

An account of the proceedings at the first anniversary meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, held at the Bristol Infirmary, on Friday, July 19th, 1833 : containing the address delivered on that occasion / by Edward Barlow.

Contributors

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AN ACCOUNT
OF THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE
FIRST ANNIVERSARY MEETING
OF THE
PROVINCIAL
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL
ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT THE BRISTOL INFIRMARY,

ON FRIDAY, JULY 19th, 1833,

CONTAINING

THE ADDRESS

DELIVERED ON THAT OCCASION,

BY EDWARD BARLOW, M. D.

PHYSICIAN TO THE BATH UNITED HOSPITAL,

&c. &c. &c. &c.

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BY EDWARD BARLOW, M. D.

Physician to the Bath United Hospital, &c. &c. &c.

THE Constitution of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association enjoins that at each anniversary meeting, an address shall be delivered retrospective of the Medical occurrences of the year. The provision is judicious, and its principle especially applicable in a Society which looks forward with proud aspirings and animating anticipations to extending the boundaries of the Science which it coalesces to promote, for to mark what is already done is indispensable for guiding those endeavours by which more is to be effected.

It is with great humility that I undertake the office of delivering this address on the present occasion, impressed, as I am, with the conviction of my incompetency to fulfil, adequately, the task assigned me. I did hope that it would have been committed to other and far abler hands, and I used my best

endeavours to have it so allotted. High as is the honour to be so deputed, I sought not the distinction, but, on the contrary, waved it, so far as I could consistently with the feelings which I entertain towards those who pressed it on me, and with the duty which I owe to the Association. My objections were overruled, and I have now only to acquit myself of the obligation thus reluctantly incurred, in the best way that my humble powers admit, trusting to the kindness of my auditors for the indulgence which I so much need.

The greatest difficulty of the task is, perhaps, that to which its novelty gives rise. It is a novelty to review, formally, the medical occurrences embraced within the compass of a year ; at least it is novel to me to find myself in a situation such as I now fill. Hitherto I have been a humble student of Medical Science, gleaning knowledge as I could, and too conscious of how much remained to be learned to attach any high value to what I had acquired. Diligence and humility were the qualities for which I had most occasion. Others, such as I have been but little accustomed to exercise, are also needed to fulfil adequately my present duty. In discharge of it, a higher tone is requisite ; more confidence, more pretension, become almost indispensable, where, in the mere notice of transient events, it is hardly possible to avoid either expressing or implying some determinate judgments respecting them. It is my unfitness and want of preparation for acting either the censor or the critic, that makes me even at this moment shrink from the office which I have, perhaps, too rashly consented to undertake. In

future, the course of procedure will be clearer ; the objects will be more defined ; and the precise nature and limits of the task being better understood, it will be more easy both to collect materials, and arrange them in that order which perspicuity requires. In the present instance, topics worthy of notice crowded on the mind so abundantly and in such confused assemblage, as to render the task of arrangement extremely difficult, if not hopeless. To conceive the outline of an address suited for this occasion, required a mind more comprehensive than mine ; to collect materials, arrange them in perspicuous order, and allot to each subject its due consideration, needed greater leisure and far more ability than I could command. All that I can pretend to is to notice briefly and imperfectly such topics as appear to me connected with our more immediate purposes, the order of succession being influenced more by casual association than by any preconceived design.

Among the more prominent occurrences of the past year, I may be excused for giving precedence to that which more immediately interests those whom I have now the honour of addressing, namely, the formation of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association. When we consider the purity of purpose in which this design originated, the absence of all selfish or interested views on the part of its promoters, the zeal with which it was espoused, and the sacrifices of time and labour at which many of its members have ministered to its advancement, we cannot but feel some glow of conscious exultation in being numbered among its earliest supporters.

For the first conception of this undertaking, we are indebted to the acute and comprehensive mind of the distinguished founder, who, perceiving the advantages of such co-operation, proceeded with promptitude and zeal to realise the project from which he expected so much advantage to result. On his merits, and on the gratitude due to him for thus opening to us a career of effective exertion and practical usefulness, in which to acquit ourselves of the obligations which we owe to science and humanity, I am forbidden to dwell. But my feeble voice is not needed to enforce that which all who now hear me must spontaneously feel.

For his exertions, his best and most acceptable recompense was that which he derived from the fulfilment of his wishes, by the assemblage of medical practitioners who collected around him last year at Worcester, when the Association was so happily instituted. Of that memorable day we are now met to celebrate the first anniversary, and I feel that I only express the sincere and earnest wish of all who now hear me, in my fervent prayer that each succeeding year may find us pursuing diligently the good work in which we have engaged, and that we may leave to those who succeed us, some evidence that we have not lived in vain.

In order, however, to fulfil the designs of the founder, to realise the good which the association is capable of effecting, it is necessary that all who join its ranks should engage cordially and zealously in that co-operation by which alone enquiries so comprehensive can be adequately pursued. Each member of the association should feel himself bound, by

a direct pledge, to render his utmost aid in promoting the ends which we have in view. These are to investigate truth, and to establish on the sure basis of philosophic induction, the principles of medical science. To this purpose all may contribute, however humble their talents or acquirements. Each individual may present some offering to the store of facts from which general conclusions are to be drawn. The truths which we seek are in nature, and from the observation of nature are they best learned. In collecting the evidences on which inductive reasoning is to be exercised, every fact is valuable, provided it be accurately observed and faithfully reported. And here it is that circumspection is needed. However on our guard against the delusions of fancy, we are all too prone to view facts through the medium of preconceived notions. In this there is no dishonesty, no intention to mislead, for we deceive ourselves ere we deceive others. What I advert to is a tendency inherent in the mind itself, which unconsciously biasses the judgment, and even affects our simple perceptions. The sources of prejudice arising from this tendency, have been fully and ably exposed by the great Father of inductive Philosophy, and all who wish to avoid them should study deeply the masterly elucidations which he has given of the various "idols of the mind." They should also bear continually in mind the limits which he has shown to circumscribe philosophic enquiry, and the means by which alone it can be successfully pursued. These limits cannot be more distinctly and explicitly stated than in his own expressive words.—"*Homo, naturæ minister et interpres, tantum facit et intelligit,*

quantum, de naturæ ordine, re vel mente observaverit : nec amplius scit, aut potest." What we have chiefly to guard against, is the admixture of speculative reasonings with alleged facts. I have no wish to confine observers to meagre facts, or to interdict the reasonings which these suggest, for to do so would be to stop enquiry, and render useless the best powers of the mind ; but I would inculcate a special and necessary caution that the reasoning be not suffered to vitiate the fact or overshadow it. Let it at least be pure and prominent ; let it hold the first place, and all reasoning be subordinate until multiplied evidence verify the fact and justify a general principle being deduced. With this reserve, imagination may exercise itself in whatever flights it pleases. Such flights are harmless so long as the conceptions of fancy are not confounded with the truths of nature. These are to be ascertained not by imagination, however lively, nor by reflection, however deep, but by patient, diligent, and accurate observation : "*non fingendum nec excogitandum, sed inveniendum quid natura faciat aut ferat.*" It may seem pedantic to quote maxims so trite, and superfluous thus to dwell on truths so familiarly known, so universally recognised ; but they are of such vast importance, that they cannot be too oft repeated, nor too deeply impressed.

Next in interest to the formation of our association, is that splendid combination of talent which, having first congregated at York, in 1831, held its first anniversary at Oxford last year, "the British Association for the advancement of Science." The principles on which this admirable society is founded,

the arrangements devised for giving energy and efficiency to its labours, the intellectual powers engaged, and the profound science by which these powers are directed in their aim, hold out a confident hope of every branch of natural science advancing henceforward with a rapidity and steadiness hitherto unexampled. That such labours should essentially benefit that branch of science which we more immediately profess, it can need no argument to prove. So comprehensive is the science of physic, that it seems to embrace all the knowledge of which human intellect is capable. It would be difficult to name a branch of science from which physic does not derive some aid, and of which some knowledge is not necessary for completing the attainments of the accomplished physician. Several of the branches, however, to the cultivation of which the energies of the British Association are expressly directed, have so intimate a connexion with our art, as to constitute a part of its elementary education. Chemistry cannot be advanced without direct assistance being rendered, not only to our pharmaceutical operations, but also to our physiological and pathological researches. Another branch promises to supply information of great value, in which we have been hitherto greatly deficient, namely, Meteorology. The varying conditions of the atmosphere have hitherto received but very inadequate investigation. Indeed, the subject exceeds what individual endeavours can accomplish, and by such instrumentality alone as the British Association, from its vast extent, possesses, can such researches be adequately pursued. That they bear directly on our branch of science will be

readily admitted. Dependent as we are for our very existence on the atmosphere which we breathe, we cannot know too intimately the properties which it possesses, or the changes which it undergoes.

Surrounded by influences which reach us through the medium of the atmosphere, we should have a clearer conception than we yet possess of those influences, and of the effects attributable to them. With the several changes of the atmosphere in respect of weight, temperature, humidity, we are familiar, and we have instruments in common use by which to note the exact measure of each. But this knowledge has been too little applied to the illustration of health and disease. A dry atmosphere often proves irritating to the lungs. Dr. Paris mentions that he has long been in the habit of recommending to persons confined in artificially warmed apartments, to evaporate a certain portion of water whenever the external air has become excessively dry by the prevalence of the north-east winds which so frequently infest this island during the months of spring, and that the most marked advantage has attended the practice. He notices, also, the remark of a lady, who, suffering from pulmonary affection, had observed that whenever her hair went out of curl, she was sure to be better.

Of the influences which electrical changes in the atmosphere exert on the animal frame, we know very little. Yet many persons are very sensible of them on the approach of thunder storms, at which time they are generally attributed to the right cause. There is reason to believe that such changes produce direct effects on the functions of life more than

practitioners are at all aware of. The fact has oftentimes forced itself on my attention, that diseases of different kinds assume, at different times, an inflammatory character, or its opposite. In a tolerably wide range of dispensary practice I oftentimes find that, for weeks together, no case calls for blood-letting, when all at once an inflammatory character presents itself, and numbers imperatively require the lancet on the same day. Of the cause of this I profess my ignorance, but my conjectures incline to atmospheric influence, more especially to the influence occasioned by variations of electric condition. To investigate such changes, and determine their effects, would be no unworthy exercise of medical research.

