An address delivered at the first anniversary meeting of the Birmingham School of Medicine and Surgery / by James Thomas Law.

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AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT

THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY MEETING

OF THE

BIRMINGHAM

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

BY JAMES THOMAS LAW,

CHANCELLOR OF THE DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD.

BIRMINGHAM:

WRIGHTSON AND WEBB, 8, NEW STREET.

MDCCCXXXV.

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ADDRESS.

THAT I have been selected to take part in the highly interesting proceedings of to-day I regard not as a compliment paid to an individual,—however sincere and zealous that individual may be, as indeed he is, in behalf of this School of Medicine,—I regard it not in the light of a personal compliment, for that would be to confine, if not to lower, the motive. I look upon it rather as a pledge of the attachment of the Directors of this Institution to the sacred profession to which I belong—as a mark of respect for the office which I fill in the Protestant Church of England. And I fervently hope that the physician who is engaged in administering to that most wonderful work of God, the bodily structure of man,—the frame-work of the soul,—may always thus be found anxious to ally himself with the spiritual physician, who would save the immaterial part of man—the soul itself! May the two professions always be found advancing hand in hand in the great christian duty of contributing, each according to its respective means, to the welfare of the human race.

Some years ago it happened to me,—before I had connected in my mind the study of medicine with its practical benefits,—to express, with the inadvertency of youth, to one whose talents have since raised him to well-earned eminence, my surprise that he should make choice of a profession which entailed upon him the necessity of visiting so many sick chambers, where

> 'Tristi languescunt corpora morbo,'

and where

> 'Continuo est ægris alius color: horrida vultum
> Deformat macies.'

'You do not take into the account,' he replied, 'the satisfaction we experience from relieving the sufferings which you describe. You do not know what we feel at seeing our patients rise from their sick beds with recruited strength, and spirits again made buoyant by our means under providence. If we do witness, as indeed we do, scenes of misery, do we not also notice the brightening eye of returning health turned towards us with all the animation of gratitude? A parent thanks us for his restored child—a child for his parent—a husband for his wife. We can often say, There is joy in that house—the result of our skill—the reward of our care! And our heart throbs with a satisfaction which is in alliance with the purest aspirations of noble feeling.'

When I mention that these were the sentiments of Sir Benjamin Brodie early in life, I rest assured that I need say no more to give them their full weight in your eyes, from the estimation in which the character of that individual is held.

But observe—I do not bring this forward as a solitary or unusual instance of correct and generous feeling; being persuaded that Sir Benjamin Brodie is only one among many who would return the same answer, in a profession which abounds with gentlemen of the most christian-like tone and temper, and of singular humanity; remarkable alike for the strength—the correctness—and the richness of their highly-cultivated and christian minds.

But why do I advance my own opinion, when I am able to refer you to the invaluable testimony of such characters as Dr. Samuel Johnson, and to such statesmen as Sir Robert Peel? You will believe that I am not the less willing to quote their authority from the connection of the name of Johnson with Lichfield, and that of Sir Robert with this county and neighbourhood.

Dr. Johnson, in his life of Garth, says 'Every one has found in physicians great liberality and dignity of sentiment; very

prompt effusion of beneficence; and willingness to exert a lucrative art where there is no hope of lucre.' And Sir Robert Peel has publicly declared in the House of Commons, that 'for the enlightened views, pure philanthropy, and liberal feelings of medical men generally he felt so much respect, that he did not hesitate to pronounce them a blessing to their native land and an honour to humanity.'

My young friends—Students in this School—suffer me to hope that the encomiums of Dr. Samuel Johnson and Sir Robert Peel will by your means be made no less applicable to the rising generation than they are to your immediate predecessors, and were to the ages before them.

Bear with me as a christian minister if I appear to use language which sounds like exhortation. Regard for your future success in life emboldens me to say,—if you would become great and good men, you must think and feel like Sir Benjamin Brodie—you must, if I may use the expression, breathe the same atmosphere of pure sentiment, and elevate and chastise your minds like his.

Of the particulars connected with your early education, or even of the detail of studies in this excellent Institution, I cannot be supposed a competent judge. But from the published statements of this and other places of professional instruction, it is apparent that the attention of Lecturers and Governors is anxiously turned to the subject of Education generally; and I do not doubt that in your case, every practical improvement in the system, which sound judgment aud matured experience can dictate, will be suggested by your Lecturers, and adopted by your Board.

On such a subject I presume not to offer counsel to my seniors; neither would I enter into detail even with the younger members of this School. But I may perhaps be allowed to remark upon that of which no one, who has attended at all to the subject of Education, can, I think, fail

of being convinced,—namely, the incalculable importance of laying a good foundation, and spending well the golden years of ripening manhood.

'Qui studet optatam cursu contingere metam,
Multa tulit fecitque puer, sudavit et alsit.'

There may be some of extraordinary genius—as Mr. John Hunter—who have broken through the disadvantages of early neglect; but in the great majority of instances as the sapling is bent the tree will grow.

