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## ANNIVERSARY MEETING

OF THE

## PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION,

On Wednesday and Thursday, 4th and 5th of August.

THIS Association held its Ninth Anniversary at York. There was a numerous attendance of members, and of eminent provincial practitioners from all parts of the kingdom, among whom were the following:—Dr. Holme, Manchester, Dr. Barlow, Bath, and Dr. Jeffreys, Liverpool, Vice-Presidents; Dr. Goldie, York, President elect; Dr. Hastings, Worcester, Secretary; Dr. Fisher, Fellow of Downing College, Cambridge; Dr. Maunsell, Dublin; Dr. Simpson, York; Mr. Caleb Williams, Mr. Brown, and Mr. James Allen, York; Mr. Barnett, Stourport; Dr. Belcombe, York; Mr. Abbey, York; Mr. Griffith, Wrexham; Sir Arnold J. Knight, M.D., Sheffield; Mr. Hodgson, Acomb, near York; Mr. Thurnam, Resident Surgeon of the Retreat, York; Dr. Begley, Hanwell; Dr. W. Conolly, Cheltenham; Dr. Webster, Dulwich; Dr. Black, Manchester; Mr. Lambert, Thirsk; Mr. Brunton, York; Mr. Ceely, Aylesbury; Mr. Crang, Timsbury, Somerset; Mr. Barker, York; Dr. Brown, Sunderland; Dr. Colledge, from China; Mr. Jordan, Manchester; Mr. Smith, Patrington, near Hull; Mr. Matterson, Jun., York; Mr. Booth Edisson, Nottingham; Mr. Keyworth, York; Dr. Morris, York; Mr. Ness, Helmsley; Dr. Streeten, Worcester; Mr. R. Hey, York; Mr. Newnham, Farnham; Mr. Newman, Bath; Dr. Routh, York; Dr. Wake, York; Mr. Oswald Allen, York; Mr. Plant, Manchester; Mr. Davey, Beccles; Mr. Cooper, Hull; Mr. R. S. Fielding, Riccall, near York; Mr. Dolman, York; Mr. T. M. Cole, Kirby-Moorside; Mr. Garlick, Leeds; Dr. Robertson, Northampton; Dr. Watmouth, Pocklington; Mr. Hornby, Pocklington; Mr. Hare, Leeds; Mr. Hemingway, Dewsbury; Dr. Lyon, Manchester; Dr. Theodore Boisragon, London; Dr. Marchant, Hemsworth; Dr. Worllam, Mexborough; Mr. Jackson, Sheffield; Mr. Reed, York County Hospital; Mr. B. Dodsworth, York; Mr. Salmon, London; Dr. Outhwaite, Bradford; Dr. Borton, Malton; Mr. Workman, Basingstoke; Mr. Samuel Smith, Leeds; Mr. Thomas, Sheffield; Dr. Smart, Hatton Bushel, near Scarborough; Mr. Storrs, Doncaster; Mr. Price, Leeds; Mr. Husband, York; Mr. G. Clark, York; Dr. Bompas, Bristol; Mr. Bottomley, Croydon; Mr. Powell, Knaresborough; Mr. Isaac Newton, Jun., Knaresborough; Mr. W. S. Clark, York; Mr. Toogood, Bridgewater; Mr. Jackson, Sheffield; Dr. Allison, Kilham; Mr. Jubb, Halifax; Mr. Dickson, Elvington, near York; Mr. Henry Russell, York; Mr. Wightman, Cawood; Mr. Wilcocks, Hovingham; Dr. Bennett, Harrogate; Mr.

Champney, York; Mr. W. Hey, Jun., Leeds; Mr. Wallis, Hull; Mr. E. T. Allen, York; Mr. Shearman, Rotherham.

The visitors present were:—Dr. Marshall Hall, London; Professor Carlisle Williams, Dublin; Dr. Barton, Rasen, Lincolnshire; Mr. W. J. Lambert, Thirsk; Mr. Paine, Farnham; Mr. Robertson, Kirby-Moorside; Dr. Chase, Ripon; Mr. Payne, Loxley; Dr. Newmarsh, Calcutta; Dr. Fitzroy Colclough, York Barracks; Mr. Jefferson, Market Weighton; Mr. W. Anderson, York.

Letters were received by the President and Dr. Hastings, from the following gentlemen, expressing their regret at being unable to attend:—Dr. Forbes, London; Dr. Barnes, Carlisle; Dr. Prichard, Bristol; Dr. J. Conolly, Hanwell; Dr. J. C. Williams, Nottingham; Dr. Luard, Leamington; Dr. Henry Johnson, Shrewsbury; Dr. Charlton, Newcastle; Mr. Jones, Leamington; Dr. Hopper, Leeds; Dr. Walker, Huddersfield; Dr. J. L. Bardsley, Manchester; Dr. Scholesfield, Doncaster.

The preparatory meeting of the Council was held at the Museum on Tuesday, when the preliminaries to the general business of the various meetings were arranged.

## THE FIRST GENERAL MEETING

was held on Wednesday, at one o'clock, at the Theatre of the Museum. Deputations were in attendance from the following medical bodies:—The British Medical Association, represented by Dr. Webster, Dr. Marshall Hall, and Mr. Bottomley of Croydon; the North of England Association, by Dr. Brown of Sunderland; the Irish Association, by Dr. Maunsell and Professor Williams.

The retiring President, Dr. Steed of Southampton, was unavoidably precluded from attending, owing to a heavy domestic affliction; the chair was consequently taken by Dr. Barlow of Bath, who *pro forma* vacated it on his behalf, to give place to Dr. Goldie of York, the President elect.

Dr. Goldie, on taking the chair, observed, that their excellent friend and vice-president, Dr. Barlow, had stated to them that Dr. Steed was unavoidably absent on that occasion. It was with very deep regret that he (Dr. Goldie) communicated it to the meeting that a severe domestic affliction had been the cause of Dr. Steed's absence. Under these circumstances he was persuaded that they would all feel that they owed the deepest sympathy towards him, and that under happier circumstances they would hope to see him again amongst them. It was with sincere and heartfelt pleasure that he congratulated them on the increasing prosperity of their great and flourishing association. He (Dr. Goldie) expressed the pride he felt at having been called upon to preside over the

ninth anniversary meeting of that association; he felt great pride and satisfaction that the place fixed upon for holding that meeting should be the city in which they were now assembled. He begged leave, therefore, most cordially, on behalf of their professional brethren in York and himself, to welcome within the precincts of the city the numerous assembly which he saw before him, and to request them to accept his cordial thanks for the honour they had done to the city in fixing upon it as the place of meeting on that occasion. He would assure them that no exertion had been wanting on the part of the medical profession in the city to ensure the success of the first meeting of this association within its walls, and to give the most suitable reception to those kind guests who had attended at their own inconvenience, and at a sacrifice of professional emolument. In their endeavours to give adequate reception to the members of the association, it was only justice to say, that they had been cordially seconded by the public officers of the city, and also by the institution in whose walls they were then assembled. Their especial thanks were due to the chief magistrate of this city. His lordship had most promptly given up to them the use of the Guildhall for those festivities which formed no unimportant part of the proceedings at their anniversary. He also passed an eulogium on the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, for the promptitude which they had evinced in allowing them the use of that room, and he stated that every gratification which the collection the museum contained would be afforded them. The sub-curator, Mr. Baines, would, when the meeting was over, be happy to show the members of the association any part of the collection in the museum, in which they might feel particularly interested. He (Dr. Goldie) was also authorised to say that like facilities would be afforded to those gentlemen whose time and leisure would enable them to visit the other institutions which the city contained, whether of a purely medical, scientific, or benevolent kind. The County Hospital was an old building, erected nearly a century ago, and it was deficient in those modern improvements with which such establishments are generally furnished, but it was intended to erect an hospital more suitable for the purposes of the institution. He next stated that the lunatic asylums would probably interest most members of the association, and he was justified in saying that the medical officers and others connected with those institutions would be extremely happy to be honoured with a visit from them, if they felt an interest in those institutions and in the treatment of insanity. Dr. Belcombe, Dr. Wake, Mr. Thurman, and Mr. Williams, were the medical officers of these institutions, and in addition to these, Mr. Allis, of the Retreat, would be happy to give every facility to those who should pay a visit to that institution. There was also the school for the blind, and the officers of that institution also would be happy to give every information respecting it. He should detain them as briefly as possible, as it was desirable that they should proceed with the dispatch of the multifarious and important business they would have to transact during the two days' meetings. He then noticed that reports would be read by the secretaries on important subjects, which would claim their especial attention. He expected that some discussion would arise on the several questions brought before them, but he felt per-

suaded that those discussions would be conducted with that good feeling in which the proceedings of the association had been invariably conducted. He mentioned some of the subjects contained in the report which we have given below, and among these he alluded to the question of medical reform. What the council had done during the past year on the subject of medical reform would be fully laid before them, and the special report of the reform committee would state to them the views of that committee, sanctioned by the approbation of the council, as to the course which it was expedient for the association to assume under present circumstances. In calling upon them to give their calm and deliberate attention to this subject, he advised the meeting not to take a rash and precipitate course, but to steadily pursue that course which they thought right and just. (Applause.) He concluded by alluding to the high honour they had conferred upon him by elevating him to that chair. He promised to acquit himself to the best of his ability, and he requested from them their indulgence and support, and he hoped to discharge the duties which devolved upon him, in a manner not only creditable to himself, but worthy of the distinguished assembly over which he had been called to preside. (Loud applause.) There were two subjects which he wished to mention to the meeting: Mr. Jones of Leamington, had written to him, requesting his permission to lay before the members a small work published on medical education, copies of which would be found in the library. He also mentioned that Dr. Jeffreys would produce a vegetable remedial agent from South America, and those gentlemen who took specimens were requested to put down their names, so that it might be known who had taken them.