An interesting report on the recent progress and present state of Meteorology, by the Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh, was presented at the Oxford Meeting of the British Association. The Association also has professed its determination to pursue a systematic course of observation and experiment, calculated for supplying the facts on which an improved system of meteorology may be founded. Mr. Snow Harris has, for several years, been diligently cultivating the same branch of science at Plymouth, and has devised some very ingenious apparatus for noting electrical changes in the atmosphere. Many other philosophic minds are similarly occupied, and we may entertain a reasonable expectation that their united labours will, in no long time, collect our loosely scattered knowledge, and arrange it in some consistent and harmonious system.

A natural association leads me next to consider the formidable epidemic with which several parts of these Kingdoms were so severely visited during the past year. My notice of it, however, must be very brief, for the subject has already been discussed almost to weariness, and any elaborate review of the various opinions and doctrines maintained respecting it, would occupy far more time than could be devoted to it on the present occasion. It may not be unprofitable, however, to offer a few remarks on its causes, its character, and its treatment.

That the immediate cause was a specific poison conveyed by the atmosphere, there seems to be no dispute. The nature and source of this poison, however, have been the theme of much keen argumentation, some contending for a highly contagious character, while others have altogether denied the disease being contagious. It will be long ere this question can be set at rest, and the general doctrines of contagion must be rendered far more perfect than they yet are, ere any conclusion can be drawn which will be admitted by all parties. Many "idols of the mind" require to be dispossessed, ere the minds of the controversialists can view the subject with the philosophic calmness and freedom from prejudice which so grave an enquiry especially demands. Ere the disease reached our shores, it had prevailed extensively, and for several years, in our Eastern dominions, and it is well known that in that quarter of the globe the prevailing opinions were on the side of its not being propagated by contagion. On such a subject the opinion of an obscure individual can be of little worth ; yet I may be permitted to remark

that, so far as a careful examination of the several controversies has enabled me to form any judgment, the weight of evidence appears to me decidedly in favour of those who ascribe the disease not to the effluvia emanating from affected bodies, but to vitiation of atmosphere derived from other sources. What these sources are we know not, and most probably never shall discover. In the economy of the Universe are many facts which our finite powers are unable to scrutinize with effect; many mysteries which we cannot penetrate, and for the very sufficient reason that they were never intended by Almighty wisdom to be cognizable by human ken.

Plague, pestilence, and famine, have, in all ages, visited the earth at intervals, and they have not been permitted without a wise design, however inscrutable this may be by our feeble intellects. Ordinary diseases, which arise for the most part from direct violation of natural laws, we may scrutinise so as, by ascertaining their causes, to acquire the power of preventing or remedying them. But when the pestilence arrives which traverses whole nations, involving in its apparently indiscriminating sweep, as well those who habitually obey the natural laws as the habitual violators of them, our puny philosophy is of slight avail for tracing such visitations either in their efficient or final causes, and we have only in humility of heart to bend to the infliction and adore the Providence which ever chasteneth in mercy. To arrest the course of such dispensations is as hopeless as the expectation is irrational. "May one turn again the arrow that is shot by a strong archer? the Mighty Lord sendeth the plagues, and who is he

that can drive them away. Behold famine and plague, tribulation and anguish, are sent as scourges for amendment."

I am well aware of the truth averred by the philosophic poet, that

"The universal cause
Acts not by partial but by general laws."

I am sensible of the error of ascribing, on trivial occasions, to the special intervention of Providence, consequences which only result from the ordinary laws of nature having been violated. I am not ignorant how unphilosophic it is deemed, to dwell on final causes, when our laws of philosophizing limit us (and for the most part wisely) to ascertaining those which are efficient. Yet there are occasions when our boasted induction, so powerful in developing those natural laws which we are permitted to discover, is utterly vain for disclosing truths, which, it may be, are wisely concealed from us.

With many it is sufficient argument against such visitations being Divine dispensations, that the more immediate sufferers are not marked as the victims by any peculiar culpability. But to such it may be answered, that Divine judgments are very different from human; that the ways of Providence are not like our ways. We might find it difficult to reconcile with our notions of justice, why the sins of the fathers should be visited on the children even to the third and fourth generation; yet we know that justice the most perfect has so decreed. But we have direct assurance on this point, for He who could not err rebuked the false judgment of deeming those who undergo peculiar sufferings to be greater sinners

than others. The Galileans whose blood Pilate mingled with the sacrifices, the individuals on whom the tower of Siloam fell, were declared by our blessed Lord not to be sinners above all who dwelt in Jerusalem. It is, therefore, no argument against pestilence being a Divine infliction sent for our chastisement, that the individual sufferers were not more guilty than others who escaped. Of the Divine justice we can know but little, comprehend little. It may be that such visitations are sent to lower our pride; to arrest our career of sensual indulgence; to lead us to pay more regard to the poor and needy, by shewing that our neglect of them may, by a just retribution, be visited on ourselves. These hasty remarks are offered not to check enquiry, nor repress the investigation of physical causes, but to abate the pride of knowledge, and to teach us to be content with our own ignorance, whenever research into the mysteries of nature transcends our powers.

The character of the late epidemic admits not of adequate illustration by any reference to ordinary pathology. An overwhelming impression was made on the vital powers, all these sunk under it, and death ensued with a rapidity almost unexampled. The accession seemed like the effect of a virulent poison, almost as incapable of being traced, or the impression made, or the changes induced, as the subtile influence of the Upas Antiar or the Woorara. The impression was, for the most part, sudden; several functions of the body became deranged, almost suspended; exhaustion rapidly ensued, and death speedily closed the scene. How far death

was attributable to the extent of functional derangements, or to the continued operation of the morbid cause, we have no means of ascertaining. The former were sufficiently variable to prevent our regarding any one as constituting a pathognomic feature.

That the diarrhœa, however generally attendant, was not entitled to this distinction, is now sufficiently understood, and the correctness of the name assigned, from this symptom, to the disease, has, with great propriety, been questioned. The adoption of this name, implying, as it did, an admission of the seat and nature of the malady, was not harmless, for on this assumed theory a practice was founded, the success of which afforded but little ground of exultation. At first stimulants and opium in large doses were deemed the grand panacea, but they have come to be distrusted, and, in the end, were very generally abandoned.

There can be little doubt that practitioners were much misled by the dogmas promulgated, and that the earlier practice, if not more successful, would, at least have been more satisfactory to those who conducted it, if the judgements of medical men had been left free to act on general principles, unbiassed by the authoritative and confident dictations with which the treatment suited to this complaint was prescribed.

On the treatment pursued, its varieties and success, there is but little temptation to comment. Judging from the results, it would be difficult even now to pronounce on what course should be preferred if this horrible malady were to re-appear, for whatever the treatment, the relative mortality was

but little affected by it. Something we have learned as to the *juvantia* and *lædentia* ; some progress has been made in bringing its various anomalies within the pale of ordinary pathology ; but, notwithstanding much diligent observation and extensive experience, our knowledge of its nature and progress remains lamentably defective, and we are still without any conclusive theory on which to found consistent or successful practice.

Ere I dismiss the subject, I wish to offer one brief remark on the reproach which it became customary to cast on medical science, in consequence of its insufficiency to cope with this formidable distemper. In the justice of this reproach I cannot concur. Medical science, founded on a knowledge of the physiology of animal life, professes to rectify its derangements when the causes of disease are transitory and the animal powers sufficiently entire to work out, under judicious regimen, their own restoration. A permanently operating cause, or prostrate powers, must set all medical agency at defiance. In the late epidemic a morbid cause, subtile and virulent, laid all the powers of life prostrate, and as well might medical science be blamed for not resuscitating a body when sinking, from an overdose of arsenic or prussic acid, as for not ensuring the cure of intense cholera. It is not unworthy of remark that, on the subsidence of cholera, there appears to have occurred, in many places, a considerable abatement of ordinary disease. This was so evident at Bath, as to excite the attention of the physicians of the United Hospital, to which the whole of the sick poor of Bath and its vicinity daily resort. In order to ascer-

tain the extent of this decline, I took the average of dispensary, or out-patients, on my days of attendance, and found that for the first nine months of the year, within which period the cholera prevailed, the average daily number was 120, while for the last three months it declined to 84. As the applications of out-patients to the United Hospital are unrestricted, disease and poverty being sufficient passport, the attendance of the sick poor at the hospital may be regarded as a fair measure of the healthfulness of the city. I pretend not to account for the fact, but it is sufficiently extraordinary to justify its being recorded. It could not have proceeded from the mortality occasioned by cholera having swept away the ordinary invalids, for in the period of three months, during which cholera continued in Bath, the deaths from this disease did not amount to fifty, in a population exceeding fifty thousand.

In furtherance of the objects which the annual address is designed to promote, it would here be desirable to survey the medical literature of the past year, both domestic and foreign, in order to determine what acquisitions to the science have been gained, what advance effected. But it is obvious that the necessary limits of this discourse would scarcely admit even the titles of works published, to be recited, much less any analytic examination of their contents. Indeed on this subject, as well as on several others connected with the purposes of this society, it will be expedient to follow the example of the British Association, by proposing each year particular topics of enquiry, and deputing either competent individuals, or small sub-committees, to

collect information and furnish reports on them at subsequent meetings. In this way, may full justice be done to each topic, and the co-operative energy which constitutes the distinguishing feature of the association, be successfully and beneficially called forth.

Of the medical publications, however, of the past year, one may be more particularly noticed as partaking, from its extent and the number of contributors, somewhat of the nature of a national undertaking, namely, the *Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine*. In many of its essays, too, it accomplishes what has been just noticed as most desirable, by presenting, on several important topics of medical enquiry, full, comprehensive, and well-digested expositions, shewing the present state of our knowledge on each. In this country a work of this kind was much wanted, and that now supplied cannot but be deemed an important acquisition. The difficulties of the undertaking were not slight, and it required great energies to surmount them. These energies, however, were possessed by the able and distinguished editors, who, with diligence and labour such as few can know or appreciate, have succeeded in concentrating, in a work of moderate size, a body of practical knowledge of great extent and usefulness. Of the execution of the work I may be allowed to quote the opinion of an enlightened and unprejudiced critic, who, in the review given in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, thus speaks of it. "To comparisons we are in general averse, but we must say that it is by an immeasurable distance superior to the *Dictionnaire des Sciences Medicales*, in selection,

concentration, and precision, and all other qualities which render a didactic work, either for reference or any other purpose, valuable. If the Cyclopædia be not superior to the *Dictionnaire de Medicine*, it is certainly not inferior to it, and, unless in the more extensive field which the latter work embraces, we should certainly say that it is superior. In many of the individual articles, the Cyclopædia has decidedly the superiority, and all the dissertations on the pathology and treatment of diseases in general in the English work, possess a more practical character, and bear the impression of being written by authors who have derived their information not through the spectacles of books only, but from the personal and actual use of their own senses."

