

A memorial, presented to the medical and surgical officers of the Worcester, Salop, Birmingham, Gloucester, and Hereford, Infirmarys, on the abuses existing in the public Hospitals : with an appendix, containing the answers received from them.

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A
MEMORIAL,
PRESENTED TO
THE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL OFFICERS
OF THE
WORCESTER, SALOP, BIRMINGHAM,
Gloucester, and Hereford,
INFIRMARIES,
ON THE
ABUSES EXISTING IN THE PUBLIC HOSPITALS;
WITH
AN APPENDIX,
CONTAINING THE ANSWERS RECEIVED FROM THEM.

SOLD BY RENSHAW AND RUSH, STRAND, LONDON;
H. DEIGHTON, WORCESTER;
AND THE VARIOUS BOOKSELLERS IN THE NEIGHBOURING TOWNS

1831.

MEMORIAL

THE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL OFFICERS

OF THE

WORCESTER SALVO, BIRMINGHAM

ESTABLISHED, AND EXTENDED.

THE following Memorial was presented to the Council of the British Medical Association at their meeting at Brighton on the 10th of August 1862, and was not until after the expiration of a week that it was read out to them (and of nearly the same time to the Council of the Royal Medical Society) being brought forward by the Secretary of the Society.

THE MEMORIAL IS THE PROPERTY OF THE SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY, AND IS NOW DEPOSITED IN THE LIBRARY OF THE SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY, AND IS AVAILABLE FOR THE USE OF THE PUBLIC.

The object of the Memorial is to draw attention to the fact that the Medical Officers of the Army and Navy are not only entitled to a share in the honours and distinctions which are conferred upon the Officers of the Army and Navy, but also to a share in the honours and distinctions which are conferred upon the Officers of the Civil Service.

The Memorial is divided into three parts, the first of which contains a list of the names of the Medical Officers of the Army and Navy who have been distinguished by the honours and distinctions which are conferred upon the Officers of the Army and Navy, and the second of which contains a list of the names of the Medical Officers of the Army and Navy who have been distinguished by the honours and distinctions which are conferred upon the Officers of the Civil Service.

The Memorial is signed by the Medical Officers of the Army and Navy, and is addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

R35912

PREFACE.

THE following Memorial was *originally* addressed, *privately* and *exclusively*, to the Medical and Surgical Officers of the Worcester Infirmary; and it was not until after the expiration of a week, that it was again sent to them, (and at nearly the same time to the Gentlemen of the other Institutions) *publicly*, through the medium of the Secretary.

The appeal in behalf of suffering humanity, having been made to them in vain, the Memorial is now submitted to the consideration of the public. In it, the writer vehemently protests against the practice of demanding Money from Students for attending the Hospitals; and the object he has had in view, is the more complete alleviation of the miseries to which mankind, from the infirmities of their nature, are liable. A subject, undoubtedly, of vast importance, and of universal interest. It is worthy of the most serious and anxious deliberation. For, who is there exempt from the attacks of disease, or the occurrence of injuries? or who, while sustaining the poignant anguish attending them, does not pray for the most speedy and effectual relief? But, deeply as this subject affects every class in society, the arguments adduced in the following pages address themselves particularly, and with peculiar force, to the Governors of Hospitals, and to that portion of the Medical Profession, to which the writer esteems it an honour to belong. The former possess the power of removing that of which he complains; the latter, by their continual exertions in the cause of humanity, have acquired the right of pointing out the propriety of such being done.

If, then, he has succeeded in proving, that the system of demanding exorbitant Sums of Money from Students, for admitting them to see the Practice of Medicine and Surgery in the Hospitals of the Country, be a direct violation of the objects of these Public Charities; a flagrant perversion of them to private purposes; a most cruel, iniquitous, and oppressive tax, levied on a most useful and necessary science, which, by obstructing its progress towards perfection, and by impeding the attainment of the knowledge essential to those who practise it, inflicts an incalculable injury on the community; he trusts, he may have said sufficient to induce the immediate abolition of a system, so little in accordance with Humanity and Justice.

But, if anything further be desired on this head, if any additional proof be required of the melancholy effects resulting to society from the operation of this system, he need only relate some of those melancholy cases (unfortunately too numerous) in which diseases have been mistaken, injuries remained undetected, and the unhappy patients have, consequently, suffered (to say the least) a great aggravation of pain and misery.

