

### TESTIMONIAL TO A PARISH MEDICAL OFFICER FROM HIS PATIENTS.

At the annual meeting of the members of the Benefit Club of Stoke Saint Gregory, Somerset, a pleasing instance of the gratitude of the poor towards their medical advisers was evinced. It was on the occasion of the resignation of Robert Marchant, Esq., of North Curry, who had held the office of medical superintendent of this and four neighbouring parishes for upwards of thirty years. The testimonial, which was purchased with pence contributed by the poor from their scanty earnings, consisted of a handsome bread platter, bearing, on a silver plate in the centre, this inscription:—"To Robert Marchant, Esq., from the poor of Stoke St. Gregory"; and a bread-knife, the handle carved with wheat-ears. These were presented, in the names of the poor, by the Rev. J. Coleman, curate of the parish. At the same time the following letter, bearing the marks of sixty-eight poor people, most of whom could neither read nor write, was read:

"Stoke Saint Gregory, June 16th, 1857.

"Sir,—We, who have signed our names below, were indeed very sorry to hear that you had relinquished the duties of the medical superintendent of our parish, which you have held for so many years. We have at all times found you most kind and attentive to us in seasons of sickness; and we desire now to express our grateful thanks for the many acts of real kindness which you have shown us. We hope you will accept such a trifling acknowledgment of your past services to us and our families, as our small means have enabled us to procure. We wish you many years of health and happiness, and all the blessings which Almighty God sees fit to send you; and we remain, sir, your grateful and obedient servants, etc., etc., etc."

In reply, Mr. Marchant begged to thank his poorer brethren most sincerely, who had thus shown their appreciation of his endeavours for their benefit. He would at all times feel pleased to be of assistance to them still when they might wish to consult him, and he would gladly help to relieve their distress by any means which were in his power to use.

**TRIAL OF A SURGEON FOR MANSLAUGHTER.**—At the Central Criminal Court, on Wednesday, June 17th, Mr. Moses Morgan, a surgeon, surrendered to take his trial upon the coroner's inquisition for the manslaughter of Mary Bingham. The deceased was about thirty-three years of age, and the wife of an assistant warder in the Milbank Prison. Early on the morning of April 30th, being taken in labour with her seventh child, she sent for a midwife named Fisher, who assisted her in her delivery until nearly twelve o'clock, when the infant appeared to have been partially born. At this time there appeared to be no doubt that the child was dead, and Mrs. Fisher, finding herself incompetent to deal with the case, sent to Mr. Morgan who immediately attended; and it appeared that he expressed an opinion that nothing more could be done, and that nature would complete the operation. Mr. Morgan saw her several times, and appeared to do all that he could for her relief. At a late hour of the night another medical gentleman was called in, who succeeded in removing the infant by the aid of instruments, and it was found that the difficulty of the birth had been occasioned by malformation of the infant. The woman died in three days. On a *post-mortem* examination it was discovered that the womb was in a state of mortification. It was suggested on the part of the prosecution that there had been neglect on the part of the prisoner in not resorting to the use of instruments earlier, and also that he had resorted to improvident violence. Mrs. Fisher, however, stated positively that she saw no violence made use of by Mr. Morgan, and that he acted with great kindness and attention to the deceased. Mr. ROBERT NEGGS, who performed the operation of removing the child, said that the case was a difficult one undoubtedly, owing to the malformation; but he was of opinion that the use of instruments ought to have been resorted to earlier. Mr. Baron CHANNELL did not see how the jury could find a verdict of manslaughter upon this evidence. It was not sufficient to make out that there had been an error of judgment, but there must be evidence of gross negligence and want of skill to justify the jury in returning a verdict of manslaughter against a medical man under such circumstances. The jury returned a verdict of *Not Guilty*.

**THE HUNTERIAN MUSEUM.** The Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, in a report just published, in relation to the Medical Bills now before Parliament, state that the erection of suitable buildings for the reception and display of the collection formed by John Hunter, and the contributions to its preserva-

tion and augmentation, exclusive of parliamentary grants amounting in the aggregate to £42,500, have cost the College a sum not much less than £200,000. This is not to be wondered at, when the cost of single specimens is considered: for instance, for the bones of a *Proteosaurus*, £100 was given; for a single specimen of the *Glyptodon*, £300; and for the collection of the late Sir Astley Cooper, the sum of £1,500. The annual expenditure on this storehouse of anatomical and physiological knowledge, indispensable as it is to the cultivation of medical science, is stated to amount to £5,000 per annum. In addition to these large sums expended on the museum, we learn that the library, which now contains nearly 50,000 volumes on medicine and the collateral sciences, has been collected at an expense of upwards of 25,000.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENTS should always enclose their names to the Editor; not for publication, but in token of good faith. No attention can be paid to communications not thus authenticated.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR MR. J. H. TUCKER. We have much pleasure in announcing the following subscriptions for Mr. J. H. Tucker, whose claims to the sympathy of his brethren we pointed out in the last number of the JOURNAL.

Sir B. C. Brodie, Bart.	.. £5 5 0	Mrs. W. B.	.. £2 0 0
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John Probert, Esq.	.. 2 2 0	Mrs. W. M.	.. 1 1 0

Communications have been received from:—MR. J. D. SWALLOW; MR. KITCHING; MR. W. R. H. BARKER; MR. G. MAY, JUN.; CHIRURGUS (Bristol); M.D.; MR. H. WILKINSON; MR. R. MARCHANT; MR. HUNT; MR. STONE; DR. VERNON; DR. BUCKNILL; MR. H. LANKESTER; MR. NUNN; MR. RICHARD GRIFFIN; DR. P. H. WILLIAMS; MR. C. H. ROPER; MR. JOSEPH WHITE; MR. C. LEONARD; MR. D. KENT JONES; MR. J. R. HUMPHREYS; DR. G. G. ROGERS; MR. CHARLES MURRAY; DR. MARKHAM; DR. J. SLOANE; MR. WILLIAM NEWMAN; MR. H. LANDOR; MR. W. I. COX; MR. I. HARRISON; DR. LAYCOCK.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

[\* An Asterisk is prefixed to the names of Members of the Association.]

1. The Principles of Moral Insanity, familiarly explained in a Lecture. By John Kitching. Reprinted from the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL. York: W. Simpson. London: W. & F. G. Cash. 1857.
2. Introductory Lecture on Climate. By A. W. P. Pinkerton, M.D. Edinburgh: Sutherland & Knox. 1857.
3. Lives of British Physicians. London: William Tegg & Co. 1857.

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