The corresponding work of Dr. Copland, the Dictionary of Practical Medicine, is also entitled to particular notice, evincing sound talents and vast labour. With great truth has it been pronounced by one of its reviewers, "a miracle of industry."

The Hospital Reports of Dr. Bright, and the Pathological Illustrations of Dr. Carswell and of Dr. Hope, are works so useful in design and so splendid in execution, as to merit particular notice.

It is a natural transition from authors to teachers, and here I may congratulate the Association on the increased and increasing endeavours directed to the establishment of Provincial Medical Schools. These cannot fail to be of the highest utility, and must have a most beneficial influence on the rising generation, more especially of general practitioners. Instead of superceding the Metropolitan Schools, they will rather increase the usefulness of these by furnishing

pupils prepared to profit by their advantages. Heretofore young men having passed in the provinces the earlier years of apprenticeship, have, towards its close, gone to London to attend lectures and hospitals, quite unprepared to benefit by the opportunities thus afforded them. Limited in time, and overwhelmed with excessive occupation, the chief advantages derivable from the London Schools must have been very imperfectly attained. The case will be very different when they enter on their London studies, duly prepared by the elementary instruction which the Provincial Schools will henceforward afford.

Practical anatomy being the foundation of all medical education, I may be allowed once more to congratulate the society on its cultivation being at length placed under legal protection, by the Anatomy Act of last year. For a first attempt at legislation on a novel and difficult subject, there is, in the provisions of this act, but little to object to. It seems to work well, and to the satisfaction of those who are the best judges of its efficiency. But were it far more defective, its enactment would still deserve to be hailed as the proud triumph of sound sense over intellectual weakness, of natural and healthful feelings over sicklied sensibility and false humanity. That humanity is little to be prized, which, in dwelling on the sensibilities of the poor, whether real or imaginary, overlooks their substantial welfare. It may suit the sentimentalists of the *boudoir*, who, perhaps, have never entered a poor man's hovel, and who know little of his condition, beyond what some fictitious narrative may have portrayed, to declaim

on the horrors of dissection, and in the refinements of their philanthropy, to protest against the bodies of the poor being subjected to processes from which they would themselves, in their weakness, recoil. But they who really know the poor man's wants, will have little sympathy for this imaginary source of suffering, for they know how very little such feelings enter into his conception of the ills of life. To the poor the physical wants and sufferings of their condition are quite enough to engross their cares, and of the means by which these ills are alleviated, they will be tolerant, their untutored sense sufficing for just conclusions when fallacies are not forced on them by affected sentimentalism and pseudophilanthropy. To the poor even more than to the rich, is it important that the foundations of medical science should be laid in anatomy, that the humblest class of practitioners should be thoroughly versed in the structure and functions of the animal frame. So accessible are the poor to these obvious truths, so sensible of the advantages derivable from the examination of dead bodies, that they not unfrequently proffer those of their relations to their medical attendant for such examination, soliciting it, even, in many instances, as the express desire of the deceased. If the subject were presented to the poor in its simple truth, divested of those colourings which a false humanity imparts to it, they would readily recognise the indispensable necessity of anatomical investigation, and freely acquiesce in whatever measures might be deemed most advisable for promoting it. And here it may not be amiss to notice one error into which the friends of anatomical science have,

through their zeal for its cultivation, been misled. A fashion has sprung up of individuals bequeathing their bodies for dissection, and the practice has been lauded as the climax of disinterested benevolence. While I mean not to detract from the good intentions of the parties, I must acknowledge that I view the procedure itself in a very different light.

How the body is disposed of after death, or under what circumstances it becomes resolved into its primary elements, can be a subject of little anxiety to any sound mind. Abstractedly the disposal of our earthly remains is a matter of perfect insignificance. The philosopher so regards it, and were he to consult merely his own feelings, he would not hesitate to devote his remains to whatever purpose would make them most serviceable to his fellow creatures. But he is not the only one concerned; there are others whose feelings on the subject should not be overlooked. Few persons are so isolated in life as to have no relatives or friends whose feelings still cling even to their cold and senseless remains. In the disposal of the body after death, the feelings most concerned are those of survivors, and however desirous an individual may be, either from benevolence or vanity, to consign his own body to the hands of the anatomist, he has no right to gratify his own inclinations by such a bequest, unless well assured that in so doing, he would give no pain to others whose feelings he is morally bound to respect. The feelings which still cling to the earthly frame after the spirit has departed, are natural and amiable, and though their excesses need restraint, they should neither be wholly extinguished, nor wantonly vio-

lated. But if liberal feelings are to be evinced, if there is to be a sacrifice of private sensibility to the public good, the true test of such dispositions would be, not the bequest of the testator's own body, by which he barter the feelings of others far more than his own, but the surrender of the bodies of those who were dear in life. This surrender few would make, and happily no necessity exists for any such outrage. The mode now legalised for supplying the anatomical schools, is effectual and unexceptionable, inasmuch as it provides adequately for a great public want, with the least possible violation of private feeling.

There are many topics to which, in a survey of the past year, the attention of the Association might be directed with advantage, but the necessary limits of this address preclude their introduction. Some of them have been already noticed in the Report by the Council, whose recommendation cannot fail to incite the members of the Association to an assiduous exercise of their respective talents in whatever way the purposes of the Association may most require. Anatomy, animal chemistry, and vaccination, have been judiciously selected as fit subjects for special reports, and it is to be hoped that the design of the Council, in this proposition, will not be frustrated by any want of zeal or diligence.

It should incite both diligence and zeal to reflect on the next topic which my present duty requires me to notice, namely, the medical obituary of the past year. Within the past year, several distinguished and zealous labourers in the field of medical science have closed their career of useful and ho-

nourable exertion, and while we mourn their loss, we shall best evince the sincerity of our regrets by the earnestness with which we endeavour to supply their place. I must pass briefly over each, and confine myself chiefly to those whose acknowledged eminence has already given them imperishable fame in the annals of our science.

In May, 1832, medical science sustained a great loss by the death of Dr. Andrew Duncan, the late Professor of *Materia Medica* in the University of Edinburgh. Although not distinguished by any brilliant discoveries, nor devoted to any particular branch of science, it is difficult to conceive a career of exertion more valuable than that which Dr. Duncan pursued. With unwearied diligence, extensive knowledge, sound judgement, and excellent feelings, did he exert his best energies for the general cultivation of the science of physic, and for the improvement of its practice. His labours are too well known to require any special notice: ample evidence of them exists in the pages of the distinguished journal which he so long and so ably superintended. In one respect did Dr. Duncan confer a most valuable boon on his professional brethren, by opening to them the stores of German medical literature, with which he was peculiarly conversant, and with which the pages of his journal were continually enriched. Bland in his manners, and kind in disposition, his memory will long be held in affectionate regard by all who had the happiness of his personal acquaintance.

The same month witnessed the death of one whose name must ever be dear to science, and whose loss,

from the extent of his labours and the success with which they were pursued, may well be deemed irreparable. Baron Cuvier was not a member of our profession, but his labours belong to our science, and we should be wanting in every feeling of gratitude if we did not acknowledge how largely he has contributed to advance it by his unexampled exertions in the cultivation of comparative anatomy. It would ill become me to dwell on the merits of this pre-eminent naturalist, for my best powers must fail to do justice to them. To the British Association the subject more properly belongs, and already has his eulogy been pronounced by Professor Buckland, in a strain of impassioned eloquence which it is impossible to read without deep emotion and ardent admiration of the excellencies displayed.

It may not be uninteresting to advert here to the organization of brain with which this powerful mind was connected, as it bears directly on a branch of science, to which, however it may fail to be fully appreciated in our day, future times will do ample justice. The following extract from a Journal not favourable to phrenology, states facts which the most sceptical must acknowledge are entitled to some regard.

“Soemmering, as the extreme weights of the healthy human brain, gives two pounds five ounces and a half, and three pounds three ounces and three quarters, the great majority being intermediate between these two; and M. Berard in some recent examinations, has arrived at nearly the same results. But the brain of M. Cuvier weighed three pounds ten ounces four drams and a half, being much above

the extreme weight mentioned by Soemmering. Besides, the cerebellum and tuber annulare were compared with those of a male adult, and found to exceed them, in weight only, by a dram and a half, so that in M. Cuvier the excess was almost wholly confined to the extraordinary developement of the anterior lobes, that is, to the organs of the intellectual faculties. Again, according to M. Desmolin, one of the characters of the brain with which superiority of intellect seems to be associated, is the great extent of the surface resulting from the number and depth of the convolutions, so that a great expansion of this kind might be comprehended within a cranium of moderate dimension. Viewed in this light, the brain of M. Cuvier was even more remarkable than with respect to its size, none of the distinguished anatomists who were present having ever witnessed convolutions so numerous or anfractuosities between them so profound. It was at the upper and anterior part of the brain that this conformation was most strikingly developed." Without pledging phrenology for the accuracy of all that is stated in the foregoing passage, I willingly give it as illustrating the connexion between high mental powers and large developement of the anterior and upper portions of the brain.

In the following month were removed from us by death, two philosophers, of whom, however little connected with our profession, some notice may be permitted in a medical obituary, Sir James Mackintosh and Jeremy Bentham. Sir James has been chiefly known as a legal and political character, yet we may claim him as a member of our body, for, fifty

years ago he took a medical degree, and even then his talents were held in such estimation, that he was offered a lucrative appointment in Russia, which, on its being declined by him, was afterwards conferred on Sir Alexander Crichton. May it not be warrantable to trace to the liberal cultivation included in his medical education, the developement of those faculties and powers by which this highly gifted man became afterwards so distinguished.

To Mr. Bentham we can certainly lay no such claim, but he was always the steady friend and able advocate of our profession, and he testified his regard for its pursuits by the bequest of his own body for anatomical purposes. That this unusual desire was no sudden thought, but a calm and deliberate purpose, appears from the will in which it was first introduced bearing date 1769, when Mr. B. was only 22 years old; at his death he had reached his 85th year. The love of science and the benevolence of purpose manifested by his appropriation of his remains, are unquestionable, though opinions may differ as to the expediency or justifiableness of such bequest. From the remarks lately offered, it is obvious that I regard it as of very doubtful propriety, and my persuasion is that it will have but few imitators.

In July a death occurred, which I notice chiefly from its giving occasion for the first biographical sketch given in our Transactions, that of Dr. Joseph Thackeray, of Bedford. As all who now hear me must have read that brief memoir, I shall only say that if genuine worth and pure benevolence entitle the possessor to a place in our remembrance, the

amiable and estimable subject of this memoir will not be soon forgotten.

