

Proceedings at the Sixteenth Anniversary Meeting of the Hunterian Society, held on the 4th February, 1835 : with the report and list of officers and members.

Contributors

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Royal College of Surgeons of England

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PROCEEDINGS
AT THE
SIXTEENTH
ANNIVERSARY MEETING
OF THE
HUNTERIAN SOCIETY,

HELD
ON THE 4th FEBRUARY, 1835;

WITH
The Report

AND
LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

Society Instituted, February 1819.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY TEAPE AND SON, TOWER-HILL.

—
1835.

PROCEEDINGS
SIXTEENTH
ANNUAL MEETING
HUNTERIAN SOCIETY
OF AMERICA
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SIXTEENTH
ANNIVERSARY MEETING,

FEB. 4, 1835.

B. G. BABINGTON, M. D.

President,

IN THE CHAIR.

THE Secretary having read the Report of the Council, it was

RESOLVED,

1st.—That the Report now read be adopted, and that it be read at the dinner on the 11th inst.

RESOLVED,

2ndly.—That the thanks of this Society are eminently due to Dr. Babington, for the very able manner in which he has fulfilled the duties of President during the past year.

RESOLVED,

3rdly.—That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Vice-Presidents, Dr. Ashwell, Dr. Hodgkin, W. Coulson, Esq., and John Roberts, Esq.; and also to the Treasurer, Dr. Babington.

RESOLVED,

4thly.—That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Council of the past year, for their general services, and also for their provision of commodious rooms for the meetings of the Society.

RESOLVED,

5thly.—That the special thanks of this Society be presented to the Secretaries, William Cooke, Esq., and Ebenezer Smith, Esq., for their general attention to the business of the Society, and for the excellent Report just read.

The balloting Lists were now collected, and the Officers for the ensuing year elected. (*Vide* page 6.)

RESOLVED,

6thly.—That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Chairman.

On Wednesday the 11th, a numerous and highly respectable party of members and friends dined together at the London Tavern. The President, Dr. Babington, in the Chair. The utmost concord prevailed, and great interest was felt in the continued prosperity of the Society.

The following names were handed up for the Stewardship of next year :—

J. ADAMS, Esq.	E. COCK, Esq.
G. ANDERSON, Esq.	B. B. COOPER, Esq. F.R.S.
JAS. BABINGTON, Esq. A.M.	T. B. CURLING, Esq.
RICHARD BRIGHT, M.D.	ALFRED HAMILTON, Esq.
THOMAS BULL, Esq.	J. C. W. LEVER, Esq.
J. M. CAMPLIN, Esq.	EBENEZER SMITH, Esq.

OFFICERS
OF THE
HUNTERIAN SOCIETY,
FOR THE YEAR 1835.

President,

B. G. BABINGTON, M.D. F.R.S.

Vice-Presidents,

S. ASHWELL, M.D.

CHARLES AIKIN, Esq.

WILLIAM COULSON, Esq.

A. GORDON, M.D.

Treasurer,

B. G. BABINGTON, M.D. F.R.S.

FOR THE ORATION OF 1836,

B. B. COOPER, Esq. F.R.S.

Librarian,

T. BULL, Esq.

Secretaries,

WILLIAM COOKE, Esq.

EBENEZER SMITH, Esq.

Council,

MILES BEALE, Esq.

CHARLES LAW, Esq.

T. BEVAN, Esq.

JOHN MILES, Esq.

F. W. BOSSY, Esq.

J. ROBERTS, Esq.

T. W. CHALDECOTT, Esq.

R. ROWLAND, M.D.

E. COCK, Esq.

S. RIX, Esq.

T. HODGKIN, M.D.

R. R. ROBINSON, Esq.

Collector,

Mr. T. WEST, *Tredegar Square, Mile-End.*

MEETINGS

OF THE

HUNTERIAN SOCIETY,

HELD AT

No. 4, BLOMFIELD STREET, FINSBURY.

1835.		OCTOBER .. 7	C
FEBRUARY 18		„ 21	
MARCH .. 4	C	NOVEMBER 4	C
„ 18		„ 18	
APRIL ... 1	C	DECEMBER 2	C
„ 15		„ 16	
„ 29		„ 30	
MAY..... 13	C	1836.	
„ 27		JANUARY. 13	C
JUNE 10	C	„ 27	
„ 24		FEBRUARY 10	Annual Election C
		„ 17	Anniversary Dinner

At the Meetings of the Society, the Chair is taken at
8 o'Clock PRECISELY.

