

would tend so much to elevate the condition of the Provincial Association as the establishment of a weekly Journal, that should be entitled to rank with the best medical periodicals of the day. Under existing arrangements, nothing more can be done than is done already; and I feel assured that no one is more sensible than yourself of the great improvements that might be accomplished if the requisite pecuniary resources were supplied. Why should not the Journal take a high standing in medical literature, such a standing as would reflect honour upon the Association, and induce multitudes to enrol their names in the already long catalogue of its supporters? Why should not the Editor be properly paid,—and why should not a few able contributors of celebrity be enlisted in his constant service, and receive a liberal compensation for their trouble?

At present, the funds of the Association (so far as I can ascertain,) are directed into several channels. There is so much for the Journal, so much for the "Transactions," &c. The expense of the "Transactions," must be considerable, and I would ask very respectfully, what is the use of them? Why is not the Journal a sufficient and proper medium for the publication of every thing that the "Transactions" can contain? Would it not be far wiser to concentrate the funds and the talents of the Association upon one object—viz., a good weekly Journal, and afterwards to enlarge the sphere of usefulness as circumstances might allow? It has, we are aware, been proposed to abandon the Journal altogether. The plan that I humbly suggest is exactly in the opposite direction—viz., that a strenuous effort should be made, and the funds of the Association be concentrated for the purpose of supporting a weekly Journal of decided superiority.

If any one possessing influence in the Society, (who may be present at the annual meeting,) should agree with the suggestion, I trust that he will bring the question seriously into consideration.

Unless we have a Journal very many members will probably desert us. If we obtain as good a Journal as we ought to have, and as we might have, if the proper means were adopted, something would really be done for the advancement of science, and the members of the Society would be greatly multiplied.

Allow me to add a few words in reference to the second object of the Association, viz., "The maintenance of harmony and good feeling." Some letters that have recently appeared as to "the Title of Doctor," remind me of this point. Every thing in the world is, in one sense, of very little consequence whatever; but there is another sense in which distinctions are of importance, viz., in relation to the harmony and good feeling of society. If we analyse the constitution of society in general, we shall find that it greatly depends, for its harmony, upon a number of comparatively trifling observances. For example, were I to enter a drawing room with my hat on I should be deservedly rebuked: not because there could be any essential wrong in my wearing a hat in one place more than in another, but because I should be acting in opposition to an understood rule of society. Now, it is just this understood rule, applied in a different case, for which Dr. Hull contends. The title of doctor, applied to pure physicians, and the title of Mr. applied to all who practice surgery is, in this country, a con-

ventional distinction of long standing, and is approved of and observed by hundreds, who neither "wear ruffles nor kid gloves," and who are not particularly "tight-laced." The question appears to be, whether this conventional distinction ought to be broken through by some practitioners when it is observed by the majority? Dr. Hull thinks *not*: Dr. Barker thinks it *should be*. Upon the same principle Dr. Barker has a right to wear his hat in a drawing room. He would not find, however, that he would thereby promote the harmony and good feeling of general society; neither will he find the rejection of a medical rule promote the harmony of the Provincial Association.

Many serious evils arise from a spirit of infringement carried out. Dr. Barker may advocate the adoption of the title of doctor by the general practitioner, and some one else may take a step the other way, and refuse to call a pure physician doctor, because he does not approve of such a distinction *at all*; in fact, any one may do *any* thing that is not actually punishable by the criminal law. It seems to me, Sir, that one object of the Provincial Association is to prevent persons from doing just as they like; and to bind them, as a matter of professional courtesy, to observe those regulations by which so many of our body have been so long guided. It might be shewn that many of the grievances and irregularities, now so common among us, are founded upon the *non*-observance of a variety of little points called etiquette. I am quite sure, that if there existed a spirit of genuine delicacy in our attention to minor civilities, the "harmony and good feeling," not only of the Association, but of the whole circle of medical practitioners, would be wonderfully increased. Many of us must fully agree with Dr. Hull, that any method by which harmony can be promoted is deserving the attention of the Provincial Association, and that its members are the last persons who should raise a spirit of deviation from the courtesies that have been so strictly sanctioned.

I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

P. H. WILLIAMS, M.D.

Worcester, July 24, 1846.

Selections, &c.

APHORISMS OF PAULI.

The following aphorisms are taken from Dr. Pauli's Researches and Practical Observations in Surgery:—

1. The deficiencies of medicine are best learned from the systems which from time to time spring up, and upset those that have preceded them.

2. Dissertations generally advance a science but little. I not long ago examined critically the literature respecting one of the most important diseases; I laboured through one hundred and forty dissertations treating of it without finding a single profitable idea.

3. Practitioners in university towns know that professors are not infallible.

4. Whence arises our want of a true collegiate spirit? From the imperfection of our science, and the want of a candid mutual confession of this imperfection.

5. A medical journal is wanted which should communicate only cases that have ended unfavourably. It would be of more service than a number of others.

6. In all medical narrations the subjectivity of the observer plays its part, and injures the objectivity.

7. Medicine in order to its advancement, should assume its old Hippocratic state—*i.e.*, one should learn to observe without writing a recipe.

