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BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION:  
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1873.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Association for 1873 became due on January 1st. Members of Branches are requested to pay the same to their respective Secretaries. Members of the Association not belonging to Branches are requested to forward their remittances to Mr. FRANCIS FOWKE, General Secretary, 37, Great Queen Street, London, W.C.

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH, 1873.

THE FORTHCOMING MEETING IN LONDON.

THE arrangements for the forty-first annual meeting of the Association are now tolerably near to completion. The Association has held only one meeting in London since its foundation in 1832. That meeting was held in August 1862. It was in every way agreeable and successful. Held under the presidency of Dr. Burrows, and signalised by addresses of remarkable ability from Professor Sharpey, Dr. Walshe, and Mr. Bowman, it attracted a very large number of eminent provincial men; and, by cementing more closely the bonds of equal friendship between the practitioners of the metropolis and of the three kingdoms, it laid the foundations of a cordial unity of feeling and action between town and country, and in all grades of the profession, which every succeeding year has solidified and enlarged. The Association received then the graceful hospitalities of the Royal College of Physicians of London. But it has outgrown the limits of the possible accommodation which the fine house of the College in Pall Mall can afford. Its numbers have nearly trebled in the last decade; and, to meet the increase in the number of attending members, and the greater scientific activity betokened by the subdivision of its professional work into six sections, it has been necessary to seek quarters which will provide numerous apartments for sectional and committee meetings, as well as two large halls—one for general meetings and one for purposes of refreshment. The authorities of King's College have, with the most unreserved and gracious liberality, placed at the disposal of the Association the whole of their spacious and well arranged building, in which are included apartments admirably suited for all the purposes of the meeting throughout the week. The museum will occupy the fine suite of apartments used as libraries. The general meetings will be held in the great hall; and the spacious adjoining apartments will be set apart for luncheon. The theatres or class-rooms of the faculties of arts, science, and medicine lie conveniently together, and will amply accommodate all the sections and committees. The Royal College of Physicians, unable to afford house-room to the growing body of the Association, is, by the rather unfortunately bare state of its coffers, equally precluded from offering a graceful hospitality to the Association in any other way, and is put to shame by other more fortunate or more public-spirited bodies. The programme of the meeting is very completely filled in this as in other respects.

On the first day of the meeting, a special choral service will be held, by permission of the Dean and Chapter, at St. Paul's Cathedral, for those members who desire to attend it.

It will be seen that three addresses will be given by distinguished orators, in medicine, surgery, and physiology. The Presidents of each section will also deliver sectional addresses at the opening of the business; and it is possible that arrangements may be made by which the Presidents' addresses, instead of being delivered simultaneously in the various sections, will be delivered successively, so as to allow of a larger audience assembling than the section itself can afford. The proceedings of the sections promise to furnish matter of great scientific interest. The arrangements for these are not yet complete; but it will be seen that already a number of interesting subjects are set down for successive days, each of which will afford matter for very important discussion by the eminent men who will be assembled from all parts of the country. Thus, to take one section as an example, in the Section of Medicine, the subject of kidney-disease, which is essentially one of the most active questions of the day, will be opened by Dr. Grainger Stewart of Edinburgh, and it may be expected that Drs. Dickinson, G. Johnson, and perhaps Sir William Gull and Dr. Sutton, will contribute to throw further light on subjects still much in debate. The Uses of Alcohol in Disease will afford materials for a debate which will be opened by Dr. Anstie, and in which Dr. Parkes of Netley, Dr. Gairdner of Glasgow, and probably Dr. Binz of Bonn, will take part. Such a discussion is one which only such a congress as this could produce, and it will be anticipated with lively interest. The programmes of the various sections are still in course of preparation; but the details, which will be found in another page, will show that the sections of surgery and psychology are already well provided; and there is reason to believe that the scientific character of this meeting will be such as to do honour to the metropolis and credit to the profession. The list of foreign visitors is not yet filled up: but among those who are expected are Virchow of Berlin; Oscar Liebreich, who will read a paper on Croton Chloral Hydrate; Bardeleben; Kœberle of Strasburg; Binz of Bonn; Ricord and Demarquay of Paris; and others—whose presence will add grace to the meeting, and whose learning cannot fail to enlighten the discussions.