C. Meetings of Council, when the Chair is taken at Half-past
7 o'Clock PRECISELY.

REPORT

PRESENTED BY THE COUNCIL TO THE
SIXTEENTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING
OF THE
HUNTERIAN SOCIETY,

HELD AT

No. 4, Blomfield Street, Feb. 4, 1835.

THE Council regard it as one of the great advantages of an Anniversary Meeting, that it calls upon executives to yield up their trust, and to lay their official conduct before those who appointed them.

They have, therefore, great satisfaction in presenting their Report, not only as it regards income and expenditure, but as to the general bearing of the Society on the objects it was designed to attain. They do not fear the charge of being trite, assured that nothing more is expected of them, than that, whilst they faithfully account for the responsibilities entrusted with them, they do not lose sight of those transactions which appertain to the whole body, and bear on the diffusion of momentous knowledge, and on some of the higher interests of the human family. With respect to the one they will be able to give full and explicit statements, but of the other their report must, of necessity, be desultory. Conciseness, too, requires that it should

be little else than an index to the minutes, or a reviver to the memory. They are aware that read and published papers have their advantages. Other societies have sought these advantages, and have conferred benefit on the profession, and on the community, by their elaborate disquisitions. But it is well known that there is an opulence of interest and utility in the intercourse of men devoted to medical pursuits, and which, apart from the frequent reading and publication of long essays or other papers, yields high recompense. By imparting what information he possesses, a man of science augments and secures it to himself, and not unfrequently discovers that one hour's conversation does more to enlighten his mind, heighten his efficiency, and stimulate his exertions, than days or weeks of insulated study.

The association of medical men for purposes of free discussion has had the sanction of the highest authorities in the profession;—of those who have felt the necessity of maintaining the spirit of observation and research. It has had the sanction of those who have appreciated the importance of concentrating cases, and of submitting them to candid examination, and of bringing opinions under free comparison, that error may be detected, mystery unravelled, and accuracy established.

The successive Reports of this Society have adverted to these advantages, and it is with no small pleasure

that your Council, on this occasion, can bear testimony that the unrestrained association of practitioners, in all branches of medical occupation, for conversation on questions of science, arising out of daily intercourse with the sick and injured, in hospitals, dispensaries, and in private life, continues to be felt, in an increasing degree, from the Society's meetings. Within the past year numerous facts of great interest have been detailed. Many points in therapeutics have received extended investigation, and with respect to some of the potent remedies of recent introduction into practice, the results of observation and experience have been repeatedly communicated. Some obscure and disputed parts of medical science have been brought under notice in the course of discussion; and, if the obscurities have not been removed, it has been found beneficial to bring numerous minds to bear on the difficulties. Besides this, it was felt individually advantageous to know what is ascertained, and what yet remains undetermined. Those who have attended the meetings have often realized the utility of social inquiries in this respect. The correction of error, and the consolidation of truth, have been interwoven with the dissemination of knowledge. The results of researches, bearing on the same point, but conducted by different hands, and under variety of circumstances, have been compared and embodied, and have left a sequence of caution or of confidence in the application of doubtful remedies. The Council, too, have the satisfaction to state, that a somewhat enlarged accession of members within

the year, and good attendance at the meetings of the present session, have given the most unequivocal proof that the Society is proceeding in a career of usefulness. And if no brilliant discoveries or splendid contributions have been made, they regard it as no mean advantage, in a profession beset with difficulties, to accumulate scattered facts, and submit them to analysis. Sterile hypotheses, and fanciful speculations, have been shunned, but there has been no avoidance of sound theories, nor any prohibition of that freedom of discussion which, whilst it recognizes the basis on which medical opinions can only be safely built, points out defects in admitted theories, or suggests some clearer explanation of the phenomena of disease.

In this way, pre-eminently, is acquired a facility of associating facts, some having shades of difference, but essentially the same; and of discriminating those in which, with some analogy, there are essential discrepancies.

