

Report of the fourteenth anniversary meeting of the Provincial Medical & Surgical Association, held at Norwich, Aug. 19 and 20, 1846. President John Green Crosse.

Contributors

Cross, John, 1790-1850.
Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.
Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

Publication/Creation

Worcester : Deighton, 1846.

Persistent URL

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REPORT

OF THE

FOURTEENTH

ANNIVERSARY MEETING

OF THE

**PROVINCIAL MEDICAL & SURGICAL
ASSOCIATION,**

HELD AT NORWICH, AUG. 19 AND 20, 1846.

President :

JOHN GREEN CROSSE, ESQ.

From the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEIGHTON AND CO., WORCESTER.
1846.

REPORT

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ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL & SURGICAL
ASSOCIATION

HELD AT NEWTON, AUG. 19 AND 20, 1896.

EDITED BY

JOHN GREEN CROSS, F.R.C.S.

Printed by the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association

BRISTOL AND CO., WESTON

1896

R53337

PROVINCIAL
MEDICAL & SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The Fourteenth Anniversary Meeting of the Association was held at Norwich, on Wednesday, the 19th, and Thursday, the 20th of August, 1846.

The following gentlemen recorded their names in the book kept for that purpose:—

John Ware, Professor of Medicine, Boston, U.S.; Dr. Heriot, 6th Dragoon Guards; Edward Williams, M.D., Colchester; Charles Hastings, M.D., Worcester; W. H. Rankin, M.D., Bury; George Soulby, M.D., Dover; John Conolly, M.D., Hanwell; James Paget, Esq., London; John Avery, Esq., London; Charles S. Webber, Esq.; G. Curme, Esq., Dorchester; John Forbes, M.D., London; L. G. Lewis M.D., London; W. A. Greenhill, M.D., Oxford; W. W. Fisher, M.D., Cambridge; G. M. Humphry, Esq., Cambridge; George Norman, Esq., Bath; James Crang, Esq., Timsbury; J. S. Soden, Esq., Clifton; J. Mackness, M.D., Hastings; W. C. Begley, M.B., Hanwell; R. J. N. Streeten, M.D., Worcester; James Paxton, M.D., Rugby; Robert Stevens, M.D., Ely; C. M.

Durrant, M.D., Ipswich; E. Lyon, M.D., Manchester; Thomas Radford, M.D., Manchester; Edw. Holme, M.D., Manchester; Robert Thorpe, Esq., Manchester; Joseph Jordan, Esq., Manchester; V. N. Gorham, Esq., Alderton; Thomas Martin, Esq., Reigate; Thomas Workman, Esq., Basingstoke; Jas. Reid, Esq., Hampstead; J. H. Stallard, Esq., Leicester; Thomas Paget, Esq., Leicester; Edward Daniell, Esq., Newport Pagnell; W. Newnham, Esq., Farnham; William Conolly, M.D., Cheltenham; F. Spurrell, Esq., Bexley; J. G. Crosse, Esq., Norwich; James Copland, M.D., London; W. Ballard Pitt, Esq., Norwich; John Kitching Esq., Darnell, Sheffield; Alex. Thwaites, Esq., Reading; J. Marriott, Esq., Kibworth; W. Ward, Esq., Huntingdon; Charles Bayliffe, Esq., Chippenham; Charles Bailey, Esq., Chippenham; T. H. Barker, M.B, Bedford; George Mayhew, Esq., Stradbroke; J. C. Davie, Esq., Haddenham; Richard Chambers, M.D., Colchester; George B. Clarke, Esq., Colchester; C. R. Bree, Esq., Stowmarket; D. Graham Niven Esq., Pershore; Robert Niblett, Esq., Gloucester; C. Smith, Esq., Bury St. Edmund's; W. J. Lunn, M.D., Hull; Henry Best, Esq., Thetford; Dwarika Nath Das Basu, Calcutta; John Young, Esq., Wells; W. H. Crowfoot, Esq., Beccles; H. W. N. Davey, Esq., Beccles; C. Earle, Esq., Cromer; G. Bateman, M.D., Yarmouth; — Dunn, M.D., Yarmouth; C. B. Rose, Esq., Swaffham; W. H. Ransome, Esq., Cromer; H. C. B. Steele, Esq., Stoke Ferry; R. J. Tunaley, Esq., Wymondham; H. French, Esq., Watton; W. E. Hunter, M.D., Lynn; George Gillett, Esq., Brooke; John Hargraves, Esq., Watton; William Clowes, Esq., Stalham; E. Copeman, Esq., Coltishall; R. Wake, M.D., Southwold; A. de Mierre, M.D., Lynn; Thomas E. Amyott, Esq., Diss; J. B. Whiting, Esq., Lynn; A. W. Dardin, Esq., Lynn; George

Chater, Esq., Norwich; G. W. Firth, Esq., Norwich; W. B. Francis, Esq., Norwich; P. N. Scott, Esq., Norwich; J. G. Johnson, Esq., Norwich.

FIRST GENERAL MEETING.

The Council having previously met at ten o'clock and arranged the order of the proceedings, the first General Meeting was held in St. Andrew's Hall, on Wednesday morning. At one o'clock, the hour appointed, about 200 gentlemen had assembled, and in the absence of Dr. Favell, the President, the chair was taken by Dr. Hastings, the President of the Council.

Dr. HASTINGS said he was sorry to appear in the chair on this occasion, and he was sure they would all participate in his grief, when he explained that it was in consequence of the illness of their worthy and respected President, Dr. Favell, the gentleman who had at Sheffield presided over them, with so much ability and satisfaction. He was sorry to say Dr. Favell had been an invalid for a considerable time, and another gentleman, (Dr. Robertson,) on whom had devolved the duty of President at Northampton, was now absent, he regretted to say, from the same cause. Dr. Robertson had appointed to meet him at Norwich, but while on his journey he (Dr. Hastings) had received a letter, stating that Dr. Robertson had been taken suddenly and severely ill, and was now confined to his bed by indisposition. These were the causes, which he was sure they would all regret, of the absence of those distinguished individuals. He was glad to say, however, there was every appearance of a successful meeting under the able Presidency of Mr. Crosse, whom they had so much cause to esteem, and who, by establishing the Eastern Branch Associa-

tion, and by carrying on the cause of the Association so successfully in conjunction with the members of the Branch, had been a great instrument to it. It gave him great pleasure to come into this district, and meet the eastern members. At the time this Association was formed, they at a distance were scarcely able to come here, but fortunately they had now the facility of railway transit, and they were glad to be present. He would no longer detain them, but call on Mr. Crosse to occupy the chair.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

J. G. CROSSE, Esq., having taken the chair, addressed the meeting as follows:—

Gentlemen,—In entering upon the high office to which I am now called, I feel incapable of saying anything that can adequately pourtray my excited feelings. To be placed nominally at the head of so large and influential a body as the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, composed of above 1800 members of our profession, is indeed a giddy height, which must be perilous to myself, and can be rendered secure only by your further kindness and support. I consider it an auspicious day for the profession in this district, that in our ancient city, situated so remotely from the great moving centres of human life and action, so many gentlemen of respectability, talent, and distinction, are assembled together for purely scientific and social purposes. The numerous body already present offers a sufficient guarantee that much is about to transpire; and as time, always precious to all, is particularly so to ourselves, I will not detain you longer with merely introductory remarks.

I well remember, at an early period of my residence in this city, becoming acquainted with an extraordinarily endowed individual, who had travelled throughout Europe, and gained access to a

great majority of the sovereigns, judges, prelates, and other men of high estate, in each country that he visited; and he assured me, that his plan was, always to enquire for the leading medical men of every town he entered, finding it the readiest way to get access to the highest and best informed classes of society. I have every reason to believe, that the favourable character which my itinerant friend expressed regarding the medical profession, continues to be fully maintained in the provinces, not less than in the metropolis of this empire. In almost every considerable town, the physician or the surgeon acts the Mécænas, to the full extent of the time and means at his command, towards all intelligent and scientific men, resident in or visiting his locality; and well may the medical man estimate science, and desire thus to encourage it, since there is scarcely any branch of scientific knowledge that may not, in some way or another, be applied to his calling, whether we look to daily social intercourse, or to the nature of diseases and the various appliances for their relief, prevention, or cure.

A warm zeal for medical science is undoubtedly the great source of its advancement in this country, where the government has done, and perhaps is capable of doing, so very little. But one of its recent and most valuable acts deserves to be mentioned; the annual report of the Registrar-General, worked up to the highest pitch of correct mathematical calculation in the department which relates to disease, by Mr. Wm. Farr, (a noble scion of our profession,) promises to supply great advantages to the state, and to be a guide to our prudential institutions for life insurance. Towards these improvements, every practising medical man gives his gratuitous aid, by furnishing certificates, for which the public remain

indebted to him. In the army, medical officers continue to perform laborious duties, by furnishing reports, of which the public are as much in need and entitled to an annual summary, as to what transpires in the civil department; but those documents continue to accumulate, without being converted to any proper statistical account, and must in course of time increase to so unwieldy an extent, that nothing but a deluge or a conflagration can dispose of them. The government is just beginning to direct its attention to sanitary regulations throughout the provinces, which must prove a national benefit; and perhaps we may regard the arrangement for partly remunerating the most working members of the profession, the union surgeons, out of the public funds, and thus connecting them with the state, as a movement in the right direction, and a security for further improvement in the medical care of the poor.

As a science to be studied for the public good, legislation on medical matters is entitled to every consideration; until recently, it received less attention from the executive in this, than in almost any other civilized country in the world, although the profession have been agitating the subject for nearly forty years, to my knowledge, but most warmly in the last three or four; and after all, what are the conclusions most generally arrived at, and avowed by the greater part of the thinking and experienced men? A few general principles are what they agree upon; and foremost may be placed "a general registration of all legally qualified, with annual publication of the registry." The next are, uniformity of education and community of privilege, in each grade, throughout the empire—principles which will be more appreciated every year, by the increasing intercourse which rapid and easy transit is sure to produce, rendering the present in-

congruities more and more apparent, until they will be deemed too absurd to be longer maintained, and we shall see the profession in England, Scotland, and Ireland united into one brotherhood. It is not a little extraordinary "that the protection to the public by penal laws against the unqualified" seems not to be so generally admitted as a necessary principle of legislation.

To carry out the principles I have enumerated would be, in my humble view, a great boon to the public, and not less so to the profession; and all minor details are scarcely worthy to be regarded as immediately essential, particularly at the risk of our getting nothing done. In grasping at the shadow we may lose hold of the substance. But there is one truth worthy to be made prominent, and to be frequently placed before us; sound legislation will benefit, but the influence, respectability, and high *status* of the profession in this country, must be secured and maintained by very different means—by knowledge honestly applied,—by integrity, assiduity, kindness,—by the absence of all contentious, narrow, over-selfish and grovelling passions—by liberality and forbearance towards each other—and I may be permitted, I am sure, before the present company, to add, that, the exercise of all these virtues which I have enumerated, and their results, will be greatly promoted by social and scientific intercourse with our brethren, such as the Provincial, above all other Associations in the empire, is most calculated to foster and promote. But the best prospects are held out, when the improvement of society at large accompanies that of the profession; for how much depends upon the state of the public mind, its information, and its power to discriminate! A powerful influence is reciprocally exercised between the public and our profession. In the

metropolis, and with the pre-eminent, it may be otherwise, but in provincial towns, every medical man may be said to practise in his own atmosphere. The grounds for selecting an ordinary medical attendant are as various as the tempers, dispositions, and minds of individuals; these are matters to be left to their own unavoidable course. Disregarding as far as may be, the whims and prejudices of the public, we should direct our minds intently upon these three objects—the full attainment of the sound medical knowledge of the day—the diffusion of what knowledge we possess—the advancement of medical science! On each of these a man may base a solid reputation, but on account of the last only can he be considered as entitled to renown. As to that notoriety, disconnected from superior knowledge, and depending on transient multitudinous applause, it ought to be little prized by members of such a profession as ours; rarely if ever is it durable, never satisfactory. The public favour, on which such notoriety floats, has been compared by one of our greatest writers to a running stream, which lifts the frothy and light materials to the top, but lets the solid and weighty sink to the bottom:—

“*Lævia et inflata attollit, grävada et solida mergit.*”

It ennobles our calling to endeavour rather to correct the defective information of the class of society we approach, than to convert it selfishly to our advantage. How much at our mercy is the *malade imaginaire*, the greedy consumer of innumerable doses, till he is more sick from the medicine than the disease, “always tampering with his health till he has spoiled it, like the foolish musician, that breaks his strings with striving to put them in better tune.” Happily the medical is not often charged with being a sordid profession, and few, very few, it is to be hoped, are justly entitled to

the sarcasm of the greatest of English satirists, who has hinted that there are some to be found who attend—

“ Not for the sickly patient’s sake,
Nor what to give—but what *to take* ;
To feel the pulses of their fees,
More wise than fumbling arteries ;
Prolong the lamp of life in pain,
And from the grave recover—gain !”

Perhaps Plato had such in view, when he stated it to be a sign of a bad commonwealth, if physicians were very numerous ; it would certainly be a bad commonwealth to the physician, unless diseases were numerous also.

That our ancestors knew a great deal is unquestionable, even much that has been forgotten and passed away ; but it was known to very few. The striking characteristic of the present day is, that what is worth knowing is known to a great many, and is accessible to the whole profession. It is on this more extensive diffusion of knowledge, that we may justly claim superiority over our ancestors ; the increased and yearly increasing proportion of well-educated members of our profession, and the diminished numbers of the grossly ignorant, are indications of our improved condition, quite as much as the advanced degree of our science. New and brilliant discoveries, often more imaginary than real, more vaunted than prized, are as the pinnacle or spire of a fine edifice, attracting much attention, whilst its basement and interior correspond to that well-diffused sound practical knowledge, which is of every day’s application, and can now be found in every part of our favoured country. That the diffusion of such useful knowledge is promoted yearly by the meetings of this Association can scarcely be denied ; let us endeavour that this, and every future occasion, shall be an improvement upon

the past, and let each of us remember, that what takes place in this public room may be considered as transpiring before the medical community, and before the criticizing spirits of the day, who take so much better care over our interests than we seem capable of doing for ourselves.

It must necessarily happen, that a vast majority of our profession can aspire to no greater merit than that of collecting facts, for which, however, they deserve approval, and even commendation, if their facts be *true* and *real* ; for it has been remarked, with some justice, that there are as many false facts as false theories. Mere facts, however closely connected with, are as distinct from science, as colours on the pallet from a beautiful picture worked out by the talents of an artist. In medical science, facts are the *materials* for a building, and require to be converted by the operation of the minds of the more gifted amongst us to their proper object,—the awakening of philosophical ideas, and the constructing of a theoretical system for our guidance. But the reverse of the inductive is too commonly the course pursued, even in these enlightened days ; theories are first formed, and the facts are made to come afterwards, suitable to the preconceived speculations ; and it is melancholy to reflect, that when once a theory has taken possession of the mind, it cannot be displaced without offering another in its stead, often as delusive as its predecessor. Rarely, in these modern times, has medical science been beset with more bewildering theories of the day than at present. What one man honestly espouses, another ridicules and despises, and in the collision thus arising is found the wonted stimulus to mental activity. But that the infinitesimal follies of homœopathy, the drolleries and deceptions of mesmerism, or the more dangerous excesses of hydropathy, can ever long

persist, or any one of them be brought to the position of a science worthy of general support, will, I trust, scarcely be admitted by the present enlightened assembly. Theories are unavoidable, and where they are honestly embraced and used, to a certain extent desirable, and may even prove useful; but were the great body of the profession,—nay, were any preponderating number of this large Association,—to become captivated with any delusive doctrine, and to merge into the fanaticism of the day, we should be driven back to the dark ages of our history, denominated by a learned professor the stationary period of the inductive sciences, “when experiments were replaced by commentators, criticism took the place of induction, and instead of great discoveries we had learned men.”