Before sitting down, the President called upon Dr. Jeffreys of Liverpool, who then directed the attention of the members present, and of the profession at large, to the use of an astringent vegetable (*matico*) imported from South America, and of which he had received some specimens. For two or three years he had been endeavouring to obtain them; and some time ago, having received some which he thought to be genuine, he had distributed them among the profession; but they subsequently turned out to be spurious. Within the last few days, at the branch meeting at Newton, he had obtained specimens of the genuine species from a merchant, which was owing to an accidental report of some proceedings appearing in the papers. It appeared that two species were imported—the green and the ripe, the latter of which he had received, as was proved by the appearance of the seeds. The plant was well known in South America and in Belgium, and a short account of it had appeared in the *Lancet* of January, 1839; its powers as a styptic were very great, and he wished that any members who availed themselves of the specimens to make experiments, would favour him with the results. It was said to be used successfully in venereal cases, and it had been mentioned by French and other authors, as applicable to a variety of complaints. In South America it was called *yerba soldado*, and its virtues were discovered quite by accident: as a wounded soldier lay on the turf, in the agony of his pain he seized a quantity of grass around him, and stuffed it into his wounds; in the grass was a quantity of this herb, and the soldier's recovery

was so facilitated, that in a short time he got strong, and was enabled to proceed to a neighbouring cottage. Since that incident, the herb had been applied both externally and internally as common tea, in which case the infusion should be about one ounce of the plant to a pint of water. Great quantities of the plant were now imported, and he recommended it to the particular notice of the profession, and distributed packets among those gentlemen who wished to avail themselves of its use.

Dr. Hastings next read

#### THE REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Council have again the high gratification of assuring the members that they have every reason to consider the affairs of the association in a flourishing condition; that, during the year that has passed away, the objects for which the association was originally instituted have been steadily pursued; and that there is hitherto no reason to anticipate that the zeal, by which the society has been in so short a period brought into so efficient a state, will at all decline.

#### Members.

The number of members is now 1,250.

#### District Branches.

Your Council have to announce that the East York Medical Association, at their late anniversary meeting, unanimously passed a resolution to form themselves into a branch of the association, which resolution has been carried into effect.

#### Transactions.

Since the last anniversary the society has published its Ninth Volume of Transactions; and this volume is devoted to subjects which are of very considerable moment. The medical topography of Shrewsbury and its neighbourhood is therein illustrated, and thus a very considerable district in the midland counties has been added to those which had previously been mapped out in the preceding volumes. The council cannot avoid remarking that they attach a high value to the continuation of essays of this nature, as the means of gradually accumulating a medical history of every part of England in their Transactions. It is not too much to say that this attempt has not before been made in this country; and its obvious utility strongly enforces it upon the enlightened investigator of the laws which govern health and disease in various localities. No other channel of publication can be so convenient for these topographical memoirs as the Transactions, and it is on that account very desirable that nothing should occur to prevent this work being continued. It has, however, been remarked, in reference to some of the papers that have been published, that it would be desirable to have a quicker means of communication than is supplied by the annual volume. This consideration has for some time been present to your Council, and they have long been of opinion that a weekly periodical journal, in connexion with the association, would form an appropriate vehicle for these communications. The expense incident to such an undertaking has been the great obstacle to making this attempt, although its manifold advantages were strongly felt

by the council. They could not conceal the fact, that a periodical publication, which would bring the members of the association into weekly communication, and afford a powerful organ through which their opinions might be heard when occasion required, would be highly advantageous, by combining their exertions and concentrating their opinions. The Council, therefore, have much gratification in announcing to the members, that they have for some time been engaged in endeavouring to mature a plan, by which every member of the association, whose subscription is not in arrear, will receive every week, without any additional subscription to the guinea which has been annually paid, a copy of the Provincial Journal. Should this plan be finally adopted, this Journal will be published under the sanction and control of the Council, and the communications sent to the Council will be published in the Journal, unless they are such as to require coloured drawings for their illustration, or are, from their nature or extent, inappropriate to a weekly journal; in which event they will, as heretofore, appear in the Transactions, as will, also, the future memoirs on medical topography. It is hoped, therefore, that the members generally will give every encouragement to this new undertaking of the association, especially by sending papers to it.

#### Finances.

The finances continue in a prosperous state; and although the expenses this year have, from various causes, been very heavy, there is a considerable balance in favour of the society.

The income amounts to	£1,440	8	5
The expenditure amounts to	858	7	5

The balance is	£582	1	0
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#### Parochial Medical Relief.

Your Council have been much engaged, during the present year, in endeavouring to obtain an alteration in the mode of parochial medical relief. On the approach of the last session of parliament it appeared to your council desirable to promote a general movement of the profession, in support of the clauses which Mr. Serjeant Talfourd proposed to introduce into the Government Poor-law Bill. Uniformity of opinion on this long-contested subject was, however, not easily to be attained; and it was not until the session had far advanced, and your Council had appointed special delegates to proceed to London, with power to make definitive arrangements, that a series of clauses was agreed upon for production in parliament. Petitions in favour of these clauses were immediately set on foot, and the form recommended by your Council very generally adopted. It is believed that in no previous session of parliament have a greater number of petitions been presented for an amendment of this department of poor-law administration. The result has been, that satisfactory indications of increased attention to the just requirements of the profession have been manifested by several leading members of the legislature, and no less than three distinct and somewhat different propositions relative to medical relief have been entered on the journals of the House of Commons: the first by Mr. Wakley, the second by

Mr. Law Hedges, and the third by Mr. Serjeant Talfourd; all of which, however, have been set aside for the present by the withdrawal of the Poor-law Amendment Bill. The peculiarities of these several propositions are discussed in a report of the Poor-law Committee, which will be laid before this meeting, when it is hoped that we may arrive at some decision relative to the course to be pursued preparatory to the re-introduction of the measure into the House of Commons. The Council are happy to avail themselves of this opportunity to express their sense of the obligation which the profession at large, and this association in particular, are under to Mr. Serjeant Talfourd, for his unwearied efforts to effect a satisfactory adjustment of this question.

#### *Vaccination Section.*

Since the last anniversary, the committee have received a German translation of the report on vaccination executed by the celebrated Professor Gmelin of Tubingen. The association have much reason to be gratified with the effects produced by this report, both in England and on the Continent; the facts and reasonings having carried conviction to many doubting minds, and removed the most formidable obstacles to vaccination.

The law founded on that report, though not all that could have been wished, is, nevertheless, capable, if duly carried out, of saving annually many thousand lives. There is reason to believe that the guardians of the poor, as well as many members of the profession, are, in numerous instances, zealously co-operating in this good work. It is well known that the former have not always treated medical men with respect or even justice; but it may be mentioned to the credit of one union, that the guardians refused to accept the lowest tender for vaccination, because they believed the terms proposed were insufficient and degrading to the profession. This fact naturally suggests the question—how far medical men have themselves contributed to the indignities which they have received, by offering their services on terms unsuitable and unbecoming.

#### *Empiricism.*

Our indefatigable associate, Dr. Cowan, as chairman of the section on empiricism, has given assiduous attention to this subject, and will be prepared with a report upon it. This question is so intimately connected with that of medical reform, that your council have always considered that the best chance of diminishing the enormous extent to which empiricism, both in and out of the profession, prevails, is by elevating the character of the profession itself, and by enlightening the public mind, so as to enable the unprofessional person to distinguish between the educated practitioner and the pretending charlatan.

So far, therefore, as any legislative measure can be made applicable to the abatement of this evil, it seems manifest that it must be co-ordinate with that of medical reform, which, for the last twelvemonth, has, more than in any other similar period, engrossed the consideration of the profession, and has at length forced itself on the attention of the medical corporations, and has been discussed within the Commons House of Parliament. Your

council, consequently, have necessarily been deeply interested in the proceedings; and it is incumbent upon them briefly to state their share in the attempt that has been made to effect an amelioration of the polity of the profession.

#### *Medical Reform.*

It should be borne in mind by the members, that at the anniversary meeting at Southampton, it was resolved,

“That the central council be empowered to act on behalf and in the name of the association, until the next anniversary meeting, in presenting petitions to parliament, or in such other procedures as circumstances may render necessary.”

In fulfilment of the important trust thus reposed in them, the council have not failed to give their best consideration to any proposals that have been made for the advancement of medical reform; and on the 21st of November, 1840, they resolved,

“That it is expedient to appoint delegates on behalf of the association, to watch the progress of any measure having for its object medical reform, and to confer with delegates who may be appointed by other associations for a like purpose;” and, “that Dr. Forbes of London, and Dr. Barlow of Bath, be the said delegates.”

The propriety of the above appointments was not only made clear to the council, in consequence of the known talents of the gentlemen appointed, and their practical acquaintance with the subject, but was also recommended by the circumstances that both of the associates were members of the committee appointed at several successive meetings to watch over the interests of the profession. There was, however, some difficulty in obtaining the consent of the parties to undertake the office; and Dr. Barlow stipulated that his attendance in London should be dispensed with, and that he should only be considered a consulting delegate.

A representation being made to the council that it would be expedient to appoint a larger number of delegates, especially as Dr. Barlow could not attend in London, they met on the 14th of December, and resolved to request Dr. Macartney, late of Dublin, Dr. Cowan of Reading, Dr. Hennis Green of London, Mr. Crosse of Norwich, Mr. Ceely of Aylesbury, and Mr. Wickham of Winchester, also to act as delegates at the approaching conference.

The secretaries wrote to these gentlemen, and conveyed to each of them the request of the council, and they consented to attend the conference; accordingly, on the 16th of January, 1841, the council resolved that the associates above-named be added to those before appointed, and that they be requested to attend in London.

As the time of the meeting of the conference approached, the council considered that it would be desirable to intimate to the delegates of the association, in some measure, what their deliberate opinion was on the subject of medical reform; but at the same time they were anxious to leave the delegates free to act as they might think fit. They, therefore, on the 30th of January, unanimously agreed to the following resolutions:—

“1st. This council are of opinion that existing institutions ought to be respected in the adjustment of the long-agitated question of medical reform.

"2nd. This council are not satisfied with any of the bills that have been hitherto brought forward.

"3rd. That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be sent to each of the delegates appointed by the council of this association."

Accordingly, all the delegates received the foregoing resolutions, and all, excepting Dr. Barlow and Mr. Crosse, attended the conference in London. The conference commenced on the 3rd of February, and several successive meetings were held, at which certain clauses were passed, that, it was understood, were to form the basis of a bill to be submitted to the House of Commons.

By the 22nd of February, the council received intimation, by letter, that four of the delegates, Dr. Macartney, Dr. Forbes, Dr. Cowan, and Dr. Hennis Green, wished to resign their offices; and thus only two delegates were left to represent the Provincial Association in the conference.

