

mel, the kidneys small, the left ventricle of the heart dilated, and the lungs emphysematous. The twin brother, born blind also, died much in the same state, eighteen years ago.

**REMARKS BY THE REPORTER.** The case is interesting, on account of the gastric symptoms, which, in Dr. Addison's, Dr. Budd's, and Mr. Burrows' cases, as also in others recorded, formed a prominent symptom, as also the emphysema, which was observed in Dr. Ranking's case. But the most remarkable fact in Mr. May's case was the absence of all disease in the renal capsules. Possibly the diseased appearances in the cases above alluded to, are those of tuberculosis of the suprarenal capsules. Mr. Ancell, in his recent laborious work, alludes to such a change in the structure of those parts, and draws his authority from Rokitansky; but he makes no observation on the symptoms during life. Indeed, it is strange that neither Baillie, nor Rokitansky, nor Lieuteaud, give the smallest hint about the skin. I must say I do not think, as the case before us shews, that the connexion of the brown skin with diseased renal capsules is at all clearly made out. This rare case before us, of bronzed skin, was probably one of the varieties of epichrosis, from a morbid secretion of pigment, which the skin had not previously elaborated.

**CALCAREOUS DEPOSIT IN UTERUS.** BY G. MAY, JUN., ESQ.

MR. G. MAY presented an interesting specimen of a uterus, in which was found some calcareous deposit. This very rare disease is mentioned by Lieuteaud. In such cases, the vessels of the uterus take on a morbid action, and secrete both ossific and calcareous matter.

**EXTRA-UTERINE FETATION.** BY G. MAY, ESQ.

MR. MAY presented a specimen of extra-uterine foetation. It occurred in a lady, 30 years of age, in the second month of her fourth pregnancy. For seven days before her death, she had been complaining of hæmorrhoids, with spasm of the sphincter, and flatulence, from which she was relieved. On rising from her bed on the morning of the day she died, she was seized with pain in the left side, and felt that something had burst within her. The pain now extended over the whole abdomen; but the urgent symptom was spasm of the sphincter, with a sensation of great pressure in that part. The countenance was pallid, pulse quick and feeble, abdomen distended and tender. A sanguineous discharge issued from the uterus. The pain was intense, and it was remarkable that the spasm of the sphincter yielded to the use of laudanum and ether, and did not return during the remaining hours of existence. There was, in this case, a piteous and peculiar cry, similar to that alluded to by Heim, of Berlin. At the examination, after death, about six pints of venous blood were found in the abdomen, which had escaped from the right Fallopian tube, at its fimbriated extremity, in consequence of an extra-uterine foetation having taken up its position in that tube. It is very remarkable that the right tube should be almost invariably that in which the pregnancy takes place. The Fallopian tube, in this case, had formed a cavity capable of holding a medium sized walnut. It had a circular aperture, from which had escaped the foetus and placenta, which were found in the coagula. The uterus was enlarged, its cavity dilated to about two table-spoonfuls, but without a decidua or adventitious deposit. Mr. May stated that the diagnostic signs of the fatal lesion were sudden pain, vomiting, syncope, and the peculiar scream, mentioned by Dr. Heim, and asserted by him to be almost pathognomic.

DR. MCINTYRE met with a similar case in his own practice, of extra-uterine foetation, terminating fatally within a few hours of the first appearance of the symptoms. There are points of interest in this last case which are worthy of attention; and amongst those points is the rare fact, that the rule of the right tube being the seat of this form of pregnancy is not an invariable one. At the necroptic examination, twenty-four hours after death, the tumour, the size of a pullet's egg, was found on the left broad ligament of the uterus, situated about midway between that organ and the ovary. On its surface was an opening, half an inch in diameter, with lacerated margins, from which a small cord of coagulated blood protruded. Another point of interest in this case was the absence of any deciduous membrane. The uterus was of the usual unimpregnated size. On examining the tumour afterwards, it was found to contain a cavity an inch and a half in length, lined by a firm but delicate and smooth membrane, which, prior to the rupture, had formed a short sac. At its ovarian extremity, a substance exactly similar to placental structure was found, and the tube beyond it was obliterated. On the uterine side, the tube was

patent, and convoluted for half an inch on the surface of the tumour. It then terminated abruptly, the tubal coats being expanded over a contained substance. There was amongst the symptoms, spasm of the sphincter ani, *but an absence of the peculiar cry*, mentioned in Mr. May's case, there being in addition, in Dr. McIntyre's case, a peculiar weight and bearing down in the pelvis, and a constant desire to pass water. Otherwise there was a similarity in the symptoms of the two cases.