One of the possible advantages which may arise from homœopathy is, that it will afford opportunity for observing the natural course of diseases, and be a check to over active treatment in doubtful cases. In our difficult calling, whenever art does violence to nature, the apparent good is as an artificial fountain, that can be kept up only for a time; the more you consult the innate restorative powers of the constitution, the more surely will ~~M~~ progress towards recovery, once commenced, flow on in a smooth current, like a natural rivulet, till health is restored.

I must now enter upon topics still more serious and grave, yet which it would not be allowable to pass over in silence. The Hippocratic remark, that “life is short,” may be applied most emphatically to gentlemen of the medical profession, who on an average live for fewer years than members of the other learned professions, notwithstanding the advantage the former might be expected to possess in a knowledge of the first approaches of disease, and of their causes, with the means of prevention. It is difficult to state, in few

words, to what this is attributable. The incessant and wearing duties of the medical man, and the impossibility of having any regular relaxation, tend mainly to shorten his earthly career. The attendant anxiety about patients, and about the means of a scanty livelihood, aided by the depressing influence of constant scenes of distress and suffering, may be added. Besides, the medical man never shrinks from attending a contagious patient, any more than the brave soldier shuns the field of battle! How nobly and disinterestedly did our profession rush into danger, at the call of duty, when the Asiatic cholera, some years since, devastated certain districts in this country, with an appalling rapidity and fatality—receiving in return the most groundless accusations from the uninformed and affrighted multitude! And, most recently, in the instance of the “Eclair,” did not several of the best of our brethren, volunteering service, perish under African malaria and pestilence?

But apart from all extraordinary dangers, I find reason to believe that, under ordinary circumstances, in this district, and in the provinces generally, medical men on an average continue to meet the labour, and duties of actual practice in their profession little more than twenty years—a brief span indeed, scarcely thought of and never rightly estimated by the young aspirant to public favour. Yet few have stronger reasons to calculate correctly than the medical man, who is usually so circumstanced, with others depending upon him, that self-preservation ceases to be selfish.

What I am about to state will appear contradictory to the preceding observations, and yet it is perfectly correct, so far as I have been able to ascertain, that since the last Anniversary, and amongst one hundred and eighty members, com-

posing the Eastern Branch, not a single death has occurred. The rest of the Association may well exclaim to their Eastern Associates, "*O fortunatos nimium!*" and caution us to make the best use of our time, as the ensuing year may be expected to produce a different result, and to adjust the balance! Nay, even whilst I am thus engaged, I have to correct the statement and to record the decease of an Eastern member, who was for above ten years a zealous and steady supporter of this Society. I allude to Dr. Chevalier, of Aspall, who during a long life, and under the pressure of more diversified occupations than fall to the lot of most men, shewed a disposition to "scatter oil over the troubled waters" and make all happy around him. He was more conspicuous for his amiable virtues than for his medical practice; with pious resignation he bore the infliction of a painful disease, and sank into the repose of death in full and perfect hope of eternity!

The year's obituary of members resident in other parts of the kingdom is too long to permit of a full notice of each; neither time nor materials are at my command, for until a recent hour, I knew not that this office would be assigned to me; but if an opportunity occur, and further information should reach me, I will enter upon the duty, most congenial to my feelings, of doing honour to the deceased, which is so powerful a stimulus to the living to emulate good example.

And now I must conclude my initiatory remarks, with expressing a fervent desire that all the occurrences of this Anniversary may be calculated to do honour to our profession, and promote the best objects of the Association—science, cordiality, a beneficial knowledge of each other. I must avoid prolixity, as it must throughout our whole proceedings be avoided,

for economy of time. If brevity be the soul of wit, it is equally so of science, and of all that is practically useful and available in our busy life. Whatever comes before so numerous a meeting of the profession as is now assembled in this city for the first time, and probably for the last in our day, should be well weighed and considered, and the motto worn by each contributor to our proceedings should be—

“Fugit irrevocabile tempus!”

Dr. STREETEN then read the—

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

In presenting their Annual Report at this the Fourteenth Anniversary of the “Provincial Medical and Surgical Association,” the Council have to congratulate the Members on the continued prosperity of the Association. During the past year, the Association has been steadily progressing in the attainment of the general purposes for which it was originally established, and each succeeding year tends to confirm and increase its value as a means of union and strength for the members of the Medical Profession resident in the provinces. The number of Members now on the lists of the Association amounts to 1856; and while the Council regret to announce that, during the past year, many Members of the Association have been removed by death from the scene of their usefulness, they will avail themselves of the occasion to urge upon all those who continue in the possession of the blessings of health and vigour of mind and body, to endeavour to preserve and increase the efficiency of the Association by the introduction of new Members, and the infusion of new strength.

FINANCE.

The gross amount of the receipts and expenditure of the past year is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward	78	5	10½
Receipts	1789	13	8
	<hr/>		
Total	1867	19	6½
Deduct Expenditure	1754	12	0½
	<hr/>		
Balance in hand	£113	7	6
	<hr/>		

The detailed statement of accounts will be laid before the Meeting by the Treasurer; but the Council have to report that the amount of the subscriptions hitherto received on account of the fund proposed to be raised at the last Anniversary, for the payment of the award made by the arbitrators in the claim of Dr. Hennis Green, has fallen far short of what had been anticipated. Looking at the resolution of the Anniversary Meeting, which affirmed that the amount should be paid, the Council have been induced to take upon themselves the responsibility of apportioning a part of the general funds of the Association towards defraying the claim; at the same time it is hoped that Members will see the importance of the general funds being relieved from the heavy charge of this award, and that those who have not already subscribed, will consider the subject without delay and determine to contribute.

PUBLICATIONS.

The last volume of *Transactions* was published at an earlier period than has hitherto been customary, and the Council trust that by the arrangements now in progress the next volume may be issued before the end of the current year; and, in compliance with the wishes of the Members expressed at the Anniversary Meetings, at as early a period after the meeting as the requisite attention to accuracy in the printing of the communications will admit of. The weekly *Journal*

has been regularly supplied to each Member of the Association, and the Council have pleasure in noticing that the number and character of the original papers are such as show that the Members continue to take interest in its welfare, but regret that more aid has not been afforded by the different Members of the Association, whose aid alone can make it what is most desirable. Still the Council consider that the weekly *Journal* has peculiar features which no metropolitan journal can afford, by offering a single channel through which all the Members of the Association can be addressed by any individual of this most numerous and influential body.

MEDICAL REFORM.

The Annual Reports of the Council of this Association, for some years past, have narrated the endeavours made on the part of the Association towards the reform of various public Medical Institutions and the improvement of the general constitution of the profession. At the last Anniversary it was hoped that the great question of Medical Reform would, ere this, have been settled, and that some adjustment of the conflicting claims of various classes and interests of the profession would have taken place, so as to allow of the passing of an Act of the Legislature, which, to a certain extent, might have proved satisfactory to the general body. It is with regret that the Council feel themselves unable to announce this desirable event. The statement made by the Right Hon. the then Home Secretary at the opening of the session of Parliament, in January last, that it was not his intention to proceed with his measure of the preceding session, and the intimation which he then gave of abandoning altogether the attempt at giving to the medical profession a reformed and consistent con-

stitution, threw back at once the entire subject into greater confusion than ever; while the state of the general politics of the country, with the conflict of opinion on subjects of great interest and importance to the welfare of the whole community, which has since that period engaged the attention of the Legislature, rendered utterly futile any immediate attempt on the part of isolated bodies, to work out for themselves a satisfactory adjustment of the claims of the profession. Under these circumstances the Council, though anxiously watching the progress of events, in the hope of being able to seize some favourable opportunity for again pressing this question on the Government, the Legislature, and the public, have been most unwillingly compelled to remain in a state of apparent inaction,—a state in which, as respects the general settlement of the question, other bodies of the profession have also participated. At the same time they deem it right to state that nothing which has occurred has induced them to deviate from the course hitherto pursued by the Association, and that they remain firmly of opinion that the principles recognized in the proceedings of the several Reform Committees, the Council, and the General Meetings of the Association, are those alone on which any comprehensive and satisfactory measure can be based.

It is scarcely necessary to re-state these principles, but to obviate all ground of error or misapprehension they are once more here set forth:—

Uniform and sufficient qualification in every branch of Medical Science.

Equal right for all so qualified to practise throughout the whole extent of her Majesty's dominions.

The adoption of the representative system in the formation of the councils or governing bodies.

As the proposal for a registration of all qualified

practitioners of medicine in the bill of the late Secretary for the Home Department met with very general approbation from the profession, the Council are of opinion that great benefit would result from the immediate carrying out of such a measure, at the same time that it would not in any way interfere with the adoption of the more extended measures, so long advocated by the Association.

POOR LAW.

The Council have only to observe, in reference to this subject, that an intention has been announced on the part of Her Majesty's Government, with a view it is presumed, of obviating some of the difficulties connected with the administration of medical relief to the sick poor, to take the payment of the salaries of the Medical Officers partly into the hands of the Government. The subject is one which requires consideration, and the Council are desirous of having the opinion of the Members upon it, in order that when it is again brought forward they may be prepared to take those measures in reference to it which may meet the views of the Members of the Association generally, and especially of those among them whose interests are more immediately concerned.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

In the extensive measures contemplated for the improvement of the health of towns, there are many proposed provisions which can neither be properly estimated nor effectively carried out without the co-operation of medical practitioners. It seems important, therefore, that the Association, consisting as it does of so numerous a body of physicians and surgeons resident in almost every part of the kingdom, should have its attention directed to this subject. The efforts of our President Mr. Crosse, and others of our Members to-

wards getting rid of the injurious practice of intermural interment—the petitions which have been presented for the establishment of institutions for the promotion of personal and domestic cleanliness among the poorer classes—the researches into the sanitary condition of some of the larger towns, so ably carried on by some Members of the Association, lead the Council to think, that not only will good arise from the energies of the Association being more especially directed to these points, but that much valuable assistance and information, otherwise unattainable, or at least on so extended a scale, may be brought to bear in furtherance of the enlightened efforts now making for a general amelioration of the sanitary state of the entire population of this country. The Provincial Association can propose to itself no higher object in accordance with the purposes of its original institution, than the assisting in the detection of the more general external causes of disease, in pointing out the means necessary to be adopted for their removal, and in thus contributing towards the prevention of a large amount of disease, and its consequent distress, among a class of the community, to whom health is a possession the value of which is beyond all estimate.

BRANCHES, &c.

The regulation of what may be termed the internal economy of the Association has engaged the attention of the Council. Much and important assistance towards carrying out the general objects of the Association has ever been experienced from the several Branches; and on the present occasion, when the Association meets for the first time within the limits of so large, influential, and efficient a Branch as the Eastern, it seems to your Council peculiarly appropriate to make such suggestions for increasing the efficiency of the Branches generally, as may appear desirable.

Among these the Council would especially refer to the better defining of the limits of the Branches already established—to the adoption of some regulations for the admission of members—to the making provision for periodical meetings—and to the formation of new Branches. Without entering into details on this subject, the Council would suggest that the proximity of two or more large towns, as in the case of the Newton, and the Bath and Bristol Branches—the boundaries of a county or portion of a country, as in the case of the Yorkshire, the East York, and the Taunton and East Somerset Branches—or the junction of two or more counties, as in the case of the Eastern Branch—form convenient modes of constituting and defining the limits of Branches; and, as an illustration of carrying these principles into effect, they would suggest to the consideration of the Southern Branches generally, that the newly-formed South-Eastern District might advantageously include the counties of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex; the Southern District be limited to Berkshire, Hampshire, Dorsetshire, and Wiltshire; and the South-Western to the counties of Devon and Cornwall.

In reference to the admission of members to the Association, notice has been given, of a proposition, to be submitted to the Meeting, that in all cases where a Branch is formed the nomination shall be made through the Branch, whether the member proposed becomes a member of the Branch or not.

The members of the Bath and Bristol Branch are in the habit of holding quarterly meetings alternately at either city, at which communications are read; and the social intercourse of the members of that Branch is so much promoted thereby, and one at least of the general objects of the Association secured,

that the Council cannot hesitate to recommend that other Branches should follow the example.

As an instance of the beneficial effects of the formation of new Branches, the Council would allude to the most recently formed—the South-Eastern, which already numbers amongst its members a very considerable proportion of the most enlightened practitioners of the district, and has given evidence of the good feeling and other advantages resulting from the union.

The Council have one more suggestion to make in respect to the internal economy of the Association, and that is the special appointment by the Council, subject to the approval of a general meeting of the Association, of Honorary Local Secretaries in those of the larger towns or more populous neighbourhoods in which no branch of the Association exists. The duties of the local secretaries will be to collect the subscriptions, receive and circulate the Volumes of *Transactions*, and communicate generally with the Central Council or with the Secretary of the Association. Such of the preceding suggestions as refer to the constitution and proceedings of the Branch Associations, the Council beg to propose shall be specially referred to the several Branches for their consideration, with a request that they will communicate their views respecting them to the Central Council previously to the next Anniversary Meeting.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

The Benevolent Fund has continued its operations during the past year; its usefulness, and also its power of being useful, appear steadily to increase. It was thought necessary to hold a special meeting of the subscribers, which took place at Worcester, in November last. The resolutions agreed to on that occasion have been published and circulated. A report from the

Managing Committee will be presented, which will detail more at large the proceedings of this interesting branch of the Association.

The Council cannot conclude their report without briefly pointing out the very great advantages which the Association affords for promoting union and cordiality among provincial practitioners. As a rallying point for the profession in its present disjointed state, and as thereby giving to its members some portion of that strength and consideration which, from their position, they ought to enjoy, it is second to no other institution of the kind ; while, by recognizing no distinctions, requiring no qualifications for membership beyond those which every genuine practitioner of medicine must possess, it excludes none but the unworthy from a participation in the benefits which it has to bestow. The comprehensive nature and excellence of the objects of the Association, the simplicity and sufficiency of its regulations, are evidenced alike by the fact, that the one has required little or no alteration, the other called for no extension, from their first promulgation ; and that with these objects, and under these regulations, the Association has attained to its present prosperity. That each succeeding Anniversary may shew the Association progressing in the same useful and prosperous course, the Council most earnestly hope ; and deeply feeling the responsibility which rests upon them in the further working out of those principles by which they have hitherto been guided, they would urge upon each member to exert himself to the extent of his opportunities, in aiding the onward course of the Association, as an institution calculated alike to benefit the profession to which he belongs, to advance the science of medicine, and to contribute greatly to the welfare of the general community.

Dr. BATEMAN, of Yarmouth, moved "That the report of the Council now read be adopted and printed."

Mr. MARRIOTT, of Kibworth, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Dr. HASTINGS then read an analysis of the financial statement.

