

that our unstamped circulation was very small—our stamped circulation, beyond doubt, exceeds that of any other medical periodical; and further, in all probability, it is a purely professional circulation, to me a most vital point. Hence, communications are read by those for whom they were originally intended; and our opinions are not likely to form the subject of conversation in coffee-houses, shops, or other similar places, among persons who ignore the benevolent motives of our honourable profession, and who further abuse its actions. To publish in our present weekly periodical cases of interest, is not to consign them to oblivion, as was once supposed. The circulation among our present members throughout the length and breadth of the land is a sufficient obstacle to this; among those specially interested, therefore, there can be no oblivion, and, in my humble way, I know there is none. There may, truly, be no public and unprofessional notoriety; and no right-thinking member of our Association would desire it.

I appeal, therefore, to each individual member of our Association; and I urge each one to pause ere he diminish the value of HIS OWN JOURNAL by contributing to others, which have not an equal, if they have any, claim upon him. Here, sir, is a common ground for each of us—an important position in the power of every individual member; a point which he may individually control; a duty for which he is in some degree responsible. Let us each searchingly inquire, whether we have done *all* in our power to render our Journal worthy both of the Association and of the profession. In this desire, I see nothing selfish:—does not our position rather entail it? and is it not a duty incumbent on us all?

Sir, a medical or any other periodical, however ably edited, cannot be successfully conducted except the editor is assisted by a large number of contributors; and, surely in our own case, a fellow member undertaking that responsible post, has a right, may I not say, to demand, all and every assistance from his fellow associates. Our Journal is at present in its infancy; but if we are but true to ourselves, its riper age cannot fail to exercise an influence on the whole profession far beyond that of any other; if rightly and honestly supported by us all, it must become a paper of professional excellence; if all unite in its improvement, it will be sought after by the whole body of the profession—not because it is the organ of our Association, but because its intrinsic merits and its practical usefulness will entitle it to support.

I am, etc.,

JOSEPH HINTON.

Blaina Iron Works, Monmouthshire, September 29th, 1854.

[The general views of Mr. Hinton are correct. It is right, however, to state that the members of the Association who write in the *Lancet* and *Medical Times* are mostly resident in London; and it is not possible for this Journal to contain all that is written by members. Papers which appear in other Journals have often been declined by us from want of space. We are at present in communication with Mr. Hinton and others with the view of improving the JOURNAL, and will soon be able to make a definite announcement. EDITOR.]

THE ASSOCIATION RECOGNISES NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN METROPOLITAN AND PROVINCIAL PRACTITIONERS.

Sir,—I am one of the oldest provincial members of our Association, having attended its first meeting at Worcester, and ever since been within its ranks. From its commencement, I have watched its proceedings with the interest of one who loves the honour and usefulness of his profession; and nothing that has yet occurred connected with it, has ever afforded me so much pleasure and satisfaction as the increasing catholic spirit which now pervades its members.

Surely, it is a great error to endeavour to keep up needless distinctions in the profession—to draw any petty line of demarcation between metropolitan and provincial medical men. There never was a time when such distinctions were less called for than now—when our large hospitals established everywhere, our provincial colleges, the increased facilities of travelling and intercommunication, and the luxuriance of the medical press, bring the knowledge of all men to every man's door. Why then should not medical brethren, whether provincial or metropolitan, rank on equal terms in our Association? Why especially should we of the provinces, by any narrow jealousy respecting the name by which the Association is called, and by refusing ever to assemble in the most learned and scientific city in the world, exclude ourselves from communion with some of the brightest ornaments of our profession?

For my part, I should be gratified extremely by our being known as "The British Medical Association", and by our holding an occasional anniversary in the metropolis; and so would all my medical friends around me: and nothing would, I believe, more enlarge the sphere and raise the character of the Association.

I am, etc.,

AN OLD MEMBER.

Devonshire, October 3rd, 1854.

ERRATUM IN THE REPORT OF THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING AT MANCHESTER.

LETTER FROM WILLIAM ADAMS, ESQ.

Sir,—My attention has just been drawn to an error which appeared in the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL for September 22nd, 1854. Instead of mentioning my name in connexion with an apparatus for the cure of club-foot invented by me, and explained at the Manchester meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, on the 13th September, it is stated that "Mr. Adams, of the London Hospital, exhibited and explained his ingenious contrivance for the cure of club-foot."

If you will kindly correct this error, you will much oblige,

Yours, etc.,

WILLIAM ADAMS,
Assistant-Surgeon to the Royal
Orthopaedic Hospital.

London, October 1854.

NEWS AND TOPICS OF THE DAY.

SICK-NURSES FOR THE LABOURING POPULATION.

A deputation of a Committee of the Epidemiological Society waited upon Sir Benjamin Hall, President of the Board of Health, on Friday, Oct. 6th, for the purpose of explaining the views and schemes proposed by the Committee relative to supplying the labouring population with nurses in epidemic and other sickness. Dr. Babington, the President of the Epidemiological Society, introduced the deputation, which was attended by the following gentlemen; Dr. Sibson, Dr. M'William, Dr. Milroy, Mr. Grainger, Dr. Hare, Dr. Carhill, Dr. Snow, Mr. Aldrich, Mr. Tucker, and Dr. Sieveking. Dr. Babington briefly stated the objects of the Committee, and called upon Dr. Sieveking, as one of the secretaries, to give a more detailed account. Dr. Sieveking explained the arguments upon which the proposition to supply nurses to the labouring classes on a national scale was based, and showed that it was desirable on medical, on sanitary, and on politico-economical grounds. He briefly stated the plan proposed by the Committee, and Sir Benjamin Hall having advised the Committee how to proceed in order to secure the further consideration of the Board of Health, the deputation withdrew.

"The following is a copy of a paper on the subject of Nurses for the Labouring Population, which has been issued by the Epidemiological Society.

"COMMITTEE FOR SUPPLYING THE LABOURING CLASSES WITH NURSES IN TIME OF EPIDEMIC AND OTHER SICKNESS. Dr. Sibson, *Chairman*; Mr. Aldrich; Dr. Camps, *Treasurer*; Dr. Burford Carhill; Dr. Hall Davis; H. T. Davies, Esq.; Dr. Hare; W. Filliter, Esq.; R. D. Grainger, Esq.; I. N. Jakins, Esq.; Dr. M'William; Dr. Snow; and J. H. Tucker, Esq.

"A Committee has been appointed by the Epidemiological Society for the purpose of determining the feasibility of a plan to secure throughout the country, a staff of nurses, available for the labouring population when attacked by epidemic disorders, such as fevers, cholera, or the like, when at any time overtaken by sickness, or during the period of child-birth. The acknowledged want of nurses, in addition to proper medical advice, does not require to be dwelt upon; there is no difference of opinion in the medical profession as the great advantages to be derived in a medical point of view, from the assistance of a well-skilled nurse, whether among the wealthy or the poorer orders of society. But the Committee are of opinion that there are other grounds than those of the speedy recovery of the individual patient, which call for the serious attention of the community at large to the proposition, and render it not only the duty, but the interest of society to acknowledge and provide for this want.

"Sickness weighs upon the poor much more heavily than it does upon the affluent, inasmuch as it affects their means of acquiring a livelihood, or diminishes to a disproportionate extent their daily earnings. It is, in innumerable instances, a source of ruin and degradation to families, who are consequently thrown upon the parish for relief, while it abridges not only