
Miscellaneous Intelligence

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ADJOURNED DISCUSSION ON MR. H. SMITH'S PAPER ON STRICTURE. The discussion was animated and interesting; but as all the points adverted to have, in one form or another, been recently laid before the profession, it is not necessary to give a detailed report of the speeches.

DR. KNOX, (late teacher of anatomy in Edinburgh,) in a lively address, severely criticised Mr. Syme's recent work on Stricture. He thought that a verdict on his practice could not yet be given, as time might yet show that the cases boasted of as cures, were, after all, not cures; it was not temporary amendment, but permanent relief, which was entitled to the name of a cure. Some surgeons were too quick—too quick—in publishing their successful cases.

MR. WADE gave an exposition of his views regarding the use of potassa fusa, and replied to certain passages in Mr. Syme's recent work.

MR. H. WALTON, MR. G. B. CHILDS, and MR. ACTON also addressed the Society.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS TO FILL THE PLACES OF THOSE RETIRING IN ROTATION. At 10 o'clock the ballot closed, and the following was announced as the result:—**PRESIDENT**—Professor Murphy: **VICE-PRESIDENTS**—A. B. Garrod, M.D.Lond., and J. F. Clarke, Esq.: **COUNCILLORS**—Francis Hird, Esq., Francis Sibson, M.D.Lond., F.R.S., Benjamin Travers, Esq., jun., John Rose Cornack, M.D.Edin., F.R.S.E., R. Greenhalgh, Esq. The above are the *new* office-bearers; and along with the following of the old list, constitute the Executive Council:—**VICE-PRESIDENTS**—E. Lankester, M.D., F.R.S., J. F. Marson, Esq.: **TREASURER**—Augustus Sayer, M.D.: **HONORARY SECRETARIES**—S. W. J. Merriman, M.D., C. H. F. Routh, M.D.Lond.: **COUNCILLORS**—W. Harding, Esq., F. R. Manson, M.D.Lond., T. H. Tanner, M.D., W. R. Rogers, M.D., W. Harvey, Esq.

THE RETIRING PRESIDENT, Mr. Hird, having left the chair, Dr. Chowne proposed that Dr. Murphy should take it in capacity of Vice-President, that advantage might be taken of the crowded meeting, to mark the high appreciation which the Society had of the eminent services rendered by Mr. Hird, during his time of office, which would terminate at next meeting, when the minutes of the present had been confirmed. The proposition was carried by acclamation; as was likewise a formal vote of thanks to Mr. Hird, to which that gentleman replied in a few elegant and hearty sentences. At the conclusion of his speech, the Fellows rose *en masse*, and maintained, for several minutes, the most enthusiastic cheering.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY. For some days past, it has been currently rumoured, that at the **ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS** on the 1st March, an attempt will be made to modify the House-list in some of its leading features. The extent to which this endeavour may be supported, will probably form but a feeble indication of the degree of dissatisfaction which prevails; as, though the majority of the Society is notoriously adverse to the present system of management and distribution of honours, yet to obtain an amount of co-operation sufficient to cast out any one of the names published by the council, can hardly be expected. To accomplish this, more than a hurried organization is required. Whatever be the result of the ballot, and whatever be the character of the discussion which may precede or follow it, we sincerely hope it may conduce to the permanent good of an Institution, which contains within it all the elements of greatness and utility; and that from this day henceforth there may be secured an entire community of feelings and interests between the ruling and the other Fellows. Antagonism between the rulers and the ruled, may be a normal condition in Royal Colleges founded in, and for, a by-gone age; but it is neither necessary nor natural in an institution, with so free a constitution as the Royal Medical and