Dr. LYON, of Manchester, said that a resolution had been put into his hands, which would not require much to be said in its favour. All the members of the society felt, that it was necessary to do something to watch the progress of, and to reform abuses. He moved, "That a committee be appointed to advise with the Council in any proceedings which might be necessary to advance the progress of medical reform, and especially to consider the subject of establishing a registry of medical men, and the propriety of memorialising the Home Secretary on the general question."

Mr. SODEN, of Bath, seconded the resolution; saying, he thought it was unnecessary for him to say anything to recommend it.

Dr. HASTINGS.—I beg leave to say a few words on this subject. I do not wish to intrude further than is necessary on the time of the meeting; but I am of opinion that some step should be taken to petition the House of Commons, in respect to the registration. I do think, as far as it goes, the bill for that purpose lately introduced is a real benefit, and completely carries into effect one part of the objects of this Association. I have carefully perused the bill brought into the House of Commons, and if it passes, we shall certainly advance considerably towards the attainment of those great objects which we have had so long in view. It is of great importance at this critical juncture that petitions should be presented to the House of Com-

mons. I submit to the Committee, whether they should not draw up a petition to send by this night's post, praying that the bill for the registration of medical practitioners should pass. This is a question simple in itself, and which does not involve any of the complicated questions that must be attended to, and which will require long continued consideration. This one point is the most essential of all, and it is a point about which, in the profession generally, there is little difference of opinion. I think that the Committee might at once send a petition, praying for the bill to pass. I should like to know what is the opinion of this meeting on the subject. Perhaps, as we meet again at eight o'clock, the Committee will decide upon it in the mean time, and then the first thing to be done would be the adoption of that petition by the meeting, in order that it be presented to the House of Commons.

The PRESIDENT having put the motion, declared it carried.

It was then moved by Dr. RANKING, of Bury St. Edmund's, "That this Committee consist of the following gentlemen :—Dr. Lyon, of Manchester; Mr. Soden, of Bath; Mr. Martin, of Reigate; Dr. Chambers, of Colchester; Mr. Bree, of Stowmarket; Dr. Radford, of Manchester; Mr. Norman, of Bath."

Mr. PITT, of Norwich, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. BREE, of Stowmarket, hoped that it would be perfectly understood, that the petition should be prepared for the post that evening.

The PRESIDENT said it was an important resolution, and he had no doubt the Committee, unless they found it impracticable, would report upon the subject that evening. They would enter upon their duties with the understanding that the meeting requested this to be done.

Dr. MACKNESS, of Hastings, moved that Mr. Martin, of Reigate, and Mr. Crowfoot, of Beccles, be requested to act as Auditors for the ensuing year.

Mr. J. G. JOHNSON, of Norwich, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Dr. CHAMBERS, of Colechester, much regretted the absence of Dr. Favell, and still more the cause of it. It would be highly gratifying for him to receive from the meeting that approbation which he deserved. He therefore moved, "That the thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. Favell, the retiring President, and that he be appointed a Vice-President of the Association."

Dr. HOLME, of Manchester, seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. NORMAN, of Bath, in moving the next resolution, said it was unnecessary for him to occupy their time in enumerating the services of Dr. Hastings, who was the promoter of everything that could benefit the Society. Dr. Hastings was known to them all as President of the Council, and the soul of their proceedings. He had therefore great pleasure in proposing, "That the thanks of the meeting be given to the President of the Council, Dr. Hastings, for his continued and zealous attention to the welfare of the Association."

Dr. FORBES, of London, seconded the motion with great pleasure, observing, that he had been so long acquainted with the merits of Dr. Hastings, and they were so well known, that he need not enlarge upon them.

The resolution having been unanimously carried,—

Dr. HASTINGS, in acknowledgment, said, I feel greatly indebted to you for the kind manner in which you have supported me, and I assure you I consider it the highest honour to be engaged for the Association. If I have been able to carry out successfully the

various objects that have been brought before me, it has been in consequence of the support of the Council and the great body of the members. Feeling as I do, that this Association is working a great benefit, not only to the medical profession, but also to medical science generally, I shall do all in my power to advance the interests of this Association, and at every time and at all times my study will be, to give greater efficiency to this noble Society. I do hope this Anniversary will be as fruitful in bringing forth projects to advance the prosperity of the Association as former ones. It is not for me to go into detail as to points considered in the Council this morning, with the view of carrying out our objects. It has long been a matter of regret, that this Association has had no means of making pecuniary grants to those engaged in the cultivation of medical science, who would often carry on their labours more heartily, if they received the cheering support of the great body of the profession. I trust this day we shall be able to set about raising a fund to be applied wholly to the advancement of medical science in every way. I trust this will give a new feature to the Association, and be an answer to objections to this great body, that we do not employ any part of our funds towards advancing these important objects. I trust from the way that the matter has been taken up this morning, that it will be carried out to a successful issue. I trust we shall be annually able to advance sums for the advancement of medical science, and that all the members will consider this as an important feature of the Society. I promise to do my utmost in carrying out this project, and endeavour to show you that I consider myself highly honoured by the high position in which you have placed me, and which I feel as a higher honour than any other that can be bestowed upon me in this kingdom.

It was moved by Dr. CONOLLY of Cheltenham, seconded by Mr. BREE, of Stowmarket, and carried unanimously :—

“ That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Council of the past year, and that they be requested to continue their services, with the following additional members, and that they be empowered to add to their number :”

John Grant Wilson, Esq.,	Bristol.
John Grabham, Esq.,	Rochford.
W. A. Greenhill, M.D.,	Oxford.
T. J. Drury, M.D.,	Shrewsbury.
John Ballard Pitt, Esq.,	Norwich.
John S. Bartrum, Esq.,	Bath.
George Bompas, M.D.,	Bristol.
T. L. Surrage, Esq.,	Clifton.
W. Dashwood Kingdon, M.D.,	Exeter.
James Bratton, Esq.,	Shrewsbury.
Benjamin Barrow, Esq.,	Liverpool.
Robert Frederick Lindoe, M.D.,	Blandford.
E. O. Spooner, Esq.,	Blandford.
George Soulby, M.D.,	Dover.
Thomas Gordon Hake, M.D.,	Bury.

Dr. FORBES said, on several former occasions he had had the honour of proposing distinguished individuals of their profession for the distinction of Honorary Corresponding Members of this Society. He now rose to propose two more gentlemen to the like honour, one of whom he believed he had formerly intended to propose for election, but from a mistake in the name, instead of Professor Anders Adolph Retzius, of Stockholm, his brother, who also was an eminent and distinguished physician, though not the party intended, had been elected. He had, therefore, now to propose Professor Anders Adolph Retzius. He had hoped that

the President would have been able to bring the Professor to the meeting. Dr. Forbes had also the honour to propose another gentleman, viz., Dr. John Ware, Professor of Medicine in the University of Cambridge, Boston, in the United States. He was happy to say that Dr. Ware was then present, and he had great pleasure in inducing Doctor Ware to accompany him to that meeting, he was sure they were much gratified in seeing him. In his presence he, Dr. Forbes, could not say what he felt much inclined to say, and what he had heard from parties who knew Dr. Ware better than himself, as a distinguished physician in the United States. Dr. Ware had published an Essay on Delirium Tremens, which was regarded as the most valuable contribution on the subject to medical science which had been made for many years.

Dr. Forbes, concluded by proposing "That Anders Adolph Retzius, M.D., Chir. M., Inspector of the Royal Carolinian Institution, and Professor of Anatomy, M.R.A.S., Stockholm; and John Ware, M.D., Professor of Medicine in the University of Cambridge, at Boston, United States, be appointed Honorary Corresponding Members of the Society."

Dr. HASTINGS seconded the resolution, and he was happy to say that on many occasions their meetings had been graced with the presence of distinguished men from the United States. This was not the first time that American physicians had been present at their meetings, and he need not say how much gratification they felt in holding out the hand of fellowship to their brethren across the Atlantic; and though the Atlantic rolled between them, they were anxious to show the best feeling towards their American brethren whenever they had an opportunity.

Dr. WARE in acknowledgement said, The motion and the cordial spirit in which it has been received,

has taken me so much by surprise that I find it very difficult to express the sentiments excited in my mind. I can hardly do more at present than thank you sincerely for the notice of myself, for the honour you have done me, and for the kind manner in which my name has been introduced, and my claims more than stated. I beg pardon for not being able to say more ; I might be able to say more did I feel less.

The PRESIDENT said before they dismissed this subject he had a communication to make. If he referred to all the communications he received from gentlemen regretting their inability to attend that Anniversary, he would be wasting their time ; he must however make an exception, for on returning to his residence an hour or two before, he found a parcel which had just arrived, and the contents consisted of a book, and with it a letter from Dr. Oppenheim, of Hamburgh, who had been long a correspondent of his, and who had some hopes of attending that Meeting. The title of the book is—

“ Zeitschrift für die gesammte Medicin, mit besonderer Rücksicht auf Hospitalpraxis and ausländische Literatur. Herausgegeben von F. W. Oppenheim. Hamburg, 1846.”

The dedication is—

“ Dem Vereine brittischer Provincialärzte
und Wundärzte, zu ihrer diesjährigen,
14 Jahresversammlung,
in Norwich, am 19 August, 1846,
als ein geringes Zeichen der Anerkennung seines
Strebens nach Förderung der Wissenschaft und der
Collegialität.
Hochachtungswoll gewidmet,
VOM HERAUSGEBER.”

The letter, written in English, commences with a statement of regret at not being able to fulfil his

intention of being present at the Anniversary, and continues—"Instead of coming myself, I took permission to dedicate the newest volume of my Journal to the Society, whose "Transactions" I always followed with the greatest attention, as you may have seen by the reviews and abstracts given very frequently in my Journal. I beg you will be kind enough to hand this volume to the Society, as a proof of my esteem towards their acting, and I would feel much honoured if they would arrange it amongst their Library. In case the Society should collect no books, then I wished you will be so kind to keep the volume, as a remembrance to the Editor, who hopes to make your personal acquaintance here in Hamburgh."

The PRESIDENT thought after this he must claim the volume ; he, however, left that to the meeting. He suggested that Dr. Oppenheim should be added to the list of Honorary Correspondents.

Dr. RANKING then moved, and Dr. HASTINGS seconded this proposition, which was carried unanimously.

Dr. FORBES commended Dr. Oppenheim's Journal, as giving the best account of English books of any in Europe.

The PRESIDENT said, though he should keep the book, it was at the service of any member of the Society.

Mr. DANIELL, of Newport Pagnell, in rising to move the next resolution, said a greater obligation could not be conferred upon him, than by placing it in his hands, for there was no gentleman for whom he entertained a higher respect than Dr. Streeten, who was at all times exceedingly courteous, and ready to give any information in his power to those gentlemen who corresponded with him.

Mr. DANIELL then read the resolution, "That the

thanks of this meeting be given to the Secretary, Dr. Streeten, for his services during the past year."

Mr. CHATER, of Norwich, seconded the motion, and said, from the little correspondence he had had with Dr. Streeten, he had reason to be more than satisfied.

The resolution having been carried, Dr. STREETEN returned thanks, and said he was at all times gratified when the duties of his office brought him into connection with the members, and trusted that he should continue to discharge those duties so as to merit their approbation.

Mr. NEWNHAM, of Farnham, said he thought many persons might have been selected to recommend the next resolution better qualified than himself, he being entirely unacquainted with the working of the Poor-Law Union system. The cases mentioned in the resolution were unquestionably very flagrant, and he thoroughly believed many more such cases might be found, he therefore moved "That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the conduct of the Poor Law authorities, in reference to the recent cases of Mr. Cantrell, of Wriksworth; and Mr. Martin, of Evesham; and that the Committee be authorised to take such steps in relation thereto, as they might deem necessary; and that the meeting recommend to the Committee the immediate preparation of a memorial, to be signed by the President on behalf of the meeting, and addressed to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Mr. CRANG, of Timsbury, had great pleasure in seconding the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Bree, of Stowmarket, Mr. Daniell, of Newport Pagnell, Mr. Rumsey, of Gloucester, Mr. Ceely, of Aylesbury, and Dr. Toogood, of Torquay, were then appointed members of the Committee.

THE REGISTRATION BILL.

Mr. SODEN now read a petition praying for the passing of the Bill for the Registration of Legally Qualified Practitioners, which the Reform Committee, just appointed, had, in accordance with the recommendation of the President, immediately prepared.

Dr. HASTINGS moved its adoption, and that it be presented to both Houses of Parliament, and that the Committee be allowed to make any necessary verbal alterations.

Dr. STREETEN seconded the motion, believing that the Act, if passed, would be of great benefit to the profession.

Mr PAGET, of Leicester, objected to the wording of the following clause of the Bill, the latter part of which he considered to be obscure:—

3. *Register of names and abode of Medical Practitioners to be kept.*—And be it enacted, that the several registrars shall, within thirty days after their appointment, and shall from time to time, proceed to register, in books to be kept for that purpose, without any fee whatsoever, the name and place of abode, together with a description of the testimonials of every physician, surgeon, and apothecary, who shall apply to be registered, and who, prior to the passing of this Act, shall have taken a degree in medicine in any English, Irish, or Scotch university, or who shall state his place of abode, and apply to be registered, and shall produce his diploma, certificate, or licence, or shall produce a duly attested certificate, or such other proof as shall be satisfactory to the said registrars, of his having obtained a diploma, certificate, or licence to practise as a physician, surgeon, or apothecary, dated prior to the passing of this Act, and granted by any English, Irish, or Scotch college or hall, or any corporation, sole or aggregate, in England,

Ireland, or Scotland, legally entitled to grant the same at the time of the *passing of this Act*, and also to every person who shall apply for the same, and who was actually practising medicine in England and Wales prior to the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, and who shall sign a declaration according to the form in schedule (A) to this Act annexed, and also to every surgeon and assistant-surgeon of the army and navy who shall apply for the same, and whose warrant of appointment bears date prior to the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, and to every physician, surgeon, and apothecary, upon the payment of *two* pounds, who, *after the passing of this Act*, shall take a degree in medicine as aforesaid, or produce a certificate, licence, or diploma, as aforesaid, dated subsequently to the *passing of this Act*, and shall deliver to the said registrar a statement of his place of abode.

The PRESIDENT said this clause had been considered in the Council. The question raised was a legal one, and if there was any legal informality in the clause, the fault would rest with the legislature ; he considered it quite a point of form, and not of principle, but the difficulty might be got over by petitioning for that or some such measure. He thought the addition of a word or two might remedy the defect; those gentlemen who looked over the proposed law could easily address the members of Parliament in their district who would see that the errors pointed out were rectified. After some conversation on the wording of the clause, the Committee retired to reconsider the petition. The President having again received it, remarked, that the form of the petition in reference to the Registration Bill had been altered. It now prayed, that the Honourable House of Commons would be pleased to pass the

Bill, or some bill to the same effect, so that it might become law.

To the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

“The humble petition of ‘The Provincial Medical and Surgical Association,’ assembled at Norwich, on Wednesday, the 19th August, 1846, the said Association comprehending one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six medical practitioners,

“Sheweth,—

“That your petitioners having been informed of a Bill introduced to your Honourable House, entitled—‘A Bill for the Registration of the Legally-Qualified Practitioners of Medicine in Great Britain and Ireland,’ pray, that your Honourable House will be pleased to pass the same, or some Bill to the same effect, that it may become a law.

