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University Of London

Source: *The British Medical Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 101 (Dec. 4, 1858), pp. 1018-1019

Published by: BMJ

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25192910>

Accessed: 13-08-2021 06:31 UTC

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## HEALTH OF LONDON:—WEEK ENDING NOVEMBER 27TH, 1858.

[From the Registrar-General's Report.]

THE unusually heavy mortality, which the returns of London for last week announce, will be seen with regret. In the first week of this month the deaths were 1,217, in the two following weeks they were 1,349 and 1,487, and in the week ending last Saturday they rose to 1,802. The mean temperature of the air in the first week of November was 43·3°; in the last three weeks, it was successively 39·0°, 35·5°, and 37·4°. Without attempting at present an exact appreciation of recent meteorological conditions in relation to health, it is sufficient to state that the mortality of the month attained its highest point, which was far above the average, in a week in which the thermometer fell 12° below the freezing point of water, and frost was then suddenly exchanged for heat and moisture.

In the ten years 1848-57, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1,150; but as the 1,802 deaths now returned occurred in an increased population, they should be compared with the average when the latter has been raised in proportion to the increase, a correction which will make it 1,265. Hence, it appears that 537 persons died last week in excess of the number that would have died if only the average rate of mortality for the end of November had prevailed.

A comparison of the results of the last two weeks exhibits an increase, more or less important, in all the classes in which the causes of death are distributed. Deaths from zymotic diseases increased from 356 in the previous week to 413 last week; constitutional diseases from 253 to 288; local (which include those of the respiratory organs) from 695 to 859; developmental from 131 to 174; and violent deaths from 35 to 42. To take some special diseases: scarlatina increased in the two weeks from 133 to 163; phthisis from 166 to 190; bronchitis from 211 to 310; pneumonia from 166 to only 169; asthma from 20 to 28.

The deaths of three men and five women are recorded who had attained the age of 90 years or upwards. The two oldest were women, who died at the age of 97 years.

Last week, the births of 840 boys and 921 girls, in all 1,761 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1848-57, the average number was 1,508.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29·563 in. The barometrical readings varied from 28·84 in. to 30·06 in. The mean temperature of the week was 37·4°, which is 3·9° below the average of the same week in 43 years (as determined by Mr. Glaisher). On the first four days the mean daily temperature was below, on the last three above the average; the depression on Tuesday and Wednesday was equal to 15°; on Friday the excess was 11°. The lowest point attained by the thermometer was 20·5° on Wednesday; the highest 58° on Friday. The entire range of the week was therefore 37·5°; the mean daily range was 12·3°. The range on Saturday was only 5·2°. Tuesday was the coldest day in November since November 23rd, 1827; and the mean temperature of Tuesday and Wednesday was lower than that of any two consecutive days in November as far back as authentic records extend. The mean temperature of Friday was higher than that of Tuesday and Wednesday by 25°. The difference between the mean dew-point temperature and air temperature was 2·3°. The mean degree of humidity of the air was 92. The mean temperature of the water of the Thames was 38·9°. The wind blew from the east, afterwards from the south-east. Rain fell to the amount of 0·22 in.

**LEPROSY IN PIEDMONT.** The *Gazette Médicale de Lyon* announces that an infirmary for lepers has been established at St. Remy, a town of Piedmont, situated on the coast. In this locality there are about forty persons affected with leprosy. They were scattered about the country, and each received a pension. This bounty, derived from the religious order of St. Maurice, indirectly caused a deplorable result; for the unfortunate individuals, in consequence of the subsidy which they received, very easily found opportunities of marriage, and thus transmitted their disease to their offspring. The pension is henceforth suppressed; and the patients are to be received into an institution where they will have every care and enjoy every desirable convenience. If most of them resolve to enter, it is to be hoped that the malady, in the locality mentioned, will become extinct. (*L'Union Médicale*, Nov. 18.)

## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

[THE following documents, in reference to the election of Dr. Storrar, have been forwarded for publication.]

Some misapprehension appears to exist in certain quarters as to the objects and sentiments of those graduates who have recently taken an active part in ascertaining and asserting the rights of themselves and of their fellow-graduates, in the matter of electing a representative to the Medical Council.

Having officiated as Secretaries to the public meeting of November 17th, at No. 5, Cavendish Square, we have been brought into communication (in most cases by letter) with more than one hundred of the medical graduates in town and country, and have, therefore, been able to ascertain the general feeling in respect to the question at issue. At the request of many, and in obedience to our own conviction, we think it desirable to state what appear to be the sentiments of the very large majority of those with and for whom we have hitherto acted.

1. It is almost unanimously regarded as a point of the first importance to ascertain with whom the right of election to the Medical Council, on behalf of the University, really lies—whether with the Senate exclusively, or with the whole Corporation as constituted by the charter.

This vital question can only be settled by an appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench, the highest legal authority in the matter; and the only method of raising it is by the issue of an information in the nature of a writ of *quo warranto* against Dr. Storrar, for which a rule *nisi* was obtained on the last day of Michaelmas Term (November 25).