Under these circumstances, the council again met on the 23rd of February, to consult on further proceedings. They felt that they had a very important trust reposed in them, which they wished to discharge faithfully; and finding that the Provincial Association had not now, from the small number of its delegates, that weight in the conference to which the large number of its members entitled it, they considered that they should be forsaking the duty which they owed to the association, if they did not take care and guard them from being pledged to measures, which might be adopted by the conference, and which, although they might disapprove, they could not prevent. They therefore resolved,

"That this council do not consider that the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association is pledged to support the bill which may have passed the conference of the Medical Associations in London, since some of the delegates appointed by this association have not attended, and others have resigned, and the council are ignorant of the clauses of the proposed bill. That the resignation of the delegates be accepted, and that no other delegates be appointed. That this council are exceedingly anxious to do all in their power to assist in the settlement of the long-agitated question of medical reform, and will continue to meet at short intervals to give their best consideration to the subject."

The council met again on the subject on the 6th and on the 13th of March, and, after much deliberation, they resolved upon writing to the Medical Corporations in London, and informing them that the future proceedings of the council of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association would depend in a considerable degree on the nature of the reforms proposed to be adopted by existing institutions.

The corporations, in replying to this communication, expressed their strong desire to redress the grievances of which the profession complained, and stated that they had several important alterations under consideration, but that their plans were not yet sufficiently matured to submit them to the council.

On the 3rd of April the council again met, to receive the replies from the corporations, and to take proceedings thereon, and resolved,

"That the council are of opinion, that no measure of reform can be satisfactory to the medical profession, which is not calculated fully to redress

the grievances complained of, as set forth in the report of the reform committee of the College of Physicians. That any measure which does not provide due protection to the members of the profession, will be defective and unsatisfactory. That no measure will meet the approbation of the profession at large which does not recognize the representative principle in the construction of the governing bodies. That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be sent to each of the three medical corporations."

To this communication your council have received no reply, and hitherto no public notification has been given of the plan of reform which the corporations intend to propose; and your council, therefore, are not by any means committed to any measures that may be brought forward by them.

It is manifest, that the present state of this question is such as to demand from the association the most careful and judicious management; and the future steps to be taken in pursuit of the highly desirable end we have in view, will require mature deliberation, and a comprehensive survey must be taken of the opinions and sentiments of all parties concerned. Your reform committee are prepared with a report, which your council do not hesitate to say will embrace all these considerations; and they recommend the members to give a careful perusal to this report before they make up their minds as to the course which this association should pursue, in endeavouring to obtain an improved system of medical polity.

#### *Benevolent Fund.*

The operations of the benevolent fund of the association have been suspended during the past year, in consequence of the resolution passed at Southampton, prohibiting the central committee from granting any future relief until the debt due to the donation fund shall be paid off, and a sum of 100*l.*, available to such calls, should be in the hands of the treasurer. The council are happy to be able to announce that the former object has been accomplished; but as a report will be presented from the central committee, they do not consider it necessary here to enter into further particulars. In the mean time, however, the council would continue to urge upon the association the importance of this branch of it, so capable of being made the means of effecting so much good, at so very small a sacrifice on the part of individual members.

In reference to this fund, it is desirable to remind the members, that Dr. Cowan of Reading has given notice that he shall propose a resolution at this meeting, to make it compulsory upon every associate to subscribe five shillings per annum to the Benevolent Fund, in addition to the present annual subscription of one guinea, for general purposes.

#### *Section on Medical Topography.*

The subject of medical topography was referred by the council last year to several of the members; and the chairman of the section, Mr. Addison, will be prepared with a report to be read at this meeting.

#### *Congratulatory Address to the Queen.*

Your council, at the suggestion of our excellent president, adopted an address to the Queen,

H. R. H. Prince Albert, and H. R. H. the Duchess of Kent, on the auspicious occasion of the birth of the Princess Royal; which addresses were presented through the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and other state officers, and most gracious answers to the same were received.

*Conclusion.*

The council may be permitted, in concluding their report, to observe that there never was a period in the history of medicine more urgently requiring the united efforts of the profession than the present, and consequently there never was a time more urgently requiring the aid of such an association, as that whose ninth anniversary we now celebrate. Maintenance of the honour and dignity of the profession in the provinces is one of the express objects for which we associate; yet at this time a very strong impression almost universally prevails, that the present system of medical polity is not such as tends to maintain the honour and dignity of the profession, and it is evident that at no distant day important changes must take place. Upon this association will devolve a great responsibility, and therefore it is the more necessary that we should be cautious and wary in what we do. Above all, let every associate remember, that whatever may be the fate of the present agitation, we combine together for the noble purpose of lessening the sufferings of mankind; and that the investigation of the laws of mortality, and the diminishing the fatality of disease, will continue to engage our attention, and to be the distinguishing mark by which this association will claim the support of those who are interested in the advancement of medical science. Keeping these objects steadily before us, we need have no serious apprehensions of the success of the Association; for even if unfortunately all those advantages which are anticipated, should not flow from the proposed changes, the members of this association will, at all events, have great gratification in the reflection that their energies have been devoted to worthy objects, and that they have been occupied in pursuits which must ultimately lead to improvements in the healing art, and to the augmentation of the happiness of the human race.

It was moved by Dr. Colledge of China, and seconded by Mr. Garlicke of Leeds,

“That the report of the council now read be adopted and printed.”

Dr. Holme of Manchester moved, and Mr. Coely of Aylesbury, seconded,

“That the thanks of the meeting be given to Dr. Steed of Southampton, the retiring president, and that he be appointed a vice-president of the association.”

Dr. Barlow then proposed the following motion, on which, he observed, any exordium would be but impertinence:—

“That the thanks of the meeting be given to the secretaries of the association, Dr. Hastings and Mr. Sheppard, and that they be requested to continue their services.”

This motion was seconded by Dr. Jeffreys, and carried by acclamation.

Dr. Hastings then replied on his own behalf, and also for Mr. Sheppard, who was unavoidably absent. He felt deeply grateful for the kindness with which they had responded to the motion, and also for the reception which he had met with from

the association ever since its formation. The most sorrowful day of his life would be, when necessity would separate him from the duties of its secretary; yet he now found that he was placed in a situation far different to that which he had expected on the first establishment of the society. They had commenced with but small numbers—as Bacon had said, “but a grain of mustard-seed;” yet now the association appeared as a mighty oak ramifying its branches into all parts of the kingdom: its ordinary business was now most onerous, and the secretaries were called upon not only to attend to the literary and scientific papers sent for insertion in the Transactions, but also to take part in those great questions which took so much time for deliberation, especially as the responsibility rested mainly on them. So great was that responsibility, and so much had it weighed upon his mind during the past year, that he now felt the time to be approaching, when, after nine years of service, gray hairs, and a bald head, would admonish him that he was no longer active enough to be the responsible agent of that association; and however painful the feeling, he was conscious that at no distant day it would be imperative upon him—so great were the duties of the secretaryship, and so pressing were his own engagements as a physician—to resign that responsibility into the hands of some other person who might serve them more efficiently, certainly not more faithfully, than he had done. Dr. Hastings concluded, by thanking the meeting for the honour which had been done him, and assuring them that the interests of the association would, under any circumstances, always meet with his solicitude and support.

Mr. Hare of Leeds proposed, and Mr. Barnett of Stourport seconded, the next resolution.

“That the thanks of the meeting be given to the council for the past year, and that they be requested to continue their services with the following additional members, and that they be empowered to add to their number—Daniell J. Bamfylde, M.D. Fellow of the College of Physicians, Physician to the Bath Hospital and Walcot Dispensary, and Honorary Physician to the Friendly Society, Bath; John Soden, Esq., surgeon, Bath; Thomas Bevil Peacock, Esq., House Surgeon to the Infirmary, Chester; Thomas Fawsitt, Esq., surgeon, Oldham, near Manchester; H. H. Broughton, Esq., F.L.S., surgeon, Dobcross, near Saddleworth; John Williams, M.D., Beverley, Yorkshire; George Hunsley Fielding, M.D., surgeon, Hull; W. Lunn, Esq., surgeon, Hull; H. Cooper, Esq., M. B. surgeon, Hull; Thomas A. M. D. Stocker, Physician to the Dispensary, Ludlow, Extra-Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Nathaniel Allen Travis, M.D. Physician to the Dispensary, Malton, Yorkshire; Edward Charlton, M.D. Lecturer on Forensic Medicine in the School of Medicine and Surgery, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Physician to the Gateshead Dispensary.

Dr. Laycock of York here begged to make some observations on this resolution. He thought that, by the yearly addition of such numbers to the council, it would eventually become far too unwieldy; and further, that its members were not elected on the representative principle. This would eventually sow the seeds of disunion; and he feared that, instead of becoming a mighty oak, the association would turn out to be but a rotten

popular, and fall to pieces—that is, if it did not recognise the representative principle. That was a principle recommended by the society to others, yet, as they had not followed it themselves, he was not surprised at the medical corporations of London telling them to take their own physic. It appeared that not one-tenth of the council ever attended any of the meetings; and at the present meeting, for instance, in addition to the local members of the council, only five of the general members had given their attendance. He hoped to see a more efficient plan adopted by next year, by which the opinions of the general members should be represented. At present, the members of the central council at Worcester appeared to be the real executive body—the *imperium in imperio*.

Dr. Webster spoke to the same effect, and recommended that the principle of the ballot should be introduced into the election of members for the council, seeing that at present there were no means afforded to any member, of either supporting or opposing such election.

Dr. Hastings replied, that the council were in the strictest sense elected on the representative principle; that the yearly local additions were made by the resident members of the profession, who, of course, were far more capable of judging as to the merits of their representatives, than were gentlemen residing at a distance; and, in fact, the council had scarcely ever exercised their right of self-adding to their members. In reply to Dr. Webster, he further stated, that all questions of any importance were not exclusively debated and settled by the members of the council at Worcester, but were made generally known to the members, either by circular or other means.

After some observations from Dr. Streeten, Mr. Husband of York, and Mr. Cooper of Hull, in defence of the fair principle on which the council elections were conducted, the motion was carried.

Dr. Jeffreys next took the opportunity of proposing Dr. A. Muhry of Hanover, as an honorary corresponding member of the association, which was seconded by Dr. Barlow, and unanimously agreed to.

Dr. Barlow then read the report and memorial of the Reform Committee.