“Signed on behalf of the Association.”

A similar petition had been drawn up, addressed to the House of Lords.

It was for the meeting to consider through what channel the petition should be presented. As the Lord Bishop of the Diocese was now present, he suggested that his lordship should be requested to present it to the House of Lords.

The BISHOP of Norwich expressed his readiness to do so, though quite uninformed on the merits of the question; but he was confident, that the medical profession would not ask him to present an improper petition.

Dr. HASTINGS proposed, that the petition to the House of Commons should be sent to the Home Secretary, Sir George Grey, Bart., for presentation, which was agreed to.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Dr. STREETEN then stated that he had been requested by the President of the Bath and Bristol Branch to lay before the meeting the following resolution, agreed to at the Annual Meeting of that Branch :—

1. That so large a sum as that annually subscribed by the members, amounting now to about £2000, might, if more expressly applied than at present to the encouragement of medical science, in common with the other objects of the Association, be made to lead to results of such value and importance, in the shape of original investigations and researches, as would confer lustre upon the Association as a public body, and do honour to the provincial members of the profession generally.

2. That by the present administration of the funds, which are now almost wholly absorbed by the weekly Journal and annual volume of Transactions, these results are very imperfectly obtained, and that the two publications just named form a very inadequate return for the large sum of money expended upon them.

3. For the sake of economy, therefore, but more especially with the view of forming a reserve fund, for the promotion of the objects expressly named in the first resolution, this meeting would suggest, and begs earnestly to recommend, that the Journal be published in future but once a fortnight, or once a month. That the annual list of members and retrospective addresses, if continued, be printed in the Journal, and that the volume of "Transactions" be altogether given up, or if continued, be devoted exclusively to the publication of important original researches, and be published from time to time, at such intervals as the accumulation of matter requires.

4. That the reserve fund be bestowed in grants for the encouragement of original investigations, or in rewards for essays on medical subjects, in such manner and in such sums as the Council may think fit.

The following resolution had also been passed by the East York Branch, and forwarded by Dr. Cooper, of Hull, the Secretary of that Branch:—

At a General Meeting of the East York Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, July 21st, 1846, it was resolved unanimously:—

“That in the opinion of the meeting it is expedient that the publication of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal be discontinued, in order to leave at the disposal of the Council a larger sum for the benefit of the Benevolent Fund, and for the general purposes of the Association.”

Mr. PAGET, of Leicester, referring to the resolutions respecting the Journal just read said, that at the Northampton meeting, he had agreed with Dr. Favell, who had then taken similar views, but subsequently he had seen occasion to alter his opinion, and now concurred in the justice of the remark which had been made—that the Journal formed the only medium by which each member could communicate with his brethren. He had, however, great pleasure in moving,—“That a Committee be appointed, to enquire whether any, and what alteration was required or desirable in the general publications of the Society; and that such Committee be requested to report at the next Anniversary Meeting.”

Dr. RADFORD, of Manchester, seconded the resolution, which was carried.

The following Committee was then appointed:—Dr. Budd, Bristol; Dr. Cooper, Hull; Mr. Peter Martin, Reigate; Dr. Barker, Bedford; Mr. Soden, Bath;

Dr. Lyon, Manchester; Mr. Bree, Stowmarket; Mr. Newnham, Farnham; Mr. Crosse, Norwich; Dr. Hastings, Worcester; Dr. Mackness, Hastings; Dr. Radford, Manchester; and Dr. Ranking, Bury St. Edmunds.

REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Dr. FORBES then read the following report from the Sub-committee, in reference to a proposition made some time ago for the establishing of schools for the education of medical men:—

“At the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, held at Northampton, in August, 1844, a Committee was appointed to consider a proposition for the establishment and organization of schools for the sons of medical men, on such moderate terms of expense, as might be consistent with the requisites of an education of a high character. The proposition met with such general assent—it may indeed be said to have been received with such unanimous acclamation, that no doubt seemed to exist as to the desirableness of the measure, nor as to its perfect success.

“The Committee so appointed, immediately proceeded to discuss the subject generally, and from their number a Sub-committee was selected to consider the details and to correspond thereupon with the distant members.

“This Sub-committee had numerous meetings in London, at the house of Dr. Forbes, their chairman, and after mature deliberation and much correspondence with their colleagues of the Committee, and others, they agreed on the adoption of a general plan for the organization of the school, and for raising the necessary funds, and they issued a prospectus containing their views in detail.

“This prospectus was widely distributed among the members of the Association, and among the profession generally. It was printed in the Journal of the Association, and the subject was kindly noticed by the other medical journals, so that the Committee were satisfied that the whole subject was fairly brought before the members of the medical profession. It was stated in the prospectus, that no active steps could be taken for the establishment of even a single school, until £10,000, at least was engaged for, in the forms of shares, donations, or benefactions, it having been ascertained on sure data, that this was the smallest amount that could be safely reckoned upon as a foundation fund. Such, however, has been the general indifference with which the proposal has been received, that up to the present time, the sum of £1,625 only, has been promised under all the heads of contribution, whether shares, donations, or benefactions. And it may be well to observe, as indicating the general indifference of the profession, that one half of the sum mentioned has been subscribed by eight individuals only. For many months past not a single application for shares has been made, and no new donations have been offered, so that the Committee have at last been compelled most reluctantly to come to the conclusion that the scheme has failed and must be abandoned. So soon as they have returned the few pounds which have been paid into their hands, which they propose to do forthwith, they will consider their labours completed, and their functions as a Committee at an end. While reporting this result, however, the Committee are still deeply impressed with the great value and importance of the object they sought to attain. They think the project worthy of a better fate than it has met with at the hands of the medical profession, and they still hope that it may at some future day be

revived under happier auspices and with a better result.

“JOHN FORBES, Chairman.

“THOMAS MARTIN, Secretary.”

Dr. Forbes thought the report embodied everything that need be said on the subject, and that under the circumstances the project should be dropped entirely rather than it should be carried forward in a languid way.

The PRESIDENT said they were much indebted to the Committee who were the promoters of it, but when they considered the small sum that had been promised compared with the large amount that was required, it did not appear feasible to proceed with the measure on this occasion.

Mr. DANIELL observed, that there could be but one feeling of regret in consequence of this project not being fully carried out; he attributed it to the total apathy of the medical profession on the subject. When they saw what the clergy and other professions had done, it was but a poor compliment for the members of the medical profession to say that they could not raise a fund for the education of the rising generation.

Mr. PAGET did not think that the failure of the scheme should be placed to the account of apathy. There was in the nature of the project an impracticability that could not be got over, for every medical man did not know that he would train his son to the medical profession.

Mr. DANIELL said the project was not to educate for the profession, but merely to educate the sons of medical men.

Dr. HASTINGS thought this matter should not come to an end until they had recorded their obligations to Mr. Martin, who had brought the project forward, and

who had endeavoured so ably and strenuously to carry it into effect. Everything that could be done had been done by Mr. Martin, so that there was no fault on his part, and all were of opinion that the object was a good one, he therefore thought they were as much indebted to Mr. Martin as if he had been more fortunate, and had carried it out to a more successful issue. He (Dr. Hastings) thought they could not separate and set aside this question without recording their deep and lasting obligations to Mr. Martin, for having so ably advocated this question on various occasions, he therefore proposed the hearty thanks of the Association to that gentleman.

Mr. NEWNHAM seconded the motion, and expressed his approval of the education scheme, and was satisfied it would pay if carried out. He had known the profession for thirty years, and had felt its pulse tolerably well, he was therefore prepared to put down a certain sum. He had the honour of proposing this, coupled with the name of Mr. Martin, at Sheffield, and he had there said, that he had known no man better calculated by his energies to bring up a forlorn hope than Mr. Martin, who was well entitled to more than thanks.

The PRESIDENT having put the motion, it was carried unanimously.

Mr. MARTIN acknowledged the compliment, and observed that he could have done nothing without the hearty co-operation of his friends on the Committee; he regretted very much that their efforts had not succeeded.

It was then moved by Mr. MARTIN, and seconded by Mr. NEWNHAM :—

“That, conformably to the recommendation in the report of the Council relative to the boundary of the South-Eastern Branch of the Association, those gentle-

men who reside in the counties of Kent, Sussex, and Surrey, who are not already members of the Branch, be invited to consider themselves as associates of the same."

The resolution was carried.

The PRESIDENT here intimated, that the routine business of the society was concluded, and they would be happy to receive communications.

COMMUNICATIONS, &c.

Dr. CHAMBERS, of Colchester, read a case of diseased action of the heart consequent upon total abstinence, with his treatment of the case. He wished more particularly to point out the great danger incurred by those who suddenly altered from habits of free living to the extreme of teetotalism. But, while these circumstances, or other cases, forced themselves upon him, demanding a condemnation of teetotalism, he was quite willing to acknowledge the very great benefits conferred by the more moderate movement of temperance.

The PRESIDENT said, in regard to the observations on teetotalism, they were not mixed up with the energetic proceedings on that question, but they were faithful observers of disease, and must state their observation with honesty and truth before the public, whether they were set down as advocating one cause or another. He must state that he had known instances of parties who had been previously judiciously temperate, and, who having become teetotalers devotedly, had been affected with debility of the system; and he had felt it his duty to advise them to revert to a proper course of temperate habits. What they had to do was to state their honest experience; and he was clearly convinced in his own mind, that there were cases

occurring every year where great debility had been induced, and cases which called for tonic treatment.

Dr. HASTINGS wished to say a word or two in confirmation of the observations that had been made on depletion, and on the causes which led to depression of the system. In his neighbourhood there were numerous cases of rheumatism, and a vast number of cases of affection of the heart. Over and over again it had fallen to his lot to attend such cases, some of them showing a complete disorganization of the internal structure of the heart; and in cases of that description he had found by experience that to abstract from the usual diet or stimulus, or to relieve by loss of blood great evil resulted from it, and by far the most judicious course was to keep up the powers of the nervous system. In many cases his patients had got to such a state that rheumatism naturally resulted from the depression of the system, and they could only be relieved by stimulating food. This was very important in the practice of medicine, for nothing was so common as persons labouring under increased action of the heart to come for relief. If medical men did not attend to the nervous system, the most fatal consequences were likely to ensue.

The SECRETARY then read a communication from Mr. Greenhow, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on a case of traumatic tetanus, successfully treated by tartarized antimony and opium.

These communications will be hereafter published in the Journal.

SECOND GENERAL MEETING.

In the evening the members again assembled, and the PRESIDENT having taken the chair, said, Gentlemen, after a short recess, during which I have no doubt your time has been well employed, I beg to call your

attention to the meeting to be held this evening. The meeting, I trust, will be chiefly occupied in hearing papers and communications from different gentlemen of the profession, with such remarks and observations from other gentlemen as may conduce to the elucidation of those communications, and also to the further advantage of the members present in regard to their information. I shall not make many introductory remarks this evening, having had the opportunity of submitting to you in form at the commencement of the proceedings those which I had more maturely considered, and which I thought applicable to the occasion. But I know nothing that is so applicable at the present moment as that we should consider that it is our business to proceed with the least possible delay, to take advantage of the communications which the various gentlemen have in their pockets. I have, therefore, but a suggestion or two to make. We profit by experience; and I am sorry to learn that splendour, and convenience, or utility, are not always in unison. So on this occasion, though the Hall is rather spacious and imposing, it seems to be complained of as not suited to a public meeting like this, inasmuch as we of the profession, who are not much given to oratory, are not possessed of those powerful voices that we can send our expressions to every remote corner even of a room of a part of these dimensions. I advise you to make the best use of experience in concentrating yourselves in the Hall in the central places here provided, which, to show the great and becoming modesty of our profession, are left unoccupied.

There is but one amendment, which it has been suggested to me, it may be requisite to make to the resolutions which have passed this day, and which I will now submit to the meeting. It is that important resolution which appoints a Committee to inquire whether any

and what alteration is requisite or desirable in the general publications of the Association; and that the Committee be instructed to report to the Council, or to the next Anniversary Meeting of the Association. Certain gentlemen who had taken an interest in the subject were nominated; but there are other gentlemen, and two of them now present, whom it seems desirable to be proposed for your sanction, to be placed on your Committee. I allude to Dr Chambers, of Colchester; and Dr. Durrant, of Ipswich; both of whom have been very great contributors to our Journal. I make this remark because gentlemen, who never put any thing in the Journal, thought it contained nothing; but members who sent communications to promote its utility, and increase its value, believed it to contain something. I would suggest to members, that instead of writing letters depreciating their own publication, they would turn their minds to the best cases that occurred in their experience, and to send those cases, and reflections upon them, to the Journal. If among 1800 members, ninety-nine out of each hundred being engaged in practice, all sent something to the Journal, I am much mistaken if it would not reconcile them to it. I have now to ask you to add Dr. Chambers, of Colchester, and Dr. Durrant, of Ipswich, to the Committee.

The recommendation was unanimously agreed to.

Dr. WILLIAM CONOLLY read the—

REPORT OF THE BENEVOLENT FUND FOR 1846.

The Central Committee of Management of the Benevolent Fund have the satisfaction of informing the Association that the contributions have, during the past year, shewn a steady increase,—and although the amount of its resources is not yet by any means so large as might be expected from the numbers and

influence of this great Association, yet its slow but steady increase, year by year, gives just ground to hope, that it will, as the excellence of its objects and its powers of doing good, become more generally known, attain that degree of success to which it is so eminently entitled.

The Committee thought it desirable in the month of November last to call a special meeting of the Donors and Subscribers to the Fund. An account of that meeting and of the resolutions entered into, was published at the time. It will be observed that at this meeting the principle on which the Fund was originally established, was, after mature consideration, and a statement of the result of ten years' trial, approved of and confirmed. This principle—one of *pure benevolence*—affords aid to a class of distressed and helpless persons, who have no claim to relief on any of the other Benevolent Medical Societies of this country, which are constituted on totally different principles; and the Committee beg to observe that so well has your Fund been found to work, that a fund of a similar description has within the last few years been established in Ireland, under the auspices of Dr. Kingsley, which has not only adopted our principles, but has copied *verbatim* our rules and regulations, and it appears from the reports published to be flourishing in a very satisfactory manner.

During the past year the Donation Fund has been augmented by the munificent gift of *one hundred pounds* from Dr. Radford, of Manchester.

The Committee would beg particularly to direct the attention of the Association to this Reserve Fund, which is intended ultimately to afford a source of permanent relief, but which cannot by our rules come into operation until the sum of £2000 is accumulated, when the interest will be applied to the granting of

small loans to medical men who may be in temporary pecuniary difficulties, and to granting small annuities to the widows and orphans of medical men deceased.

The Subscription Fund has, as usual, been made available to the granting of small sums to several distressed members of our profession; to the families of some left in old age to seek a miserable subsistence from the union workhouse,—and to the children of others to assist in obtaining them some degree of education, and the means of gaining an honest livelihood.

In this manner *seventeen* cases have been relieved; all of which were in extreme distress, and who received the small sums allotted to them with the greatest gratitude and thankfulness. Were it consistent with the delicacy observed in the management of our charity, the Committee could produce letters, breathing the deepest thankfulness, from the recipients of your bounty, such as could not fail to touch the hearts of all, and rouse every benevolent feeling into action.

