

Report of proceedings at the distribution of prizes in St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, Thursday, May 1st, 1856 / Frederick Denison Maurice in the chair.

Contributors

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Royal College of Surgeons of England

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REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES

IN

ST. MARY'S

MEDICAL



HOSPITAL

SCHOOL,

THURSDAY, MAY 1st, 1856.

THE REVEREND

FREDERICK DENISON MAURICE, M.A.,

CHAPLAIN OF LINCOLN'S INN,

IN THE CHAIR.

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REPORT

ESTABLISHED 1847

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REPORT.

THE proceedings were opened by the Dean of the School reading the following Report from the Medical School Committee :

REVEREND SIR,

Having invited their friends to witness the first-fruits of the foundation of the St. Mary's School of Medicine, the Medical School Committee are anxious to avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded to lay before you and this company some circumstances connected with the institution, as well as the aims and feelings which have prompted and still influence them in its government.

St. Mary's Hospital was opened in June, 1851, and the Medical School in October, 1854, that is, in as short a time as it was possible for the Governors to redeem the pledge which they had given to the medical officers of the hospital, on their appointment, that a medical school should be founded; a pledge which they, the Governors, were most anxious to fulfil, being, from the earliest infancy of the institution, fully impressed not only with the fact of the great importance of such a connection, but appreciating, to the fullest extent, the comparative inutility of a Hospital as a great Public Charity, when unprovided with Dressers, Clinical Clerks, and a subordinate medical staff, educated under the eye of its own officers, and when the practical experience to be gained within its walls is wasted to society, in so far at least as it may be made material for the instruction of students of the medical profession.

The laws, therefore, which the Governors made for the regulation of this branch of the institution were most liberal, including a Collegiate Establishment for the residence of students under a certain form of discipline, in which their studies will be directed and aided by tutorial assistance; and the Medical School Committee have endeavoured, on their parts, to show their appreciation of the liberality of the Governors, by using every effort to elevate the character of the medical student, to raise the quality of his education, and thus ultimately the moral and professional status of the medical man.

The Committee consider that this School has several incontestable advantages; not only has the building been rendered as commodious and convenient as possible,—but the health of the student, while engaged in prosecuting his studies within its walls, has been especially considered in the arrangements,—under the experienced eye of Mr. Lane, a successful teacher of anatomy in this town for twenty-five years past. It possesses the great advantage of being situated in a very healthy district,—connected with which fact there is combined a moral advantage no less striking than the physical one, viz., the comparative freedom from the temptations of the town; again,—the institution being situated in the immediate vicinity of a wealthy neighbourhood,—abounding with medical practitioners,—affords a school of instruction for their sons and pupils, while still resident under their own immediate control and superintendence.

It has been remarked by some that the fee for admission as a perpetual pupil to this school is large,—that it might have been wiser, in a young establishment, to have fixed a lower one. Sir, the Committee at once freely state that they have no desire to compete with cheap medical schools,

—and they are cordially agreed in declining the very heavy responsibility which attaches to the attempt to conduct medical or any other form of education upon the principle of cheapness. Although the connection may not at first sight be evident,—and this is not the occasion to argue the point,—yet they have no doubt that the amount of the fee which is paid by any particular student will bear some proportion to the amount of his previous or preliminary education, the standard of which it is the special object of all interested in the profession to raise. While, however, the Committee are thus prepared to defend their scale of fees upon principle, they meet the charge of dearness with a direct denial, and are prepared to show that the education afforded by the St. Mary's Hospital School is the most complete, and, in a pecuniary sense, the most advantageous in London ; not only does it give the student a most extended course of education,—comprising several special subjects not taught elsewhere,—but in consequence of the liberality of the Governors of the hospital, and the concurrence of the medical staff,—they are enabled to throw all the offices of Dresser, Clinical Clerk, Non-resident Medical Officer, Registrars, and even that of Resident Medical Officer, open to competition amongst the Perpetual Pupils ; it is true these offices are open without extra fee in other schools,—but in no similar institution in London is the House Surgeoncy *free for twelve months*, as it is here, *without charge for board*—an advantage which at once turns the scale in favour of this School, even upon a pecuniary consideration.

