

commences with mis-stating facts, and then proceeds to inferences, which the alleged facts, even if true, would not warrant.

His first mis-statement is the following, viz.—“The dinner, we believe, was but thinly attended, the company being nearly two-thirds less than it was last year at Southampton.” This statement happens to be untrue; and as the editor was not himself present at the dinner, we charge him only with asserting, on insufficient grounds, what he did not know to be true. Relatively to the number of members present at the meeting, the dinner was not thinly attended, the guests bearing as full a proportion to the whole number of assembled members as on any former occasion. The dinner company was not two-thirds less than it was last year at Southampton. I, Sir, who did attend the dinner, counted the guests, and found them to amount to seventy. Will the editor of the Medical Press allege, that the attendants at the Southampton dinner amounted to 210?

But, even if there were a thin attendance at dinner, there were, surely, other causes to which to refer this, without imputing it solely to repulsion, caused by the alleged misconduct of the secretary. The meeting had occupied above two days; many members had attended from extreme distances, and were naturally anxious to return to their homes; they were under the necessity, too, of availing themselves of the most convenient rail-trains for carrying them back to their respective districts. Even the cost of the usual dinner is well known to have effect in thinning the dinner attendance. Taking into account these several causes of absence from the dinner, I hesitate not to pronounce, that relatively to the whole number of members assembled at York, the dinner was not thinly, but fully attended.

Assuming a thin attendance, the writer of the objectionable paragraph immediately proceeds to assign the conduct of the secretary as the cause of this; and, referring to a casual discussion which took place at the meeting, he expressly charges Dr. Hastings with “an intemperate and vulgar attack on Dr. Laycock,” and with “attempts to stifle discussion by brawling and bombast.”

They who heard the discussion alluded to, will find it difficult to recognise it in this splenetic representation; while all the absent members who have any knowledge of Dr. Hastings, will at once repudiate the gross accusation as wholly unworthy of belief.

So far from Dr. Hastings making an intemperate and vulgar attack on Dr. Laycock, he was himself the party assailed; and only in defence of the secretaries, the council, and the constitution of the association, did he reply. Dr. Laycock more than insinuated, that the government of the association was not representative of the general members; that the council was arbitrarily chosen; that the secretaries exercised despotic power. Against these groundless and unexpected imputations, Dr. Hastings did earnestly vindicate the parties arraigned. Were the imputations true, it would have been the bounden duty of the detector of such abuses, either to have impeached the secretaries as guilty of violating the fundamental laws; or, if he found the laws defective, to have given notice of an express motion for correcting them.

But Dr. Laycock's remarks being as untrue in fact, as they were inappropriate to the occasion

on which they were uttered, Dr. Hastings, precisely as his duty required, rebutted them by a direct refutation, which none but the Editor of the Medical Press would venture to call intemperate and vulgar, or characterise as brawling and bombast.

For Dr. Hastings' reputation, Sir, I have no fears, for it rests on too stable a foundation to be thus damaged. But I would caution the Editor of the Medical Press, as he values his journal, to beware of discrediting it by such unseemly personality as that which has called forth the present strictures.

Your obedient servant,

VERAX.

August 12, 1841.

## RESULTS OF FORTY-TWO OPERATIONS FOR THE CURE OF STAMMERING.

By M. BONNET.

THE author gives a short account of the results obtained by him in forty-two operations for the cure of stammering, by the subcutaneous method. In two patients no actual stammering existed, but the pronunciation of words was indistinct; no benefit ensued. In four cases he was also unsuccessful, where the impediment depended on some anomaly during respiration; the patients did repeat the same syllables over and over again, but enunciation was suddenly interrupted at the beginning or in the middle of a word. Of the remaining thirty-six patients, labouring under true stammer, six were above 32 years old. In the latter, the results were completely negative, and M. Bonnet thinks that the operation should never be performed on individuals who have passed the age of 32. Thirty patients were below this last-mentioned age; of these, ten were completely cured; eleven very greatly improved; two moderately so; and seven obtained no benefit. As under the head “greatly improved” are included cases where the impediment of speech was all but removed, it follows that the operation is attended with excellent effects in about two-thirds of the cases; but will these effects continue? This is an important question, which time alone can determine; of the ten patients completely cured, one relapsed to his former condition ten or twelve days after the operation; in another case, the stammer gradually returned about the fifth week; the other cases continue well at the present time (May 18th.) Amongst the eleven patients greatly relieved, two had relapses, but the remainder, on the other hand, were improving every day.

From these results it would appear, that we may expect some benefit from the operation for stammering, provided it be applied to the proper cases; but what these are, the present state of our knowledge does not permit us to say with any certainty.—*Bul. de Therap. July, 1841.*

## SUICIDES IN FRANCE.

THE number of suicides in France during the year 1839, amounted to 2,717; of these, 698 females, and 486 males, occurred in Paris. It is a melancholy fact, that self-destruction is daily on

the increase in civilized countries; thus the progressive increase in France has been as follows: 1836, 2,310; 1837, 2,413; 1838, 2,556; 1839, 2,717.