It has often been found highly satisfactory, in the perplexities and responsibilities of practice, to take advantage of the law of combination. The principles which actuate the physician have been combined with those which actuate the surgeon, and one department has thrown light upon the other. A doubt not explicable by the mind in which it originated, but apparently augmenting by the train of anxious thought to which it gave occasion, often receives sudden dispersion

on being communicated to another. A mere hint not unfrequently sheds a flood of light, which is like the bursting forth of the sun through a dense cloud. The path which before was intricate and perilous, now lies open to the traveller; surrounding objects have a new aspect; the inward emotions assume a more joyful character, and the intellect is inspired with fresh energy for successful action.

The Council regret that they have not been able to add, in any great degree, to the library. An intimation was given to them, early in the year, that the room the Society had occupied during many years, was about to be appropriated to other purposes. This left them, for several months, in an unsettled state; but having completed the arrangements at the new rooms, they beg to announce that there is now not only shelf-room for the purchases of their successors in office, but also for donations from the members generally, which will be most thankfully accepted.

The following is an epitome of the subjects brought under the Society's consideration:—

I. Affections of the Brain and Nervous System.

Brain, Abscess in;—a case which commenced in ear-disease, and proceeded insidiously till it destroyed life. Such cases spoken of as rendered the more important from being not unfrequent.

Brain;—instance of large deposit of fibrine at the basis of—spreading itself on the nerves and vessels, in which the difficulty of diagnosis was exemplified.

Brain;—instance of scrofulous tumours. The patient was an infant, and upwards of twenty tumours were found, and resembled strumous tubercles of other parts. There was serous effusion into the ventricles. Nevertheless, there was remarkable diminution of symptoms before death.

Brain;—degeneracy of structure—imputed to a blow on the head, received eight months before death, and from which injury the patient apparently recovered. Paralysis ensued, and the disease ended fatally.

Epilepsy;—which also arose from a blow on the head. In another case related, the epilepsy arose from a similar cause, and continued during two years, when on the supervention of diarrhœa the epilepsy ceased.

Pedunculated bony Tumour;—growing from the inner table of the calvarium, and dipping between the convolutions of the left hemisphere. There was sudden death, and a clot of blood was found in each ventricle.

Delirium tremens;—numerous instances were related bearing chiefly on the treatment by opium or

depletion. The preponderating evidence was in favour of opium, and solid opium was preferred to the liquid preparations. In one case 36 grains were taken within 36 hours, in doses of four grains every four hours. In another instance two or three ounces of laudanum, and forty grains of opium within a very short period. A state of coma was induced, and the respirations did not exceed five or six per minute, yet the patient recovered. Circumstances were specified under which the combination of opium with ammonia was highly extolled; less opium appeared requisite to produce a given effect. The advantages of annihilating the imaginary object, and of substituting a real one, as a hat, &c. were attested.

Nervous System;—a paper was read on the distribution and functions of those nerves said by Sir Charles Bell to derive their influence from the tractus respiratorius. The author adverted to the fact that the sympathetic nerve is formed before any other part of the foetal animal, so that at birth the functions of assimilation, circulation, secretion, respiration, and voluntary motion, are under its government. The author endeavoured to shew that the precise central origin given to the respiratory nerves does not exist, but that the peculiar powers of those nerves are derived from their connexion with the sympathetic. An interesting discussion, in which some experiments and

physiological observations were adduced, in corroboration of the author's opinions, ensued on this communication.

II. *Diseases of the Thorax.*

Heart;—instance of hypertrophy of, with ossification of the mitral valves. In this case there was pulpiness of the mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels, and a loaded state of their vessels, which, with some suspicious circumstances preceding death, led to an apprehension of poison. It was shown, however, that such appearances in the alimentary canal are not unfrequently observed after death from disease of the heart.

Heart ruptured;—several instances alluded to, in some of which the patients lived 24 hours. In others death was instantaneous. The rupture most frequently happened in the left ventricle.

Aortic valve;—instance of its rupture in a boy, from his being frightened at the report of a pistol. He instantly felt pain at the region of the heart, soon became dropsical, and died in a year and a half.

Lungs;—a paper was read on the question whether the parenchyma of the lungs, or the lining membrane of the cells is the seat of pneumonia. The author believed that what is called inflammation of the substance of the lungs, or pneumonia, is not

inflammation of the parenchyma, but of the membrane lining the cells. Also that the inflammation is of two kinds, the plastic and non-plastic, with intermediate varieties. In the former, organizable lymph is thrown out; in the latter, there is a grey secretion, which gives the diseased portion the name of grey hepatization, and is much like Castile soap. The products of this inflammation are unorganizable. These two conditions said to differ, *ab initio*, and to require different treatment—the plastic bleeding and mercury, and the non-plastic stimulants.

