

treatment sufficiently account for the benefit derived? Have we not all had ample experience of the temporary benefit derived by patients in chronic complaints, from either a "new doctor" or new plan of treatment? and do we not often experience how fallacious are our hopes from this apparent amendment? And to what are we to attribute this effect, but to the soothing and inspiring influence of hope?

It is as fortunate for the cause of mesmerism as it is unfortunate for Mr. Chater, that his phthisical patient did not live a little longer. Had he done so, even his hopeful mind would probably have soon sunk into despondency of relief from mesmeric passes, and from that moment mesmerism would with him have been inert.

In this neighbourhood we have many authentic cases of great benefit derived under the treatment of a homœopathist, who gives to all his patients a minute white tasteless powder, composed chiefly, if not wholly, of sugar of milk. I doubt not that many of these owe their recovery or improvement to the cheerful influence of hope and confidence, others doubtless to the discontinuance of unsuitable treatment. I think the mesmeric cures and amendments are due to similar causes. If the sight of surgical instruments is capable of removing tooth-ache, why should not mesmeric passes produce in the weak-minded, credulous, and nervous, even much more powerful effects. We know the love of the marvellous to be strongly implanted in the human mind; and there are abundant records of the effects of credulity. How far medical men are or may be justified in acting on the mind, through these principles, I leave in abler hands to discuss.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. NESBITT.

Yeovil, August 1, 1845.

## CHARTER OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND  
SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

We beg to forward to you the accompanying resolution, unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Manchester Medical Reform Committee on the 24th instant.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

THOMAS DORRINGTON, }  
ISAAC A. FRANKLIN, } Hon. Secs.

Manchester Medical Library,  
July 28, 1845.

"That this Committee having understood that some alteration in the Charter of the Royal College of Surgeons of England is contemplated, most earnestly entreat Sir James Graham that he will not recommend her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, to grant any Supplemental Charter to the said Royal College of Surgeons of England, until the intended provisions of such Supplemental Charter shall have been published for the information of the Members of the College."

## MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Burdach, of Königsberg; Müller, of Berlin; Professor Liebig, of Giessen; Sir Benjamin Brodie; and Mr. Lawrence, have been elected to fill vacancies among the Foreign Associates of the Académie de Médecine, Paris.

The appointment of surgeon to the Hotel Dieu, Paris, vacant by the death of M. Breschet, and since declined by M. Jobert, de Lamballe, has been accepted by M. H. Boyer.

At the recent election for Councillors of the College of Surgeons, in accordance with the provisions of the new charter, which declares that three Councillors shall be annually appointed, in the room of three who are to retire in rotation, Mr. Thomas, one of the life members, and Mr. Scott, and Mr. Cutler, two of the new members of council elected last year, retired; Messrs. Scott and Cutler were reappointed; and Mr. Charles Aston Key, was elected to the vacancy by a large majority over Mr. Gossett, the unsuccessful candidate.

## ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted members on Monday, July 28th, 1845:—J. Harris; J. Elliott; G. Pratt; S. C. Nelson; G. Turner; E. Jotham; W. Locke; H. Pitt.

Friday, August 1:—E. B. Batten; A. Hoskins; H. E. Nankivell; G. Bullen; R. Hopwood; B. Sykes; J. Whicker; O' C. Darcy; E. Lowdell; W. Docker; J. H. Osborne; J. C. Day.

## SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted licentiates, on Thursday, July 17th:—H. Higginbotham, Stockport; E. D. Rudge, Fakenham.

July 24th:—F. S. Hodges, Sidmouth; J. Ash, Easingwold; E. H. Waddington, Kettlethorpe Hall.

## OBITUARY.

At Dublin, on the 30th July, John Houston, M.D., in the 44th year of his age.

Lately, Mr. J. T. Lamb, of Woolton, near Liverpool, a Member of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association.

## ERRATUM.

In Mr. Nunneley's report of a case of poisoning by prussic acid, p. 465, col. 2, line 19, for 45 grains read 0.45 grains.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. G. Chater; A Surgeon; Sir John Fife; Mr. Collins; Mr. W. Gillard; Mr. Jolley; Mr. W. Allison; Mr. W. Favell; Chirurgus; and Dr. Dudley.

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.