

quality. I have always found the *yellow green*, with a *fresh pungent smell*, the most powerful in its astringent effects, and that to be alone relied on. Many persons I know, have been frequently disappointed in the trial of this remedy from this circumstance, and on asking them the nature of the sample, have decried it "as without much smell, and of a *dark green* colour."

I have employed matico to a considerable extent for some years, and can bear testimony with Dr. Jeffrey and Mr. Giraud to its invaluable assistance in *all* cases of hæmorrhage. I have used it very frequently, and I may say extensively, in passive hæmorrhægia, in cases of flooding after labour and miscarrying, also in hæmoptysis and epistaxis, in minor cases of obstinate and tedious bleeding from leech-bites, extraction of teeth, &c., in leucorrhœa, and chronic cases of gleet. In all these I have rarely seen it fail, and in many of them the effect has been almost instantaneous. I could cite many interesting cases, where matico has succeeded in excessive uterine hæmorrhage, after the trial of very many other powerful styptics. The method of administering it has been most frequently with me in the shape of infusion—an ounce or more to the pint; giving two or three table spoonfuls every one, two, or three hours, according to the severity of the case. In some cases of hæmoptysis, the patient has carried some leaves in his waistcoat pocket, and on perceiving the taste of blood in his mouth he took a pinch, and masticated it well, swallowing the expressed juice with the saliva. This plan has answered exceedingly well, and entirely checked an attack. To quote the words of the patient, "I never, Sir, should feel safe without some of this remedy in my pocket. The powder, *recently* pulverized, in doses of a scruple to half a drachm, I have found succeed where the ergot has failed in exciting uterine contraction; and from repeated trials of its efficacy in this respect, I feel convinced that many of my professional brethren would do well to try the powder of matico when they have failed to induce uterine effort from other remedies; and in cases of hæmorrhage I would rely most confidently upon the administration of this remedy. These remarks I have made with the same view as that of Mr. Giraud, and to add somewhat in assisting each other to arrest formidable attacks of hæmorrhage, which call forth all our promptitude and knowledge, producing no slight solicitude for our patients, and alike placing them in imminent peril. It is our duty to communicate, and place before our medical brethren the successful trial of any remedy which may assist them in the management of perplexing cases; and I am persuaded that if we were more unreserved and frank in this respect to one another we should do much benefit.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

PHILIP R. SLEEMAN.

Bristol, April 5, 1851.

THE APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM.

To the Editor of the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*.

SIR,—A communication in your last number respecting the present state of the medical profession, reminds

me of a subject upon which I have frequently thought of addressing you, and some remarks made in the course of a review of a recent surgical work in the columns of the *Times*, renders a notice of the matter more urgent and necessary.

Your sexagenarian correspondent stands up boldly for the Apothecaries' Company, and in many of his remarks I most fully concur; as, for example, the good service which the company has done in advancing the education of surgeons, a service which ought to be appreciated more by the public than is the case, and the necessity which exists in the country districts of a medical man dispensing his own medicines, without charging for anything beyond his attendance.

I wish to say a few words upon a somewhat similar topic, viz: the apprenticeship system, decried by most of the London surgeons and the Council of the College, possibly because it is upheld by the Apothecaries' Company; and very strongly deprecated by Mr. Skey and his very flattering reviewer in that lengthy advertisement inserted some days ago in the *Times*.

Having had a good deal of experience in the education of young men for the profession, I beg to state my distinct conviction of the great advantages of an apprenticeship. I do not mean a servitude in a shop for five years, but an apprenticeship to a surgeon in the country or in town; if the former, and there is no recognized hospital or school sufficiently near, it should be with the understanding that the last two or three years be spent in attendance upon lectures, &c., at whatever school may be chosen, and this the Apothecaries' Company very liberally allow. I consider the advantages to be the following:—Being bound legally to serve his master, he is kept under his eye for a greater or less time, and has opportunities of learning many things of the greatest importance which hospital practice can never teach. There is a vast difference between hospital and private practice, and, in fact, the slight cases and operations which a young practitioner has to undertake, are seldom seen in the wards of a hospital. The master, moreover, would consider himself bound to teach his apprentice the *business* part of his profession, which is very necessary, and which a mere hospital pupil can never learn; the apprentice will have now and then to see some of his master's patients in his absence, and will be made do many things which it is very necessary to learn; he will have to assist at operations in private, and will learn to be a quiet and handy assistant; to sew up a body neatly at a private *post-mortem* examination; to bleed and cup expertly; and all the minutæ which in the aggregate make up the practice of a surgeon just beginning his career. How few, in ordinary practice, except hospital surgeons, are required to perform capital operations; and yet these attract the greatest part of the attention of the students in the wards of the hospitals. Where, again, in a hospital is there any opportunity to watch the progress of ordinary cases of small pox or measles?

Having had myself the privilege of being an apprentice to a surgeon of high standing as a private practitioner, who did not dispense medicines nor require any menial servitude, but gave me private instruction, whilst I attended lectures and hospital practice, I can safely declare that I derived the greatest and most lasting advantages from the suggestions then received.