Larynx and Œsophagus;—ulcerated opening between, to the extent of an inch, in a young woman. There was stricture in the œsophagus, with ulceration to some extent. For several weeks before death it was evident, from the symptoms, that an opening into the larynx had taken place. One of the inferior cornua of the thyroid cartilage was denuded, and one of the recurrent nerves exposed. The female in whom these lesions occurred had been the subject of hysteria, and it was suspected that the sympathetic irritation of the parts in the throat had ended in organic change.

Œsophagus;—instance of a pouch at the lower extremity, occasioned by a stricture near the cardiac orifice, so that the food, after remaining only a short time in the dilated portion, returned.

Dyspnœa and Dysphagia ;—an instance which arose from nervous excitement.

Bronchocele ;—a remarkable instance of, in which iodine appeared to augment the swelling. Carbonate of soda was then given in the dose of a dram, and repeated three times a day. The enlargement decreased. The iodine was again tried with the same effect as before, when the soda was a second time resorted to, and with a similarly good effect. Ultimately, however, the disease was removed by the ioduret of iron.

III. *Diseases of the Abdomen.*

Stomach ;—instance of perforation by ulcer. A young female servant, in previously good health, was attacked with acute burning pain in the epigastrium. The pulse was 100, soft and compressible. She was bled and purged, and died after sixteen hours' illness. There were two round openings, with slightly inflamed edges, near the lesser curvature of the stomach, through which a quantity of food had passed into the peritoneal cavity. The gall-bladder contained calculi.

Stomach ;—perforated by a woman who stabbed herself. The contents of the viscus flowed out of the wound. She fell into a state of collapse, but was sufficiently sensible to be alarmed at her own act.

She endured total abstinence from ingesta for thirty-six hours. She recovered, but ascites followed in four months. This was also removed. It was remarked that wounds of the stomach heal with greater facility than those of the intestines, from the less activity of peristaltic motion.

Stomach;—retention of undigested matter in—as carrots, celery, &c.—instance of their proving fatal.

Intestine ;—case in which the duodenum was perforated by an ulcer. The patient had resided in warm climates, and was attacked two hours after supper with acute pain in the epigastrium, and about the right shoulder. There was scarcely any affection of pulse. The contents of the intestine and stomach had escaped. The differences between rupture and perforation were alluded to. It was stated that in rupture the mucous membrane invariably curls over the rent peritoneum, but in ulceration the lesion of the mucous membrane usually extends beyond that of the serous. Ulceration of the bowels was considered of frequent occurrence in persons who have resided in hot climates. Rest and opium were considered to afford the only chance of closing the opening, whilst the inflammatory stage is to be relieved by venesection.

A few cases of ulceration of the duodenum were mentioned, in which obstinate vomiting had

preceded death. Other instances were related in which the adhesive inflammation had limited the effusion.

Intestinal hæmorrhage;—with immense discharges of muco-purulent matter.—A case was related in which alum injections, and acid astringents by the mouth, had been serviceable.

Hernia;—an anomalous instance of, was related. A man, æt. 67, was seized with vomiting and purging. In his straining efforts protrusion of the bowel took place. He was placed in a warm bath, and the hernia was reduced. The symptoms of strangulation, however, continued, and peritonitis supervened, but he had no pain or tension about the part itself. In the failure of giving relief, a consultation was held as to the propriety of operation, when it was decided that as the hernia was not the primary disorder, and appeared to have been reduced, it was not justifiable. The man died. On examination a small knuckle of intestine was found strangulated in the inner ring, and just within the abdomen a sac containing a larger hernia, also incarcerated, was found. It was thought that the smaller portion had come down after the sac had been retained, and that, had an operation been performed it was not probable that the more internal hernia would have been discovered.

Liver;—a large hydatid cyst of, was exhibited to the Society. The female from whose body it was taken was sixteen years of age. It had been several years in formation, and hæmorrhage from the bowels took place before death. The cyst was attached to the right side of the liver. Its outer covering was formed of the peritoneal coat of the liver, and within this was a second cyst which contained three hydatids.

In another case a young woman had enlargement of the right side. At length she began to expectorate small hydatids, tinged with bile. This expectoration continued for three months, and then she recovered.