The case of Mr. John Hunter seems to have been remarkable. We are told that it was late and with difficulty that he was even taught to read, and that he grew up an uneducated and ill-governed youth, employed to the age of twenty as a carpenter and cabinet-maker at Glasgow. Then, all at once he sprang forward to excellence with an ardour and enthusiasm which nothing could resist, bending intently the whole vigour of his genius to the study of physic. Such instances are peculiar, and must ever remain exceptions to all general rules; and if advanced by young men as an excuse for early sloth, I fear the error will too often prove fatal. For, in addition to what I have just stated respecting Mr. John Hunter, he had an elder brother, scarcely, if at all, less celebrated than himself, settled in London, able and willing to direct aright all the first efforts of his genius—a very rare advantage.

I should have spoken before, and would speak now, to the younger members of this School, of that which, in fact, I place far before all other requisites,—namely, correct morals and an observance of religious obligations;* but I am almost afraid

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* In establishing a School of Medicine and Surgery in King's College, London, the Council observe, that 'They were influenced by the belief that many individuals, who intend their sons for the medical profession, would gladly embrace an opportunity of placing them in connection with an institution which has for its principal object to educate the rising generation in the doctrines of Christianity, as taught by the Established Church, and to fix in their minds the true principles of

you should accuse me of preaching to you. However, there is one reason why I should not altogether abstain from the subject. I mean with reference to an opinion, which I have heard some entertain, that the medical profession is inclined to scepticism. May I not consider this a false and malicious slander? For who can be so well acquainted as yourselves with the admirable structure and mechanism of the human body—with the beauty of its symmetry—and the justness of its proportions? Little as I know of those delicate organs the eye and ear, I am filled with admiration at the proofs they afford of contrivance and aptitude of means to an end. Who can observe the beautiful mechanism of the eye, by means of which a distinct picture, occupying a space of many miles in circumference, is exquisitely formed upon the minute surface to the retina, which is scarcely half an inch in diameter; and impressions of persons and things, varying and succeeding each other with astonishing rapidity, are conveyed thence to the brain?—Who can observe the care which is taken of that wonderful organ—how it is lodged in a place of safety within a deep and hollow socket, formed of bones smoothed at their edges to afford it a soft bed—how it is defended by the eyelid, which also serves as a curtain or covering—and how it is continually moistened, to preserve its freshness and brightness, by a mucous secretion or limpid fluid, which, having spread itself over and washed the delicate surface of the orb, is carried off by a channel which seems purposely cut through a bone, till it meets, and mixes with, the current of air we breathe! Who can notice all this, and remain unmoved? —Who can notice all this, and proclaim himself a sceptic?—

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morality. They believe, likewise, that every one who has the welfare of society at heart, and who has considered the most effectual means of promoting it, will feel an especial interest in the success of this part of their undertaking, under the conviction that the duties which devolve upon the medical profession are such as to render the religious and moral character of its members not less important than their practical and scientific attainments.—*Statements of King's College*, p. 7.

Chance cannot have done this, for chance is ever varying, uncertain, blind, and reckless. To maintain order, harmony, stability, consistency, and due proportions in the almost boundless space which teems with life, there must be a presiding intelligence—there must be a power supreme, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent; that is, there must be a God! Yea, a God of love. A God of mercy! A God of tender compassion and infinite goodness towards us His creatures!!

Not only have the leading members of the medical profession, those who have been 'decus et tutamen,' the glory of their order, gone the full length of confessing all this; but, further, they have come forward as public advocates—they have published—in favour of Christianity.

No one can doubt the consummate skill and pre-eminent learning of the illustrious Haller. He was a defender of Revelation, and an opponent of materialism and scepticism, in various learned works.—England is justly proud of the name of Mead, and he was a champion of our common faith. —Harvey will be remembered as long as the blood flows in our veins, and he had a profound veneration for the great God on high.—Boerhaave was even desirous to have taken upon himself the duties of a priest in the house of God. He asserted, on all occasions, the divine authority and sacred efficacy of the Holy Scriptures. So far was he from being made sceptical by philosophy, or vain by knowledge, that he ascribed all his abilities to the goodness of God; and, in one of his works, (an oration, or sermo academicus, before the University of Leyden) he dwelt expressly on the very subject to which I have just alluded, proving the power and wisdom of the Creator from the wonderful fabric of the human body. In the course of his remarks exclaiming—'Let all the chiefs of science meet together; let them take bread and wine, the food out of which nature forms the blood of man, and which by assimilation contributes to the sustenance and growth of the body;

let them exercise all their knowledge and ingenuity; they shall not be able from these materials to produce one single drop of blood! So much is the most common act of nature beyond the utmost effort of human skill and science.'

Nor are we without powerful advocates among the living members of the medical profession, who have given their public testimony in favour of the same great cause. The *Bridgewater Treatises*, which are now in the course of publication, whilst they build up a monument 'ære perennius' of the munificence of the donor, will do much more—they will leave upon record an imperishable argument in proof of the power, wisdom, and goodness of God, as manifested in the adaptation of external nature to the moral and intellectual constitution and the physical condition of man.

I mentioned the eye and ear as proofs of design. Sir Charles Bell, in one of the *Bridgewater Treatises*, devotes all the powers of his mind to draw the same conclusion from the mechanism and vital properties of the hand; and he says—'Though, when he first thought upon the subject it appeared to him, that he might have selected many other topics more prolific in proofs of design, and more interesting, yet he found, there was no end of illustration even with the hand as an instance, and that the subject branched out interminably.'