Let it be remarked that no personal question is here involved; no personal feeling is manifested or can be gratified by the proceeding. It is a matter between the Senate and the graduates at large. Had the representative selected been one against whom no word of objection had ever been uttered, it would have been equally the duty of the graduates to assert their right (if it exists) to the exercise of an important function. It is a question wholly of principle, not of person. Further, we believe there is a general conviction, in which we unhesitatingly participate, that the Senate intended by this election to act conformably to the wishes of the graduates, respecting which, however, there can be no doubt that it had been seriously misinformed.

2. Certain objections have been made to Dr. Storrar, as a representative of the University in the Medical Council, on the ground that he is not the most fitting man to hold that position.

On this question it is sufficient to make the following statement. Seventy-five graduates, among whom are many of the most distinguished members of the Faculty of Medicine, have forcibly stated in writing their convictions to this effect, and have signed a copy of the resolution expressing them, with a view to its being laid before the Senate; while a considerable number who have not signed this document, have given adhesion to the sentiments which it expresses. The fact that Dr. Storrar does not represent a very large and important portion of that Faculty is now indisputable. Personally, and on behalf of our associates, we most emphatically disavow any objection to Dr. Storrar, except such as exists on purely public grounds. The duty of making a protest against his election has been to us an unpleasant and painful one; the more so, that we are aware how zealously he cooperated with the original Graduates' Committee in promoting the objects for which it was organised. But while according him all the credit he may claim for these services, we maintain that they confer on him no title to represent the interests of our profession in the National Medical Council.

An effort has been made to identify this movement with a section of the graduates who belong to the College of Physicians. A complete reply to this utterly unfounded allegation is the fact, that of the seventy-five medical graduates who have recorded their signatures, a large majority are not members of that body. Nothing can be more irrelevant to the question at issue than its complication with this subject. We are at a loss to understand how good service can arise to any cause by attempts to perpetuate party jealousies between the various sections of our profession.

The only question for our present consideration is briefly explained in the accompanying paper, to which we very respectfully request your attention.

EDWARD BALLARD, M.D.

HENRY THOMPSON, F.R.C.S., M.B.

November 30th, 1858.

*Address to Members of Convocation.*

November 24th, 1858.

The question that has been raised as to the right of the senate to appoint a representative to the Medical Council is entirely distinct from, and independent of, the qualifications of the gentleman in whose favour the senate has in this instance exercised an assumed right. The subject is one in which the whole body of graduates is equally interested; for although it happens that the graduates of the medical faculty are, to-day, more directly and vitally concerned, it may, to-morrow, be a question affecting exclusively the interests of the graduates in Arts and Laws.

The real point involved in this dispute is, whether a power conferred by an Act of Parliament, passed subsequently to the date of our charter, upon "The University of London," is vested in the senate alone, or in that body in conjunction with the graduates. The absolute necessity for at once obtaining an authoritative decision on this point will appear from the following consideration alone; namely, that, according to the interpretation which the senate has put upon the Medical Reform Act, if the Legislature should at any future time confer parliamentary representation upon "The University of London," the right of electing *our* members in the House of Commons would belong to the senate exclusively, unless the electors were specifically defined.

A number of the graduates have, therefore, resolved to bring this important question before the Court of Queen's Bench, by applying, during the present term, for an information in the nature of a writ of *quo warranto* against Dr. Storrar; and they have entered into a subscription for the purpose of defraying the expenses of this proceeding, which are estimated at between £80 and £100.

It is earnestly hoped that all graduates, without distinction, will add their names to the subscription list, and thus contribute to the fund which is to be expended in ascertaining and asserting their rights.

It may be added, that the senate has declined to comply with the request made to it by Convocation to submit a case on the question to the law officers of the Crown, having certified the election of Dr. Storrar to the Privy Council; so that no other course than that above indicated is open to the graduates, unless they are willing in this, and all similar cases, to abandon any of their rights which may be disputed by the senate.

[The sum already subscribed amounts to £18.]

*Opinion of Mr. E. James, Q.C.*

1. I am of opinion that the choice of a member of the Medical Council is not vested in the Senate.

This is not in anywise a matter falling under the description of "affairs, concerns, and property of the said University," nor does the nominee range under the category of "examiners, officers, and servants of the said University."

2. I am of opinion also that the choice does not rest with the Convocation.

At the time when the statute passed, the charter had already been granted, and by it the "University of London" is made to consist of the chancellor, vice-chancellor, fellows, and graduates. Parliament having such charter before it, as is shown by clause 53, and knowing, therefore, what the Senate and Convocation were, and what were their respective powers, does not give the choice to either of those bodies by name, as I conceive it would if the intention had been to confer the right of voting on a section of the University; but confers the choice upon the University at large, which it must have known consisted by the very terms of the charter, of the entire body of chancellor, vice-chancellor, fellows, and graduates. In my opinion, therefore, the senate, in electing a member of the Medical Council, have done that which they had no power to do, and that the gentleman so elected has no answer to a writ of *quo warranto*, if it shall be determined to question the jurisdiction of the Senate.

