

Testimonials submitted to a Committee of the Governors of St. Mary's Hospital, [and, Letter of application for the post of Physician] / by John Rose Cormack.

Contributors

Cormack, John Rose, Sir, 1815-1882.

Publication/Creation

[Place of publication not identified] : [publisher not identified], [1850]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/y9n75594>

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

TESTIMONIALS

SUBMITTED TO A

COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNORS

OF

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL,

BY

JOHN ROSE CORMACK,

M.D., F.R.S.E.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH ; FORMERLY
PHYSICIAN TO THE ROYAL DISPENSARY, FEVER HOSPITAL, AND ROYAL
INFIRMARY OF EDINBURGH ; FORMERLY PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL
MEDICAL SOCIETY, AND OF THE ROYAL PHYSICAL SOCIETY OF
EDINBURGH ; MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE MEDICAL
SOCIETY OF LONDON ; CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF
THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF SURGERY OF
MADRID, ETC. ETC.

DECEMBER 1850.



CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Letter to the Chairman of the Medical Staff Committee	5
Testimonial from Dr. BRIGHT	7
_____ Dr. C. J. B. WILLIAMS	<i>ib.</i>
_____ Sir JAMES CLARK, Bart.	8
_____ Dr. CHOWNE	<i>ib.</i>
_____ Sir BENJAMIN C. BRODIE, Bart.	9
_____ Professor FERGUSSON	<i>ib.</i>
_____ Professor ALISON	10
_____ Dr. GOLDING BIRD	<i>ib.</i>
_____ Professor WM. THOMSON	11
_____ Dr. PEACOCK	<i>ib.</i>
_____ Dr. G. OWEN REES	12
_____ Mr. FRANCIS HIRD	<i>ib.</i>
_____ Professor BOWMAN	13
_____ Dr. SPITTAL	14
_____ Dr. LONSDALE	15
_____ Professor GARROD	<i>ib.</i>
_____ Professor LAWRIE	16
_____ Dr. JOHN CAMPBELL	17
_____ Professor SYME	18
_____ Professor SIMPSON.	<i>ib.</i>
_____ Professor JOHN REID, The late	19
_____ Dr. DUNCAN	<i>ib.</i>
_____ Sir ROBERT CHERMSIDE	20
_____ Professor Sir GEORGE BALLINGALL	<i>ib.</i>
_____ Dr. MARSHALL HALL	21
_____ Dr. T. DUPRÉ LA TOUR	<i>ib.</i>
_____ Professor VELPEAU.	22
Opinions of the Medical Press	23
Extracts from Standard Works.	27



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2019 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30560445>

TO THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE MEDICAL STAFF
COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNORS
OF
ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

SIR,

I BEG to offer myself as a candidate for the appointment of Physician to St. Mary's Hospital.

In 1837, after an extended course of literary, scientific, and professional education, I took my degree as a Doctor of Medicine at Edinburgh; and in 1841, was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of that city. Upon the occasion of my graduation, the Medical Faculty of the University adjudged to me, for my Essay on "Air in the Organs of Circulation", one of the four Gold Medals annually bestowed on those who present the best Theses; and during the previous year, I received the Harveian Prize for the best Treatise on Creasote. Both of these works have had an extensive circulation, and are quoted as authorities in the text books. I have likewise published a work on Fever, and memoirs on various subjects connected with Clinical Medicine, most of which have been reprinted in America, and translated into several European languages.

Some of the testimonials as to my education and professional qualifications, which I submitted in 1841 to the Managers of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, are here subjoined for your information; and prefixed to them are submitted a few additional certificates procured for the present occasion.

I am familiar with the duties of an Hospital physician, having filled successively the offices of Clinical Assistant in the Royal Infirmary, of Physician to the Royal Dispensary, of Physician to the Fever Hospital, and afterwards of Physician to the Royal Infirmary, of Edinburgh.

I have had considerable experience as a medical Lecturer, having delivered several courses upon Forensic Medicine, and having likewise, for some weeks, lectured upon Physiology for the late Professor John Reid, when he was confined by illness.

Should the Governors appoint me to be one of the Physicians to St. Mary's Hospital, I shall enter upon my duties with ardour, and prosecute them with unceasing zeal: and should the proposed Medical College be established in connexion with the Hospital, I should be most happy to fill such a position in it, as might be considered most conducive to the interests of the Institution.

In the event of my being appointed, it is my intention to take a residence near the Hospital.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN ROSE CORMACK.

Putney, December 26th, 1850.

TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D., F.R.S.E.

I.—From DR. BRIGHT.

11, Saville Row, Dec. 19, 1850.

