

acquainted with him ; one who admired his talents, esteemed his virtues, and will ever sincerely lament his death. It was not my intention to give a complete history of Dr. Barlow's life, and if this brief sketch of his character should disappoint the expectations of his friends, they may derive consolation from the assurance that his works have secured him a lasting fame with his profession, and that his memory will be held in grateful and honourable remembrance by his numerous friends in that Association, of which he was not only one of the founders, but one of its most useful, active, and eloquent members.

I beg to subscribe myself, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ONE OF DR. BARLOW'S INTIMATE FRIENDS

P.S.—As a matter of curiosity, the friends of Dr. Barlow may like to know the impression which his person and manners made on the mind of an intelligent foreigner ; I, therefore, append to my letter an extract from a work of Dr. Gibson, Professor of Surgery, at Philadelphia, who attended the meeting of the Association at Liverpool, and was evidently much interested in our proceedings. Dr. Gibson, on his return to America, published an amusing little volume,* in which he gave an account of the medical men he met with in Europe ; and though he could not have had extensive intercourse with those gentlemen, from the short period of his visit at each place, yet his sketches, making due allowance for their flattery, generally bear sufficient resemblance to their originals, not only to show that Dr. Gibson is an acute observer of human nature, but that he must in some instances have made minute inquiry about the characters he has described :—

"Of the venerable Dr. Barlow, of Bath, who the year before had filled the honourable office of president of the Association, I cannot but speak in terms of high commendation. Though approaching in appearance and garb to the primitive simplicity of a Quaker or Methodist, there is an energy displayed in his fine regular features, in connexion with a bald head, and such development of the anterior lobes as a phrenologist would associate with extraordinary moral and intellectual qualities, enjoined with uncommon vigour of frame, in shape of short, well-knit joints, and brawny muscles, as would induce even a careless observer to conclude, at first sight, that he was no common man. Such was my own conclusion before he opened his lips, and by the time he had uttered a dozen words, in returning thanks to the Association for the compliment paid in selecting him as last year's Chairman, I was fully prepared to believe that few men could be found in that, or any other assembly, superior to him in vigour of intellect, clearness of conception, consistency of views, and dignity of mind and demeanour ; and I was not mistaken ; for, afterwards, during the whole of the debates, there was displayed a degree of intellectual composure and serenity, with quickness, sagacity, and even sharpness, so visible in his piercing black eyes, mixed with it, but so tempered, at the same time, by kindness of manner, and benevolent expression, as to impress irresistibly his hearers that he was not only a very sensible, highly cultivated, and learned man, but a good, honest, truth-seeking, plain-dealing, excellent Christian. By

* "Rambles in Europe." Philadelphia : 1841.

birth, I believe, Dr. Barlow is an Irishman ; certainly he ought to be, judging from his short compact figure, square shoulders, and muscular powers ; but he has not a particle of brogue, nor any of that merry moisture of the eye, and comicalness of countenance that stamp the Hibernian ; on the contrary, his speech and whole demeanour afford apparent evidence of the regular John Bull. His writings, by which he is well known in Europe, and in this country, consist of a work on Pathology, published twenty years ago ; an Essay on Ovarian Dropsy ; another on the Efficacy of Bath Waters, and of various papers in different periodical publications." (Pages 109, 110.)

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE INFIRMARY.

CASES IN THE PRACTICE OF SIR JOHN FIFE.

Reported by Mr. F. A. GIBB.

TUMOUR OF THE TONGUE.

John Harris Shields, aged 13, admitted into the Newcastle-on-Tyne General Infirmary, May 2, 1844, apparently healthy, observed a tumour in the tongue first about six months ago. It seems about the size of a filbert, and is situated on the right side, far back.

7th. The boy being laid on a table, Sir John Fife passed an armed needle through the left side of the tongue, by which it was drawn forward. A scalpel was then passed rapidly through the healthy structure of the tongue, separating first the posterior portion of the disease, and, by a continued incision, the inner and anterior part. There was active hæmorrhage at first, but the vessels gradually retracted after the mouth had been often washed out with cold water. The cauterization was not therefore used.

A section of the disease showed the centre to be quite cartilaginous, but the circumference was surrounded by an imperfect cyst.

8th. Tongue a little deformed, the space filling up, and cicatrization going on rapidly. Bowels regular.

9th. Has no pain nor uneasiness.

12th. Going on well. No pain, and the part nearly cicatrized, and cicatrix very small ; scarcely any alteration in the form of the tongue, which is less foul.

20th. Tongue quite clean ; can scarcely see any alteration in the form of the tongue.

21st. Can see nothing now ; convalescent.

INDURATED TUMOUR OF THE BREAST.

