Benevolent Fund, will have been prevented by their poverty from paying the *price of membership to the local funds*. They who are least acquainted with the state of the profession generally will be well aware that an immense majority of those who have families, and who have not private fortunes, do not possess the professional income requisite for their private expenditure; and that this is to them a cause of unabating anxiety, and for their children a fruitful source of that defective education, which is too frequently to be lamented.

If, indeed, the proposition of my benevolent and excellent friend, Mr. Martin, should be carried into effect this evil would in some measure be relieved; but my general reasoning will be uninfluenced by a remedy so partial, yet so desirable.

If therefore local funds could be established throughout the length and breadth of our land, admitting for the sake of argument, that they are so established, and in active operation, yet from their very constitution, they can embrace but a very small portion of the real suffering of our profession; and therefore a Benevolent Fund is not superseded by the establishment of the local funds; on the contrary, the necessity for its aid is only rendered more apparent.

We shall have much to say on the subject of local funds, and some final suggestions to make with regard to the applicability of our resources to the removal or diminution of the causes, which produce the mass of professional suffering; but we reserve this for a future letter.

I shall conclude my present communication, by an earnest appeal to the best feelings of my readers on behalf of the Benevolent Fund. That fund has now been struggling for twelve years, in the vain attempt *adequately* to relieve the sum of misery presented to its notice, with *inadequate* means. It has done much, but it has not done what it might have done—what it ought to have done, had it possessed the power. Only let the sums dispensed to each individual applicant during the last year be considered, and who will have the hardihood to say they are much more than a mockery of the woes they are intended to relieve? Who can have the hardihood to say they are befitting the boon which ought to arise from an Association of such magnitude?

But if so, who is there among us who has not yet subscribed to this fund, that can once more place his head upon his pillow without having previously resolved, that however poor he may be, he will seek “the blessing of him that is ready to perish,” by annually subscribing his five shillings for the relief of poverty greater than his own—of misery and misfortune from which at present he is happily exempted—and of family destitution to which God grant that his family may be long strangers?

Let not any one say he is unable to subscribe; a little more than a penny a week will constitute the minimum subscription, and if poverty were the *real obstacle*, who is there that could not drop his penny every Sunday morning into a little charity box for this purpose? It is not want of means which really constitutes the difficulty; there is no charity in giving of our superfluities; the essence of charity consists in *self-denial*, and who but would deny himself some trifling luxury in order to solace his afflicted brother?

To my brother subscribers, let me ask, do you do your utmost? Cannot your amount of subscription be *double* without any *serious privation*? Let us remember that we are only stewards of the goods of Providence—that we are called upon to cultivate those goods—and that a rich reward is promised to those who, upon just principles, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, minister to the sick, relieve the fatherless and the widow, succour the stranger, and pour the balm of consolation into the heart of the wounded. Let me then entreat you, for the sake of our suffering brethren, for your own sake, and for the sake of our common Christianity, according to your *real power*, to augment your subscription in aid of so Godlike an institution.

Faithfully yours,

W. NEWNHAM.

Farnham, September 10, 1844.

SIR JAMES GRAHAM'S MEDICAL BILL. HEREFORD MEETING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND
SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

I have the honour to convey to you the unanimous thanks of a public meeting of the medical practitioners of the city and county of Hereford, for the very able manner in which you have advocated the cause of the medical profession. And, in accordance with resolution eleventh, I herewith forward to you the proceedings of the meeting, and request in its name the favour of their insertion in your columns at as early an opportunity as may be convenient.

I remain Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY GRAVES BULL.

HON. SECRETARY.

Hereford, Sept. 17, 1844.

A public meeting of the Medical Profession of the city and county of Hereford was held at the General Infirmary, in that city, on Monday, the 16th instant, to take into consideration the provisions of the new Medical Bill, recently introduced by Sir James Graham into the House of Commons, to frame a petition against its objectionable points, and to take such other steps as might be deemed necessary to oppose them in the best and most efficient manner:—Dr. Bleeke Lye in the chair.

Upwards of forty medical practitioners were present, and letters or communications were read or made from several other gentlemen, regretting their inability to attend on the present occasion, but fully concurring in the objects for which the meeting was called.

Among the gentlemen present were Drs. Lye, Gilliland, Glasspoole, and Morris, of Hereford; Dr. Davis, of Presteign; Dr. Strong, of Ross; Dr. Turnbull, of Byford; Messrs. Braithwaite, Lingen, Cam, Morris, Price, Archibald, Barnard, Bull, Leake, Waudby, and Tucker Price, of Hereford; Messrs. Marshall and Blakely, of Kington; Messrs. Wood, Tanner, and Gwillim, of Ledbury; Mr. Watling, of Leominster; Messrs. Barnett, Jones, and Willmott, of Ross; Mr. Whitcombe, of Presteign; Mr. Millard,

of Whitchurch ; Mr. Lane, of Grosmont ; Mr. Giles, of Byford ; Mr. Denham, of Canon Pyon ; Mr. Woodcock, of Eardisley.

We regret that we are unable to insert a full account of the proceedings, the following are the more important resolutions adopted by the meeting.

