

Five grains of calomel immediately; one ounce of decoction of aloes every second or third hour.

21st.—Pulse small and rapid; less drowsiness; no tension nor tenderness of abdomen; tube withdrawn; bowels have acted freely.

22nd. Worse; passed some urine last night, is insensible now, and unable to stir himself.

23rd. Has been partly sensible, and asked for things; was much better after the poultice; has had two glasses of wine since yesterday; wants some beer to drink, for he is thirsty; is sleeping, and can scarcely be got to answer questions. Pulse above 160; complains more, and rarely speaks; gill of ale for drink.

24th. Much better; pulse 126, and distinct; has asked for some things during the night; has not been vomiting since yesterday, when he brought up some dark matter like thin extract of belladonna; he has passed much of this by stool; has made a pretty fair quantity of urine; is still half comatose.

25th. The same; has been crying out all night, and has had no rest.

26th. Dying; pulse scarcely perceptible; has had no rest during the night, but has been in an insensible state; urine pretty free; no distention of abdomen; died at eleven, a.m. No examination allowed.

After the operation, Sir J. F. Fife delivered a clinical lecture, in which he repeated his former arguments in favour of his peculiar mode, lately adopted, of performing the first steps of lithotomy; but he admitted that in this, the third trial, as in each of the former, there had been more than usual difficulty in grasping the stone, and although in the first of the three the calculus had also been attached to the coats of the bladder, it appeared that the incision in the prostate did not afford the same room to the forceps as when made more downwards; the common lateral operation, therefore, as performed by Liston, might be better adapted to large calculi.

#### LITHOTOMY.

John Henderson, aged 5, from Shields, brought up to Newcastle-on-Tyne; suffering from retention of urine, and in great agony; catheter passed; stone felt.

November 17th. Sir John Fife performed lithotomy as in the preceding case, and extracted a calculus about the size of a horse-bean; an elastic-gum tube was introduced through the wound, and retained in the bladder. A small opiate given.

During the operation there were not more than three drachms of blood lost.

19th. No symptoms of indisposition.

22nd. Convalescent.

25th. Urine passed by urethra; wound healed.

#### PROVINCIAL

### Medical & Surgical Journal.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1844.

In the turn which the discussions on the Medical Bill have recently taken there is much matter for serious reflection. After the close and repeated examination which the measure has undergone as a whole, and the searching scrutiny which most of

its important clauses have severally experienced, it would seem impossible that anything further, worthy of attention, could be elicited. Every man, however, views objects as they are presented to him, after his own fashion, and his consciousness of them partakes at least as much of the peculiar tone of his own mind as of the qualities of the objects themselves. To apply this remark to the subject before us, we have only to notice the manner in which the Bill has been regarded by the parties who have expressed their opinions upon it, and without looking too curiously into those of individuals, we shall, perhaps, best attain our object by observing the impression made on sundry public bodies and public characters.

Our friends in the far north and across the channel are among those who would seem disposed to view the measure almost entirely *couleur de rose*. They have seen sundry manifest advantages in it which specially affect themselves, have at the same time but a dim perception of its short-comings, in reference to evils, of the working of which they have little personal experience; and accordingly having their mental optics, we will not say clouded, but tinged by the party-coloured spectacles through which they alike regard the measure, and the circumstances which it is required to meet, are, while sufficiently alive to its merits, in a happy state of unconsciousness as to its manifold errors.

Our metropolitan brethren, on the other hand; have long been labouring in their onward way, in fulfilment of their professional calling, with the drag-chain of sundry exclusive and corporate and local privileges about their heels, and oppressed with these in various degrees, according as they are wearied with the restraint, or by long usage have become insensible of their presence, on the one hand bewail the removal of certain of these privileges, or are disposed to struggle for or against the acquisition of others.

In the provincial districts again, and especially in those remote from the metropolis, there is little experience of the evils of corporate and local privileges, but an acute sense of want of protection, and of the pressure of an extra-professional tyranny, which has inflicted the intolerable burden of a wounded spirit on every medical practitioner who has come within its influence, and called forth the sympathy of all

those who, though from circumstances themselves placed without its sphere, are yet cognizant of its effects. The institution of a professional authority, from which some alleviation of this grievous evil may be expected, is hailed with the deepest satisfaction, and its announcement received with gratitude. Here, therefore, the chief objections urged against the measure are directed, first, against the removal of the little protection which had heretofore existed, and secondly, to the constitution of the proposed Board of Control, as being such as but imperfectly to represent the various classes of the profession.

The bearing of the measure on the whole profession as a body, and on different classes of it individually, we purpose hereafter to consider, but in the meantime, looking to the Corporations, it would be strange, affected as are their interests, were they not to be found taking an active part in the discussion of its claims. The Apothecaries' Company, whose very existence is at stake, of course repudiate the Bill altogether. The Council of the College of Surgeons having obtained their charter, such as it is, and commenced the working of it, according to their own peculiar fashion, will, we shrewdly suspect, be found tolerably well satisfied with things as they are, and it would be no surprise to us, were they even to be found strong in opposition to the Bill. What course the slow and deliberative wisdom of the College of Physicians may determine upon does not yet appear; they are probably sufficiently informed that whatever may become of the Bill, their amended and extended charter will be granted.