Unable to form the least conception of the nature of the arguments by which the system can be defended, even conceiving that no substantial reasons can possibly be brought forward in its support, he deems it superfluous to say more, than that he is prepared to prove, in the most unequivocal manner, that the alteration he has proposed in the following Memorial, will inevitably tend to establish, and to confirm the interests of these Charities.

Worcester, 20th Sept. 1831.

*To the Medical and Surgical Officers of the Worcester
General Infirmary.*

(From the London Medical and Surgical Journal, Oct. 1831.)

THE undersigned, being a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries of London, residing as a medical and surgical practitioner in the city of Worcester, is deeply impressed with the conviction, that the sciences of medicine and surgery are essential to the comfortable and happy existence of mankind; that the power they naturally possess of alleviating the "ills that flesh is heir to," will be increased in exact proportion as they advance nearer to perfection, and as the possession of health is the greatest blessing that can be enjoyed, so he is persuaded every one must consider those arts, the object of which is to preserve health, or to restore it, when impaired, of the utmost value; and every Philanthropist must have great interest in their progress; he consequently feels, that superadded to the ordinary duties devolving on him, as a member of the profession, there is another of the most urgent nature, and from which no circumstances whatever can release him, viz. the duty of endeavouring, by every method in his power, to assist in promoting the improvement of these important branches of human knowledge, and in diffusing in the widest manner, as far as his humble capacity permits, the benefits they are so capable of affording to society.

And he has been led to consider, that among the various means by which these desirable objects may be attained, not one appears more obvious than that of striving to render the medium through which these sciences operate on the community as adequate as possible to convey their full influence; or in other words, of endeavouring to improve the education of those persons to whom the bulk of mankind apply for relief when afflicted with sickness and disease.

Impelled then by this sense of duty, and by this consideration, the undersigned begs permission to direct the attention of the medical and surgical officers of the Worcester Infirmary to the state of medical and surgical education; and although the subject is one of extreme importance, and

admitting (as he thinks) of very great improvement in many particulars, he will advert, on the present occasion in as respectful a manner as he is able, to one point only connected therewith, viz. the restrictions by which students are prevented from freely attending those repositories of medical and surgical science, the public hospitals of the country, among which must be classed the Worcester General Infirmary ; and in so doing, he confidently anticipates that the arguments he shall be enabled to adduce, will have the effect of inciting the medical officers immediately to remove the *pecuniary* regulation presently to be noticed ; the existence of which prevents many students ~~of~~ availing themselves of the advantages to be derived from an attendance on this invaluable institution.

In commencing an inquiry into this subject, it will be proper to ascertain, first, whether hospitals, infirmaries, and dispensaries, be strictly public institutions ?

Whether they have been established for the benefit of private individuals, or for that of society at large ?

Secondly, under what circumstances students have at present permission granted to attend the practice of these institutions ? And by whom ?

Thirdly, whether these circumstances ought longer to continue ? And if not, whether any, and what new regulations may be suggested ?

The answer to the question, whether these establishments be of a public or private nature is quite clear, and does not admit of the least hesitation.

They are undeniably for the exclusive benefit of the PUBLIC. They have been founded, supported, and are now maintained by benevolent persons, for the express purpose of affording relief to the poor, when oppressed by disease ; and although this relief is for the most part administered to such on their personal application to the medical officers, the same end may equally be attained by affording to those medical and surgical persons under whose care the greater number of these individuals fall, the fullest opportunities of learning the nature and treatment of the diseases to which the human frame is liable ; for neither can the poor, nor any other class of society, receive effectual assistance in sickness, save by the hands of those who possess the necessary information, which these institutions are undoubtedly intended to afford facilities of acquiring.

The curing of diseases, and the diffusion of medical knowledge, are so intimately blended one with the other, as to be actually incapable of separation.

No one can entertain the least doubt, that such are the purposes intended to be effected by these institutions, and it would be a mere waste of

words, to adduce further arguments to prove a position, the truth of which no reasonable person can dispute.

The general affairs of these CHARITIES are conducted by those humane persons, who by their subscriptions contribute to support them, but possessing little or no information in medical matters, they usually leave these to be managed by the wisdom and discretion of the medical officers, conceiving that their professional knowledge will enable them better than any others to direct the energies of these institutions, to the complete attainment of the object they have in view.

Now, it follows of necessity, that all laws, rules, or regulations made by either of these two classes of individuals in their capacities as governors, ought to be enacted with this undivided intention, and ought to assist in some way or other in promoting it.

