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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

At the late distribution of prizes in this College, Dr. Parkes, who occupied the chair on this occasion, made the following admirable remarks, which we have much pleasure in recording, as they are well deserving the attention of all students of medicine.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I am quite sure that you will permit me to offer, in the name of this assembly, our hearty congratulations to those gentlemen who have so distinguished themselves to-day; not merely because they have gained, in honourable rivalry, so many medals, but because in gaining them they must also have acquired the things which these prizes typify. They must have acquired habits of industry, accuracy of thought, excellence of memory, and, to a given extent, knowledge of their profession. And in congratulating them, I will also express a hope that they will consider these prizes merely as steps, not as goals; as means, not as ends; as incentives to perseverance and progress, not as signals for cessation from labour. Cessation from labour comes to no man, least of all to men of our profession with its incessant progress and its ever-widening area. But if there be no cessation from labour, yet as we advance labour becomes less laborious; the grooves of thought become smoother; and the habits which required emulation, and rivalry, and prizes, and medals, to excite and sustain them in our youth, become a part of ourselves, and ceasing to be labours are transformed into pleasures. Into that career of wholesome and pleasant labour our prizemen of to-day have entered; they must hold fast by what they have won; remembering and encouraging themselves by the remembrance that the first steps of application are the most difficult, and that they have happily passed over that rugged introduction to science, which, doubtless, has both tested and developed their resolution and their industry.

But, in congratulating our prizemen, we ought not to forget the unsuccessful competitors, the gentlemen who have won no prizes. It is possible that these gentlemen will think it rather paradoxical if I congratulate them also, and will consider it no compliment to be told that they are all the better men for being beaten. But something may be said on that score. There is an old saying, "He stands not surely who never slips"; and certainly there is no such teacher as failure. How usefully, not only in our college exercises, but throughout life, does failure come in to show us our deficiencies, and to admonish us that there is something which must be probed and mended. Ask any man of experience what has acted most beneficially on his character, and he will refer, not to his successes, but his failures. "Sweet are the uses of adversity." And even in a failure for a college prize may arise an improvement which may act on the whole character. Let any man who has failed ask himself whether there is not something to amend; a want of industry, a want of purpose or method, an over-estimate of himself, or an under-estimate of others; and if he rightly conduct and act upon this self-examination, then we may safely venture to congratulate him even on his failure.

There is, however, in every college, a third class of students—here, I hope, a small one—who cannot, I am afraid, in any way be congratulated; viz., those gentlemen who have not contended for prizes at all. There are some who will not compete, either from idleness, or from fear of being beaten, or by a fancy that one subject may take up too much time, or by what they consider a philosophical contempt for such rewards. But search well into the motive for such inertia, and we shall very seldom find it a sound one. And every one should remember that the working for the prize is the real

gain, not the prize itself; and certainly in the working for prizes, in the sustained industry it calls out during the whole session, in the reconsideration of all that has been gone through which it renders necessary before the day of competition, nay even in the task of answering a number of questions rapidly in a short time on the day itself, are precious means of education which no student is wise to throw aside.

On the whole, the advantages of the prize system so preponderate over its disadvantages, that without it there would be a great falling off in the aggregate amount of learning acquired in a given session; but the full uses of the system will never be called forth until the emulation extends to the whole college; till every student competes, not with the mere wish of proving superior to his neighbours, but as a means of compelling himself to war against idleness, and carelessness, and inaccuracy, and distaste, and to sustain the feeling of duty by the stimulus of an honourable emulation.