In the present financial condition of St. Mary's Hospital, Sir, the efforts of all its officers are anxiously directed towards its maintenance and establishment upon a secure and independent basis,—and the interests of the School require that we should support the Hospital extensively ;

we are not rich, therefore, in our list of prizes; but we trust, that even the few books we offer may be sufficient to excite a fair spirit of emulation amongst our students; indeed, we see with pleasure and great satisfaction, that such is the case, from the admirable manner in which many of our examinations have been responded to. Other institutions, we admit, are more fortunate in this respect than our own;—the accumulated wealth of centuries with some,—and the accumulated friends of an ancient foundation with others,—afford, in many instances, a goodly array of Scholarships and Prizes of various kinds and for various subjects; and we also are not without hope,—that when the difficulties of the early foundation of our Hospital are overcome,—friends will be found among the many high-minded and open-handed Governors of St. Mary's Hospital who will assist us in adding such legitimate incentives and advantages to our school as Scholarships for deserving pupils would undoubtedly be.

The aim of the directing body has been to make this an eminently clinical,—and therefore practical school of medicine and surgery—to raise up a class of sound and well-educated,—because thoroughly practically educated, medical men; as a further step in that direction it is announced that Prizes will be offered in the Classes of Clinical Medicine and Clinical Surgery in the ensuing Session; they will be awarded in April, 1857, to the Student who shall furnish the best reports of twelve Medical or twelve Surgical Cases occurring in the Wards of St. Mary's Hospital between May 1st, 1856, and March 31st, 1857.—A Prize will also be awarded in the ensuing Session to the Student who shall make the best anatomical preparation; such preparation to become the property of the School.

These, then, being the motives, Sir, which influence the

Committee,—they have considered earnestly their position at this their first public demonstration,—and, after due reflection, they have felt that they could in no way better convince the public and their friends of the thorough honesty and earnestness of their intentions and objects,—than by inviting your sanction and assistance to their work,—well knowing, as all indeed now do, that nothing which is ambiguous, or self-seeking, or narrow, can obtain the sympathy or co-operation of one whose great intellect is equalled by his unconquerable energy of purpose,—while both are only excelled by that ardent love of his fellow-men which the guidance of the purest Christianity inspires.

THE Chairman then addressed the meeting as follows :

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

If I have any, even the slightest, claim to the honour which the conductors of St. Mary's School have done me in proposing that I should preside over you on the present occasion, it is this—I was for ten years the chaplain of a very large hospital at the extreme east of the metropolis ; I am now the chaplain of one of our inns of court. I may therefore serve to remind you of a very important truth. I may remind you that there is a close relation between the ends for which our three civil professions are working, nay, even between the studies and practice which are the means to those ends. This lesson, I believe, we ought all of us to learn ; it does not much signify who the person is that suggests it to us. We do want, I am sure, to understand each other better ; to make our thoughts less narrow and pedantical by comparing them, to make our purposes nobler by considering what they are and how we are to labour for them. We are reminded continually—

we have been reminded very painfully of late—how necessary medicine is to law, and law to medicine. Those cases of alleged poisoning—which are very soon to occupy our courts of justice, which have been for a long time occupying the mind of the country—have brought out clearly and terribly the relation between the physician and jurist. Those questions, again, respecting the responsibility of criminals who are proved, or believed, to have some mental illusion, show what different conclusions intelligent men may arrive at when they contemplate the same facts from different points of view, what need there is that they should state their differences, and try to discover some reconciliation of them.

Between my own profession and yours, gentlemen who are practising or having to practise the healing art, the connection is even more intimate. It presents itself to us every day in what you must allow me to call *our* pathological studies, and in the treatment of *our* patients. We have both of us to learn from most difficult and complicated cases, how mind and body act and react upon each other, how the diseases of the one aggravate and modify the diseases of the other. We ought not to be content with merely making this observation, gentlemen; we ought not to let it remain a lifeless truism. You can preserve us from a multitude of blunders into which we are apt to fall, and which may prove very mischievous indeed, especially in reference to a class of ailments which are very common in our day. And I am not afraid to boast, because I know you will confess it, that if we are true to our own light, we can do something for those ailments even when your skill is baffled.

These considerations, Gentlemen, must needs impress us with the mighty subject which we all — medical men,

lawyers, clergymen—have to deal with. They force us to recollect that our business is with MEN. This is the dignity which we claim for ourselves as members of the professional class, a dignity which I believe it behoves us always most earnestly to assert. We do not assert it—we degrade ourselves, we become mean and vulgar,—whenever we speak scornfully of the tradesman. He has a high and honorable vocation; we ought to assist him in feeling how high and honorable it is—how beneficially he is ministering to the commonwealth, how much higher those to whom he ministers, and how much higher he himself is, than the mere things which they buy and he sells. We give him that aid, and teach him to feel the responsibility of his position, and of himself as a citizen and man, when we claim this as our special glory, that we deal directly with the acts and suffering of living beings, of creatures made in the image of God.

