks, which no code of medical ethics, however well devised, can hope to rectify—it would be well if, not only in such cases, but in every other where we may consider ourselves aggrieved, the divine precept was kept in view, which has taught us "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." This might tend alike to modify feelings of wounded pride, and to allay those of resentment—preventing such a course of proceeding as too frequently ends in angry discussions and personalities, exposing both parties to the contempt and ridicule of the public, which is never disposed to regard the quarrels of professional men with any other feeling. In as far, however, as the mere etiquette of the profession is concerned, much good might result from a well digested code of medical ethics, which should be applicable and easily accessible to every member of it; and it has been proposed at a recent general meeting of the Association by one of its presidents (the late venerable Mr. Hey, of Leeds), that a committee should be appointed for this purpose. In such a proposition I most cordially join, and would moreover venture to suggest, that before the present meeting

terminates, some presentment, if I may borrow a term from the law courts, or recommendation to this effect, should be prepared and forwarded through our worthy secretary, to be laid before the next general meeting of the Association—and I trust he will excuse me if I more particularly refer to him on this occasion as having, some years since, when the formation of the Sydenham Society* was first contemplated, pointed out the necessity for republishing the best works on this subject which existed in our medical literature. It is somewhat remarkable that although the aspect and condition of the medical profession in this country has undergone such an entire revolution within the last twenty or thirty years, we should have no later works on the subject than those to which I have referred, viz. Dr. Gregory's Lectures on the Duties and Qualifications of a Physician, published upwards of seventy years since; and Dr. Percival's Medical Ethics, published at the commencement of the present century. I understand it has been still more recently proposed by some members of the council of the Sydenham Society, that a reprint of these works should issue from their press; but I think the greatly altered state of the profession requires a remodelling of the many excellent precepts contained in these works, and that, in this respect, we should not be behind our neighbours on the continent, where, both in France and Italy, and, I believe, also in Germany, works on this subject have very recently appeared.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I have to thank you for the attention with which these observations—very hastily thrown together—have been received; and to express a hope that our proceedings on this the second anniversary of our District Branch may satisfactorily carry out the intentions of the founders of the parent Society; by maintaining the honour and respectability of the profession, and raising its character in the estimation of the public.

The minutes of proceedings of the meeting last year, at Tunbridge, having been printed and placed in the hands of every member, they were considered to have been read; and the secretary proceeded to read the following report from the committee to the general meeting:—

REPORT.

"The present being the second annual meeting of the South Eastern Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, the committee have the pleasing duty of reporting to the members present, the further satisfactory progress of this branch of the Association. They rely with the fullest confidence on a continued prosperous course; and they trust that our increasing numbers will cause the agreeable and the useful results of the Association to be more and more generally felt and appreciated. Many excellent men become acquainted who would never, otherwise, have known each other—old hospital acquaintance renew and improve their former friendships—the cheering and refreshing cordiality of attachment between gentlemen practising the same liberal profession, of kindred minds and habits of thought is experienced; and they are gratified by the social and professional amelioration springing from these meetings.

* Provincial Medical Journal, 17th Sept. 1842, p. 483.

"From the great distances at which the annual meetings of the parent Association have been usually held, in the great towns of the north and the west, it is believed that with one, or at most two, exceptions, none of the few members of the Association residing in Kent had, previously to the establishment of this branch, been able to attend any of the great meetings already referred to. In common, however, with other Branches, the convenience of having meetings nearer home, of a similar nature, although less in magnitude than those of the parent Association, is fully acknowledged—and it is believed that notwithstanding the territorial extension of this Branch now contemplated, gentlemen residing in the most remote parts of the district, will be enabled, by railway communication, to attend the annual meetings of the Branch, wherever they may be appointed to be held, and return home in the course of one day, or at least within the space of twenty-four hours.