It affords me much pleasure to state, that I have known Dr. Cormack for several years, and believe him to be very excellently acquainted with his profession, and an estimable man.

RICHARD BRIGHT, M.D., F.R.S.,
Physician-Extraordinary to the Queen.

II.—From DR. C. J. B. WILLIAMS.

7, Holles Street, Cavendish Square,
Dec. 5th, 1850.

Having had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Dr. Cormack during several years, and having been previously familiar with his writings, I am happy to bear my strong testimony to his abilities, acquirements, and character, as a scientific practical Physician, an independent and cautious thinker, an industrious and judicious writer, and a gentleman of the most humane and honourable feelings.

Dr. Cormack is so well known to the profession by his published works, that without individual recommendation he has strong claims on the confidence of the public: but I

would take the liberty of offering to the Governors of St. Mary's Hospital my opinion, that Dr. Cormack's uncommon zeal in the cultivation and improvement of his profession, as well as his acknowledged talents and acquirements, peculiarly qualify him to fulfil the objects and advance the interests of an infant Institution.

C. J. B. WILLIAMS, M.D., F.R.S.,
Lately Professor of Medicine in University College.

III.—From SIR JAMES CLARK, BARONET, M.D.

Brook Street, December 11th, 1850.

I have known Dr. Cormack for several years, both personally and through his published works, and have formed a high opinion of his professional acquirements as a scientific and practical physician. I can therefore recommend Dr. Cormack with confidence, as highly qualified to perform the duties of physician to a Public Hospital.

JAMES CLARK, M.D., F.R.S.,
*Physician in Ordinary to the Queen,
and H.R.H. Prince Albert.*

IV.—From DR. CHOWNE.

8, Connaught Place West, Hyde Park,
December 16th, 1850.

Although I have not had the advantage of a long personal acquaintance with Dr. Cormack, I have, through his well-known public literary labours, been long acquainted with his great scientific acquirements, and with his zeal in the advancement of medical knowledge. I entertain, moreover, a high opinion of the degree in which Dr. Cormack possesses the qualities requisite both for a practical Physician and for a teacher of Medical Science.

W. D. CHOWNE, M.D.,
Physician to the Charing-Cross Hospital.

VI.—From SIR BENJAMIN BRODIE, Baronet.

14, Saville Row, 14 Dec., 1850.

Dr. Cormack is well known to me as a Physician of great practical knowledge; and also as one who has pursued the study of his profession with the true spirit of a scientific inquirer.

B. C. BRODIE, F.R.S.,

Sergeant Surgeon to the Queen.

VII.—From PROFESSOR FERGUSSON.

16, George Street, Hanover Square.
6th December, 1850.

I have known Dr. J. R. Cormack ever since he entered the profession; and I have now the utmost confidence in recommending him, as eminently qualified to fill the office of Physician to St. Mary's Hospital. He has been a diligent student throughout his whole career; and there are few men of his age who have so distinguished themselves in literary and scientific attainments.

His experience in the duties of a Physician to a public Hospital has been very considerable; and, having acted already in that capacity, in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, he would, in my humble opinion, be a great acquisition to the medical staff of such an institution as St. Mary's Hospital is intended to be.

WM. FERGUSSON, F.R.S.

Professor of Surgery in King's College, etc.

VIII.—From PROFESSOR ALISON.

Edinburgh, 11 Dec., 1850.

I hereby certify, that I was well acquainted with Dr. John Rose Cormack when he resided in Edinburgh, both before and since his graduation; and that I have always regarded him as a man of superior abilities, who has studied the different branches of his profession carefully and conscientiously, has had very considerable experience in practising it, and is extremely well qualified by moral character, as well as by professional information and judgment, to undertake the charge of any Medical Charity.

W. P. ALISON, M.D., F.R.S.E.,
*Professor of the Practice of Medicine in
 the University of Edinburgh.*

V.—From DR. GOLDING BIRD.

48, Russell Square, December 5, 1850.

Having had the pleasure of Dr. Cormack's acquaintance from the time of his appointment as Physician to the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh, I can with confidence express my sense of his very high acquirements as a Physician and a gentleman.

Dr. Cormack requires no better testimonials of his fitness for the offices of Physician to a public charity, and of a teacher of his profession, than his own book on Fever,—a work replete with recent valuable Clinical experience and most important information.

GOLDING BIRD, A.M., M.D., F.R.S.
*Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians,
 Professor of Materia Medica at, and Assistant
 Physician to, Guy's Hospital.*

IX.—From PROFESSOR WILLIAM THOMSON.

Glasgow College, 11 Dec., 1850.