In August Sir Everard Home departed this life, at the venerable age of 77. His works have been too conspicuous in the medical literature of our country, to need them being specially noticed by me. Independently of his personal merits, Sir Everard Home's life must interest us as more particularly connecting our time with the brilliant era of the Hunters.

At a still more advanced age, the venerable Scarpa closed his career, in his 86th year, having for 63 years held his professorship of anatomy. The number of his works, the extent of his researches, the transcendent talent with which these were conducted, and the practical usefulness of all his labours, both anatomical and surgical, fully justify the epithet of illustrious, with which his name will ever be distinguished.

The next death which I have to record, is one on which, if I was to yield to the impulse of my own feelings, I should dwell with deep and painful interest. In December died at Boston, in the United States of America, Dr. J. G. Spurzheim, the coadjutor of Dr. Gall, and the able advocate and expositor of the doctrines which Dr. Gall first promulgated. It would be out of place here to enter on any vindication of the science which these distinguished fellow-labourers established by evidences sufficient to carry conviction to every unprejudiced mind.

Of the rancour with which it was early assailed, and of the puny endeavours still made from time to time to decry it through means of ridicule and abuse, I take little account, being well assured that its truths

will survive and be acknowledged, when its objectors shall have passed into oblivion. My own faith was no effect of raised imagination, but the result of calm and deliberate judgement, and after two and twenty years of observation and reflection, it remains unshaken. However the doctrines of Spurzheim may be impugned, his personal merits will be readily acknowledged by all who ever had the happiness of holding intercourse with him. With a vigorous intellect were combined moral qualities of the highest order, and dispositions the most amiable; and it was impossible to know him without blending with the admiration due to the profound philosopher, sincere esteem and the warmest affection for the man.

Ere the year closed, one more death took place, which, though occurring at the early age of 32, I cannot pass over—that of Dr. James Crawford Gregory, of Edinburgh. Brief as was his career, it was marked by talents of no ordinary kind, and by a zeal for science, from which, had it pleased God to prolong his existence, the happiest results might have confidently been expected. Eminent as were both his father and grandfather, the powers which he displayed furnished ample proof that in sterling talents he had not degenerated.

Ere I close this address, I wish to offer a few remarks on a subject which concerns us all, one that involves the best interests of the science to which we are devoted, namely, the state of the profession. This ought to be such, that all its branches should be in harmony with each other, cordially co-operating for the advancement of science and the public good. That we are so inclined is abundantly mani-

fested by the occasion which has now brought us together; but in the present political organization of the profession, there are many disturbing forces which tend to weaken its energies, and to place individual interests, real or supposed, in collision with those duties which science and humanity enjoin. Our private interests and public duties ought ever to be in unison; and were the profession regulated on sound principles, there could be no discordance. Each member would choose the department which best suited him, and petty jealousies, which so often mar the happiness of life, would be unknown.

It would be both unsuitable, and greatly exceed my present limits, to enter here on any exposition of the evils to which a complex and discordant state of the profession gives rise. They are very generally felt, and must soon engage the attention of the legislature, which, it is to be hoped, will give them a full and scrutinising investigation. One reason, and a principle one, why this has been so long delayed, has been the total want of unanimity in the profession itself respecting the reforms needed, or the legislative provisions required. However this want of unanimity may be deplored, we are little likely to see an end of it so long as the present organization of the profession obtains. By a forced and unnatural division of offices, the profession has been split into departments, each attempting to pursue a separate course, while the natural unity that characterises the whole has been too much overlooked. Each department has had assigned to it a separate superintendence, the aim of which has been to advance its interests without reference to the other

branches, while there existed no institution for regulating and combining the whole, so as to adapt their several energies for their collective well being, and the public good.

My only object for introducing the subject on the present occasion, is to inculcate the necessity in all future projects of reform, of taking comprehensive views, so as to embrace the collective interests, and allot to each branch its due consideration. So long as this shall be neglected, partial legislation can do no good, without inflicting a far greater portion of evil. What we now need, is not a rectification of slight errors, but a general revision of the whole profession, and such arrangement of it as would render the good of each branch, compatible with that of the whole. Unless this be done, heart-burnings and discontents will prevail, to the great injury of the profession, the discomfort of its members, and the sensible abatement of those energies by the due exercise of which the public would so signally benefit. Government of the profession by separate and independent corporations, has been fully tried, and has utterly failed; as experience can no longer be pleaded in its favour, it would now be wise to try whether that course which reason and sound policy dictate, might not be beneficially substituted; whether the establishment of one presiding institution, in which all minor corporations should be consolidated, might not realise a system of adequate protection and efficient control, such as the separate and independent authorities have never yet afforded. By the establishment of such an institution, no revolutionary changes need take place; each department

continuing, as now, to exercise its functions to whatever extent the public exigencies might demand ; but the adequacy of each branch to its allotted duties could be more effectually ensured ; collisions at once inconsistent and injurious would be prevented ; equality of qualification in each respective branch be promoted, so as to remove all necessity for partial restrictions ; freedom be thus given to individuals to practise as interest or inclination might incline, and that harmony be established among the several branches, which the public good, the interests of science, the collective welfare of the profession, and the happiness of the individuals composing it, imperatively require. An arrangement of the profession which should accomplish these valuable purposes may yet be distant. In the interim it is consolatory to contemplate how much extensive association, founded on liberal principles, such as have assembled us here this day, may effect in redeeming the evils which defective and erroneous legislation have entailed.

By it the jealousies so unworthy a liberal profession cannot fail to be allayed, kind and friendly feelings must be promoted, talents called forth, zeal excited, science advanced, and, in consequence, the public good proportionably advantaged. So long as we have it in our power to do so much good, under the guidance of sound judgement and right feelings, we may patiently await those salutary reforms in medical polity, which, sooner or later, an enlightened and patriotic legislature must accord.

The Council, in laying before the Members of the Association the account of the proceedings at the Annual Meeting, wish it to be clearly understood, that it is their province unreservedly to publish those proceedings, while, at the same time, it is their duty to state that the Association does not hold itself responsible for the opinions of any individual Member.

PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

FIRST ANNIVERSARY MEETING

OF THE

PROVINCIAL

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION,

AT THE

BRISTOL INFIRMARY.

AT eleven o'clock in the morning of July 19, 1833, the Members of the Council met in the Infirmary Committee-room, to arrange such preliminary business as was necessary; and at one o'clock, by which hour nearly 200 Members had arrived, the Public Meeting commenced, when Dr. Carrick, of Clifton, was unanimously called upon to preside. Amongst other Members at this time in the room, were,

Mr. Alexander, ...	Corsham.	Dr. Conolly, ...	Warwick.
— Alford, ...	Taunton.	— Conolly, ...	Cheltenham.
Dr. Barlow, ...	Bath.	Mr. Crang, ...	Hallatrow.
— Baron, ...	Cheltenham.	— Crawford, ...	Shrewsbury.
Mr. Batt, ...	Abergavenny.	— Day, ...	Bristol.
— Beddome, ...	Romsey, Hants.	Dr. Davies, ...	Ditto.
Dr. Bevan, ...	Monmouth.	— Paris Dick, ...	Castle Cary.
Mr. Bisdee, ...	Weston.	Mr. Eastment, ...	Wincanton.
Dr. Blackmore, ...	Bath.	— Edwards, ...	Wiveliscombe.
Mr. Bleeck, ...	Bristol.	— Edwards, ...	Keynsham.
Dr. Bompass, ...	Fishponds.	— Evans, ...	Chepstow.
Mr. Brewer, ...	Newport, Wales.	— Falls, ...	Bristol.
— Browne, ...	Cheltenham.	— Fewster, ...	Thornbury.
Dr. Burridge, ...	Barnstaple.	Dr. Feild, ...	Worcester.
Mr. Burroughs, ...	Bristol.	Mr. Flower, ...	Chilcompton.
— G. Bird, ...	Swansea.	Dr. Forbes, ...	Chichester.
— Carden, ...	Worcester.	— Fox, ...	Bristol.
— Carden, ...	Gloucester.	Mr. Fox, ...	Cerne, Dorset.
Dr. Carrick, ...	Bristol.	— Gee, ...	Bristol.
Mr. Church, ...	Bath.	— George, ...	Bath.
— Cleave, ...	Bristol.	Dr. Gingell, ...	Thornbury.
— Collins, ...	Chew Magna.	Mr. Gill, ...	Wolverhampton.
— Colthurst, ...	Bristol.	— Golborne, ...	Chippenham.

Mr. Goodheve, ... Bristol.	Dr. Porter, ... Bristol.
— Gore, ... Cheltenham.	Mr. Powell, ... Bristol.
— Green, ... Bristol.	— Prince, ... Bath.
— Grevile, ... Yatton.	— Proud, ... Wolverhampton.
— Griffith, ... Wrexham.	Dr. Riley, ... Bristol.
— J. Griffiths, ... Hereford.	Mr. Roblyn, ... Ditto.
Mr. Halse, ... Bristol.	Mr. Rumsey, ... Beaconsfield.
Dr. Hastings, ... Worcester.	Dr. Sainsbury, ... Corsham.
Mr. Hay, ... Bath.	Mr. Seagram, ... Warminster.
— Hebb, ... Worcester.	Dr. Sealey, ... Bath.
— W. Hetling, ... Bristol.	Mr. Selwyn, ... Ledbury.
— G. Hetling, ... Ditto.	— Smerdon, ... Bristol.
Dr. Holbrook, ... Monmouth.	— R. Smith, ... Ditto.
Mr. Hovenden, ... Cheltenham.	— N. Smith, ... Ditto.
— James, ... Wrington.	— Smith, ... Great Somerford.
— Jennings, ... Leamington.	— Soden, ... Bath.
— Kelson, ... Bristol.	— Spender, ... Bath.
— Kenrick, ... Melksham.	Dr. Streeten, ... Worcester.
— Kilvert, ... Bath.	Dr. Sully, ... Taunton.
— King, ... Bristol.	— Sully, ... Cheltenham.
— Lansdowne, ... Bristol.	Mr. Surrage, ... Bristol.
— Lax, ... Bristol.	— Swayne, ... Ditto.
Dr. Lloyd, ... Ludlow.	Dr. Symonds, ... Ditto.
Mr. Lovell, ... St. George's.	— Todderick, ... Bath.
Dr. Malden, ... Worcester.	Mr. Toogood, ... Bridgewater.
Mr. Marshall, ... Shepton Mallett.	— Tudor, ... Bath.
— Martin, ... Reigate, Surrey.	— Waldron, ... Ditto.
— Mc Donald, ... Yatton.	Dr. Wallis, ... Bristol.
— Morris, ... Worcester.	Mr. Wickham, ... Didmarton.
— Mortimer, ... Bristol.	— Williams, ... South Brent.
— Moger, ... Cheltenham.	— Wilson, ... Bristol.
— Norman, ... Bath.	— Winter, ... Ditto.
— Ormond, ... Ditto.	Dr. Woodforde, ... Wells.
— Pope, ... Temple Cloud.	