"The Committee desire to mention this, as an important consideration, where time is an element of so much importance, and where the peculiarities of medical practice are to be taken into account. And perhaps, without impropriety they may add, that as Branch Associations are become an essential part of the great scheme of the parent Association, it would be well if the whole of South Britain, as the sphere of its operations, should be divided into districts of convenient dimensions with respect to each, in itself, and with reference to each other.

"In accordance with this principle, your Secretary has recently been in correspondence with the Secretaries of the Southern Branch, on the proposition of comprehending the whole of the counties of Surrey and Sussex with the county of Kent, in the constitution of the South-Eastern Branch; and by reference to the map, it will be seen, that this boundary will form a very convenient territorial arrangement, with reference to both districts, where they come in contact; and your Committee can foresee no difficulty in the case, if it should be agreeable to those gentlemen residing in western Surrey, and the western part of Sussex, who have hitherto considered themselves as members of the Southern Branch.

"At the meetings of this Branch Association, cases of interest, and valuable practical observations, will always be acceptable, agreeably to the fifth rule. Cases should be stated as concisely and as clearly as possible, that the valuable time of the meeting, being so short, may be economically disposed of.

"The Committee conclude by observing, that our profession may rely with confidence on the increase of public estimation, while it is increasing in general intelligence, as well as in practical utility and efficiency. It can no longer be laid to our charge, that while science and learning are confined to a few, the great body of our profession is inadequately instructed. With the general growth and diffusion of knowledge, we have reason to hope that a higher tone of moral feeling, and a better culture of the highest powers of the mind is also prevalent. To the cultivation of medical science, and the improvement of medical practice, our endeavours have been, and will continue to be, anxiously directed. And with a zeal worthy the cause which has called them forth, and has now called us together, we will hope to justify our claims to the

high and worthy object of supporting the honour and respectability of the profession—for this honour, and this respectability must ever flow, not from self-elating pretensions, or arrogant claims to consideration; but from the professional skill, the kindness, and the moral worth, of individual members."

It was moved by Mr. Wallace, of Carshalton, and seconded by Dr. Imlach, of Sittingbourne, and unanimously resolved,—

That the report now read be received, adopted, and entered on the minutes.

Moved by Dr. Soulby, of Dover, and seconded by Mr. Beet, of Ashford, and resolved unanimously,—

That it appears to this meeting, that the town of Reigate will be a convenient place for the general meeting in June, 1847; and, therefore, that the members of this Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association be invited to assemble at Reigate on that occasion.

Moved by Mr. West, of Tunbridge, and seconded by Dr. Imlach, and resolved unanimously,—

That Mr. Wallace, of Carshalton, be requested to accept the office of President, at the Reigate meeting, and for the ensuing year.

Moved by Dr. Mackness, of Hastings, and seconded by Mr. Pickance, of Penshurst, and resolved unanimously,—

That Mr. Newnham, of Farnham, and Mr. Stedman, of Guildford, be requested to accept the offices of Vice-Presidents.

Moved by Mr. Young, of Hawkhurst, and seconded by Mr. Skinner, of Headcorn, and unanimously resolved,—

That Mr. Martin, of Reigate, be requested to continue in the offices of Secretary and treasurer for another year.

Moved by Mr. Pout, of Yalding, and seconded by Mr. Prince, of Uckfield, and unanimously resolved,—

That Messrs. Fletcher and Bottomley, of Croydon; Dr. Webster, of Dulwich; Messrs. Hart, and Chaldecott, of Dorking; Mr. Albert Napper, of Guildford; Mr. Pickance, of Penshurst; Mr. Thompson, of Westerham; Mr. Clark, of Sutton; Mr. Ward, of Epsom; Mr. Smith, of Crawley; and Mr. Byass, of Cuckfield, do form the next committee of management.

Moved by Mr. Wilks, of Charing, and seconded by Mr. Bottomley, of Croydon, and unanimously resolved,—

That the best thanks of this meeting are due to the officers and other members of the Committee for the services which they have rendered to this Branch Association, at and since the last meeting to the present time; and that they be requested to accept the grateful acknowledgments of the members present.

