

now asked what *she* tasted, after some hesitation said, "seeds." The Mesmeriser, however, was ready with an excuse, remarking that, "although not right, she was not absolutely wrong, a few seeds having accidentally got mixed with the sugar!"

To give the lecturer one more chance, I handed him an ipecacuanha lozenge to taste from my own pocket. After sundry smackings of the lips, which the male patient imitated, he was asked what he tasted, but the man was too wide awake to hazard a random guess, and confined himself to evasive answers, such as, "It's very nice," &c.

The girl being now appealed to, ventured to say, "It's something sweet." Scranch went the lozenge between the operator's teeth, close to the girl's ear. The information, however, conveyed by this manoeuvre was fallacious, for the unlucky maiden immediately pronounced the substance to be "biscuit." Was the magnetiser at a nonplus now? Nothing of the kind. An appeal to the *unprejudiced* part of the audience, to determine whether there was not a great similarity in the flavor of many sweet biscuits to an ipecacuanha lozenge, was decided in his favor.

I fear, in the recital of these glaring deceptions, I have already trespassed too much on your valuable pages; but I cannot help remarking, that in the course of the evening the lecturer pronounced Dr. Elliotson to be the "prince of Mesmerists." Should this communication meet the Doctor's eye, he will doubtless feel highly honored by the well-earned compliment paid him by the new candidate for Mesmeric fame.

In conclusion, I think the legitimate inference to be drawn from the above narrative is, that the only stock in trade required by the professors of the Mesmeric art is an unlimited stock of assurance, together with one or two well disciplined confederates. Armed with these, he may sally forth, confidently relying on the support of all lovers of the marvellous—a class which embraces so large a portion of the inhabitants of this favored isle.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. S. BURMAN,

Surgeon to the Stratford-on-Avon Infirmary.

Stratford-on-Avon, Oct. 19, 1843.

* * A very pretty hybrid certainly is this Mesmerophrenology. We only regret that this impudent humbug was not favored with a ticket of admission to the House of Correction. Some of his organs might very advantageously be excited by a cat-o'-nine-tails.—Eps.

HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF LONDON.

The annual meeting, to appoint the officers for the ensuing medical session, took place at the society's rooms, Edward-street, Portman-square, on Saturday evening, October 21. The following gentlemen were elected by ballot to the respective offices:—

Presidents—Dr. Edward Murphy, Bennett Lucas, Esq.

Council—Dr. Clendinning, Dr. Ridge, Edgar Barker, Esq.

Treasurer—Dr. Stroud.

Hon. Secretary—Alexander Anderson, Esq.

TAUNTON AND SOMERSET HOSPITAL.

Dr. William Catlett has been appointed physician to this hospital.

LOCK HOSPITAL.

The governors have announced their intention of adding another assistant-surgeon to the staff of the Lock Hospital.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

Members admitted Friday, October 27, 1843.

R. B. Hole, F. Smith, E. Walker, J. E. Partington, R. W. Lammiman, M. Burnup, A. B. Andrews, G. V. Birks, J. C. Croft, W. Sheppard, J. N. Greensill, B. Viret.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

A Practical and Theoretical Treatise on the Diagnosis, Pathology, and Treatment of Diseases of the Skin, &c. By Erasmus Wilson, Consulting Surgeon to the St. Pancras Infirmary, &c. London, 1842.

On the Nature and Treatment of Stomach and Renal Diseases, &c. By William Prout, M.D., F.R.S., &c. The Fourth Edition, revised. London, 1843.

Principles of Medicine, &c. By Charles J. B. Williams, M.D., F.R.S., &c. London, 1843.

New Methods of Alkalimetry, and of Determining the Commercial Value of Acids and Manganese. By Drs. C. R. Fresenius and W. Will, Chemical Assistants in the University of Giessen. Edited by J. Lloyd Bullock. London: Taylor and Walton, 1843. pp. 152.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. B. C. is informed that he is not entitled to receive any numbers published previously to the date of his subscription.

C. S., *Oundle*.—We thank our correspondent for his communication, but the case should be more fully described to render it suitable for publication.

The report of the March meeting of the Birmingham Pathological Society shall appear as soon as possible.

Semisipinus.—We fear we cannot find room for our correspondent's reply to Dr. Chadwick. Will he make a comparative trial of twelve cases, and send us the results?

Dr. Slaters's address is certainly an odd piece of geography, but it is copied *verbatim* from the list furnished by the Association.

Mr. Challice's case of rupture of the heart has been received.

* * 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.

ERRATUM.

In our report of the Birmingham Pathological Society in our last Number, two cases attributed to Dr. Percy were read by Dr. Vaux. The M.S. was most undecipherable.

Communications have been received from *Sir John Fife*; *Mr. Wilson*, of Nottingham; and *Mr. Rodick*.