

"**vii.** That the meetings of the Branch shall consist of four ordinary meetings, to be held in September, November, February, and April; and an annual meeting in the summer, at such time as shall be fixed by the Council; these meetings to take place alternately at Bath and Bristol. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President, or by a requisition addressed to him by either District Council, or by ten members of the Branch.

"**viii.** That the ordinary meetings shall be for the discussion of any matters relating to medical science or the well-being of the profession, the communications being read in the order in which notice has been received by the Secretaries. Scientific subjects shall, as a rule, take precedence of any others. In all matters concerning the conduct of the meeting not specially provided for, the decision of the President shall be final.

"**ix.** The business of the annual meeting shall be to receive the Report of the Council, elect officers of the Branch for the ensuing year, transact the necessary business, and discuss such subjects connected with the interests of the Branch and of the profession as may be brought before it.

"**x.** In accordance with Law 26 of the Parent Association, which requires the appointment of representatives to the General Council, the following plan shall be adopted.

"Voting papers shall be furnished to each member present at the annual meeting, on which he shall write the names of the requisite number of members. No voting paper shall be received which contains more than the proper number of names. In case of any two or more members having an equality of votes, the President shall have a casting vote.

"**xi.** That visitors be freely admitted on the introduction of a member.

"**xii.** That no alteration be made in the Rules, nor any new Rule enacted, save at the annual or a special meeting, notice of the proposed alteration being given to the Council, through one of the Secretaries, one month before the meeting at which such alteration or enactment is to be decided; and that such proposed alteration be inserted in the circular convening the meeting."

Mr. COLTHURST proposed, and Mr. FLOWER seconded—

"That the Laws as amended be the Laws of the Bath and Bristol Branch."

In connexion with the rule for the election of representatives to the General Council, the PRESIDENT suggested that, in order fully to carry out the representative principle adopted at the York meeting, the existing Council should be wholly dissolved prior to the next annual meeting; and added that, in his opinion, it would become their duty to resign. He should feel no hesitation as to his own course, having resolved to tender his resignation at the fitting time."

Mr. J. SMITH SODEN moved, and Mr. FLOWER seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously.

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, in order to carry out fully the representative principle, the original General Council should be dissolved; and that a recommendation to that effect be transmitted to the Executive Council."

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The PRESIDENT briefly introduced the subject, expressing a hope that the meeting would adopt some measures, tending to effect a reconciliation between the parties at issue.

Dr. DAVIES, in introducing the resolution, said,—After the very clear and forcible manner with which our President has brought this very important subject before the meeting, I do not think it necessary to detain you long. I believe that it is on the conduct of this meeting to-night, and on the conclusion at which it shall arrive, that, in some measure at least, will depend whether we are to go before the world exhibiting the wretched spectacle of a divided profession, it may be, ranged into two hostile associations, each rendering the other, in all matters of public importance, futile and contemptible, or that this unhappy breach shall be healed, and the Association go forward stronger and more united than ever, to confer, in future times, vast and important benefits, both on the profession and on the public. With the view to initiate so desirable a result, I will, without detaining you longer, propose the following resolution:

"That this Branch views with the deepest regret the threatened schism in the ranks of the Association, and begs to express a hope that the time has not yet gone by, when this schism may be healed. With this object, it is proposed that a communication be made with Dr. Cowan and Mr. Harrison, as the movers in the secession party, requesting that they, and those that think with them, shall meet a General Meeting of the Association, in case such an arrangement can be entered

into, in the hope that some plan may yet be devised by which the profession may be prevented exhibiting to the world so melancholy a specimen of divided councils, and the Association may yet be enabled to fulfil those important functions which it seemed on the point of realising."