This leads to the second query proposed, viz.—What are the regulations, in the observance of which students may attend the practice of these institutions? Do they assist in the promotion of their objects? And by whom are they framed?

In answering this, the undersigned, with no invidious motive, will beg to take the Worcester Infirmary as a fair specimen of the English hospitals, as relating to this subject; first, observing that in Paris, no money is demanded from medical students; *there*, they are freely permitted to learn the art of alleviating the miseries of their fellow creatures.

In Edinburgh, the most celebrated school of medicine in the world, the fee is only *five* guineas for one year's attendance, including both the physician's and surgeon's practice; and in Glasgow, the same rule prevails. Moreover these payments, trifling as they are, do not go to the medical and surgical officers, but to the funds of the hospitals.

At the Worcester Infirmary (certainly not quite so distinguished as either of these), the undersigned believes the rule is, that a student shall pay twenty guineas to the physicians, and thirty guineas to the surgeons, for the privilege of seeing the patients contained in this public institution for one year, which sums are received by them as fees.

This, it must be confessed, appears a most extraordinary method of carrying into effect the benevolent purposes of this charity.

The undersigned declares, he is utterly unable to comprehend by what means this measure can facilitate the curing of diseases, or the diffusion of medical and chirurgical knowledge, the avowed objects of the institution. To him it is quite clear, it must have a directly opposite tendency.

How is it possible, that the payment of a sum of money by a student to

the medical and surgical officers for their own sole emolument, should promote the curing or relieving those persons who may be so unhappy as to be afflicted with disease?

But let us further enquire by whom this law hath been enacted and enforced? This consideration is important. By the PROFESSIONAL GENTLEMEN OF THE ESTABLISHMENT! Not casually and incidentally, but deliberately, and with all due consideration.

For whose benefit? Not for that of the sick poor; they are no parties to the transaction, nor do they receive any portion of the payment. Perhaps it is for the advantage of the pupils? By no means. Unless the paying of a sum of money to persons who have not the least right to demand it, and for that too, which may be more readily, more perfectly, and withal honestly, acquired by them without such payments, merits that appellation.

Seeing then, that this law is for the benefit neither of the sick poor nor the pupils, for whose then can it be? If it were said that these *fee-demanding* regulations have been framed by the physicians and surgeons of these charities whilst invested with the sacred character of governors, with a view to their own private emolument, regardless of every other consideration, could it be called an unwarrantable assertion? Is it not rather an inference, flowing, as it were, spontaneously from a consideration of the facts?

Far, very far indeed, be it from the writer to impute dishonorable motives to any man, much less to the highly respectable and eminent gentlemen whom he has now the honour of addressing, he therefore will not say, that in enacting this law these gentlemen have been influenced by a wish to obstruct the progress of medical science, or to keep the doors of this institution as closely shut as possible, or to prevent any, save themselves and their own pupils, from having access thereto; *he* entirely acquits them of any such intentions: nevertheless, it is very much to be lamented, that these have been the effects resulting from the operation of this law—how else can the following facts be explained?

There is not at this time, nor has been for a considerable period (with perhaps one or two exceptions), a single individual attending this place with the view of studying the healing art, save the pupils and apprentices of the medical officers, it seeming as if all others were effectually excluded by the heavy fees demanded from them.

And the undersigned verily believes, there are in the city *alone*, more than one or two individuals now educating for the medical and surgical

profession, who would, as he conceives, gladly avail themselves of the opportunities afforded by this institution, did not this circumstance prevent them.

To this system of exclusion, operating as it does, in an extensive manner, must be referred those melancholy mistakes in practice which unfortunately so frequently occur, which inflict irreparable injury on the sick, ruin the reputation of individuals, and impair the general character of the profession. If a surgeon leave a dislocation unreduced, what remedy hath the unhappy patient?

An action at law, whereby he obtains damages.

And of what doth the law convict the practitioner?

Not of ignorance of anatomy, but of ignorance of the symptoms of the injury in question; he was unacquainted with the signs, by which the accident was to be recognized, consequently was unable to detect the nature of it and apply the suitable remedy.

But the loss of credit to the practitioner, and the injury to the patient, are not the only ill effects resulting from the unskilful treatment.

The latter may be a poor man, having a large family; he is *now* no longer able to support them by his labour—he becomes, with them, an inmate of the workhouse, and a burthen to society.

This is no imaginary case.