**DELIVERY OF A FEMALE, WHO, FOUR YEARS PREVIOUSLY, HAD BEEN SUBJECT TO THE CÆSAREAN OPERATION, BY DR. SCHNACKENBERG.**

A rachitic female aged thirty-three, and but three feet eight inches in height, had been delivered by means of the Cæsarean operation in August 1836; she again became pregnant, and was at her full time, Feb. 29, 1840.—The attending physicians found her in the most extreme want, and in a locality so miserable and peculiarly circumstanced as to forbid all idea of performing the Cæsarean operation, and she was carried to hospital, where it was ascertained, that the antero-posterior diameter of the pelvis was from  $2\frac{1}{4}$  to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches. The case was one of foot presentation, and the uterine contractions were so powerful, that the fœtus was soon expelled to the shoulders, which were easily disengaged, but the head could not be brought down. The cord ceased to pulsate; the meconium passed away, and the infant became flaccid. Being satisfied that the child was dead, the head was perforated and extracted; the fœtus weighed eight pounds; the mother recovered perfectly.—*Neue Zeitschrift für Geburtskunde and Med. Press.*

**MEDICAL REFORM.**

Yesterday, George Duncan, Esq., M.P. for Dundee, was waited upon by a deputation of the Eastern Medical Association of Scotland, to solicit the support of the honourable gentleman in favour of the important cause of medical reform. The deputation were much pleased with the cordiality of their reception, and the handsome manner in which Dr. Duncan promised to support the important measures of which they are the advocates.—*Dundee Warder.*

**A HINT TO MAGNETISERS.**

A peripatetic magnetiser, M. Laurent, accompanied by the well-known Mademoiselle Prudence, has recently met a very untoward check at Lille. The young lady, whose eyes were covered by pieces of court plaster and a bandage, astonished the spectators by the facility with which she played at cards and dominos. Some medical gentleman present, on watching Miss Prudence rather closely, discovered that very slight motion sufficed to displace the bandage, and that the lady had anointed her eyelids previously with oil. The secret thus discovered was immediately applied in practice. A gentleman oiled his eyelids, put on the bandage, and was able to play at cards just as successfully as Miss Prudence. On this discovery being made public, M. Laurent and his pupil decamped from Lille, and have not been heard of since.

**BOOKS RECEIVED.**

*Philosophic Nuts, or the Philosophy of Things, &c.* By Edward Johnson, Esq. No. 8, Simpkin and Co. London.

*The Structure, Economy, and Pathology of the Human Teeth, &c.* By William Lintott. Churchill, London, 1841, pp. 114.

*Dictionnaire des Dictionnaires, &c.*; or a Dictionary of Medicine, being a Compendium of the best French and Foreign dictionaries, by a society of French Physicians, under the superintendance of Dr. Fabre. Vol. I. to VI. Paris, 1841.

*On the Construction and Management of Hospitals for the Insane, with a particular notice of the institution at Leigburg.* By Dr. Maximilian Jacobi. Translated by John Kitching; with introductory observations, &c. By Samuel Tuke. Churchill, London; and Linney, York. 1841. 8vo. pp. 229.

*First Principles of Medicine.* By Archibald Billing, M.D. Fourth Edition. Highley, London, 1841. 8vo. pp. 312.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

*A Member of the College.*—Licentiates resident in the country will enjoy the same privilege.

The papers of *Mr. Sweeting, Mr. Storrs, and Dr. Twinstall*, read at York, were published in our last number.

We have to request that all communications, &c. may be addressed to *Dr. Hennis Green*, 58, Margaret Street, Cavendish Square. Letters on business connected with the *Association* should be addressed to *Dr. Streeten*, Foregate Street, Worcester.

**HUNTERIAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**, (late NORTH LONDON,) 20, Charlotte Street, Bloomsbury.

**WINTER SESSION, 1841-2.**

The Medical Classes will open on October 1, 1841.

*Anatomy and Physiology*—Dr. Valentine Flood. *Practical and Surgical Anatomy*—Mr. E. J. Chance and Mr. P. Bennett Lucas.

*Principles and Practice of Medicine*—Dr. R. Boyd and Dr. Klein Grant.

*Materia Medica and Pharmacy*—Dr. G. A. F. Wilks.

*Chemistry*—Dr. Venables.

*Midwifery and Diseases of Women*—Dr. Hemming.

*Diseases of Children*—Dr. Hennis Green.

*Principles and Practice of Surgery*—Mr. P. Bennett Lucas.

**SUMMER SESSION.**

*Botany*—Dr. Wilks.

*Medical Jurisprudence*—Dr. Venables.

*Practical Chemistry*—Dr. Venables.

The Certificates from this School are recognised by the London University, the Royal College of Surgeons, the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries, and the Army, Navy, and East India Medical Boards.

Perpetual Fee to all the Lectures required by the above Institution, £35.

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