

Want of room will prevent our giving more than a very brief report of his clear and convincing arguments in elucidation of the advantages of the self-supporting system. These dispensaries, he observed, were undoubtedly founded on theory, but twenty-five years' experience had afforded practical results of a most satisfactory character, and he must be allowed to state that, in no instance, when fairly tried, had his plan failed. All the objections hitherto urged against the adoption of his system, had been founded in misconceptions of his views and principles. Societies had been formed in certain places, and called self-supporting dispensaries, but they turned out to be merely medical clubs, and their failure in many cases was not to be wondered at. Mr. Smith proceeded to answer all the objections he knew of which had been urged against the establishment of these dispensaries. In reference to one remark,—"that the poor would not be brought to subscribe,"—he would say, of course not, if you continue to force your charity upon them. But, besides the successful establishments in Coventry, Burton-on-Trent, Derby, and other places, he would tell them that only a fortnight since he witnessed the paying of 10*l.* in *pence*, at Northampton, as the weekly subscription of the members of the Self-supporting Dispensary in that town. He would also allude to another feature which had been urged in opposition. It was said his plan would injure the private practice of the profession. *In every instance it was the reverse.* Professional interests were promoted and professional feeling and character upheld, society gratified, and the people benefited. Before concluding, he must observe, that whilst his system was applicable to England, Wales, and Scotland, it was peculiarly adapted, he had ascertained by a recent visit, to the poor of unhappy Ireland. In addition to all other evils, the labouring classes of that country would soon have to endure the evils of neglected health. The ruined state of its medical charities must realise the worst anticipations; and this system alone could obviate the misery threatened. He trusted that it would be applied there. Indeed he had that week been in communication with Sir W. Somerville on the subject. Thanking the meeting warmly for the hearing it had given him, Mr. Smith sat down amidst loud plaudits.

Mr. Becke, who had come up from Northampton to be present at the meeting, entered at some length into the subject, and bore the strongest testimony to the excellent effects produced by the operations of the Self-supporting Dispensary established in that town, both as regarded the interests of the profession and the condition and comforts of the labouring classes. This gentleman's address excited much interest, and afforded ample evidence of the moral value and thorough efficiency of the self-supporting system.

J. Bacot, Esq., of Portugal-street, then offered some observations in support of the Society's objects. He had enlisted in the cause, from a thorough conviction that it was in every respect worthy of the patronage of all who had the character of the profession and the welfare of the labouring-classes at heart. The independent labourers were the pride and the stay of the country; and he considered Mr. Smith's plan as a great political engine, to improve and regenerate the people.

Samuel Gregson, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of the Self-Supporting Dispensary, Charlotte-street, said: Although not a professional man, he had great pleasure in supporting the proceedings of the meeting. He had long observed the decline of the feeling of *self-reliance* among the working-classes, especially in sickness and adversity. He believed that the self-supporting dispensaries would go far to redeem them from much of that recklessness and despondency which had such evil effects upon their moral and physical condition.

The resolution was then put by the Chairman and carried unanimously.

The Rev. W. Owen, of Ilington, proposed the thanks of the meeting to H. L. Smith, Esq., for his disinterested and untiring exertions in the cause of humanity. He could not help remarking, that whilst statesmen and warriors were rewarded whilst living, and honoured when dead, it but too often occurred that the benefactor of his race, in the ranks of the medical profession, sank into the tomb unremembered and forgotten. Mr. Smith's name would, however, be inscribed in the grateful memories of thousands of his fellow-countrymen.

J. Bompas, Esq., of Camberwell, B.M., would warmly

second the resolution. He looked forward with hope and confidence to the general adoption of Mr. Smith's plan.

H. L. Smith, Esq., emphatically thanked all present for the compliment they had paid him. It would encourage him, if encouragement were wanted, to proceed in his onward course. He should ever have at heart, he trusted, the good of his fellow creatures; and he was sure, that if we taught them to love the brotherhood, they would also "Fear God and honour the Queen."

The Rev. David Laing moved the thanks of the meeting to the Chairman, for his kind and able conduct in the chair, which was seconded by J. Propert, Esq., who observed, that were he called upon to thank that gentleman every time he appeared before the public in the cause of benevolence and goodwill, he might safely say his time would be wholly occupied.

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

A general meeting of the friends of this Society was convened on Tuesday evening, at the Hanover-square Rooms. Lord Ashley presided, and the meeting was numerous and respectfully attended, both by members of the profession and other gentlemen.