Chirurgical Society. As we said on a former occasion, (p. 178,) the most needed reform is to abolish the noxious and illegal bye-law, which gives birth to the House-list : and let there be *an open nomination by the Fellows*, the ballot determining the election, as appointed in the charter, and not being a mere farce, or necessitating a troublesome concert, when others than those named by the Council require to be brought forward. There can be little prosperity, or brotherly feeling, in the Society, till the President and Council are the free choice of the Fellows, and the selection of papers for publication be impartial.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND is at present said to be in a peculiar position with regard to its treasury, and to the increased probability of a rival College being sanctioned by Government. This measure, it is to be hoped, may not be required ; as, if an independent College examine in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery, the General Practitioners, who now in legions join the College of Surgeons—only (as they say) to be repudiated—would for the future enrol themselves in the new College, by which they would be fostered, and in which they might rise to professional distinction, apart from seniority or favour. There is no need of new Colleges, if the old ones were adapted to the age we live in, and to the more general diffusion of sound professional knowledge. As the general practitioners are every day becoming a more educated and scientific body, they can no longer be treated as their predecessors, the druggists, of 1815. Time, perhaps, may yet adjust all questions of Medical Reform ; but, in the present transition state of the profession, it is incumbent on all to study conciliation, and, if need be, to make personal sacrifices for the common good.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH. A bill is now passing through the House of Commons, entitled—"A Bill for enabling Her Majesty to grant a new Charter to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh ; and for conferring farther powers on said College." This measure relates, we believe, entirely to private arrangements, and not to public questions. It provides for bringing to a close the existing Widows' Fund, and separating the College from the Incorporated Trades of Edinburgh.

THE FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW, we are sorry to learn, are applying for a new Charter, and increased privileges, as a licensing body. One incorporation, with the licensing power for the United Kingdom, would be sufficient ; but with a College of Physicians and Surgeons in Scotland, the Glasgow Faculty is more than superfluous. It might, with great propriety, be merged in, or united with, one or other of the Colleges in Edinburgh.

ROYAL EDINBURGH MATERNITY HOSPITAL. The annual meeting of the Governors and friends of this Hospital was recently held,—the LORD PROVOST in the Chair.

MR. BUCHANAN, S.S.C., the Secretary, read the Report of the Directors, which stated that, owing to a falling off in the amount of subscriptions, they had been under the necessity of drawing on the funds in the Bank to the extent of £60. During the past year, 687 persons had had medical attendance during their confinement ; and 259 had, in addition, received shelter and maintenance within the Hospital. The expenditure amounted to £385. Two deaths had occurred during the year.

BISHOP TERROT moved a resolution, to the effect that the Report be adopted and circulated, and recommending the charity to the more liberal support of the community ; and suggesting that, since Edinburgh had become so distinguished in the obstetric art, there should be something more definite than a simple recommendation for increasing the subscriptions, by bringing the Institution under the notice of those strangers who were now continually resorting to Edinburgh. Dean of Guild WILSON seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.—[*From an Edinburgh Newspaper.*]

MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE RESPECTING MEDICAL REFORM. A meeting of the delegates of the various medical associations appointed to watch over the Medical Reform Question, was held on Tuesday, February 19th, at the Hanover-square Rooms, NATHANIEL CLIFTON, Esq., in the chair. The answer of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons to the Council of the National Institute, was submitted to the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said that this document was only another illustration of the shuffling conduct of the College Council. It was for the Conference to decide, whether they would put up with such treatment any longer.

Mr. BOTTOMLEY said that it was now quite clear that we must have a separate and independent college, possessing full powers in every respect. It would be quite absurd to attempt anything further with the Council of the College. He should move, that "after the receipt of the letter from the Council of the College of Surgeons, now read, it is inexpedient to make any further application to that Council."

Mr. BOWLING seconded the resolution.

DR. WEBSTER (Dulwich) said that no one could now doubt what was the course to be pursued. With respect to the letter from the Council of the College of Surgeons, it was unkind, uncourteous, unfriendly, and unjust, and calculated to produce great dissatisfaction and angry feelings throughout the great body of the profession. They had gone to that Council, to entreat them to do justice to the great mass of the surgeons of the kingdom, and this was the answer! If the Council had agreed to all that the Conference required, it would have left them, after all, in an unpleasant position. The profession must be re-modelled, so that equal privileges should be granted to all who had passed an adequate examination. Many gentlemen in practice were not members of the College of Surgeons in London, but doctors of medicine, licentiates, and Fellows of other bodies; and these should be privileged to practice; they were received into the army and navy, and why not to other public offices? If they all united, there could be no doubt of their attaining their object. With respect to the assumption of the Council of the College of Surgeons, that they had the full control over the examination of surgeons, and were the only surgical body in the kingdom, he had to state that the Scottish Universities had the power, after examination, of granting a diploma of *Magister Chirurgiæ*, and he believed the English Universities had the same. The London University, at all events, by their Charter, had the power, and did examine, in "medicine, surgery, midwifery, and pharmacy," and he believed, could grant degrees in these separate departments. On what grounds, then, did the College of Surgeons assume their sole power over examinations in surgery? It was evidently a mere assumption. This was a precedent, at all events, with which they could go before Sir George Grey. (Cheers.)

