

Anatomy and Medicine.—Council Room, Royal Irish Academy. Section F, Statistics.—Divinity School, Trinity College.

Members who may have any papers, or other communications to lay before the Association, are requested to state, before the end of July, their general nature and probable extent, in letters addressed as follows:—*To the Secretary of the Section, Royal Irish Academy, Dublin.*

Unless this precaution be attended to, great inconvenience must arise, and valuable papers may be unavoidably rejected in the press of business. Investigations of any considerable length may be most advantageously presented *in abstract*.

The general meetings of the Association will be held in the rooms of the Rotunda, on four evenings during the week, at eight p.m. The two remaining evenings it is proposed to devote exclusively to the promotion of personal intercourse among the members. A limited number of ladies' tickets, for the evening meetings, will be distributed according to the rules defined by the Local Council.

Ordinaries will be provided for the accommodation of the members in convenient situations, and plans of the tables will be exposed in the place of general rendezvous each morning, so as to enable members to select their places. Lists of lodgings will be likewise prepared, and exhibited in the same place.

Further information will be given at the Examination Hall of Trinity College, at which place there will be an attendance of proper persons for that purpose, during the week of the meeting and the preceding week. Tickets of admission will be issued in the same room, and it will also be the place of general rendezvous.

The rules of admission are the following:—Fellows and members of chartered literary and scientific societies, publishing transactions, are *entitled* to become members of the Association, on subscribing an obligation to conform to its rules, and paying their subscription. Office bearers, members of councils, or managing committees of philosophical institutions, and other members recommended by such councils, are entitled in like manner to become members of the Association. Persons not so qualified may be *elected* members of the Association, if duly recommended and approved of by the Central Council. The annual subscription is one pound, to be paid in advance upon admission. The composition, or life subscription, is five pounds.

## THE LANCET.

*London, Saturday, July 25, 1835.*

WE publish at page 543 the circular issued by the *British Association*, with respect to the meeting to take place in Dublin in August. Upon the great advantages which may be expected to accrue to science from this Association we need not dwell, the subject being one about which all are agreed. In its constitution, every observer of passing events must perceive both the power and the practicability of uniting into one great community, and for the advancement of one great object,—the diffusion of science,—the discordant elements of professional societies and institutions which heretofore had unfortunately acted on quite a different principle. To what extent such an association may influence the destiny of any country in which it is placed, is a speculation only bounded by our ignorance of the degree of unanimity and co-operation which may hereafter animate their labours. Kings, and Princes, and Legislators may enact their laws and ordinances; but in the hands of the members of such an Association, comprizing as it does the whole learning and intellect of the country, a power beyond all others in commanding the will and forming the character of their fellow-men, undoubtedly resides. Upon unity of purpose, harmony of co-operation, and untiring perseverance among its members, must depend the effectuation of those splendid results which are most certainly within the reach of their attainment. Every member of it should consequently keep these objects and principles in view; and consider himself personally bound to advance them by every means in his power. It is true that such an Association, even keeping such rules in view, cannot supply the place of individual

talent and exertion; but a compliance with these duties cannot fail of having the effect of exciting, facilitating, and rendering more agreeable, the labours of genius and application. Hence the necessity of attendance at the meetings of the Institution; which from all we can learn of the intention of many of its most distinguished members, as well as from what we know of the local inducements and arrangements made for the accommodation of the Association, promises to be unusually great this season in Dublin.

Knowing all these circumstances, and being aware more particularly of the deep interest which the scientific men in Dublin, as well as its inhabitants generally, take in the present visit of the Association, we deem it our duty to advert to a circumstance connected with this subject, which might be interpreted in a more serious sense than it really deserves without an explanation. In the Circular which we publish, it must at once be perceived by the reader, that the name of the *Dublin College of Surgeons* does not appear. To any one acquainted with the pretensions only of that body—with its affectation of superiority over similar Institutions,—this omission of its very name, on an occasion of this kind, would appear unintelligible. In such a matter, however, there is nothing extraordinary. The omission is precisely as it ought to be. It is now well known, that what was once the Irish College of Surgeons, no longer has an existence; it is now composed and conducted by a handful of persons who have established themselves in the possession of the College in the same way that, as we are told by naturalists, the fox dispossesses other animals of their abodes, that is by his intolerable abominations and filth. JACOB and HARRISON, and the rest of the “tail,” are now, we may say, the sole occupants of the den in York Street. Their habits and mode of conducting themselves on all

occasions, were found to be totally incompatible with the attendance or interference of the respectable resident members of the College in Dublin. All this, it would appear, was well known to the Council of the British Association; for, on being invited some time ago to hold the meetings of one of their sections in York Street, they declined the intended honour, on the ground (a complimentary one, no doubt) that the Dublin College of Surgeons (meaning the school and professors of course) was unknown as a scientific body, having neither produced men nor works which advanced the interests or extended the boundaries of human knowledge!