The Committee trust they need say no more to recommend this admirable charity to your consideration; a very small contribution from each of us would enable the Committee to effect great good to many deserving objects, whilst the individual sacrifice would only be remembered as a source of pleasure and self-respect.

JOHN BARON, M.D., President, Cheltenham.

WILLIAM CONOLLY, M.D.,

Treasurer and Secretary,

Castleton House, Cheltenham.

The following is a short account of the cases relieved during the past year:—

1. To a medical practitioner in Wales, in reduced circumstances £5

2. To the widow of a medical man in Lincolnshire.
Recommended by Dr. Charlesworth £5
3. To the widow and family of a medical man in
Worcestershire. Recommended by Mr. Moore,
Moreton-in-the-Marsh, and Mr. Cowan, Bath £10
4. A highly respectable member of the profession
at Colchester. Recommended by Dr. Forbes £10
5. To the widow of a medical man. Recom-
mended by Dr. Hastings £5
6. To the daughter of a medical man in Middlesex,
left with only fifteen pounds a year for her
support. Recommended by Mr. Hewlett,
Harrow, and Dr. Hastings; two donations of
five pounds £10
7. The son of an eminent surgeon, reduced to
great distress. Recommended by Messrs.
Norman and Spender, Bath, and Mr. Morgan,
Bristol £10
8. The widow of a medical man at Sheffield.
Recommended by Dr. Favell and Mr. Ray,
Sheffield, and Drs. Bent and Heygate, Derby . £10
9. The widow of a medical man at Nottingham,
in a state of extreme destitution. Recom-
mended by Mr. Booth Eddison, and eleven
other practitioners at Nottingham £10
10. A practitioner in Worcestershire, in temporary
embarrassed circumstances. Recommended
by Dr. Hastings £20
11. The widow of a surgeon in Buckinghamshire.
Recommended by Dr. Kerr, Northampton . £10
12. To assist in getting one of the orphan children
of a late practitioner in Cheltenham into the
Orphan Asylum at Wanstead. Recommended
by Dr. Baron and Mr. Murley £5
13. The wife and family of a medical man become
insane. Recommended by Mr. Fox, Weymouth £10

14. A surgeon in London, in extreme ill health and reduced circumstances £5
15. The daughter of a medical man in Hampshire, so destitute as to receive relief from a Poor-Law Union. Recommended by Dr. Engledue £10
16. A surgeon from the West Indies, struggling with difficulties and a large family. Recommended by Messrs. Poole and Smerdon . £10
17. A medical man in Devonshire, in very bad health. Recommended by Dr. Glass Black and Mr. Jolley, Torquay £10

Financial Statement for the Year ending June 30, 1846.

DONATION FUND.

	£.	s.	d.
Balance in hand, July 1, 1845	741	16	1
Donations received from July 1, 1845, to June 30, 1846 inclusive	112	14	6
Interest for the year	19	14	4
Total	874	4	11

SUBSCRIPTION FUND.

	£.	s.	d.
Balance in hand, July 1, 1845	43	19	5
Subscriptions received from July 1, 1845, to June 30, 1846, inclusive	177	15	6
Total	221	14	11
Disbursed—			
In Benevolent Aid 155 0 0	}	175	16 6
Stationary 0 7 6			
Printers' Bill 20 9 0			
Balance in hand	45	18	5

The Committee thought right in November last, to call a meeting of the donors to the Fund. They approved of the principle on which it had been established, as that principle was one of pure benevolence,

in order to afford aid to helpless persons who had no claim for relief from any other benevolent society. Having read the cases relieved, he trusted he need say no more to recommend this charity to the members generally. Unlike all other funds, as there were numerous funds of an admirable description, this one only required that the applicant should be poor and in distress, and be a regularly educated member of the profession; as such, it differed from other funds, and was peculiarly entitled to their support.

Mr. NEWNHAM, of Farnham, said he had been called upon to move the adoption of the report. On former occasions, his sense of duty had compelled him again and again to make an appeal on behalf of this Fund, and to advocate regular and systematic contributions to it. He had advocated it often before, and he had as often resolved that he would not take the burden again; but now he again felt himself called upon to move the report. Principle, conscience, and the best feelings of human nature were enlisted in this cause, and if he stood alone, alone he would stand in advocating it. He was pleased to find that there was one cheering prospect—that there was an increase of contributors this year. He was delighted to find there were more hearts enlisted in a cause, the holiest and the best; but he regretted that though the number of contributors had increased there was a decrease of the amount of subscriptions, and he found the same decrease in the amount distributed this year. These were not symptoms of a healthy progress; they must confess they were in an unpromising condition, when they found the action and important functions of the Society thus materially curtailed. He wished to call attention to the principle of this Society; and he enumerated various schemes by which people provided for the future by insurances,

whereby persons secured annuities, &c. But this Benevolent Fund was of quite a different description, and provides for cases of destitution, not provided for in other Societies it was therefore a truly Benevolent Fund,—it was the only institution in the kingdom, by which such cases as he alluded to could be provided for. The subscription fund had been distributed in such small sums that he looked upon the amount given almost with aversion, the average being about £10 in each case. When they considered the nature of the cases, however thankful the recipients might be, the amounts received were so small, they were almost disgraceful to the Society. He asked whether, in a Society, consisting of 1800 members, it was possible it could be known, and yet 1500 remain non-subscribers to this fund. He wished the whole body of members were present to hear the cases stated in the report, and he thought it was not possible that 1500 could leave that Hall without subscribing to the Fund. He had been called an importunate beggar, but he considered himself in good company, for the highest lady in the land sent round her begging letters once a year. He was therefore in company with Royalty, the Bishops, and many others in high stations. He admitted that he was an importunate beggar, and he would remain so; he would be more and more importunate; he would tease and torment year after year, and he would glory in his mendicity, until this Fund was placed on a much better footing.

Mr. MARTIN, of Reigate, seconded the motion, and hoped it would be responded to by the members.

Dr. HASTINGS testified to the great good done by the Benevolent Fund; he had tried on several occasions to obtain relief for parties from this Fund, and though the amount voted by the Committee was small com-

pared with the sums of money they were in the habit of seeing distributed, yet he could say that the relief given had been most thankfully received. On one or two occasions, the gentlemen who had recommended cases to the Committee, had doubled their contributions to the Fund. The parties relieved considered the sums by no means small; and when he considered the objects to be attained, the subscriptions, though small in amount, were productive of great good. He mentioned this to stimulate the zeal of individuals, and to shew what good could be done by the small sums distributed by this Fund, which though small, was capable of producing great results.

Dr. W. CONOLLY referred to some of the cases that had been relieved, and observed that he would be happy to distribute the report, and to receive subscriptions.

The PRESIDENT having put the resolution, it was carried unanimously.

Dr. FORBES said that on former occasions he had moved that donations be given to that excellent institution, the Benevolent Fund; he rose to say, that though he had formerly intimated that he would make the same proposition at this meeting, yet he would not now do so on account of other circumstances. When he saw so small a proportion of members contributing to that charity, admitting its excellence as they all did;—they all felt how much good it did,—there must be some reason that the contributions were so small. As 1800 members contributed to the general purposes of the Society, and seeing that so many did not contribute to this charity, there was an additional reason why something should be drawn from the general funds. He begged to announce that next year he would bring forward a proposition that a sum should be drawn from the funds of the Society and presented

to the Benevolent Fund; he felt certain that they ought to do more in the way of benevolence than at present.

GENERAL MEDICAL ANNUITY FUND.

Mr. DANIELL, of Newport Pagnel, than read the report on the Annuity Fund.

REPORT.

The Committee appointed at the Thirteenth Anniversary of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, held at Sheffield, in July, 1845, to carry out the project of establishing a General Medical Annuity Fund connected with that Association, held their first meeting at Dr. Robertson's, of Northampton, on the 8th of September last, when it was resolved that the society should be formed forthwith. A series of rules which had been prepared by the managing Director was adopted, subject to such changes and alterations as subsequent enquiries and deliberations should suggest; various subscriptions and donations were announced; and measures were adopted, which in the opinion of your Committee would lead to the establishment of a society long wanted in the profession. The past year has been busily occupied in making public the formation of the society, by an attentive observation of such statistical tables and calculations, as had a bearing upon the objects and design of the fund, by attempting to meet such objections and difficulties as have been suggested by very numerous correspondents, and, by furnishing the amplest information, which gentlemen disposed to support the measure, have thought proper to require at their hands. It is a great satisfaction to know that their labour has not been altogether in vain, and that a sufficient number of gentlemen have answered their appeal, so as to form a nucleus for the establishment of a society which

will ensure a permanent provision for the aged and infirm, and assist the widow and the orphan.

Emboldened by their success, the Committee ask at your hands a formal sanction of their movements and their conduct.

Sixty-eight gentlemen have enrolled themselves as members of the Society, fourteen of whom have paid their subscriptions in advance, of two, three, or five years, and nine of the subscribers have made donations amounting to £47.5s. 0d., and about twenty other gentlemen who have not yet remitted their subscriptions have intimated their intention of becoming members.

Although perhaps the sanguine hopes of your Committee might lead them to anticipate a larger number of subscribers who would at once come forward and enrol themselves as members of this useful Institution, they are, nevertheless, encouraged by the belief, that when this young Society has obtained the official sanction of this General Meeting, and when the objects and advantages of the Institution are more fully developed, and its rules and regulations improved and matured by the enlightened judgment of subsequent directors, that the profession will see the strong claims this Society has upon its consideration, and that both prudence and philanthropy will combine not only to raise a *fund* but a *home* for superannuation and decay, and secure for the widow and the orphan a refuge worthy the position and the character of the medical profession. The cares and anxieties attendant upon the first year's exertions have been in some measure lessened by the kind expressions of interest in the welfare of the Society, which have been addressed to the Managing Director by many members of the profession; and your Committee have gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from Dr. Jephson, of Leamington, who, with a

munificence in entire keeping with his benevolent character, has promised a donation of one hundred guineas, so soon as the fund is formally established. Nor can your Committee omit to mention the services of Mr. Owen, of Irthlingborough, Mr. Rice, of Stratford-upon-Avon, and Mr. Nicholson, of Ashbourne, who have with an encouraging success, brought the claim of the Society before the attention of their personal friends and acquaintance.

The Committee are also desirous of recording their sense of obligation to such portions of the medical press as have so generously and efficiently, as they have done, advocated the cause of this Institution.

In order to ramify the influence of this Society, your Committee are desirous of securing the active co-operation of gentlemen who should be appointed Honorary Local Secretaries in various districts throughout the united kingdom, for the purpose of carrying out more efficiently the designs of this institution. The duties of these gentlemen would be to collect subscriptions from their immediate neighbourhood, and when the period shall arrive for granting the annuities to render the directors such information and assistance as should enable them to distribute the funds of the Society in a manner which would win for their conduct the cordial and the hearty confidence of the whole body of the subscribers.

The subject of the payment of an annual subscription, of an amount sufficient to give each subscriber a legal claim to an annuity, was so fully discussed at the first meeting, at Northampton, that your Committee would not refer to it in their report, were it not from the circumstance that scarcely a week passes without the matter being urged upon the attention of the Managing Director; that it appears to them their duty to express the grounds upon which they came to the

decision to adopt the present low amount of annual subscription,—a decision which arose from the consideration that a Society of exclusively medical practitioners must either pay a larger amount of annual subscriptions than that required by the ordinary insurance offices, or they must be content to derive less advantage than they could obtain from other offices. And the reason why the life of a medical man, (exclusively,) is of a low marked value arises from the fact, that while forty-three divines out of one thousand arrive at the age of sixty-six, there are only twenty-four medical men out of that same number who arrive at that age. A knowledge of this fact had great influence upon the minds of your Committee, but it is a fact which the daily observation of the medical man will enable him very readily to account for. But, apart from this weighty consideration, a *legal* claim for an annuity did not come within the scope of the projector's design, for his desire was to form a society by the combined assistance of the profession, with an annual subscription of one guinea, to form a fund to meet those cases of need and necessity, (experienced by alas! so many,) who were unable to provide for themselves or their families in the ordinary Assurance Offices.

In conclusion, your Committee would observe, that they have given their patient attention to the calculations upon which the annuities will be distributed, and they cannot but entertain the hope that three in every hundred will be the maximum of applicants for the superannuated fund, and thus enable the Society to give greater assistance to the widow and the orphan.

Mr. DANIELL then read the following address:—

Having thus finished the report of the Committee, I may perhaps be allowed to occupy the attention of this meeting in speaking a few words in my own

individual character. Although I may perhaps have fallen short in my first calculations, in reference to the members who would enrol their names as subscribers to this important fund, I candidly confess to you that I have exceeded my own expectations, considering the infancy of the establishment, and the fact that we labour under the disadvantage of not being officially recognized as an integrant part of this Association. It is true that the central Council might have only looked upon us as pursuing the necessary steps towards the establishment of the Institution, and consequently that we could not be a recognized body until the sanction were given to us by this meeting.

If numerically considered, in reference to the whole profession of these kingdoms, we are but a small minority, methinks there is ample ground for congratulation in the talent, respectability, and high professional attainments of the majority of our members; and I am emboldened to pursue my course with energy and perseverance, because of the encouraging testimony of approbation which I have received from a numerous body of intelligent correspondents.

In many instances you will find that ordinary contributions have been accompanied with donations; even private friends have kindly contributed their mite towards the advancement of what they have considered an important institution; and one gentleman, having no connection with our profession but the love of it, has cheerfully become a subscriber, and paid his money, because he considered a precarious calling like ours should have a permanent provision for the widow and the orphan.

Gentlemen,—When you look at the number of our subscribers, and the amount of money paid and to be paid, you will at once perceive that if the spirit which has actuated our present friends should pervade our

future contribution, a nucleus will be formed for one of the noblest institutions, with which this or any other country can boast; and you will perceive what a five years' accumulation will produce, in forming the grand capital of the establishment.

The "General Medical Annuity Fund" is strictly a co-operative institution. It partakes in some measure of the spirit of a benefit society; and in accordance with the spirit of every honourable member of such societies, the contributions are made with the hope that the contributor may never be the recipient of its bounty. So with respect to us; we contribute freely, trusting that neither ourselves, our wives, nor our little ones, may need the provision which is thus laid up, but happy in our minds that such a provision is made, should it please the Disposer of all events to lay his hand upon us, and visit us with those calamities from which no man, however proud may be his position, can be totally free.

Friendly societies are called *independent*,—we wish likewise to be so called,—we desire to be independent of *charity*; we have combined to help each other, not knowing upon whom the lot may fall, yet comforted with the assurance that whenever it falls, there is help in the time of need. And mark—here is the strong line of demarcation which separates this Institution from the one already attached to this Association, called the "Benevolent Fund;" and I will venture to say, without fear of contradiction, that an Association, partaking of the high and exalted character which belongs to you as a body, ought not to be without both its *co-operative* and its *benevolent institution*.

The former takes no cognizance of any case which is not strictly belonging to itself, none but those who are members, and members of a certain standing, can claim the benefit of this fund; while the latter,

breathing the pure spirit of charity, holds out its beneficent hands to help those who have no such claim, but who, being needy and distressed, seek naturally enough, assistance from their own brethren.

Gentlemen, I repeat both these institutions are necessary; both these institutions should be energetically supported: they are, in my opinion, the gems of your Association, and to neglect either is to dim the brightness of your fairest jewels.