In another instance small nodules were felt over the hepatic region. They disappeared by purging. It was supposed that they were hydatids, and had passed by the biliary ducts.

The question of treatment involved considerations as to the safety of tapping, or of opening the cysts more freely. By some it was thought tapping would hazard great constitutional irritation, and, perhaps, suppuration and sloughing of the sac. When these cysts are near serous cavities, it was considered as, usually, better to let them alone, unless a free exit can be given to them. A case, however, was related of the successful removal of three quarts of colourless fluid from an hydatid cyst by trocar. The patient was greatly relieved for a year and half. Then came on cough and

expectoration, and he died. The liver was changed into irregular clumsy masses, so that with its greatly thickened peritoneum, its natural character could not be discovered. It was converted into two thick cysts, containing very numerous large and small hydatids, the lower cyst was firmly contracted on several dead hydatids, and in the upper cyst there were numerous living hydatids. This upper cyst communicated, by an aperture through the diaphragm, with the right lung, where there was a large abscess containing shrivelled hydatids.

It was mentioned that spontaneous cure sometimes occurs. The hydatids shrivel up, the cyst contracts, and remains dormant unless inflammation be excited, when the whole cyst may slough. Two fatal instances of this nature were adverted to.

Could it be ascertained that adhesion had taken place, it was thought it would be safe to open with a scalpel.

The importance of correct diagnosis was pointed out, and in aid of this it was mentioned that the specific gravity of the fluid of ascites is to that of hydatids as 1014 to 1001, and that the fluid of hydatids contains no albumen.

Encysted Dropsy;—the patient, in this case, was tapped, and only a few ounces of fluid drawn off. Some hours afterwards another cyst burst, and seven or eight pints escaped. Four days afterwards symptoms of collapse came on, and the

woman died. There were many cysts arising from the peritoneum. The intestines were agglutinated, and the ovaries greatly diseased. The cysts were ascribed to peritonitis.

Ascites, with utero-gestation;—the female was in the eighth month, and with her eighth child. Fever and delirium came on, and a question arose, in consultation, as to the propriety of tapping, or of exciting premature labour. The distressing symptoms had subsided, so that neither had been decided on. It was suggested that tapping was less dangerous before delivery than soon after, and a case of recovery from paracentesis, under such circumstances, was referred to. Cases of dropsy disappearing after parturition, were reported.

IV. *Diseases of the Urinary and Genital Organs.*

Kidney;—an instance of a cyst containing five or six quarts of purulent matter, and connected with the left kidney. The structure of the kidney was absorbed, and the ureter was rendered impervious by lymph at its renal extremity. The patient had been tapped under an idea of ascites.

An instance of strumous ulceration of the right kidney was related; and another in which a quantity of caseous matter was deposited in both kidneys, in connexion with ulceration of the bladder.

Diabetes;—an instance in which the serum of

blood drawn from the arm was like fresh milk, containing not only albumen but saccharine matter—showing the constitutional nature of the disease, and its dependance on deteriorated blood. A cataract had formed in both eyes, from deposition of albumen, within the last eight months. A question arose as to the cataracts, whether they were coincident, or dependent on the morbid state of the constitution. The latter opinion preponderated.

Bladder;—retention of urine, an instance of, in a case of concealed pregnancy. The male catheter did not reach the urine. The child's head was ultimately perforated, but the woman died of sloughing of the vagina.

A case of ulceration of the bladder in a female, æt. 26. The left kidney had become almost absorbed. The urine had been acid and bloody; there had been pain in the loins, and frequent desire of micturition. She died ten days after parturition. It was considered remarkable that, in almost the whole of a considerable number of cases of ulceration of bladder, the left kidney was the one affected.

Calculus of the bladder; an instance of removal by dilating, with rectum bougies, the urethra of a girl, æt. 18. Three weeks' dilatation succeeded though with much pain. The urine could be retained afterwards. She died eighteen months

after of disease of the kidney. Cases were alluded to in which the urethra had been dilated by mistake, supposing it to be the vagina.

Uterus;—fungus mass at the mouth of. The uterus had become impregnated, and discharges of blood and offensive matter took place. The woman had passed the term of utero-gestation, with entirely broken down powers. Ultimately the membranes were ruptured, and an attempt was made to deliver, but the woman died immediately afterwards. It was urged that premature labour should be induced in such cases, as uterine tumours grow rapidly in the latter months.

