is no woollack, mitre, or coronet, in reserve for us; but these distinctions await and are attainable by the humblest member of the other learned professions. Whatever the prospective measure may be, whether of a distinctive or a preventive character, I am very anxious that we should be united, and prepared, *if good*, to give it our most cordial support, and, *if bad*, to exert ourselves to the utmost in opposing it. I have in no way alluded to the numerous evils the members of the profession have to complain of, nor to any remedy that I may consider likely to remove them, thinking it best to wait and see the nature of Sir James's bill. But there is one increasing evil which ought not to be overlooked, and in our petitions should form a prominent part: it is the very great power given to the poor-law commissioners over the medical profession. That a body of men possessing so many scientific and learned acquirements should be subservient to the poor-law commissioners, is shameful. Vaccination and registration both legitimately, in my opinion, belong to the medical profession, and I trust we shall soon see the control of them placed in their hands.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours, &c.,

Bath, February, 1843.

GEORGE KING.

IRISH MEDICAL CHARITIES.

[The following memorial was forwarded on the 31st of January last to Sir Robert Peel, from the council of the Provincial Association. We now publish it at the request of the council.]

(COPY.)

To the Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, Baronet, First Lord of the Treasury, &c., &c.

SIR,—We, the undersigned members of the Council of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, beg permission to express the deep interest we feel in every measure of legislation designed to provide medical aid for the poorer classes of the community in any part of the United Kingdom; and very respectfully to lay before you our sentiments and opinions with respect to a bill brought in at the close of the last session of Parliament, by the Chief Secretary for Ireland, for the purpose of regulating and remodelling the Irish medical charities.

Although fully aware of the existence of some defects in the present system of medical relief in Ireland, we venture to assert our belief that certain official statements, contained in the report which has suggested the leading provisions of the proposed measure, are exaggerated, partial, and erroneous; that the institutions in question have been found, on the whole, well adapted to afford medical aid to the poor of Ireland; and that, if placed under medical inspection and management, they may be rendered perfectly efficient, not only for the direct relief of the sick, but for the prevention of a vast amount of misery and destitution among the industrious classes.

We submit that it is both unnecessary and inexpedient to remove the present governors of these charities, for the purpose of substituting other governors subject to the control of the poor-law commissioners.

Having observed the numerous and serious defects of the arrangements, which have been in force since

the year 1835, for supplying medical relief to the poor of England and Wales, we are driven to the conclusion that the poor-law commissioners are unfit to be entrusted with the regulation of any medical institutions, or with the administration of any enactments which may affect the character, position, and interests of the medical profession.

We, therefore, beg leave earnestly to request that the bill, already introduced into Parliament, may be reconsidered by her Majesty's government; and that the petitions and suggestions of the grand juries of many Irish counties, of the governors of the medical charities, and of the most eminent members of the medical profession in Ireland, may have their due weight in the settlement of this important question.

We have the honor to remain, &c., &c.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—I have read with considerable interest the remarks upon Mr. Spencer Hall and Phrenomagnetism contained in your Journal of the 11th current, because the good folks of Kent have lately been entertained with similar exhibitions. Many respectable people are inclined to believe the humbug, because, at the moment of exhibition, no one takes the trouble of denouncing the lecturers as impostors. But really the scene is quite disgusting when such barefaced tricks are practised for the sake of raising a little money.

I lately attended a lecture upon animal magnetism given by *two gentlemen*, one of whom had been apprentice to a carpenter, and the other had formerly gained, as I am informed, an honest livelihood as a marker in a billiard-room. In the present instance ignorance and impudence went hand in hand to the amusement of most of the audience, who now talk of the evening with some little shame, as if they had been witnessing the jugglery of some miserable country fair. Two young women and two boys were the patients, but they had not got their lesson perfectly; one boy cried when pricked with a blunt pin, and one of the girls when on her knees, like the Yorkshire tailor, began repeating the Lord's prayer; but I put an apple to her mouth so as to interrupt her profanity, and she laughed outright, and covered her face with her hand so as to conceal her grins.

The parties left the village immediately after their paltry performances were over, having gained a sovereign or two for themselves, but no credit for their science.

I confess I did not expect to be converted to a belief in Mesmerism when I paid my shilling; but as I was not previously aware of the private history of the lecturers, and as similar scenes have been patronised by such a man as Dr. Elliotson, and by the highly honorable commandant and other officers of the Chatham garrison, I thought I was more likely to ascertain the truth by personal investigation than by reading newspaper accounts of amputations without pain, and other statements of the like kind.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. IMLACH.

Sittingbourne, Feb. 16, 1843.