The mode by which these unhappy occurrences may in future be prevented is sufficiently obvious, viz. permitting the rising generation free access (of course under proper regulations) to the public hospitals, when the knowledge of *signs* of injuries, and of symptoms of diseases may be acquired.

Thirdly, it would seem that enough has already been urged to shew that these laws ought never to have existed, and that they should be immediately removed, or at least modified; indeed, the undersigned has no hesitation in saying, that he firmly believes the medical and surgical officers of this, and the other provincial hospitals, would long since have abolished this nefarious system, had they not felt themselves, in some measure, compelled to follow the example, the unworthy example, set by their London brethren, of retaining it; but he indulges a well-grounded hope, that the former will now act according to the dictates of their own understandings.

(With the latter the appointed protectors and fosterers of this important science, the undersigned will take the liberty of conversing on another occasion.)

If any further argument were desired to prove the necessity of their removing these barriers to the diffusion of medical knowledge, it is to be found in the petition lately presented to both Houses of Parliament, by the majority of the medical and surgical officers of this institution, in conjunction with other practitioners, in which they bitterly lament the impediments thrown in the way of medical science, by the laws relating to anatomy, and pray earnestly for their removal, yet have they, by enforcing the before-mentioned regulation, raised up an obstruction to the progress of the science, compared with which the former are but as a mole hill to a mountain!

How inconsistent in them to complain of that state of things, which they themselves have assisted in producing, and for which they possess, in some degree at least, an almost instantaneous remedy!

Conceive the answer that might justly have been returned to this *son.* ~~charity~~!

How afflicting to the feelings of those who are connected with this charity.

For, if the present tone and temper of the public mind render it inexpedient, nay, almost impossible, at present to meddle with these laws relating to dissection, is it not, on that very account, infinitely more imperative on medical men, to remove those obstacles to the free progress of the arts of medicine and surgery, over which they themselves have complete controul, and which the very breath of their nostrils is alone able to disperse? Undoubtedly it is.

Is anatomy every thing? Is the personal observance of the phenomena of disease nothing to those who are studying medicine?

Will the most intimate acquaintance with the structure of the brain, or of the lungs, teach the symptoms of phrenitis or of pneumonia, unassisted by opportunities of observing these diseases?

Or do the hospital gentlemen imagine that the descriptions of disease, the lectures, with which they occasionally favour the rising generation,—do they fancy these more instructive than the lectures Nature herself delivers, daily and hourly within the wards of these temples, sacred to charity?

Science complains not so much of the legislature ^{of} as those, who, for their own gain (if, indeed, any such there be), would obstruct her in her endeavours to alleviate the miseries of mankind!

For these considerations, therefore, the undersigned begs to suggest to the medical and surgical officers of the Worcester Infirmary, the propriety of cancelling this rule, or of so modifying it, as to admit the sons,

pupils, and apprentices of medical men, generally, to the practice of this Institution, on the payment of a small fee only (which must be next to nothing), on their adhering to such other regulations as may seem best to be determined on.

And the undersigned fervently hopes, that this communication may have the effect of inducing the medical and surgical officers of this charity, to accede to some such arrangement, whereby they will confer a valuable boon on ~~society and a service~~ to themselves—the lasting gratitude of both; but if, unhappily, it should fail of this—if, after waiting a sufficient space of time, he should not receive a favourable answer, he will then be under the necessity of taking such other measures, as may seem to him best calculated to obtain the object he candidly confesses to have in view, viz. the persuading the medical and surgical officers of this, and of every other hospital and infirmary in the kingdom, to admit the attendance of the sons, pupils, and apprentices of medical men (of them only) freely, and without the payment of the enormous fees at present demanded.

In conclusion, the undersigned begs to apologize to the medical and surgical officers of the Worcester Infirmary, for presuming to address them at this length, and to assure them that in so doing he is not influenced by any improper or factious motives, and that he has the most unfeigned respect for them, both individually and collectively.

WM. HEBB.

St. Swithin Street, 16th Aug. 1831.

Notes.—1. I have addressed a similar communication to the medical officers of the Birmingham General Hospital, of the Gloucester, Hereford, and Salop Infirmaries.

