

ASSOCIATION MEDICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY JOHN ROSE CORMACK, M.D.

No. XLI.

LONDON: FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 14, 1853.

NEW SERIES.

COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING CHOLERA AND LETTERS ON THE VACCINATION ACT IN OUR NEXT.

THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THE ASSOCIATION IN OUR NEXT.

COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE EDITOR may be sent to the Editor's residence, Essex House, Putney, London: or to the office of the Journal. Letters requiring immediate attention and revised proofs ought invariably to be sent to Putney.

THE FIRST PHYSIOLOGICAL MEETING IN LONDON.

THE first meeting that has ever taken place in London, for the purpose of debate on physiological subjects, was held on Monday last at the Medical Society. In this meeting was realised the scheme referred to in the Journal for February 18, and July 29; and we feel confident that all those gentlemen who have so long and so earnestly supported the scheme received a rich reward in thus witnessing a consummation of their untiring and not altogether thankful labours.

The report of the meeting will be found at another page. The rooms were well filled; and the discussion that took place was animated and interesting. Mr. LEE's paper could perhaps scarcely be called physiological in the strict sense of the word; it was rather a pathological subject illustrated by physiology; but we agree with Dr. LANKESTER, that physiological research is never so valuable as when it can be made to illustrate pathological questions. The success of John Hunter depended much, as we take it, upon his attempts at realising this position—attempts that gave to his works a practical bearing which none could resist.

Not the least interesting subject of the evening was the announcement by Dr. CRISP of the discovery of valves in the splenic veins of many animals. The preparations which he brought forward to prove the existence of these valves were exceedingly beautiful.

To pass to another matter:—we are desirous of answering once for all several inquiries that have been made to us by letter and word of mouth as to the relationship that exists between these physiological meetings and the Medical Society. The physiological meetings are a part of the Society itself. The Council elect twelve gentlemen, who are called the Physiological Committee. These gentlemen meet monthly, receive papers on physiological subjects, submit them to the necessary criticism, and make arrangements for their being read in public. The physiological meetings take place on the second Monday evenings of every month; the President of the Society presiding as usual. The papers that are read must either be written by a Fellow of the Society, or communicated through one. One paper is called the paper of the evening; but, before it comes on, there is a period given for the hearing of short communications on physiological points; and these brief communications, which often in similar meetings elicit a few minutes

of sharp discussion, are likely to prove highly interesting, and to deserve every possible encouragement.

A word more:—Is it not obvious to every unbiassed person that the Physiological Meeting of Monday evening was just as well conducted, in a scientific sense, as could have been the meeting of any special society? And does not the successful experiment to-day related prove satisfactorily the truth of a statement we have often made, viz., that one active society is competent to conduct, by means of sections, meetings connected with every department of medical science; and that to have several distinct societies where one is sufficient is a proceeding monstrously wasteful of money, and absolutely absurd?

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH.

The Quarterly Meeting of this Branch was held at the York House, Bath, on the evening of September 29th, under the presidency of HENRY CLARK, Esq.

There were present:

Joseph Barratt, Esq. (Bath); J. S. Bartrum, Esq. (Bath); W. H. Brace, Esq. (Bath); — Chapman, Esq. (Devizes); Henry Clark, Esq. (Bristol) President; E. Cockey, Esq. (Frome); John Colthurst, Esq. (Clifton); James Crang, Esq. (Timsbury); W. Davies, M.D. (Bath); C. F. Edwards, Esq. (Bath); Farnham Flower, Esq. (Chilcompton); Gustavus Gidley, M.D. (Bath); James Godfrey, Esq. (Bristol); — Godfrey, Esq. (Bath); F. Hanham, Esq. (Bath); Henry Hensley, Esq. (Bath); W. B. Herapath, M.D. (Bristol); Edw. Hodges, M.D. (Bath); George King, Esq. (Bath); Joseph Lancaster, Esq. (Clifton); Joseph Lawrence, Esq. (Bath); Crosby Leonard, Esq. (Bristol); Frederick Mason, Esq. (Bath); E. S. Mayor, Esq. (Bristol); W. F. Morgan, Esq. (Bristol); George Norman, Esq. (Bath); John Ormond, Esq. (Bath); Joshua Parsons, Esq. (Bockington); G. Skinner, Esq. (Bath); Charles Smerdon, Esq. (Clifton); R. N. Stone, Esq. (Bath); J. G. Swayne, M.D. (Clifton); S. H. Swayne, Esq. (Bristol); John Thurnam, M.D. (Devizes); James Tunstall, M.D. (Bath); Thomas Washbourne, Esq. (Corsham).

DYSTOCIA FROM OSSIFIED FETAL HEAD. BY GEORGE KING, ESQ.

Mr. KING read a paper on the difficulty occasionally met with in labour, from abnormal ossification of the foetal head, and the treatment to be adopted. [This paper will be published in the JOURNAL.]

Dr. SWAYNE agreed with Mr. King upon the necessity of craniotomy in such cases. Abnormal ossification was a cause of protracted labour acknowledged by all practitioners. But he could not coincide with Mr. King's description of the difficulties attendant on the operation. In answer to a question by Dr. Herapath, he stated that, though no opportunity had yet presented itself for trying Dr. Simpson's plan of turning in preference to craniotomy, he quite felt that in many cases the former was the preferable mode. Mr. King had exaggerated the difficulty of perforating the cranium when the feet of the child had been brought down; though of course the difficulty was enhanced. Dr. Swayne exhibited two foetal crania, illustrating the very different sizes and conditions at birth.

Dr. HERAPATH had turned in three cases where otherwise craniotomy would have been requisite. In the first case, the pelvis was deformed; the brim was contracted, and the promontory of the sacrum thrown forward. In the previous labour, craniotomy had been performed. When he saw the woman, the passage through the pelvis had been long delayed; but there was not the difficulty in turning which he had expected. In about half an hour he succeeded in bringing down the feet, but