It is very gratifying to me, to feel that the favourable opinion I expressed nine years ago of Dr. Cormack's qualifications for the office of Physician to a Public Hospital has since received practical confirmation. His History of the Epidemic Fever which prevailed so extensively in Scotland in 1843, is at once a most valuable contribution to Medical Literature, and an evidence how well he is qualified for conducting the most difficult branches of Medical practice.

WM. THOMSON, M.D., F.R.S.E.,

*Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the
University of Glasgow.*

X.—From DR. PEACOCK.

London, 20, Finsbury Circus,
December 11th, 1850.

I have for some time been intimately acquainted with Dr. Cormack, and have pleasure in expressing my opinion of his professional qualifications.

During several years, he held the appointments of Physician to the Royal Infirmary, and to the Fever Hospital of Edinburgh; and his writings, more especially his Monograph on the epidemic of Remittent or Relapsing Fever, prevalent in Edinburgh during the year 1843, evince the zeal and success with which he has applied himself to the cultivation of Practical Medicine.

His experience as Physician to one of the largest public hospitals in this country, would, I consider, be highly valuable to a new institution, like the St. Mary's Hospital; while his previous acquaintance with medical teaching will make him an useful member of the Hospital Medical School, should one be established.

THOMAS B. PEACOCK, M.D.,

*Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Assistant
Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital.*

XI.—From DR. G. OWEN REES.

10, Cork Street, Burlington Gardens,
14 Dec., 1850.

Dr. John Rose Cormack is so well and so favourably known to the Medical profession, that I experience some diffidence in writing this testimonial. I feel that my favourable opinion of one whose contributions to science have gained him honour, can add but little to that store, and perhaps deservedly lay me open to a charge of self-sufficiency. Dr. Cormack, however, having become a candidate for the office of Physician to St. Mary's Hospital, I hereby beg to state, that I entertain a high opinion of him as a scientific and practical Physician.

G. OWEN REES, M.D., F.R.S.,
Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians ;
Assistant Physician to Guy's Hospital.

XII.—From FRANCIS HIRD, ESQ.

12, Cleveland Row, St. James's,
14 Dec., 1850.

Having had the pleasure of Dr. Cormack's acquaintance for some years, I have great satisfaction in bearing my humble testimony in favour of his professional acquirements, although I feel that the evidence of his extensive knowledge of disease, his zeal in the prosecution both of the literary and practical departments of the profession, and his facility of communicating knowledge, rest upon a much firmer basis than mere personal testimony.

Dr. Cormack's writings are acknowledged authorities on the several subjects of which they treat; and his contributions to the Medical Societies have embraced some of the most valuable Clinical observations of the day—particularly his observations on Puerperal Convulsions, which comprise all that is known of the pathology and treatment of this

class of diseases, and which in themselves would stamp Dr. Cormack as one of the most accurate observers and sound thinkers in our profession.

The important offices Dr. Cormack has filled in several public Medical Institutions, and his knowledge of all the details of a Hospital Establishment, render him peculiarly eligible for the office of Physician to a Metropolitan Charity; and I feel assured that by the election of Dr. Cormack, the Governors of St. Mary's Hospital would confer a boon on the poor, and realize all the philanthropic objects which the Directors have in view.

FRANCIS HIRD,

*Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons ;
Vice-President of the Medical Society of London.*

XIII.—FROM PROFESSOR BOWMAN.

5, Clifford Street, Dec. 16, 1850.

Dr. J. R. Cormack is well known to me as the author of many valuable contributions to Medical Science. He occupies a most honourable place amongst those who have laboured for the advancement of scientific and practical medicine during the last fifteen years. I believe him to have great zeal and energy, as well as a power of pursuing original investigations, from which much may be justly anticipated if he should be advanced to so important an office as that of Physician to St. Mary's Hospital,—an office for which he is (in my humble opinion) admirably qualified by intellectual ability, not less than by acquirements and character.

WM. BOWMAN, F.R.S.,

*Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons ;
Professor of Physiology and of General and
Morbid Anatomy in King's College.*

XIV—.FROM DR. SPITTAL.

Edinburgh, December 17, 1850.

I have great pleasure in stating, that I have been acquainted with Dr. Cormack for many years, and believe him to be eminently qualified for the appointment of Hospital Physician. This is an office with the duties of which he is quite familiar, having held a similar appointment in the Royal Infirmary here ; and, as one of his colleagues in this Institution, I can with much satisfaction affirm that he discharged the important duties of that office with great ability and success.

Dr. Cormack is well known by his published works, which strongly testify to his experience as a Physician, to his general and scientific knowledge, and to his talent for original research.

