

Warneford, its munificent benefactor, the learned lecturer gave a rapid sketch of the origin of the science of medicine, and of the manner in which its various branches should be studied in the present day. He justly insisted on the great importance of chemistry. But as our space does not suffice for a long extract we must content ourselves with the following admirable remarks on the necessity of a *general* superadded to a professional education. A meet answer they are to that miserable school of utilitarian economists, who would banish all humanising learning from the curriculum.

"To attain perfection in those branches of medical science which are of most importance, it is by no means requisite that all other studies should be neglected. On the contrary, since the intellectual capacity is enlarged by education, all those pursuits which, by increasing the number and association of ideas, invigorate the memory and assist in maturing the judgment, prepare the understanding to receive and digest the more weighty professional matters. The perceptive faculties, it is true, are very effectually sharpened by medical investigations, yet even the most accurate observation of facts, and the most extensive erudition, are of no avail to the physician or surgeon, unless he know how to use the materials which he has collected; and this depends not upon the measure of his acquirements, but upon his mental powers, and especially upon soundness of judgment. The more abstruse studies are certainly instrumental in forming great reasoners; and in my own experience as a lecturer I have most commonly found that the seeds of knowledge have taken the deepest root, and produced the best fruit, in those minds which had been previously cultivated by general literature and science. It is a remark, indeed, of Sir Joshua Reynolds, in his admirable 'Discourses on Painting,' that 'the great business of study is to form a mind adapted and adequate to all times and all occasions, to which all nature is then laid open, and which may be said to possess the key of her inexhaustible riches.'

"Nor is the extensive insight into human character, which general reading gives, of small utility to the medical man. Society offers opportunities for intercourse with the living, but it is only through the medium of books that we can hold converse with the dead; and by this means alone have we the power of communicating with the greatest intellects of all ages and of all nations. But to understand the literature of a people it is necessary to be master of their tongue, and for this reason an acquaintance with ancient as well as modern languages is an accomplishment of the greatest value. From the time of Hippocrates until the middle of the last century every standard medical work was written either in Greek or in Latin, and in the present day books of high authority are constantly issuing from the presses of France and Germany, so that he who does not know some languages besides his own, must either be ignorant of a large portion of medical as well as of general literature, or trust to translations which are

often fallacious. Laying aside all other considerations, since no man can constantly dwell upon one subject alone with any degree of benefit to himself, what can afford more rational or agreeable relaxation than classical and modern literature?—or, together with the fine arts, be more conducive to refinement and elegance of taste?

"If, indeed, the sole object of a medical education were to qualify the student to pass certain examinations, nothing more, perhaps, would be wanted than what the most contracted plan of instruction could teach; but let him who wishes to become an accomplished and successful practitioner consider man not only as a complicated machine, but as a social and intellectual being. When studying the physical functions, the phenomena of their diseases, and the mode in which medicines operate upon them, let him not forget that the body and its maladies are much influenced by the feelings and passions of the mind.

"All impressions upon the cerebral nerves of sensation are transmitted to the brain, wherein are formed those numberless combinations of ideas, whence emanate all the creations of human intellect. But as one set of nerves conveys impressions to the brain, so another transmits the impressions from the brain to the other organs. Considering, then, the connexion between mind and body, which is established by the brain and the nerves, it is not surprising that corporeal disorders frequently affect the mind, while mental emotions and passions also possess considerable influence over the body and its diseases."

"In many disorders, and particularly those of the nervous system, more relief may often be afforded by skilful management of the feelings and passions, than by any medicine which could be prescribed."

After the lecture there was a distribution of prizes to the meritorious students of the past session; and the thanks of the meeting were cordially given to the learned principal, Dr. Johnstone, for the share he had taken in the proceedings of the day.

SHEFFIELD MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The first meeting of the third session was held October 5, when Dr. Favell was elected president, and Messrs. Law and Skinner secretaries. Two new members were elected and another proposed. Several members announced papers to be read during the session.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Physic, delivered in King's College, London. By Thomas Watson, M.D. In two volumes. London: 1843.

Tables of the Climate of Sidmouth. By W. H. Cullen, M.D. Sidmouth: 1843.

The Phrenological Theory of the Treatment of Criminals defended by Mr. B. Sampson. pp. 20.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

Members admitted Friday, October 6, 1843.

T. Sumner, W. W. Moxhay, R. Tyrer, J. Holliday, R. Martin, S. Battley, E. Edmunds, J. E. Huxley, W. Brown, T. Hawksley, G. Appleton, J. Benson, H. Johnson.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Subscribers to this Journal are recommended to order from their Booksellers, without delay, any numbers required to complete sets, as the first 79 are quite out of print, and but few copies remain of many of the later numbers.

J. L. (Manchester.)—The publishers of the work can alone answer the question.

Mr. Tuton's case of ovarian dropsy shall receive early insertion.

Mr. Buckell.—We will procure a satisfactory answer if possible.

**** Communications, journals, and books for review, to be forwarded (carriage paid) to the Publisher, 356, Strand, London. Letters connected with the Provincial Association, to Dr. Streeten, Worcester.**

DISEASES OF THE UTERUS.

Next week will be published, 8vo, 9s, cloth,

PRACTICAL TREATISE on ORGANIC DISEASES of the UTERUS; being the Prize Essay to which the Medical Society of London awarded the Fothergillian Gold Medal for 1843. By JOHN C. W. LEVER, M.D., M. R. Coll. Phys., Assistant-Accoucheur at Guy's Hospital, &c.
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