

pages. It is very improbable that the *Medical Times and Gazette* will award to it the requisite space for its appearance uncurtailed, if at all. I am not however anxious as to the impression made by the criticism of the *Medical Times and Gazette* on the other side of the Atlantic, but as many of your subscribers no doubt read this British journal, I deem it but just to them, and due to myself, to afford them the means of judging fairly of the grounds on which its editor rested his criticism of my translation of Professor Golgis' very important work.

Respectfully yours, &c.,

JOSEPH WORKMAN.

Toronto, Sept. 15, 1883.

To the Editor of the *Medical Times and Gazette*.

SIR,—A professional friend has placed in my hands your number for July 14th, in which, at page 54, in your notice of the April number of the "Alienist and Neurologist," you have alluded in rather severe terms to my translation of Professor Golgis' memoir on the minute anatomy of the central nervous system. I am hardly surprised that my rendering of Prof. Golgis' excellent work has evoked your displeasure, because of my too close adherence to the text of the author, for in truth I have, since the appearance of my translation in print, been myself dissatisfied with it, and I feel grateful to you that you have been so merciful as to ascribe its defects to my "ignorance," rather than to my ignorance of "the structure of the English language."

Presuming, as from your allusion to my "anxiety to produce a literal transcript of the author's words," (an impeachment whose justice I most frankly admit, for I think that in works of science this is always the safest and most just rule), I am warranted in doing, that your knowledge of the Italian language enables you to speak authoritatively in this matter, I may with fair expectation of some mitigation of your censure, appeal to your candour as to the great difficulty, or indeed, in numerous instances, the extreme perplexity encountered by English scholars, in reducing into decent English verbal order, long and complex, and sometimes even simple Italian sentences, for as you must well know, our greatest embarrassment is not in lighting upon the equivalent English words, (though even this is sometimes unattainable), but in arranging them in that order of relation and sequence, which best accords with that of our own less systematic idiom. I freely admit my defects in this relation, but I trust you will not be so harsh as to disregard my appeal to your English manliness, when I tell you that the state of my constitutional powers, now that I am on the verge of four

score years, did not permit of my writing out a second or revised copy of my version, which went to the printer just as it had been thrown off, *currente calamo*, and you must well know that nothing less than a patient and studious revision could have enabled me to turn out my work in passable English garb; indeed, I hesitate not to confess that I might have failed in pleasing even myself with only this amount of emendation, and how much more certainly must I have failed in securing your eminent approval! I must, however, with all becoming deference to your conceded high authority, demur to your charge of unintelligibility, especially as illustrated by your citation of the Alienist's outlandish phrase, "complicate nervous anastomose." Might you not, without any perilous overstretch of charity towards me, or risk of injustice to the printer, have reasonably added this blunder to the others which you have justly attributed to him, or his proof-reader? To have so done would really have been giving the devil his due. I cannot better convince you of this than by enclosing in this letter the veritable lines of my M.S. in which the true words occur. You will thus see that I never wrote either *complicate* or *anastomose*, and you will further see that the printer has split up my sentence and made two where I had only one,—nay, even worse, he has commenced a distinct *paragraph* with the unwarrantable doubling of the word *anastomoses*, which you will see was plainly written both at the bottom of my page 22, (as has, for additional security of proper sequence, been my invariable rule), and at the top of page 23, with a small *a*, and was followed by a very plain comma.

The following is a transcription of the lines above mentioned, enclosed in my letter to the editor of the *Medical Times and Gazette*:—"Above all, for the reflex phenomena, it appeared to be a quasi absolute necessity to admit complicate nervous anastomoses

23

anastomoses, which, indeed, had been already admitted, before histologists, by means of particular minute researches, engaged in the work of verifying their real existence."

Now, when you had under your eyes such a crowd of blunders palpably ascribable to the printer, might not the very apposition here apparent in the repetition of the word, in its true form, have averted the causticity of your criticism, as well as have delivered you from the temptation of indulging in that ill-disguised sneer at "good American"?

I "must protest" against this unbecoming national haughtiness, for though not, either by birth or residence an American, I have learned to hold in high esteem both the nation and its literature. I can now still less reluctantly than before admit the pertinence of the following distich, which I