Mr. COE. I have much pleasure in seconding Dr. Davies' proposition, sincerely hoping that the kindly spirit it evinces towards the seceding members, and the desire it manifests that the Association should be organised on a truly catholic and liberal basis, may tend, in some degree, to close the breach that has arisen amongst us, and pave the way to an entire reconciliation; so that we may continue to work together, and carry forward what should be the design and objects of our Association with that unity of purpose and action which are so essential to the attainment of any great end. Our Association, first formed under the spirit of local good fellowship, has, with the extension of its numbers, gradually so widened the scope and character of its purposes, that the possibilities of its future, under proper guidance and management, may easily have been such that the hitherto Utopian dream of unity amongst us might have been now, if ever, reasonably looked forward to. Feeling as I do that the radical changes, so continuously taking place at our annual meetings, are subversive of our best interests, and that they point strongly to the necessity of establishing, upon firm and definite principles, our general organisation, which though open to modification, shall be free from those suicidal remodellings that we have been hitherto exposed to, and thus participating, in great degree, in the wishes of those who have seceded from our body, yet I cannot but express my opinion that they have at least taken a very inconsiderate step, for they have separated themselves from a large number who think and feel more or less as I do, and who would have willingly joined heart and hand with them for the attainment of many of their objects, but who also feel that the proper mode of proceeding would have been a well advised and legitimate opposition. Whether the design of the gentlemen who have left us fail or succeed, it will be equally detrimental to the interests of our order; if it fail, the discomfiture will leave a sting behind, which will, I am afraid, rankle for a very, very long period; and if it partially succeed, the professional men of almost every city and village in the kingdom will be banded under different leaders; parties and sects will become predominant, and catholicity, if not forgotten, must be unhelped for; every wish for establishing our profession on a national basis must necessarily be forgone, and we shall present to the public a most pitiable picture of the effects of our disunion. If our proceedings this evening shall have any effect in preventing this most lamentable consummation, I shall indeed feel great pride in having been one of those instrumental in bringing about a reunion between the divided elements of our Association. If our endeavours, however, should prove futile, we must then each exert ourselves to the uttermost in withstanding every attempt to undermine and overthrow our body, and first agitate those measures which shall tend to fix us upon a stable standpoint.

Observations having been made by Dr. Woodforde and Messrs. Norman, Soden, Barrett, and T. Green, the resolution, on being put by the President, was carried with four dissentients only.

On the proposition of Dr. Woodforde, seconded by Mr. Norman, the President, Dr. Davies, and Mr. Coe, were requested to communicate with Dr. Cowan and Mr. Harrison, in order to carry out the resolution.

EDITOR'S LETTER BOX.

THE METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH MEETING.

LETTER FROM SIR C. HASTINGS, M.D.

SIR,—I am unwilling to say a word that may tend to mar the consummation so devoutly to be wished—the healing the unhappy differences which now afflict our beloved Association.

I cannot, however, with propriety allow certain statements, made in a document signed Henry Ancell, John Probert, and Edwin Lankester, and presented to the Special Meeting of the Metropolitan Counties Branch, as reported in your last number, to pass unnoticed by me.

The statement to which I refer is as follows, viz: "The Branch will thus perceive, that the late Editor of the JOURNAL

was deprived by the York meeting of the General Secretaryship, which he had undertaken one year previously, at the instance of the meeting held at Manchester."

Now I am prepared to prove that the resignation of Dr. Cormack was not produced by the vote of the York meeting; for I hold in my possession a letter I received from him, in my capacity as President of the Council, dated the 1st day of August, in which he desires me to announce in the Report of the Council, which he thought was then about to be circulated, that he meant to resign the offices he held in the Association at the Annual Meeting. It so happened, that the day before this letter reached me, the Draft Report of the Council had been sent to the members, and thus Dr. Cormack's request could not be complied with.

But to show how definitively Dr. Cormack had at that time, which was a fortnight before the York meeting, made up his mind, I may state that, with the official letter, I also received from him a private communication, in which he said, that *under no circumstances* would he go on with the duties of General Secretary and manager of the JOURNAL business details; but if it were wished, he would continue his services as Editor for a short time longer.

I think it my duty, sir, to make this announcement, because it is clear the friends of Dr. Cormack are placing him in a false position, by attributing his resignation to the vote of the York meeting.

And now I cannot resist the opportunity of making an observation on a speech of Mr. Ancell, reported at page 938 of the ASSOCIATION JOURNAL. He is there made to say that he had declined an invitation from the Worcester Council to represent the Metropolitan Counties Branch on the Executive Council. There is some grave mistake here, for the Worcester Council have had nothing to do with the election of the Executive.

After the code of laws had been passed at the annual meeting at York, a resolution was passed by the meeting, desiring the members of the General Council to assemble, in compliance with Law 9, and elect ten of their own number, to form, with one Secretary from each District Branch of the Association, an Executive Council, to manage the affairs of the Association for the current year.

The Council accordingly did assemble; and I can aver that they performed the trust committed to them with the utmost fairness and impartiality. It was proposed, and unanimously carried, that two of the elected members should reside in London, and Mr. Ancell was, with one voice, chosen as a fit representative.

I submit, therefore, sir, that Mr. Ancell, in declining to act, refused the invitation not of the Worcester but of the General Council.

Notwithstanding this, I, as President of the General Council, accept the olive branch held out at the Metropolitan Counties Branch meeting, as a token of peace, and no efforts on my part shall be spared to conciliate kindly feeling, and to promote peace and harmony, and to cement still more firmly the bond of union, which ought to keep us together in brotherly love.

I am, etc., CHARLES HASTINGS.

Worcester, October 13th, 1855.

THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN COUNTIES BRANCH.

LETTER FROM A. P. STEWART, M.D.