Mary Hurst, aged 36, admitted May 2, 1844. A large indurated tumour of the breast beginning to adhere ; retraction of the nipple ; extensive disease of the axillary glands ; disease has not long been discovered ; complexion dark, formerly ruddy, now sallow ; menstruation regular.

7th. Sir J. Fife made an incision in the axilla, intending to complete the excision of the glandular disease before commencing that of the breast, but the former proving more extensive than had been previously ascertained, and more room being required, the incision was at once extended to the lower part of the sternum. The upper incision was next made, the two including an elliptical portion of integument of great extent. The dissection was commenced in the axilla from below upwards ; the thoracic longior with its veins and nerves was removed with the glan-

dular mass appended; after which the tumour was dissected off. Many vessels required ligatures; four sutures were inserted, and the integuments were further supported by straps of Morrison's transparent adhesive.

10th. Was dressed this morning with the same dressing; looking very well.

21st. Convalescent.

DOUBLE HYDROCELE.

Jacob Handyside, aged 51, Bedlington, admitted May 2, 1844, with double hydrocele. *History*:—When 18 years old he hurt the left testicle by a blow, for which he was leeches, and since that there has always existed a greater fulness of the left side of the scrotum than of the right; within the last ten years, however, it became much larger, and the existence of hydrocele was evident. Seven years ago he was operated on by injection, having previously had the scrotum twice simply tapped. The hydrocele returned with pain in the lumbar regions, and numbness and debility of the legs; the left side of the scrotum being more distended than the right. Has been an exceedingly healthy man until within the last seven months. Appetite good; bowels regular. Two of the pilula rhei cum hydrargyro occasionally.

7th. Sir John Fife operated on the left side only, by incision, making an opening of about three inches long into the cavity, and excising a portion of the tunica vaginalis, which was thickened; he then introduced a small piece of silk ligature thread into the cavity, its end hanging out; the edges were drawn together by a ligature, and the scrotum was placed in a shallow boat-shaped suspensary bandage.

9th. Much tenderness and inflammation about the scrotum.

10th. Dressed with turpentine ointment.

21st. Convalescent.

FISTULA IN ANO.

Wm. Plitts, aged 32, admitted May 2nd, with fistula in ano, of seven months' duration; cannot assign any particular circumstance as the cause of it—thinks it might be cold. Florid complexion; enjoys good health, but previously was occasionally troubled with acid eructations and slight headaches; no pain nor fulness in the hypochondria. Bowels previously inclined to be costive. Commenced with a chronic abscess in the left perineum, below the fold of the glutæus maximus; had not much pain accompanying its formation. It was opened, and there is a fistulous opening, communicating higher up with the gut; another abscess has formed, which also communicates by the same opening with the rectum.

6th. Ordered an ounce of castor oil.

7th. Sir John Fife operated in the usual manner with a probe-pointed bistoury, opening the first sinus into the rectum; then, on introducing the finger point, he discovered another sinus running towards an abscess in the perineum, which he also freely opened. The incisions were filled with lint and covered by a soft dressing.

8th. Dressed with the same dressing.

9th. Going on well; no pain.

21st. Convalescent.

PROVINCIAL

Medical & Surgical Journal.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1844.

The statement recently put forth by the Society of Apothecaries, notwithstanding the manner in which it has been received by some of our contemporaries, has many claims to the attention of those who are desirous of seeing our Medical Institutions in a sound and effective condition. It is quite possible, that the Society may be disposed to take too much credit, for the unquestionable improvement which has taken place in the qualifications of their licentiates, since the passing of the Act of 1815. They may have over-estimated the efficiency of their prescribed course of study, and of their subsequent examinations, and may not have made sufficient allowance for the influence of the general increase of knowledge in all departments of the medical profession, arising from the more ready access to sources of information, and, above all, from the development of a higher degree of intelligence in the community at large. Still it cannot be doubted that the Apothecaries have, for the most part, well discharged the duties imposed upon them by the Act, in regard to the education and qualification of their members since that period.

A table is given in "The Statement," which contains an account of the number of candidates for the licence, examined, rejected, and passed in each year, since 1815, up to the present time. We have been at the pains to analyse this table, and to calculate the proportion of the rejections.

During the first twelve years, considerable variation seems to have existed, the proportion of the rejected in each annual period ranging from one in ten to one in twenty-three, of those examined; the average for the whole of this term being about one in fifteen. The greatest number examined in any one year of this period, (from August 1, 1825, to July 31, 1836,) was 488; the proportion rejected being one in eleven. The smallest number examined in any one year, of the same term, (from August 1, 1815, to July 31, 1816,) was 185; the proportion rejected being one in fifteen. Taking the six years in which the number of those examined was the smallest, (ranging from 185 to 297,) the proportion rejected was one in sixteen: of the six