Enthusiasm, in a good cause, can never be censured,—it is always necessary in carrying out important projects. I am content to be called an enthusiast on the present occasion, because I know without it no real good will be obtained; but gentlemen, I am wedded to no particular views,—I seek the establishment of an institution based upon unmoveable principles,—I seek the establishment of an institution capable in its effects of meeting the acknowledged wants of the profession,—and I ask for your combined intelligence that such principles may be matured and brought into action. My heart is in the matter, and while I have life and breath, and am privileged to possess the small measure of capacity which is my own, I will never cease to urge upon you the imperative necessity of some such institution as I have proposed, nor relax one moment in that enthusiastic pursuit of it, which I am proud to say at every sacrifice has characterized my conduct during the past year, and which nothing save God's own interposition shall arrest. I beg to conclude by proposing “That the conduct of the Committee appointed at Sheffield for carrying out the project of a ‘General Medical Annuity Fund’ be approved by this Annual Meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, and that the ‘Fund’ be considered as an integrant part of this Association.”

Dr. HUNTER, of Lynn, seconded the resolution,

having at heart not the scientific parts of the Society only; and he thought a great benefit would be derived to the profession at large, by recognizing some such Institution as the Annuity Fund.

Dr. W. CONOLLY begged to observe that after all, this was in fact a second Benevolent Fund; the Association possessed one which was by no means supported as it ought to be, and before they consented to the proposal brought before them, he asked whether it was possible to support another. Mr. Daniell's scheme he considered an admirable one, but he very much doubted the propriety of adopting it as an integral part of the Association; they had now extreme difficulty in supporting their present fund, and he thought Mr. Daniell would find the difficulty of what he proposed, and be induced to pause. Hereafter it might be thought advisable to adopt the scheme, but at present he deemed it impolitic; and if it were insisted on, he would be inclined to meet the proposition by a negative, or at any rate, that it be postponed.

Mr. DANIELL said, "You are aware that it is not to be brought into operation for five years; I ask merely for a home for it."

Dr. Conolly continued. But if we adopt it at all, we must adopt it altogether; I would rather you would wait the five years to see if it is then feasible. I should be glad to see if it interfered with the Benevolent Fund. I think we should not hastily take up a second scheme, that appears to my mind to act on the same principle as the other one of benevolence. It is not the parties who will derive benefit from the scheme that you can get the money from in my opinion; it is merely a second Benevolent Fund you are adopting, and I doubt the propriety of adopting it as an integral part of the Association.

Dr. CHAMBERS thought Mr. Daniell had failed to shew the necessity for the proposed scheme, and that it would materially interfere with the Benevolent Fund.

Dr. SOULBY, of Dover, said that Mr. Daniell appeared to proceed upon the idea that there was no such fund in existence. He held in his hand a report of the Essex and Hertfordshire fund, and which was doing a great amount of good; a similar one had been established at Kent for nearly sixty years, which gave away from £200 to £300 yearly. He believed there was also a Norwich and Norfolk Association, having a like object in view. He thought that such a society had a much better prospect if limited to a district where members naturally had thrown more feeling into it; whereas in this institution they must send their money to Northampton, and leave it to a Board of Directors there. He was therefore inclined not to afford to Mr. Daniell's proposition that local habitation which he sought to obtain for it. He was sure Mr. Daniell would succeed much better in confining himself to a more limited district, and he felt that he was doing Mr. Daniell a kindness in moving as an amendment—

“That this Annuity Fund be not considered an object of this Association.”

Dr. FORBES said he was a contributor to Mr. Daniell's fund, but he never expected he was contributing to any thing that would tend to injure the original Benevolent Fund of the Society. He now thought the proposal would be most injurious to the latter fund, and he was, therefore, induced to support the amendment, though he should be happy to support Mr. Daniell's fund in a proper form, seeing, as they all unfortunately did, how little was contributed to the original fund. He thought it would be a great mis-

fortune to adopt an additional one; it put him in mind of men becoming bankrupts, launching out in some plan to redeem themselves; it was really monstrous, the contributions were so small for the benevolent purposes of this Society, and it did appear to him ridiculous, under such circumstances, to propose another fund.

Mr. BREE, of Stowmarket, doubted whether it was within the objects of the Association to entertain Mr. Daniell's proposal.

Mr. DANIELL replied, that when this matter was brought forward at the Sheffield Meeting, it was received with marked enthusiasm. It then occurred to him, that to form a co-operative society was a desirable thing. At the Sheffield Meeting, no one opposed it; he had actually been acting under the authority of that meeting, presuming that what had been then approved of would have been sanctioned by this meeting.

The PRESIDENT stated, that in each of the six counties included in the Eastern Branch of the Association, there was a Benevolent Fund. He was sure that every one who had read Mr. Daniell's pamphlet would agree with him, that there was no man in England who could produce a better document in advocacy of this object. Any decision which the meeting might come to would therefore be considered as merely the honest convictions of their minds, and would in no way tend to shew a depreciation of Mr. Daniell's energy and talent.

The amendment put was declared carried, and the original motion lost.

Mr. KITCHING of Darnell, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Daniell, feeling that as the meeting had rejected his proposition, they could not otherwise do him justice. Mr. Kitching was sure they would all agree with him that Mr. Daniell had been stimulated in his exertions

by the purest benevolence and kindness of heart, and though at present the Society was not prepared to adopt his project, he was sure they all appreciated it, and that the day would come when it could be carried into effect. Let Mr. Daniell be encouraged to go on in the course which he had chosen.

A vote of thanks was unanimously carried.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. FIRTH, of Norwich, communicated the details and analysis of ten cases, supposed to have been poisoned by arsenic, in which the bodies were exhumed by the order of one of the coroner's for Norfolk, at the end of May last, the time of their sepulture varying from three weeks to nearly eleven years. In six of these bodies arsenic was found, but was absent in four, where death had probably been the result of natural causes. In one case a doubt exists as to the source of the poison, since the earth had fallen into the coffin, and a subsequent examination proved the existence of a notable quantity of arsenic, in the soil of the churchyard of Happisburgh. The method by which metallic arsenic was separated in these cases, was that of Reinsch, and its existence was further proved by the observation of the crystalline forms of the arsenious acid, sublimed, and by its reaction with the two fluid tests of silver and copper, and hydrosulphuric acid gas.

Mr. FIRTH then recorded a considerable number of instances in which he had satisfied himself of the existence of an arsenical compound in the soil, in various parts of the county of Norfolk, both in church-yards and elsewhere; and concluded with observations upon some of the tests for arsenic, and especially mentioned some minute precautions requisite in the mode of analysis he had employed in these cases.

The PRESIDENT considered this a very important communication ; they were all aware that information on this subject had been dispersed throughout the country in a very imperfect form ; even Sir James Graham had made statements at variance with the facts.

Mr. STALLARD, of Leicester, then made a few observations on some points in Mr. Firth's communication just read. He had found that in the examination of organic fluids, free chlorine in the acid produced a chloride of copper, which was sublimed in heating the copper, and it might be mistaken for arsenic. The second point was as to the satisfaction to be obtained from microscopic examinations, which, though conclusive to the medical witness, were not so to ordinary people. Not long since Mr. Justice Patteson had laid great stress on the metallic arsenic being exhibited at the trial, and it would be always advisable to present it in a metallic form, for, in Courts of Justice, the Judges at all times insisted much on the arsenic being reduced to the metallic state.

The PRESIDENT called attention to Mr. Avery's Instruments for the examination of the internal parts of the body, which he considered would prove of great utility. Mr. Avery would show their application in an adjoining room.

Mr. AVERY then gave an account of some instruments invented for a similar purpose, and in particular alluded to a reflector, capable of being adapted to specula of various kinds, brought before a previous meeting of the Association, by Mr. Hutchinson, of Cheetham Hill, near Manchester. He also gave a description of his own improvements, by which even deeply seated stricture of the urethra could be rendered visible, and consequently the operations for the cure of

that disease more easy and certain. He gave particulars of a case in which last year he had thus succeeded in passing one of his instruments into the bladder of a patient, who was ultimately cured. He would be happy to show the manner in which the instruments were used in an adjoining room.

Many gentlemen went with him to a room at the end of the hall, and inspected the instruments, and had an opportunity of witnessing their effects in facilitating the examination of the glottis.

The PRESIDENT read a communication from Dr. Warden, of Edinburgh, respecting similar instruments.

Mr. Thomas BRIGHTWELL, of Norwich, read a paper on the "Medicinal Leech."

Mr. WARD, of Huntingdon, read a case of "Elephantiasis of the Scrotum."

Dr. BARKER, of Bedford, read a paper on "Calculus."

THE BREAKFAST.

A public breakfast was provided on Thursday morning, at the Assembly Rooms, by Mr. Butcher, of the Royal Hotel, at which about 150 gentlemen were present. Mr. Crosse presided, and after breakfast, stated the arrangements which had been made for the gentlemen present to view the public buildings, &c., of the city, and called attention to a Microscopic Exhibition at the Artists' Room; and to the Electric Telegraph, which the Rev. A. Bath Power, who was present, would be happy to explain the working of.

The Lord BISHOP of Norwich then addressed the company. It gave him great pleasure to welcome them to the capital of East Anglia, and to meet so large a body of the medical profession; men engaged, like

the clergy, in healing those diseases and afflictions which "flesh was heir to;" and endeavouring, on every occasion, to soothe the sorrows and sufferings of their brethren. He welcomed them, also, as men of science, and of that large and comprehensive intelligence, worthy of a reasoning, a reflective, and an intellectual people. He was sure they would receive as cordial a welcome from the medical practitioners in this city, who were delighted to find themselves surrounded by so many of their brethren, worthy of esteem for their talents, their disposition, and acquaintance with general literature. He was glad that this meeting was not confined to the medical profession of England; but that there were present from the far west and from the far east, one gentleman, he understood, who had crossed the Atlantic, and another from the east were present; proving that medical knowledge like theology in its best sense—the theology of love and not controversy,—was not confined to any people, or to any land; that it was like the inhabitants of every terrestrial space, it would increase in proportion as it found ground to tread upon.

He would very cautiously allude to three medical subjects which had been satirised by their president. Homœopathy, Mesmerism, and Hydropathy. To speak medically, he was obliged to limit his presence among them to the extreme limit of homœopathic participation. He had no doubt that many interesting papers would be read that day which would interest him in particular, and in a great degree; he only lamented that there was not some medical gentleman present who could throw him into a Mesmeric sleep, and enable him, by clairvoyance, to enter into those discussions to which he alluded. Far be it from him to throw cold

water on that meeting, and therefore he need not say that he was a decided enemy of hydropathy. But to speak seriously, he regretted that his occupations at present were more than ordinarily severe, and would prevent him attending the meeting and the dinner. At any other time he would gladly have offered the hospitality of the palace, but they might be aware that he was this week engaged with forty candidates for ordination, to whom he was under the necessity of devoting the whole of his time. They must therefore take the will for the deed. At any future time when they visited the city of Norwich, he hoped to have the honour of seeing them at the palace.

The PRESIDENT having intimated that a medical gentleman from Calcutta was present, the company soon after separated.

THIRD GENERAL MEETING.

The meeting was numerously attended, and commenced at 12 o'clock on Thursday morning.

The PRESIDENT said we are now to commence the third General Meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association. I trust that the proceedings which have already transpired, have so far excited our energy, and proved a stimulus, that we shall find that as we go on, we advance in our powers, and that this third and concluding meeting will be an improvement upon those which have passed, but with which, I ought to add, I have every reason to believe the Association is satisfied. I shall not interfere with the privileges which gentlemen now possess, of presenting to you such cases as they deem worthy of your attention; and it would be a waste of your time, were I to continue to address you in reference to the business

that has been brought before us. The best that I can do, is to offer you a few illustrations, not of what is before you, or what has been exhibited in this city, for I presume that those who have attended here for the last day or two, are pretty well aware of the present state of the medical profession, not only in this city and in its immediate neighbourhood; but from gentlemen who have attended from a great distance, they are aware also of the condition of the profession throughout various parts of the kingdom, as represented by those visitors. I can offer you no illustration that shall explain any thing of the present state of the profession, in addition to what has been presented to you this morning, for your breasts must be full, I am sure, of advancement, in a particular department, from what has come before you at the Artists' Room, and also at other exhibitions which you have witnessed in the course of the day; but I shall take the liberty of referring to times past, and of offering to you some illustrations that this city, from its antiquity, affords, of what the profession was at a remote period.

The first illustration that I beg to select refers to quacks. I will tell you how I have gained the information which I am about to submit. The authorities of this city have ordered a gentleman of antiquarian research and great ability, as well as assiduity, to investigate and put in order, the public records of this city. That gentleman is Mr. Goddard Johnson, not of our own profession, but of considerable scientific and literary acquirements, and through Mr. Scott, who is one of the oldest, if not the very oldest practitioner in the city, this subject has been brought before me. Some extracts, which have been forwarded

by Mr. Goddard Johnson, are now in my possession, by which I purpose to illustrate the antiquarian history of what occurred in this immediate district. In the year 1690, the magistrates made this order, "That Dr. Wm. Read, of Leith, be allowed to erect a stage at the end of the Hall in the market, so that he do not hinder people coming to the pump, to sell his drugs for one month." In the same year there is this note—"That Doctor Charles Beddest have leave to erect a stage at St. John's Timberhill, to vend his medical drugs, with music and servants, and to continue there three weeks, they behaving themselves civilly." And that "Cornelius Tilbourne, Chirurgeon, have liberty to set up a stage to practise surgery and physic in this city, for one month." And that "Richard Kerby have leave to erect a stage on the back side of the Blue Bell, to vend and sell his drugs and medicines, with music and servants, for the space of fourteen days, they keeping good rule and order, and that the chamberlain set out the ground, the fourteen days to commence from his first coming on the stage." These are undoubted illustrations of a branch of our profession, for if we look at the titles of these individuals, we must admit that they were, in some degree, authorised to traverse the kingdom on the score of their education or title.

I have observed that the present day rather abounds with extravagant theoretical systems, and I do not think it can be otherwise than advantageous to give you an authentic record or two, in reference to that point a century or two back.

The President went on to read several extracts from the ancient records of the city, relative to the manner of allowing money to the destitute, to go to receive the royal touch for the cure of their

diseases. One extract was an order of the magistrates, "that 20s. be paid towards the expenses of John Edwards, to go to Newmarket, there to be touched for the evil." This was in the reign of Charles II. Another case was, "that it is agreed that the wife of John Mills, of All Saints, when the certain day of his Majesty's healing at Newmarket is known, shall have 30s. paid her out of the hanaper towards the charge of travelling, and to return from Newmarket, and Mr. Town Clerk to write to know the day of healing."