Having a few years ago had the pleasure of attending Dr. C.'s course of Lectures on Forensic Medicine—a class which was not merely attended by students, but at the same time by men of standing in the professions both of Medicine and Law—I may be permitted to say, that as a lecturer, Dr. C.'s style is able, fluent, and clear.

Having, therefore, distinguished himself not only as a physician, but as an author, and lecturer, on perhaps the most difficult subject in Medicine, his claims to the appointment of which he is desirous, appear to me to be *very strong*; and I am sure that, should he be successful, great advantage would accrue to the Hospital, both in a scientific and practical point of view.

ROBERT SPITTAL, M.D., F.R.S.E.,
*Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians
 of Edinburgh.*

XV.—FROM DR. LONSDALE.

Carlisle, December 14, 1850.

I have known Dr. Cormack intimately for a long period, having been his fellow student in Edinburgh and Paris, and his colleague as Physician to the Royal Dispensary, and Lecturer in the Extra-Academical School of Edinburgh; and have had many opportunities of watching his medical career.

He has been distinguished for his literary and scientific attainments, and has contributed a great deal of valuable information to the periodical literature of the day. His Essays on Creasote, Air in the Veins, and Fever, are well known, and have been largely quoted by European and American writers, as most valuable contributions to Therapeutics and Pathology. His Clinical experience in the Edinburgh Infirmary—his thorough knowledge of the profession, and his humane and highly obliging disposition, point him out as one most highly fitted to discharge the duties of Physician to St. Mary's Hospital.

HENRY LONSDALE, M.D.,

*Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of
Edinburgh; and Physician to the
Cumberland Infirmary.*

XVI.—FROM PROFESSOR GARROD.

63, Harley Street, Cavendish Square,
Dec. 20, 1850.

I have had the pleasure of a personal friendship with Dr. Cormack since he left Edinburgh; and before that time was well acquainted with his writings, especially those on Clinical Medicine, to which study he has most assiduously devoted talents of no common order.

Considering the lengthened period during which Dr.

Cormack has been actively engaged in his profession ; the evidence of his having used that time most profitably, as shewn by his medical writings, which have an European reputation ; his kindness of disposition and urbanity of manners, I have no hesitation in stating, that I know of no one more suited for fulfilling the duties of Physician to St. Mary's Hospital.

A. B. GARROD, M.D.

*Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics
at University College, and
Physician to the Hospital.*

XVII.—From PROFESSOR LAWRIE.

18, Brandon Place, Glasgow,
17th Dec., 1850.

I had the pleasure of being intimately acquainted with Dr. Cormack while he practised as a Physician in Edinburgh ; was Physician to the Edinburgh Infirmary, and conducted the *Edinburgh Monthly Journal*. He is so well known to the profession (and I doubt not to the public generally), by his character and his published works, as to make any testimonial of mine unnecessary. At the same time, I have great pleasure in stating that Dr. Cormack's high character as a gentleman, his activity and zeal as a Physician, and his acquirements as a scholar and an author, eminently qualify him to fill the important offices of Physician and Lecturer in any Public Hospital.

J. A. LAWRIE, M.D.,

*Professor of Surgery in the University of Glasgow,
and Surgeon to the Infirmary.*

SOME OF THE TESTIMONIALS

WHICH DR. CORMACK LAID BEFORE THE MANAGERS OF THE
ROYAL INFIRMARY OF EDINBURGH IN 1841;

- I. From Dr. John Campbell.
 - II. — Professor Syme.
 - III. — Professor Simpson.
 - IV. — Professor John Reid, The late.
 - V. — Dr. Duncan.
 - VI. — Sir Robert Chermiside.
 - VII. — Professor Sir George Ballingall.
 - VIII. — Dr. Marshall Hall.
 - IX. — Dr. T. Dupré La Tour, Paris.
 - X. — Professor Velpeau, Paris.
-

I.—From JOHN CAMPBELL, M.D., F.R.S.E., *Consulting Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary; Formerly President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.*

Edinburgh, 17, Albany Street, March 1841.

Dr. John R. Cormack has been long well known to me, and I can bear the strongest testimony to his general talents and professional attainments, and to the respectability of his private character.

Dr. Cormack having been my private pupil for several years, I had every opportunity of judging thoroughly of his merits in the earlier part of his medical career; and since that period, he has made himself very favourably, and well known to the profession at large, by several published contributions to medical science of great merit. I consider him as possessed of talents of the first order; and these being united to much perseverance, zeal, and energy of character, I have no doubt of his still farther distinguishing himself in

the medical profession. I can strongly recommend Dr. Cormack as well qualified for the appointment for which he is now a candidate.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

II.—From JAMES SYME, Esq., F.R.S.E., *Professor of Clinical Surgery in the University of Edinburgh.*

Charlotte Square, March 1841.

