

The first report of the Society for the Treatment and Attendance of Poor Persons Afflicted with Diseases and Distortions of the Spine, Chest, Hips, &c.;

Contributors

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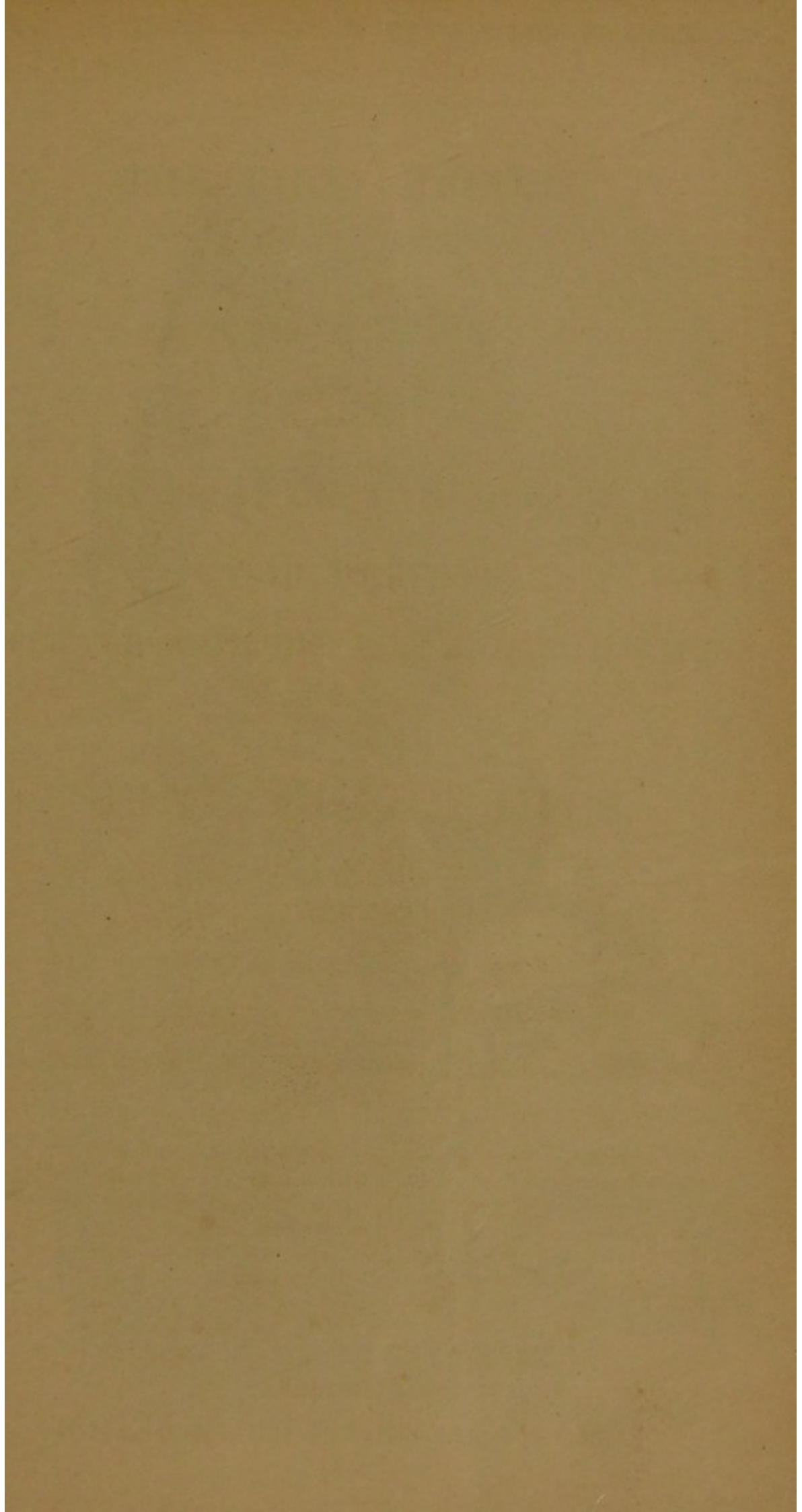
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UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ADELAIDE,
AND HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT.

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THE FIRST REPORT

OF THE

SOCIETY

FOR THE

TREATMENT AND ATTENDANCE OF

POOR PERSONS

AFFLICTED WITH DISEASES AND DISTORTIONS

OF THE

SPINE, CHEST, HIPS,

&c.

ESTABLISHED JULY 1, 1836.

The Profits derived from the Sale of this Pamphlet will be devoted to the
Benefit of the Society.

*Mr. Verral, the Medical Officer of the Society, may be consulted, by Poor Persons
gratuitously, at No. 10, Lowther Arcade, Strand, on Tuesdays and Saturdays,
between the hours of Ten and Twelve.*

LONDON :

HOULSTON AND HUGHES, 154, STRAND.

1838.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HER MAJESTY, QUEEN VICTORIA,
AND HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT.

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THE FIRST REPORT

SOCIETY

TREATMENT AND ATTENDANCE OF

POOR PERSONS

AFFLICTED WITH DISEASES AND DISTORTIONS

LONDON:
STEWART AND MURRAY,
OLD BAILEY.