**TUMOUR OF THE GENITAL ORGANS.** BY G. MAY, JUN., ESQ.

MR. G. MAY presented a tumour weighing one pound seven ounces, which he removed from a female, aged 47. It had been growing for six years, and appeared to consist of the clitoris and nymphæ enlarged, resembling a large warty growth. It measured eighteen inches round its larger circumference, and six inches round the stem. There were similar growths about the labium. The peduncle was very vascular.

## Editor's Letter Box.

**DERBY SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARY.**

LETTER FROM JONES, ESQ.

SIR,—At the meeting of the British Medical Association recently held at Birmingham, it was announced that Mr. Smith, of Southam, would read a paper on Self-Supporting Dispensaries; and that I would at the same time communicate information respecting the operations of the Derby Dispensary.

Owing to some misunderstanding, Mr. Smith's paper was not read, and consequently an opportunity was not afforded me of communicating, as I had intended, information respecting the Derby Dispensary. I am therefore induced to forward to you the accompanying statement, which you will perhaps deem of sufficient importance to publish in the JOURNAL.

I am, etc., JOHN JONES.

Derby, August 21st, 1856.

*Sketch of the Rise, Progress, and Present State of the Derby Dispensary.*

1. In the summer of 1830, Mr. Smith, of Southam, gave a lecture to the Derby Medical Society, then recently established, on the subject of self-supporting charitable and parochial dispensaries.

2. On Mr. Smith's departure, it was proposed at the Medical Society that inquiries should be made at the different places, where such dispensaries had been established, respecting their operations.

3. Satisfactory information having been obtained, the Secretary of the Society (Mr. Jones) proposed:—"That the Society should adopt measures with the view of having one established in Derby." In making the proposition, he distinctly stated that in the event of its being negatived, he should feel perfectly free to act in any way he might think proper for effecting an object which he considered of great importance to the town.

The following amendment was proposed by the late Mr. Johnson, and carried by a majority of one:—"That self-supporting dispensaries are injurious to the medical profession, and not beneficial to the poor."

4. The Secretary, on his own responsibility, published an address to the inhabitants of Derby, suggesting the establishment of a dispensary on Mr. Smith's plan.

5. In conjunction with William Baker, Esq., and other gentlemen, a provisional committee was formed. Meetings were held; a requisition was presented to the mayor to call a public meeting; the meeting was convened, and forthwith the institution was established, under the denomination of "The Derby Self-Supporting Charitable and Parochial Dispensary".

For fourteen years the dispensary continued its operations with varied but diminishing success. In the annual report for 1844, it was stated:—"The total number of free-class members at present on the books is 384; according to the report of the preceding annual meeting, the number was 450, being a decrease of 73." "The number of honorary subscribers is greatly diminished, so that the income which formerly amounted to nearly £200, has been gradually diminishing, and during the last year was only £146. The consequence is, that a deficiency exists of £106:14:0."

Although conferring great benefits on the town, the institution was in a state of insolvency, and its operations were un-

satisfactory; owing, as was clearly ascertained, to the "free class" being united with a "charity class".

6. At the annual meeting of 1844, the "charity class" was discontinued; the rules were revised; and the institution remodelled, under the name of "The Derby Self-Supporting or Provident Dispensary".

The following statement is contained in the annual report of the year 1843:—

Number of patients attended, 1000; including 327 cases attended at their own homes.

Cured, 847.  
Relieved, 40.  
Midwifery, 27.

Total number of free class members on the books, 384.

In the Report of the Committee for the year 1847, being the second year after the discontinuance of the charity class, are the following statements:—

"Notwithstanding the decrease in the amount of honorary subscriptions, the funds of the institution have been sufficient to defray the current expenses of the year, and to leave a small surplus to be divided amongst the surgeons. This gratifying result has been occasioned:—1. By the increase in the number of free class members since the abolition of the charity class. 2. By the operation of the new rule: 'That the contributions of the free class members, which were formerly appropriated amongst the surgeons, should be added to the subscriptions of honorary members, and form one fund; out of which the current expenses should first be defrayed, and then the surplus be paid to the surgeons.'

"Before concluding their report, your Committee cannot refrain from expressing their full and decided conviction, that the operations of the dispensary prove most satisfactorily, that by the cooperation of the wealthy inhabitants of the town with the medical officers of the institution, the principle of self-support, on which it is founded, is fully adequate to secure suitable and efficient medical aid, when needed, to all that numerous class of the community (excepting actual paupers, who are provided with medical attendance by the poor-law union) who are too poor to pay for it in the usual way; and that this most important object can be effected without injury to the interests of the medical profession."

From the time the alteration was made in the constitution of the dispensary of abolishing the charity class, the numbers of the free class members rapidly increased; the institution became more highly appreciated by the poor and working classes, on whom it has conferred incalculable benefits; and its prosperity is steadily and increasingly advancing.

The following table shows the relative working of the dispensary during the ten successive years after the alteration was made of discontinuing the charity class.

