

STATISTICS OF THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL AT BARCELONA.

In the *Boletín de Medicina, Cirugía, y Farmacia* for December 26, 1852, the following statistics are given of the Foundling Hospital at Barcelona.

The children have very lately been transferred from the general hospital of Santa Cruz to the old house of Misericordia. It appears that, during the last six years, the number of admissions and deaths has been as follows.

Year.	Admitted.	Died.
1847	652	586
1848	578	401
1849	654	511
1850	617	520
1851	667	554
1852	610	475

Total, 3778 3047

This shows a mortality of 83 per cent.

The authorities have taken measures to remedy this lamentable state of things, by removing the children to a more commodious building.

According to M. HERVIEUX, (*Union Médicale*, 1852, Nos. 139 and 140, and *Brit. and For. Med.-Chir. Review*, January, 1853, p. 293), out of four thousand children annually admitted into the Foundling Hospital of Paris, three thousand, or 75 per cent. die. To explain this, impoverishment of the blood, over-crowding, and the insufficiency of nursing, have been referred to: but M. Hervieux ascribes the mortality chiefly to the too prolonged maintenance of the horizontal posture. The infants are, it is calculated, kept lying on the back for twenty-two out of the twenty-four hours. The children die, in fact, of cold and hunger; from the continuance of the horizontal posture, the temperature becomes lowered, the limbs chilled, the circulation languid, and the respiration embarrassed: the skin becomes indurated, and visceral congestions take place.

Another cause of disease and mortality to be taken into account, is the feeding. Four, six, or eight times a day, can scarcely be considered sufficient. At present, the eighty-four infants at the *crèche* have only nine nurses and two night nurses to attend to them; while M. Hervieux considers that one woman cannot pay suitable attention to more than two infants.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND.

At the meeting of the Committee, on Tuesday, the 25th ult., after the customary business had been gone through, and the various acknowledgments of grants had been read, the Treasurer made his usual report of the state of the finances, by which it appeared that the Fund was largely in debt to the Treasurer for advances.

The Treasurer also reported, that he was in communication with a benevolent gentleman from the West of England, who was about to erect six small houses, which he proposed placing at the disposal of the Committee, for the reception of some of their annuitants. It was resolved, that such offer be gratefully accepted.

The following cases were then presented:—

I. A medical man, with wife and five children, accustomed to a seafaring life, and destitute of employment. To assist him in obtaining such employment, and the means of obtaining a livelihood, £10 were directed to be placed in the hands of Mr. Toynbee, the Honorary Secretary to the London Committee.

II. A gentleman, æt. 74, possessed of the highest testimonials, who had lived the laborious life of a faithful assistant, but who now, as years had increased upon him, as well as the infirmities of age, was incapacitated for active duty, and found himself, at an advanced age, without the means of support. It was resolved to make a grant of £15 to him, in two half-yearly portions; and to place him upon the list of candidates for an annuity.

III. This case was miserably poor, disabled from obtaining employment by paralysis agitans. He had been previously relieved, and was now voted only £5, in the hope that he might yet find employment as a writer.

Cases IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, were referred for further inquiry, or as being incomplete from one cause or other.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS:—PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

MEMBERS who have not yet paid their Subscriptions, are requested to forward the amount due, either to the Treasurer (Sir CHARLES HASTINGS), or to the Secretary of the Association, at Worcester.

Gentlemen, joining the Association, are required to observe the 24th rule, which states, that "each member is to pay one guinea annually; and that the subscription commences on the 1st of January in each year, and must be paid in advance."

JAMES P. SHEPPARD, Secretary.

NOTICES BY THE EDITOR.

A LIST OF THE MEMBERS of the Association is preparing for publication. It will include all the new members up to date. Gentlemen who have new members to propose, ought, therefore, to do so without delay.

MEMBERS and others are requested to send books, manuscripts, and letters for the EDITOR, to his residence, Essex House, Putney, London; or to the office of the Journal, 37, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London.

Dr. CORMACK will attend at the office, to receive members, every WEDNESDAY, from four to a quarter past five, p.m., when not unavoidably prevented by other duties.

To prevent delays or mistake it is particularly requested that all advertisements and letters connected with the alteration of addresses, or with the commercial department, be addressed to the publisher, Mr. THOMAS JOHN HONEYMAN, and not to the Editor.

EDITOR'S LETTER BOX.

