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the HPRA's verdict.

"Obviously, we have to adhere to their adjudication as well. But there is no reason why this cannot be moving on, on the side as well, so that when the two come together, we can move as quickly as possible. It's joined up thinking; it's a different way of doing things."

He said that if this proposal gets the green light, medicinal cannabis will be 'streamlined' and will be prescribed by a GP and dispensed by a pharmacist.

"That will make the process safer for users so that it is controlled and administered correctly in a professionally-qualified dynamic," he told the Limerick Leader this week.

Also welcoming the Bill, LAA councillor Cian Prennerville said that there appears to be "a sea-change in popular attitudes and the brave, campaigning of this week need this message means we are on the verge of dragging the current government into facing some kind of reality on this issue".

Western cannabis therapy: a Limerick doctor's theory

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OVER THE past fortnight, surrounding the ongoing debate on the merits of medicinal use of cannabis, we are reminded of the Limerick-born doctor and surgeon who was the first person to introduce the therapy to Western civilisation, 170 years ago.

Dr William Brooke O'Shaughnessy, born 1808, was a doctor, surgeon and inventor, graduating out of University of Edinburgh with doctorate of medicine in 1829.

And though Dr O'Shaughnessy is now more notably known for his input into the first studies of medicinal cannabis, he was more acclaimed in his lifetime for his inventions relating to telegraphy in India; and for the foundations of fluid therapy during the cholera outbreak in the early 1830s.

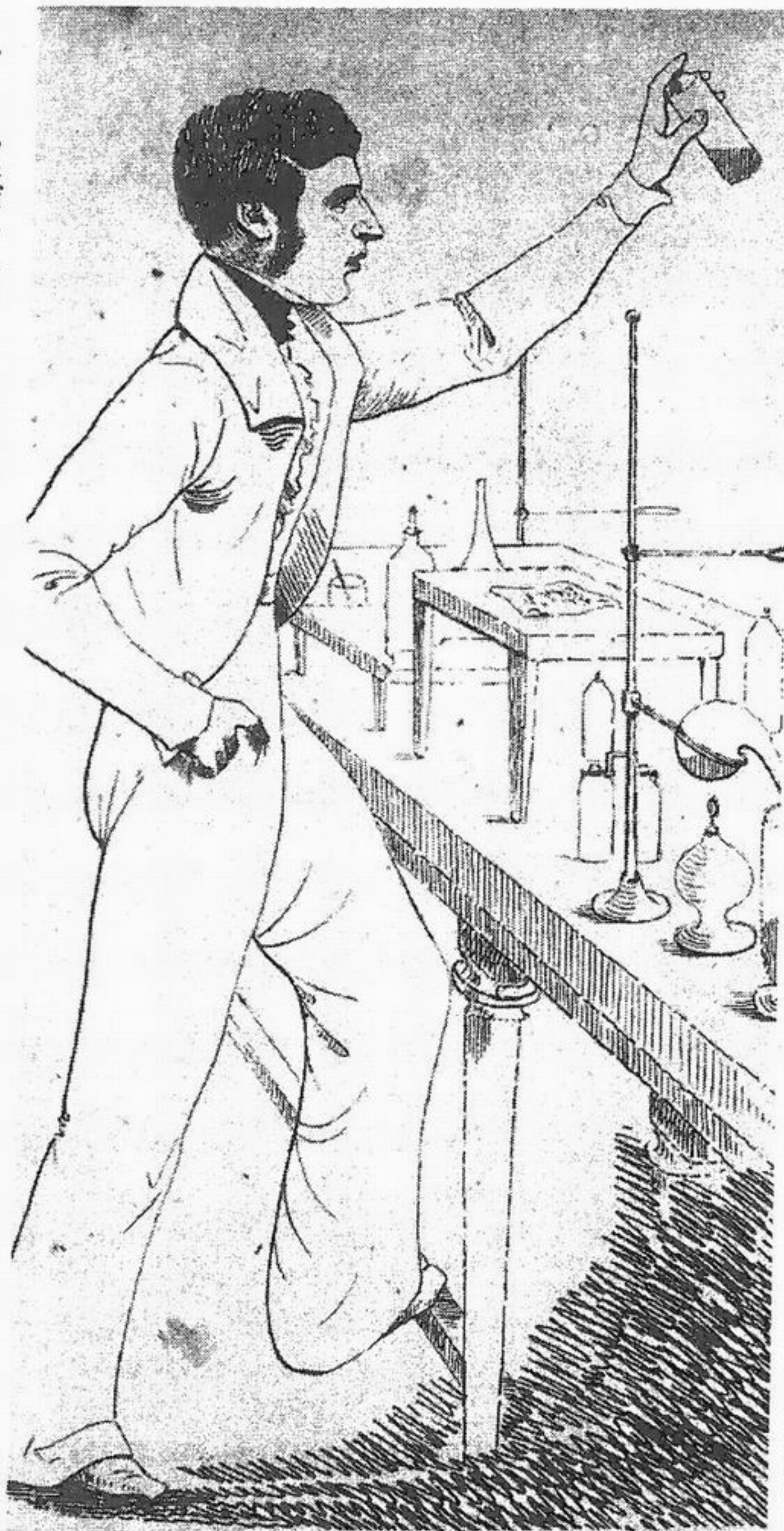
Dr O'Shaughnessy was influential during the outbreak in London, and had suggested that patients suffering from cholera should be injected with ounces of a saline solution, instead of bloodletting, which was the adopted practice then.

In 1833, Dr O'Shaughnessy joined the East India Company as a surgeon, and was appointed the first professor of chemistry at the Calcutta Medical College. And in 1839, his interest in Indian hemp and cannabis treatment was first published in the *British and Foreign Medical Review*.

Following his extensive observations of the cannabis plant, the Limerickman was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1843.

While on sick leave, Dr O'Shaughnessy was responsible for the construction of the largest telegraphic line - spanning 3,500 miles - with the assistance of Governor-General of India, the Earl of Dalhousie, Lord James Ramsey.

Dr O'Shaughnessy was knighted in 1856, and died aged 80 in 1889.



Limerick-born doctor, surgeon and inventor William Brooke O'Shaughnessy first wrote about medicinal cannabis in 1839