The evening proceedings will include a reception by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House; and his Lordship, with characteristic liberality, has expressed a desire to entertain the Presidents of Sections and Presidents of Branches, and the readers of Addresses, at dinner. This worthy recognition of the public importance and interest of this great meeting will be gratifying to the whole profession, and reflects honour on a mayoralty which will long be remembered in the City of London as one of the most memorable in the civic annals. The Royal College of Surgeons of England, mindful of its position as the greatest of our national medical bodies, and the guardian and partly the creator of our great national collection illustrative of anthropological and biological science, will throw open the College for a *soirée* on the second evening. The *soirée* of the College on the occasion of the former annual meeting in London was one of the most notable and agreeable incidents in that meeting, and this cannot fail to be equally so. It should be mentioned that Mr. Curling, who will, it is understood, be the President who will receive the Association, has taken a lively personal interest in all the arrangements for the

forthcoming annual meeting, and is, in fact, Chairman of the "Excursions Committee". The third evening will be occupied by the public dinner, as is usual. The numbers attending the meeting may be considerable; and it was thought in every way desirable to secure a hall having professional associations and character, for the public dinner on this occasion. The Benchers of Lincoln's Inn were applied to for the use of their noble hall. This is a privilege very rarely granted—we believe there is only one precedent; but, with a sympathetic cordiality which deserves our warmest acknowledgments, the Benchers unanimously accorded their assent, and the dinner of the Association will, by permission, be held in the Hall of Lincoln's Inn.

The fourth and last evening was open for a time, and was the subject of some competition amongst various public bodies. It was at first intended that a *soirée* should be held at South Kensington in the International Exhibition, which the Commissioners had early offered for the purpose; but that building, fine as it is, is rather far afield for men who have been at work in the Sections all day, and who will be dining probably chiefly in the central parts of London in the evening. The Council and the Professors of the Medical Faculty of University College stepped in with an invitation to a *soirée* at the College, to which the members and the ladies who may accompany them in their visit are invited; and this hospitable and agreeable offer was cordially accepted. The Flaxman museum, the library, art schools, and theatres of University College afford opportunities for a most brilliant reception, of which the Professors have on other occasions shown that they know how to avail themselves. The authorities of Guy's and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals were, we believe, also prepared to do honour to the Association and their provincial friends had any opportunity been left.

Saturday will be left as a vacant day; and the kindness of the Marquis of Westminster and of other noblemen having fine seats near London, and of the authorities of the Brighton Aquarium, will afford opportunities for some pleasant outings at the close of what will, it may be anticipated, prove to be a meeting replete with agreeable and instructive features.

The Sections will commence their work each day immediately after the termination of the addresses, and will close at half-past three, thus leaving some hours in the afternoon free for visiting public institutions and private galleries, many of which will be freely opened on this occasion by their owners.

Simultaneously with the meeting will be held meetings of the Poor-law Medical Officers' Association and of the Psychological Association.

The reports of the proceedings of the Association throughout the year will be of a satisfactory character. That which refers to the "financial position" will be unusually satisfactory. The whole of the accounts and books of the Association have been recently subjected to a rigid and minute examination by public accountants. The result of their analysis, extending back over two years, and including every document and voucher relating to the business of the Association, has been to show a steadily progressive growth in prosperity; and, without anticipating that report, we may say that it shows that the recent reorganisation of the business staff has been attended with good results; and

that, by a more careful collection of dues, the Association is so rapidly advancing in financial success, that the balance of assets and liabilities at this moment shows a considerable difference in favour of the Association, and that this balance is a growing one. The object of the Association has never been to accumulate capital; and, with a sole annual subscription of a guinea for all purposes, it never can be. But its financial position is eminently sound.

The reports of Committees will show that, with respect to Medical Reform, this much of advance has been made. When the Direct Representation Committee first commenced their operations, their proposition for direct representation of the profession in the General Medical Council was treated as chimerical, and the Government sacrificed their Bill rather than yield it. Now they are told, on the highest parliamentary authority, that there is no serious opposition to it; but some of the colleges, emboldened by the confusion created by the inopportune interposition of Mr. Lush with an impracticable Bill, to whose ludicrous and unhappy history it is unnecessary further to allude, have entered a strong opposition to the Government proposition of amalgamation, to which they had formerly assented, and there is no possibility of a private member successfully facing that opposition. The Government would now willingly concede direct representation; but they would not when they could, and now they cannot when they would. In other important matters relating to this organisation of Public Health Administration, the modification of clauses affecting public medical interests in the Public Health Bill (1872), the Births and Deaths Registration Bill, the Army Medical Warrant (1873), the Registration of Sickness, and other matters of like character, the Association and its Committees will have a good account to render.