The Right Hon. Chairman opened the proceedings with his accustomed eloquence, stating that of late the ravages of epidemic diseases in the metropolis had been most appalling, and that, although no epidemic was at present existing, we were even now threatened with a more fearful visitant than the epidemics of common occurrence, these alone carrying off 12,000 victims annually. He looked at the establishment of this Society as particularly adapted to the present times. He described the times as tending to an aggregation of large masses of the people. The advancement of science, and its application to the useful arts, required a division of labour calculated to this end; and the business of the Society would be to ascertain how this aggregation of masses can take place innocuously. It has hitherto been destructive both to the physical and moral well-being of the poor. The object of the Society is to exalt the poor, to raise them out of the mire, and thus to confer a great and lasting benefit on the human race. It was no mere question of theory or taste: it was a search for truth, and an effort to apply that truth, when discovered, for the permanent benefit of mankind. A very large proportion of the pauperism of these realms appeared to result from deficient sanitary arrangements. Bad drainage, bad ventilation, bad water, over-crowding, and filth, tended to propagate disease, and to produce fatal results. These, in their train, left widows and orphans; and habits of intoxication were produced by the disgusting state of the habitations of the poor. Much of this might be remedied by sanitary appliances. The objects contemplated by this Society had, therefore, a social and moral bearing, which, under the blessing of God, might effect lasting benefit on the human race.

The following resolutions were then proposed and carried unanimously, viz.:—

1. Moved by Dr. Babington, seconded by Dr. Addison, "That a Society be forthwith established for the investigation of epidemic diseases, to be called the 'Epidemiological Society,' and that all gentlemen interested in its objects shall be eligible as members."

2. Moved by Dr. Golding Bird, seconded by John Propert, Esq., "That the Society shall be governed by a president, vice-presidents, council, and other officers."

3. Moved by R. D. Grainger, Esq., seconded by Dr. Sibson, "That Dr. Babington be requested to accept the office of president."

4. Moved by Charles Hawkins, Esq., seconded by William Rogers, Esq., "That the following gentlemen be requested to act as vice-presidents, viz.:—Dr. Addison, Dr. Bright, Sir B. C. Brodie, Sir W. Burnett, Sir C. M. Clarke, the Rev. T. Dale, Mr. R. D. Grainger, Sir C. Hastings, Dr. Haviland, Regius Professor of Physic, Cambridge; Sir J. M'Grigor, Mr. J. Nussey, Mr. J. Propert, Dr. Roupell, Dr. Smith, Colonel Sykes, and Dr. Watson."

5. Moved by Dr. Roupell, seconded by C. B. Lord, Esq., "That the following gentlemen do constitute the council, viz.:—Mr. Bell, Dr. J. Bird, Dr. G. Bird, Dr. Bryson, R.N.; Mr. Busk, Dr. Carpenter, Mr. Greenhalgh, Dr. Gull, Mr. Headland, Dr. Helsham, Mr. Hunt, Dr. Jenner, Dr.

Latham, Dr. Leeson, Dr. M'William, Mr. Marson, Dr. Parkes, Mr. Percival, Dr. Seaton, Dr. Sibson, Dr. Sieveking, Mr. Simon, Dr. Snow, and Mr. Walsh."

Dr. Babington said, that he was anxious to correct an impression which had appeared in the medical Press, that he was the founder of the Society, whereas it originated solely with Mr. Tucker.

The speakers generally appeared very sanguine as to the success of the Society, which has certainly been set on foot under most favourable auspices.

BRITISH MEDICAL FUND.

A large meeting of the members of this Society was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 31st ult. Among those present were W. Bainbridge, Esq.; J. R. Bennett, M.D.; C. M. Burnett, M.D.; James Bird, Esq.; J. Bushnan, M.D.; S. Brougham, Esq.; C. H. Clarke, M.D., (Bath); T. B. Curling, Esq.; R. Dunn, Esq.; E. Daniell, Esq.; Dr. Elliot; J. Forbes, M.D.; H. Hancock, Esq.; E. Headland, Esq.; C. F. Lord, Esq.; T. L. Matthews, Esq.; S. W. J. Merriman, M.D.; T. Nicholson, Esq.; J. Propert, Esq.; Dr. Sieveking; G. J. Squibb, Esq.; J. Spurgin, M.D.; H. L. Smith, Esq., (Southam); C. Smith, Esq., (Highworth); W. Self, Esq.; T. O. Ward, M.D., &c. &c. &c.

Dr. Forbes having briefly addressed the meeting, the Secretary read the Report, containing statements of the proceedings of the Society since the meeting in March. It appeared the Rules had been duly enrolled, and were now offered to the acceptance of the meeting. The rules were not read, as they were of some length; but it was stated, that each member would receive a copy in the course of a few days, and any alterations that might be thought necessary, might be done at any future period, under the provisions of the Act of Parliament. It being requisite that directors should be forthwith appointed, the Committee of Management, considering that the interests of the Society would be best promoted by being under the direction of those who were best acquainted with its mechanism, offered themselves as directors for the first year. It being thought probable that some time might elapse before the Provident Branch could pay its own expenses, it was proposed that any deficiency might for the time (at the discretion of the Directors) be met by the money arising from annual subscriptions. The subscriptions were reported to amount to 220*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.* A short period having elapsed since the Committee had been empowered to receive payments in respect of membership, this circumstance was considered highly satisfactory; indeed, the assurances of support, received both in the metropolis and the provinces, had been very numerous; and, as far as the Committee could gather, the plan of the Society had been almost unanimously adopted by the profession. In conclusion, the Committee congratulated the members on the encouraging state of the Society, which they were confident would prove one of the most important ever carried on by the medical profession, and one fraught with benefit to every member, and those nearest and dearest to him. A statement of the Society's finances having been read, R. Dunn, Esq., proposed, and S. W. J. Merriman, M.D., seconded the resolution:—

"That the Report made by the Managing Committee be received and approved."