The Meeting was opened by Dr. Carrick, who spoke as follows :

Gentlemen,—I should be at once the most insensible and ungrateful of men, were I not unspeakably gratified and flattered by the honour of being called on to preside in one of the largest and most respectable assemblages of medical practitioners that ever met together in this, or, perhaps, in any other country. Gentlemen, I am proud of the distinction, and I shall reflect on it with pleasure to my dying day. At the same time, gentlemen, I cannot conceal the anxiety I must necessarily feel on such an important occasion ; and I do most sincerely regret that the honour had not been conferred on some one of the many respectable members who surround me, who are so much more deserving of it than I am, and so much more capable of discharging the duties of the office to your satisfaction, and to the credit of the Association. Since, however, it has been your pleasure to place me here, I shall be most happy in exerting my best abilities in your service ; and I confidently trust you will, one and all, gentlemen, lend me your willing and kind support, and excuse those deficiencies which, I fear, will too frequently discover themselves.—Before going further, gentlemen, I

will beg leave to congratulate you on the singular prosperity and advancement of this society in numbers and in zeal, and on the truly respectable volume of Transactions already given to the world ; so creditable to the ingenious contributors, to the gentlemen of the central committee more immediately concerned in their selection and publication, and to the society at large. Gentlemen, the nature and objects of this Association have been so fully and ably unfolded in the eloquent and luminous address of its illustrious founder last year at Worcester, that nothing need be added, nor can be wanted in explanation. I have, however, on several occasions, been asked what the object and drift of the society really is, as if doubtful of its utility, or distrustful of its motives. Some men object to join the Association, because it may be considered in opposition to the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Surgeons, the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries, the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the Medico-Chirurgical Society, the London Press, or other various reasons equally cogent. To such objectors I have replied, we are in opposition to no man nor body of men whatever. We associate for the legitimate object of our own gratification, our own instruction, and the advancement of medical science in its enlarged acceptation, and thereby we trust, for the benefit, ultimately, of our fellow-creatures. For myself I am free to avow, that to have an opportunity of meeting such a numerous and respectable assemblage of my medical brethren as I now see before me, many from remote parts, and some from a distance of 150 miles, is to me an ample recompence, were nothing more to arise from it. From my first entrance into professional life, it has ever seemed to me to be a most desirable and important object, to cultivate the friendship and society of my fellow-labourers ; to bring them frequently together, and to render them familiar with one another ; and I can truly declare, that the happiest hours I have ever spent, have been spent in the company of medical men. But, besides the mere social enjoyment of such friendly intercourse, there are numberless advantages which arise from medical men associating with each other, and living together on gentlemanly and friendly terms. This circumstance was not overlooked by your venerable president and your able secretary, at the last annual meeting, and might therefore be passed now ; but the tale is a good tale, and cannot be too often told. There was a time, gentlemen, and that not a great while beyond the scope of my remembrance, when medical men were wont

almost universally to live in a state of open hostility to one another—when it was the custom to run down each other's professional character on all occasions, as if they could only hope to raise their own reputation on the ruin of that of their neighbour; and the more unblushing and unscrupulous their efforts in that way were, the greater, at times, seemed to be their ill-deserved success; for, unfortunately, the world are but too much disposed to lend a willing ear to scandal, and are but little qualified to form a correct judgment of medical merit. Happily this semi-barbarous, ungentlemanly, and unchristian spirit has, in these more enlightened days, in a great measure subsided, and has become so universally disreputable, that those who still retain it, are constrained at least to cover it with the veil of civility; and I trust, gentlemen, many of you will see the day when even this veil will no longer be wanted; and when jealousy and hatred, that unseemly speck and blemish, shall have been washed from the fair face of our humane and charitable profession; and of this I am certain, that nothing can have a more decided influence in furthering this desirable object, than the frequent assembling of medical practitioners in Associations like this. But numberless other advantages besides these, great as they are, must naturally flow from the well-directed influence of this Association. Besides the opportunity it affords of a ready and easy means of collecting, preserving, and presenting to the medical public many valuable cases, and histories, and essays of great interest, which would otherwise be lost to the world, I cannot but look forward with, I trust, a well-grounded hope, that this society may, in time, prove eminently instrumental in improving the condition and structure of the medical profession; the just and proper organization of which, although hitherto grossly neglected by the Legislature, is vitally important to the best interests of the state, and of each individual person. It was well observed by the respected parent of this Association, in his excellent address already alluded to, that “the organization of the profession as it obtains, is not what it ought to be; for the whole system of medical polity in this country, is both defective and erroneous. Opinions differ widely as to the evils and the remedies; but few are found to commend the existing state of things. This subject is closely connected with the advancement of science; for if the profession were constituted as it ought to be, and as reason and sound principles dictate, the harmony that would be thus established among the several departments, could

not fail to prove a direct means of their co-operating more cordially and efficiently in extending the science and improving the practice."

Although it would be improper now to enter at large on the vast and trackless field of medical reform, I cannot forbear, with your permission, gentlemen, to take advantage of the present opportunity of calling your attention, for a few moments, to this very interesting subject, in the hope that some of you will, at no distant period, be pleased to favour the society and the public with your deliberate sentiments upon it; for it is only in this way that correct, and useful, and practical results, can be arrived at, on a subject so complicated and environed with difficulties as this unfortunately is. And I will venture to say, that the man who shall be able to point out a plan whereby those difficulties may be overcome, and a rational, practicable, and efficient medical reform effected, will deserve for himself a monument *ære et auro perennius*. This enquiry seems particularly to recommend itself to your notice at the present moment, when efforts are making to call the attention of the Legislature to the correction of certain imperfections in the Apothecaries' Act, upon the result of which, although this is but a very limited portion of the subject, a great deal of good or evil must necessarily ensue. It is evident that the whole existing fabric of medical polity is faulty from beginning to end. It does not work pleasantly, nor well—not so well at least as it ought to work. On considering this subject maturely, it will be a rational object of enquiry, whether the division of the profession which law and custom have sanctioned, into three or four distinct branches, is conducive in the greatest attainable degree to the advancement of the science, the welfare of the profession, and the benefit of the public at large.

On the one hand it may be alleged that the sub-division of labour is favourable to improvement, and necessary to perfection. On the other it may, with greater show of reason, be urged that, although this principle is sound when applied to the mechanical arts, it may not hold good in the totally dissimilar and infinitely more complicated affair of physic and surgery; while it is not to be denied, that numberless advantages would result from the simultaneous practice of the medical and surgical departments. How often must every physician have had cause to regret the loss of precious time in sending for a surgeon, to perform the simple but all important operation of blood-letting, out of delicacy to the surgical depart-

ment? How often has he lost the opportunity of valuable post-mortem examination, which might have been easily obtainable had it not been necessary to call in the assistance of second persons or strangers, in moments of affliction, when the sensibilities of relatives, and their aversion to such examinations, were most feelingly awake? Many other advantages, of no trivial moment, present themselves to the mind from the combination of both departments, which I need not here enumerate. But then, it will with reason be said, that a common system of practice must require a common system of instruction. There cannot exist a doubt that for the full attainment of knowledge in the medical department, it is necessary that the medical student should become as fully and minutely acquainted with the anatomical structure, as the student in surgery; while, on the other hand, a comprehensive knowledge of those various branches of science which have usually been considered as the more peculiar province of the physician, is scarcely, if at all, less necessary to him who intends to make surgery his profession: for when he comes into actual practice, he will find that for once he is called upon to exercise the mechanical or operative part of his calling, it will be ten times necessary for him to draw upon his stock of medical knowledge. True, a man may pass in the world for a physician, with only a general and not very minute knowledge of anatomy; or may act as a surgeon without having paid much attention to medical instruction; but few will deny that each of them would have been better qualified in his respective department, had he bestowed in his education, an equal attention to both. But if medical and surgical students are to pursue the same course of study and instruction, where, it will be asked, would be the ground for distinction in name or station? To these I must reply, distinction in rank, without difference in education or acquirement, must be equally unnecessary and unjust. Would I, then, break down all distinction in the profession, and leave every thing to chance, or individual assumption? That is by no means necessary. There might exist distinctions still more distinct, and more securely limited, than those which at present exist; but obtained by a different process, and conferred in a different way. But I must not trespass further. I am well aware, gentlemen, that I am treading on delicate ground, and have opened a subject on which there are various and contradictory opinions held, by the most respectable and honourable individuals; the knowledge of which difference of opinion, warns

me to be diffident of my own, and charitable towards that of others, on a subject so complicated and uncertain. It may, to some gentlemen, appear somewhat singular, that I have noticed this subject at all, or expressed myself on it as I have done. Suffice it to say, that I have lived to witness most material alterations in the state and circumstances of the profession. Nothing in this world stands still. We live in an age of rapid motion; and it is absolutely necessary, will we, nil we, that we should follow the course of events. We can no more revert to the days of Linacre and Henry VIII., than we can make the river run back to its source. That the primitive institutions of these worthies were essentially useful in those early days, when science was struggling to emerge from the darkness and mummary with which it had been so long enveloped, is not to be denied; and we are deeply indebted to them for their nursing care. The institution of the College of Physicians, and other Royal and Worshipful Corporations, gave an upward movement to the whole profession at the time; but it may reasonably be doubted whether their subsequent influence has tended to its progressive advancement. In this respect *these* institutions are not singular. Many other corporate bodies were, in the outset, well adapted for the then existing state of society, although they have long since ceased to keep pace with the progress of general information. The monastic institutions, for instance, were, at one time, of unspeakable benefit to this and to all other unlettered and uncivilized countries. But although grateful as we ought to be, for the benefits then conferred by them, who would now-a-days advocate their continuance, or bequeath his fortune to build a monastery? Besides those above alluded to, there are other corporate regulations, devised for periods of darkness and ignorance, but totally unsuitable for the present times, which stand awkwardly in the way of the improvement of professional polity, and the advancement of medical science. The existence of apprenticeships as a necessary part of surgical tuition, is the great stumbling-block in the way of that uniformity of education which is so absolutely necessary towards breaking down those distinctions which so fatally obstruct the harmony and impair the usefulness of the medical profession. Were these artificial and antiquated barriers removed, this by far the most useful, most important, most difficult of all professions, would be found to glide on in its mild and beneficent course, like a placid and unruffled stream, instead of the noisy, and frothy, and uproarious

