

by the neighbours, residing in the same yard, to go to the necessary several times; indeed, he was described as constantly running to and from that place; but no one appeared to take particular notice, not liking to interfere in his affairs. At half-past eleven o'clock, a groan was heard proceeding from the necessary; but the deceased came out again, apparently very ill. At one o'clock, he was observed to re-enter, and not coming out for half an hour, the neighbours began to confer with each other, and on one of them going in to see what he was doing, the deceased was found crouched down in one corner quite dead. It was proved in evidence, that up to that morning he had been in perfect health, and had been following his ordinary occupation; that he was, in fact, a hale old man, and with the exception of a slight touch of scurvy, was not subject to any disorder which would at all account for his sudden demise; the attention of the jury was, therefore, very naturally directed to the composition of the mixture which he was said to have taken, and to the effects which the ingredients of that compound would be likely to have upon his system. The remainder of the mixture, not more than half a gill, was introduced, and Mr. John Rayner, surgeon, sent for, and all the previous facts of the case having been recited to him by the coroner, Mr. Rayner at once concluded that the death of the deceased had been caused by an overdose of the saltpetre, which had produced inflammation of the mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels, under which the deceased had sunk.

The quantity of saltpetre swallowed by the poor man was calculated at about ten drachms, and the jury at once returned a verdict:—"Died from an overdose of saltpetre incautiously taken." The druggist's apprentice was reprimanded by the coroner for selling the mixture without giving information as to the properties of its ingredients.

POOR-LAW MEDICAL RELIEF.

A few weeks ago a girl, about sixteen years of age, applied for advice to a respectable surgeon of Wakefield, being affected with psoriasis. Thinking that a short stay at Harrogate or Askern would be of great service to her, he told her to apply to the relieving officer of the parish for funds. The girl did as she was bid, but instead of following the suggestion of the medical gentleman, the sagacious functionary thought he would obtain another opinion, and sent her with a note to an old woman in the village who is in the habit of selling ointment for various diseases. The girl had the good sense not to go, but brought the note to the surgeon whose advice she had at first taken. The following is a literal copy of the note in question:

"Mrs. Clayton will please to examine the bearer's case of scurvy, and send an answer whether she can make a cure or not.

"From yours respectfully,

"John Boston.

"Wakefield, May 22, 1844."

It is to such men that the poor are often obliged to submit their claims for medical relief, and that the medical officers of unions are obliged to bend. Is it surprising that a system founded on so faulty a basis should work so indifferently?—*Lancet*.

MEDICAL REORM.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JULY 19TH.

Mr. P. Howard wished to know if the Right Hon. Baronet intended to bring forward any measure for the regulation of the medical profession?

Sir J. Graham said, he had stated some time ago that he wished, with the permission of the House, to bring in a bill for the regulation of the medical profession throughout the United Kingdom. If the House would give him leave he would shortly lay the bill on the table, but he did not wish that it should go further than a second reading.

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie, Bart., has been elected President of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Samuel Cooper, Esq., and William Lawrence, Esq., Vice-Presidents for the ensuing year.

A notice has appeared in the *London Gazette*, that a meeting of the Fellows of the College of Surgeons will be held at the Hall of the College, on Wednesday, the 31st instant, at three o'clock in the afternoon, to elect three additional Members of the Council, in pursuance of the provisions of the New Charter.

William B. Carpenter, M.D., F.R.S., has been elected Fullerian Professor of Physiology to the Royal Institution of Great Britain.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday, July 19th, 1844:—W. H. Snape; W. Browne; J. S. Green; J. Lowry; H. S. Palmer; E. W. Woodcock; F. Berrington; E. B. Bowman; P. Pemell; F. I. Morgan; J. Postgate; C. M. Aldridge.

OBITUARY.

At Carlisle, on the 9th instant, aged 34, William Elliot, M.D. To professional attainments of a high order, he added unwearied zeal in the pursuit of science. He was an able, judicious, and humane practitioner. In all the relations of private life he was truly exemplary, and his early removal from a sphere of great honour and usefulness will be long and sincerely deplored.