I trust that the education of lawyers and divines in our country does serve to keep them alive to this thought. But I must tell my friends, the medical students whom I see before me, that there is something in their education which ought to be more favorable to the recollection of this, their professional dignity, than in that which is granted to us. When I was living in the midst of a hospital, I was continually reminded of the good which might be done,—which actually was done to some whom I knew and loved there, by the acquaintance which they made with human suffering and sin, with human endurance and gentleness, among those who filled the wards, before they entered upon their private practice, before they connected their labours with the pecuniary rewards which so rightly accompany them, before they had the temptation of catering to the whims, fancies, and prejudices of the rich

and luxurious. Believe me, Gentlemen, this is a very grand discipline; one by which God designs to make you humane, gentle, reverent towards your fellow-men, as well as to teach you a knowledge (also most favorable to humility and reverence) of the mysteries of our bodily organization and bodily life. It may have this effect; which of us cannot testify that it has had this effect on medical men to whom we owe a gratitude, for blessings rendered to those most dear to us, such as no words can utter? Which of us cannot say that we have found a superiority to mercenary feelings and mercenary motives among them that has made us ashamed, and at the same time that has made us proud, because it vindicated the honour of professional men, and showed what are their real and certain prizes?

Speaking of rewards reminds me that I am detaining you too long from those which are designed as testimonies of your diligence to-day. I do not see what reason your Dean had to apologise for those which lie on the table before me. I am, unfortunately, ignorant of their contents, but the outsides of them look very comely and attractive. Were they far less so, you would receive them as tokens to associate you with the school which I am sure you have learnt to care for already, which I trust you will care for more every day that you live. And let me say it to you, Gentlemen; though I trust you will reap all the external and palpable advantages of honorable industry hereafter, these gifts may tell you that the most precious are those which cannot be measured or bought by gold. I remember being present at an occasion like this many years ago at Guy's Hospital. The person who presided at the distribution of prizes then had not to account for his appearance as I have had for my appearance here to-day. All England—all Europe—would have said that the person who had the best

right to be chairman of any meeting of medical students or medical practitioners, was Sir Astley Cooper. Well, Gentlemen, he gave away the prizes generally in that pleasant, good-humoured, offhand manner, which many, I dare say, who are present to-day will recollect. But once his tone changed—his voice became serious, even pathetic. It was when he was giving to a student—a West Indian, if I am not mistaken—a prize for a successful examination in Ophthalmic Surgery. He told the student—it may be, perhaps, a favorite story in your profession, but it was new to me—that he knew a young man, also a West Indian, who had been sent by his parents, not without difficulty, to a medical school in London, who had worked hard in it, and who returned to practise in his native land. In the interval his father had lost his sight; it was a blindness that might have been cured, but there was no person qualified to operate, near him. The operation was performed by the pupil, who had just landed; and the first face which the father had looked upon for months, was that of the son who restored him. That, no doubt, is one of the romances of your profession. One might not have believed it upon a testimony less undoubted than Sir Astley's. But, coming from him, who had earned all the outward prizes any professional man could attain, it served to tell us that the blessings which the medical man is able to scatter about his path were more precious in his judgment than those which the most grateful patients or country can confer on him.

Gentlemen, may such rewards be yours! Were I presiding on one of those occasions at which Englishmen are especially fond of expressing their sentiments towards each other, I should drink all your good healths. Meeting you here to-day, I can wish not only that God may give you that great gift, but that He may make you the in-

struments of preserving health and restoring health to numbers of your fellow-men.

The Prizes were next distributed,—the Prizemen in the different Classes (see list of their names at page 14) being introduced to the Chairman by the respective Lecturers.