torrent, which it now too frequently presents. I would fain hope, gentlemen, that a happier era is about to open upon us. We live in reforming days; but I am not a radical reformer; I would not rashly innovate for the mere love of change, neither would I decline reformation where palpable defects or abuses demonstrably exist. When, however, I consider the many obstacles which still stand in the way of wholesome and rational medical reform, and the various opposing interests, individual and corporate, which must be conciliated or overcome, I despair of living to see the day. Many of you will, I doubt not, have that satisfaction, and enter into that promised land, of which I can at best have but a Pisgah prospect. For my own part I can scarcely be considered as interested in the result, be it what it may. My race is nearly run. Yet, although I can neither derive any sensible benefit nor injury from what may happen, I cannot but feel warmly interested for the honour and advancement of that Profession in which I have been actively engaged for more than half a century. In the meantime, gentlemen, it behoves us, as members of this Society, to do our best to eschew and turn aside the evil of an imperfect and ill-digested system. Your influence, well and temperately directed, may not be small, in accelerating the necessary improvements in education and practice, as well as extending the limits of medical science, and in diffusing its benefits to society at large—the object which must always be uppermost in all our aspirations and exertions. By acting with unanimity and kindly feeling towards one another, and with uprightness, humanity, and manly independence to the world at large, we shall best succeed in procuring for ourselves that protection and encouragement for our useful services, which the legislature is either too fully occupied otherwise, or too indifferent about the matter, to attend to; and which the corporate bodies are, perhaps, too much interested in withholding. Gentlemen, I beg to apologize for having engrossed so large a portion of your valuable time, and to thank you for your indulgent attention.

The SECRETARIES then presented the following REPORT OF THE COUNCIL:—

“It is with feelings of the highest gratification, that the Council of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, make their Report to the first Anniversary Meeting of its Members. The progress of the Association, since its Meeting at Worcester, has surpassed the expectation of its most sanguine friends.

“The Council will first allude to the increase in the number of Members, which is very considerable. At our last Meeting, the number of Members was One Hundred and Forty, whereas now they amount to Three Hundred and Sixteen. With respect to the state of our finances, we have every reason to be satisfied. After paying every demand upon the Association, there is still a sum of money in hand, and the Subscriptions for the year 1833 being now due and about to be collected, will bring a large sum into the Treasury. The following is the Statement of Receipt and Expenditure :—£261 5s. 0d. Receipts ; £214 1s. 6d. Expenditure ; thus leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer, of £47 3s. 6d.

The Council are happy to find that the Volume of the Transactions which they have published, has been received with great approbation by the Members at large. It is encouraging to find that, to almost all the objects of investigation originally proposed to the Members of the Association, some attention has been directed and valuable contributions elicited. The Council hope that before the publication of the next volume, Members will come forward to enrich the Transactions with contributions on those important subjects, which are comprised under Medical Topography ; a branch of knowledge hitherto not cultivated in this country with that assiduity which its manifest connexion with every branch of the healing art demands.

The Council feel that they should not discharge their duty to the Association, if they did not advert to the great advantage that would probably result from our imitating the example of the British Association, in associating each year some of our Members, to make Reports to the ensuing Annual Meeting, on the state of the distinct branches of Medical Science. The Council do not consider that these reports each year need be numerous. If two or three subjects be undertaken by as many individuals who have devoted attention to the branches of Medical Science, much information could not fail thereby to be collected. The Council would propose for the next year, the following branches of knowledge for special reports by some of our Members :—1st. A Report on the present state and progress of Anatomy. 2ndly. A Report on the Chemistry of the Animal Fluids, as illustrative of Pathology. 3rdly. That the questions on the subject of Vaccination prepared by Dr. Baron, be circulated amongst the Members and the Profession at large, in order that information may be collected, on which a satisfactory Report may be prepared by a Committee of Members.

Another means by which the Council think the Association may promote the advancement of Medical Knowledge, is by the appointment of a certain number of individuals each year, to open a communication with eminent Medical Practitioners in each country, with which we have literary communication. They consider that this part of their plan may be accomplished without much difficulty. One or more of our Members might be named for France, one for Germany, one for Holland, one or more for Sweden, Denmark, and Russia, one for Italy, one for America, one for the East, and one for the West Indies. The objects to which the attention of these Members might be directed, are—1st. From each of the Countries before mentioned, the Members might procure, if deemed advisable, the best Periodical Medical Publications, or Transactions of Scientific Bodies; they should also arrange to correspond with a Physician or Surgeon of eminence in each country. Such Foreign correspondents to be appointed Honorary Members, and to have our Transactions sent to them. Their business would be to note discoveries or questions in agitation, new works appearing, and experiments in progress, in their respective countries. 2ndly. The constitution of the Medical Bodies in the different countries, and their effects should be carefully collected, and the Medical Topography and Statistics of each country attended to.

The Council have also taken into their consideration the propriety of establishing an Annual Prize Essay on some Medical or Surgical subject. They feel that at present they should not be justified in recommending any part of the Balance which is now in the Treasurer's hands, being applied to that purpose, but they cannot help calling the attention of the Members to the liberal proposition of Dr. Thackeray, of Chester, who transmitted five pounds to the Secretaries, and in a letter to them which accompanied this donation, he states, "If nineteen other individuals would subscribe twenty pounds each, and place the money in some public security, I would add fifteen more to the sum I have transmitted. The interest of the £400 might be given annually for the best Essay on some Medical or Surgical subject."

The Council are not aware that it is necessary for them to propose any alteration in the Constitution of the Association as agreed upon last year at Worcester; they, however, think it desirable that some Honorary Members be added to our list; they have already recommended that the correspondents who may reside in Foreign

Countries, shall be considered Honorary Members ; and they beg, also, to propose that, as one of our Members, Dr. Traill, of Liverpool, has been removed from the provinces to an elevated situation in the University of Edinburgh, he also be considered an Honorary Member. The Council also beg further to recommend, that every annual President of the Association, at the expiration of the year of his Presidency, be appointed a Permanent Vice-President.

The Council cannot conclude their Report, without reminding the Members generally of the important duties which devolve upon them when they join the Association : it is manifest that the aggregate amount of information which we may be the means of communicating to the Public, must arise from the combination of individual efforts. It is therefore not too much to expect that every Member will, as far as his opportunities will admit, avail himself of the peculiar advantages afforded by the Association, and thus extend the boundaries of Medical Science.

CHAS. HASTINGS, } Secretaries to the
J. P. SHEPPARD, } Association.

Proposed by DR. BARLOW, of Bath, seconded by MR. SODEN, of Bath,

That the Report of the Council now read, be approved and adopted.

Proposed by DR. BARON, of Cheltenham, seconded by DR. H. FOX, of Bristol,

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Dr. Barlow, for his excellent Address, and that the same be printed and circulated separately, with the Report of the Council ; and also form the introductory article to the next Volume of the Transactions.

Proposed by DR. MALDEN, of Worcester, seconded by DR. BEVAN, of Monmouth,

That the Anniversary Meeting for 1834, be held at Birmingham, and that Dr. John Johnstone be requested to accept the office of President-elect.

Proposed by DR. CONOLLY, of Warwick, seconded by DR. FORBES, of Chichester,

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Secretaries of the Association, Dr. Hastings and Mr. Sheppard, for their highly

valuable services, and that they be requested to continue their services for the ensuing year.

Proposed by DR. TODDERICK, of Bath, seconded by MR. JENNINGS, of Leamington,

That the Council for the past year be requested to continue their services, and that the following gentlemen be added, and that they have power to increase their number :—

Mr. Ransome, Manchester.

Mr. Wilson, Ditto.

Dr. Burdett Steward, Droitwich.

Dr. Feild, Worcester.

Dr. Lloyd, Ludlow.

Dr. Symonds, Bristol.

Dr. Brandreth, Liverpool.

Mr. Dodd, Chichester.

Mr. Proud, Wolverhampton.

Mr. T. Griffith, Wrexham.

Proposed by MR. HETLING, of Bristol, seconded DR. W. CONOLLY, of Cheltenham,

That Dr. Darwall, of Birmingham, be requested to deliver the retrospective Address at the Anniversary Meeting for 1834.

Proposed by MR. GRIFFITHS, of Hereford, seconded by DR. WALLIS, of Bristol,

That Dr. Kerr, of Northampton, and Mr. Turner, of Manchester, be requested to draw up a Report on the present state of our knowledge on Anatomy, and present it to the next Anniversary Meeting.

Proposed by Mr. Tudor, of Bath, seconded by Mr. Griffith, of Wrexham,

That Dr. Chas. Henry, of Manchester, and Mr. Jennings, of Leamington, be requested to draw up a Report on the present state of our knowledge of the Chemistry of the Animal Fluids, as illustrative of Pathology, and present it to the Anniversary Meeting for 1834.

Proposed by MR. NORMAN, of Bath, seconded by MR. MORRIS, of Worcester,

That the following Gentlemen be a Committee to draw up a Report on Vaccination, founded on the replies to the Questions on

the subject of Vaccination proposed by Dr. Baron, and present it to the Anniversary Meeting for 1834.

Dr. Baron, of Cheltenham.

Dr. Conolly, of Warwick.

Dr. Bevan, of Monmouth.

Mr. Hebb, of Worcester.

Dr. Malden, of Worcester.

Dr. Evans, of Gloucester, Secretary.

On the proposition that a Report on the subject of Vaccination be presented to the Anniversary Meeting in 1834, Dr. Baron submitted the following observations and questions :—

Among all the pursuits contemplated by this Association, no one, perhaps, is more important than that which relates to vaccination and its protecting powers. Very deeply impressed with this conviction, the Association take the earliest opportunity of submitting to its Members several questions calculated to elicit truth on this momentous subject. Interesting as it is in itself, it especially demands the attention of provincial medical men, in as far as it was in the neighbourhood of this city that the practice took its origin, and that its distinguished author spent his life.

Hitherto the statements respecting the proportion of cases of small-pox that follow vaccination, have been exceedingly vague and contradictory, and nothing, perhaps, has tended more to unsettle the public confidence in the virtues of vaccination, than this circumstance. The Association have reason to believe that this discrepancy has arisen from causes which it is hoped may be obviated.