BOOK RECEIVED.

Lectures on Electricity, comprising Galvanism, Magnetism, Electro-Magnetism, Magneto, and Thermo-Electricity. By Henry M. Noad, author of "Lectures on Chemistry," &c. A new and greatly enlarged edition. Illustrated by nearly three hundred wood cuts. London: Knight and Sons. 1844. 8vo. pp. 457.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The Members of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association are informed that the Twelfth Anniversary Meeting of the Association will be held at Northampton, on Wednesday, the 7th, and Thursday, the 8th of August next.

The First General Meeting of the Association will be held in the County Hall, on Wednesday, August the 7th, and the President of the Council, Dr. Hastings, will resign the chair at one o'clock to A. Robertson, M.D., F.R.S., the President-Elect, who will then address the Meeting; after which the Report of the Council will be read by the Secretary, cases will be read, and other necessary business will be transacted.

On Wednesday evening, at eight P.M., the Members will again assemble at the same place, when the Retrospective Address on Anatomy and Physiology will be delivered by Dr. W. Budd, of Bristol, and Members will have an opportunity of reading cases or other short communications.

On Thursday morning, at nine o'clock, the Members of the Association and their friends will breakfast together at the Angel Hotel; for which breakfast tickets, at 2s. 6d. each, may be procured.

At twelve o'clock the same day a General Meeting of the Members will again be held in the County Hall, when the Retrospective Address on Medicine will be delivered by Dr. Cowan, of Reading, and cases and other communications will be read.

On Thursday evening, at six o'clock, the Members and their friends will dine together at the George Hotel; to the Dinner the admission will be by Ticket of 8s. 6d. each; and for this sum Dinner, Dessert, and Coffee will be provided, but Wine is not included.

Members are requested, on arriving at Northampton, to repair to the County Hall, where James Mash, Esq., Secretary, and other Members of the Local Council, will be in attendance to give every necessary information as to the progress of business, so as to obviate confusion. Tickets for the Breakfast and Dinner may also be procured of these gentlemen, and the members and visitors are requested to enter their names and address in a book which will be there provided.

It is requested that those members who purpose to honour the Association with their company, either at Breakfast or Dinner, will signify their intention to Mr. Mash, on or before Friday, the 2d of August; such notice being extremely desirable to insure adequate preparations being made.

Members intending to read cases or papers to the Meeting, will be good enough to intimate their intention, either to the President or the Secretary, on or before the 29th of July.

The Secretary will be in attendance to receive the Subscriptions and Arrears from those who have not previously had an opportunity of paying them, and those Members who do not attend the Meeting, and wish to remit their Subscriptions, may readily do so through friends who attend the Meeting, or through their own Bankers, to Messrs. Robarts and Co., London, for Messrs. Berwick and Co., Worcester, the Treasurers of the Association; or the same may be remitted by Post-office order to Dr. Hastings, or Dr. Streeten, Worcester.

ROBERT J. N. STREETEN, M.D.,

Secretary to the Association.

The attention of the Members of the Association is particularly called to the great additional expense now entailed upon the funds of the Society. By the arrangement which was made at the Anniversary Meeting at York, the Members have, since that time, in addition to the Annual Volume of the Transactions, been supplied weekly with the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal, and by this arrangement they are receiving both these publications for little more than half the sum which is paid for a weekly periodical. It is therefore rendered very important that Members should be punctual in the payment of their Subscriptions, and also endeavour to increase the funds of the Association by enlisting new Members. Members will much promote the objects of the Association by making its advantages known among their medical friends and acquaintance.

. The Members of the Association and gentlemen intending to be present at the Meeting will bear in mind, that Blisworth, on the London and Birmingham railroad, is the Northampton station. Among the hotels recommended for their accommodations, are the George, the Angel, and the Goat.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Dr. Black; Mr. Richard Chapman; Mr. Addison; Mr. J. Williams, of Abergele; and Mr. Wardleworth.