Date of year.	Sick attendance.	Cured.	Relieved.	Midwifery.	Total number on the books.
1846	1111	960	37	30	863
1847	1325	1096	—	37	750
1848	1358	1204	—	41	840
1849	1197	1050	24	48	876
1850	1289	1140	41	55	1046
1851	1343	1198	49	59	1075
1852	1423	1172	51	49	1306
1853	1389	1223	31	39	1307
1854	1608	1396	35	36	1350
1855	1778	1592	35	30	1450
	13,826	12,035	303	433	10,869

The total free class members on the books in 1843 was 384. Attended at their own homes, included in the above numbers, 7524.

According to the revised rules, free class members who allow their weekly contributions to be in arrear for three months, are subject to expulsion, but are eligible for re-admission on certain easy conditions.

In the quarter ending last June, the total number on the books was 1840. At present, after deducting those subject to expulsion under the above rule, the numbers are 1774.

*Declaration of the Medical Officers of the Derby Provident or Self-Supporting Dispensary.*

We, the undersigned medical officers of the Derby Provident or Self-Supporting Dispensary, hereby declare our unqualified approval of the system on which the institution is founded, as originally proposed by Mr. Smith, of Southam.

Since it was remodelled in the year 1844, when the charity class was discontinued, and the dispensary consisted only of honorary members and free-class members, it has steadily and progressively advanced in usefulness and importance, and has conferred incalculable benefits on the poor and working classes of this large and increasing manufacturing town.

We also declare our unanimous opinion that these satisfactory and important results have been obtained without injury to the interests of the medical profession.

(Signed)

H. BRIGSTOCKE, M.D. (Consulting Physician to the Derby Dispensary).

HENRY FRANCIS GISBORNE, AUGUSTUS GREAVES,  
GEORGE TAYLOR, JOHN CLARK,  
ROBERT HAMILTON, JOHN JONES,  
JOHN JOHNSON, JOHN WRIGHT BAKER.  
JOHN WEBSTER (Dispenser for the last thirteen years).

The following testimony is from Benjamin Frear, Esq., a non-medical gentleman, who, from the first establishment of the dispensary, has been an active and valuable member of the managing committees. When the institution was remodelled in 1844, he accepted the office of honorary secretary, and has been constant in his attendance at the dispensary, excepting when unavoidably prevented, every Thursday evening, in conjunction with one of the surgeons and the dispenser, who attend from six till eight o'clock, to receive the weekly contributions of the free-class, and to enrol new members.

(CONT.)

"Frigate, August 19th, 1856.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I have great pleasure in giving my testimony to the satisfactory working of the Derby Provident Dispensary. Having been on the committee of the institution ever since its establishment, I consider myself competent to form a correct opinion on the subject.

"For several years the dispensary did not prosper as it ought to have done, in consequence of a charity class being united with the free class. The honorary subscribers did not use due discrimination in giving recommendations to the charity class; and from this and other causes it frequently happened that parties were receiving relief as charity patients who were well able to subscribe as free members, and indeed better than many who did actually subscribe as such, to the great injury of the institution.

"Since the charity class has been abolished, and the principle of self-support fully carried out, the institution has continued to prosper, notwithstanding a considerable decrease in the number of honorary subscribers from deaths and other causes.

"I remain, my dear sir, yours very truly,

"B. FREAR, Hon. Sec. to the Dispensary."

THE ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE:  
CLAIMS OF ITS ORIGINATORS.

SIR,—The number of your JOURNAL for August 23rd contained a letter signed "A Local Secretary", in which it is suggested to the members of the medical profession that it would be only an act of justice to present to Mr. Propert a testimonial, as a "public recognition" of his services as the truly worthy founder of the "Royal Medical Benevolent College". I have not the pleasure of knowing Mr. Propert; but I take it for granted that he deserves all the commendations and honours which can be awarded to him.

This being conceded, I would beg leave to ask how it comes to pass that your profession is so ready to lavish its honours and rewards on one of its brethren, while two others, who laboured hard and long in your service, are passed by? How comes it to pass that two medical gentlemen, unsparring of time, and toil, and money, are not only not honoured, but not even mentioned? While Mr. Propert is allowed to carry off the golden fruit, how is it that those who shook the tree are forgotten?

I refer, of course, to Mr. Martin of Reigate, and Mr. Daniell of Newport Pagnel. I have for many years been the intimate friend of many medical gentlemen, and have taken great interest especially in medical charities; and I have made myself acquainted with the efforts, not only of Mr. Propert, but with those of men long prior to the time of his proposal.

I will begin with Mr. Martin, who, in 1844, proposed to the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, which met at Northampton, the establishment of schools for the sons of medical men. On this occasion, a Committee was appointed, with Dr. (now Sir John) Forbes as President; and for two years