

narrated cases, viz., the arrest of the catamenia was not followed by the vital disturbances which attend suppression from other causes; or, in general terms, opium, in daily doses, arrested uterine periodicity without disturbing other ordinary vital functions. Here we have an analogy with other well known effects of opium; for this drug, to a great degree, arrests hunger, which, in the present state of civilised society, is a *periodic habit*, for it is seldom allowed to become an actual *want*. In a therapeutical point of view, opium exerts an almost uniform influence as an arrester of periodicity. As a narcotic, its influence is not uniform, for it does not always produce sleep; and I am inclined to the belief that, when sleep does follow its exhibition, it is rather a consequence of the absence of (an arrested) paroxysm than of a direct narcotic influence.—*New York Journal of Medicine*, Jan., 1844.

UNEDUCATED POOR-LAW PRACTITIONERS.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg most respectfully to refer to a statement made by you (I perfectly coincide with your very judicious opinion on the necessary essentials of the medical education), that “the union medical officer is required to produce his license to practise medicine, surgery, and pharmacy.” So far from this statement being correct in practice, there are officers appointed to this and the adjoining district of Rotherham, where the should-be medical officers possess neither medical, surgical, or pharmaceutical qualifications from any source. They say they were in practice prior to 1815, and it is certain that one of the parties had not attained his majority at that period; another is questionable. *Medical education is not required here.* In the same way, numerous empirics infest the country, claiming a legal right to practice from having vended their nostrums previously to the year 1815. The age does not appear to be a consideration. I fear similar instances exist in other districts; and I consider you, as Editors, representing a large, influential, and, I hope, highly respectable body, should be made acquainted with these facts.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
A PROVINCIAL.

Doncaster, Feb. 3, 1844.

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

MR. BARRETT AND DR. EAGER.

We have no wish to act unjustly towards Mr. Barrett, but we would suggest to him that the controversy between him and Dr. Eager would be carried on far better by means of the local newspapers or a pamphlet, than through the medium of our pages. Since, however, Mr. Barrett complains that we have inserted two letters from Dr. Eager, and only one from him, we beg to state that Mr. Barrett sent us a second letter, containing a most distinct and circumstantial denial of the statements

concerning him which are contained in Dr. Eager's last letter (*Provincial Journal* Jan. 13). Mr. Barrett's letter was accompanied by a declaration from Mr. Fleming the printer, that he was *not* certain that Captain Dudley Byrne had called upon him, as he had before supposed.

We do not insert these documents of Mr. Barrett's, because we believe that his purpose will be answered quite as much by this simple statement; and the controversy has now become more than uninteresting to the profession at large. If either of the parties concerned deems himself misrepresented, a statement submitted to his own circle of professional acquaintance (who alone are competent judges), would be the best way of vindicating himself from the charges of his antagonist.

MEDICAL REFORM.

SIR JAMES GRAHAM'S PROMISED BILL.

On Monday evening, in the House of Commons, in answer to a question from Mr. Macaulay, Sir James Graham said that his Medical Reform Bill was nearly prepared, and would be proceeded with soon. The measure had relation to a reform in the College of Physicians, and to the medical profession generally throughout the United Kingdom.

MARYLEBONE GENERAL DISPENSARY.

On Friday week Dr. C. J. Hare was elected physician to this institution.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

Members admitted Friday, February 2, 1844.

F. F. Morgan, F. S. Rogers, H. Jacobs, J. McVeagh, W. Lea, G. R. Woolhouse, G. M. C. Saunders, J. P. Scatliff, J. Fisher, W. Parkinson, G. P. Smith, J. Wilson, A. J. Moore.

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.

Mr. Cheselden may consult the “Medical Student's Guide and Almanac,” and Wilcock's “Law of the Medical Profession.” He should also write to Mr. Upton, the clerk at Apothecaries' Hall.

* * 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.

ERRATA.

In Dr. Durrant's paper, page 345, for “Bichloride of carbon,” read *Terchloride of carbon*.