We need not confirm by specifications the justice of this opinion; it is too true in every respect, and it is certainly pleasant to have the pompous pretensions of the usurping junto in York Street reduced to their proper dimensions by the unobjectionable and impartial estimate of such a body as the *British Association*. Notwithstanding this gentle rebuke, the “junto” would have it that they were fit society for scientific men; and actually held another meeting on Thursday week for the purpose of entrapping the British Association into their company. The project proposed was to invite the Association, while sitting in Dublin, to a social and intellectual banquet, to be provided out of the funds of the College, and the hashed-up remains of the papers of the Surgical Society, of which the College “junto” now forms the principal moiety.

This movement was made for two reasons,—first, lest the party in question should suffer in their fancied local importance by the slight offered to them by the *British Association*; and, secondly, for the purpose of endeavouring to secure a little *eclat* from the mere circumstance of entertaining the Association, and reading papers before them. Of the two evils they would prefer making themselves ridi-

culous before the Association, to appearing contemptible in the eyes of their fellow-citizens. The indulgence of their vanity and presumption would amply compensate them for the failure of the attempt to be successful; they would be perfectly satisfied, if they only attained to the distinction of defeat. Their objects were so well known to the respectable members of the College, that but few attended; and of these few some considered it their duty to object to the scheme of the *British Association* being made the dupes of this designing and contemptible faction. It was stated that the persons who brought forward the motion, acted with bad faith towards the general body, inasmuch as they deferred any notice of it to the latest moment, while they were all the time preparing papers for the edification of the Association;—that such an invitation in the name of the College generally would have the necessary effect of making the whole body responsible for the character of papers which it was well known would be unworthy of the College to produce, and of the Association to listen to;—and that the Charter of the College did not admit of money being expended for any such purposes as those contemplated in the present motion. Notwithstanding the truth and reasonableness of these objections, the motion was carried by some fifteen or twenty persons in attendance for that purpose, and the Association is, on the strength of this scheme of a fraction of the College, to be invited to sip champagne at the expense of perhaps upwards of a hundred guineas to the College; and to sit out the rant and declamation of the *quondam* professor of syntax and elocution, Mr. EVANSON! The Association, the most learned and respectable perhaps in the world, will, we have no doubt, duly appreciate the motives of the entertainers, and rate at its proper value a rehearsal of the vapid

contents of the burrow of the half-extinct Surgical Society of Ireland.

On the business of a personal nature which occurred at the last two meetings, we shall take an early opportunity to make a few remarks. The state of the institution upon which we have been for some time commenting, has at length assumed an aspect which, if not averted by the timely interference of the respectable members resident in Dublin, must terminate in the total disorganization of that institution.

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#### INTERCEPTED LETTERS.

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 "TO DR. GORDON.

"SIR,—The President of the Royal College of Physicians, after giving your repeated applications to be admitted to the Fellowship every consideration in their power, have directed me to inform you that they have unanimously agreed not to admit you into their body.

"In fulfilling this important duty I think it proper to inform you that the President and Fellows have come to that resolution from several reasons, but particularly in consequence of the immoral tendency of your evidence before the Drinking Committee of the House of Commons, wherein you have recommended London beer to the community as a wholesome beverage. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

"———, M.D., Sec.

"Pall Mall East, July 10, 1835."

"DEAR SIR HENRY,—It is not for me to attempt to express my agony and surprise on receiving a letter from the Secretary of your College, which I of course consider as official, dated July the 10th. It *distresses* me, because to become a Fellow has indeed long been the object nearest my heart; and it *surprises* me, because from the promises you have so often made to me, and which I was not aware were your *conditional* ones, I had no doubt of your complying with my wish. You have, therefore, I conceive, done me an irreparable injury. If you really never intended to promote me, why did you let me cherish the hope of such an honour, and allow me to talk about it to my friends, and talk of it yourself? When you again and again honoured me with