CLAIMS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON TO ELECT REPRESENTATIVES IN PARLIAMENT FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

SIR,—In your last number, there is a letter from Dr. SNOW BECK, Secretary to the Franchise Committee of the University of London, in which he states, that "they will be much gratified to know they have the influential support of the medical profession in the provinces, as well as in London, in their endeavours to obtain representatives in Parliament for the University of London". In the same letter, there is quoted a resolution of the Lecturers of the York School of Medicine, an affiliated school, who think the scheme "highly desirable, inasmuch as the medical profession might thereby obtain a more direct voice in public affairs"; and are only solicitous to know whether the franchise should not be conferred on them, the said teachers, ir-respectively of their being graduates of the University.

This leads me to observe, that the just desire which has so long been felt by the medical profession, to have a certain number of representatives of their own in Parliament, to advocate their interests, and stand up for their just rights, has lately appeared to me in some measure to have given place to an agitation which is being actively carried on (it is said, not without some prospects of success) to obtain a representative for the University of London. Now, I have no objections that the University of London, and every other university in the kingdom that has now no representatives, and possesses a respectable and sufficiently numerous body of graduates, should have the privilege of sending one or more representatives to Parliament. Such a set of enlightened and educated constituencies would surely be better than many of those with which Committees of the House of Commons have lately had to deal, and of which many yet remain to be dealt with, before the scandals of our representative system can be abated. In the new Reform Bill which is said to be impending, such a distribution of political power would be to place it in safer hands, though of course less palatable to the masses, before whom everything must now give way, than to lower the franchise, or give more members to large and already too powerful constituencies; but that the graduates of the University of London are to be allowed, or are competent, to choose one or more members of Parliament, to represent the interests and command the confidence of the great body of the profession in this country (including the many physicians in London and the provinces who are graduates of other universities), is a pretension that cannot for one moment be listened to. Of the physicians practising in England and Wales, not one in twenty is a graduate of the University of London; and yet these last are to choose persons to represent not only their fellow-graduates of

other universities, but the large and respectable body of general practitioners who possess no medical degree from any university! Nor is there the least security that the member to be given to the university will be the sort of person on whom even the fraction of medical men who contribute to form his constituents, will be able to rely, as being practically acquainted with, and thoroughly devoted to, the interests of the profession; for the University of London is made up of an aggregation of affiliated schools and colleges in London and throughout the country, a considerable proportion of which are not medical, but theological seminaries, and (the members of the church having their own academical institutions at Oxford and Cambridge) theological seminaries of a peculiar cast, for the training of ministers of the various dissenting denominations. It has, hence, other graduates besides medical ones to swell the numbers of its constituent body. It grants the degrees of M.A., LL.D., and similar literary and philosophical distinctions, for which the alumni of these dissenting theological colleges, and others not studying for the medical profession, become candidates.

It appears, then, that the member who is supposed to give the medical profession a more direct voice in public affairs, is to be elected, not by a small section of that profession even, but by a mixed constituency, one portion of which will certainly take very little interest in medical questions, but a great and active one in questions of a peculiar political and religious hue. Can any reasonable person doubt which class of questions is likely to have the most weight in determining the choice of a representative?

There is only one university in the United Kingdom, that of Edinburgh, in which its medical graduates would have a preponderating voice in the election of a Member of Parliament, were one to be conceded to them; and, inasmuch as they are engaged in practice, in great numbers, in their native places and elsewhere throughout the country, they would certainly have a better title to act on behalf of the medical profession, than the comparatively small number of graduates of the University of London. Still, they are not the profession; and, although the number of those taking their degree of M.A. at that university, preparatory to entering upon other pursuits in life, is now extremely insignificant, a degree not being required for entrance upon such pursuits; yet it might be expected speedily to increase, so as to affect the purely medical character of the constituency, were the privilege of a vote attached to it.

I freely acknowledge that the question, how a hearing is to be obtained for the claims and interests of the profession in Parliament, is one of extreme difficulty, and which can scarcely be entertained by our public men without raising up a host of similar demands on behalf of other professions and great public interests—demands which, it might not be difficult to show, have a less solid ground to rest upon, but which would not the less embarrass and complicate the subject. But let not the medical profession imagine that this question can be settled to their satisfaction by a measure so partial as enfranchising one learned constituency (and that the youngest of those who yet remain unenfranchised), and forming a mixed electoral body, in which there is no security, and, in point of fact, no right to expect that the medical element shall predominate.

G. PATERSON, M.D.

Tiverton, 31 January, 1853.

P.S.—I trust that I shall not be misunderstood as intending to cast a reflection upon the University of London, on account of its being open to persons of all religious persuasions, any more than I would be supposed to cast blame upon its founders for not making it exclusively a medical school. But I ask, if the University of London be not exclusively a medical school, and if its non-medical graduates, or at least an active and influential portion of them, will have views and interests of their own at heart, for which they will naturally seek an exponent in the person of their representative, what becomes of that influence in public affairs which the medical profession is taught to expect from the enfranchisement of that particular University?