2. There are seven or eight pupils now attending the Worcester Infirmary.

3. I thought it most respectful to leave the regulations alluded to, to be suggested by the medical officers, those which I could wish to be adopted are as follow:—

1st. Although I consider it unjust and unwise to demand money from students, for the privilege of attending the public hospitals, yet, as the attempt to abolish the practice entirely may be attended with difficulty, I would suggest, that hereafter, the payment demanded from a student, being the son or apprentice of a medical man, shall not, *in any case*, exceed the sum of five guineas for the first year, and three guineas for the second year; and a student having paid these two fees, shall have the privilege of perpetual attendance on the particular hospital to which he may have

*Profession, an incalculable benefit on Society,
and secure*

entered, or on that of any other, which it may hereafter be convenient for him to attend, ~~enabling~~ both the physician's and surgeon's practice.

That the students hereafter shall not be permitted (as is now the case) to run in and out the wards of these institutions, without the least regularity, apparently without any object, save that of indulging their own inclinations for rambling about; they shall in future not be permitted to enter the wards or the institutions, except at certain fixed hours, say for two hours every morning, at that time when the medical and surgical gentlemen are visiting their patients; and as there may be sometimes one or two very interesting cases, worthy of being observed twice a day, one hour every evening shall be allotted for affording an opportunity of so doing, and they shall not attend at any other time, save in the case of accidents, or other occurrences, by the seeing of which they may receive instruction.

2d. It shall not be permitted, as it now is, that boys just escaped from the correction of the schoolmaster, should have the privilege of visiting the patients, merely because they happen to be the pupils and apprentices of the medical and surgical officers. Oh, no! this monstrous circumstance should not be permitted to continue a single hour; hereafter, no pupil or apprentice shall enter the wards of these places, with the view of studying the diseases contained therein, until he hath acquired a preliminary knowledge of the profession, until he hath served at least ~~four~~ years of his apprenticeship or pupilage, unless it should seem fit to the governors, who alone have the power of regulating these matters, to make an exception in favour of the in-door apprentices of the medical and surgical officers.

That the books of the physicians and surgeons, in which are noted the cases, with the remedies prescribed, shall be placed in some situation, to which access may be afforded, at the above mentioned times, to the said students; to the end that they may copy into their own books, notes of such cases as may seem most instructive and most worthy of remembrance, and thereby that they may be rendered more capable of affording relief to those poor persons, who, when afflicted with sickness, may hereafter apply to them, when medical and surgical practitioners.

WM. HEBB.

Worcester, 28th Aug. 1831.

3rd candidates for examination ought to be compelled to produce certificates of having attended an Hospital.

3 years - 11/4

LONDON:

GUTHRIE, PRINTER, 15, SHOE LANE, FLEET STREET.

APPENDIX.

THE following are the answers to the foregoing Memorial.—
The attention of the reader is particularly requested to that from
the Salop Infirmary, and to the reply which was made to it.

Worcester, Aug. 27th, 1831.

Sir,

I am requested by the Medical and Surgical
Officers of the Worcester Infirmary, to send you the following
Resolution:

“The Medical and Surgical Officers of the Worcester Infirmary,
have read and considered Mr. Wm. Hebb’s Memorial, addressed
to them; and in reply they beg to inform him, they have no in-
tention of departing from their present regulation.”

I am, Sir,

Yours, obediently,

T. H. WHEELER, Secretary.

Mr. Wm. Hebb, Surgeon.

Salop Infirmary, 5th Sept. 1831.

Sir,

I repel, with the utmost indignation, your false
and scandalous attack on myself, and am really at a loss to know
how you dare make such a statement, contrary to truth, and a
gross libel on the Medical Officers, for (during the seventeen years
I have been one to this Charity) to my knowledge no fee has been
paid by a Student or Pupil to them; but, Sir, admitting there had
been, even then, I consider your observations on the Medical
Officers of this Institution, are uncalled for,* unjustifiable, and
contrary to all professional etiquette and decorum.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. P. JOHNSON, M. D.

Of the Royal Colleges of Edinburgh and of London.

Mr. Wm. Hebb, Surgeon, Worcester.

* The passage in the Memorial, alluding to the Gentlemen of the London
Hospitals, was accidentally omitted in those sent to the Salop and Hereford
Infirmaries.—W. H.