In the last report of the National Vaccine Establishment, it is stated that the number of cases of small-pox after vaccination, is not greater than the number of deaths which occur from inoculated small-pox. If we take the calculation of Irwin, founded on the bills of mortality in London, it would appear that, according to this estimate, nearly one in fifty of those vaccinated would be liable to small-pox. It is certain that this is very much at variance with the experience of professional men in the provinces, and in different parts of Europe. But, however this may be, it is a primary object of the Association to ascertain facts, and they therefore beg all their professional brethren to send the results of their investigations to the Committee appointed to receive them, that an accurate and digested report may be presented to the public.

In order that this report may be satisfactory, the Association take the liberty of recommending attention to the following observations. They do not presume to instruct their brethren in the practice of vaccination, but they cannot avoid urging them to be particularly vigilant in ascertaining—

1st. The state of the lymph employed.

2ndly. The condition of the patient on whom it is employed, and

3rdly. The progress of the affection itself.

No one can judge of the completeness of vaccination, who does not carefully observe all these particulars. It is well known that lymph, taken at an improper time, or otherwise deteriorated in its properties, is capable of producing a disorder which may be propagated by subsequent inoculations, and afford little or no protection against small-pox. Many failures have unquestionably arisen from this source.

It seems likewise to have been proved that cutaneous diseases, of various kinds, but particularly those of a vesicular character, when they exist at the time of vaccination, tend materially to interfere with its due influence on the constitution. This has been denied, but it was Dr. Jenner's firm conviction, and his last publication on the *variolæ vaccinæ*, referred exclusively to this subject. The Association would deem it, therefore, a matter of great moment, to obtain from the members, an accurate detail of their observations under this head.

The next point that demands their attention, is the progress of the vaccine vesicle itself, the appearance of the areola, and all those minute particulars which are described as characteristic of the satisfactory course of the affection. Slight as it generally is, there is the more need to mark well the most trifling deviations from the regular process. Had this been done in many cases which have been reported as examples of complete vaccination, they would have been mentioned in more doubtful language.

The Association earnestly refer to these points, conscious unless they are duly observed, that it is impossible to speak with any thing like accuracy as to the probable security of the patient from subsequent attacks of small-pox; and as it is the object of the Association to find out, if possible, the proportion of cases of small-pox that succeed vaccination, it is indispensably necessary that the utmost care be bestowed in watching the delicate process of vaccination, before deciding that it has regularly passed through its stages.

The above-named points having been well considered, the next branch of the subject to which the Association would call the attention of the members, regards the cases of small-pox that succeed small-pox. There is reason to suppose that the number of examples of small-pox after small-pox, approaches nearer to the number of cases of small-pox after *complete* vaccination, than is generally imagined. This enquiry is of great moment, not only as throwing light on the nature of vaccination itself, and affording a solid foundation for confidence in the practice, but likewise as leading directly to important pathological doctrines, which the Association deem worthy of the strictest investigation.

The identity of the variolæ and variolæ vaccinae has recently been urged and enforced with accumulated force and evidence;* much historical matter has been brought to bear upon the point, and the analogies manifested in the character of the affections, countenance this doctrine.

It is moreover well known that all Dr. Jenner's injunctions and statements were founded on such analogies, though he was not aware of the direct evidence which proved the inferior animals to be liable to the small-pox. Experiments have been made to confirm this doctrine, by inoculating cows with the small-pox. In some cases the experiments are said to have been successful; but there are difficulties in conducting the process which are not easily got over. By applying, however, the virus in a more extended and concentrated form, it is affirmed that the object has been accomplished in the hands of Dr. Sonderland. The direct inoculation is the only step required to make the evidence complete, and the Association would feel great satisfaction in obtaining the opinion of the Members, both as to the analogical and historical proofs, and the direct evidence to be derived from inoculations or the application of the virus in the manner directed by Dr. Sonderland.

In conclusion, the Association would sum up the principal topics of investigation under the three following heads:—

1st. The proportion of cases of small-pox after complete vaccination.

2ndly. The proportion of cases of small-pox after small-pox.

3rdly. The analogies between these two affections; the identity of their origin; the similarity of their prophylactic powers, and the evidence in support of such opinions derived from the nature of the disorders themselves, from historical evidence and direct experiment.

* See Baron's Life of Jenner, Chap. 5, 6, 7, 8.

Proposed by MR. RICHARD SMITH, of Bristol, seconded by DR. BLACKMORE, of Bath,

That in furtherance of the objects stated in the Report of the Council, the following Gentlemen be requested to accept the office of Foreign Correspondents, with such additions as may seem desirable to the Council and Secretaries :—

Dr. Conolly, for America.

Dr. Lomax Bardsley, for France.

Mr. Hebb, for Holland.

Dr. Forbes, for Italy and Spain.

Dr. Prichard, for Germany.

Proposed by MR. PROUD, of Wolverhampton, seconded by MR. MORTIMER, of Bristol,

That Dr. Traill, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the University of Edinburgh, be appointed an Honorary Member of the Association.

Proposed by DR. RILEY, of Bristol, seconded by MR. SELWYN, of Ledbury,

That the thanks of this meeting be given to Dr. Johnstone, our late President, and that he be appointed a permanent Vice-President.

Proposed by MR. HEBB, of Worcester, seconded by MR. WALDRON, of Bath,

That Dr. Nieuwenhuys, of Amsterdam, Foreign Correspondent for Holland, be appointed an Honorary Member of this Association.

Proposed by DR. BARLOW, of Bath, seconded by MR. GWYNNE BIRD, of Swansea,

That Dr. Baron's proposals [See Appendix A and B] for establishing a Library, and also a Benefit Fund, be printed and circulated with the Report of the Council and the Retrospective Address.

Proposed by DR. WOODFORDE, of Wells, seconded by MR. SURRAGE, of Clifton,

That in future, notice of any business to be brought before the Anniversary Meeting, be given to the Secretaries three months previous to the Anniversary Meeting, and be circulated with the proposed Report of the Council.

Proposed by DR. SYMONDS, of Bristol, seconded by MR. HETLING, of Bristol,

That the Secretaries of the Association be directed to address to the Committee appointed by the House of Commons to enquire into the state of Parochial Registers, a letter expressing the great satisfaction felt by the Association, that the improvement of this important branch of Statistics has been taken into consideration by the Legislature, and respectfully submitting to the Committee that great benefits might be expected to accrue to Medical Science, and consequently to the community at large, if arrangements were made for recording the *causes of deaths* in the provincial registers of mortality.

The following letter upon this subject has been received by the Secretary since the Meeting, from Mr. Wilks, Chairman of the above Committee.

Finsbury Square, July 26, 1833.

Sir,—Capt. Winnington has favoured me with your note, and the copy of the resolution adopted at the Anniversary Meeting of your Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, as to the importance of recording the causes of deaths in local registers of mortality. That resolution I shall, with much pleasure, present to the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Parochial Registration, and can assure you that the imperfection of the present Bills of Mortality, and the desirability of accurate information on the subject to which you refer, have much engaged their attention, and that they will be happy if they can discover, so as to recommend, any mean by which the object of your wishes may be really attained.

And I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

JOHN WILKS.

Dr. Hastings,

Secretary to the Association, &c. &c

Moved by Mr. G. BIRD, of Swansea, seconded by Dr. BEVAN, of Monmouth,

That a Subscription be opened for creating a Fund, to enable the Association to give Prizes for Essays connected with Medical subjects; the said fund to accumulate until Five Hundred Pounds be subscribed, after which time the yearly interest shall be appropriated to the before-mentioned subjects.

The following letter from Dr. Somerville, respecting the Anatomy Bill, was then read, and ordered to be printed, on the proposition

of DR. HASTINGS, of Worcester, seconded by DR. MALDEN, of Worcester :—

5, Saville Row, 2d July, 1833.

My Dear Sir,—I had anticipated, with much satisfaction, the prospect of being present at the ensuing Meeting of the Medical Association at Bristol; not only from the opportunity thus afforded me of meeting you, and many of my old friends, but also in the expectation that the Bill which has been entrusted by Government to my care, might have received greater support, and be made more generally useful to my professional brethren, if its operation hitherto, as well as its provisions, were more generally explained.

Disappointed in the expectation, I have not hesitated to call your attention to this subject, knowing how much you have at all times at heart the advancement of your profession, and the education of those who are about to enter upon it.

The Anatomy Bill can scarcely be said to have been in operation from October last, for having been recently passed, before the commencement of the winter courses, the teachers, as well as the public, had to enter on a discussion, about the propriety of getting a supply from the sources contemplated by the Bill; yet it is a fact equally agreeable as it is surprising, that notwithstanding the natural abhorrence of the public at the bare thought of dissection, a Bill, essentially depending for its efficiency upon public feeling, should have met with such decided success. In London alone, upwards of 500 bodies have, during the last season, been supplied to the Anatomical Schools from Parochial Institutions.

To me it is more particularly gratifying to be enabled to add, that no untoward circumstance has yet occurred to give a moment's uneasiness to me; this is the more particularly gratifying, as it serves to shew that the system of management, while it affords the utmost protection to the public, has nothing in it to shock the feelings of the poor, while it at the same time is an effectual check to improper proceedings: this success I am led to attribute to the following circumstances :—

1st. Carrying with us the feelings of the Overseers, and of Parish Authorities, by shewing them the necessity of protecting the Study of Anatomy.

2ndly. The avoidance of every circumstance calculated to give a shock to the feelings of the poor, and for this reason the bodies have always been removed by undertakers, in coffins, as if for the pur-

pose of interment, and on the burial of the remains, the utmost precaution has been taken as to the observance of the usual rites, with this difference only, that the appearances are made more respectable than those of paupers. Many of the more respectable inmates of workhouses, seeing the decency observed in these transactions, have voluntarily given up their bodies; and the relatives of others, grateful to their parochial surgeons, have asked to have their bodies sent to the Schools for partial examination, as it is termed, when the teacher is requested not to disfigure the features, and to return the body within 14 days.

It is impossible for me to conclude this description, without acknowledging, with pride, the unremitting zeal and anxious efforts of the Home Secretary, to promote, by every means in his power, the operation of the Bill, so as to make it of the utmost service to the Profession. As to the Provincial Schools, there are difficulties which make me anxiously request the sense of the Meeting, in regard to any suggestions which may appear to them calculated to remove them.

The obstacles in obtaining a supply in small towns are obvious, for not only are the Guardians of the Poor reluctant to incur the odium of assisting dissection, but the actual number of unclaimed bodies is necessarily very small; to this circumstance I am bound to attribute the want of success which has attended the School at Exeter, which I the more sincerely regret, because, during the many years I was attached to the School of Anatomy in Windmill-street, I had the most convincing proofs of the proficiency of the pupils from that School.