Lest you should fear my observations also may branch out too luxuriantly on this most fascinating topic, I will proceed to another point.

Allow me then, in the next place, to recommend young students to adopt such a line of general study as, by enlarging the compass of their minds, may gain for them the power of discovering latent causes, and tracing the windings of the human heart to its secret sources. For oftimes, I believe, diseases are generated by causes not apparent in the mechanical structure, or apparatus—if I may use the expression—of the human body, but proceed from the hidden working of some

master-passion, acting sympathetically on the nerves, and baffling the utmost skill of the anatomist and demonstrator. It was a sudden and powerful emotion of the mind which is said to have caused the death of Mr. John Hunter, and which still continues to strike down its thousands and tens of thousands. Does not anger, by producing a violent rush of blood to the head and heart, endanger the vital organs by an excess of fulness and dilation? Do not even joyful emotions, which in moderation tend to light up the countenance with that animated glow of pleasure which is so beautiful to behold, when carried to excess, sometimes occasion the destruction of life? Disappointment pines away—Grief drags it slow length along. They cause a death-like paleness to overspread the countenance, by weakening the vascular system and obstructing the circulation. The patient is seen to heave deep sighs and struggle for breath; the blood, which no longer circulates freely, being collected in the larger vessels to repletion and gorging the lungs.

Which of us has not felt more or less of some one perhaps of all these various emotions of the mind? Is the rich man exempt? Ah, no! Can the poor man say he is free? Alas, not so! Does learning raise its possessor above the operation of these causes? Many learned men surround me; will they not be the first to confess they are but men! Are the ignorant, then, the sole exception? Not so, indeed; for then ignorance would be bliss. They are the weakest and the worst, for over them reason exercises the least controul, and the passions reign more unsubdued and tyrannize more imperiously.

We say then—let every one who wishes to become a successful practitioner study to make himself acquainted with the source of those thousand emotions of the mind which set the bodily machine in motion—at one time propelling it violently forward, at another holding it back in torpid inaction. So

much importance, indeed, do we attach to the study, that few physicians, we believe, will be found to have risen into eminence, and maintained an extensive practice, who neglect the philosophy of morals.

But when I recommend an education which will enable the practitioner to deal with the affections and emotions of the mind, by means of his philosophic knowledge of men and things, a knowledge which 'interdum medicâ plus valet arte,' let me not, for one moment, be supposed capable of undervaluing an indefatigable and complete study of chemistry, anatomy, and physic; in short, a study of whatever is necessary to constitute an accomplished practitioner. For though, as I just mentioned, many cases may defy the usual applications of the learned sons of Æsculapius, and must be dealt with by a reference to the emotions and perceptions of the mind, yet it will not be doubted, that instances without number occur of complaints which depend for their cure entirely on skill in the properties of medicine and on their judicious application, in conjunction with a knowledge of the mechanical structure of the body.

What Sir Joshua Reynolds said in his opening discourse at the Royal Academy applies to our young students in medicine. 'I would recommend,' he said, 'an implicit obedience to rules, as established by the practice of the greatest masters. Those models which have passed through the approbation of ages, should be considered as perfect and infallible guides to the young student—as subjects for his meditation, not his criticism.' He adds, 'that he is confident this is the only efficacious method of making a progress in the arts and sciences; and that he who sets out with doubting will find life finished before he becomes master of the rudiments; for it may be laid down as a maxim, that he who begins by presuming on his own sense has well nigh ended his studies before he commences them.' 'Every opportunity, therefore,' he tells us,

'should be taken to discountenance that false and vulgar notion, that rules are the fetters of genius. They are fetters only to men of no genius—as that armour which upon the strong is an ornament and defence, upon the weak and mis-shapen turns into a load.'

How much liberty may be taken to break through rules, when pupils have become masters, need not be discussed here. But of one thing be careful my young friends, not to destroy the scaffold before you have raised the building. Begin, at all events, then, with the 'limæ labor et mora.' Whatever may be your genius, the medicinal properties of healing plants —the use of minerals—the application of chemical agents—a knowledge of the structure of the human body—or skill in the operative department, cannot be acquired by intuition. They cannot be understood and mastered without time and study, let your talents be even of the first order; and in the great majority of cases, what can supply the want of accurate knowledge? What, in its absence, can pave the way to success—to fame—to fortune? Excuse me then for repeating—yes, my wish, that you may hereafter rise to eminence, induces me to repeat again and again—if you would possess real excellence it must be

'Apis Matinæ
More modoque.'

It must be at the expence of much time and study. There is no royal road to knowledge, whether in divinity, law, or physic. Excellence is a plant of slow growth, which requires much tender care in its nourishment. Weeds spring up in a day; whereas the hardy British oak rears its head gradually by little and little. But then it survives through many a winter's storm, and becomes at length our boast and glory.