#### Reform Report.

A resolution, passed last year, having empowered the central council “to act on behalf and in the name of the association, for the ensuing year, in presenting petitions to parliament, or such other procedures as circumstances might render necessary,” the duty of notifying whatever has been done under the authority so given, has devolved, of course, on the central council; and your committee are, in consequence, released from the necessity of specially noticing what it became the immediate province of the central council to report. The functions generally assigned to your committee, however, at their first appointment in 1837, viz. that of watching over the interests of the profession, require from them the fulfilment of other duties, which it is their earnest desire faithfully to discharge; and in conformity with the course hitherto pursued by them, they now proceed to submit to you the views of reform which attentive observation and deliberate reflection have led them

to form, and which seem to them best suited to the present position of affairs.

In the attempts hitherto made by them to expound this complex and intricate question, so as at least to develop the principles by which legislation in respect of it should be guided, it has been the invariable aim of your committee to scrutinize first the reforms essentially needed, and secondly, the adaptation of reform measures, which, abiding by whatever time and experience have marked as worthy of preservation, would cause least disturbance of existing institutions, it being the clear and settled conviction of your committee, that there should be no interference with the latter beyond what the exigencies of the case, and the effective correction of errors and defects, imperatively demand.

It is the no less decided belief of your committee, that effective reform might be realized, not only without disturbing injuriously any existing institution entitled to consideration, but with the certain result of raising the present colleges to a higher eminence than they have ever yet attained, by directing the energies of each to its appropriate ends, and by concentrating their respective endeavours so as to insure more effectually the benefits which each is capable of conferring on the science, the profession, and the general community.

The advantage of these colleges is, that they are well calculated, if their energies were well directed and actively employed, to promote the advancement of medical science; and that by conferring honorary distinctions through their diplomas, they furnish to individual members of the profession incitement to scientific zeal, and to the diligent culture of the higher powers of the mind, with which individuals are so variously gifted.

But as these colleges have been severally established for superintending only isolated branches of the profession, there being none whose province it is to regulate the whole, or combine the several branches in the way which practical efficiency and the perfection of the medical character demand, there exists a want which it is the bounden duty of an enlightened legislature to supply—that, namely, of some legal ordinance, which, recognizing the natural unity of the profession, would insure that every member entering it, whatever the department to which he should more immediately devote himself, should be duly attested as to his qualification in every branch, a competent knowledge of all being indispensable for rendering him a safe practitioner in any.

This latter affirmation is so irrefutable, that it is now denied by none; and the admission fully justifies all the views of reform which your committee have, in their former reports, submitted to you. In these reports, the subject has been already so fully elucidated, that further explanation now would be superfluous.

If competency and uniformity of qualification, then, be the main requisite for insuring to the public well-instructed practitioners, it is obvious that some legislative enactment is needed for accomplishing this end—the existing institutions, as at present constituted, being wholly incapable of effecting it, while, owing to their number and diversity, they admit not of being in any way modified so as to attain it.

Your committee have amply explained the indisputable necessity of insuring the competency of

the individual practitioner for the fulfilment of his duties, and enforced the expediency of seeking this by the only means by which it can ever be accomplished, viz. by the legislative establishment of a uniform qualification, through the instrumentality of a national examining and licensing board—one such being provided for each division of the kingdom.

Whatever other reforms may be needed in the profession, this of legally establishing a uniform qualification, as the only ground of claim for a license to practise, is the fundamental requisite—for without it no reform can by any possibility be real or effective. Were this obtained, other subsidiary measures would still be needed; but for those the profession could wait until time, and a fuller consideration of their nature and suitability, should demonstrate the propriety of their being superadded.

Deeply impressed with this conviction, your committee are still, as on all former occasions, the advocates of seeking from parliament, in the first instance, uniformity of qualification, as the requisite for a legal license to practise, and this alone. By complicating this simple and irrefutable claim with schemes for a system of government applicable to the collective profession, which legalized qualification would embody, and, more signally, by making the latter the more prominent object, instead of the consecutive, your committee are clearly of opinion that the natural order of progression is not observed, and that reformists, by deviating from or inverting this natural order, mar their own purpose, thereby strengthening an opposition which would else be nerveless. Were a legalized profession once constituted in the way proposed, a body so numerous and influential could not fail to obtain, in no long time, ample powers for conducting its internal government, in whatever way sound principle should direct.

Such is the deliberate judgment of your committee on the extent to which the association should, in the first instance, seek from the legislature an amelioration of the state of the profession. Their main objection to complicating the question of qualification with that of internal government, arises from their strong apprehension that a too earnest pursuit of the latter would bring into hazard, or, at least, greatly procrastinate the attainment of the former; and so vitally important do they deem uniformity of qualification, that to insure or accelerate it they would willingly make a temporary sacrifice of all ulterior purposes.

Your committee are not unaware, that the same statute which ordains the establishment of a national examining and licensing board, might also unite in one corporate body the collective profession so constituted, and empower it to conduct its own internal government by a representative council or senate: but being of opinion that pressing for the latter would endanger or retard the more essential purpose, it is their earnest recommendation that this be exclusively pursued until it be accomplished.

It remains, however, to be considered what measures the association should adopt towards obtaining the fulfilment of their desire. Further petitions to parliament seem to your committee unsuitable and fruitless. Parliament can only legislate on bills submitted to their consideration. The difficulty lies, not in any indisposition of par-

liament to exercise its senatorial functions, but in getting submitted to it such a bill as it could pass. Unless an eligible bill be framed, parliament can do nothing. The energies of the association, therefore, require to be now directed, not to urging parliament to do what it cannot effect, but to promoting the fabrication and introduction of a suitable bill.

It is of some importance from whence this bill should emanate. Speculative reformists, impelled by a too ardent desire to realise speedily all their conceptions, would be disposed to seek too much. Existing institutions, on the contrary, if entrusted with the framing of a bill, would concede too little. In such emergency, a bill for regulating the profession of physic should issue from some party untrammelled by either extreme; and this party, your committee conceive, should be the ministers of the crown. The subject, assuredly, is of sufficient national importance to claim for it the direct attention of her Majesty's ministers, as the legitimate guardians of the public welfare, and the concluding advice of your committee is that the association now agree to a suitable memorial being addressed, on its behalf, to the secretary of state for the home department, praying that ministers would themselves undertake the cause of the profession, and proceed to frame such a bill as would give to it a sound legal constitution suited to its wants, and conducive to the well-being of the community.

*Memorial to be addressed to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on behalf of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.*

The members of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association beg leave respectfully to submit to certain considerations relating to the profession to which they belong, that appear to them to claim the earnest attention of her Majesty's ministers.

Your memorialists need use no laboured argument to prove that of all earthly blessings health is the greatest, and that its maintenance throughout the community constitutes a most important element of national prosperity.

For the maintenance and restoration of health an enlightened medical faculty is so obviously requisite, that none will deny a truth so irrefragable. Unhappily, while the United Kingdom abounds with medical practitioners of the highest skill, no provision has been made by the state for ensuring that all who engage in medical practice shall have their competency to discharge its duties adequately proved.

Hitherto the condition of the medical profession in this kingdom has received from the state but slight regard: less, certainly, than in any other European nation. The few laws that have been enacted for its government are either so antiquated as to be utterly unsuited to the present times,—or they relate to special branches of the profession only, leaving the collective profession destitute of all adequate organization, and the community wholly unprotected from the grossest delusions of ignorance and imposture.

On the state of the profession in this country much light has of late years been thrown by widely-extended discussion, and especially by investigations, conducted with great labour, by a committee of the Commons House of Parliament.

Prov Med Surg Assoc. Published by the Association, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.



The want of suitable legal organization for the profession being ascertained, the way is prepared for appropriate legislation, and it is only requisite that a well-framed bill be submitted to the senate to ensure for the subject due consideration.

Much importance, however, attaches to the source from which such a bill should emanate. Speculative reformists, from a too ardent zeal to realize speedily all their conceptions, would be liable to seek too much. Existing institutions, on the contrary, if entrusted with the framing of a bill, would concede too little. In this emergency, it is most desirable that any bill for reforming the medical profession, for calling forth its full energies, and adapting it to the necessities of all classes of the community, should issue from those who would be untrammelled by either extreme party, namely, the ministers of the crown.

Your memorialists, therefore, deeming the subject of sufficient national importance to claim for it the direct intervention of government, as the legitimate guardians of the public welfare, respectfully solicit to bring it under the consideration of your colleagues of the cabinet, with a view to the introduction of a bill for medical reform prepared under their auspices.

Mr. Norman of Bath moved, and Dr. Brown of Sunderland seconded, the following resolution:—

“That the report of the reform committee be received, and that the thanks of this meeting be given to them for the able manner in which they have watched over the interests of the profession; and that the committee be re-appointed.”

Dr. Marshall Hall opposed the recommendation of the memorial. It had been alleged, on good grounds, that a reform of the profession could not safely be entrusted either to the College of Physicians or the College of Surgeons; he thought the same argument would apply to her Majesty's ministers, who, when the matter was brought before them, would undoubtedly ask for information from those very colleges.

After some further observations from Dr. Hall, Mr. Salmon of London, and the reading of a letter from Dr. Sinclair of Manchester, respecting a pamphlet of his on the subject of medical reform,

Dr. Black of Manchester observed, that the words “medical reform,” made use of in the report, were too vague a term, and that something specific should be made use of—perhaps the subject of medical education would be the best to make a stand upon. The sudden urging of extensive reforms might embrace almost the upsetting of the profession; and, therefore, such a memorial as the present would probably lead, not to the introduction of a bill embracing the objects sought for, but to an inquiry into the state of the profession, resulting in anything but a satisfactory arrangement.

Dr. Webster would not oppose the adoption of the report, yet he also thought that no specific principles had been laid down in it. He doubted the policy of the course about to be pursued; one or two members of the association in London, and a high official about the court, had expressed their doubts as to the successful issue of such a plan as that laid down in the memorial. Agreeing, therefore, as he did, with the principle of the report, he had prepared a few resolutions which

would represent in the memorial the statement of more specific principles, yet be in full accordance with the objects of the association; but before reading them he would offer a few remarks. He premised, that a committee should be formed in London, which should be an organ of communication with the government; and he mentioned a few gentlemen who, as he thought, were fitting to be members of that committee—Sir J. Clark, Dr. Forbes, Dr. Williams, and Mr. Farr; but perhaps this would more properly be left to the reform committee. He, however, asserted that the present was not the time to memorialize the government, which was about to change hands; and, further, that the in-coming government, whenever the state business might allow them to turn their attention to the subject of medical reform, would be much more likely to ask for information from the existing corporations than were the present government. But if they decided on at once memorializing, it was highly necessary that in that memorial certain specific principles should be laid down.