NEWS AND TOPICS OF THE DAY.

ALLEGED HOMŒOPATHIC CURE OF THE OCULAR DISEASE OF MARSHAL RADETZKY.

The great temporary impulse which was recently given to the homœopathic imposture in Vienna, by the case of the celebrated **MARSHAL RADETZKY**, was the subject of conversation in the

medical circles of London, during the visit of Professor **JAEGER**, of Vienna, at the time of the Great Exhibition. An authentic narrative of the facts of the case will, however, we dare say, be still acceptable to our readers.

The *Monthly Journal* for the present month, contains, Professor Jaeger's explanation of the case.

In January, 1841, Dr. Hartung, physician to the Austrian army, and to Count Radetzky, wrote from Milan to Professor Jaeger, for advice respecting a disease of the eye, with which the marshal was affected. The patient was seventy years of age, and reckoned fifty-six years of military service. He was vigorous and robust, but subject to catarrhal and rheumatic affections, which became more frequent and intense with the approach of old age. The history of the attack of disease of the eye is thus given by Dr. Hartung:—

"The marshal, on the 9th of October, 1840, during the manoeuvres of the camp at Pardenone, exposed himself for six hours consecutively, and on horseback, to the overpowering heat of the valleys, and the currents of air on the heights. He was suddenly seized, in consequence, with violent fever, accompanied by severe pain in the forehead and temples: there arose, at the same time, an inflammation of the right eye, and of the soft parts around it; and the globe of the eye was pushed considerably from the orbit. The pain was so severe that the patient could scarcely endure it, and was obliged to go to bed. During the night, the intensity of the affection diminished, so that his excellency was able next day to attend a military parade, and some days after to return to Milan.

"The inflammation of the eye, as well as the fever and pain, soon disappeared; but, in addition to the old infirmities, there remained a greater degree of redness of the eyelids and swelling of the conjunctiva than formerly, and a tumour was now perceptible to sight and touch in the external angle of the eye, which caused the globe to protrude from the orbit.

"This aggravation, however, did not prevent his excellency from retaining the command-in-chief, nor from occupying himself, as before, with the affairs of the service.

"The treatment was, from the commencement of this attack, as it had been previously, strictly homœopathic, the remedies having been administered in the following order:—

1. Aconit. 2. Baryt. carbon. 3. Zincum metall. 4. Anacardium orient. 5. Calc. carbon. 6. Euphrasia. 7. Mercurius Hahnemannii. 8. Merc. sublim. corros. 9. Antimon. crud. 10. Digitalis."

As these remedies failed to produce benefit, Dr. Hartung diagnosed the growth of a fungus in the orbit; and Professor Flarer, of Pavia, diagnosticated a scirrhus tumour.

Dr. Jaeger was, at the time when he received Dr. Hartung's communication, with one from Dr. Flarer, ordered to proceed to Milan, to consult and report on the case of Marshal Radetzky. After examining the patient, the consultants were informed by him that "he would be treated by no other physician than Dr. Hartung, and in no other way than according to the homœopathic system." Drs. Hartung and Flarer still adhered to their opinions as to the nature of the disease; while Dr. Jaeger regarded it as the product of a rheumatic periorbitis, which, having taken an unfavourable turn, must have degenerated into a scirrhus disease. Yet he believed that, if an increase of inflammatory action took place, a cure might supervene after an evacuation of pus. As this view, however, did not meet the assent of Dr. Hartung, the basis of the report to Vienna was the original diagnosis,—the presence of a scirrhus degeneration of the soft parts within the orbit, threatening to pass into the state of cancer.

Some weeks after having returned to Vienna, Dr. Jaeger heard, by a letter from a relative of Count Radetzky, that the pain had increased, and that there was a copious discharge of pus; and this was confirmed by a report addressed to the minister of war.

While this change was going on, Dr. Hartung, after effectually throwing impediments in the way of Professor Flarer, who was again called to the patient, wrote to Dr. Jaeger "that the marshal, having continued to be treated according to the principles of homœopathy, had got well; that the fungous tumour of the orbit had disappeared; that the pain had ceased: that the eye had recovered its mobility, and that the change of fungus into carcinoma was no more to be dreaded; and he regretted that Dr. Flarer had not had an opportunity of convincing himself with his own eyes of the favourable change!"

After some controversy had taken place on the subject, nothing more was said till 1849, when the victories of the marshal aroused in the homœopaths the idea of trying to gain thereby a new triumph for themselves; and the case has hence been paraded,