

One part of the petition is worthy of peculiar attention. In the third paragraph, it says, "Your petitioners would express their approbation of those parts which relate to medical education, which acknowledge that the principle of a high standard of qualification and more mature age, are essential to the respectability and usefulness of the profession." This of course refers to the fifteenth and sixteenth clauses. I have merely to express that so far as the "pures" are concerned, although the fifteenth clause is especially intended to dignify them, it will inflict upon a large majority of them supreme indigence. But in reference to physicians, as medical cases form the vast majority occurring in general practice, upon them clause sixteenth will confer considerable benefits in all probability.

I sincerely hope and trust that the members of the "Provincial Medical and Surgical Association" will perceive the wisdom and utility of uniting for the purpose of obtaining a Royal Charter of Incorporation for the general practitioners, for the end of instituting a College of Medicine and Surgery, and that it will be equitably represented in the "Council of Health;" and that, after allowing the Crown a fair and adequate share of power, the remainder of the Council will be elected righteously, and in accordance with the true and unrestricted representative principle. If not it will perpetually involve the Crown and government in collisions and heart burnings with the profession in general; and ultimately public opinion will be drawn within the vortex.

In the formation of the "Council of Health," a number of lay gentlemen, in my humble opinion, ought to be admitted, and these should be men of scientific education, not excluding ministers of the gospel, episcopal and dissenting ministers being equally eligible, and their election vested in the hands of the profession in general. The tendency of this step would be to make the educated classes of the community to take an interest in the welfare of the profession, and furnish them with a source of information not liable to be suspected of giving prejudiced statements.

And lastly, if a clause should not be introduced, which will afford summary means of repressing empiricism, in other words, obtaining money by practising upon the credulity and ignorance, and even the lives of a large portion of her Majesty's subjects, the present "medical bill," should it be placed upon the statute book, will indeed prove a bill of "pains and penalties" both to the public and the profession of medicine.

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT HOWARD.

Hebden Bridge, January 21, 1845.

THE BENEVOLENT FUND.

We are requested to state that this admirable branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association has lately had many claims made upon it, and that in consequence the available funds are at present very low. It is therefore desirable that those gentlemen who have collected subscriptions for it, should, without delay, forward the amount to Dr. Conolly, of Cheltenham, the Treasurer of the Fund.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted Licentiates, January 23, 1845 :—
Edwin Jotham, Barnet, Herts; Robert Cockerton, Sutton, Sussex.

OBITUARY.

At Hastings, January 8th, after a short illness, Wm. Duke, Esq., surgeon. For many years he had an extensive practice, and possessed the confidence and support of many of the profession, who confided their patients to his care, when seeking the genial climate of Hastings for relief in chest affections.

At Birmingham, January 27th, aged 50, J.T. Ingleby, M. D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, and Professor of Midwifery at Queen's College, Birmingham. Dr. Ingleby was of high standing in his profession, and universally esteemed throughout the circle of a most extensive practice in the department of the profession, to which he chiefly devoted himself.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Human Magnetism; its Claims to Dispassionate Inquiry. Being an Attempt to show the Utility of its Application for the Relief of Human Suffering. By W. Newnham, Esq., M.R.S.L., Author of "The Reciprocal Influence of Body and Mind," &c. &c. London: Churchill. 1845. Post 8vo. pp. 432.

A Thermometrical Table on the Scales of Fahrenheit, Centigrade, and Reaumur; comprising the most remarkable Phenomena connected with Temperature, in relation to Climatology, Physical Geography, Chemistry, and Physiology. By Alfred S. Taylor, Lecturer in Chemistry, &c., in Guy's Hospital. London: Willats. 1845.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

It is requested that Members of the Association, whose names, address, or designation, may be defective, or incorrectly inserted, in the printed list published with the last volume of the *Transactions*, will immediately send the alterations which they wish to be made, as the list of Members for the thirteenth volume, being the first of a new series, is now in the hands of the printer.

ROBERT J. N. STREETEN,

Secretary.

ERRATUM.

In Dr. Durrant's Paper on Physical Diagnosis, at page 50, col. 1, line 6 from the bottom, for "fluctuation of percussion," read—fluctuation of succussion.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. Clarke; Dr. Birt Davies; the Birmingham Pathological Society; H.; A General Practitioner in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery.