

in an excess of hydrate of potass, and of disengaging the azote they contain in the form of ammonia, whilst the non-azotic organic bodies give out only pure hydrogen, resulting from the decomposition of the water of the hydrate of potass. The gas produced is passed through a tube, differing little from the tube usually employed in organic analyses, and which contains hydrochloric acid. The combustion of the organic matter having terminated, a solution of the bichloruret of platina is added to the hydrochloric acid, over which the gases of the combustion have been passed, and they are evaporated to dryness in a porcelain capsule. The ammoniaco-hydrochlorate of platina which is formed remains mixed with an excess of the chloruret of platina, which latter is removed by dissolving it in a mixture of two volumes of concentrated alcohol and one of æther. The last compound being well dried at 212° Fahrenheit, is carefully weighed, and the weight of the azote is deduced therefrom. The decision is corroborated by decomposing the ammoniaco-hydrochlorate of platina by fire, and weighing the platina which remains. The quantity of nitrogen deducted from the weight of the metal ought not to differ sensibly from the first. 2,788 parts of the ammoniaco-hydrochlorate of platina represent 177 parts of pure nitrogen. — *Annalen der Chemie und Pharmacie*.

## CORPORA LUTEA.

Dr. Montgomery, after the most extensive experiments and elaborate investigations, states that conception never happens without the production of a corpus luteum, and that the corpus luteum is never found in virgin animals, but is the effect of impregnation. This opinion Mr. Renaud seeks to controvert. He admits that impregnation never does occur without our being able to detect one of these bodies, but he is opposed to the concluding part of Dr. Montgomery's statement, that the corpus luteum is never found in virgin animals. In support of his own opinion, he narrates the appearances after death in a young sheep, which he judges to have been a virgin from internal evidence. A true corpus luteum was found in the left ovary, the right containing a spurious one. The uterus was remarkably small, and on being opened, proved to be destitute of any traces of an embryo, nor was its cavity lined with the ropy mucus, but simply moistened, as is the case with all visceral cavities lined with mucous membrane. The cavity of the uterus was completely covered with a deep black lining, except here and there on the summits of a number of round or oval elevations, which are the maternal cotyledons, into which the fetal tufts penetrate during pregnancy. The black coating is an epithelial structure, consisting of two distinct varieties of cells arranged in a peculiar manner. The dark matter is entirely made up of pigmentary globules, which together form a kind of net-work, in the interspaces of which the simple nucleated cells of Schwann are seen in great numbers; Mr. Renaud considers the precise appearance of this epithelium of consequence, as much of the correct diagnosis depends on it. It exists in the fully developed unimpregnated uterus of the ewe, although it is not found in earlier life, but he is not aware whether it appears subsequent to pregnancy.

Two objections he thinks may be alleged against

his case, the first that an early ovum might have been contained in the uterus, and overlooked or lost from its small size; the other is, that abortion might have taken place. To the first, Mr. Renaud alleges the care taken in the examination, the size of the uterus, and the presence of the epithelial lining—besides which, the size and perfect character of the corpus luteum would require a fœtus a month old. The second objection he combats by the state of the uterus.

He adds that the following appearances ought to be clearly discernible previous to any professional evidence being given in a case, whether it be moral, forensic, or physiological:—First, a distinct external envelope, in contact, and in union with the stroma of the ovary, but capable of being dissected away from it entire. Secondly, a solid substance, either fleshy-looking, red, pinkish, or yellow-colored, which should be divided into a greater or less number of segments or lobuli. The deeply fissured appearance of these lobuli has been insisted upon, but as in a great many instances it is absent, its presence can afford no positive criterion. Thirdly, an inner membrane, or the proper ovisac thickened. Fourthly, a central deposition of granular or other matter, or the remains of it. Fifthly, the microscopic appearance presented will form a very good auxiliary. The fact of one of the radii reaching as far as the surface of the ovary, is an appearance useful as an auxiliary diagnostic indication, but it is equally present in the false as in the true bodies.—*London and Edinburgh Monthly Medical Journal*.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

July 1.

The Duke of Leinster presented a petition from the medical attendants of the Kildare Infirmary, praying that the medical charities of Ireland might not be placed under the superintendence of the poor-law commissioners. The noble duke said, that he did not concur in the prayer of the petition. He was a subscriber to this and other charities, and he should wish that they were all placed under the care of the poor-law commissioners.

The Earl of Glengall presented similar petitions from deputy-lieutenants, magistrates, clergy, &c., being subscribers to medical charities in Cahir, Roscrea, Ballina, Waterford, and other places. The petitioners stated that they did not object to have those charities placed under proper superintendence, but they strongly objected to having them placed under the poor-law commissioners.

The Earl of Mountcashel presented a petition signed by seventy-nine of the most distinguished medical men in Ireland, praying that the medical charities in that country might not be placed under the control of the poor-law commissioners. This feeling he had reason to believe was general amongst medical practitioners in Ireland, the very great majority of whom, as of the community at large, had no confidence in the poor-law commissioners; and he (Lord M.) believed that this want of confidence was perfectly justified, for less good for the money expended was never performed by any public body in the United Kingdom; if their efforts at interference should be attended with as ill success as had followed their doings in the poor-law unions, they would be far, indeed, from doing any good to those charities.

### EAST YORK BRANCH OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION.

The second annual meeting of this branch took place at the Dispensary, Hull, on the 30th of June. R. P. Sleight, Esq., one of the vice-presidents, in the chair.

The report of the out-going committee gave a very encouraging account of the state and prospects of the branch, the members of which are on the increase, and actuated by the best feelings of unanimity and good fellowship.

A series of evening meetings, at the houses of the members, has proved very gratifying and instructive; they have been held monthly, the topics of professional discussion being introduced by the exhibition of pathological specimens of recent interesting cases. The committee of the branch had also been induced, by many and urgent complaints, to lay informations of illegal practice before the Apothecaries' Company; two of the most flagrant cases are now under investigation. The report gives a sketch of political proceedings, as regard the profession, during the last year, particularly discussing the poor-law commissioners' new medical order, and concludes by urging on the members continued energy and perseverance in following up the important objects we have in view.

A draft of the report of the central council of the Provincial Association, to be read at Exeter, was submitted to the meeting, and approved.

The following officers were then elected for the ensuing year:—

President: W. Lunn, Esq.—Vice-presidents: R. P. Sleight, Esq., F. B. Anderson, Esq.—Secretary and Treasurer: Henry Cooper, Esq.—Committee: Dr. W. J. Lunn, Mr. Hardey, Mr. West, Mr. Fullam, Mr. Sleight, jun.

A handsome dinner was provided at the Kingston Hotel, which closed the proceedings of the meeting in a highly agreeable manner.

### UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

The chair of surgery in this university and the chair of pathology are now vacant; the one in consequence of the death of Sir Charles Bell, the other by the resignation of Dr. John Thomson. The election to the chair of pathology will take place on the 9th of August. Amongst the candidates are mentioned Dr. Cragie, Dr. Henderson, Dr. John Davy, Dr. Handyside, and Dr. J. H. Bennett. It is also reported that Dr. Home has at length tendered his resignation, and will be succeeded by Dr. Allison.

### PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

#### NAVAL.

Surgeon—Miller Hamilton to the Salamander.

Assistant-surgeon—James Mitchell to the Sydenham.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

*Members admitted Friday, July 1, 1842.*

Edward Lawford, William Garbutt Taylor, Edward Lloyd, Matthew Robert Scraggs, Henry Cline Fixott, George Paul Atkinson, Peter Magenis, John George Sime, John Burford Carlile.

### APOTHECARIES' HALL.

*Licentiates admitted Thursday, July 1, 1842.*

W. C. Moat, 14, Thistle-grove, Little Chelsea; G. J. Gates, Peterborough, Northamptonshire; C. White, Southwark; E. S. White; C. Rose, Swaffham, Norfolk.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Spas of Homberg, considered with reference to their Efficacy in the Treatment of Chronic Disease. By Sir Alexander Downie, M.D. London: Churchill, 1842.

The Cyclopædia of Practical Surgery. Part XI. London: Sherwood and Co., July, 1842.

Memoir of the late James Hope, M.D., by Mrs. Hope. Edited by Klein Grant, M.D. London: Hatchard and Son, 1842. 8vo. pp. 358.

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#### TERMS.

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### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*A Yorkshire Member.*—We have procured the "Standard" of the 29th of June, but do not think the article on the Irish Medical Charities' Bill worth transcribing.

*A Newcastle-on-Tyne Practitioner.*—It is hardly worth while to quarrel with the remnant of those who were in practice previously to 1815. Our correspondent's views are just, but it is not always necessary to proclaim the truth.

*Southern Branch.*—Our report of the anniversary meeting of this branch reached us too late for insertion this week, in consequence of being addressed to the publisher and not to the editor.

The letter of Mr. Wilson shall appear next week.

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