The Act is so framed as to prevent the removal of bodies from one town to another, indeed, the risks which attend such removals, so far overbalance any advantage, that, for the sake of the community as well as of the large schools, I believe such a permission to be highly inexpedient. It is to these difficulties to which I beg more particularly to call your attention.

It has often been suggested that the Act might be made compulsory, but the objections to this are very strong, as it would not only very materially increase the prejudice against dissection, but it would be assuming a power quite foreign to every liberal feeling; and I do not know on whom the Government could rely to carry such an Act into effect. As to almost all the other Provincial Schools, the success has been of such a nature as to give the most

encouraging hope that, by a continuance of the good understanding between the teachers and local authorities, this most essential part of medical education will no longer be made to depend upon the violation of the grave or the caprices of resurrection men.

So fully has the Government been impressed with the belief, that Anatomy could not be prosecuted with safety, until the practice of exhumation was put a stop to, that the most peremptory orders have been given for this purpose, and to the successful prosecution of several individuals engaged in this traffic, we owe much of the success we have attained.

In conclusion, I have only to offer my humble efforts in rendering useful the enlightened and liberal measure of Mr. Warburton, who, in every transaction in which the advancement of our profession has been concerned, has ever been the foremost to give his utmost assistance.

Believe me, my dear Sir,
With great esteem,
Your's most faithfully,

JAMES C. SOMERVILLE.

Dr. Hastings.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Carrick was then proposed by DR. CONOLLY, and seconded by DR. HASTINGS; after which the Meeting was adjourned.

APPENDIX

(A)

Dr. Baron's outline of a Plan of a Charity to be attached to the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.

The objects contemplated by this charity, are different from those embraced by any of the Benevolent Societies now in existence. It is not intended that the relief to be afforded should be given except under circumstances of a peculiar and urgent nature. The main design is to assist professional men when struggling under the pressure of disease or other calamity; to enable them to overcome unlooked for or trying difficulties; and to prevent that destruction of health or professional advancement which often arises from the casualties now alluded to. On certain occurrences, likewise, it

might be advisable to extend some portion of the contemplated relief to the widow or family of a professional man, who may have been suddenly cut off without the means of providing for them. Many other circumstances will direct the application of the intended charity. In every district professional men must be acquainted with cases which it would have been very desirable to have relieved in the manner that is about to be proposed; and it is conceived that the scheme will tend materially to maintain the respectability of the profession, and to afford great consolation and comfort to many of its deserving members in seasons of trial.

Something of this kind has long existed in many of the dioceses of this country, for the aid and comfort of the poorer clergy. Subscriptions from laymen as well as clergymen are obtained, and the different sums are appropriated, by a committee appointed for that purpose, according to the urgency of particular cases. It is probable that the number of applicants for relief of this kind, from medical men, would not be very great; but, at the same time, it must be remembered that there are no individuals who occupy a similar situation in society, who are, in truth, greater objects of compassion than they are, should they be broken down by sickness or other misfortune, and have no private fund on which they can fall back when rendered unable to exercise their calling.

It is believed that a hundred or a hundred and fifty pounds per annum might go a great way to relieve the distresses of persons who may be so unhappily circumstanced, to rescue them from their present difficulties, and ultimately to enable them to resume their professional labours with benefit to themselves and to the community. Nothing, perhaps, would more tend to elevate the character of professional men, and to promote all those objects for which this Association was formed, than to see its members moved by considerations of this kind, and doing all in their power to assist their more unfortunate brethren. A subscription, varying from five shillings to twenty, from each member of the Association, would produce a fund quite adequate to the contemplated purposes. For the due administration of this fund, it is proposed that at each Annual Meeting a Special Committee should be appointed. The payments will, of course, be made with the Annual Subscription, but they will be immediately transferred to a separate account in the name of the above-mentioned Committee. To that Committee, or their Secretary, all applications for relief should be made, and, of course,

they will take care that all the statements are duly authenticated, and that no relief be awarded but to persons whose professional and moral conduct will bear the strictest scrutiny.

APPENDIX

(B)

Dr. Baron's Proposals for establishing a Library.

It is believed that the objects of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association might be materially aided by forming a collection of the writings of all the Physicians and Surgeons who have lived in the provinces. Difficulties will arise respecting the place where such a collection should be deposited, but it is hoped that the simple object of bringing together and preserving the works alluded to, will overcome all such objections. It is manifestly desirable that such a collection should be made, and although the method of managing it, and the situation where it will ultimately be deposited, may be left open for future consideration, it is the opinion of the Association that no time should be lost in beginning to give effect to this design. For this purpose it is proposed that all Members of the Association should be requested to forward Copies of their own Writings to the Secretaries of the Association, at Worcester, and that others be solicited to aid the object, by presenting such Copies of the Writings of Provincial Medical Men as they may be disposed to contribute.

It is believed that in this way a very complete collection might soon be obtained, and the probability is that at no distant time it would be the nucleus of a Library of a much more extended character. Should the object be accomplished to the extent that may be fairly anticipated, it might tend to give a character of stability and influence to the Association.

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL
OF THE
PROVINCIAL
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

PRESIDENT.

ANDREW CARRICK, M. D. CLIFTON,

Senior Physician to the Bristol Infirmary.

PRESIDENT ELECT.

JOHN JOHNSTONE, M. D., F. R. S., BIRMINGHAM.

PERMANENT VICE PRESIDENT.

EDWARD JOHNSTONE, M. D. BIRMINGHAM.

SECRETARIES.

CHARLES HASTINGS, M. D.

Physician to the Worcester Infirmary.

JAMES P. SHEPPARD, ESQ.

Senior Surgeon to the Worcester Infirmary.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

James Allardyce, M. D. Physician to the Cheltenham Dispensary
and Casualty Hospital.

James L. Bardsley, M. D. Physician to the Manchester Royal
Infirmary, &c. &c.

Edward Barlow, M. D. Physician to the Bath United Hospital.

John Baron, M. D., F. R. S. Cheltenham.

Robert Bevan, M. D. Physician to the Dispensary, Monmouth.

George Gwynne Bird, Esq. Surgeon to the Swansea Infirmary.

- Edward Blackmore, M. D. Bath.
- Henry C. Boisragon, M. D. Cheltenham.
- Joseph Pilkington Brandreth, M. D. Senior Physician to the Liverpool Infirmary.
- Joseph Brown, M. D. Physician to the Sunderland and Bishop Wearmouth Infirmary.
- Thomas Carden, Esq. Surgeon to the Worcester Infirmary.
- Henry Carden, Esq. Surgeon to the Gloucester Dispensary.
- Henry Clarke, Esq. Lecturer on Anatomy, Bristol.
- John Conolly, M. D. Warwick ; late Professor of Medicine in the London University.
- William Conolly, M. D. Cheltenham.
- Andrew Crawford, M. D. Physician to the Winchester Hospital.
- A. W. Davis, M. D. Presteign.
- James Dawson, Esq. Surgeon to the Liverpool Infirmary.
- Lewis Evans, M. D. Physician to the Norwich Hospital
- A. T. S. Dodd, Esq. Surgeon to the Infirmary, Chichester.
- Thomas Evans, jun. M. D. Physician to the Gloucester Infirmary.
- John James Feild, M. D. Worcester.
- John Forbes, M. D., F. R. S. Physician to the Infirmary, Chichester.
- Thomas Fowke, Esq. Surgeon to the Dispensary, Wolverhampton.
- Henry Hawes Fox, M. D. Bristol ; late Physician to the Bristol Infirmary.
- Francis Franklin, M. D. Leamington, Warwickshire.
- Richard Francis George, Esq. Surgeon to the Bath Hospital.
- George Goldie, M. D. Shrewsbury ; late Physician to the York Hospital.
- John Griffiths, Esq. Surgeon to the Infirmary, Hereford.
- T. Griffith, Esq. Surgeon, Wrexham, Denbighshire.
- George Edmund Hay, Esq. Surgeon, Bath.
- Christopher H. Hebb, Esq. Surgeon, Worcester.
- Wm. Charles Henry, M. D. Physician to the Infirmary, Manchester.
- William Hetling, Esq. Clifton, Bristol ; Surgeon to the Bristol Infirmary, and Lecturer on Surgery.
- Wm. Hey, Esq. Surgeon, Leeds.
- Thomas Hiron, Esq. Surgeon, Warwick.
- Joseph Hodgson, Esq. Surgeon to the General Hospital, Birmingham.
- J. H. James, Esq. Surgeon to the Exeter Hospital.
- Egerton A. Jennings, Esq. F. L. S. Surgeon to the Leamington Charitable Bathing Institution, &c.

Thos. Jeffreys, M. D. Liverpool.

John Johnstone, M. D., F. R. S. Birmingham.

George Johnston, M. D. Berwick ; Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Richard Phillips Jones, M. D. Physician to the Denbighshire General Dispensary and Asylum for the Recovery of Health, Denbigh.

J. Kidd, M. D., F. R. S. Regius Professor of Physic in the University of Oxford.

Wm. Kerr, M. D. Physician to the Northampton Infirmary.

J. Arnold Knight, M. D. Physician to the Infirmary, Sheffield.

Thomas Lloyd, M. D. Physician to the Dispensary, Ludlow.

G. H. Lyford, Esq. Surgeon to the Winchester Hospital.

James Mc Cabe, M. D. Physician to the Dispensary and Casualty Hospital, Cheltenham.

Jonas Malden, M. D. Senior Physician to the Worcester Infirmary.

William F. Morgan, Esq. House Surgeon and Apothecary to the Bristol Infirmary.

William Mortimer, Esq. Surgeon, Clifton, Bristol.

James Nash, M. D. Physician to the Worcester Infirmary.

Matthew Pierpoint, Esq. Surgeon to the Worcester Infirmary.

John Freer Proud, Esq. Surgeon to the General Dispensary, Wolverhampton.

John A. Ransome, Esq. Senior Surgeon to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, and Lecturer on the Principles and Practice of Surgery.

John Rayment, Esq. Worcester.

Henry Riley, M. D. Bristol ; Senior Physician to St. Peter's Hospital, and Lecturer on Anatomy.

Archibald Robertson, M. D. Physician to the Northampton Infirmary.

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Replies to the questions on the state of Vaccination, are requested to be forwarded to Dr. Thomas Evans, Secretary to the Vaccination Committee, Gloucester.

The Council desire to return thanks to those Gentlemen who have complied with their request, and sent lists of the Medical Officers of Provincial Infirmaries and Dispensaries. As, however, there are several of these Institutions of which they have received no return, the Council request that the Members will take an early opportunity of supplying this deficiency. At the same time they beg to observe, that Reports of the cases received into these Institutions will be particularly valuable for the Transactions, the second volume of which will appear in a few months.

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