Proposed by G. H. Marshall, Esq., Kington, seconded by Francis Braithwaite, Esq. : " That the members of the medical profession present at this meeting having had under their consideration ' a Bill for the better regulation of medical practice throughout the United Kingdom,' recently introduced to the House of Commons by Sir James Graham, cannot but regard its provisions with feelings of disappointment and alarm ; for while they allow that the establishment of a Council of Health, and an improved system of organisation for the entire body of the profession are much to be desired, yet they consider that many of the provisions by which these objects are proposed to be effected are liable to great objection, and that the repeal of all the existing protective enactments, without the substitution of others in their place, more than counterbalances any beneficial effects which such an improved system might be calculated to produce."

Proposed by James Price, Esq., Hereford, seconded by M. A. Wood, Esq., Ledbury : " That this meeting deprecates in the strongest manner possible that principle of the Bill, which, by removing the stigma of illegality from empiricism, throws open the practice of medicine to every unqualified person, as a measure disastrous of the public welfare, and ruinous to the best interests of the profession ; inasmuch as it is the existence of the present penal enactments alone, which, by imposing a restraint on irregular practice, enables the public to discriminate more readily between the properly educated man and the empiric, and thus prevents the lower classes in particular from being the dupes of a false and dangerous confidence in those who are utterly unworthy of it."

Proposed by T. F. Watling, Esq., Leominster, seconded by Charles Lingen, Esq., Hereford : " That this meeting recognises with satisfaction the benefit which has accrued to the great body of the profession, and through it of necessity to the public at large, from the improved course of study, and the increased amount of qualification required by the Apothecaries' Company in the candidates for their license ; and, therefore most entirely disapproves of the repeal of the Act of 1815, unless some other measures are enacted, not only to ensure a still further improvement in the system of Medical Education, but also a more efficient protection for the interests of those, who at a great expenditure of time and money have already qualified themselves for the due performance of the responsible and arduous duties which devolve on the practitioner of medicine."

Proposed by Henry Graves Bull, Esq., Hereford, seconded by Dr. Glasspoole, Hereford : " That the meeting fully admitting the want of a general Council of Health, as well as of a more perfect organisation of the medical profession, and equally sensible of the beneficial result likely to follow their introduction, cannot but view with anxiety the manner in which these objects are proposed to be carried out in the present Bill ; and more especially the absolute power which it vests in the Government, by giving to it the appoint-

ment of more than two-thirds of the first Council, and the absence of any guarantee that the interests of that great body of the profession, the general practitioners, shall be in any way represented therein."

Proposed by Dr. Strong, Ross, seconded by Dr. Glasspoole, Hereford, and carried unanimously : " That the following Petition when signed by the members of the medical profession of the city of Hereford ; of the towns of Bromyard, Kington, Ledbury, Leominster, Ross, and Weobly, in the county of Hereford ; and of the adjoining districts in the same county, be forwarded to the Members for the city and county for presentation to the House of Commons. And in the event of the Bill reaching the House of Lords, that a similar Petition be placed in the hands of the Lord Lieutenant of the County, for presentation to that House."—(A petition embodying the preceding resolutions was then read to the meeting, and afterwards signed by the gentlemen present.)

Proposed by Dr. Edward Morris, Hereford, seconded by John Tanner, Esq., Ledbury, and carried unanimously : " That the following gentlemen—Dr. Gilliland and Francis Braithwaite, Esq., with the Chairman, (Dr. Bleeke Lye,) and Honorary Secretary, (Henry Graves Bull, Esq.,) be appointed a deputation to wait on Messrs. Clive and Pulsford, the Members of Parliament for the City, and on Messrs. Hoskins, Bailey, and Baskerville, the Members for the County of Hereford, in behalf of the Medical Practitioners of the City and County of Hereford, for the purpose of drawing their attention more particularly to the injurious tendency of the Bill ; to place the petition in their hands, and to request them to use their best exertions for its success."

Proposed by Wm. Denham, Esq., Pion, seconded by Thos. Cam, Esq., Hereford, and carried unanimously : " That T. F. Watling, and Thomas Burlton, Esqrs., of Leominster, be appointed to wait on Messrs. Arkwright and Greenaway, the Members for that borough, from the same body, and for the same purposes as specified in the last resolution."

Proposed by Samuel Millard, Esq., Whitchurch, seconded by Charles Lingen, Esq., Hereford, and carried unanimously : " That this meeting do resolve itself into an Association of the Medical Practitioners of the City and County of Hereford, to be called ' The Herefordshire Medical Association,' for the purpose of watching over and protecting the interests of the Profession, until they cease to be threatened in any such manner as they are in the present Bill ; with the same constitution as at present."

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION, BIRMINGHAM.

The first meeting of the Council of the Medical and Surgical Association at Birmingham was held on Tuesday, September 17th, in the hall at Queen's College :—Dr. Male, President of the Association, in the chair.

Amongst the members present were—Dr. James Johnstone, senior physician of the General Hospital ; Dr. Birt Davies, senior physician of the Queen's Hospital ; Dr. Bell Fletcher, senior physician of the Dispensary ; Dr. Eccles, physician of the General Hospital ; Dr. Percy, physician of the Queen's