

in Yorkshire, speaks to the following effect :—" After thanking the members for the honour conferred upon him, the President passed under review the benefits which this and similar institutions secured to the profession. While science was nurtured, and the dignity of the profession maintained, men, who in their earlier days had contracted friendships with those whom for many years after they never saw, were now again enabled to renew their former friendships, and to talk over days long past, though never forgotten. Such intercourse could not but introduce a feeling of harmony into the profession, to be attended with the happiest results."

With the sincere hope that the above effects may be realized in this neighbourhood,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

A MEMBER OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL  
AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.  
Cheltenham, July 12, 1844.

#### CLAIRVOYANCE.

We condense from the Literary Gazette the following notice of an exhibition of clairvoyance afforded at the house of Dr. Elliotson, by M. Marcellet, on the youth Alexis, of Parisian notoriety. The lad was soon thrown into what is called the mesmeric condition, and displayed all that rigidity of muscle which is its apparent result. This, says the writer, we know *can* be simulated, and therefore we do not attach any important consequence to its production. Alexis' eyes were securely bandaged, (at least so they seemed to be to all the assembly,) and he was seated at the table where several gentlemen played *ecarté* with him, playing not only as clearly as if he had his distinct sight, but managing to tell a good deal what was in his adversaries' hands as well as (from the backs of the cards) in his own. If these cards were genuine, the perception is extraordinary; if prepared and substituted with peculiarities which may be felt by the touch, the trick would still be a very curious one, and was admirably performed. The doubt is suggested by the fact, that Alexis always handled the cards respecting which he exercised his power of supernatural vision; and indeed, in every case, there was, to a certain extent, a manipulation of the tests, a placing of them near the mouth or nose, as if a line, however limited, of actual vision might be employed, notwithstanding the parade of wool and handkerchiefs over the eyes, that appeared to us unnecessary for a purely psychological emanation of mind. Then there were also a general uncertainty, a number of guesses, and many mistakes in the course of the experiments, which are hardly reconcilable with a real faculty. If the mind's eye can see at all, it should be able to see rightly, or how are we to distinguish between its surmises and its truths? What would we give for the evidence of the bodily eye which fancied half a dozen of things before it hit the reality? Surely a spiritual gift ought to be superior to a corporeal sense; and before we can believe in the phenomena offered in support of it, we would desire more simple and more decisive tests than any we witnessed on this occasion.

Alexis read in books, but very few words—one line of poetry the longest; he described plates in a thick volume held behind his back, with numerous errors,

however, till he arrived at pretty tolerable accuracy; he told Colonel Gurwood the signature to a letter in the same way,—we mean, with errors, and after a good deal of handling and smelling.

It is due to Dr. Elliotson to mention, that he, like the rest of the curious and scientific visitors, was a mere spectator, and had not seen the parties before he kindly lent his roof for their performance, in a branch of inquiry to which he has paid so much attention. The best belief we could attach to all we could stay to witness, was, that it was the result of very ingenious collusion.

#### AGENTS AFFECTING CAPILLARY CIRCULATION.

M. Poiseuille has established the fact, that nitrate of potass or acetate of ammonia, added to water or serum, renders it capable of flowing more rapidly through either inorganic tubes, as those of glass, or organized, as the vessels of animals, whether in a dead or living condition. Alcohol has a precisely opposite effect; it checks the fluidification of humours, and retards the flow of fluids, in capillary or other tubes.—*Dublin Medical Press*, from *Archives Generales de Medicine*.

#### MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

A Lying-in-Hospital has recently been established in Edinburgh, to which the following gentlemen have been appointed Medical Officers :—

*Consulting Physicians* :—Dr. William Campbell, and Dr. Beilby. *Ordinary Physicians* :—Professor Simpson, and Dr. Moir. *Assistant Medical Officers* :—Dr. Charles Bell; John Niven, Esq.; Alexander Thomson, Esq., and W. S. Carmichael, Esq. *Consulting Surgeon* :—Dr. Pagan. *Ordinary Surgeon* :—Alexander Zeigler, Esq.—*Northern Journal of Medicine*.

#### PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

##### ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The members of the Association will perceive, by referring to the Journal for the week before last, (June 26,) that the Anniversary Meeting is fixed to be held at Northampton, on Wednesday, the 7th, and Thursday, the 8th of August. In our last number the date was inadvertently given as the 6th and 7th instead of the 7th and 8th of August.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Dr. Oke; Mr. Harrington; Mr. Square; and Mr. W. T. Hamilton.

The letter signed Investigator should have the author's signature. His request is perfectly reasonable, and there is no reason why it should not be openly made. It is requested that all letters and communications be sent to Dr. Streeten, Foregate Street, Worcester. Parcels, and books for review, may be addressed to the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal, care of Mr. Churchill, Princes Street, Soho.