Some cases were mentioned in which tumours of the uterus had become absorbed after delivery; and a question arose as to the process of removal, whether by absorption alone, or by previous softening, as in pulmonary tubercles.

Case reported in which there had been distressing pressure on the rectum and bladder, yet this distress was removed, and the uterus restored to almost its natural size, by quiescence and the recumbent posture, persevered in during eight months.

Abortion, and death of fœtus in utero;—an instance was related in which deaths of the fœtus took place repeatedly in the same female—a lady of spare habit—and was imputed to uterine congestion.

On one occasion, and near the completion of the term, the child died, and it, as well as the placenta, was submitted to careful examination. No cause of death could be discovered except the loaded state of vessels.

A case was mentioned in which the uterine hyperæmia appeared attributable to the lady's anxiety to have a child, and occasioned her repeatedly having still-born children. Tonics till the period of quickening, then venesection and mild mercurials enabled her to give birth to a living child.

In another instance, from the immense quantity (between two and three gallons) of liquor amnii, and the shortness of the chord, the child hung in utero, causing great distress to the mother from the sense of dragging. The child died between the eighth and ninth months. There was considerable ecchymosis at the entrance of the funis into the abdomen.

Vagina ;—instance of contraction ; in which conception occurred, and a crucial incision was required in parturition.

Puerperal fever ;—circumstances were mentioned as indicating the erratic nature of the inflammation, and as giving an erysipeletous character to the disease. No adhesive matter was formed. It was thought to commence in some local injury, and

then to spread itself to other organs, sometimes leaving that in which it originated free from disease.

Perineum;—several instances of injury and operation related. It appeared that they had generally done well, but some cases were reported in which severe effects arose, and proved the necessity for caution even in simple operations.

V. *Diseases of Blood-vessels.*

Aneurism of the Aorta;—which burst into the right auricle of the heart. Here there had been anasarca, dyspnœa, a livid countenance, and bellows-sound pulsation on the right side of the sternum. Twenty-four hours before death, dyspnœa and other symptoms became exceedingly distressing. There was hypertrophy of the heart with dilatation of the left ventricle, and the ossific deposit on the aorta and its valves. The right auricle adhered to the aorta, and communicated with it by a ruptured opening.

Aneurism of the Abdominal Aorta;—communicating with the vena cava by two openings, having rounded and smooth edges. The man had become anasarous, and died suddenly. The lungs were diseased, and there was effusion into both thoracic cavities. Questions arose as to the state of circulation, it

being supposed that if much arterial blood passed into the lungs, it would occasion extreme distress of the respiratory function. It did not, however, appear that there had been great distress; and it was suggested that the two columns might balance each other. Had the openings been congenital, it was thought nature would employ all her resources in meeting the exigency. It was remarked, in the discussion of this interesting case, that sudden death often occurs when aneurisms exist even when no change in them has apparently taken place.

Hæmorrhage from mucous tissues under severe accidents;
 —on this was founded the inquiry whether it may be attributed merely to the concussion. Some seamen were in a boat, within two yards of a cannon unexpectedly by them discharged for signal. One of the boat's crew was cast into the water to a distance of ten yards. He was taken out insensible. There was no broken bone, but the head was much swollen, and there was hæmorrhage from the eyes, nose, and ears. Against the opinion of their being the effects of concussion, it was related that an officer had a twenty-four-pound shot pass between his thighs, and tore off part of the coat without his being aware of the occurrence. It also was considered to disprove the assertion that the wind of a cannon ball is destructive.

VI. *Diseases and Injuries of Bones.*

Fracture of the pelvis and thigh, arm and jaw;—in a boy, æt. 17, who fell from a height. He was found in a state of collapse, and discharged urine involuntarily. He quite recovered.

The importance of passing a catheter, in all cases of fractured pelvis, to prevent extravasation of urine, was urged. A question arose as to the state of the brain in injuries producing concussion of the brain and collapse.

Another case was mentioned. The injury was occasioned by a heavy waggon's passing across the pelvis, chest, and right shoulder. The woman was collapsed and emphysematous. The clavicle, ribs, and ilium, were fractured. Ten weeks afterwards sloughing occurred, and destroyed life. The fractured clavicle and four ribs were found ununited.