The report just read having been received and adopted, and the subject of the memorial having been put before the meeting in a separate form,

Dr. Webster rose to move the additions he had mentioned as an amendment. He first observed, that the one point of incorporation must be attained first or last, and that the union of the profession into one body of qualified practitioners being once obtained, everything else desirable would speedily follow. In fact, incorporation had already taken place to a certain extent. That association was an incorporation. And why?—simply because the existing corporations could not by any means be induced to work a reform in their respective bodies. The propositions he meant to submit were few and simple. He had been a member of that association for five or six years, during which time, although many valuable reports had been, year after year, presented, still up to the present moment they had recognised no well-expressed principles of reform. He would, therefore, propose that in any measure which should be brought forward to the notice and support of the association it should be founded on—first, a minimum qualification to practise, or an uniform and competent degree of preliminary medical acquirement, with equality of rights and privileges; secondly, a registration of all legally-qualified practitioners, of course not rejecting those who had been qualified according to the old standard, but simply enforcing a new standard prospectively; thirdly, the incorporation of the whole profession into one general faculty of physic; fourthly, a representative principle of government; and, fifthly, a general regulation of the practice of pharmacy. The learned doctor next argued at some length, that the establishment of these views would neither injure existing interests, nor were intended to withhold the higher honours of the profession from the reach of the general members. It was not, however, to be expected that existing corporations would take up the subject fully. The College of Physicians said, “We have now exercised rule for two hundred and fifty years, and we cannot, therefore, sanction your interference.” The College of Surgeons declared that they were immaculate, and Mr. Guthrie, the president, saw nothing whatever necessary for

alteration: in fact, they wished to live as long as they could, and the subject was a dose of arsenic to them. He believed that some slight principle of reform had, however, been recognised in the two colleges, and also in Apothecaries' Hall—namely, the principle of representation; but it was apparent that each body was but striving for the extension of its own power and privileges. Dr. Webster concluded by the recommendation of his resolutions.

Dr. Maunsell said, that he had been requested by Dr. Webster to second his propositions, which, however, he had only seen that morning, there not having been any concert upon the matter between him and Dr. W. Before doing so, he begged to say that he and his colleague attended the present meeting on the part of the Medical Association of Ireland, not to instruct or dictate to the Provincial Association, but to consult with it in the most friendly spirit, and particularly to arrange some plan of effective co-operation in the common cause of the profession, which, it was now universally acknowledged, laboured under heavy grievances in both countries. Dr. M. having then, at some length, supported the propositions of Dr. W., said, that he wished particularly to impress upon the present meeting the necessity of proceeding from deliberation to action. He fully concurred in the report of the reform committee, and in the memorial which was founded upon it; and he agreed with his respected friend, Dr. Barlow, in thinking that some time must elapse before they could hope to accomplish anything final with regard to the regulation of the profession, but still, if they always continued in speculation and never proceeded to action, they would make no progress. What he wished to propose was, the formation of a responsible committee which would co-operate with other bodies in the profession, both corporations and voluntary, and a portion of which might be in London, or which might have the power of commissioning an agent in London, when matters were going forward there of importance to the profession. In making this proposal he did not mean to undervalue the services of the council; but he desired a committee having the protection of the profession for their especial duty, and responsible for the performance of that duty. Such a committee could communicate with the government, and prevent them from seeking all their information from the corporations. It should also be directed to frame a bill for the regulation of the profession in union with the other bodies, and, by laying such bill before the government, so enable them to act in conformity with the prayer of their memorial—this was an essential step, and was also the only possible mode of ascertaining the sentiments of the profession: such a bill, in fact, if properly drawn up, would be a series of propositions upon which the views of men might be tried. There were many other matters which required the services of such a committee. For example, the approaching discussions upon the Poor-law Amendment bill. Such a committee should be entrusted with funds, as without money nothing could be done; and if so provided, and empowered fully and effectually to co-operate with similar committees from other associations, he (Dr. M.) was well convinced that it would be more effectual in obtaining speedy justice for the profession than was commonly supposed. After some further observations, Dr. Maunsell concluded.

After some observations from Professor Williams, in support of the previous speakers,

Dr. Hastings replied that, in his opinion, the wiser course would be not to strive at the attainment of all the objects aimed at by Dr. Webster, and by too great eagerness lose them all, but to keep steadily in view one object at a time. Qualification was no doubt the primary object to be contemplated: that once secured, the attainment of all that was necessary to the well-being and efficiency of the profession would quickly follow. Dr. Hastings wished to correct a misapprehension into which Dr. Webster had fallen, in stating that the association had been specially formed to promote medical reform. The objects for which the association was instituted were several, and they had been steadily adhered to—the investigation of the laws of mortality, and the sources of endemic and epidemic affections, and the general advancement of the science of medicine. Maintenance of the honour and dignity of the profession was also a special object of regard, and the question of medical reform had thus incidentally forced itself on their attention.

A lengthened discussion ensued as to the order in which the memorial and the resolutions should be put to the meeting; at length the presentation of the memorial was agreed to, and Dr. Webster was then induced to withdraw his *addenda*, on the arguments of Drs. Barlow and Hastings, that the safer and more practicable course would be, to adopt the recommendation embodied in the memorial, and that any other proceedings would mar the progress of medical reform.

The meeting then adjourned.

## THE SECOND GENERAL MEETING

was held at the same place, at eight o'clock in the evening, when Dr. Goldie again occupied the chair.

The first business was the reading of the Poor-law committee report by Mr. Ceely of Aylesbury.

The report having been read, it was moved by Mr. Salmon of London,

“That the report of the Poor-law committee be received and printed, and that the thanks of the meeting be given to the committee for the zeal and energy manifested by them on this subject, and that they be reappointed to watch the further proceedings of parliament, and to suggest to the council from time to time such measures as may appear to them to be necessary to meet circumstances as they arise.”

Mr. Salmon fully coincided with the remarks in the report alluding to the unfairness and impolicy of the government measures, whereby medical men were so inadequately remunerated, and resulting in the employment of ill-qualified practitioners; giving instances wherein young men who had but just passed their examination, and consequently having their practice to learn, had superseded older and much better qualified practitioners in parochial appointments.

Mr. Davy of Beccles seconded the motion, observing that if the members of the profession were but true to themselves, and unanimously resisted degrading terms, the abuse might be in a great measure remedied, which he illustrated by some instances familiar to him.

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Dr. Lyon objected to the harsh terms employed against the poor-law commissioners in the report. He imagined that the commissioners were only the servants of the crown, appointed to execute, and not alter, certain laws.

Mr. Ceely replied, that the commissioners were truly the servants of the crown, yet that they had not exercised the power vested in them, of offering for the adoption of the legislature the recommendations made by the parliamentary committee on the subject of reform, and were therefore deserving of the terms which had been employed. (Hear hear.)

Dr. Webster next spoke of the parochial appointments and the "per case" system. He believed that the members of the profession possessed in themselves the moral power of working out their own regeneration. At a late meeting of the Cornwall Association, it was agreed that no member should accept any appointment under the poor-law, until he had consulted with the association as to the terms proposed. If this plan were adopted in the rest of the kingdom, much good must ensue. The injustice as well as the ultimate loss of appointing to such offices young men who had but just passed their examination, was clearly apparent: the poor, of all other classes, required the most experienced medical treatment; 50 per cent. of their cases of illness were very severe; and such illness was of greater importance to those classes, seeing that it deprived their families of the means of support, and driving them also to the union workhouse, to be maintained at the charge of those who, by a more liberal policy, and the securing of better advice, might have prevented such a result. (Hear, hear.)

Some conversation ensued as to the scale of remuneration proposed by Mr. Farr, which some considered as too low, on which the subject was dropped.

Dr. Conolly next read

*The Report of the Benevolent Fund Committee.*

The central committee for the management of the Benevolent Fund of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, regret that on this occasion of rendering up their account, they are unable, as in former years, to give a list of cases relieved, or of members of our profession labouring under the pressure of temporary difficulties, assisted and encouraged to perseverance by the sympathizing aid of their benevolent and more fortunate brethren; not but that in the course of the past year numerous urgent and distressing applications have been made to the central committee; but it will be recollected that in consequence of the embarrassed state of the fund, a resolution was passed at the last annual meeting of the association held at Southampton, prohibiting the central committee from granting any further relief until the debt due to the donation fund should be paid off, and that there should be remaining in the hands of the treasurer the sum of one hundred pounds, available for the purpose of affording relief to distressed members of the profession. Thus, the committee have been compelled, with much sorrow, to return answers of denial to numerous applications which, had they possessed the means, they would have considered entitled to assistance. They have, however, the

satisfaction to report to the association that, in consequence of the great exertions made during the past year, by several benevolent members, the debt due to the donation fund last year, amounting to 60*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*, has been paid off, and that there is in the treasurer's hands a sum of rather more than fifty pounds available for the purpose of casual relief, when it shall have reached the proposed amount of 100*l.* From this, however, the disbursements of the year are to be deducted. This the committee cannot doubt will be effected before the conclusion of the present meeting. Amongst those who have particularly exerted themselves during the past year to rescue the fund from its embarrassment, and to whom the committee feel their thanks are especially due, are, Mr. Newnham of Farnham, Mr. Dodd of Chichester, Mr. Crosse of Norwich, and Dr. Hastings. The committee beg respectfully, but strenuously, to urge every individual member of this great association to use their utmost endeavours to augment the amount of subscriptions to this valuable charity, and not to allow it to languish as it has hitherto done. The clerical and legal professions have each a noble fund of a similar nature, and surely the medical world will no longer suffer such a reproach to attach itself to them, as that those who by the fortunate exercise of their skill and attainments have been placed in affluent or at least competent circumstances, are unwilling to spare a few shillings annually to afford relief to their less fortunate brethren. The committee would particularly urge the *district* members of the association to make collections in aid of the fund at their annual meetings, and the treasurer will have much pleasure in forwarding to the secretaries copies of the rules and regulations, lists of subscribers, &c., and also collecting cards, which may be given to any benevolent individual of either sex, who might be disposed to collect small sums for the fund.

