

attribute to him the discovery of water-dressing, the medical officers of Guy's Hospital should inadvertently attribute the steam apparatus, and the use of steam as a remedial agent, to a foreigner. Now we thought it had been notorious that Dr. Macartney invented the steam apparatus in the year 1820; and we know that he had been in the habit of showing it to his class, and explaining the extraordinary effects of steam in abolishing pain in many species of injury, and thereby obviating inflammation. It is now nearly twenty years since Dr. Macartney's apparatus was employed in the hospitals of Dublin, both for rheumatism and in cases of tetanus, with marked effects. The apparatus has been made and sold since the year 1823, by Mr. Stodart, and latterly by Mr. Weiss. An account of the same apparatus and of its effects was read before the Academy of Medicine, Paris, in the year 1835, and shortly afterwards published in the *Transactions of the Academy*. Finally, a full description of the apparatus, and of the remedial effects of steam, together with a plate, was published in Dr. Macartney's work on Inflammation, in the year 1838. We have taken the liberty of appending these few remarks to the report of our correspondent, because we are desirous of "rendering unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's," and because we rejoice sincerely that the utility of the steam apparatus has at length been properly appreciated in the first of our metropolitan hospitals.—Eps.]

### ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, PARIS.

#### DOUBLE POPLITEAL ANEURISM—PERSISTENCE OF THE TUMOR AFTER OPERATION.

THIS interesting case, which occurred in the person of a veterinary surgeon, was related by M. Roux. In the month of August, 1837, M. Roux operated for popliteal aneurism of the right leg. In the month of July last the patient returned to the Hôtel Dieu with popliteal aneurism of the left lower extremity, and on the 31st the vessel was tied, after the manner of Hunter. The first effects of the operation were promising; the pulsation of the tumor was instantly arrested by the ligature, and its size gradually diminished. On the 12th day after the operation (the ligature still remaining on) the patient began to complain of weakness; the wound furnished a great quantity of pus, and febrile symptoms appeared; a tourniquet was placed on the thigh, by way of precaution. The prostration of the patient, however, continued to progress, and he died on the 19th day, without having lost a drop of blood from the wound, the ligature still remaining on. The body was examined after death, and some pus was found in the femoral vein, but all the viscera were carefully examined without any trace of metastatic abscess being discovered. A collection of pus, however, was found in the anterior mediastinum.

Upon this case M. Roux remarked that he always adopted Hunter's method in cases of popliteal aneurism, and that he had as much experience in the disease as, perhaps, any living surgeon, having operated thirty-two times for popliteal aneurism, and taken up the subclavian four times, the femoral eleven times, and the bronchial eighteen times. The case of double popliteal aneurism and double operation on the same individual was extremely rare; it was only the second one which he had seen in the male subject. On examining the right limb, operated on in 1837, a considerable portion of the femoral artery was found obliterated, yet the aneurismal tumor of the ham had reappeared, and communicated freely with the popliteal artery, communications having been established between the upper and lower ends of the vessel by enlarged branches of the articular arteries. This case shows clearly that after Hunter's operation the aneurismal tumor may

reappear, after apparent cure. This was the only example which M. Roux had seen in his extensive practice. There was, however, an analogous case in the hospital, under the care of another surgeon.—*Gaz. Med.*, Nov. 23, 1840.

#### OPERATIONS FOR STRABISMUS IN PARIS.

THE French surgeons have been, it would appear, less successful than our own, in the operation for squinting. At a late discussion on this subject, at the Academy of Medicine, M. Roux, who had operated twice without success, said that he thought the operation radically bad, and one which could never produce any good result; 1st, because the muscle unites after the wound has healed, and recovers its action; 2d, because the inequality of visual power, which constantly accompanies squinting, compels the patient to employ one eye only.

M. Velpeau said that he had operated in seven cases, and that in one only had he obtained complete success. On the other hand, M. Jules Guérin, than whom there cannot be a better authority, asserts that M. Velpeau's failures depend on his faulty mode of operating, and promises to cure the patients by a second operation, if they present the conditions which indicate that an operation should be had recourse to.

### OBITUARY.

#### DEATH OF DR. RYAN.

WE lament to announce the death of Dr. Michael Ryan, who departed this life on the 11th inst., in the 47th year of his age, after a lingering illness.