Moved by Mr. Crawford, of Canterbury, and seconded by Dr. Mackness, and resolved unanimously,—

That it appears to this meeting, the boundaries of the Districts of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association should be well defined; and the county of Kent, with the counties of Sussex and Surrey, will form a district of convenient form and size for the purposes of the Association.

The Treasurer's account was then read, and the Secretary submitted to the meeting the claims of the Benevolent Fund of the Association, presenting copies of the last report respecting it. He also adverted to

the Sydenham Society, its scope and objects; and presented copies of the fourth report, recently issued.

The Secretary, on behalf of one of the members of the Association, read the sketch of a plan for a medical provident, or benefit club; on the plan of a *Friendly Society*. In the opinion of the author of this suggestion, in addition to the Benevolent Fund, and Mr. Daniell's Medical Annuity Fund, there was still room for an annual subscription of, perhaps, two guineas, to entitle the subscriber to a weekly equivalent payment, while incapacitated from attending to business by sickness or accident. The attention to, and consideration of, this subject, by the members present, were invited by the author of the scheme.

Mr. Hunt, of Herne Bay, read a Paper entitled "Suggestions towards the adoption of a plan for the advancement of Practical Medicine and Surgery."*

Mr. Crawford, of Canterbury, mentioned the successful use of small quantities of the tincture of iodine, thrown into the sac, and suffered to remain there, in the cure of hydrocele; a drachm of the tincture and three drachms of water being injected, and not withdrawn, but suffered to remain, induced successful adhesion in several cases, recently, in the Canterbury Hospital.

This led, in the course of conversation, to the subject of exciting adhesion between the coats of the sac in ovarian dropsy, and the greater or less danger of attempting this mode of cure, as well as to some points of the pathology and the treatment of ovarian dropsy.

Mr. Hitchings, of Seal, favoured the meeting with a Paper on delirium tremens,† which disease, and its modifications, he stated to be of frequent occurrence in his neighbourhood.

The communication led to much conversation on the treatment of delirium tremens, in the course of which Mr. Adamson, of Rye, mentioned his successful treatment of the disease with tartarized antimony, in doses beginning with one grain, in form of pill, increasing the doses, and repeating them at short intervals, until the symptoms subsided.

In reference to the use of large doses of opium in the treatment of delirium tremens, Mr. Bottomley, of Croydon, mentioned that the most delightful effects of opium, administered in the same way, had resulted in the treatment of puerperal insanity, under his care.

The Secretary read the report of a case of rupture of the urinary bladder, in which the patient enjoyed complete recovery, occurring in the practice of Mr. Chaldecott, of Dorking, but as it scarcely admits of an abstract, the details will, in all probability, be given in the Journal of the Association.

Mr. Young, of Hawkhurst, then introduced the subject of the opinions, as well as statements, required of medical men respecting the health of patients, by Life Insurance Offices; and cited the opinion on that subject, of an eminent man at the bar. The refusal of most of these offices to offer fees, and the propriety or impropriety of giving opinions, as well as statements of a confidential nature, respecting the health of patients, that confidence also being often broken, became the subject of much conversation, and ended in

* This Paper was printed in the Journal for last week—page 311.

† See page 321.

the unanimous adoption of the following resolutions :—

Moved by Mr. Bottomley, seconded by Mr. Hunt,—

That every Life Assurance Office has appointed medical referees of its own, on whose opinions the offices ought to rely, in their decisions on the insurance of lives. The members present at this meeting are of opinion, that the Insurance Offices have no claim whatever on the private medical attendant of any candidate for insurance, for an opinion on the state of his or her health.

Moved by Mr. Young, and seconded by Dr. Soulby,—

That copies of the foregoing resolution be sent to all the offices for life assurance.

The thanks of the gentlemen present were then voted to Dr. Sibbald, for his able and judicious conduct in the chair.

The Society afterwards dined together.