Although the committee have it not in their power to congratulate the association upon the number of persons relieved this year, yet it would be ungrateful in them not to acknowledge that great exertions have been made. Sixty pounds of debt to the donation fund have been paid off, and there are nearly fifty pounds in hand. The subscription list for this last year is indeed larger than on any former occasions, and the committee feel assured that still greater exertions will be made during the ensuing year, and they cannot doubt but that the benevolent fund will be supported in future in such a manner as to be not only a great blessing to the unfortunate, but also an honour to the association, and a durable monument of the munificent liberality of the medical profession.

John Baron, M.D., President;  
William Conolly, M.D., Secretary.

*Treasurer's Account.*

	£.	s.	d.
Amount of donation fund, July, 1840	251	10	0
Donations from July, 1840, to June 30,			
1841	49	15	0
Interest to June 30	2	11	0
Total	£303	16	0

Amount of subscriptions from July, 1840, to June 30, 1841	109 11 0
Debt repaid to the donation fund	60 18 7
Disbursements for postage, parcels, and printing	11 14 6
	72 13 1
Balance in hand	£36 17 11

WILLIAM CONOLLY, M.D.  
Treasurer.

Dr. Simpson of York moved, and Mr. Smith of Leeds, seconded,

“That the report of the benevolent committee be received and adopted, and that the thanks of this meeting be given to them for the judicious manner in which they have managed the funds.”

In the absence of Dr. Cowan, who had given notice of a motion that an annual subscription of five shillings should be required from each member of the association, in furtherance of the purposes of the benevolent fund, Mr. Newnham brought forward a motion to the following effect:

“That this meeting being deeply sensible of the importance of the benevolent fund, and lamenting its present inadequacy, pledges itself individually and collectively to exert its utmost energies to relieve it from embarrassment, and to place it upon that footing of permanent usefulness, which its own pure object of charity and the character of the profession equally demand. And the better to accomplish this object, this meeting recommends the committee of the benevolent fund to issue a circular to each member of the association, enclosing a collecting card, and urging the claims of the institution, as well as inviting him to become a subscriber to the extent of his ability; and also to bring the subject before his friends in the manner and at the time which he shall deem most expedient.”

An affecting appeal to the sympathies of the profession was then made by the speaker, who gave instances of extreme distress often occurring in the profession, especially the elder practitioners, who were often superseded in their scanty practice by younger and more vigorous men. One old gentleman, of eighty-three, he stated, had, to his knowledge, been attacked by paralysis, and had not one shilling in his pocket to provide for his support; and yet a large body, of some 1,300 of his professional brethren had refused him relief, in consequence of the embarrassments in the fund. Mr. Newnham next remarked, that out of the 120*l.* donations and subscriptions collected during the past year, nearly one-half had been subscribed by two individuals, and much of the remaining sum by non-professional persons. He earnestly recommended to the humane consideration of the profession the use of the solicitation cards which had been found so effective; he himself had adopted the plan during the past year, and the result was that not a card had been sent empty away, and he had thereby collected 17*l.* 14*s.* donations, and 15*l.* 10*s.* annual subscriptions.—(Cheers.) He further averred that every member of the association now received his *quid pro quo* for his guinea, in the shape of the annual volume, which consideration would be increased when the

Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal should be recognised as the organ of the association, and forwarded gratis to each member; and, therefore, a further call in aid of charity was not exorbitant.

Mr. Griffith of Wrexham seconded the motion, which, after some discussion as to the subscription of some of the members to certain local charitable funds, was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Churchill, the extensive medical publisher of London, here announced that the appeal had so worked on his feelings, that he thought it his duty, out of gratitude to the medical profession, to present for the purposes of this fund a cheque for ten pounds.—(Great applause.)

Mr. Champney of York moved, and Dr. Lyon of Manchester, seconded,

“That Dr. Black of Manchester be requested to deliver the retrospective address in medicine at the anniversary meeting for 1842.”

Dr. Black returned thanks for the honour and the confidence reposed in him, and acquiesced in the request, on the condition that the next anniversary should not be held in the same week as that of the British Association for the advancement of Science, which would distract his attention from it for the advancement of science.

Dr. Black then moved, and Mr. Browne of York, seconded,

“That Mr. Sands Cox of Birmingham be requested to deliver a retrospective address on surgery at the anniversary meeting for 1842.”

Both these motions were unanimously agreed to.

#### *The Report of the Section on Medical Topography*

was next read by Dr. Streeten, in the absence of Mr. Addison, the chairman of the section.

The council of the Medical and Surgical Association have at various periods adverted to the expediency of appointing, from the association, sections for the investigation of particular departments of medicine. In accordance with these views, the topographical section was formed. Soon after the formation of this section, printed circulars were sent to the various members of the association, embracing several important topics of inquiry connected with the objects of their formation, and particularly having reference to the comparative prevalence and mortality of consumption.

Several of these circulars have been filled up, and returned to the section, accompanied in some instances with many valuable remarks and observations; among which we may notice those of Dr. Black of Manchester; Dr. O. Ward of Shrewsbury; Mr. Engledue of Portsmouth; Mr. Estlin of Bristol; and Dr. Feild of Torquay.

But the principal object for which these queries were made has been realized by the very important annual reports from the registrar-general's office, and by the still more valuable (in a medical point of view) appendices affixed to them, containing the results of the labour and talent of Mr. Farr.

To this gentleman the thanks of the association are due, for the care and ability he has shown in the arrangement and calculation of the various difficult and complex tables, and for the labour he has devoted to the subject of medical statistics generally; (and the section would respectfully urge this point upon the attention of the associa-

tion.) The results obtained by these means have rendered it unnecessary for us to make any special reference to the papers, observations, and queries before referred to.

In the department of meteorology, the section have to remark that their inquiries point out two distinct sources of disease arising from atmospheric influences; the one, alternations in the temperature and pressure of the air; and the other, the quantity, temperature, and ever-changing nature of the impregnations of the invisible vapour of the atmosphere.

The former have frequently an obvious influence in occasioning troublesome, often tedious, and sometimes fatal diseases. The latter are the more immediate causes of those severe endemic and epidemic diseases which frequently arise, and to which certain localities, and sometimes extensive districts, are occasionally liable. These latter kinds of disease, embracing the fevers of towns, influenza, cholera, &c., are clearly traceable to noxious matters, drawn up and soluble in the aqueous vapour which arises from evaporation.

There are numerous facts tending to prove that the invisible vapour constantly present in the air, in variable quantity, is the active agent by which all noxious miasms are taken up and diffused; and, as a necessary consequence, that the nearer the temperature approaches to the dew point, or to the temperature at which the vapour can no longer be retained in the air, the more active its adventitious impregnations become.

A variety of interesting considerations are connected with this part of the subject; but it is unnecessary on this occasion, and at this time, to do more than thus briefly refer to it.

Pulmonary consumption, it appears from the registrar-general's reports before alluded to, carries off from 59,000 to 60,000 individuals *annually*!! chiefly persons in the bloom of youth, a period when the principal enjoyments and duties of life are just commencing.

The prevalence of this disease in all seasons, and over the most extensive range of soil and climate, indicates that its origin is due to some peculiarity in the texture or organization of those who are its victims. The hereditary character of the disease, and the very unsatisfactory results when it is attempted to connect the disease with any peculiar atmospheric condition, or with any distinguishing characteristic of soil or climate, render this view of the predisposing causes extremely probable.

With regard to the influence of situation on this disease, the returns of the registrar-general's office show a slight diminution in some places compared with others, but there is no immunity even in the most favoured localities; and the diminution in every instance is too small to lead to any hope, or favour any expectation, that a change of residence to any part of England will prevent the accession of the disease, or arrest its progress.

Consumption is far more prevalent and fatal in cities and towns than in the open country; and in the country it is more prevalent in the flat alluvial plains, particularly such as border on the banks of large rivers, than in the more elevated and undulating districts removed from them.

In Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Lincolnshire, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, the deaths from consumption average 19 per cent. of the

total deaths, and 5.7 per 1000 of the population in 1831; whereas, in Camberland, Northumberland, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, and Wales, the consumptive deaths average only 16.2 per cent. of the total deaths, and 4.9 per 1000 of the population.

A more detailed report will be drawn up at some future opportunity."

Mr. Crang then moved, and Mr. Workman seconded,

"That the report of the section appointed on medical topography be received, and that the thanks of the meeting be given to the members forming the same."

Several interesting papers were next laid before the meeting.

The first was by Dr. Fisher, Fellow of Downing College, Cambridge; it was a case in which several tumors were developed in the midst of the *cauda equina*, and was illustrated by a beautiful drawing of the diseased parts. On the application of Dr. Hastings, this case was contributed for insertion in the Transactions.

Dr. Black next read a series of extracts from reports of the Government Hospital at Mexico, and the lazarettos in that district, relative to the treatment of small-pox.

Mr. Newnham then read a paper on revaccination, after which the meeting, at about twelve o'clock, broke up.

#### THE BREAKFAST

was held on the following morning at nine o'clock, at the Guildhall, when about seventy members and friends attended.

After the breakfast an agreeable *conversazione* ensued; and the members of the association then paid a visit to most of the public institutions of the city, the cathedral, &c., and inspected the magnificent museum, with its delightful gardens and rare curiosities—the remains of the Roman wall and multangular tower, (part of the fortifications of the ancient Eboracum,) the interesting ruins of the Abbey of St. Mary, and many other objects of attraction.

#### THE THIRD GENERAL MEETING

was held in the theatre of the museum, at about twelve o'clock, Dr. Goldie in the chair, when, after the proposition and election of many new members, the retrospective address was read by Dr. Streeten; but as it is, for obvious reasons, impossible for us to give an account of this part of the proceedings, we extract the following notice from the *Gateshead Observer*, in preference to inserting that furnished by our own reporter.

"Dr. Streeten (one of the editors of the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*) read an able retrospective address on medicine, which will be published in a separate form. It was well delivered, and listened to with profound attention. At its close, the members broke out in loud acclamations, which were long protracted.

