

Mr. ALFRED BAKER presented to the society a beautiful drawing of the right kidney, taken from a child ten years of age, which was loaded with yellow tubercular deposit, aggregated in some parts, whilst in others it assumed the form of distinct rounded tubercles. The child was of strumous appearance, and had been affected with various symptoms of the disorder from its infancy, and on examination of the body after death, the brain, lungs, liver, both kidneys, and the left temporal bone, were found affected with the disease. The remarkable part of this case was, that there had been scarcely any indication of such extensive disease in the kidneys.

DISEASE OF THE PANCREAS.

Dr. FLETCHER then brought before the society a specimen of lardaceous disease of the pancreas. It was taken from the body of a male who had died suddenly, at the age of forty-seven, from fainting, after having been afflicted for a considerable time with symptoms which were thought to indicate disease of the stomach, liver, or some important organ of digestion. The examination of the body took place fifty hours after death. The body was not decomposed at all; inclined to fat, remarkably exsanguineous in its appearance, and slightly jaundiced. The lungs were somewhat infiltrated; the cavities of the heart were quite empty; the omentum and peritoneal coverings of the intestines were thickened and uneven, as if they had been affected with previous inflammation, and they were much loaded with fat; the liver was a third larger than its normal size, generally white, and somewhat fatty; the lower portion of the common gall duct was compressed by the pancreas; the pancreas was a third larger than normal, and so much affected with lardaceous deposit, which is in large masses, that very little of its healthy structure could be recognised; around the pancreas the mesentery was adherent, and included between its layers a creamy and fatty deposit; there was no lardaceous deposit or other disease in the mesenteric glands, or in any of the viscera, except those mentioned above. Dr. Fletcher stated that the rarity of this disease had induced him to make very strict inquiries relative to the symptoms that this patient suffered from, in order to compare them with those described in cases already published; and after looking over about sixty cases recorded by different authors, he found the most general symptoms were, pain in the region of the pancreas (that is, half way between the ensiform cartilage and the umbilicus); vomiting; emaciation; jaundice; an exsanguineous appearance of the skin; thirst; occasional pytalism; occasional purgings; loss of appetite; and Dr. Bright has mentioned, in connection with disease of the pancreas, fatty stools. The patient, in the case under consideration, had all these symptoms, except the vomitings and fatty stools; and Dr. Fletcher added that, after carefully considering this and the recorded cases of diseased pancreas, he thought that it was possible to detect this very rare affection during life.

Mr. CROMPTON mentioned the case of a relation of his, who had all the symptoms spoken of except the pytalism and fatty stools (the existence of which he was not aware of), and the only disease he understood to have been found, on examination of the body, was a scirrhus pancreas.

CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER.

Dr. FLETCHER then exhibited to the society a liver affected with cirrhosis. The right lobe had a blue appearance, studded all over with yellow points of cirrhosis; the left was very pale, but studded over with the same disease; the structure of the liver was ramified by cirrhosis all through, and in those portions which were free from disease the lobules were atrophied and indistinct; the liver was about a third less than normal; all the other organs were found healthy, except the lungs, which were generally much infiltrated, and the stomach, the mucous membrane of which was pultaceous. The patient, during life, had been affected with intense jaundice, which had come on very gradually, bile still being present in the stools up to the time of his death. The jaundice was the only urgent symptom until a short time before death, when great irritation of the stomach became very distressing, and two days before he died delirium came on.

A remarkable thing in the formation of the body of this patient was, that he measured two inches more from the spine to the ensiform cartilage over the right hypochondrium than over the left (although, as above-mentioned, the liver was a third smaller than normal), which, as the liver did not encroach so high as normal under the ribs, nor down into the cavity of the abdomen, which was ascertained by percussion, induced Dr. Fletcher to believe, during the life of the patient, that there was some tumour in or upon the liver, which pushed the side out directly laterally. There was no ascites in this case, which is very common in patients suffering from cirrhosis.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, April 21.

The house went into committee on the

LICENSED LUNATIC ASYLUMS BILL.

On the first clause being read and proposed,

Mr. WAKLEY rose for the purpose of moving his amendment. The hon. member stated, that if he should succeed in inducing the house to adopt his amendment, it was not his intention to offer any further opposition to the progress of the bill. He objected to the clause appointing barristers to the office of commissioners of lunatic asylums. What could be more absurd than to select members of the legal profession to sit in judgment on cases of mental derangement? Was not insanity invariably associated with bodily disease? The investigation in which the commissioners would be involved would be purely of a medical character, and therefore the barristers, if they were appointed, would be incompetent to perform the duties which would devolve upon them. Supposing barristers were appointed, what would they have to do? Their principal duty would be to ascertain whether the lunatics were subjected to proper medical treatment. That was the main object which the commissioners ought to keep in view. Was not the noble lord aware that the selection of a competent medical man to fill such an office as that of commissioner would have a most beneficial effect on the conduct of those physicians and surgeons officially connected with establishments set apart for the reception

and treatment of the insane? If medical men were appointed, important tabular statements would be drawn up relating to this class of affections, and much valuable light would be thrown on the nature and treatment of insanity. He complained of the disposition which existed in that house to fill up every appointment to which emolument was attached by a barrister. Whether it was to be attributed to the fact of all bills being drawn up by barristers or not he did not know, but the disposition was evident. That they were unfit, was shown by the total failure of the Metropolitan Commission, in which they had predominated; he would therefore move that the words "barrister commissioners" be omitted, and the words "medical commissioners" be inserted. He had intended to move for the appointment of only one medical commissioner, but as the noble lord proposed that the commissioners should act separately, he felt it his duty to propose that both should belong to the medical profession.

Lord G. SOMERSET could assure the hon. member that nothing was further from his intention than to cast any slur upon the medical profession. All that he wanted was, that the provisions of the law should be carried out, and that he thought would be better done by gentlemen of the profession of the law than by medical men. The inquiry to be made by the commissioner was not as to the medical treatment of the patient, but whether he was treated properly and with kindness; and with respect to such inquiries a barrister would make as sufficient an investigation as any medical man. Besides, he thought that the appointment of legal gentlemen would be more acceptable to the gentlemen who were attending asylums; they would not like to be interfered with by the advice and opinions of any gentlemen belonging to their own profession. He proposed that the legal commissioner should have the assistance of medical men when he considered it necessary to obtain their advice. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wakley) had suggested that a medical commissioner should be associated with a legal commissioner; but he (Lord G. Somerset) thought it would be difficult to obtain the services of competent medical men to act as commissioners, for they could not offer sufficient remuneration to a medical gentleman in full practice to induce him to spend half his time in the country in visiting asylums. He brought in this bill in consequence of communications with the Lord Chancellor and the Secretary of State for the Home Department; and he believed, if it was adopted, it would afford means of obtaining a mass of information which might lead to the establishment of a better mode of supervision than now existed.

Mr. PAKINGTON thought it advisable that the commissioners should be members of the medical rather than of the legal profession. Strong representations had been made to him by a medical gentleman who was the proprietor of a lunatic asylum in the borough which he represented, complaining of the inquisitorial system which would be established by this bill, and objecting to the appointment of barristers as commissioners. He hoped that his noble friend (Lord G. Somerset) would reconsider some of the more stringent provisions of the measure. He was glad that the noble lord proposed to give the legal commissioner the power, when he deemed such a course necessary,

of obtaining the assistance of the physicians appointed by courts of quarter sessions as inspectors of lunatic asylums.

Mr. W. MILES thought that the duty of inspecting lunatic asylums, which was far from an agreeable task, should be taken out of the hands of magistrates, and committed to two commissioners—the one a barrister, and the other a medical man.

Lord G. SOMERSET said he proposed to strike out the clause preventing barristers from calling in the aid of medical men, in order that in particular cases they might avail themselves of the advice of the medical visitors appointed by the quarter sessions.

Mr. WAKLEY said he had had a practical demonstration of the truth of phrenology. He knew before he had commenced his observations that he should not convince the noble lord. The noble lord had opposed his propositions with the most persevering pertinacity. He would now suggest that the profession of the commissioners should not be stated in the bill, but that the responsibility of the appointment of a medical man or a barrister should rest with the Lord Chancellor. There would be no difficulty in getting competent medical men for this investigation any more than there would be in getting competent men of the legal profession. He concluded with moving an amendment, to the effect that two of the commissioners to be appointed should not have their profession stated, but that their appointment should be left to the Lord Chancellor.

Mr. H. P. HOWARD thought medical men educated as to the diseases of the human mind more fit for such an appointment than men educated in mere legal technicalities. He should oppose the proposition that it be left to the Lord Chancellor to choose whom he might appoint, as his predilections would most likely be in favour of his own profession.

Mr. HENLEY was opposed to the appointment of exclusively legal gentlemen.

Lord G. SOMERSET said, whatever might be the opinions of the hon. member opposite as to his phrenological conformation, he should oppose the proposition to leave the responsibility of the choice of the professions of the commissioners to the Lord Chancellor. He had no objection to take the proposition of the hon. member into consideration, but he would rather the house would at once decide the question than throw this responsibility on the Lord Chancellor.