And now let me say a few words to those students some of whom, I hope most of whom, are among the prizemen of to-day; I mean those to whom this is the last prize anniversary, and who are about to pass out of these gates into the crush and turmoil of the world. They will enter, in fact, into another college, where education, if differently conducted, is not less real and continuous. And I believe it may be said for our profession, that, intellectually and morally, it educates those who practise it as well as any other, and probably better than most. For, intellectually, what can be a better training for the mind than the science of our day—bold, yet cautious; wide, yet deep; sceptical, yet believing; holding what is old, yet striving for what is new; like Janus, having two faces, one looking to the past, and one to the future? The true science of our day does really carry out the precept given us for a different matter; viz., "Prove all things; hold fast by that which is good." And in this proving all things lies one of those difficulties which are our best educators. It is no easy matter for the mind to hold the balance even between old and new, and to be neither too stubborn to retain nor too rash and eager to receive; and yet this is a state of mind which we must sedulously watch and strive to acquire. And I believe that those who are leaving this College will hereafter say that the education they have received here has greatly aided them in the acquirement of this power; for it is the legitimate boast of those who administer University College that, standing on the old ways, they have yet often been the first to open fresh roads; and, by happy innovations which are not destructions, they have greatly advanced and benefited the teaching of medical science.

And if our profession is a great intellectual trainer, it is no less a moral one. It not only excites the feelings of pity, of sympathy, and of friendship, but it places those who practise it in positions in which they must exercise the great and guiding quality of justice, without which the purest benevolence and the most fervent charity would only lead astray.

That those who are soon about to leave us may obtain these intellectual and moral prizes, as well as the worldly advantages which, let poets say what they will, do certainly commonly fall to the lot of those who act at the same time sensibly, judiciously, and honestly,—is, I need not say, our earnest wish. I would ask them not to forget their Alma Mater and their old teachers, to whom in after life they will feel that they owe the precious gift of a sound and enlightened education.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, I feel that I am only meeting your wishes when I venture to congratulate the professors themselves on another year of useful and successful labour. As we have heard in the Report, great changes have taken place in the medical department during the past year. The College has lost the keen, subtle, and practised intellect of Dr. Walshe, and

Dr. Garrod's ingenious and industrious mind. It is much to the credit of the College that it has been able to fill up, and most worthily to fill up, these important vacancies from the ranks of its own pupils, and thus to secure a continuance of that excellent teaching which has placed this College in so high a rank among the great medical schools.

It is, I am sure, the earnest wish of this great assembly that the usefulness and prosperity of the future may throw into the shade even the prosperous and useful past of University College.

DEATH OF DR. JOHN HATCH POWER.

WITH the deepest feelings of regret we have to record the decease of this distinguished and respected member of the medical profession. Dr. Power was one of the two Professors of Surgery in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and one of the Surgeons of the City of Dublin Hospital; appointments which he obtained by steady perseverance in an uninterrupted course of successful labour as a teacher, writer, and practitioner, and which he filled with credit to himself and advantage to both these institutions. By colleagues and pupils he was valued as a friend, and by observers of his character admired as a straightforward and conscientious member of society, ever ready to afford advice and assistance. To those entering the medical profession we can with confidence point to the career of our lamented fellow-labourer as a lesson not to be forgotten or disregarded; proving as it does that the honest, steadfast, and industrious pursuit of legitimate objects of ambition is the surest course towards success and reputation. The object of these our imperfect encomiums was indebted to no questionable expedients to obtain admission into the body of which he became a conspicuous member, neither was he indebted to any unsuitable practice to arrive at the position he occupied. As a student he was a diligent and punctual attendant in all places of instruction, and an attentive observer of all facts and objects of importance submitted to his view, while as a practitioner he was content with that recognition of his just claims to public confidence which a quiet discharge of professional duties secures. We believe that the fatal disease was in the beginning of a rheumatic nature, accompanied by severe symptoms, in the sequel assuming a formidable typhoid character. The prostration which followed his remains to their resting place in St. Patrick's Cathedral on Monday last bore a sad testimony to the respect in which his well applied talents and Christian virtues were held, for it included nearly every member of the profession in this city, his colleagues, and almost every student of medicine at present in Dublin, as well as many of our most distinguished citizens, whose professional confidence and friendship he had enjoyed for many years. (*Dub. Med. Press*)

COCOA STATISTICS. Ten million pounds weight of cocoa were imported into the United Kingdom last year, an increase upon the returns of 1861 of about 880,000lbs. Considerably more than one-half of the entire supply in the latter year came from the British West Indies. Ecuador sent one and three quarter million lbs.