8. It would be well worth while to collect together all that is positive in medicine, and of which not a jot is transitory. It would make but a small book.

9. Rationalism, with Hippocrates in the mouth, and the quill for writing recipes behind the ear: such is the true picture of many practitioners.

10. One hears often of favorite medicines; but can disease have to day a partiality for one medicine, to-morrow for another? Partiality is a weakness in man. Partiality in science arises from defective knowledge and one-sided views.

11. "La méthode c'est la médecine," says Barthez truly. Those physicians should learn this who, year after year, wander from one medicine to another, but overlook the application of method to their multifarious pharmacopœia.

12. Thick darkness besets the subject of etiology. Not unfrequently causes are found for diseases which, after a time, are found to be completely false. How often are colds and wettings cited as causes of disease! In the course of the musical festival which took place in the Palatinate, under the direction of Hofzollmeister Frank Lachna, a party of at least 20,000 was assembled near the ruins of Magdeburgh Castle. The whole of them, with scarce an exception, were wet through without any disease ensuing, as many feared there would.

13. Dr. C. Walther praises roses in a particular treatise, published at Stutgard in 1837, entitled the "Healing Virtue of Roses in Persons threatened with Atrophy and Consumption." The sick are daily to inhale air impregnated with the fragrance of roses, to drink rose tea, rose water, and rose wine; to eat preserved roses, honey of roses, and rose cakes; to rub in rose salve and rose oil: and all this will not save them from the churchyard roses—the so-much dreaded roses without thorns.

14. In stomatitis, peppermint drops allowed to melt in the mouth produce a feeling of coolness, and are a good palliative.

15. Cold foot-baths at bed-time are a valuable remedy in that sleeplessness caused by the loss of blood.

16. In ganglions, acupuncture is an easily managed, little painful, and generally successful mode of treatment, and according to Barthelemy, (*Gazette Médicale*, 1839,) to be preferred to the subcutaneous incision.

17. Ergot has such a specific action on the uterus that it should be more variously employed. In painful menstruation, accompanied by spasms, it acts like a charm, as also in the eclampsia of child-bed.

18. Specific medicines are generally too little employed. Thus tincture of cantharides, judiciously employed in retention of urine from cold, and where no organic diseases exist, will often obviate the necessity of catheterism.

19. Brandy drinkers can generally bear very hot baths; the peripheral nervous system being dulled in them.

20. I have twice seen those horn-like prolongations of the toe nails which sometimes occur in old women, accompanied with misshapen toes; that is to say, there was an exostosis surrounding the nail like a wall.

21. Persons, especially men, who eat and drink freely, are threatened with apoplexy when, though their general *enboupint* remains, their arms and legs begin to waste.

22. The therapeutic skill of many physicians consists in prescribing *oleum jecoris aselli*. Would it not be well henceforward to name it *oleum jecoris asini*?

23. I would lay down the following as an axiom which may be easily proved. In every local inflammation, unaccompanied with fever, general bleeding, if not absolutely hurtful, will be at least useless. Half the cases of ophthalmia are examples of this.

24. Not unfrequently medical men repent of their choice of a profession; this arises from their being unable to find a compensation in the science for the daily toil in the practice of their art. A physician, to be happy, must love science with the admiration of a lover. She must fill his whole soul; she must be incorporated with his whole being; and then she will daily appear to him new and interesting. Medicine is exciting, precisely because no man can ever arrive at a complete knowledge of her; and in this she differs from sciences which are complete in themselves. Whilst in them at best one yawns over quiet undisturbed possession, in medicine there is daily new life, new excitement. I shudder when I fancy myself a jurist or a theologian. Heinrich Heine says somewhere, the Frenchman loves liberty as his bride, the Englishman as his wife, and the German as his grandmother. I say, that jurists, mathematicians, theologians, &c., can at most love their science as a wife; to the physician alone is it granted to love his as a bride—with all the ardour of first love.—*British and Foreign Medical Review*.

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

The following regulations have been adopted as the basis of the new Pathological Society:—

1. That a Society be formed, to be denominated the Pathological Society of London.
2. That the special object of this Society shall be the exhibition and examination of specimens, drawings, microscopic preparations, casts, or models of morbid parts, with accompanying written or oral descriptions illustrative of pathological science.
3. That in the remarks made in reference to specimens exhibited, all discussions on abstract points be as far as possible avoided; and that the topics of diagnosis and treatment be not introduced further than is necessary to illustrate the pathology of the subject.
4. That an accurate record of all the proceedings of the Society be preserved, and that abstracts of the same be published at the discretion of the Council.
5. That all specimens be at the disposal of the exhibitors,—the Society not contemplating the formation of a museum.
6. That any member having a specimen to exhibit, shall give notice to the Secretaries before the hour of meeting, and that the Secretaries shall exhibit specimens forwarded to the Society by those who are not members.
7. That the Society shall consist of honorary, resident, and non-resident members; and shall be under the management of a President, eight Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, two Secretaries and twenty other members, who shall constitute the Council.
8. That every resident member