

justly examined, it will be found a potent means, in conjunction with others, of relieving a vast amount of human suffering that now baffles the skill of the most profound. One well authenticated fact is of more value than a thousand negative inferences. The value of a remedial agent can only be tested by its antagonism to certain morbid actions, whether functional or organic. If it fails in these particulars I conceive it to be worthless; but if, in one single instance, a decided influence has been noticed, be it ever so transient, for the better, we are, by our position as medical men, bound to give such remedial agent a fair and just trial. Such, if I am not much in error, is the case now under consideration. Every means that could be devised had been fully tried and found wanting. Mesmerism was resorted to, with no sanguine expectations; and certainly, if I have not taken leave of my senses, I witnessed that I heretofore believed impossible. The parties were perfect strangers to each other, and the effect increased with each repetition of the process. The patient's description of relief, my own observation, and that of his uncle, combined, would in any court in the empire be received as testimony of a fact. What further demonstration we have a right to expect beyond the evidence of our senses, in matters of fact, I am at a loss to conjecture; if there are others, I would gladly be furnished with them, particularly in this inquiry. I offer no opinion at present upon the *modus operandi* of mesmerism; it would be premature for me to do so, although at a subsequent period I may crave a space in your columns for my feeble reasonings on this subject.

I remain,

Yours much obliged,

GEORGE CHATER.

PROVIDENT AND SELF-SUPPORTING FUND.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL
AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

Will you allow me, through the Journal, to return my thanks to those gentlemen who have done me the honour of writing to me on my proposition for the establishment of an "annuity fund." The letters, however, which I have received, are simple approvals of the measure, accompanied with warm wishes for its success. What I am more anxious to receive are suggestions for rendering the scheme more perfect, and advice respecting its rules and regulations. It is true these things will be after considerations, and depend mainly on the decision of the committee; yet it is well to be furnished with hints, planned calmly in the study, as the hours of a public meeting are very unsuitable for that deliberation which is necessary for such an object. Moreover, some objections might be made, and I should be glad before the meeting to have those objections before me, that I might examine their validity, so as either to admit their force, or be enabled to combat them. Should any such arise in the minds of the members of the Association, I should esteem it a great favour if they would honour me by communicating them.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

EDWARD DANIELL.

Newport Pagnell, Bucks, July 11, 1845.

OVARIOTOMY.

Mr. Southam, of Salford, has recently extirpated another ovarian tumour, which weighed 31 lbs. The patient was proceeding favourably on the 14th day.

Mr. Southam having given notice of his intention to read the particulars of the case at the approaching meeting of the Provincial Association, members will have an opportunity of discussing the merits of the operation.

PAUPER LUNATICS.

It appears from a Parliamentary return that there are chargeable to the parishes comprised in all the unions of England, the population of which amounts to 13,026,664, in the month of August last, 7271 lunatic paupers, of whom 3181 were males, and 4090 females; and 6882 idiots, of whom 3271 were males, and 3611 were females. Thus the grand total of lunatics and pauper idiots amounted to 14,153. Of these unfortunate creatures, 6 were under 5 years of age; 40 under 10; 818 under 20; 2828 under 30; 3117 under 40; 3046 under 50; 2272 under 60; 1430 under 70; and 596 upwards of 70 years of age. 3554 were dangerous to themselves and to others; and 2390 were of filthy habits. The average cost of their maintenance was, in county asylums, 7s. 3½d. a head per week; in licensed houses, 8s. 3½d. per week; and elsewhere, 2s. 7d. per week. In Wales, out of a population of 884,173, there are 379 lunatics, and 820 idiots—making a total of 1199.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Examination of the Views adopted by Liebig on the Nutrition of Plants. By William Seller, M.D., one of the Vice-Presidents of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh. (From the Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal, July, 1845.) Edinburgh, 1845. 8vo., pp. 21.

Fruits and Farinacea the Proper Food of Man; being an attempt to prove from History, Anatomy, Physiology, and Chemistry, that the Original, Natural, and Best Diet of Man is derived from the Vegetable Kingdom. By John Smith. London: Churchill. 1845. post 8vo., pp. 422.

On Cataract: and its Appropriate Treatment by the Operation adapted for each peculiar Case. By Charles Gardiner Guthrie, Assistant Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital. London: Churchill. 1845. 8vo., pp. 128. Col. pl.

The Irish Watering Places, their Climate, Scenery, and Accommodations, &c. By Alexander Knox, M.D., late Physician and Surgeon to the Ballycastle Dispensary, Fever Hospital, and Poor House. Dublin: W. Curry, jun., 1845. Post 8vo., pp. 336.

Remarks on Physicians, Surgeons, Druggists, and Quacks; addressed to Members of Parliament, the Medical Profession, and the People of Great Britain. By Surgeon Snipe. Halifax. 1845. 8vo., pp. 63.

Objections to Animal Magnetism, or Mesmerism, with Remarks on Mr. Spenser Hall's Lectures. By Charles Vines, Surgeon. Reading. 1845. 8vo., pp. 23.

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 Cutlers' 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 Cutlers' 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 Cutlers' 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 Cutlers' 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 Cutlers' 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. Roberts 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. Terry; Mr. Nunneley; Mr. J. K. Parkinson; Mr. W. C. Wilkinson; Mr. Hetling; Dr. Toogood.

M.R.C.S., and L.A.C. We regret to be obliged to decline acceding to the request of our Correspondent, but controversial discussions are seldom profitable, and especially when carried on anonymously.