We may look forward, therefore, to the forthcoming meeting as one which is likely to be in all respects as full of interest as any previous meeting, and as one which, by its larger proportions, and the ample and honourable recognition offered to it by public bodies and by the chief magistrate of London, will fully illustrate the rapidly growing and widely extending importance and usefulness of the Society. It may be hoped, also, that this meeting will be the starting-point for yet further efforts, and the commencement of another large extension of its borders, so that it shall presently unite in one great bond of brotherhood all who are worthy of comprehension in the fraternity of medicine in this metropolis and in the three kingdoms. It may be hoped that, with few exceptions, the whole of the profession in the metropolitan area will take the present opportunity of entering into union with the five thousand medical men who have joined hands in the Association, and will unite to give to visitors, members, and guests, from England, Ireland, and Scotland, a hearty, cordial, and unanimously sympathetic reception, which will never be forgotten. The funds subscribed are already adequate for all purposes. What further is needed is the personal presence and personal welcome of every medical man in the metropolis and the metropolitan counties, to greet all who will honour us with their presence from all parts of the United Kingdom. We have space for all, and welcome for all. We owe much to the profession in all parts of the three countries for splendid hospitality and hearty welcome not to be forgotten; and we invite them to crown their past proofs of friendship by coming to see us, and to join in our efforts for the common good in this our second London meeting.

## "CATCHING COLD."

IN this changeable climate of ours, hardly a week passes without ourselves or some of our acquaintances catching a cold. Our opportunities of studying the pathology of colds are thus only too numerous, and yet we know so little about it, that he must either be a very wise or a very rash man who will undertake to say why exposure to an east wind will give coryza to one man, sore-throat to a second, bronchitis to a third, and so on. Almost all that can be stated about the matter with any degree of certainty is, that the diseases just mentioned, as well as a good many others which are all popularly ascribed to cold, are liable to come on after the whole body, or parts of it, such as the feet, have been quickly cooled below the normal, or, in other words, have been chilled. There are always two factors concerned in the cooling either of the body or of its parts. One of these is the nature of the external medium, such as air or water, which is in contact with the body; and the other is the condition of the blood-vessels, by which the warm blood is brought from the interior of the body to the surface, and thus exposed to the influence of cold. Dry air has so little power to abstract heat, that Arctic travellers can go about comfortably without a great coat when the thermometer is standing fifty degrees below zero, provided that the air be still. A very little wind is sufficient to prevent them from doing this, however, for the constant impact of fresh particles of cold air on the surface of the body soon carries off its heat. The presence of moisture in the air greatly increases its power of abstracting heat, and when wind and moisture are combined, the chilling effect reaches its maximum. We may be able to face a cold dry wind without feeling any inconvenience; but if the wind be moist, or, still worse, if our clothes be wet, we shall feel chilled completely through, shiver, and probably catch a severe cold. Heat has been constantly and rapidly abstracted from our bodies, and the blood which brings warmth to the surface has itself been at length cooled. No one is astonished at catching cold under such circumstances, but we are often astonished that we should do so during warm weather, and with hardly any apparent cause. Experience has shown us, in fact, that it is not so much the absolute lowness of temperature which gives rise to colds as sudden changes from a higher to a lower. The reason of this remained unknown till the recent researches of Professor Rosenthal cleared up the mystery. It is well known that when cold is applied to the surface of a healthy animal, the cutaneous vessels contract. They thus prevent the blood from circulating in the skin, and by confining it to the interior of the body, prevent its cooling, and preserve the temperature of the vital organs, unless the application of cold be continued for a considerable time. This is not the case, however, when the animal has been previously exposed to warmth some time before. The cutaneous vessels become paralysed by the heat, and remain dilated even after the cold has been applied. The blood is thus exposed over a large surface, and becomes rapidly cooled, even although the temperature of the surrounding medium is not very low. In Rosenthal's experiments, animals were kept for a little while at a temperature from about 97 deg. to 104 Fahr. The temperature of the animals themselves quickly rose during their confinement to 111 deg. or 113 deg. Fahr. After their removal, it not only sank to the normal, but even below it, so that an animal which was from 107.6 deg. to 111 deg. in the warming apparatus fell to 96.8 deg., and remained at that for several days, although the room in which it was kept was moderately warm. Confinement in a choky office, hot theatre, or crowded ball-room, will have a similar effect on man, and in the latter case it will be increased by the exercise of dancing. From such places people pass out into the cool open air, or will sometimes even purposely station themselves in a draught. The blood which is coursing not only over the flushed face, but through the dilated vessels of every part of the surface, is rapidly cooled below the normal, and, on its return to the internal organs, cools them much more quickly than it could have done had the person simply been exposed to cold without dilatation of the vessels by previous warmth. Rosenthal lays much stress, and we think