In the observations which I have thus far ventured to address to you, my young friends, my object has been to avoid for very obvious reasons, entering myself upon an inquiry

into the detail of your studies. In proceeding, therefore, now to notice one or two particulars, which should not, I think, be omitted, I avail myself of the printed regulations at the Surgeons' Hall in Edinburgh, and the Apothecaries' Company in London. It is of the utmost importance, they say, to the interest of the public, and to the future comfort and respectability of the practitioner, that all who apply to the study of surgery should have the benefit of a liberal education; therefore, they have introduced positive regulations which have this for their object:—and they are inclined to hope that medical practitioners in every part of the country will second their endeavours, by recommending to the young men who are placed under their care, or who may apply to them for advice, the study of the Latin, Greek, and modern languages, and of Mathematics, and Natural Philosophy, as the best preparation for entering on a course of medical and surgical education,—and they strongly urge upon all practitioners not to take any young man, as an apprentice, until he he shall have gone through this preliminary course. The profession of surgery, they say, is a practical art, which cannot be acquired without actual experience and familiarity with the phenomena of disease; and they believe these objects to be best attained by serving an apprenticeship to a regular practitioner, under whose inspection young men may not only prosecute their studies with the greatest advantage, but have frequent opportunities of being conversant with the sick, and of assisting in the preparation and application of the means for their recovery. They further strongly recommend all masters to give directions to their apprentices as to the classes which they ought to attend, and the books which they ought to read,—to subject them to occasional examination, with a view to ascertain their progress in the different branches of their education,—and to explain as frequently and fully as possible the nature of the cases entrusted to their care, and the

principles on which the treatment ought to be conducted,—concluding with an earnest hope, that the efforts they are making to improve the course of study, will be seconded by the influence of parents, guardians, and teachers.

I turn now to the Noblemen and Gentlemen the Patrons and Visitors of this Institution, many of whom have honoured it with their presence to-day, and venture to ask—who can witness what we have witnessed here, without being struck with the various proofs which the Museum of Natural History—the Collection of Anatomical Preparations—the Library—and the School afford of that unwearied zeal and creative energy which has called this Institution into being, and which is still unceasingly at work in carrying it forward to perfection? May I not say, adopting the language of the Roman Poet—

> 'Instant Ardentes, (Medici): pars ducere muros,
> Molirique arcem, et manibus subvolvere saxa.
> Jura magistratusque legunt, sanctumque senatum.
> O fortunati, quorum jam mœnia surgunt!'

Where so many have co-operated in this great and good work, it might seem difficult to select any name in particular; but which of you does not anticipate me in pointing to one, who, as long as this Institution continues to shed its benefits on this great metropolis of the midland counties, will be held in affectionate remembrance? In the full vigour of his manhood, Mr. Sands Cox turned aside from devoting himself exclusively to the more lucrative beaten track of professional advancement, and gave himself, heart and soul, to this School of Medicine. I rejoice to think that he is now reaping the fruit of his exertions in the complete success of his plans; having thereby conferred a lasting benefit on the place of his birth, and secured to himself a claim upon the gratitude of his fellow townsmen. Oh, how little does the mere votary of pleasure know of the exquisite delight which the benevolent man experiences from the sweet labour of

doing good! What would he give for that calm serenity of virtuous enjoyment which the beneficent Father of us all permits to accompany the christian through his earthly pilgrimage, from the consciousness of having served his God, and benefitted his fellow mortals?

From the published Laws and Regulations of this Institution, we perceive that it was instituted for the purpose of giving full instruction in all the departments of medicine, and surgery, and the auxiliary sciences. And when we read over the list of subjects on which lectures have been given, including Vegetable Physiology, Botany, and Chemistry, and know that it is in contemplation further to establish lectures on the Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and Natural History, do you not agree with me, that the purposes for which the Institution was founded have been fully realized? And do not the names of Mr. Sands Cox, Dr. James Johnstone. Mr. Woolrich, Dr. Eccles, Dr. Birt Davis, Mr. Ingleby, Mr. Knowles, and Mr. Elkington, afford a sufficient guarantee of the efficiency and excellence of the lectures?

The progress of the students also, I believe, has been found to correspond with the ability of the lecturers. The very able Examiners present to-day have borne ample testimony to the general proficiency of the classes; whilst from the eloquent terms applied to the pupils last year by our distinguished scholar and physician, Dr. John Johnstone, we know that his valuable opinion is also decidedly in their favour. The Treatises of Mr. James Wilkes and Mr. Hammond have been printed and given to the public, and the high authority, just mentioned, has told us that they deserve and would have received commendation from either of our Universities; and that the Preparations of Mr. John Elkington could not fail to extort praise even exhibited to the experienced eyes of London and Paris anatomists. In fine, he says—'The fruits of the instruction received in the School have manifested themselves

so conspicuously, that it is not only our pride to be able to point out gentlemen educated here who have been marked with praise and distinction by the public Examiners in London, but further we can boast of practitioners settled in several counties around us, who are diffusing the benefits of their good education, and are already receiving their due honours and rewards from the public confidence.

The subject of this address I have found to be so deeply interesting—it has so gradually enticed me on from one remark to another—that I fear I may have engaged too much of your valuable time. Forgive me, if I have. And in conclusion accept my thanks for the kind attention with which you have listened to me. Believe me, a sense of my utter inability to advocate, as I wished, the important objects of this Institution, would have induced me most respectfully to decline the task; but I confess I was much gratified by the compliment paid in my person to the clergy of this neighbourhood; and after all that Mr. Sands Cox has done for this School of Medicine, and his utter disregard of self, who would not do their utmost to comply with his wishes?