I am well acquainted with Dr. Cormack, and can with the greatest confidence testify in his favour, as a candidate for the office of Physician in the Royal Infirmary. He possesses good talents; has had a competent education; and is devoted to his profession.

His principles of conduct render him incapable of doing anything inconsistent with the character of a gentleman.

In short, believing that he is largely provided with all the qualities requisite for constituting an enlightened and judicious practitioner, I feel persuaded that his appointment would be eminently creditable and useful to the Hospital.

JAMES SYME.

III.—From JAMES Y. SIMPSON, M.D., F.R.S.E., *Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Professor of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh.*

22, Albany Street, March 1841.

As Dr. Cormack is a candidate for the situation of Physician to the Royal Infirmary, I beg respectfully to state my sincere opinion, that he is eminently qualified for holding that appointment. His excellent general talents; the extent and solidity of his professional education and acquirements; and his untiring zeal and industry, afford an ample guarantee that he will discharge with faithfulness and efficiency the duties of the important office which he solicits.

Dr. Cormack is already most favourably known to the medical profession, both at home and abroad, by the several essays that he has published.

JAMES Y. SIMPSON,
*Professor of Midwifery in the University
 of Edinburgh.*

IV.—From JOHN REID, M.D., Edin., *Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Professor of Medicine in the University of St. Andrews.*

St. Andrew's, March 1841.

I have known Dr. John Rose Cormack very intimately for several years, and have much pleasure in bearing testimony to his great professional attainments. From the extensive opportunities which Dr. Cormack has enjoyed, as clinical clerk in the Royal Infirmary; from an extended attendance at different medical schools on the Continent of Europe; and from his present very advantageous position as medical officer in the Royal Dispensary, conjoined with the possession of excellent natural talents and powers of observation, I believe that he is excellently qualified for occupying the position of Physician to a public hospital.

JOHN REID.

V.—From JAMES DUNCAN, M.D., *Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Lecturer on Clinical Surgery, and late Senior Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.*

March 1841. 7, Dundas Street.

I have known Dr. Cormack intimately for a number of years, and have been led to form a very high opinion of his talents and acquirements. Both his literary and medical education have been of a very high order; and the success with which he cultivated his opportunities, was proved by the distinguished appearance which he made in the Medical

School of this city. Dr. C. has, besides, enjoyed very great opportunities of acquiring a practical knowledge of his profession, by a long residence at several of the Continental schools, and latterly, by his connexion as medical officer with the Royal Public Dispensary of this city. From his general character and habits, as well as from the extent of his professional acquirements, I believe Dr. Cormack to be in every respect well qualified to discharge the duties of Physician to any public institution.

JAMES DUNCAN.

VI.—From SIR ROBERT CHERMSIDE, M.D., *Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London, &c., and Resident Physician in Paris.*

Paris, 20th August 1841.

I had the pleasure to become acquainted with Dr. John Rose Cormack about two years ago, and from having had several opportunities, both at the meetings of the Parisian Medical Society, and elsewhere, of hearing him express himself on a variety of professional subjects, I am led to entertain a very high opinion of his talents and acquirements. In a recent conversation with Dr. Cormack respecting his travels in Spain, I was convinced of the accuracy of his observations, having myself formerly served with the British army in that country.

I am of opinion that if Dr. Cormack be appointed to the office of Physician to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, he will discharge his duties with zeal, humanity, and advantage to the Institution.

ROB. ALEX. CHERMSIDE,

VII.—From SIR GEORGE BALLINGALL, M.D., F.R.S.E., *Professor of Military Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, one of the Consulting Surgeons to the Royal Infirmary.*

Edinburgh College, 3rd Sept. 1841.

Having been requested to express my opinion of Dr. Cor-

mack's professional attainments, I have great pleasure in stating that he has been known to me for many years; that he has to my knowledge prosecuted his professional studies both here and on the Continent with much zeal, energy, and success: that I am well acquainted with his professional writings; that I have been led to form a very high opinion of his intelligence and judgment as a practitioner, and of his superior qualifications for any public appointment in the line of his profession.

GEO. BALLINGALL, M.D.

VIII.—From MARSHALL HALL, M.D., F.R.S.E. & L., *Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London.*

London, 26th September 1841.

I hereby certify that I have read several works of Dr. Rose Cormack with great advantage, and that I am of opinion that they display in their author such talent and assiduity, and such practical knowledge of our profession, as must highly qualify him for the active and responsible duties devolving on the physician to a public institution; and that I should think the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (within the walls of which I have always rejoiced that I spent most usefully two years of my life, and to which I wish all good). would be greatly benefited by having the advantage of his able services.