Upon the broad view of the statute I am clearly of opinion that the legislature intended to give to every one of the bodies named in the fourth section of the statute the privilege of electing a member to represent the entire body in the Medical Council, and that this could not be effected properly save by giving the right of voting to the entire body of graduates.

I may add that there are professorships at the University of Oxford for which all graduates (M.A.) are entitled to vote.

Suppose a statute were now to pass giving an additional member of Parliament *simpliciter* to the University of Oxford,

could it be contended for a moment with success that such additional member must be elected by any other body than the graduates at large? I think not.

EDWARD JAMES.

3, Paper Buildings, Temple, November 9th, 1858.

## MEDICAL REGISTRATION: MEETING AT IPSWICH.

A MEETING of the medical practitioners of Suffolk, convened by private circular, was held at the Great White Horse Hotel, Ipswich, on Friday, November 26th. There were present; C. M. Durrant, M.D., in the Chair; A. H. Bartlet, Esq.; Dr. Bartlet; G. Bullen, Esq.; G. Bullen, jun., Esq.; Dr. Chevallier; G. C. Edwards, Esq.; W. Elliston, Esq.; J. O. Francis, Esq.; C. C. Hammond, Esq.; C. W. Hammond, Esq.; W. P. Mills, Esq.; W. Mumford, Esq.; T. Peacock, Esq.; J. Pilcher, Esq.; G. C. Sampson, Esq. (all of Ipswich); H. R. Cooper, Esq. (Ixworth); W. Cooper, Esq. (Bury St. Edmund's); W. Cuthbert, Esq. (Mendlesham); W. Ebdon, Esq. (Haughley); H. Gramshaw, Esq. (Laxfield); G. E. Jeaffreson, Esq. (Framlingham); R. Martin, Esq. (Holbrook); J. T. Muriel, Esq. (Hadleigh); W. Muriel, Esq. (Wickham Market); T. Radford, Esq. (Aspall). Letters were read from W. E. Crowfoot, Esq. (Beccles); H. L. Freeman, Esq. (Saxmundham); H. Garland, Esq. (Yoxford); R. V. Gorham, Esq. (Aldeburgh); W. E. Image, Esq.; and S. Newnham, Esq. (Bury St. Edmund's); E. Lock, Esq. (Debenham); S. Randall, Esq. (Yoxford); Dr. Williams (Southwold).

The following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

1. Proposed by W. MURIEL, Esq., seconded by C. C. HAMMOND, Esq.—

"That an Association be formed of duly qualified medical practitioners, to be called 'The Suffolk Medical Registration Association.'"

2. Proposed by R. MARTIN, Esq., seconded by H. R. COOPER, Esq.—

"That the object of the Association be to assist the Registrar to carry out the provisions of the new Medical Act."

3. Proposed by W. EBDON, Esq., seconded by W. CUTHBERT, Esq.—

"That a subscription of two shillings and sixpence be paid by every member of the Association, to defray the necessary expenses."

4. Proposed by A. H. BARTLET, Esq., seconded by G. C. SAMPSON, Esq.—

"That a Committee be now formed to carry out the objects of the Association, and to convene a general meeting of the members when necessary."

The following gentlemen were requested to act upon the Committee:—A. H. Bartlet, Esq.; G. Bullen, Esq.; G. C. Edwards, Esq.; C. C. Hammond, Esq.; G. C. Sampson, Esq. (of Ipswich); H. R. Cooper, Esq. (Ixworth); J. S. Gissing, Esq. (Woodbridge); H. L. Freeman, Esq. (Saxmundham); S. Freeman, Esq. (Stowmarket); R. Growse, Esq. (Bildeston); H. Gramshaw, Esq. (Laxfield); W. E. Image, Esq. (Bury St. Edmund's); R. Martin, Esq. (Holbrook); J. T. Muriel, Esq. (Hadleigh); W. Muriel, Esq. (Wickham Market); besides the President and Secretary, to whom a vote of thanks was given at the termination of the proceedings.

B. CHEVALLIER, M.D.,

*Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.*

MEDICAL REGISTRATION. A meeting of the medical profession of Stockport and the surrounding district was held on Tuesday, November 23rd, in the Board-room of the Stockport Infirmary, for the purpose of forming a Registration Association for the neighbourhood. Dr. Turner was called to the chair. It was resolved—1. "That this meeting recognises the necessity of forming an Association to watch the registration under the new Medical Act." 2. "That the gentlemen now present (twenty-one in number) form the Association (with power to add to their number), to be called the Stockport Medical Registration Association." 3. "That the business be transacted at general meetings (five to be a quorum), called by the secretary, at the written request of three members." 4. "That Mr. Pitman be secretary and treasurer." 5. "That a subscription of 2s. 6d. each be entered into to defray expenses." 6. "That a report be sent to the medical papers." Dr. Turner having left the chair, a vote of thanks to him was carried by acclamation.