

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE,
SURGERY, AND MIDWIFERY.

MEMORIAL TO SIR GEORGE GREY.

To the Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Bart., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Memorial of the President, Vice-Presidents, and Council of the National Institute of Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery—

Sheweth:—

That your memorialists were duly elected the representative Council of the National Institute, in August, 1847, and that they represent the opinions of above four thousand of the General Practitioners of England and Wales.

That upon a former occasion, the previous Council of the National Institute had the honor of presenting a memorial, bearing date December 24, 1846, to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, in which memorial, the opinions and sentiments of the class of medical practitioners whom your memorialists represent were carefully and deliberately stated. That the statements contained in the memorial were subsequently explained and confirmed by a deputation from the said Council of the Institute, in an interview with the Right Honourable Sir George Grey, Bart., at the Home Office, on Friday, February the 5th, 1847, and your memorialists fully believe that at that interview, the deputation were enabled so far to convince the Right Honourable the Secretary of State of their truth and importance, as to elicit the assurance that the Council should be admitted concurrent parties to any measure of Medical Reform that may be adopted by the Government.

That your memorialists fully concur in the propriety of the recommendation conveyed to them, and to others of their medical brethren from the same influential quarter, to the effect, that it would be desirable that the members of the medical profession should themselves meet and agree upon some general plan prior to the Government undertaking to introduce a bill before Parliament for the revision of the laws affecting the medical profession. That your memorialists have ever been most anxious to promote the views contained in that recommendation, and have been willing and prepared to meet any authorized parties representing the existing medical institutions, and to discuss any plan that might be submitted in the most amicable spirit, and with the most sincere desire to obtain such a settlement of this highly important question, as may conduce to the public welfare and the peace and tranquility of the profession.

That your memorialists deeply regret that the advice alluded to has not been acted upon, and that the benevolent intentions of the Government have not been reciprocated in those quarters from whence an immediate proposition for a conference should have emanated.

That your memorialists are fully persuaded that daily increasing evils press upon the people of these realms in consequence of the laws by which the Medical Institutions of the country are governed, having been found by experience to be quite inadequate to the wants of the public, and from their charters having become in a great

degree obsolete. That before any efficient measure affecting the public health, or sanitary improvement can be successfully carried into effect, medical reform appears to be an essential preliminary step; and your memorialists can never too strongly impress upon the Government and the Legislature, that the medical question is quite as important to the community as it is to the medical profession itself.

That in the opinion of your memorialists the only way to arrive at a satisfactory settlement of the affairs of the medical profession, will be in the first instance, to incorporate by Royal Charter the general practitioners in a College of Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery.

That your memorialists respectfully beg it to be borne in mind that the general practitioners constitute at least nine-tenths of the medical profession; that the duties which devolve upon them are of vital importance to the public, and that no act of the Legislature or the Corporations can prevent by far the largest portion of the public from being entrusted to their exclusive professional care. That the attainments of the present race of general practitioners are of the highest order, and are highly honorable to the profession; but that their position is most grievous and anomalous from being excluded from the benefits and respectability of a legal incorporation.

That your memorialists entertain a confident hope that they have succeeded in convincing the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, of the just claims of the highly meritorious body they represent, to a legally recognized position; and your memorialists fully trust that those arguments which were found successful with a former Government, and which were so far acted upon as to have induced a former Secretary of State to state in his place in Parliament his intention to incorporate by Royal Charter the general practitioners, may have lost none of their force, or be less conclusive than formerly of the justice of their claims, and of the paramount necessity of this preliminary measure being forthwith adopted.

That, in conclusion, your memorialists beg respectfully, yet most emphatically, to reiterate their grave and deliberate opinion, that it would tend materially to the advancement of science, to the welfare of the community, and to the best interests of the medical profession, if the prayer of this memorial were graciously acceded to, by which the general practitioners would be duly recognized; and by a properly defined title be placed amongst the medical institutions of this enlightened country.

(Signed),

R. R. PENNINGTON, President.

4, Hanover Square, Dec. 8th, 1847."

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE OF THE LATE
ALFRED HARDWICK, M.D.

[We are indebted for the following notice of our late associate, Dr. Hardwick, of Kensington, to an esteemed member of the Association.]