This opinion is strongly confirmed by personal acquaintance and conversation with Dr. Cormack.

MARSHALL HALL, M.D.

IX.—From DR. T. DUPRE LA TOUR of *Paris.*

Paris, le 21 Sept. 1841.

Je soussigné, Docteur en Médecine de la Faculté de Paris, Membre de la Société Anatomique, etc., déclare connaître M. le Dr. John Rose Cormack sous les rapports les plus avantageux.

Son instruction distinguée, les différents ouvrages qu'il a publié, et notamment sur l'emploi de la créazote, et l'entrée de l'air dans les veins, le placent dans un rang élevé parmi les médecins. Le Journal de Médecine donc il est le rédacteur en chef est déjà remarqué dans la Grande Bretagne, et en France; et sert largement au développement de la science médicale.

En foi de quoi j'ai délivré le présent certificat.

T. DUPRE LA TOUR.

X.—*From* PROFESSOR VELPEAU *of Paris.*

Paris, le 27th Sept. 1841.

J'ai vu souvent M. Rose Cormack pendant son séjour à Paris. C'est un médecin dont l'aptitude m'a paru très grande. Je l'ai toujours vu plein de zèle et d'ardeur, soit à l'hôpital, soit dans les conversations scientifiques. J'ai donc la conviction qu'il sera un excellent médecin d'hôpital, et un bon Professeur,—de même qu'il est déjà un écrivain distingué.

VELPEAU.

OPINIONS OF THE MEDICAL PRESS REGARDING SOME OF THE WORKS BY DR. CORMACK.

I.—NATURAL HISTORY, PATHOLOGY, and TREATMENT of THE EDINBURGH EPIDEMIC FEVER in 1843.

Dublin Journal of Medical Science, March 1844.

“Dr. Cormack has performed his work in a highly creditable manner; the cases are recorded most accurately and minutely, and the conclusions drawn from them are rigid and conclusive. We could not pronounce a higher encomium on this record of a very remarkable epidemic, than to say that it deserves a place beside CHEYNE and BARKER’s *Report of the Epidemic Fever in Ireland*,—a distinction to which it is well entitled.”

The Same Journal, May 1844.

“The length of our extracts sufficiently shows the sense we entertain of the importance of this work. It is a modest and brief, as well as a faithful and learned, account of the epidemic. We cordially recommend it to our readers; and again express our opinion that it deserves to be placed beside CHEYNE and BARKER’s *Report*, in the library of every medical practitioner.”

Dublin Medical Press, March 6, 1844.

“No person could have been found better qualified for the task than Dr. Cormack; and few were better circumstar d.”

Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, April 1844.

“The present account is important, in being the most ample and circumstantial that has yet appeared. Dr. Cormack has diligently availed himself of his opportunities as Physi-

cian to the Fever Hospital, in observing the various forms of the epidemic with care, and describing them with fidelity.
* * * This Monograph must be regarded as a valuable contribution to the Natural History of Epidemic Fever."

Provincial Medical Journal for January 27, 1844.

"We have before us two accounts of epidemic fevers, on opposite sides of the Atlantic, which prevailed about the same time, and presented nearly the same phenomena. Both are drawn up by gentlemen (Dr. Forry and Dr. Cormack) who personally investigated the disease in question, and both of whom are well qualified for the task. * * * We will leave our readers to judge whether Dr. Cormack has not grasped the substance, and Dr. Forry a phantom."

Gazette Médicale de Paris, for April 13, 1844.

"Nous allons profiter du travail remarquable qui vient de publier sur ce sujet le Docteur J. R. Cormack, qui, comme Médecin de l'Infirmierie Royal et du Nouvel Hôpital des Fiévreux d'Edimbourg, a été à même de l'observer sous toutes ses formes et à ses divers degrés de développement, pour en retracer les principaux caractères." . . . "M. Cormack se livre à des recherches assez vastes, et qui ne manquent pas d'intérêt, sur la nature de cette maladie, qu'il considère comme pouvant être rapprochée de la fièvre jaune, tout en reconnaissant que le plus souvent on désigne sous ce dernier nom des affections très différentes, et qui lui paraissent devoir varier autant que la nature des causes morbides qui les déterminent, et qu'il est très disposé à attribuer à l'action d'un poison introduit dans l'économie, par la canal digestif, la respiration, ou la surface cutanée. Nous n'avons pas besoin de faire remarquer combien ces données et cette direction promettent plus à la science, que cette éternelle refrain de phlegmasies gastro-intestinales que répètent encore aujourd'hui tant de médecins parmi nous. M. Cormack démontre jusqu'à l'évidence, que dans cette fièvre épidémique il n'y a aucun signe de phlegmasie du tube digestif, malgré la grande quantité de sang accumulée dans les organes centraux."