SIR,—I regret to find that, notwithstanding the pains I took to furnish an accurate copy of the resolution adopted on Tuesday, Oct. 9th, by the Metropolitan Counties Branch, a misunderstanding of its terms has nevertheless occurred. The substance of my original motion is correctly enough stated at the conclusion of the abstract of the observations I ventured to offer to the meeting; but the motion which immediately follows, as if it had dropped from the clouds, is substantially that afterwards proposed by Dr. Webster, and, with one omission, that finally adopted. The resolution is as follows:—

"That a requisition be drawn up, for the purpose of being put in circulation, and presented to the President and Executive Council, requesting a Special General Meeting to be held at Birmingham before the end of November, in order to reconsider the Laws of the Association, and to take such steps as may seem best fitted to heal the breach occasioned by the proceedings of the meeting at York."

I am, etc., A. P. STEWART.

Grove Street, Oct. 15th, 1855.

DR. CORMACK AND DR. RADCLYFFE HALL.

LETTER FROM J. R. CORMACK, M.D.

SIR,—I am not at present going "to lay hold of the rough end of the staff". I only wish to explain and correct two statements made by Dr. Radclyffe Hall at p. 941 of your last number.

FIRST. Dr. Hall states that he wrote to me on the 19th of September. He ought to have added, that my complaint was not hearing from him till the 22nd. I only received his letter of the 19th on the 22nd. It bore the Torquay post mark of the 21st.

SECOND. Dr. Hall says, "I regret that what I wrote very innocently should have proved the indirect means of shortening even for a week his editorial connexion with the Association." I beg to assure Dr. Hall that he has done nothing which influenced me in taking the step to which he refers. The step was taken because the President of the Council, in his official capacity, accused me of having acted dishonourably, and in violation of a promise. I am, etc., JOHN ROSE CORMACK.

Late Editor of the Association Medical Journal.

37, Russell Square, 17th October, 1855.

DR. HITCHMAN'S VIEWS ON THE PATHOLOGY OF INSANITY.

LETTER FROM J. G. DAVEY, M.D.

SIR,—I regret very much to have caused Dr. Hitchman any pain, by referring to him opinions which he disclaims. I have read his remarks with attention, but cannot make out in what the "entire misrepresentation" with which I am charged consists. In vain have I perused the conclusion of my third lecture; I cannot see how I have made it appear that Dr. Hitchman ascribes insanity to one condition only of the cerebral structure: and I feel, therefore, that that gentleman's repudiation of such an opinion is uncalled for.

The few following words, from the last part of my third lecture, can hardly have been seen by your correspondent, inasmuch as they go far to negative both the propriety and justice of the not altogether courteous remonstrance of my psychological fellow labourer. "The second writer" (Dr. Hitchman) "insists, and very properly so, that insanity is essentially dependent upon some change or irritation produced in the vesicular neurine of the convolutions of the brain; and that that malady is influenced by the same laws, and dependent on like physical changes of material structure, as are diseases of the lungs, or any other viscera."

Surely, it will be directly seen that the responsibility of the "entire misrepresentation" rests not on myself. I believe I have nowhere assigned, even "inferentially", such an opinion to Dr. Hitchman, as that insanity is due to "one condition only of the cerebral structure". Moreover, I employed the word "contradictions", not as applicable to Dr. Hitchman, or to any other gentleman, but as referrible to the individual experience of the several writers named in the lecture complained of.

It may seem, perhaps, that Dr. Hitchman, like many more pathologists, has been too much inclined to look on inflammation of the nerve-matter as the *cause* rather than the *effect* of insanity (mania); and hence these words, as quoted by me, viz. "in every case of acute sthenic mania there is an inflamed condition of that structure" (vesicular neurine); "and the convolutions, if seen, would present a roseate hue." It is to be inferred, however, that their author's opinion has undergone some modification, or he—that is, your correspondent—would not now write thus: "As the faithful historian of what I saw, I stated that in three cases of recent mania, the convolutions were found of a roseate hue; but I have nowhere stated that they are not found of other colour than this." (Sept. 10, 1855.)

What further "may be deduced from the foregoing statements" I forbear to suggest; nor will I enter on the amount of "imagination" which dictated either one of them. I would add, nevertheless, that in my humble endeavour to extend a knowledge of mental pathology, it would cause me some pain should I realise so palpable "a mockery, a delusion, and a snare", as your correspondent anticipates may be my fate.

In conclusion, I would express my unfeigned sorrow that Dr. Hitchman should fail to perceive the disadvantages under which he labours whilst mixing up mere irony with the discussion of a highly interesting medical question: in this particular, it may be well to prefer silence to retaliation.

I am, etc., J. G. DAVEY.

Northwoods, Bristol, September 29, 1855.