However this may be, we feel assured that the passing of a bill for the regulation of the entire Medical Profession, has now become of the utmost importance to the general practitioner, and consequently to a very large majority of the medical community. Let us not be misunderstood. We do not believe that the passing of Sir James Graham's Bill, in its present form, would be a benefit to the profession at large; on the contrary, we believe that it would be a serious calamity both to the profession and the community were its several provisions, as they stand, to become part and parcel of the law of the land. The amendments and alterations pointed out as necessary at the various meetings which have taken place, and especially

those which refer to the protection of the profession and the public from quackery, to the constitution of the Council of Health, and the position of the general practitioner, must be adopted to make it eligible for the purposes for which it is professedly intended. Without such amendments its effects cannot be otherwise than injurious. But if the alterations called for are conceded, and the due status of the general practitioner secured, either in honourable connection with the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, or failing this, by the granting of a separate Charter of Incorporation, the provincial practitioners, especially, should beware of casting away the only chance which they may have for years to come of obtaining a recognized medical authority, competent to understand, and with power to redress their many grievances, which, although they may be lost sight of in the present turmoil, daily experience renders only more intolerable.

Having thrown out these general observations, we have a reflection or two to make on the value of a vote of thanks. Here also the apparent nature of the object partakes of the tone of mind of the individual who regards it. Some friends of ours, for whom we have a great esteem, consider a vote of thanks to imply, not merely the expression of gratitude for an act of good-will performed or intended, but a general approval also of the whole conduct of the individual, in reference to that particular act, to whom it is given. This, however, is not the sense in which the thanks very generally expressed to the Home Secretary and the Members of her Majesty's Government, at the meetings held to discuss the bill, are to be taken. They are simply, and nothing more than, an acknowledgment by the members present of the trouble and attention bestowed in the consideration of the subject, in the drawing-up of the necessary provisions, the bringing them together in a fitting form the introduction of them with authority into the legislature, and the affording of sufficient time for their discussion by the profession. It is a courteous return for courtesy rendered, and implies neither an approval of the bill as a whole, nor of any of its parts, and would be equally due were the profession at once to reject the measure.

A contemporary, not by any means distinguished for courtesy, says, in reference to the proceedings

of the Taunton meeting, "A vote of thanks was bestowed on us at this meeting, but we scarcely know how to acknowledge it, as a similar compliment was conferred on the editors of journals which have given to the vile Bill a strenuous support." We are not aware of the existence of any journal that has given strenuous support, or, indeed, any support at all to the Bill as it stands, and conclude, therefore, that this is merely one of the usual flourishes of the editorial stiletto. The Editor of the *Lancet* must surely know that any vote of thanks in which he may participate with his contemporaries can have reference only to his exertions in the same cause, and implies neither approval of the manner in which he upholds it, nor of the usual character of his lucubrations.

One effect of the superior education of the members of the medical profession, secured to them under the provisions of the Apothecaries' Act, and constituting not the least claim which the Society of Apothecaries has on our gratitude, is a high degree of improvement in moral tone and gentlemanly feeling. The rancour and abuse with which the pages of our contemporary are disgraced find no sympathy with any right-minded man, and are both distasteful to the members of a liberal and enlightened profession, and injurious to the interests of any cause with which he takes upon himself to intermeddle. We need only request our readers to reclaim from the dust in which they lie buried some of the former volumes of the *Lancet*, and to glance over the columns of wretched verbiage, relating to the "old hags of Rhubarb Hall," as the highly respected gentlemen who are now the objects for the time being of his encomiums, were commonly termed by him, and they will have little difficulty in perceiving how much the Society of Apothecaries have to thank the hon. Editor for his good word.

We have no wish to prolong this unpleasant theme, nor should we have entered upon it at all, had not the incendiary attempts to foment discord among the members of our profession, at a time when the object of every well-wisher to the cause of reform should be as far as practicable to promote union of effort, been week after week repeated. In taking leave of the subject for the present, we will venture to bestow an

admonition, extracted from his own pages, and "remind our contemporary that vulgar and coarse vituperation, at all times objectionable, becomes especially so, when it is used in discussing questions which comprehend so many strictly scientific considerations." This admonition, in the columns of the *Lancet*, is intended for the *Dublin Medical Press*, in answer to a richly-merited castigation, bestowed in consideration of some delinquencies of a similar nature to those we complain of. The advice is in itself good; there are few who may derive more benefit from following it than the hon. Editor himself.

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#### SHEFFIELD MEDICAL SOCIETY.

NOVEMBER 28, 1844.

##### THE PRESIDENT IN THE CHAIR.

The President exhibited a piece of small iron cannon, which burst while being charged. The piece weighed twenty-one drachms, and was three inches in length, and had been driven through the head of the tibia of a boy aged 15, and was removed from the opposite side by incision, through the skin, which was raised but not pierced by it. The tibia was fractured longitudinally, but not across, and the reticular structure was shattered considerably. The right hand and wrist were so shattered as to require amputation. There is now a small ulcer only at the point of entrance.

##### FUNGUS OF THE BLADDER.

A specimen of fungus of the bladder was exhibited by Dr. Favell. The patient from whom it was obtained was by trade a house-painter, and 67 years of age. For a period of three years he had been subject to attacks of hæmaturia, which continued for an uncertain time, but generally passed off in a few days, and in the intervals he enjoyed his usual state of health. His habits were extremely regular and moderate. At the time when he became a patient of Dr. Favell, he had been passing considerable quantities of blood in his urine for six weeks. The countenance was blanched, pulse feeble and jerking; bowels confined, and appetite bad; there was great prostration of strength, and he complained of pain about the neck of the bladder whenever he voided urine. Pressure over the hypogastric region also occasioned considerable pain; there was no pain in the region of the kidneys; no pain or retraction of the testicle; no uneasiness or numbness in the thigh; and no sickness. On a *post-mortem* examination, the structure of the kidneys was found quite healthy, but the pelvis of each greatly distended. Both ureters were sufficiently dilated to admit a moderate sized finger; the bladder was distended with semi-coagulated blood, on moving which a large fungous growth, was found occupying the greater part of the lining membrane of the posterior surface. The entrance of the ureters was in the midst of the fungus.