Mr. LANE then said,—Before we separate, I am sure all present will support me in proposing a vote of thanks to the Reverend Chairman for the admirable and impressive address we have just heard, and for the very able way in which he has presided at this our first Meeting to distribute Prizes and Certificates of Honour to the Students educated at St. Mary's Hospital. Our Dean has very justly observed in his Report, that we could not commence to reward our meritorious Pupils under better auspices.—A gentleman so distinguished as Mr. MAURICE is by his strenuous efforts for the moral and intellectual improvement of all classes of the community, I doubt not, has felt great pleasure in the genial occupation of rewarding and encouraging the Medical Student in his endeavours to advance himself in moral and intellectual culture, as well as in obtaining professional and scientific knowledge, so necessary to render him in after life a useful and worthy member of society. I now, in behalf of my Colleagues and of all present, thank Mr. MAURICE for the honour he has done us, and for the great benefit he has conferred upon us by presiding at our Meeting this day.

This vote of thanks was seconded by Dr. BIRD, and having been cordially received by the Meeting, was acknowledged by the Chairman.

Dr. CHAMBERS then rose, and said,—Though what I have to say is not on the Programme of proceedings, I trust the Chairman will excuse my trespassing on the

Meeting for a few minutes. I think we cannot, while meeting in St. Mary's School, avoid an unanimous vote of thanks to one who was not only originally a prime mover in the organization of his colleagues, which led to the formation of the School, but who has also, by his daily, almost hourly, attendance during the erection of the building, been the cause of that remarkable commodiousness and adaptation to its purpose which has been the subject of comment. And—what is to those engaged as Lecturers of more importance than all—the same active and steady mind has, by its moral influence, kept up a tone of gentlemanly scholarlike and Christian feeling among the pupils, which is a peculiar comfort to those who take to heart the honour of their profession. It is scarcely necessary, after this preamble, to name Mr. SPENCER SMITH, the Dean of St. Mary's School, as one from whom it is impossible to part this day without cordially thanking.

The motion having been seconded by Dr. SIBSON, was warmly received, and briefly responded to by the Dean, who said that the Proceedings of that day afforded him an ample reward for his imperfect services.

MEDICINE	1855 - 56	{ Mr. E. M. C. Hooker	Mr. Walter J. Coulson. } eq.
			Mr. Mark Farrant. }
SURGERY	1854 - 55	Mr. George Green Gascoyen.	
Do.	1855 - 56	Mr. O. O. Rogers	Mr. Mark Farrant.
BOTANY	1854 - 55	Mr. H. Howard Hayward.	
MATERIA MEDICA	1854 - 55	{ Mr. E. M. C. Hooker	Mr. Mark Farrant.
			Mr. O. O. Rogers.
MIDWIFERY	1854 - 55	{ Mr. O. O. Rogers	Mr. E. M. C. Hooker.
			Mr. James Teevan.

THE DEAN'S PRIZE
 FOR GENERAL PROFICIENCY IN MEDICINE,
 SURGERY, ANATOMY, MID-
 CHEMISTRY, MID-
 WIFERY, AND MATERIA
 MEDICA

1854 - 55 Mr. George Green Gascoyen.

LECTURES

DELIVERED IN THIS SCHOOL.

WINTER SESSION.

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.—Mr. Lane and Dr. Handfield Jones, F.R.S.

DESCRIPTIVE AND SURGICAL ANATOMY.—Mr. Haynes Walton and Mr. James Lane.

PRACTICAL ANATOMY AND SUPERINTENDENCE OF DISSECTIONS.—Dr. Murchison.

PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY.—Dr. Markham.

CHEMISTRY.—Albert J. Bernays, Ph. D., F.C.S.

MEDICINE.—Dr. Chambers and Dr. Sibson, F.R.S.

SURGERY.—Mr. Coulson and Mr. Spencer Smith.

CLINICAL MEDICINE.—Dr. Alderson, F.R.S.

CLINICAL SURGERY.—Mr. Ure.

SUMMER SESSION.

BOTANY.—Dr. Murchison.

MATERIA MEDICA.—Dr. Sieveking.

PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY.—A. J. Bernays, Ph. D., F.C.S.

MIDWIFERY, &c.—Dr. Tyler Smith and Mr. Baker Brown.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.—Dr. Burdon Sanderson.

MILITARY SURGERY, &c.—Dr. James Bird, F.R.C.S.E.

OPHTHALMIC SURGERY.—Mr. White Cooper.

AURAL SURGERY.—Mr. Toynbee, F.R.S.

DENTAL SURGERY.—Mr. Nasmyth.

COMPARATIVE ANAT^y AND ZOOLOGY.—Dr. Graily Hewitt.

NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.—Mr. Lindsey Blyth.

Printed by direction of the Medical School Committee.

SPENCER SMITH,

Dean of the School.

ST. MARY'S; May 13, 1856.