

of the latter art can be not only protected from the unjustifiable attacks sometimes made on them, but enabled to place their arguments before men capable of comprehending them, we feel confident that society generally will gain by the coalition. If, otherwise, physicians and scientific men are to continue to be exposed to the licentiousness of an irresponsible bar; if science is to be ridiculed, and facts sneered at, until they utterly fail of producing any more impression than the chattering of an idiot,—we may abandon all hope of immediate progress in forensic medicine.

### THE WEEK.

THE anticipated combination of the medical and surgical corporate bodies is beginning to be realised. This day's JOURNAL contains two advertisements, in which it is announced that the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh has made arrangements with the College of Surgeons of that city, as well as with the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, for the purpose of holding, in conjunction with each of the latter bodies respectively, examinations of candidates for licenses to practise. The stated object of the joint examination is announced to be "to give to students facilities for obtaining from two separate bodies, and at less expense, a double qualification in medicine and surgery". Codes of regulations regarding professional and general education have been agreed on; and the first examination in general education will take place in a few weeks. We hope that it will not be long before we shall have to announce a combination of the London Colleges for the same purposes as those for which the Scotch corporations have entered into co-operation. It has been rumoured that the London College of Physicians has made the proposal, but that the College of Surgeons has received it with aught but favour. For the credit of the College of Surgeons, we trust that this rumour is without foundation, or, at all events, that it is only an exaggerated version of a temporary hesitation on the part of a body which finds it a hard task to shake off old and cherished prejudices.

If the account given by a correspondent of the *New York Times* be reliable, there would appear to have been a great dearth of proper medical attendance for the wounded during the late war in Lombardy. The writer states that on visiting the hospitals at Brescia, which contained the soldiers both of the French and the Austrian armies wounded at the battle of Solferino, he found that in several of them there was no French surgeon at all in attendance, and that a considerable number of the wounded were given up to Italian civil surgeons—men of good intentions, but who had never practised military surgery. In each hospital there were from one to five regular male nurses, an Italian *pharmacien* (who did nothing but give out the medicine and dressings), and a group of ladies in silk dresses and hoops, who did most of the nursing, both for French and Austrians. Purulent infection and hospital gangrene were noticed as occurring in several instances. The men of the various nationalities composing the Austrian army especially appeared in great distress, as it was next to impossible for them to meet with any one understanding their language, or able to divine their wants. The writer observes that no army

surgeons in the world are superior, either in science or in administrative ability, to the surgeons of the French army; but, in his opinion, the wounded of Solferino were not well treated in any sense—neither in the mode of conveyance, nor the nursing, nor the surgical treatment. Most probably no calculation had been made for such an immense number of wounded. The deaths were said to be thirty daily in a total of ten thousand; and three-fourths of these must be attributed to the bad hygienic conditions surrounding the patients.

A correspondence has taken place between Mr. S. L. Rymer, Secretary to the Council of the College of Dentists, and the Secretary to the London Medical Registration Association, with regard to the propriety of the use of the term surgeon-dentist, by persons who are not members of a College of Surgeons. Mr. Rymer argues that the term "surgeon-dentist" is properly employed by dental practitioners, its meaning being simply "an operator on the teeth;" but he allows that if the title be employed to allure the public into supposing that the person assuming it is a surgeon, and it can be proved that the public have been so deceived, such a person is without doubt an offender against law. He says that the last clause of the Medical Act contains a provision which exempts dentists from its provisions in every instance; and he suggests that if there still remains any doubt, the matter should be tried in a court of law. The Committee of the Registration Association, in reply, state that they will contest the point at a convenient time. They further express their views on the matter referred to in Mr. Rymer's letter, summing them up in the following abstract:

- "1. The word 'dentist' means 'an operator on the teeth;'
2. 'surgeon-dentist' implies that, in addition to the occupation of 'dentist,' the party has the statutory qualification of 'surgeon;'
3. It is penal to use the prefix 'surgeon' unless in possession of the legal qualification conferring such title."

## Association Intelligence.

### ADMISSION OF MEMBERS, AND PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

THE General Secretary of the British Medical Association begs to call attention to the LAWS regarding the ADMISSION OF MEMBERS, and the PAYMENT of their SUBSCRIPTIONS.

"*Admission of Members.* Any qualified medical practitioner, not disqualified by any bye-law, who shall be recommended as eligible by any *three* members, shall be admitted a member at any time by the Committee of Council, or by the Council of any Branch."

"*Subscriptions.* The subscription to the Association shall be One Guinea annually; and each member, on paying his subscription, shall be entitled to receive the publications of the Association for the current year. The subscription shall date from the 1st January in each year, and shall be considered as due unless notice of withdrawal be given in writing to the Secretary on or before the 25th of December previous."

Either of the following modes of payment may be adopted:—

1. Payment by Post-Office Order to the Treasurer (Sir C. Hastings, M.D., Worcester), or to the undersigned.

2. Payment to the Secretary of the Branch to which the member belongs.

3. Members residing in the Metropolis and vicinity can make their payments through the publisher of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, Mr. Thomas John Honeyman, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *General Secretary.*

Worcester, September 1859.