Lancet for 7th Sept. 1844.

“In the treatment of the cases entrusted to his care, Dr. Cormack showed great judgment. * * * *

“In the above rapid analysis, we have endeavoured to present a correct view of Dr. Cormack’s remarkably lucid and philosophical work. The sketch which we have given is, however, necessarily imperfect, from its brevity, and more calculated to stimulate the curiosity of our readers than to satisfy it. We therefore recommend Dr. Cormack’s treatise to their perusal. This we can conscientiously do, as his work is, without doubt, one of the best and most interesting Monographs on fever that has lately appeared. It is a model of patient, enlightened investigation, of erudite and logical deduction ; and cannot but do credit to its author.

“We are much pleased with Dr. Cormack, because, although so minute and so correct in his analysis of the phenomena of the disease, he has not lost himself in details. He has, on the contrary, with really a master hand, gathered together the *disjuncta membra* furnished by his researches, and formed a whole, which he places on the foreground, and connects at once, with those diseases with which it appears to present an affinity, viz., common typhus on the one hand, and yellow fever on the other. Whether this latter approximation be correct or not, we cannot take upon ourselves to say ; but we must state that the facts and arguments which Dr. Cormack brings forward go far to substantiate his opinions. We are becoming daily more convinced that the numerous forms of continued fever which occur in various parts of the world, and which are described under different names, as different diseases, are, in reality, merely modifications of the same fundamental type, and are, therefore, pleased to find the labours of so enlightened a physician confirmatory of the views we entertain.”

II.—TREATISE on the CHEMICAL, MEDICINAL, and
PHYSIOLOGICAL PROPERTIES OF CREASOTE.
1836. (*Edinburgh Harveian Prize Essay.*)

Edin. Med. and Surg. Journ. for Oct. 1836.

“Dr. Cormack’s work is creditable to his talents, his industry, and his information. . . . His ingenious speculations regarding mummification will, we doubt not, be perused with pleasure by all who take any interest in such inquiries.”

Medico-Chirurgical Review for July 1836.

“The work is divided into two parts, and five chapters, in each of which Dr. C. evinces acumen, science, and research.”

Dublin Journal of Med. Science for July 1836.

“The book is evidently written by a man of great observation and research.”

*Extract from a letter addressed (in English) to Dr. Cormack,
By DR. OTTO, Professor of Medicine in the University of
Copenhagen.*

Copenhagen, 24th August, 1846.

“DEAR SIR,

* * * * * “I think it a real duty incumbent upon me, to express my acknowledgment of the great value of your published works. They all manifest a true searching spirit, a great observing faculty, and a bold understanding. Your clinical remarks prove in particular a great talent for clinical instruction. All your writings have been perused here, at Copenhagen, with the liveliest interest, and have commanded the highest respect for your abilities. * *

Yours, most respectfully,

C. OTTO,

*Professor of Medicine in the University
of Copenhagen.”*

EXTRACTS FROM STANDARD WORKS.

THE following passages are taken from standard works in which Dr. Cormack is cited as an authority. One extract only is given from each author.

Fergusson's Practical Surgery, 1842, p. 393.

"It was supposed by Dupuytren, and the opinion has since been extensively entertained, that in operations at the root of the neck, implicating one or more of the minor veins, the ingress of air into their canals has occasionally been the cause of sudden death. Dr. Rose Cormack, who has ably inquired into this interesting subject, has, however, expressed his opinion, that the alarm on this score is greater than the occasion justifies. No surgeon would willingly keep the orifice in a wounded vein open: and, as Dr. Cormack has shewn, a few globules which may accidentally be admitted, cannot do that harm which some have imagined."

Skey's Operative Surgery. London, 1850, p. 621.

"The subject" (Air in the Veins) "has been especially investigated by Nysten, Amussat, Sir C. Bell, Cormack, Dr. J. Reid, and more recently by Mr. Erichsen."

Reid's Physiological, Pathological, and Anatomical Researches, pp. 558.

"The supposition that when air enters the venous system in large quantities, it produces emphysema of the lungs, has been rendered completely untenable by the observations of Cormack and Amussat."

Christison on Poisons. Edition, 1845 ; p. 780.

“It is probable that Bleeding from the jugular vein deserves more attention as a remedy” (in cases of poisoning by prussic acid) “than it has yet received. The right side of the heart is almost invariably found much gorged with blood in animals examined at the moment of death ; and the contractions of the heart, in such circumstances imperfect or arrested altogether, have often been observed by experimentalists to be instantly restored on promptly removing the state of turgescence. Accordingly, Dr. Cormack (Prize Thesis) found that a dog, at the point of death, after receiving a fatal dose of the acid, was speedily roused and eventually saved by bleeding from the jugular vein.”