If I shall not be thought presumptuous in using the expression, I would say, in the fulness of my heart, God's blessing be with this good work.

At all events, I may say, 'Esto perpetua,' of an Institution meant to prepare the rising generation for administering to the various infirmities and diseases to which the human frame is subject at every period of life. If health be the greatest of human blessings, as without doubt it is, then the efficiency of those appointed to restore and preserve it is a public benefit. Again, then, I say of this Institution, may it become, by the blessing of God,

Κτημα ες τον αει χρονον.

REPORT.

The following Report was read by Dr. John Johnstone, Vice-President:—

On this Anniversary Meeting of the Patrons and Members of the School of Medicine,—the first since the passing of the laws,—the Committee cannot but offer their warmest congratulations on the Report now to be presented, as that report will bear ample testimony to the great and rapid advancement of the Institution in all its departments.

Students.—The number of Students inscribed on the register of the School, during the winter, spring, and summer sessions of the present year, amounts to ninety, being an increase of more than thirty above any former year; the majority of whom are from neighbouring and distant counties. The Committee feel assured that the Patrons of the Institution will participate in their gratification, on knowing, from the parliamentary report on Medical Education, recently published, that not a single student educated at the School, during a period of eight years, has been rejected by the Royal College of Surgeons.

Building.—At an expence of upwards of 800*l.* the alterations of the building by the proprietors have been completed; and the donations presented during the last twelve months have enabled the Committee to fit up, in a more complete manner, the Museums, Library, and Lecture-room.

Anatomical Department.—The Museum of Anatomy has been constantly receiving additions during the last year, by the exertions of the Lecturers on Anatomy and Surgery and on Midwifery, and has been re-arranged and described by the former gentleman. Amongst the more recent accessions to this department, the attention of the profession is especially called to one unparalleled preparation—a proud monument of that beneficent and healing energy which presides over our mortal fabric, and which enables it even to triumph over benighted ignorance and brutal violence—yes, the female from whom it was torn survives, and is in perfect health;* and also to other preparations, illustrating extra uterine gestation. The Committee have the satisfaction to state that the School, acting in strict conformity to the laws recently enacted for the regulation of anatomical dissection, have found every facility and co-operation extended to it from the constituted authorities. Nor has it in any one instance departed from the line marked out by the legislature, in paying every possible attention and respect to the feelings of the public, by conducting the rite and practice of sepulture with solemnity and decorum. While on this subject, it may be noted that a very few years ago our youth were compelled to seek in a foreign clime that information denied them at home, and the following passage from an introductory lecture of Dr. William Hunter will show the advantage the student of the present day enjoys, even in provincial schools, compared with the first metropolitan schools at that period:—'In the course of my own studies,' he says, 'I attended as diligently as the generality of students do one of the most reputable schools of anatomy in Europe. There I learned a good deal by my ears, but almost nothing by my eyes, and, therefore, hardly any thing to the purpose. The defect was, that the professor

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* Presented by Mr. Cook, Surgeon, Coventry.

was obliged to demonstrate all the parts of the body, except the bones, nerves, and vessels, upon one subject. There was a fœtus for the nerves and blood vessels; and the operations of surgery were explained to very little purpose indeed upon a dog.'

Natural History Department.—Since the last meeting of the Governors the Natural History department has received numerous and most valuable additions. Your Committee especially beg to call your attention to a splendid contribution of upwards of two hundred rare specimens of Zoology from Australia, presented by the enterprising and scientific Major Wakefield, of the 39th Regiment, a native of this county, amongst which will be found rare specimens of the Gallinaceæ, Psittaci, and Tringæ, not yet described. Amongst the animals will be seen rare specimens of the Marsupial tribe and the Ornithoryncus. Your Committee have also to acknowledge some beautiful specimens of South African birds, presented by the Rev. Mr. Gisborne, and specimens from the Brazils, by Edward Armfield, Esq. Other objects of Natural History have been received from the Rev. R. Pearson, J. P. Wilmot, Esq., J. E. Piercy, Esq., and other gentlemen. The Lecturer on Anatomy has added from his collection some interesting skeletons of comparative Anatomy.

Botanical Department.—Your Committee in the last report had the satisfaction to acknowledge specimens of dried plants from the Pyrenees and Alps, presented by your munificent patron, Sir C. Throckmorton, Bart. This department has been further enriched during the present year by an extensive Hortus Siccus of Australian plants, the fruits of Major Wakefield's indefatigable researches in that interesting and little explored division of the globe, and also by a present of that singular vegetable production the Bread Fruit, by the Rev. T. East, with curious products of arts and manufactures of the natives of Tahite.—They have also gratefully to

acknowledge the gratuitous admission of the Students to the Botanical Garden through the liberality of the Committee.

Mineralogical Department.—The Committee in this department call your attention to numerous valuable and interesting specimens, especially to an enormous fossil reed, presented by Edward Bagnall, Esq. belonging to the Sigellaria pachyderma, found at Pentwyn, Monmouthshire, in sand stone, about eighteen feet from the surface, above the black pin ironstone. This magnificent specimen weighs nearly four hundred weight, and is about five feet in circumference. In this department it ought to be mentioned that very liberal contributions towards a collection in Conchology have been made by the Earl of Mountnorris, and also by Lieutenant Dutton, a native of this town.