Mr. WAKLEY persisted in his amendment.

Mr. HARDY said, he should distrust the fitness of a legal commission, he would much rather see one legal and one medical commissioner. On a visit to the Wakefield Lunatic Asylum he had felt convinced of the sanity of a lunatic on conversation with him, who it afterwards turned out was the most violent of the patients.

Mr. R. YORKE was of opinion that members of the legal profession were the least qualified persons to be on the commission.

Mr. GODSON thought that medical men were not so fit, from their prejudices. He had heard a doctor swear that all mankind were mad. They wanted the experience and knowledge of the other profession to investigate the truth of the facts under which a lunatic was confined. He wished to see the two professions

combined, in order to arrive at a just result in such an inquiry.

On a division the numbers were,—

For Mr. Wakley's amendment . . .	22
Against it	19
Majority	—3

Lord G. SOMERSET hereupon said, he hardly knew what course to adopt now, as he knew not whether the intention of the house was to favour the medical or the legal authority.

Mr. WAKLEY said, he had no doubt whatever as to the perfect practicability of carrying out beneficially the principle which the house, he was glad to say, had affirmed. Perhaps it would be well, for the present, to postpone the further consideration of the measure.

To this Lord G. SOMERSET assenting, the house resumed—the further proceeding in committee being postponed till that day fortnight.—*Times*.

CERTIFICATES FOR LIFE INSURANCE.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—Those members of the Association who were present at the dinner of the anniversary meeting held at Southampton in July, 1840, may recollect that I then stated the circumstance of a gentleman who, having a large family, had insured his life for some thousand pounds, previously, for several years; and, being anxious at about the age of 60, to increase or double the amount of the sum insured, he applied to me for a certificate, which I furnished him with, and stated his having been subject to severe attacks of gout, always once and sometimes twice in each year. The insurance was declined on account of the risk from the large sum applied for; but he was informed that if he would divide the sum under different policies, he might possibly obtain his wishes; he did so, and I gave him six certificates expressed in the same words. Three offices complied, and three refused to insure. He died within six months afterwards, and, of course, his family had the benefit of the amount due from the three who accepted the insurance of his life. From that time I determined never to give a certificate without having my usual fee, and I have rigidly adhered to it, although one office contended the point not to do it, and another declined insuring, because the sum insured was too small to give them any profit. I was gratified to find that the British Medical Association has passed a resolution to the same effect, and some of its leading members have since acted upon it. These efforts, I am inclined to think, have had some good effect, for I find that several offices have agreed always to pay for the medical certificate, of which I may mention the London, Edinburgh, and Dublin, but more especially the Protestant Dissenters and General Assurance Company of London. An instance has occurred to me within this week, of their not only requiring the certificate of a physician and a surgeon, but also of giving each of them their usual fee. This never having occurred to me before, I feel it necessary to make it known to my medical brethren, and to acknowledge our gratitude to those who have the

management of that office, at the head of whom is, I believe, Dr. Price.

In the "British and Foreign Medical Review" for this month (April) the subject is touched upon, page 578, under the head of "Doctors *versus* Assurance Companies," and the case is ably argued by the talented editor of that periodical, to whose opinions and judgment I do most cheerfully acknowledge all due deference and respect; but, in this instance, I am compelled to come to rather a different conclusion relative to the party who is to pay the fee. If I understand that learned editor and *judge* right, he gives a verdict in favour of the company or office, and against the doctor. Now, I have always considered that whoever applies to me for an opinion ought to give me the fee, whether it be from the insurer or the insured—the office or the individual—leaving those two parties to settle it as they may think fit; and I would even further suggest, as I have lately endeavoured to impress, that the fee of the medical man should be paid equally between the office or company and the individual who insures his life; and for this obvious reason, that they both aim at deriving some profit or pecuniary advantage, and both make a sacrifice, depending upon a risk which is not within the scope of the control of either. The medical fee ought to be unconnected with the question of the source whence it is derived.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS JEFFREYS.

Liverpool, April 20, 1842.

LABOURERS' SICK CLUB.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—I send you the copy of a letter I have lately addressed to the Earl of Devon, who is forming a sick club on this plan among his labourers; to each a ticket is given for medical relief for himself and family, and by paying for an extra number of tickets, his lordship proposes, with the concurrence of the neighbouring landowners, to give them to the aged and decrepid, and also to actual paupers, so that in this district there may be no occasion to apply to the board of guardians for medical relief.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM COLLYNS, M.R.C.S.