If the Apothecaries' Company resign their power of granting a license to practice to the hands of the College of Physicians, I hope that something tantamount to an apprenticeship will still be required; and I think that nothing short of the legal power of an indenture for three, four, or five years will answer the purpose.

In conclusion, I wish to express my opinion that the Council of the College of Surgeons are utterly ignorant of the condition of surgeons in the country, (I ignore the term "General Practitioner,") especially of those in large provincial towns, where, with the exception of attending midwifery cases, they are as much "pure" surgeons as the members of the Council themselves.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

F.R.C.S.

ON THE COMMUNICATION FROM A "SEXAGENARIAN."

To the Editor of the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*.

SIR,—Without wishing to claim for yourself or your readers any credit for excessive sympathetic sensibility, I must beg permission to condole with you most sincerely with regard to your obligation to publish such "Sexagenarian Thoughts on the present state of the Profession." I would suggest, for your own sake, that you should cause all those who peruse the *Journal* to understand that the constitution of the Association compels you to insert whatever trash a member may be pleased to send, and that you are, therefore, not responsible for the fatuity of your correspondents. But, I would also suggest, that you should, in future, be debarred from the exercise of discretionary power, *only* on the condition that the names of those contributors who indulge in attacks against the entire diplomacy of surgery and medicine, should be appended or prefixed to the documents committed to the press. It is not my intention to specify the absurdities that prevail in the paper to which allusion has been made, because *one* edition of that paper is enough; nor is it my wish to be severe in remarking on the mental and moral infirmities of an aged man; my only object is seriously to propose that some measure should be adopted which may enable you to use your Editorial discrimination, and thereby reserve the pages of the periodical over which you preside for communications which bear the impress either of sanity, courtesy, or talent.

I remain Sir, yours faithfully,

ONE WHOSE REPUTATION IS NOT "EUROPEAN."

May 5, 1851.

[The communication alluded to is privately authenticated by the signature of one of the most respectable members of our Association, and however we may differ from him in many of his opinions, we think he had a right to expect the insertion of them in the *Journal*.—Ed. J.]

Medical Intelligence.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING, 1851.

We have authority from the Council to state that the next Anniversary Meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association will be held at Brighton, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 13th and 14th of August. Further particulars will appear in a future number.

BRISTOL MEDICAL SCHOOL.

The annual distribution of prizes took place at the Medical School, Old Park, Bristol, on Thursday morning, May 1. After an interesting and appropriate address to the students, Mr. Clark, Lecturer on Surgery, awarded the prizes to the following successful candidates:—For proficiency in the studies of the third academical year, a prize to Mr. G. L. Poole, and a certificate of honour to Mr. E. A. Hadow; for proficiency in the studies of the second year, the first prize to Mr. James A. Ellis, the second to Mr. W. H. Day, and a certificate of honour to Mr. H. H. Cox. These prizes are quite distinct from the clinical prizes annually awarded at the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

The annual distribution of prizes in the Faculty of Medicine in this Institution, took place on Saturday last; H. C. Robinson, Esq., in the absence of Sir James Graham, presided. The Dean of the Faculty, Mr. Graham, having read a report setting forth the position of the school during the preceding session, the chairman proceeded to distribute the prizes to the several competitors, and then concluded the proceedings by some observations suitable to the occasion. The following is a list of the gentlemen to whom the prizes were awarded:—*Chemistry*: Gold medal, J. Z. Lawrence; 1st silver, Wm. Roberts; 2nd silver, J. Footman. Certificates—4, J. C. Thorowgood; 5, Wm. Mushet; 6, S. J. Deck; 7, C. Follen; 8, W. Harriss; 9, P. J. Worsley. Birbeck Laboratory Students—Gold medal, P. Duffy; silver, James Smith. Certificates—3, H. Lawes; 4, A. W. Willis; 5, James Bell.—*Botany* (summer, 1850): Gold medal, J. W. de Tunzleman; silver, Thomas Hillier. Certificates—3, G. Buchanan; 4, John Dee; 5, W. B. Ramsbotham; 6, James Ekin; Wm. B. Mushet; 7, F. W. Sayer.—*Pathological Anatomy* (summer, 1850): Gold medal, Henry Thompson. Certificate—2, J. S. Gamgee.—*Anatomy and Phytology*: Gold medal, W. H. Flower. 1st silver, R. Grundy; 2nd silver, T. Hillier. Certificates—4, R. B. Smart; 5, St. John Edwards, A. Dupuy; 7, J. Gamgee, G. Buchanan; 9, W. Mushet; 10, D. D. Davis.—*Anatomy*: Gold medal, J. S. Gamgee. 1st silver, T. Hillier; 2nd silver, W. Roberts. Certificate—4, St. John Edwards; 5, J. Z. Lawrence; 6, W. Mushet; 7, A. Ingham; 8, A. Dupuy; 9, D. D. Davis—Junior class, silver medal, W. B. Rams-