Library.—The Committee have to report that a catalogue of the works has been prepared by the Lecturer on Materia Medica. The total number of volumes belonging to the School is now upwards of nine hundred, amongst which will be found many of the most rare and valuable editions of the ancient Medical Classics, increased during the present year by contributions from Sir G. Skipwith, Bart., the Rev. Chancellor Law, and others; and also numerous valuable works of reference, with plates, purchased by the funds of the School. The only pecuniary liability undischarged is connected with this department, and this happily amounts only to 67*l*. But as all debt is to be carefully prevented, the Committee would here suggest that some plan be adopted to create a fund for the enlargement and maintenance of the Library, and to defray the current expences of the Museums.

Lectureships.—Since the last meeting a longer term of attendance upon Lectures has been required by the accredited Authorities in London, and an enlarged course of study by them strongly recommended, including Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and Natural History. Your Committee have

taken this subject on several occasions into consideration, and have resolved, that Professorships in these important branches of Medical Education are highly desirable. If this resolution should meet with your approbation and sanction, it will be for you to fill up, according to the laws and regulations, the appointments. Your Committee beg to recommend that the Board of Management be enlarged to twelve, and that country governors be admissible.

In conclusion, the Committee, on the part of the Board of Governors, earnestly and respectively invite the Patrons of the Institution, the Friends and Parents of Students, and the Medical Profession in general, to take every convenient opportunity of inspecting the increase of the Museums, and indeed the whole progress of the School of Medicine, the permanency of which they believe to be now immoveably established, and the utility of which they are resolved to maintain by zealous endeavour, by regularity, and strict discipline in every department.

EDWARD JOHNSTONE, M.D., President.

Signed, { JOHN JOHNSTONE, M.D. / JOHN ECCLES, M.D. / WILLIAM SANDS COX. } Sub-Committee.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following Resolutions were unanimously passed:—

On the motion of Sir Eardley E. Wilmot, Bart. M.P. seconded by John Johnstone, Esq. M.D.

1. That the warmest thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Rev. Chancellor Law, for his eloquent and affectionate Address, and that he allow the same to be printed.

On the motion of Sir Francis H. Goodricke, Bart. M.P. seconded by James Upfill, Esq.

2. That the best thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Sub-Committee for their able Report, and that it be printed with the Address delivered by the Rev. Chancellor Law.

On the motion of the Rev. Chancellor Law, seconded by Dr. Lloyd.

3. That the Report of the Committee be adopted, and that Lecturers be appointed in Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and Natural History.

On the motion of Theodore Price, Esq. seconded by John Meredith, Esq.

4. That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to the President and Vice-President of the Institution, for their important services.

On the motion of J. G. Reeves, Esq. seconded by Benjamin Guest, Esq.

5. That the best thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Honorary Secretary, and that he be requested to continue the office.

On the motion of John Meredith, Esq. seconded by E. T. Cox, Esq.

6. That the best thanks of this Meeting be given to the Lecturers, for the zeal and assiduity with which they have discharged their important duties.

On the motion of Benjamin Guest, Esq. seconded by G. Taylor, Esq.

7. That the best thanks of the Governors be presented to the Committee for their valuable services during the past year, and that in accordance with the recommendation contained in the Report, that the Committee be enlarged to twelve.

On the motion of JOHN MERRY, Esq. seconded by JOHN ECCLES, Esq. M.D.

8. That the warmest thanks of this Meeting be presented to Dr. Steward, Dr. Conolly, and Frederick Tyrrell, Esq. who have so ably and handsomely conducted the Examinations of the Students in the practice of Medicine, Materia Medica, Chemistry, Surgery, and Descriptive Anatomy.

On the motion of J. K. BOOTH, Esq. M.D. seconded by T. MUNDEN, Esq.

9. That the grateful thanks of this Meeting be presented to John Meredith, Esq. for the liberal prize of a Gold Medal for the best Essay on a surgical subject.

On the motion of Sir E. E. WILMOT, Bart. M.P. seconded by THEODORE PRICE, Esq.

10. That the grateful thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Rev. Dr. Arnold, Head Master of Rugby School, for his munificent prize of Ten Guineas, offered to the Students for the best Essay 'on the Influence of Air and Soil as affecting Health.'

On the motion of CHARLES SHAW, Esq. seconded by BENJAMIN GUEST, Esq.

11. That the especial thanks of this Meeting be presented to Major Wakefield, of the 39th Regiment, for his most valuable present of specimens of Natural History from Australia.

On the motion of J. E. PIERCY, Esq. seconded by JOHN ECCLES, Esq. M.D.

12. That a Book be kept, in which the names of Visitors to the Museums be inscribed.

On the motion of EDWARD ARMFIELD, Esq. seconded by JOHN MERRY, Esq.

13. That the best thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Gentlemen of the County and Clergy who have attended this Meeting.

EDWARD JOHNSTONE, M.D. Chairman.

The Chairman having left the chair, and it having been taken by Sir E. E. Wilmot, Bart. M.P.

On the motion of BENJAMIN GUEST, Esq. seconded by the Rev. EGERTON BAGOT,

That the warmest thanks of this Meeting be presented to Edward Johnstone, M.D. for his very able and impartial conduct in the Chair.