Other cases of fracture of the ilium were mentioned, and it was reported that these injuries usually do well.

Fracture of the femur;—an instance in a person 108 years of age. The bone united, but then the repairing powers failed, and the patient died.

Knee joint;—cases of extensive injury were mentioned, as shewing how much lesion can be sustained if the skin remain entire. The joints were torn open,

except the skin and integuments, and the leg bent on the trochanter—the ligaments, of course, being lacerated : and yet the patients have done well.

Sternum ;—fungoid disease of—the sequel of a case related last year. Not only had part of the bone perished, but there were fungous developments at the ends of the cartilages of the ribs, abscess in the lung, adhesion of the pericardium to the heart, ulcer in the bronchia and hydrothorax.

Some cases of dislocation of the hip, and some of removal of substances of the knee joint, also occupied the attention of the Society, and brought before it the practice of different public institutions, as well as of private individuals.

VII. *Materia Medica.*

Veratria ;—some cases in which it failed to give relief, others which it had aggravated, and some in which it had proved beneficial ; but the concurrence of testimony was, that its powers had of late been unduly extolled.

Colchicum ;—an extract of the acetate was mentioned as deserving of high commendation ; and the powder of the root, in doses of five grains, was reported as an efficient form of the remedy. The addition of quinine had been found available, when either apart had not succeeded.

Iodine was brought under observation as a valuable remedy in secondary syphilis, and in affections of the skin and throat where mercury cannot be used. In one case of two years' standing, the utmost advantage had resulted from one grain of iodine and ten of hydriodate of potash, with sarsa, twice a day, for a month.

VIII. *Miscellaneous Subjects.*

In a discussion on secondary syphilis, the importance of appreciating the effects of mercury, as a producing cause, were stated. It was remarked that the tissues which are diseased under these circumstances, may also be affected by mercury under other circumstances, as after cholera when eczema has appeared.

An important discussion arose on the constitutional treatment proper in preparation of patients for operation, as whether it should be lowering, or such as to place the powers of constitution in most firm bearing towards each other.

It was also a subject of consideration, whether the remote effects of treatment are duly estimated in practice. A lady was bled ninety-three times in three years. At one time, every week, to ten or twelve ounces. She became anasarcaous and died. An instance of the endurance of copious

losses of blood was, however, mentioned. A medical gentleman, in six weeks, lost 300 oz., and attributed his life to these depletions.

Hydrotic fever;—as brought under the notice of the profession by Dr. Blundell, was a topic of discussion and inquiry. Some cases were related, but doubts were expressed whether it was other than an intermittent form of puerperal fever; and the varieties were thought to resemble the differences observable in the fevers of the puerperal state. Cases of hydrosis, not puerperal, were mentioned. In a man, who had undergone operation, the perspiration had been of the most profuse kind. The state of circulation had been such as usually precedes serous effusion somewhere.

Other subjects branched out of these, and some not unimportant might have been added to this report, had not a regard to brevity forbidden.

*The following Additions have been made to the Library
by Donation.*

Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, vol. 12,
and Proceedings of that Society for 1833 and 1834,
from the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Die Tanzwurth eine Vochskrankheit in Mittelalter.
The Dancing Madness. Der Englisch Schweiss.
The Sweating Sickness. By Dr. Hecker. *Presented
by the Author.*

Descriptive and Illustrative Catalogue of the Physiolo-
gical Series of Comparative Anatomy, including the
Absorbent, Circulating, Respiratory, and Urinary
Systems, vol. 2. *Presented by the Royal College of
Surgeons.*

The London Medical and Surgical Journal. *By Mr.
Renshaw.*

Ryan's London Medical and Surgical Journal. *By
Dr. Ryan.*

Additions to the Library by Purchase.

Parkinson's Hunterian Reminiscences.

Reports of the British Association.

Delabeche's Geology.

Dr. D. Davis's Midwifery.

Armstrong's Lectures.

Home's Comparative Anatomy, 6 vols. 4to. large paper.

Blandin Anat. 8vo. with Atlas.

Andral's Clinique, vol. 5.

The following in continuation.

Griffiths' Cuvier.

Cruveilhier's Anatomie Pathologique.

Swan on the Nerves.

Carswell's Plates.

Cyclopædia of Medicine.

Hope's Illustration of Morbid Anatomy.

Johnson's Journal.

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Sowerby's Botany.

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