rightly, on the great effect of sudden *cooling* in bringing on a cold, the sudden change in the temperature of the blood producing an irritating effect, and inducing inflammation in any weak organ in a way that a gradual alteration would not do. It would seem, however, that the alteration must be from a temperature above to one below the normal temperature of the blood, and not a mere reduction from one considerably above the normal to one at or near it. When much heated, we may stand for a short time in a cool atmosphere with impunity; but if we stand long enough to carry the cooling process too far and produce a shiver, we run a great risk of catching cold. The fact that it is more dangerous to sit for a long than a short time in wet clothes, appears to indicate that a considerable and more gradual cooling, such as may then occur, will produce similar effects to a slight cooling suddenly effected by exposure to a cold draught after being in a warm room. The effect of a chill in causing inflammations may be partly due to the effect of cold on the tissues themselves, and partly to the hyperæmia which will occur in some parts when the blood is driven out of others by the contraction of their vessels. Rosenthal is inclined to ascribe the chief power to the former of these causes. Everybody knows the beneficial effect of cold baths, cold sponging, etc., in "hardening" persons, as it is termed, so that those who employ them are able to face almost any weather, and to endure sudden changes of temperature without injury; while those who coddle themselves and stop up every crevice lest a breath of air should blow upon them, are constantly suffering from colds. Rosenthal considers that this is due to the frequent application of cold water or cool air increasing the tone of the cutaneous vessels, so that they do not become so much relaxed by heat as to be unable to contract with sufficient force when necessary. The power of regulating the temperature is thus preserved, and the person prevented from catching cold.

## COUNCILLORS AT THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

ON Thursday next, the annual meeting of the Fellows of the College of Surgeons will be held for the election of representatives in the Council. For these four vacancies there were nine, and there are now eight, candidates. "Yielding to the pressure of the co-proprietor of the *Lancet* and the staff", who have ascertained that the small number of votes which would be recorded in his favour would not be conducive to the interests of that paper, Mr. Wakley announces to his friends that he proposes to retire. It may be thought that this gentleman was hardly wise, after courting the bubble honour, to run away from before the cannon's mouth. But no doubt the very peculiar sort of pressure which has been brought to bear upon Mr. Wakley by his partner is likely to be effective enough. His retirement, however, does not materially affect the position, although it adds a comic element to the situation, which is sincerely to be regretted. There remain as candidates having serious probabilities of election on this occasion, Sir James Paget (who is, of course, rightly secure of re-election), three metropolitan Fellows—Mr. Cooper Forster, Mr. Marshall, and Mr. Savory—ranging them in the order of seniority, and one country Fellow, Mr. Southam of Manchester. The three metropolitan Fellows stand all on ground so good that it will be hard to select which shall enter the Council this year, and for which one the honour of election shall be postponed till next year. We shall only urge that one vote is due from all to Mr. Southam, as the chosen representative of the provincial Fellows. Nominated in accordance with a requisition rapidly signed by nearly two hundred of the best known Fellows in the provinces, and coming forward to fill the place vacated by Mr. Turner, Mr. Southam will, it is hoped, receive the suffrages of metropolitan not less than of country Fellows. An important principle is involved. Every one will, we feel sure, concede that there are many questions which repeatedly come under discussion at the Council of the College of Surgeons, which largely concern the interests and welfare of provincial schools. No metropolitan Fellow would willingly do an injustice or an injury to the provincial Fellows;