EARDLEY E. WILMOT, Chairman.

STUDENTS

ATTENDING THE CLASSES DURING THE WINTER, SPRING, AND SUMMER SESSIONS,

Commencing October, 1834, terminating September, 1835.

From WARWICKSHIRE . .	42	From WORCESTERSHIRE .	10
—— STAFFORDSHIRE . .	24	—— DERBYSHIRE . . .	3
—— LEICESTERSHIRE . .	2	—— DEVONSHIRE . . .	2
—— NORTHAMPTONSHIRE .	2	—— WILTSHIRE . . .	1
—— SOMERSETSHIRE . .	1	—— GLOSTERSHIRE . .	1
—— NOTTINGHAMSHIRE .	1	—— SHROPSHIRE . . .	1

Total number of Students 90.

STUDENTS WHO GAINED THE PRIZE MEDALS, 1835.

ANATOMY.

STUDENTS. EXAMINERS.

First Silver Medal.—Mr. J. Harmer, Bewdley. { F. Tyrrell, Esq., Lecturer on Surgery, and Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, London.

SURGERY.

First Silver Medal.—Mr. Harmer.
Second Silver Medal.—Mr. Ward, Bilston. { Ditto.

MATERIA MEDICA.

First Silver Medal.—Mr. Maurice, Smethwick.
Second Silver Medal.—Mr. Meeke, Birmingham. { J. B. Steward, M. D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London, late Lecturer, &c.

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF PHYSIC.

Silver Medals { Mr. Allday. Birming. / Mr. Solomon, Ditto. } J. Conolly, M. D., late Professor of Medicine to the London University.

CHEMISTRY.

First Silver Medal.—Mr. A. Wright, Bunney, Nottinghamshire. { Ditto.

BOTANY.

1st Silver Medal.—Mr. Hobson, Welford, Northamptonshire.
2nd Silver Medal.—Mr. Jones, Birmingham.

Book Demonstrator's Prize.—Mr. Harmer. . L. Parker, Esq. Examiner.

Donations of money—specimens of Human and Comparative Anatomy—of Zoology, Ornithology, Mineralogy, Geology—of Fossil remains—of Models and Casts—of printed Books, Drawings, &c.—will be received with due consideration by the Committee, and the names of the donors will, consequently, be recorded in the Catalogue of Benefactors to the Institution.

Address,—Committee, School of Medicine, Paradise-street; or to W. S. Cox, Esq. Honorary Secretary, 24, Temple-row.

Wrightson and Webb, Printers, New-street, Birmingham.

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

SESSIONS 1835—36.

In conformity with the curriculum of study required by the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Society of Apothecaries, London, the WINTER SESSION will commence on the First of October, and terminate in the middle of April, with a recess of fourteen days at Christmas. This Session consists of two courses, or two divisions of an extended course, which is considered equivalent to two courses. The SUMMER SESSION will commence on the First of May, and terminate on the Thirty-first of July.

Class.	*Hour.*	*Lecturer.*	*1st Div.*	*2nd Div.*	*Perpetual*
Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology	Daily at 1 o'clock	MR. WILLIAM SANDS COX, Surgeon to the General Dispensary.	3*l.* 3*s.*	3*l.* 3*s.*	10*l.* 10*s.*
Anatomical Demonstrations and Dissections	Daily, except Monday, at ½ past 9 a. m.	MR. GEORGE ELKINGTON, Surgeon to the General Dispensary.	2*l.* 2*s.*	2*l.* 2*s.*	6*l.* 6*s.*
Chemistry and Pharmacy ...	Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday, at 6 p. m.	MR. JOHN WOOLRICH.	3*l.* 3*s.*	3*l.* 3*s.*	7*l.* 7*s.*
Materia Medica and Therapeutics	Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, at 4 p. m.	JAMES JOHNSTONE, M. D. Physician to the General Hospital.	3*l.* 3*s.*	2*l.* 2*s.*	5*l.* 5*s.*
Principles and Practice of Medicine	Daily, at 7 o'clock, p. m.....	JOHN ECCLES, M. D. Physician to the General Hospital.	3*l.* 3*s.*	3*l.* 3*s.*	7*l.* 7*s.*
Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children.....	Daily, at ½ past 8 a. m.	MR. JOHN INGLEBY, Surgeon to the General Dispensary.	3*l.* 3*s.*	2*l.* 2*s.*	6*l.* 6*s.*
Principles & Practice of Sur-	.....	MR. WILLIAM SANDS COX			

SUMMER SESSION.

Class.	*Hour.*	*Lecturer.*	*1st Course*	*2d Course*	*Perpetual*
Forensic Medicine	Daily, at 5 o'clock p. m.....	John Birt Davies, M. D. Senior Physician to the Dispensary.	3*l.* 3*s.*	3*l.* 3*s.*	5*l.* 5*s.*
Vegetable Physiology & Botany	Daily at 4, p. m.	Mr. G. B. Knowles, F. L. S.	3*l.* 3*s.*	3*l.* 3*s.*	5*l.* 5*s.*

The Birmingham General Hospital and Dispensary are open to Students, under the usual regulations; and Clinical Lectures with Pathological Illustrations will be given by Dr. James Johnstone, Dr. Eccles, and Dr. Birt Davies.

