

Shortly after eating the hemlock, want of power was experienced in the lower extremities; he faltered in his joints. After a time he was observed to stagger as a man intoxicated; he fell on his knees, and perfect paralysis of the inferior extremities was manifested. At this time his intelligence remained perfect, he spoke readily and sensibly to those about him. He complained of having lost his sight. The paralysis gradually crept upwards. There were ineffectual efforts to vomit; he could not swallow; slight movements of the left leg. These symptoms were present two hours after taking the poison, but his intelligence was still perfect. Asphyxia now gradually came on, and he died three hours and a quarter after eating the hemlock. These symptoms fully confirm the description given by Dr. Christison, of the effects of hemlock and its alkaloid, conia, as observed by him in the lower animals.

Some cases have been related, in which delirium was said to have been present; and others, where death was occasioned, were marked by stupor and coma, as when opium has been taken. Nothing of this kind was observed in Gow; but, on the contrary, gradual paralysis, creeping from below upwards, referable to some change produced on the spinal cord, of a nature exactly opposite to that produced by strychnia. Dr. Bennett pointed out how these facts perfectly agreed with the account of Plato and Nicander, of the effects produced by the *Kνωειον*, or state poison of the Athenians. A difference of opinion existed among botanists, as to whether the modern *Conium maculatum* was the *Kνωειον* of the Athenians. From the effects produced in the case described, he was disposed to believe in their identity.

Dr. Christison observed, that he was inclined to adopt this conclusion of Dr. Bennett, and he felt the more pleasure in stating this, because he had formerly expressed a different opinion. The only positive characters of the Athenian state poison, as given by Dioscorides, were a "hollow root, and not deep." Now the root of our hemlock is not hollow, and it is very deep. In all the recorded cases of poisoning by this substance in modern times, the symptoms observed in man were very different from those described by the ancients, and were opposed to the effects he had himself witnessed in animals. A well observed case of poisoning by hemlock, therefore, was a great desideratum. This had been furnished by Dr. Bennett, and tended to clear up the difficulties hitherto connected with the subject.—*London and Edinburgh Monthly Journal of Medical Science.*

MR. CHATER'S CASE OF MESMERIC SLEEP.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

As attention to individual cases of recorded mesmeric success appears to be a rational method of investigating the merits of the so-called science, perhaps you will again allow me space for a few observations upon an example stated in your Journal of to-day.

The communication is sent by Mr. George Chater, of Norwich. It is a case in which a gentleman, in the last stage of phthisis pulmonalis, went to sleep for a few hours on each of the three days immediately preceding his death.

There are three remarks suggested by Mr. Chater's letter:—

1st. That it does not require mesmeric agency to account for a debilitated man, (brought by phthisis to the threshold of the grave,) being wearied into a sleep of an hour and three quarters' duration, by manual "passes," continued during a period of *forty minutes*.

2nd. That although *narcotics* may have been used, even in large doses, with comparatively little effect, for a considerable time in cases of pulmonary consumption, nothing is more common than for the patients to become completely somnolent during the last few days of their existence; and this without the aid either of mesmerism or medicine. The state of the cerebral circulation is a sufficient cause.

3rd. It appears rather singular for Mr. Chater, who says that he has "never witnessed any of the public exhibitions of the science, and was not willing himself to undertake such a novel mode of procedure," to come so speedily to the conclusion, that mesmerism is "one of the most potent means of relieving the sufferings of our fellow creatures which science has, as yet, discovered."

I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

P. H. W.

Worcester, June 11, 1845.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENT.

Dr. Hodges, of Bath, has been elected Physician to the Bath General Hospital, in the room of Dr. King, resigned.

OBITUARY.

Samuel Kay, Esq., Surgeon, of Ashton-under-Lyne. Mr. Kay was a Member of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Practical Remarks on Gout, Rheumatic Fever, and Chronic Rheumatism of the Joints; being the substance of the Croonian Lectures for the present year, delivered at the College of Physicians. By Robert Bentley Todd, M.D., F.R.S., Fellow of the College of Physicians, Physician to the King's College Hospital, and Professor of Physiology in King's College, London. London: Parker, 1845, post 8vo., pp. 216.

Inquiry into the Probable Cause of the Continued Prevalence and Fatality of Small-Pox. By James Stark, M.D., F.R.S.E., Fellow of the College of Physicians of Edinburgh. (From the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*.) Edinburgh: 1845, pp. 29.

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, Princess Street, Soho.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The Members of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association are informed that the Thirteenth Anniversary Meeting of the Association will be held at Sheffield, on Wednesday, the 30th, and Thursday, the 31st of July next.

The First General Meeting of the Association will be held in the Cutler's Hall, on Wednesday, July the 30th, and the President, Dr. Robertson, will take the chair at one o'clock, and afterwards resign it to the President for the ensuing year. The Report of the Council will then be read by the Secretary, cases and communications will be read, and other necessary business transacted.

On Wednesday evening, at eight P.M., the Members will again assemble at the same place, when the Retrospective Address on Surgery will be delivered by Mr. T. P. Teale, of Leeds, and Members will have an opportunity of reading cases or other short communications.

On Thursday morning, at half-past eight o'clock, the Members of the Association and their friends will breakfast together at the Cutler's Hall; 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 Cutler's Hall, when the Retrospective Address on Medicine will be delivered by Dr. Charlton, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 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 Cutler's Hall. To the Dinner the admission will be by Tickets, of 10s. each; and for this sum Dinner, Dessert, and Coffee will be provided, but Wine is not included.

Members are requested, on arriving at Sheffield, to repair to the Cutler's Hall, Church Street, where Dr. Branson, 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 to Breakfast or Dinner, will signify their intention to Dr. Branson, on or before Friday, the 25th of July, such notice being extremely desirable to ensure adequate preparations being made.

Members intending to read cases or papers to the Meeting, will be good enough to intimate their intention to the Secretary of the Association, on or before the 22nd of July.

The Secretary of the Association 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, are requested to bear in mind, that Masborough, on the North Midland Railroad, is the Sheffield station. Among the Hotels recommended for their accommodations, are the Tontine and Commercial, the Angel, and the King's Head.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. P. Cartwright; Dr. Fife; Mr. W. W. Cooper; Mr. Walford; Medico-Chirurgus; Mr. G. H. Marshall.