Dr. Ryan's name has been well known to the medical world for the last fifteen years, as the author of a considerable number of works on different branches of medical science; and likewise as the editor for many years of the *London Medical and Surgical Journal*. His writings were more characterized for great industry and talent of compilation, than for any originality of matter; and, numerous as the catalogue of his works may appear, even more laborious must have been those contributions which the relation he held to the *Journal*, of which he was the editor, required of him; so much so, that the weekly call upon his time at last became so irksome, that he was obliged to resign the task, and to devote all his energies and industry to his other writings.

Dr. Ryan received his preliminary education in Ireland, not many miles from the metropolis, and studied medicine in Dublin and Edinburgh. In the latter city he took his medical degree, and became also a Fellow of the College of Surgeons. During his collegiate career he attracted the attention of the then professor of midwifery, Dr. Hamilton, from whom he received many marks of kindness, and it was this intimacy which laid the foundation of that taste for the theory and practice of the obstetric art which Dr. Ryan so much excelled in. After practising his profession for a few years in the city of Kilkenny, circumstances induced him to seek a larger field for his exertions, and he accordingly settled in this metropolis, and shortly became a Member of the London College of Surgeons, and also of the College of Physicians. Dr. Ryan, from his first appearance in public life, was a strenuous advocate for reforming all the acknowledged abuses which were then so severely felt by the great body of the medical profession, and, much to his credit, he, unlike some more apparently zealous advocates of reform, continued to the close of his editorial career sincere to the principles he espoused. He was one of the earliest members of the British Medical Association, and was an earnest supporter of all their measures, never allowing private interest to influence his public conduct.

Besides his writings, Dr. Ryan had been for many years in the habit of giving lectures on the practice of physic, forensic medicine, and obstetrics; and his clinical instructions at the Metropolitan Free Hospital were highly esteemed. In conjunction with Dr. Sigmond, he occasionally delivered orations at the Medico-Botanical Society,

where he enjoyed the friendship and esteem of the president, the earl of Stanhope, and many of the most distinguished members of that learned body. With all these avocations, it was not to be expected that Dr. Ryan could have had leisure to toil much in the practice of his profession; the zeal and delight which he took in intellectual pursuits must have left him little time and have given him but little relish for what he appropriately designated "the trade of his profession;" and often may be seen among his writings allusions to the degraded position of the majority of its members, who, in place of prosecuting medicine as a science, dealt in it as a trade.

Dr. Ryan married in early life, and has left a widow and four children to mourn his loss.

#### DEATH OF M. ESQUIROL.

We have also the regret of announcing the death of M. Esquirol, head physician to the hospital of Charenton, which took place at his house in the *Rue de Buffon*, on the 12th ult. M. Esquirol was well known as the author of several interesting and valuable memoirs on the treatment of the insane.

#### LITERARY NOTICE.

Mr. Braithwaite's Retrospect of Medicine and Surgery, No. 2 of Vol. I., for the year 1840, is in the press, and will shortly be published.

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

A Few Facts relative to Vaccination. By HENRY W. LIVETT, M.R.C.S. Simpkin & Co., London.

On Scientific Medicine, and its Relations to, and Claims upon, Society at large, &c. By WILLIAM ELLIOT, M.D. Published at the request of the North of England Association. Jefferson, Carlisle; Highley, London. 1840.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.—At a meeting of the Council of the Association, held on Monday, the 14th instant, it was resolved that addresses should be presented to the Queen, to Prince Albert, and to the Duchess of Kent, on the occasion of the birth of the Princess Royal.

MADAME LAFARGE.—M. Orfila has just published an elaborate refutation of the medico-legal arguments of M. Raspail, relative to Mme. Lafarge's appeal. The appeal was rejected by the Court of Cassation, on Saturday last.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

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#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The cases from the *Newcastle Infirmary* in our next, as also the communication of *Dr. George Fife*.

X.—We cannot understand why a patent was taken out for the *Gannet* process in this country. The process has been repeatedly made public in France, and is familiar to every body.

J. B.—We shall feel much pleasure in ordering for J. B. the works which he requires.

Chichester.—We are aware of the flattering attentions which were paid to Dr. Forbes, on his removal from Chichester to London. We shall publish an account of the dinner in our next number.

Reformer.—We are not at liberty to disclose the authority on which we announced, in our last number, the formation of an anti-reform committee by the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Hall; we believe that the fact is certain. The reform delegates will not, probably, meet in London for another month. Dr. Maunsell will represent the Irish Association.

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