The Lecturer on Midwifery is enabled to afford extensive practical advantages, and will occasionally give a Clinical Lecture as opportunities may present. Clinical Lectures will also be occasionally delivered by the Lecturer on Surgery.

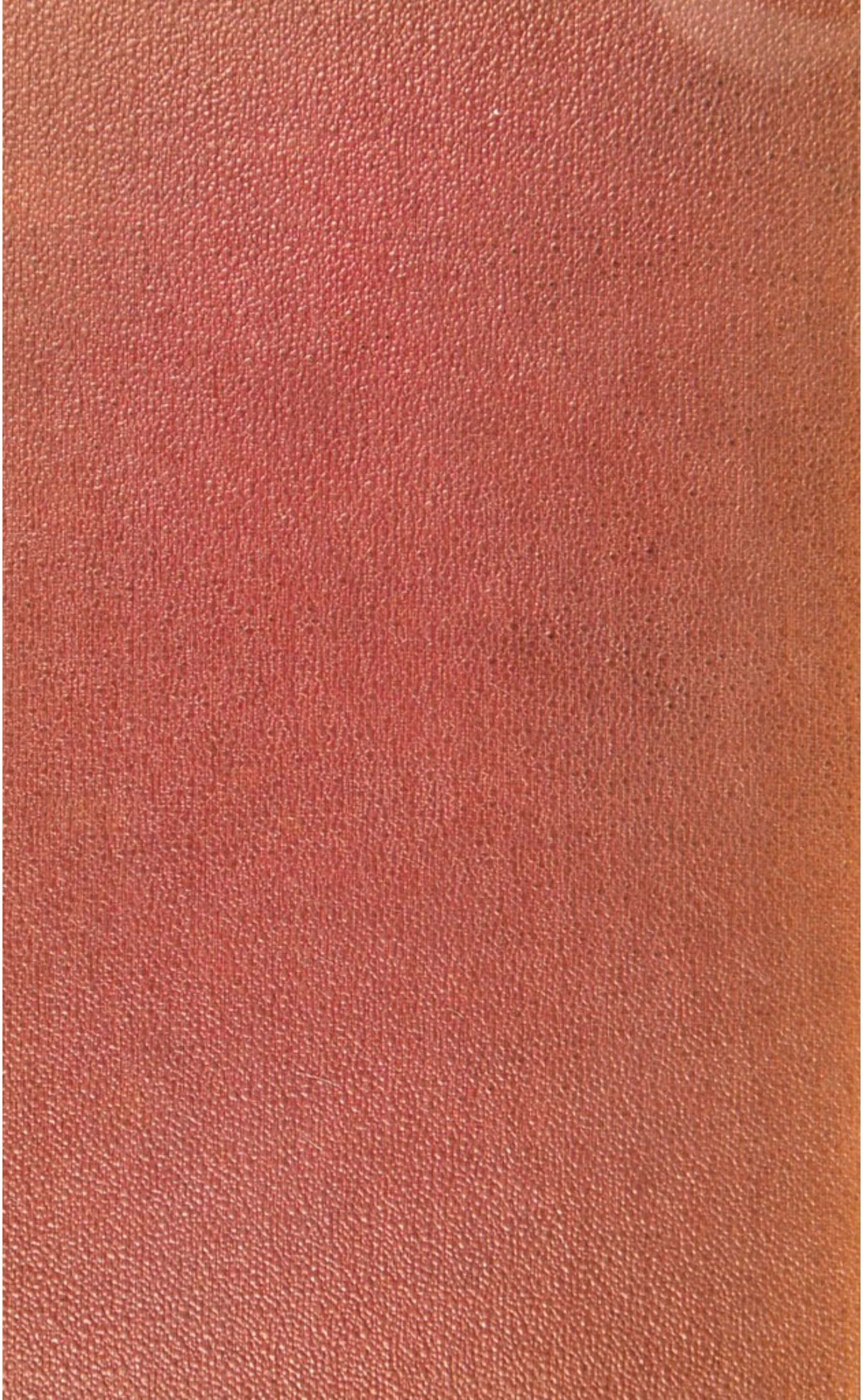
Connected with the School, are Museums of Human and Comparative Anatomy, Pathology, Natural History, and Materia Medica, and a Library containing upwards of 900 volumes. A Student's Medico-chirurgical Society is held weekly at which the Lecturers preside in rotation.

The Botanical Class have free admission to the Birmingham Botanical and Horticultural Gardens.

Private examinations will be held in each Class during the Session; and at the close of the Lectures public examinations will be held and honorary medals awarded.

A gold medal is offered by John Meredith, Esq., for the best Essay on some surgical subject, to be hereafter announced.

Ten guineas are offered by the Rev. Dr. Arnold, Head Master of the Rugby School, for the best Essay "On the Influence of Air and Soil, as affecting Health."

Every Pupil, on becoming a Student of the School, will be required to register his name, and pay a matriculation fee of 10*s.* 6*d.*

Every Student will be required to certify daily, in a book kept for the purpose, his attendance on each of the Classes to which he may have entered; and in case of irregular attendance the certificate will be withheld.