The resolution of Mr. Bottomley having been put, was carried unanimously.

It was stated by Mr. ANCELL and Mr. BIRD, that the Council of the National Institute had, on the part of that body, answered the letter of the Council of the College of Surgeons: that letter would shortly be published. They might observe that the Council of the National Institute were now determined to obtain a new College, with full right to examine in all branches, and to be independent of all other bodies. That Council, wishing to act on the principle of mutual concession, had, at the suggestion of Sir George Grey, agreed to certain principles; but this was under very different circumstances from those in which they were now placed; and the consequence was, they must agitate for an independent College. (Great cheering.)

The following resolution was proposed, seconded, and unanimously carried:—

"That the resolution, empowering the deputation to wait upon Sir George Grey, passed at the last meeting of the Conference, be acted on; and that a letter be written to Sir George Grey, requesting him to appoint a time to receive the deputation."

Several gentlemen having expressed their determination to carry out the objects of the meeting, the Conference separated, after making arrangements for future action. [Abridged from the *Lancet*.]

CHOLERA SERVICES. TESTIMONIAL TO MR. R. H. WHITEMAN, SURGEON, PUTNEY. On the 16th of January, Mr. R. H. Whiteman was presented with a valuable testimonial, purchased by the subscriptions of numerous inhabitants of Putney. It consisted of a handsome silver tankard and salver, and a gold watch, upon each of which was engraved an inscription, indicating the sense entertained by the donors of the "zealous and efficient services rendered by Mr. Whiteman, as the medical officer of the district, during the late visitation of cholera." The presentation was prefaced by an address by the Rev. Edward East, the officiating minister of the parish : and Mr. Whiteman made a suitable reply.

SOURCE OF THE DIPLOMAS OF LONDON PHYSICIANS. A correspondent of the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, has given the following analysis of the sources of these honours of medical men, whose names appear in the London department of the *Medical Directory*. It will be observed, that 509 have a degree of M.D., and 45 that of M.B. They are thus distributed to the various universities.

Edinburgh	...	...	...	M.D.	...	...	...	...	178
London	...	...	...	M.D.	36	}	...	...	66
				M.B.	30				
Oxford	...	...	...	M.D.	24	}	...	...	25
				M.B.	1				
Cambridge	...	.	...	M.D.	38	}	...	...	41
				M.B.	8				
Dublin	...	...	...	M.D.	6	}	...	...	11
				M.B.	5				
St. Andrew's	...	...	...	M.D.	...	...	...	...	68
Glasgow	...	...	...	M.D.	...	...	...	...	35
Aberdeen	...	...	...	M.D.	...	...	...	...	30
Paris	...	...	...	M.D.	...	...	...	...	15
German	...	...	...	M.D.	...	...	...	...	59
Various Continental	}			M.D.	...	...	...	...	13
Universities—Austria,									
Prussia, Italy, etc.									
America and U.S.	...	...	...	M.D.	...	...	...	...	6
Nondescript (<i>i. e.</i> ,)	}			M.D.	6	}	...	...	7
the degree being given									
without the University									
being mentioned	...			M.B.	1				
Total.....									554

PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES. MR. H. L. SMITH, of Southam, proposes to renew the discussion of his favourite scheme, and has announced his intention of spending some months in London, that he may the more easily make known his opinions regarding, and his experience of, these admirable institutions, of which he may be said to be the father. We have reluctantly been obliged to defer the publication of Mr. Smith's lecture for another month.

ROYAL SOCIETY. The abolition of the Committees has given great satisfaction to the majority of the Fellows : and is likely to conduce to the prosperity of the Society.