Perceiving from this Letter, that the system of demanding Fees from Students, did not obtain at the Salop Infirmary, and that the imputation of its existence there had naturally excited the abhorrence and anger of the Medical Officers, the following reply was sent by return of post, as an apology for the charge so unjustly alleged against them:

Worcester, Sept. 7th, 1831.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from you this morning, in answer, I presume, to a communication addressed by me, a few days ago, to the Medical and Surgical Officers of the Salop Infirmary, (through the medium of the Secretary); a similar paper having also been sent to those of the Gloucester, Birmingham, Hereford, and Worcester Infirmaries. In the commencement of your letter, you say, "I repel, with the utmost indignation, your false and scandalous attack on myself, and am really at a loss to know how you dare make such a statement, contrary to truth, and a gross libel on the Medical Officers." Permit me to enquire what attack I have made on *you*? Or how can you convert that which was a communication addressed to a body of individuals, into an attack upon *yourself*? I protest I have meant no such thing; and I tax my memory in vain, to find a sentence, in the paper alluded to, which can be applied to any single person. I repeat, I aim not to attack individuals. My observations are meant to apply to, and to deprecate, the system of demanding large Fees from Students, for attending the Public Hospitals; which I consider alike injurious to the best interests of the community and of the profession; a system, too, which prevails at almost every Hospital in the Kingdom; but, judging from your letter, the Salop Infirmary forms an exception exceedingly honourable (if you will so permit me to say) to the Medical and Surgical Gentlemen connected with it; although, by the way, I must observe, you do not say that "no Fees are paid at all," but that "no Fee has been paid by a Student or Pupil to them," the Medical Men.

I assure you I am by no means angry at the tone of your letter; on the contrary, I am much pleased at it, as it confirms in a very eminent manner, the correctness of the opinions I entertain on this subject. It is evident the mere mentioning that such a practice exists at the Salop Infirmary, is at once sufficient to excite your just "indignation," such not being the case; it is to be presumed, therefore, that you cannot approve of it elsewhere, and will, perhaps, afford me your assistance in endeavouring to abolish

it. Permit me to observe, that I have not asserted—"this custom exists at the Salop Infirmary," but that "I have been informed that it does," or that I have heard so;" and I really do not see how I could suppose to the contrary, when I know that it does obtain at Gloucester, Worcester, Hereford, and (as I believe) at Birmingham also.

I am exceedingly gratified to find that I am not correct; that no money is demanded by the Medical Officers of the Salop Infirmary, from Students, for the privilege of attending there. Your letter is the most powerful argument I could have been furnished with in support of my views; it will shew that the bare supposition of such a circumstance existing at the Salop Infirmary, is sufficient to excite your "utmost indignation at the *false* and *scandalous* statement."

I am extremely sorry, if, in the paper alluded to, there were any observations calculated to give uneasiness to any person; such was not my intention; but it is clear, the anger you feel is rather to be attributed to my having erroneously supposed that the Medical and Surgical Officers of the Salop Infirmary, had adopted the odious custom of demanding Money from Students wishing to attend there.

I beg to inform you, that the Memorial will be in the London Medical and Surgical Journal for October; but I am fearful your Answer will not be in time for this month,—it shall, however, certainly appear in the Number for November.

I beg to apologize for troubling you, and to remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. HEBB.

Dr. J. P. Johnson, Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.

Infirmary, Gloucester, Sept. 15th, 1831.

The Secretary has to acquaint Mr. Hebb, in reply to his letter of the 13th, that the parcel, containing a communication for the Medical Officers of the Institution, was duly received, and has been submitted to their inspection; but the Secretary has not yet been instructed to give any answer on the subject.

The Secretary takes leave to add, that Mr. Hebb's letter should have been "post paid."*

* The carriage of the parcels *was paid*; but no answer having been received from Gloucester, for a considerable time, the letter alluded to was sent; it was, however, by no means thought proper to pay the postage of a communication, which the highly-culpable negligence of the Secretary, alone rendered necessary.—W. H.

General Hospital Birmingham,
Sept. 17th, 1831.

Sir,

Your favour of the 12th inst. reached me two days later than, I believe, it ought to have done; since which time the business of preparing for the Annual Board, which took place yesterday, has so fully occupied me, that I have not had time to say that I laid your parcel before the Medical Board, or rather the Members of it, as soon as I received it, but have not received any instructions thereon.

I am, Sir,

Your's, respectfully,

WM. MILLER, Secretary.

To Mr. Wm. Hebb, Surgeon, Worcester.

Sir,

In reply to your communication on the subject of the Hereford Infirmary, I am directed by the Medical Officers of that Institution, to observe, that you appear to be misinformed respecting its Rules and Regulations, and the manner in which they were enacted. With those Rules and Regulations, as they exist, the Medical Officers are perfectly satisfied.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. J. BELL, Secretary.

Hereford Infirmary, Sept. 22nd, 1831.

Mr. Wm. Hebb, Surgeon, Worcester.

FINIS.

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