"Dr. Wake rose and said, that the pleasing task had fallen upon him to move a vote of thanks to the author of the address which they had just heard read. It was not for him to dwell upon its merits—their applause spoke volumes, and far ex-

needed any feeble language in which he could express his approbation. Every paragraph of the address was characterized by great talent, and many passages breathed a spirit of the finest feeling—more particularly towards the conclusion, where Dr. Streeten paid so high and so just a tribute to the memory of their departed friend, Sir Astley Cooper—one of his (Dr. Wake's) most early patrons, and whose kindness he never could forget. Among the many benefits conferred on the members by this institution, there were none more calculated to do good than the annual delivery and publication of a well-written retrospect of the medical events of the past year. This practice was especially valuable to those individuals who, engrossed by the daily duties of their profession, were not possessed of leisure to read the various works that were published from time to time, and could not, therefore, keep pace with the progress of medical science, were it not for such comprehensive summaries as those which the Provincial Association called into existence. (Applause.) There was one portion of Dr. Streeten's address with which he was gratified; he alluded to the observations on Dr. Conolly's valuable labours at Hanwell—a subject in which, as physician of a lunatic asylum, he (Dr. W.) took peculiar interest. He had great pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. Streeten, with a request that he would permit his excellent address to be printed.

“Dr. Fisher was glad of the honour of seconding the motion. Having read the retrospective addresses of previous years, one of his chief objects in attending the present meeting, was to hear the address of Dr. Streeten. To say that his expectations had been realized, would be to say less than the truth: they had been more than realized. But there was no pleasure without alloy, and he felt that he had reason to complain of Dr. Streeten, when he saw him omit several pages of his address, from an unnecessary fear of exhausting the patience of his audience. He hoped there would be no omission in the printing, but that the whole address would be published. It comprised so much that was novel and useful—its contents were so rich and varied—that the mind must read it again and again, before it could digest and absorb it. (Applause.) It was no less conspicuous for modesty of spirit, generosity of feeling, and agreeableness of style, than for the high attainments and diligent research which it abundantly evinced. He had, therefore, great pleasure and satisfaction in seconding the motion.

“The Chairman, after alluding to the retrospective addresses of previous years, and observing that Dr. Streeten's well sustained the high character of the series, put the motion to the meeting, and it was carried by acclamation.”

Dr. Hastings then read the following letter from J. C. Williams, Esq. of Nottingham:—

Nottingham, Aug. 4, 1841.

MY DEAR SIR,—Until the last moment, I have not given up the thoughts of joining our meeting at York, and truly it is a great disappointment that I am prevented. I have many reasons why I wished to be at the present meeting; and one is, that I have promised one of the most humane, active, and zealous magistrates of the Middlesex bench—I mean Serjeant Adams—to bring before the asso-

ciation the great experiment now making at Hanwell in the management of the insane. You are quite aware how early friendship and high regard would induce me to speak of Dr. Conolly, and I had intended to mention it after the reading of the retrospective address. I think it one of the most important matters connected with our profession during the past year; and I know no place so proper as York to make pointed allusion to it, where the truly benevolent management of the insane received a first trial. Would you kindly, in the way you think best, enable me, in a measure, to fulfil my promise, by alluding to the subject as from me, that it may appear in the proceedings, an account of which I can send to Serjeant Adams. You scarcely know the zeal and ability with which he is assisting Dr. Conolly.

I wanted to have said a great deal likewise on medical reform, and on the medical management of the poor. I hope the association will not sanction the destruction of the existing corporations, however determined it may be to infuse new life-blood.

I have not the slightest objection to the reading of this letter, if you think its entry in the proceedings would answer the purpose of calling the specific attention of my medical brethren to so important a subject as the humane management of the insane. Again regretting I am compelled to write, instead of being present, and addressing you, believe me ever yours truly,

J. C. WILLIAMS.

Charles Hastings, Esq., M.D.

Mr. Husband of York next read the report on empiricism, on behalf of Dr. Cowan, the chairman of the committee, who was unavoidably absent.

Mr. Williams of York then moved, and Dr. Baird of Liverpool seconded, after a few observations recommendatory of avoiding premature attacks on empiricism:—

“That the report on empiricism be received, and the thanks of this meeting be given to the gentlemen forming that committee, and that they be reappointed.”

Mr. Griffith of Wrexham next moved, Mr. Garlicke of Leeds seconded, and it was carried unanimously,

“That the attention of this association having been called to the present state of the law as it affects female criminals under sentence of death, it desires to record its strong feeling of repugnance to a statute which permits the woman who has quickened, to plead pregnancy in bar of execution, whilst the same individual, though equally the mother of a living child, but not having quickened, must suffer the extreme penalty of the law, thus making a distinction where there is no difference, and fatally, though ignorantly, sacrificing an innocent life with that of the guilty parent. And though not prepared on the present occasion to take any decided steps, it fully recognises its obligation to adopt, at some future time, such measures as will, it trusts, lead to the abrogation of a law partial and cruel in its effects, inconsistent with the progress of knowledge and civilization, and consequently revolting to the feelings and claims of humanity.”

Mr. Toogood of Bridgewater then moved, and Mr. B. Eddison of Nottingham, seconded,

“That a section be appointed for the purpose

of investigating the pathology of cancer, and that it consist of the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number:—Dr. Fisher, Fellow of Downing College, Cambridge; A. T. S. Dodd, Esq., Chichester; Daniel Noble, Esq., Manchester; Drewry Ottley, Esq., Exeter; Henry Russell, Esq., York, Surgeon to the County Hospital."

Dr. Robertson moved, and Mr. Ceely seconded, "That the anniversary meeting for the year 1842 take place at Exeter, and that Mr. James of Exeter be appointed president elect."

Dr. Hastings having spoken to the high qualifications of Mr. James for performing the honourable duties of president, and also drawn attention to the requisition which had been received from that city, signed by nearly all the members of the faculty in the city and neighbourhood, the motion was carried by general acclamation.

*To the President and Council of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.*

We, the undersigned physicians and surgeons, resident in Exeter and the neighbouring towns, beg to express a hope that the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association will elect the city of Exeter as the place for holding its tenth anniversary meeting, in July, 1842. We shall, in that event, endeavour to promote, by every means in our power, the success of the meeting.

J. Blackall, M.D., Exeter; P. Miller, M.D., do.; John Harris, surgeon, do.; John Edey, surgeon, do.; William Caird, surgeon, do.; C. K. Webb, surgeon, do.; T. Cowper, surgeon, do.; John William Harris, surgeon, do.; T. G. Norris, surgeon, do.; John Tucker, surgeon, do.; F. Granby Tarrant, surgeon, do.; William Henry Besly, surgeon, do.; J. Steele Perkins, surgeon, do.; Samuel Steele Perkins, do.; W. Page Kingdon, surgeon, do.; W. F. Medland, surgeon, do.; M. De la Garde, surgeon, do.; E. D. Tuddecombe, Silvertown; G. P. Amory, surgeon, Exeter; Drewry Ottley, do.; Robert Arscott, surgeon, do.; S. Budd, M.D., do.; J. H. James, surgeon, do.; W. Woodman, surgeon, do.; W. D. Kingdon, M.D., do.; F. Granger, M.B., do.; F. H. Warren, surgeon, do.; Richard Lewin Pennell, M.D., do.; Samuel Barnes, surgeon, do.; E. P. Predham, surgeon, do.; John B. Parker, surgeon, do.; Arthur Kempe, surgeon, do.; R. H. Lucas, M.D., do.; W. Land, surgeon, do.; H. B. Holman, surgeon, Crediton; Thomas Hugo, surgeon, do.; E. Hugo, surgeon, do.; Charles Braddon, surgeon, do.; Edwin Empson, surgeon, do.; W. H. Hugo, surgeon, do.; Edward Yarde, surgeon, do.; Charles Hainworth, surgeon, do.; William Scully, M.D., Torquay; Jacob Bartlett Blackare, surgeon, do.; Robert Battersby, M.D., do.; J. B. Toogood, surgeon, do.; William Pallard, surgeon, do.; W. R. Jolley, surgeon, do.; J. H. Peebles, M.D., do.; A. H. Vallack, surgeon, do.; J. T. T. Jolley, surgeon, do.; L. R. Stewart, surgeon, do.; H. Appleton, surgeon, St. Mary Church; James Tetley, M.D., Torquay; Henry J. Brown, surgeon, Paington; Alfred Atkins, surgeon, do.; John J. Gamidge, surgeon, do.; Henry Parkin, M.D., Torquay; John J. Feild, M.D., do.; W. Cartwright, surgeon, Teignmouth; W. Anson Cartwright, surgeon, do.; George Gervis, surgeon, do.; J. B.

Bartlett, surgeon, do.; Henry West, surgeon, do.; A. P. Lake, surgeon, do.; Harry Tracey, surgeon, Dartmouth; J. Milbar, surgeon, do.; William Mills, surgeon, Totnes; John Derry, surgeon, do.; John Bush, M.D., do.; William Gillard, surgeon, do.; Gilbert Northey Tompson, surgeon, do.; William Nellock, surgeon, do.; Edwin Williams, surgeon, Exeter; Thomas Senser, surgeon, do.; Thomas Shapter, M.D., do.

This having concluded the main business of the meeting, Mr. Ceely read a communication containing further observations on *variole vaccinae*, in illustration of his views recently published, on the important subject of small-pox, illustrated by new facts and beautiful drawings, which will duly appear in the society's Transactions.

Dr. Theodore Boisragon produced to the association a specimen of the articulations of the bones of the foot, from the astragalus to the termination of the phalanges, the whole being connected together by caoutchouc, so as to represent the ligaments by a close imitation of nature, all the connecting media being formed upon that plan only, there being no wires or cement of any sort besides.

The advantages arising from this mode are fourfold. 1. The bringing all the parts more closely in contact, and at the same time allowing a greater freedom of motion (according with nature in those parts which require it) than the old plan. 2. The enabling students an opportunity of studying the form and connexion of the ligaments upon the principle of nature. 3. The enduring elasticity of all the parts, which renders this mode of representation superior to the natural specimen. 4. It is expected that the expense will be one-third less than that attending the old process.

Papers were then read and announced as follows:—From J. W. G. Gutch, Esq., of London, on the influence on health of the climate of that city; from Dr. Davis of Presteign, on the use of opium in strangulated hernia; from Mr. Lingen of Hereford, on a case of fibrous tumor of the upper jaw; from Mr. Williams of Denbigh, on the successful treatment of prolapsus uteri by the cauter; from Mr. Storrs of Doncaster, on the removal of stone by dilatation; from Dr. Tunstall of Dawlish; Mr. Sweeting of Abbotsbury; and Mr. Hare of Leeds.