At a remoter period it would be found that the clergy, the chirurgeon and the doctor were the same, and there was not far from this city, a monument which he had himself inspected, where the clergyman of the parish was shown to be the great chirurgeon for lithotomy. The monument included not only the record of his virtues in his office, but it referred to his great dexterity and success in cutting for the stone, &c., and had inscribed on it the forceps and other instruments by which he had attained his celebrity. Other records of 1692 showed, that a committee consisting of four gentlemen, all Esquires, were desired to wait upon the Lord Bishop of Norwich, to desire a license for a collection being made at the several churches in the city, for seven poor people to be cut for the stone. Another deputation was showed to have waited on the Bishop for a license to ask the charity of well disposed persons at Thorpe, on behalf of Robert Hubbard, who was very much afflicted with the stone. There were other similar records. In one instance, Dr. Hagen was to have £3 for the cure of a child, by cutting her for the stone; Dr. Goodridge also, in 1705, was paid £5 for cutting several persons. The records did not show what was the result of the various operations. In 1706, it

seemed that things improved, or rather perhaps, reputation improved, for Dr. Goodridge was to be paid £5 for cutting a poor child, of Pockthorpe, for the stone. There was another entry of a Mr. Sadd, surgeon, who was to cure Susan Coplin of a cancer in the breast. Any person who could now do that, would be a glorious acquisition.

The antiquarian observed, at the end of his notices, that he was not able to learn from the books, or any other source, what was the result of the various operations there mentioned, which appeared to have been very frequent.

Dr. RANKING, of Bury St. Edmunds, then read the Retrospective Address.

Dr. CONOLLY, of Hanwell, in moving a vote of thanks for this admirable Address, said, the writer was put to great disadvantage in consequence of the miscellaneous nature of the subjects, and the fear he had of wearying the audience, or of omitting important details. There was something in the plan of these addresses that required consideration. According to the present plan, one evident defect was, as in the present instance, that a laborious treatise had been read, an immense variety of facts brought forward, and at the same time, from the necessity which existed for condensation, some of the most important questions had not occupied any portion of it; he had, however, missed the opportunity of hearing some of the details. He moved that the thanks of the meeting be given to Dr. Ranking, for his Address.

Dr. FISHER, of Cambridge, seconded the resolution. In saying that he had listened with great interest to, and had derived much instruction from, the Address,

he believed that he was expressing the feeling of every member present. He considered the opportunity of listening to the address to be the most important advantage of these meetings; it was one of the motives that had brought him there, and that motive was stimulated by the fact that this Address was to be delivered by a gentleman whose earlier labours had been devoted to make the public well informed of the progress of medicine. He was sorry that Dr. Ranking had been under the necessity of curtailng any of his observations, but if he complied with the wishes of the meeting, to allow the Address to be printed, they would have an opportunity of reading it.

The PRESIDENT then put the motion, "That the thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. Ranking for his Address, and that he be requested to allow the printing of the same." The motion was carried by acclamation.

Dr. RANKING, in acknowledging the resolution of thanks, said he need not state how much he felt flattered by the compliment.

Dr. DURRANT moved "That Dr. Shearman, of Rotherham, be requested to deliver the Retrospective Address on Medicine at the Anniversary Meeting for 1847."

Dr. MACKNESS, of Hastings, seconded the motion which was carried.

Mr. CROWFOOT, of Beccles, moved that Mr. John Henry Walsh, of Worcester, be requested to deliver an Address on Surgery, at the Anniversary for 1847.

Mr. HUMPHRY, of Cambridge, seconded the motion.

Dr. FORBES said, perhaps it might be a question whether these Addresses should not be limited to more general subjects.

Dr. STREETEN explained that it was necessary to

arrange these matters beforehand, and it was the duty of the Council to ascertain previously whether the gentlemen proposed would undertake to deliver addresses. The applications had been made to the gentlemen named, but he had no doubt that both Dr. Shearman and Mr. Walsh would attend to any suggestions of the meeting.

The PRESIDENT said it was understood and was expected by a considerable portion of the members, that once in three years a Retrospective Address in Surgery should be delivered. In an Association of surgical and medical practitioners, it was deemed necessary to give some attention to the surgical department. He thought the addresses, so far as they were admissible, should, in future, be limited to the writer's observation and experience. At the end of the ensuing year, the difficulty might be removed, and he felt a strong conviction when the addresses were read, they would be found so modified as to suit the circumstances. No greater compliment could be paid to Dr. Ranking than the reason stated for modifying the character of the addresses, for it was in consequence of his able abstracts that they were deemed less suitable than formerly. He thought that Dr. Ranking would feel the compliment paid to him by the desire for a change.

Mr. NORMAN, of Bath, moved "That the Anniversary Meeting for 1847 take place at Derby; and that William Heygate, M.D., F.R.S., be appointed President elect." Mr. Norman understood that the members were desirous that the meeting should be at Derby next year, and in all probability it would be a large meeting.

Dr. HASTINGS felt great gratification in seconding this motion; the fact was, there had been an ardent desire of the members of Derby and its neighbourhood,

to receive the Association ever since the Special General Meeting there, on the subject of Medical Reform. The members there were so delighted with the meeting at that time, and the other members had reciprocated the feeling so entirely, that a promise had been given that an Anniversary should be held there. The profession at Derby had received their brethren with great hospitality and kindness, and a requisition had been sent from Derby, begging for the Anniversary to be held there this year, but the Eastern Branch being the largest Branch of the Association, the Council had determined on holding the Anniversary in Norwich, and he was sure they had every reason to be satisfied with their choice. The Council were in this difficulty, the members at Taunton, who had also sent a requisition, had been unwilling to give way to Derby, and there had been a great deal of correspondence as to the claims of these places. A promise had been given to the Taunton and East Somerset Branch two years ago, that they would visit Taunton the earliest opportunity, but there were strong reasons for fixing their Anniversary at Derby next year. The reasons for a meeting at that place, independent of the number of members, were the facility of railway communication, and of all places Derby afforded the greatest advantage in this respect. There was scarcely a town that was not connected with Derby by railway, and by placing this consideration before the Taunton members, they had consented to the Anniversary Meeting being held at Derby next year, with this reservation, however, that it should be held at Taunton, in 1848. It was certain that other places would come into competition with Taunton, if this arrangement was not made at the present meeting, and an understanding come to on

the subject; therefore, cordially seconding Mr. Norman's motion, he would consider that this meeting pledged itself as far as possible, to meet at Taunton, in 1848.

Mr. SODEN said that he had been present at the Special Meeting at Derby, where there were but few members belonging to the Association at that time; but nothing could exceed the kindness and liberality of the Derby people on that occasion, and he believed every medical man in the town had then enrolled himself a member.

The PRESIDENT said, the fact of there being so much competition for the Anniversary, afforded an excellent prospect. He felt satisfied that what had been submitted to the meeting would be a sufficient pledge, and would answer the purpose.

The motion having been put was declared carried.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. CROWFOOT, of Beccles, then referred to a case of "Fracture of the Spine," published in the "Transactions" of the Association.

The case had been treated by extension, and the subject of it, now a resident of Norwich, was brought before the meeting, perfectly able to walk and discharge the duties of his calling. An abstract of the case, together with the substance of the remarks which Mr. Crowfoot made upon the treatment pursued, and the present condition of the patient, will be given in a future number.

An ingenious instrument for reducing dislocations of the thigh was exhibited to some of the members in another room, by Mr. Davie, of Haddenham, and its application illustrated by a model and drawings. Mr. Davie also communicated a paper on the subject.

Mr. HUMPHRY, of Cambridge, read a paper on "Cleft Palate, and certain other Malformations of the Face."

The SECRETARY read a report, sent by Mr. Mayo, of Winchester, on "Cheselden's Lateral Operation of Lithotomy."

Mr. DANIELL read a paper on "Congenital Malformations of the Bladder."

Dr. PAXTON, of Rugby, read a paper entitled "Pathological Memorials."

The PRESIDENT took occasion to refer to Dr. Knox's Strictures on the unrivalled Museum of the College of Surgeons of England, considering them uncalled for and unjust. He had often visited that Museum, and wished he had more time to devote to the investigation of the specimens. There the facts were placed before them, from which John Hunter formed that noble system long ago, and the truth of which was still firmly fixed in their minds. He was astonished that Dr. Knox's remarks had not attracted the notice and censure of the public press.

Dr. WARE said he would hardly venture to take up their time if it was not consistent with his relations to this Society. Before moving the resolution which had been placed in his hand, it afforded him great gratification to express the pleasure with which he had listened to the various contributions on medical subjects offered to the Association during the time he had been present. It could not be otherwise than that an association meeting annually in this way, and in different parts of the kingdom, must have an advantageous effect on the progress of medical sciences, and on the personal relations that the members of the Society held with one another. The resolution he held in his hand

was, "That the thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby given, to those gentlemen who read papers and made communications to the meeting."

Dr. COPLAND, of London, said it gave him great pleasure to rise and second this motion, for no one could have been present without rejoicing they had heard the various communications. The Society was now in its fifteenth year, and they had now seen the fourteenth volume of its contributions. He believed the Society to be only excelled by one other in contributing to the advancement of medical science, and in the number of communications given to the profession. He could not help being gratified at hearing these communications, and he was sure he should be much pleased in reading them hereafter.

The motion having been put was carried unanimously.

Dr. HUNTER, of Lynn, moved, "That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Mayor and Magistrates, and to the heads of the different institutions in this city, medical, scientific, and commercial, that had been so liberally opened to all the members." He had not availed himself of the privilege of visiting all these Institutions, but wherever he had, both himself and parties with him had every cause to feel satisfied with the attention they had experienced.

Mr. WARD, of Huntingdon, had great pleasure in seconding the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The PRESIDENT said,—This is the termination, not only of our third meeting, but of our meeting for scientific purposes altogether. I must not attempt to tell you how gratifying it is to me to see so large an assembly, not only of our neighbours, but also of gentlemen of distinction, high appointments, of great information, and

almost universal knowledge, from distant and different parts of the kingdom, in addition to which, we have others from the most remote parts of the world. After such a meeting I am left little capable to express what my feelings have been, except that I have been raised to a pitch of excitement that prevents me saying further than this, that every feeling is reciprocated on my part. In retiring from the scientific meetings let us to the banquet at the Assembly Rooms to which we must soon repair, and thus finish our Anniversary.

Dr. CONOLLY was sure they would anticipate that he meant to propose a vote of thanks to the President for the very able manner in which he had presided over them. It was not necessary to make a single observation to those who had had the honour of meeting Mr. Crosse on former occasions. He had felt the greatest anxiety to be present at this meeting, and he was sure the President had given great gratification to his townsmen, who knew his merits; all present knew his reputation, and could bear testimony to the urbanity of his manners: he had imparted to the meetings a spirit and energy, and produced an impression that could not be lost.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

THE DINNER.

The dinner took place at the Assembly Rooms, where above 100 gentlemen were present.

The President of the Society, Mr. Crosse, was in the chair, and was supported by the Mayor of Norwich, (J. Betts, Esq.,) the Sheriff, (J. Colman, Esq.,) S. Bignold, Esq., Dr. Hastings, Dr. Forbes, Dr. Copland, Dr. Conolly, Dr. Ware, Dr. Ranking, Dr. Fisher, &c., &c.

The band of the Sixth Dragoon Guards was in attendance, together with the Cathedral choristers,

contributing much to the meeting by the excellence of their performance. Mr. Higgins, of Freemason's Tavern, London, a pupil of the celebrated O'Toole, was engaged, and performed the duties of toast-master in a most effective manner. The cloth having been withdrawn, "*Non nobis Domine,*" was sung by the choristers.

The PRESIDENT then proposed "The Queen."—The toast was responded to with three times three. "God save the Queen" was sung by the choristers, and played by the band, in a manner which will not readily be forgotten by those who heard it.

The PRESIDENT next gave "Prince Albert, Albert Prince of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family."

The PRESIDENT.—I give you the "Army and Navy." In regard to the former, I appeal to you if recent events have not proved how much the prosperity of those at home depends on our brave armies abroad. The gallant Colonel, who has favoured us at this meeting, has fought our battles both in the east and in the west; we therefore wish to do him honour. But the toast comes home to our profession, for you must remember that there are medical officers in the army and in the navy; and, I have it on the best authority, that none of those officers can do their duty in the time of battle, unless in danger. We know that they do their duty, and therefore that they have braved the danger, and contributed to that honour and respect which we are now endeavouring to pay to the army and navy.—The toast was responded to with great applause. "Rule Britannia," by the band.

The PRESIDENT then said,—Gentlemen, I trust that in consequence of the two days you have spent here, you are well convinced of the great advantages that have been already derived, and are derived, and are still derivable, from the Provincial Medical and

Surgical Association. I think we may say something in favour of it as regards the progress of science, and I am sure we may say much in its favour as having promoted a beneficial knowledge of each other. I should detain you much too long if I were to enumerate or refer to even a few of those fresh and valuable acquaintances which this meeting has been the means of forming during this short,—this too brief period. Gentlemen, you must be aware that it is no easy task to control—to maintain and keep together a large Association like this. I must say, as far as regards my own experience of the medical profession, they are of the *genus irritabile*; they do not bear fierce controversy, and gross attacks, or hints of suspicion, like a minister of state. I must therefore suggest to you, that it is only by the exercise of a powerful mind, that the President of the Council of the Association, *and the Founder of the Association*—it is only by that gentleman obtaining the mastery of his own mind, that he can influence and control the minds of others; therefore, gentlemen, I have to propose a toast that concerns our President, and to which I am sure you will pay every attention. We have been criticised by the press for lauding each other at our meeting, but let the press recollect that when what is said in commendation is merely true, it ceases to be compliment—it is justice. Therefore gentlemen I say, this censure thrown against our Association is unjust, for I consider we pay the least attention we can do to the supporters of the Association, and much less than we should wish to do to its founder, and most efficient promoter, by saying the truth and making *laus virtutis reflectio*. The toast then, is, “Success to the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, with the health of its founder, Dr.

Hastings."—The toast was responded to with three times three.—*Auld lang Syne*, by the band.

