

to the sudden calls for his assistance by all classes, from the lowest to the very highest in society. His constant study was to do grateful and kind acts to his patients, as well as to his friends, and he saved himself much discomfort in untoward and difficult cases, to which he, without hesitation, called the aid of his contemporaries of the profession, with whom he lived on terms of friendly and generous intercourse.

For thirty-three years Mr. Scott was surgeon to the Norfolk County Gaol, which afforded equal scope for the exercise of his philanthropy and his professional skill. On recently relinquishing this onerous appointment, he received the thanks of the magistracy, which were re-echoed by the public local press; but he was not deemed entitled to a retiring pension, the appointment being annual. Although in easy circumstances, questioning the correctness of this opinion of the magistrates, Mr. Scott thought it due to his professional brethren, whose official appointments might render them interested in the matter, to obtain the highest legal opinions, which were to the effect, that "the surgeon to a county gaol is entitled to a retiring pension by Act of Parliament, equally with other officials." It was a source of great rejoicing to the subject of this brief notice, that he obtained this favourable view to the question, although he was not destined to experience the fruits of its final decision.

There is one trait of character, and one act, which deserves to be revived on this occasion, not less for public purposes, than for the eulogy of an individual. Mr. Scott took a conspicuous part with Messrs. Crosse, Johnson, and others of his friends, in procuring the commutation of the sentence of a poor pregnant woman, whom the verdict of an ignorant *jury of matrons* had pronounced not *quick with child*. The publicity given to this case, chiefly through Mr. Scott's efforts and zeal, has told favourably in like instances since, by rectifying other similar errors, and will ere long, it is to be hoped, remove from our statutes the necessity for an appeal to the ignorant and uneducated on similar painful occasions.

The decease of Mr. Scott was preceded by several months of severe suffering and privation, from an encephaloid tumour of the abdomen, and during this trial he still turned his mind to many acts of kindness, and closed this scene of sorrow, not without many touching appeals to those about him, whether he had not endeavoured to be "father to the fatherless, and a reliever of the widow's distress."

### THE ACTIONS AGAINST THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

If the Midland Counties' Surgeon, who has volunteered his services in defence of the Midland Railway Company, and made such an unwarrantable attack upon the conduct of the Coleshill' surgeons, in the case of Higgins, the poor man who met with the accident on their line of railway, at Whitacre, on the 9th day of February, 1848, will furnish me *publicly* with his name and address, I will endeavour to correct the

errors which he has fallen into; but I am not disposed to answer the attack of an anonymous correspondent.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. DAVIES, M.D.

Coleshill, May 19, 1848.

### THE "PRACTICAL" MAN.

There are medical men, who, from a want of study, of intelligence, or from natural indolence, or from being too old to master recent improvements, affect a supreme disdain for everything which concerns doctrine. They call themselves PRACTICAL MEN and speak ironically of *theorists*,—such as labour for the advancement of medical science, and whose knowledge crushes and confounds them. These "practical" men have no doctrine, no general principles; they gather together ready-made formulæ and isolated cases, without any kind of scientific discernment. We have frequently had to remark, that a practical man,—that is a man who boasts of knowing nothing of scientific medicine, is intellectually inferior to a master mason or cabinet maker, for these have principles which they apply in their business.—*Monthly Journal*, April.

### Medical Intelligence.

#### THE EPIDEMIC CHOLERA.

We regret to state that the epidemic cholera has again broken out at Constantinople, and on the Eastern frontiers of Russia, and at Moscow.

#### APPOINTMENTS.

Her Majesty the Queen has been pleased to confer the honour of Knighthood upon John Liddell, M.D., F.R.S., Medical Inspector of Fleets and Hospitals, Royal Hospital, Greenwich.

M. Michon has been appointed Surgeon to the Hospital La Pitié, Paris in the room of M. Laugier.

M. Maisonneuve has been appointed Surgeon to the Hôpital Cochin, in the room of M. Michon.

Dr. Cotta, Surgeon to the Hospital of Lodi, has been appointed Professor of Clinical Surgery, in the University of Padua.

Dr. Geromini has been appointed Professor of Clinical Medicine, in the University of Parma, in the room of Dr. Tommasini, deceased.

#### ROYAL SOCIETY.

Amongst the candidates for the Fellowship, selected by the Council as eligible for the honour, are William Fergusson, Esq., of King's College; Dr. Robert Gordon Latham; of the Middlesex Hospital; Dr. James Ormiston M'William; James Syme, Esq., late of University College; and Dr. Allen Thomson, of Edinburgh. The Earl of Rosse is to be put in nomination for the Presidency, in the room of the Marquis of Northampton.