Kenton, April 15, 1842.

To the Earl of Devon, President of the Board of Guardians, St. Thomas Union.

"My Lord,—I presume to offer a few suggestions in reference to a conversation I had with your lordship, concerning the medical relief of able-bodied labourers and paupers, as there are to be some amendments of the Poor-law Bill, which, however defective in some parts, unavoidable in so very large a measure, is, I am sure, quite right in its general principle. For having been one of the medical officers of the St. Thomas union from its formation, and having had the care of the same district for thirty years before, I know,

TURNING-BOXES AT FOUNDLING HOSPITALS.

The tours, or turning-boxes, are an Italian invention of the time of Sixtus IV. Their use was for many years confined to the hospice at Rome, which thence derived its name, *Della Ruota*. In France they are formed by a hole in the wall of the hospice, closed with double doors, between which a candle is placed. The act of opening the outer door, to deposit a child in the cradle, causes a bell to ring, which gives notice to the attendant in the hospice; or sometimes a cylindrical box, placed perpendicularly, and turning on a pivot, is used, and this was the original form of the tour.—*British and Foreign Medical Review*.

THE PRESERVATION OF CANTHARIDES.

M. Martin recommends placing the cantharis, either entire or in powder, in rectified sulphuric æther, in the proportion of five parts of the fly to one of æther, in bottles stoppered with emery; and he assures us that the cantharides, thus prepared, can be kept for three years. The æther does not act on it, except as a preservative.—*Bulletin de Thérapeutique*.

LEEDS INFIRMARY.

Dr. Ralph Shipperdson Hopper has been elected physician to the Leeds General Infirmary, in the place of Dr. Hunter, whose health, we regret to say, has compelled him to resign.

PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

War-office, April 22.

9th Dragoons—To be assistant-surgeon, Walter George Leonard Staunton, from the Staff.

45th Foot—Thomas Best, gent., to be assistant-surgeon.

64th—Surgeon William Smith, from the St. Helena regiment, to be surgeon, vice Fogarty, who exchanges.

65th—Assistant-surgeon James Guy Piers Moore, from the 94th, to be assistant-surgeon, vice Nicholl, deceased.

94th—Assistant-surgeon Edward Menzies, from the 20th Foot, to be assistant-surgeon, vice Moore, appointed to the 65th.

Ceylon Rifle Regiment—Assistant-surgeon George William Powell, M.D., from the Staff, to be assistant-surgeon, vice Rumley, promoted.

St. Helena Regiment—Surgeon Michael Fogarty, from the 64th, to be surgeon, vice Smith, who exchanges.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

Members admitted on Friday, April 22, 1842.

John Campling, John Price Kelly, James Lambe, Hayes Kyd, George Gale Snelling Coward, Russell Augustus Lafargue, James William Beresford, Henry Harris, Richard Glossen Vivian, Joseph Tuthill Glover, Thomas Morris.

Monday, April 25, 1842.

William Henry Williams, Henry William Somerset, Richard Sissons, Robert Gillman Lord, Thomas Loy, John Mellis, William Proctor, Joseph Bainbridge, Fife, James Pestell.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.

Licentiates admitted April 14, 1842.

J. C. Pigg, Luton, Bedfordshire; S. S. Siedman R. Pincott, Nuneaton; W. Proctor, York.

Gentlemen desirous of having the "Provincial Medical Journal," forwarded to them by post, may send a post-office order to the Publisher, 356, Strand, London.

TERMS.

One Year	£1 10 0
Six Months	0 15 0

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

New members of the Provincial Association can have the back numbers to Jan. 1, 1842, by forwarding to us the name of a country bookseller through whom they may be sent.

North of England Association.—We have been compelled to postpone until next week, our account of the anniversary meeting of this Association.

The first paper on Vaccination, by Mr. Newnham, has been received, and shall be published in our next number, together with the communication of Mr. Toogood on "the Crowing Disease;" Dr. Watson's Report; and Mr. Newbold's case of "Typhoid Pneumonia."

The letter signed a *Yorkshire Practitioner* has been received.

The Leeds Intelligencer, Blackburn Gazette, Gateshead Observer, and several other country papers have come to hand. We should feel obliged if some of our friends would forward to us any journals containing an account of the affair, in debate, at Gloucester, between a physician and the bishop.

JOURNALS AND BOOKS FOR REVIEW TO BE FORWARDED (CARRIAGE PAID), TO THE PUBLISHER, 356, STRAND.
LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS TO DR. HENNIS GREEN, 58, MARGARET STREET,
CAVENDISH SQUARE, LONDON.