Christison's Dispensatory. Edinburgh, 1842 ; p. 375.

“The actions of Creasote require further investigation before a satisfactory account can be given of them ; but the knowledge already possessed on the subject, shews that it is a substance of extreme interest ; and in the course of a few years it has become an established article of the *Materia Medica*. The researches of Mignet, Corneliani, and especially of Dr. Cormack, upon its physiological effects, prove that it is an irritant, styptic, narcotic, sedative, anodyne, antiseptic, and possibly also a diuretic.”

Neligan on Medicines. Dublin, 1844 ; p. 235.

“Creasote, in poisonous doses, appears from the observations of Dr. Cormack, of Edinburgh, to resemble prussic acid in its sudden depressing action on the heart, as well as in the temporary nature of its toxicological operation.”

Beck's Medical Jurisprudence. London, 1842 ; p. 1069.

“According to Dr. Cormack, Creasote appears to act on the heart itself, which it seems almost instantaneously to paralyse. There appear also to be many points of resemblance between its effects and those of prussic acid. One is that the odour is diffused through all the tissues, and indeed

continues the longest with Creasote. The remedies advised by Dr. Cormack are the same as for prussic acid,—chlorine, ammonia, and other stimuli.”

Pereira's Elements of Materia Medica. London, 1839;
pp. 226.

“According to Dr. J. R. Cormack (Treatise on Creasote, 1836), the only essential part of the mummifying process practised by the ancient Egyptians, was the application of such heat as would first dry up the body and then decompose the tarry matters which had been previously introduced, and thus generate Creasote.”

Churchill on the Diseases of Children. Dublin, 1850;
pp. 589.

“There are only two instances of which I am aware, in which abscess was the result of Scarlatinous Nephritis: both are contained in a paper by Dr. Rose Cormack.”

Annales de Thérapeutique, par M. le Docteur Rognetta.
Paris, 1843: pp. 111.

“DOCIMASIE HYDROSTATIQUE.—M. Cormack, professeur distingué de toxicologie et de médecine légale à Edimbourg, s’est attaché dernièrement à éclaircir expérimentalement un des points délicats de la question si controversée de la docimasia pulmonaire. L’auteur établit, comme un fait constant, que toutes les fois que, sur un enfant mort-né on insuffle le poumon dans le but de le faire respirer ou dans l’intention criminelle de faire planer une accusation, l’homme de l’art peut reconnaître aisément à la dissection une pareille manœuvre; ces cellules bronchiques étant constamment rompues, plusieurs espaces interlobulaires étant distendus par des bulles d’air extravasées, et de l’air étant aussi rencontré à l’état extravasé dans la plèvre pulmonaire. La surnatation du poumon par conséquent est sans valeur dans ces occurrences, si on ne s’est pas d’abord assuré de la condition organique signalée par M. Cormack.”

The following arrived after the other Testimonials had been printed.

ADDITIONAL TESTIMONIALS.

From PROFESSOR SIMPSON, M.D.

Edinburgh, Dec. 20, 1850.

I have known Dr. Cormack personally for many years past, and have great pleasure in certifying my high opinion of his general talents and extensive professional knowledge and acquirements. Dr. Cormack has already enjoyed the best opportunities of making himself conversant with the duties of an Hospital Physician, by his acting in that capacity in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh; his writings on fever, etc., shew how much, and how successfully he has taken advantage of these opportunities; he is a clear and excellent lecturer; few men know more thoroughly the literature of medicine. And if these qualities are such as fit him for the office that he now desires at St. Mary's, it will, I believe, be difficult to find the combination of them surpassed or equalled in other candidates.

J. Y. SIMPSON, M.D.

President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

From PROFESSOR MILLER.

Edinburgh, 51, Queen Street, Dec. 24, 1850.

My dear Sir,—It gives me much pleasure to add my testimony to that of others in your favour, as candidate for the physicianship of St. Mary's Hospital.

You are well known as a scientific and accomplished Physician; and such attainments and natural qualifications as yours, combined with the extensive and varied practical ex-

perience which you have acquired, must eminently fit you for discharging the duties of Physician to any Hospital, at once with credit to yourself and advantage to the interests of the Institution.

I heartily wish you success, on the best of all grounds—namely, because you merit it.

In Surgery, too, you have done us good service, by your able handling of the subject of “Air in the Veins”; and it is well known to be no disparagement to a good Physician, that he is versant in the sister science of the Healing Art.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

JAMES MILLER, F.R.S.E.,

Professor of Surgery in the University of Edinburgh.