REFUSAL OF THE CUSTOMARY FEE FOR A SURGICAL OPERATION AND ATTENDANCE UNDER THE NEW POOR-LAW ACT : CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE POOR-LAW COMMISSIONERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

I will thank you to insert the accompanying correspondence in an early number of your journal. I am not aware that any explanatory remarks are required, as the whole case seems complete in itself.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

ANTHONY MARTIN.

Evesham, July 4, 1846.

To the Poor-Law Commissioners.

Evesham, February 26, 1846.

Gentlemen,—I shall feel much obliged to you if you will kindly inform me whether I am entitled to the usual fee for attendance on the following case :—

On the 22nd of Oct., 1845, I was summoned to attend Ann Batson, a woman residing in the parish of All Saints, in the Borough of Evesham, and on attending, I found that she had fractured her thigh. I immediately treated the case in the usual way, and on the next day called in one of my professional brethren, Mr. Thackwell, who coincided in what was done. I continued my attendance for eight days, when I gave up the case, in consequence of a man of the name of Yeend, a village bone-setter, being called in. At the end of the quarter I made my charge for the usual fee of £3, which the Guardians of the poor have refused, because they say that I did not attend the case. Some few weeks ago Mr. Thackwell and myself attended the Board at their request, and urged the justice of my claim, and after hearing our evidence, they determined on summoning Yeend, the bone-setter, before them, together with Mrs. Batson, and ultimately agreed to the following minute :—

“Mrs. Batson attended this Board, and positively stated that Mr. Martin did not set or cure her thigh, it is therefore the opinion of this Board, that Mr. Martin's charge for the same cannot be allowed.”

I did not receive any written order to attend, but as I had had occasion to visit Mrs. Batson before as a pauper, I did not think it would be necessary, particularly as her husband earns but eight shillings per week. Allow me to express my surprise at the unusual character of the proceedings of the Board of Guardians. They appoint regularly qualified medical men to have the charge of the poor, they call them in to give evidence as to the nature and treatment of a certain case, they both agree in their statements ; Yeend, the bone-setter, is called in to give opposite evidence, and the verdict is given in his favour. I need scarcely add, that in no court of justice would his medical evidence be received. I think I have given an impartial view of the case, and waiting your reply,

I am, Gentlemen, yours respectfully,

ANTHONY MARTIN.

Poor-Law Commission Office,
Somerset House, 28th Feb., 1846.

Sir,—I am directed by the Poor-Law Commissioners to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th inst., relating to your claim to a special fee, as a medical officer of the Evesham Union, for attendance in the case of Ann Batson, and I am to state that your letter will meet with the consideration of the Commissioners.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

E. CHADWICK, Secretary.

Anthony Martin, Esq., Evesham.

Poor-Law Commission Office,
Somerset House, March 14, 1846.

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 26th ult., respecting your claim to a surgical fee as a medical officer of the Evesham Union, for attendance in the case of Ann Batson, I am directed by the Poor-Law Commissioners to forward to you for your perusal and information, the accompanying copy of a statement which the Commissioners have received from the Clerk of the Evesham Union, on the subject, as shewing the grounds on which the Guardians refuse to pay your claim for attendance on the case in question.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

W. G. LUMLEY,

Assistant Secretary.

To Anthony Martin, Esq., Evesham.

Evesham, March 3, 1846.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 28th ult., I am directed by the Board of Guardians to say, that from the statements of Mrs. Batson and Mr. Yeend, (copies of which I herewith enclose,) they did not consider themselves justified in allowing Mr. Martin's fee.

Mrs. Batson is now able to walk, with the aid of a stick.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. B. SAUNDERS, Clerk.

Edward Chadwick, Esq.,

Secretary, Poor-Law Commissioners.

Copy of evidence given by Mr. Yeend and Ann Batson, as to the treatment of the latter, for a fracture of the thigh-bone.

Mr. Yeend, a bone-setter, stated that in October last