Dr. Barlow then moved, and Dr. Jefferson seconded,

"That the respectful thanks of the association be given to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of York, for his kind permission of the use of the Guildhall for the festive meetings of this anniversary."

Dr. Hastings moved, in complimentary terms, and Mr. Thomas of Sheffield, seconded,

"That the cordial thanks of the association be given to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, for permitting this anniversary meeting to be held in their theatre, and for liberally throwing open the museum for the gratification of the members and visitors."

The chairman returned thanks briefly as the senior member of the council of the Philosophical Society.

Dr. Robertson of Northampton moved, and Dr. Conolly of Cheltenham seconded,

"That the thanks of the meeting are justly due, and are hereby rendered, to Dr. Goldie for the

kind and efficient manner in which he has presided at this anniversary."

This vote having been acknowledged by the worthy chairman, the meeting broke up.

### THE DINNER

was held about six o'clock on the same evening at the Guildhall, which was fitted up and decorated in an appropriate manner. About seventy gentlemen attended. Dr. Goldie occupied the chair, supported on the right by the Dean of York, Drs. Barlow, Jeffreys, Holme, Fisher, Wake, &c.; on the left, by the Recorder and Sheriff of York, Drs. Brown, Streeten, Simpson, &c.; Dr. Belcombe and Mr. Champney were the vice-presidents. The entire provisions and arrangements were of the very first-rate order, and reflected no ordinary credit on the skill of Mr. Lockwood, of the White Swan. During and after dinner, Walker's brass band played with great precision and effect many of the most popular and pleasing airs. The Dean of York said grace, both before and after meat; and on the removal of the cloth, the chairman gave,—

"The Queen."—(Usual honours.)

"Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, and his Royal Highness Prince Albert."—(Usual honours.)

"The Queen Dowager, and the rest of the Royal Family."

The chairman then said he had arrived at the peculiar toast of the evening; he meant "Prosperity to the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association;" or, in other words, "our noble selves." With that toast he begged to incorporate, as was the usual custom, the name of its venerated founder, Dr. Hastings.—(Immense applause.) He regretted to add that the pressing professional claims of Dr. Hastings had called for his immediate presence at Worcester; and, therefore, for the first time since the formation of the association, he was unavoidably absent from the festive conclusion of the society's anniversary. The chairman then briefly recapitulated the history, rise, progress, and objects of the association; and after descanting on the desirable result of its labours, in the investigation of the causes and the treatment of disease, in watching over the honour, dignity, and efficiency of the profession, and in the concentration of talent and research in its nine volumes of Transactions—the toast was received and drunk with long-continued applause.

Dr. Jeffreys replied to the toast; and after acknowledging, in well-deserved terms, the universal kindness with which the association had been received in the ancient city of York, next alluded to the circumstance of Dr. Hastings wish to resign the onerous and greatly increased duties attached to the office of secretary; observing that he hoped the association's funds would, ere long, permit of its secretary's being made independent of his profession. The duties of that office were now become so numerous and weighty that no person could be expected to perform them in connexion with an extensive practice of his own.—(Hear, hear.) Dr. Jeffreys then sat down, after proposing "The health of the Lord Mayor and Corporation of York."—(All the honours.)

Mr. Alderman Hudson replied, assuring them that the corporation, as a public body, were but

doing their duty in receiving and fostering the members of a profession, of which, indeed, the country might well be proud; and happy he was to receive them in a magnificent hall, worthy of an association of princes—a hall which denoted the taste and skill of the ancient citizens of York;—(Hear;) and to present to their inspection those objects of public interest and curiosity with which the city so abounded.—(Hear.) He repeated the delight with which their honourable guests had been received, and further assured them that there was no set of men more willing to avail themselves of the advice and assistance of the medical profession than were aldermen.—(Laughter.) He could not say whether that was to be accounted for by the general habits of aldermen; but this he could say, that they often required such assistance, and were always most grateful for it.—(Renewed laughter.)

The chairman next gave, "The Archbishop and Clergy of the Diocese of York."—(Usual honours.)

The Very Rev. the Dean acknowledged the toast in an impressive reply. The assemblage of that day, he observed, was of no common cast: it was unusual to see so many gentlemen of high education, deep research, and valuable experience, collected in one room, from various parts of the kingdom, and belonging to various sects of Christians. When such an assemblage joined so cordially in paying a compliment to the body of the clergy, it was to be inferred, with pride and satisfaction, that the ministers of the Establishment had, by general consent and acknowledgment, done their duty in a manner which became their high calling—(Applause)—assuming to themselves no impertinent superiority, but endeavouring to promote the cause of good fellowship and brotherly love. In return, he wished to bear testimony to the high character of the members of the medical profession, and more particularly of those among whom he lived; he constantly saw them in their respective churches, performing their religious duties; and he often heard of the valuable services which they rendered when, by pious exhortations, they persuaded their dying patients to be prepared for the awful changes to which humanity was subject. Herein they imitated the Physician of souls, whose praise was in the gospel; like him they laboured to assuage the pains and sorrows of the sick and miserable, and to convince their fellow men of the desirableness of religion. Of them could be said,

"Ullis ille labor per quem vivere tot ægri;  
Ullior per quem tot didicere mori."

Having again feelingly thanked the company for the honour he had received, the very rev. gentleman resumed his seat amid great applause.

The chairman then gave "The Dean and Chapter," which was also received with the honours, and acknowledged by the Dean.

Mr. Belcombe, one of the vice-chairmen, proposed "The health of Dr. Steed and the other Vice-Presidents of the Association."—(Three times three.)

Dr. Barlow replied; and, after bearing additional testimony to the great kindness with which the association had been received in York, concluded by proposing "The health of Dr. Goldie, our excellent President."



The chairman briefly replied, declaring his wish that some more competent member of the profession in the city should have been selected for the high honour of the presidency; but adding, that his best wishes were for the advancement of the society, and he hoped to have the pleasure of meeting his audience at Exeter during the next anniversary.—(Cheers.)

Dr. Simpson then proposed "The health of Dr. Streeten," with thanks for the very able, useful, and highly talented retrospective address delivered by him at this anniversary.—(Three times hree.)

Dr. Streeten replied, thanking the meeting for the kind warmth of feeling which had been evinced towards him. Upon an occasion like the present, something more than the mere acknowledgment of a toast was probably expected from him; but he felt himself incompetent to reply in a way in which it ought to be done in justice to his own feelings. He had felt exceedingly diffident of his abilities in the performance of the task which had been allotted to him, and owing to its considerable importance he had almost shrunk from the work before him; but the very kind manner in which they had received his humble efforts were to him most satisfactory, and the "winter of his discontent was thus made glorious summer by the sons of York."—(Cheers and laughter.) After remarking on the hospitality and kindness with which the association had been hailed in York, Dr. Streeten concluded by proposing "The health of the Local Council, and Mr. Husband, the secretary."

Mr. Husband replied.

The Chairman then gave "The Recorder of York."

The Recorder returned thanks, and made humorous allusions to the medical profession, the members of which, he observed, judging from the great number of healths which they drank, must certainly be the most disinterested gentlemen of any he knew. (Laughter.) But, unfortunately, they did not practise what they preached—their acts did not square with their profession—for, had any of that company seen him that morning in his private room, they would undoubtedly have recommended him to nothing so urgently as a nut-ton chop and a glass of water; whereas, on the present occasion, he had seen before him a long vista of some sixty or seventy dishes, from the princely supply of turtle-soup, turbot, venison, &c., down to the humble cutlet, and backed by champagne and the most delicious adjuncts—all of which these abettors of fasting and temperance seemed to have discussed with infinite *gusto*. (Laughter.) The speaker concluded by a deep-drawn sigh for consistency.

"The Universities of the United Kingdom" was next given, to which Dr. Fisher of Cambridge replied, and alluded generally to the great names which had been associated with that university. In speaking of the improvements which had taken place in our day in the faculties of physic in Cambridge, Dr. Fisher observed:—"At the time when Professor Haviland was made regius professor of physic, the power of conferring medical degrees rested solely in him; he diminished, however, his own influence, and divided the authority as well as its attendant responsibility with the professors of chemistry, botany, and anatomy, and had thereby not only extended the system of in-

struction, but rendered the examinations (and having myself obtained several diplomas elsewhere, I can speak from experience,) as efficient as a practical art admits of, and as comprehensive as the state of science requires. He has associated with him Professor Cumming, whose character as a chemist was as estimable as his character as a man; and only those who knew him could appreciate the force of the expression. He has also associated with him Professor Henslow, whose name is dear to every lover of natural history, and who, in his recent researches on the diseases of wheat, if he has not added another powerful agent to the *materia medica*, has at any rate dragged into observation a poison, the effects of which are not less terrible than its operations are insidious, seeing that it lurks in the midst of the most important aliment of man. An anatomical museum has lately risen up in Cambridge; and whilst on the one hand it attests the liberality of the university, (which is by no means rich,) and the interest it takes in the progress of anatomy,—on the other, its extraordinary development will, so long as the museum lasts, be a faithful witness to the indefatigable zeal and comprehensive attainments of Professor Clark, than whom I have no hesitation in saying there exists nowhere a more disinterested, and I might from experience say, a more generous labourer in the field of science."

After some further remarks, Dr. Fisher sat down amid applause.

The following toasts then ensued:—

"The health of Mr. Sheriff Walker;" who replied.

"The York Philosophical Society," acknowledged by Dr. Wake.

"The delegates from London, Ireland, and the North of England;" Dr. Brown replied.

"The Institutions of York," "The Vice-chairmen," and "Our next meeting at Exeter."

The company then left the dining-room, and proceeded to an adjoining apartment, where coffee, tea, and other refreshments had been amply provided: here a most agreeable and enlivening *conversazione* took place, with which the proceedings of the anniversary meeting terminated.

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## PROVINCIAL

## MEDICAL & SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1841.

THE Anniversary Meeting of the Provincial Association, of which we give an account in the present number, has proved an important one in many respects, and the proceedings are calculated materially to forward the progress of the great questions which now engage the attention of the medical profession. The general tone of the meeting, the unanimity and good feeling which prevailed, the firmness and decision with which the claims of the profession were advanced, and