Dr. HASTINGS on rising, was received with renewed plaudits, and spoke nearly as follows:—Mr. President and Brother Members, it has been said that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh; but I assure you, Sir, and fellow members, that I find it very difficult on such occasions as the present to find words adequate to express my feelings of gratitude to you; therefore, I shall best consult your time by simply saying that I thank you for this great act of kindness towards me, and that I will endeavour by every means in my power still more to deserve the high commendation which you, Sir, have been pleased to express concerning me, and which you, gentlemen, by your kind plaudits have so irresistibly forced upon my mind. I assure you, gentlemen, that from these meetings alone I have derived unspeakable gratification. It is now but a very few years since our flag was first unfurled. This was in Worcestershire, where with small numbers we commenced this great Association. We have successively, and at annual periods, visited every part of England; the north, south, west, and now in the capital of East Anglia are we unfurling our banners, and have inscribed on them—"Advancement of medical science, maintenance of the honour of the profession, and faith and good will amongst every individual member of this Association, and of the great body of the profession in general." Gentlemen, we are actuated in the Association by no selfish motives. We attend not to those taunts that have been thrown in our teeth—that self adulation is the principle by which we are guided. Our conscience tells us that the feeling which actuates us in our proceedings, is a pure desire to increase the knowledge of our profession, and to produce amongst each other that good feeling, that

good faith, and social intercourse, which are the great charm of human existence. This gives a charm to our Association, and will, I trust, stamp upon it the motto, *esto perpetua*. For ages yet to come, the Society will still live and have occasion to say that the present generation were actuated by high motives, and great desires for the promotion of the health and true happiness of the community at large. I trust that we can look back with no small degree of gratification to the times that are past. With regard to what we have done, I think we can, in a great degree, challenge the public, and ask the critic, whether our Association has not answered the great purposes for which it was intended. But we will not rest in what has been done. Let us look back and see what we have done, and then press forward and try and do ten times more than that which we have hitherto been able to accomplish. These are feelings which ought to actuate every member of the profession; and in proportion as we put our shoulder to the wheel, and show that the desire to promote the happiness of mankind, and the advancement of the true interests of the community through the benefits which the medical profession is calculated to bestow on it, are the feelings which animate us, we shall be conferring the greatest possible obligation which it is possible for an Association like ours to bestow. There are on the present occasion other signs of the great benefits to be derived by us. I think we may challenge any one of the meetings of this Institution to show such a happy conjunction of scientific investigation and social intercourse, as have marked this Anniversary. And I do say the manner in which the Bishop of the diocese, and the authorities of this city have come forward to say that they are desirous that this Association should prosper, and that they are anxious to show that the city of

Norwich is not indifferent to those good and high feelings which give a zest to, and animate, the great principles of our nature—I say that in this respect our Anniversary on the present occasion will be stamped with a high excellence, and will richly deserve a comparison with any one of those that have preceded it. Who that listened to the eloquent and touching sentences that fell from the lips of your respected and venerated Bishop, this morning, could have gone from that room and not have said to himself that these are the meetings which are calculated to benefit our profession, by bringing us in contact with men who cast a brilliant light on the human species, and who by their situation in the state are calculated in every way to recommend our profession in high quarters, and with those who are able to assist us in prosecuting many of the objects in which we are engaged. These are some of the great benefits which result from our annual meetings. They are apart in some degree from our scientific investigations, but they stamp a peculiar excellence upon the Association, and give it a peculiarity which no other Medical Institution in this country has ever possessed. Gentlemen, time is short and art is long, and I have but a few moments further to occupy your attention. Let me assure you before I sit down, that I go from this assembly to my home, nearly three hundred miles hence, impressed with the kindly and good feelings which has evidently animated the medical profession in Norwich; and in the fervent hope that such assemblies as these may continue to be held, and that the fruits of them may continue to abound. I can only say that I have even been enchanted since I came into this room, seeing that music has lent its aid in adding to the harmony of the meeting. On no occasion have I ever left any meeting of the Association more impressed with a

sense of the benefits which it was calculated to confer upon the community, or more desirous to show by every possible effort on my part, that I am in some slight degree deserving of the high encomiums which you have this evening been pleased to bestow on me.

The PRESIDENT, in proposing the next toast said :—
Gentlemen, it is a rare occurrence to see in this remote, though ancient city, any member of our profession from distant parts of the world; it therefore strikes me that we are called upon to pay attention to a gentleman who has lately crossed the Atlantic, and, being in the metropolis, has favoured us with his presence on this occasion. Recent events have awakened feelings in our breast, to shew us the value of peace, in the direction to which I now refer. Medical men, better perhaps than any of the learned professions, appreciate the value of peace all over the world; for there is no quarter of the globe, however remote, however constituted as to climate, that does not afford facts and occurrences which apply to the advantage of our science. The facilities afforded by the various periodical publications issued in different parts of the world, (amounting, on the best calculation, to about 150,) are very great. Peace enables us to gain from all quarters of the world, that information which, even though sometimes unheeded, is sure to be distributed throughout the country to the entire medical profession. We have a gentleman present to whom I must refer for one moment—Dr. John Forbes, of London,—who, by his correspondence and contribution, has done so much for the advancement of medical science. It is by his attention that Dr. Ware, Professor of Medicine in the University of Cambridge, Boston, in the United States, has been conducted to the meeting in this city. To this individual I direct my toast, and conclude by giving you the health of Dr. Ware.—Responded to with three

times three, followed by the glee "When winds breathe soft."

Dr. WARE, on rising to reply to the toast, said:—
 Mr. President and gentlemen, I rise to thank you for the honour you have done me on this occasion, and for the courtesy and kindness which I have experienced at your hands, throughout the whole of my attendance on these meetings. I cannot deny that in coming to England it was one of my hopes that I should be here at the period at which this Association should meet, and that I should be fortunate enough to have the privilege of being at the assembly. It is many years since I was first aware of the existence of this society—indeed it was at its first establishment, a circumstance which I noticed with great interest. I have made myself acquainted with its "Transactions," and although I had no hope that I should have attended here, except as an humble unknown witness of your proceedings, I am none the less grateful for the feelings with which I have been received, and the consideration which you have been so good as to bestow on me. No two countries ever have stood, or will, or perhaps ever can stand, in the same relation to each other as the two countries which we have the honour respectively to represent. The truth of this statement must, I think, commend itself to every individual. Our common origin, for which we have reason to be grateful, and of which we have reason to be proud—our common origin, our common language, and, up to a certain period of time, our common history and literature, all give us a relation to each other, which, so far as I am acquainted with the history of mankind, no other nations have ever borne. This, therefore, gives an American a peculiar interest in visiting the land of his fathers; and let me hope also the land of his brothers. There is also a vast deal in every point of view which makes his arrival,

upon this island, a momentous period of his life. It is a period which I may say, for my own part, I have looked forward to, with almost intense desire, from the period of my youth. I have always maintained and cherished a desire to set my foot upon the island of Great Britain, and to form acquaintances amongst its inhabitants. This purpose I have cherished throughout the whole period of my professional career, which as yet has been but short; and now, at the expiration of half a century of my life, I have happily accomplished it. In arriving on this island, there are a thousand things that strike one as being curious, wonderful, and interesting. One is its antiquities. We, as you know, have nothing that would here be called old. Our utmost extent goes not beyond two centuries. No one can trace his lineage back beyond a grandfather, or a great grandfather; and he who can carry it back to the first settlement of the colony, (five or six generations,) is regarded as having an hereditary title to respect, and possessing a long line of illustrious ancestors. Another thing is the immense magnitude of your great metropolis, the city at which I first landed. I was in its midst in storm and darkness; its limits seemed to be like the horizon flying from before me as I attempted to approach them. And I was only convinced that there was a limit by getting into a railway carriage to come to this meeting, and travelling at the rate of thirty miles an hour. One's emotions too, are excited, on arriving at a place which is connected with all the literature and history with which one has been conversant during the greater part of his life. Of course, if our history goes back to so short a period, it is for the most part the history of England, the history of Scotland, and the history of Ireland. In coming to Great Britain, we visit the spots that are noted in English history. Those parts of the city of

London in which the great events of your history have occurred, the place where your poets are deposited, the residence of your king, and up to a certain period *our* king, Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament must be fraught with the deepest interest. But, Sir, to a member of our profession, among the most interesting and important objects which strike his attention, are those which have relation to his profession. If there is any class to whom their profession is dear, I believe it is ours. Nothing, therefore, can be more interesting to one of my country, than to come among those persons from whom he has derived the elements of his medical education, and that interest which he feels in his profession. On arriving here, therefore, my first desire was to see those eminent medical men from whom I have, all my life, been deriving instruction. I had arrived in the country of Harvey, of Hunter, and of others whose names it would be impossible to enumerate. No sooner did I find myself in London, than I was upon almost fraternal relations with one who did us an almost inexpressible service many years ago by the publication of a work introducing the immortal discoveries of Laennec. He has established a medical journal, which is carried throughout the world, disseminating the purest and soundest principles of medical philosophy. I come to Norwich; I am treated with hospitality at the house of your excellent President. I awake in the morning, and in the intervals of the toilet, which you know with physicians is not always the most deliberate operation, I see in the bookcase a medical book. According to my usual custom, I take up the book, and find I am enjoying the hospitality of a gentleman whose work we had occasion to report about a quarter of a century since, on the occasion of an epidemic small-pox, and which, for the

first time, unsettled our faith, disturbed our confidence, in the efficacy of vaccination. Still further, on coming down to the hospitable table of my host, I meet there with another gentleman, by whom I am kindly welcomed, one of whose early works it had been my pleasure and my privilege to read, and who, as I found by attending the meetings of this Society, was the founder of your Association, and who seemed to have the heart of the Society, as well as the heart of all others. You have alluded, Mr. President, to the relations, the delicate relations which have existed between our respective countries. I most cordially reciprocate the hearty thankfulness you have expressed at the existence—the continuation of kind relations between us; and I believe there is no man, for whose opinion I have the slightest regard, who would not readily reciprocate the same feeling—who would not have regarded the infraction of those relations, as a calamity, if not a disgrace. One word more, Sir, with regard to the Association, before which I have now the honour to appear. I cannot express how great has been the satisfaction with which I have attended your meetings and witnessed your proceedings. It has given me a high opinion of the science and knowledge of my brethren in the profession in this country. In addition to this I must express the pleasure I have experienced in witnessing the urbanity, kindness, candour, and gentlemanly bearing which have been uniformly exhibited at the meetings of this Anniversary. Our profession has been charged with want of kindness and liberality one towards another; this may be true, but if it be so, I will undertake to say that the gentlemen of the Provincial Medical Association are the most remarkable hypocrites it has ever been my fortune to meet. Neither in word, nor in look, nor in act, have I seen anything that will give colour

to this charge against the profession of Great Britain, so far as they are represented by the gentlemen with whom I have had the honour to have intercourse. I do not know what is customary in this country, but it is usual with us, at the conclusion of a speech, to terminate it by a sentiment or toast. You have not taken that course hitherto, and if it is not orthodox, I will refrain; but if you will allow me the privilege of my country, I will give you "the Medical Profession of England and America," leaving to politicians discussions concerning the parallel of latitude which shall divide between them the empire of an uncultivated and remote desert, ~~and~~ let us settle down quietly into the joint occupation of the fertile territories of science.

Dr. Ware was listened to throughout his admirable speech with the most marked attention, interrupted only by the cheers which his observations from time to time elicited, and concluded amid the enthusiastic applause of his hearers.

Dr. HASTINGS.—Mr. Vice-President and gentlemen, I am sure you will be prepared for the toast I am about to give you, and you may think we have neglected an agreeable duty too long. That duty is to do honour to the health of our worthy President. I need not enlarge upon the high professional character of our President on this occasion, but I would call attention to the fact that since it was known that the Anniversary of the Association was to be held in Norwich, he has been unwearied in his endeavours to make it a successful one. With what degree of success your plaudits fully manifest. The endeavours of our President have not been confined to the English shores. He has endeavoured to bring into this city distinguished members of the profession from all parts of the world. It was the knowledge that our President was so exceedingly anxious to give *eclat* to this Anniversary that induced Dr. Forbes

to invite the distinguished visitor, with whose eloquence we have just been delighted, to cross the Atlantic, and to come here anxious to hold out the right hand of fellowship. I need not tell you, and I will not at this hour stop to dilate on the advantages that will result from this great dissemination of the sentiments of medical philosophers, and the social advantages that will result from the intercommunion of men of like minds, or the advantages that have shone forth in this bright re-union ; but I will conclude by proposing—
 “ Health and long life to our worthy President, and may each succeeding year bring fresh honours to him, and the wreath of merit so justly his due be placed upon his brow.”

The toast was responded to with three times three, and one cheer more.

The PRESIDENT rose and said, it is not desirable to my mind to delay in addressing you for the honour you have done me at the suggestion of Dr. Hastings. When you refer to me as connected with the Society in the high capacity which I have the honour to fill, I can only say that I am the small apex of that vast pyramid. For the last forty years I have been in strict and attentive pursuit to the best of my abilities of the medical profession, and I can say with honest truth, and without fear of suspicion by those who know me most intimately, that for the last year or two, my delight in the pursuit has been rather increased than abated. It is surely a delightful profession, and one possessing much to recommend it, that can so long keep up an earnest and sincere interest. There is one most powerful requisite, however, and for which I cannot be sufficiently grateful to the Power above. There is one requisite, and that is the *mens sana in corpore sano*, and with that blessing the profession is what I have represented. I must now refer to the meeting, and cease to

refer to myself, and I must state there would have been no possibility of having a re-union of this sort, and to this extent, of bringing gentlemen from different parts of the kingdom, if it had not been for that rapid communication which recent improvements in science have brought about, and which promises to change the whole face of society throughout the world. Gentlemen, I regard the rapid transit of railway conveyance as the triumph of science, as the application of mind to the appliances of matter; and, I should say, as to the result of this rapid communication, if attended with safety, it will fertilize the material soil, and at the same time it will fertilize the intellectual soil. But it is not merely the conveyance of persons, it is the facility of intercourse between mind and mind, that we should hail with delight, and from which we feel daily and constantly the effect, in the diffusion of knowledge. Gentlemen, I thank you again for the compliment you have paid me.—The “Railway Galop” was now played by the band, and excited mingled merriment and applause.

The PRESIDENT.—I have now a pleasing duty to perform, for it is one of gratitude. We are favoured with many visitors from the metropolis, and I would like to point out some of those visitors, but time forbids that I should refer to them all. I shall join with my toast the name of Dr. Copland—a name so singularly distinguished in the literary ranks of our profession, which till of late years really did lack literary reputation, but through the influence of gentlemen present at this table, there has been an immense growth in that direction, and more especially through the labours of Dr. Copland. By his single head and hand there has been produced a work which I need not name. There is only one thing I regret, that the work is not completed, and we must beg him to

expedite the completion, and not leave us a beginning without an end. I trust that you will all understand these remarks, and see that they are applicable. I do not wish him to proceed at a railway pace, but at a steady moderate rate, and terminate with the same rapidity as he commenced. There is another gentleman to whom I would allude, but his modesty forbids me to mention his name, and we know that modesty is the characteristic of superior talent, when that talent is attended by superior virtue. I name him, however, as the Rokitanski of Great Britain. The toast is, "Dr. Copland, and the medical visitors from London." Three times three.

Dr. COPLAND said, the time would not allow him to make a long speech on this occasion. He assured the company that he felt highly gratified by the compliment which had been paid to him. He believed the notice which had been taken of him was in consequence of his literary efforts. He was pleased to see around him so many connected, more or less, with literature. He had felt the advantages to be derived from the study both of ancient and modern literature, and he believed he expressed the sentiments of his literary brethren around him in acknowledging with gratitude the manner in which they had been received in this city.

Mr. S. BIGNOLD would not have risen but for a call from the chair, to propose a toast. He had great pleasure at the same time in expressing his happiness in being present at this meeting. He had been requested to propose the health of a high municipal officer, who had shown his readiness to come forward on all public occasions, which it was his duty and privilege to do. Mr. Bignold had much pleasure in proposing the health of "The Right Worshipful the Mayor," for the spirited manner in which he sustained

the duties of his office, and he would couple with the Mayor "The Corporation of Norwich."

The MAYOR, in acknowledgment, said he could scarcely find words to express his feelings for the high compliment. He felt that to be the proudest moment of his life, and he considered it to be a proud day for the city of Norwich to have had such a meeting of the medical profession. If he could only do his duty towards the citizens of Norwich, it was all he could expect. He wished all present health and happiness.

At this period, with that military precision and command which had marked the whole proceedings, the President finding that the allowed time was expired, was compelled abruptly to retire, and the national air being called for, he left the room attended by a majority of the company, many of whom were just in time to leave the city by mail train for London. Another Chairman was chosen to conduct through some of the remaining toasts that had been necessarily left, and particularly the health of Dr. Ranking, the reader of the Retrospective Address, on which account it was stated that he was entitled to earlier attention and not less so for his excellent half year's "Abstract of the Medical Sciences," which was pronounced to reflect great credit on the Association, of which he proved himself so distinguished and deserving a member.