PRODUCTIVENESS OF FISH. Mr. Buckland tells us that there are probably no creatures in nature which are better calculated to repay our care by their enormous productiveness than fish. From experiments he had ascertained that the salmon and trout both deposited eggs at the rate of 1,000 for every pound weight of the parent fish. Turbot deposited 385,000 eggs; roach, 48,000; mackerel, 86,000; jack, 42,800; brill, 239,000; smelt, 36,000; soles, 134,000; perch, 120,000; and the codfish no less than 4,000,000.

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Association Intelligence.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Thirty-first Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be holden at Bristol, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, the 5th, 6th, and 7th days of August.

PHILIP H. WILLIAMS, M.D., *Gen. Sec.*

Worcester, April 21st, 1863.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

NAME OF BRANCH.	PLACE OF MEETING.	DATE.
BATH AND BRISTOL. [Annual.]	Philosophical Institution, Bristol.	Thursday, June 18, 4.30 P.M.
EAST ANGLIAN. [Annual.]	Yarmouth.	Friday, June 26th, 3 P.M.
WEST SOMERSET. [Annual.]	The Squirrel Hotel, Wellington.	Wednesday, July 1, 2 P.M.

EAST YORK AND NORTH LINCOLN BRANCH: ANNUAL MEETING.

THE seventh annual meeting of this Branch was held at the Hull Infirmary on May 14, 1863, at 1 P.M.; F. B. ANDERSON, Esq., President, in the chair. Sixteen members and one visitor were present.

Mr. HARDEY, on retiring as president, spoke of the pleasure it had afforded him to preside over a meeting composed of his colleagues, with whom he had lived so long on terms of intimacy and friendship. On resigning the office to his friend Mr. Anderson, who with himself were the oldest members of the Branch, he felt convinced that that gentleman would sustain the duties of that office with credit to himself and gratification to the members generally. He himself had to thank the members of this meeting for their attention and many kindnesses he had received at their hands during the past year.

New Members. It was resolved that S. B. Denton, M.D., Hornsea; J. W. Dudley, Esq., Patrington; S. N. Harrison, Esq., Patrington; E. S. Roberts, Esq., Hull; John Armington, Esq., Hull; and A. O. Arden, Esq., Hull; be admitted members of the Branch.

Officers for 1863-4. The officers appointed for the ensuing year are as follows:—*President*: F. B. Anderson, Esq. (Hessle). *President-Elect*: O. Daly, M.D. *Representatives in General Council*: Sir H. Cooper, M.D. (Hull); W. J. Lunn, M.D. (Hull). *Honorary Secretary*: H. Munroe, M.D., F.L.S. (Hull). *Committee*: Sir H. Cooper, M.D. (Hull); R. M. Craven, Esq. (Hull); O. Daly, M.D. (Hull); K. King, M.D. (Hull); R. Hardey, Esq. (Hull); W. J. Lunn, M.D. (Hull); J. P. Bell, M.D. (Hull).

Notice of Alteration of Law. Dr. MUNROE gave notice that at the next general meeting he should propose an alteration of Law 3:—"That four members of the Committee of Management instead of five should form a quorum."

Next General Meeting. It was resolved that the next general meeting should be held at Howden.

Papers. The following papers and communications were made:—

1. Modern Treatment of Glaucoma. By K. King, M.D.
2. Case of Intestinal Calculus. By W. H. Eddie, Esq.
3. Notes on Revaccination. By J. P. Bell, M.D.
4. Preternatural Labour; Rare Presentation. By H. Munroe, M.D.
5. Case. By R. M. Craven, Esq.