On Friday, the 8th of October, 1847, after a lingering illness of several months' duration, died, Alfred Hardwick,

M.D., aged 59. Having been educated to the medical profession, he settled as a general practitioner at Epsom, where he continued to practise for several years with a high reputation and great success. He married a daughter of Captain Dundee, then residing at North Cheam. This happy alliance ended in Mrs. Hardwick's confinement, when he had the great, and at that time apparently irreparable, misfortune of losing both wife and child. This affliction was so keenly felt, that he was induced to relinquish practice; and to leave Epsom, in the hope that by foreign travel his highly sensitive mind might recover its tranquillity. In this hope he made the tour of France and Italy, with parts of Germany, Belgium, and Holland. Returning for a short period, he resumed his peregrinations, and travelled through the same countries by different routes, thus bringing objects of interest in natural scenery, in history, and in the fine arts, under his attention; which, by his previously cultivated and elegant mind, he was well qualified to appreciate and enjoy.

After this second continental tour, he went to Scotland, with the intention to graduate in medicine, taking his degree of M.D., at Glasgow, in 1832. For a time he fixed his residence in London, but without any view to medical practice: and marrying a second time, to Miss Charlotte Tatchell, of Paris, he finally took up his abode at Kensington, where he continued to reside during the remainder of his life, highly respected and beloved by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and rendering essential services to the various parochial and local charities and institutions.

More than thirty years ago Dr. Hardwick assisted in the establishment of the Surrey Benevolent Medical Society, promoting to the utmost of his power the successful prosecution of its objects, and after he left practice, he attended the meetings whenever he possibly could. He was also a member of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association. As one of the Council he took an active part in the proceedings, whenever he could be present at the annual meetings; and was one of the Committee appointed to prepare a plan for schools for the sons of medical men, with the view to afford them a first-rate classical and liberal education, whether they might be intended for the medical, or for any other profession, at a very moderate expense. To this subject Dr. Hardwick devoted much time and thought. The prospectus of this plan was issued by the Committee; but it not being duly responded to by the profession at that time, the scheme may be considered to be postponed for the present, but not, it is to be hoped, entirely abandoned.

When the subject of medical reform became a prominent feature in the profession, Dr. Hardwick took it up; and after due investigation, found himself compelled conscientiously and warmly to espouse the cause of the general practitioner. He felt assured of the important truth, that in a wise medical legislation for the rectification of the evils, of which the general practitioner had so justly to complain, it ought to be borne in mind, that the welfare of the whole population of the country as respects the invaluable blessing of health, and the real interests, usefulness, and respectability of those who are the medical advisers in ordinary of the great majority of the public, are identical; that the general practitioners are not only

the medical attendants in ordinary of most of the higher and middle classes of society, and exclusively of the labouring classes, but also that a large majority of the medical appointments to public offices in the provinces are held by them, and that the entire medical staff of Her Majesty's army and navy are also, in the most complete and comprehensive sense, general practitioners; that therefore the standard of education and of qualification should be high, so as to render the general practitioner fully competent to treat all the extraordinary, as well as the ordinary emergencies of medical and surgical practice.

Taking the prominent part he did, Dr. Hardwick was elected, first of all, one of the Committee of the National Association; and since then, one of the Council of the Institute of Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery, attending the sittings of that body with the greatest punctuality, until the state of his health rendered any further attendance at the meetings impossible. He saw and felt the great importance of the principles on which the Institute is founded; their truth and their value to the great body of the profession, as also to the health and well-being of the public at large. He was, at the same time, equally assured that the incorporation of the general practitioners, by Royal Charter, as a measure preliminary to other and more extended medical reform, was most desirable; and among the last of his thoughts and wishes as respects this world's affairs, his prayers were in favour of the success of the Institute.

His urbanity of manners and elegant and accomplished mind rendered his social intercourse most gratifying to all who had opportunities of enjoying his company and conversation. And his co-operation in those public undertakings, in which he took a part, merited the esteem and gratitude of those of his friends who acted with him.

General Retrospect.

ANATOMY.

NERVES OF BONE.

M. Gros has obtained some interesting particulars regarding the distribution of nerves to the long bones. Taking the femur of the horse as sufficiently typical of the ordinary plan, he finds at least three nerves to approach the nutrient foramen,—two of them in company with the branch of the femoral artery, called by M. Gros "diaphysial," and the third, occasionally double, by piercing the vastus internus muscle. All of these are branches of the crural nerve, but there is in man, it seems, a branch of the sciatic in addition. Arrived at the nutrient foramen, the nerves are disposed differently in some subjects, but commonly a ganglion is developed, which receives the nervous branch which came through the muscle at one end, and one of the satellites of the artery at an interval. One portion of the ganglion is somewhat distinct, and is situated within the foramen; it gives two branches which receive the other arterial satellite, (which is distinct from the ganglion,) and then penetrates the medullary canal. The rest of the ganglion lies beneath the periosteal artery, which it is to be noted is a branch