Carried unanimously.

Dr. Elliot, in a very able speech, proposed:—

"That the rules now given in by the Committee of Management be received and adopted as the rules of the Society, and that the same be printed for the use of the members."

W. Self, Esq., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Dr. Burnett, after dwelling upon the services of the Committee, proposed:—

"That the following gentlemen, being members of the Managing Committee, be appointed Directors for the ensuing year:—Dr. B. G. Babington, Dr. J. R. Bennett, Mr. J. Bird, Mr. T. B. Curling, Mr. E. Daniell, Dr. J. Forbes, Mr. H. Hancock, Mr. E. Headland, Mr. J. Propert, Dr. J. Spurgin, Mr. G. J. Squibb, Dr. G. Webster."

The trustees, auditors, and arbitrators, were then appointed.

The Secretary having left the room, after a few remarks from Dr. Forbes and J. Propert, Esq., Dr. C. H. Clarke (of

Bath) proposed, and H. L. Smith, Esq., (Southam,) seconded the resolution.

"That Dr. Forbes be requested to convey to Mr. Hawlayne, on the part of the meeting, their unanimous sense of his great zeal, assiduity and most important labours in the formation of the Society."

Carried unanimously.

C. F. Lord, Esq., then proposed:—

"That the thanks of the meeting be given to the late Managing Committee for their exertions in behalf of the Society."

R. Dunn, Esq., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

After a vote of thanks, carried by acclamation to Dr. Forbes, for his very able, courteous, and gentlemanly conduct in the chair, the proceedings terminated.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted Members of the College at the meeting of the Court of Examiners on

Friday, July 26.

CHALDECOTT, THOMAS ANDREWS, Montagu-place, Russell-square.

COCKCROFT, WILLIAM, Colne, Lancashire.

COX, JOHN ANDERSON, Hon. East India Company's Service.

DAVIS, EDWARD WILLIAM STEPHEN, Merthyr Tydvil, Glamorganshire.

KITCHING, ALFRED, Hull.

LOBB, HARRY WILLIAM, Aldersgate-street.

MARTIN, FREDERICK, Clare, Suffolk.

NEWMHAM, CHRISTOPHER ATKINSON, Farnham, Surrey.

ROWLEY, CHARLES OCTAVIUS, Barnsley, Yorkshire.

WILLIAMS, GEORGE GORDON LAWRENCE, Llandovery, South Wales.

Tuesday, July 30.

BEAUMONT, JOSEPH WILSON, Sheffield.

BOURNE, WALTER, Dublin.

BROWN, THOMAS, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

EVERET, THOMAS DENNY, Stepney-green.

FITZGIBBON, RICHARD EDWARD, Killeagh, County Cork.

MARRIOTT, JOHN, Kebworth, Leicestershire.

RHODES, GEORGE SAMUEL, Earlsheaton, near Dewsbury, Yorkshire.

SCOWCROFT, JAMES PARKINSON, Bolton-le-Moors.

UNIVERSITY AND KING'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN.—The degree of M.D. was conferred on the following gentlemen, who had been previously examined on the different branches of medical science, and found duly qualified, July 26, 1850:—Henry William Jones, Calcutta; Charles Gordon, Aberdeenshire; David Scott, Kincardineshire; Owen William George, Pembrokeshire; John Davies, Hertford; William Ward, Huntingdon; Thomas Porter, Bishopsgate-street, London; John Gordon Bailey, Pentonville; Henry Strangways Hounsell, Bridport; Charles Joseph Bullock, Congleton; George Kitching, Enfield; Abraham Kidd, Ballymena; Josiah Roberts Jenkins, Denbighshire; Thomas Edward Rawson, Liverpool; William Thompson, Cumberland; Joseph Henderson, County Tyrone; Augustus Prater, Woolwich; Felix William Lyon, Kingston; Thomas Walker Grant, Connaught-terrace, London; Frederic Bateman, Norwich; George Thompson Gream, Hertford-street, London.

OBITUARY.—On the 19th inst., John Pritchard, Esq., surgeon, of Great Yarmouth. Lately at Malta, of cholera, Dr. Gray, of the 44th regiment. On the 25th inst., at Hampstead, Middlesex, aged 73, Thomas Davis, Esq., surgeon. At the Presidency, Bombay, Dr. Larkworthy, of cholera. On the 30th inst., John Miles, Esq., surgeon, of 78, Gracechurch-street.

CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL, WEST STRAND.—The annual distribution of prizes and testimonials of honour to the students most distinguished for their acquirements in the various branches of medical study at this Institution took place on Friday, July 26, 1850, the Right Honourable the Lord Robert Grosvenor in the chair. The following gentlemen were the successful competitors:—Chemistry—Silver medal, Mr. Thomas Boor Crosby, Gosberton,