SPINE, CHEST, THIPS,

REGISTERED BY THE

The First Report of the Society for the Treatment and Attendance of Poor Persons Afflicted with Diseases and Distortions, in the year 1837, is now published. It contains a full and complete account of the Society, its objects, and the manner in which it has been conducted during the year. It also contains a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted into the Society, and of the names of the persons who have been discharged. It is a valuable work, and one which should be in the hands of every person who is interested in the welfare of the poor.

LONDON:
HOLLISTON AND HUGHES, 34, STRAND.

1838.

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R E P O R T .

THE Society for the treatment and attendance at their own homes, of poor persons afflicted with disease or distortion of the SPINE, CHEST, HIPS, &c., emerging suddenly from the privacy of its origin, has risen in a short time to a degree of importance that could scarcely have been calculated upon by its first projectors. It has not yet terminated the second year of its existence, and yet it has already obtained the honour of ranking amongst its patrons many of the highest and most illustrious personages in the realm; while it has entered on its books the names of one hundred and twenty-five Patients, and has been fortunate enough to obtain Donations and Subscriptions, that have enabled it to spread its benefits to a very wide extent. Of these Patients, a great number have been found amongst the most diseased, the most helpless, and the most destitute of human beings. It has been the lot of the Surgeon in the performance of his duty, to plunge into the most squalid habitations of misery and want; and it has been his good fortune not unfrequently, in spite of such opposing forces, to have relieved the sufferings, improved the shape, and renovated the health of his patients.

This Society was called into existence in the summer of 1836, by the active exertions of Mrs. HENRY OGLE, assisted by other ladies, many of them connected with the County of Sussex, who had witnessed the ease, advantage, and extensive applicability of a mode of treatment for many years successfully practised in a part of that County, and recently introduced in London to the knowledge of the profession and the public. The utility, as well as the novelty of this plan, depends in a great degree upon the employment of the PRONE as opposed to the SUPINE POSITION, the former possessing over the latter the following important advantages. The PRONE POSITION, more than any other, facilitates the restoration of the distorted parts to their natural and healthful forms, while it affords to the parts diseased the most perfect and undisturbed repose. It offers to the Surgeon the readiest means of applying his various local remedies; it gives to the sick and suffering patients, especially to those who are wearied, and perhaps wrung and excoriated, by long confinement to their beds, the greatest possible degree of ease, and even of comfort; it allows them to employ themselves in sewing, knitting, reading, writing, drawing, and many other profitable or agreeable occupations; it greatly contributes to the restoration of health, most particularly by facilitating, as it does, the important processes of digestion; and the simplicity and unexpensiveness of the curative treatment, of which it forms an essential part, will allow a considerable number of patients to be attended at a comparatively small expence. This latter circumstance has already enabled the Society, and will, if liberally supported, still farther enable it, to confer the most extensive benefits; benefits extending far beyond the limits of London and Westminster, to which places its views and advantages are by no means exclusively confined.

To give a detailed account of every case that has been treated under the auspices of this Society, would swell this Report to an expensive and inconvenient length; and when it is considered of how lengthened a duration the diseases are of which the Society professes to take charge,—how very slow is their progress under any mode of management, either to a favourable or a fatal termination,—and also that

the greater number of the cases have been under treatment but a few months, and many not even so long, it will be evident that such a statement would generally be premature and unsatisfactory. There are, however, some cases, in their results so peculiarly favourable, or in their failure so instructive, that they must not be allowed to pass by unnoticed. Of the latter description are the cases of *Henry Moore* and *Thomas Davies*. The former, who, when first seen by Mr. VERRAL, was a patient in the Westminster Hospital, had abscesses discharging from several openings, and connected with disease of the dorsal vertebræ, which were in a frightfully distorted state. He was placed on the Prone Couch, but was soon after dismissed from the Hospital as incurable. He then became a patient of the Society. The case, however, was one which afforded no chance of cure, but he lingered on for many weeks, finding some comfort in the Couch, on which he lay with little pain, and died without excoriation, although most dreadfully emaciated. For some time before his death he expectorated, when coughing, portions of the diseased bones of the Spine. An examination after death, showed that all the dorsal vertebræ were carious, and the bodies of the greater part of them completely destroyed. As the cause of this disease was an accident, by which it is probable that only one or two of the bones were injured, (if indeed the bones were really the originally injured parts,) a different result might have been expected, if he had been at an earlier period placed in a proper position; but being permitted to sit and to move about, with the weight of the head and shoulders pressing upon the bending spine, bone after bone was successively brought into contact with the diseased mass, until the whole of them were involved in the same irremediable destruction. But if, in this case, the complaint was that the prone position was not resorted to early enough, in that of *Thomas Davies* it was that it was laid aside too soon. In a state of extreme emaciation and exhaustion, when he seemed to be sinking under the most profuse discharge, and with a dreadful curvature of the spine, which was evidently increasing from week to week, he was placed on the Couch in February, 1838, and a tonic plan of treatment was adopted for him. A sudden and surprising change took place. A few months found him renovated in health and strength, with the spinal curvature diminished, and the abscesses entirely healed. At Michaelmas, contrary to the urgent advice of the Society's medical attendant, his father-in-law got him admitted into a National School, where he was obliged to stand at his lessons for some hours in every day. It was more than he could bear. Again he became weak and ill, and a general dropsy coming on, his existence was speedily terminated. How differently might his case have ended, had the treatment which had done so much for him been pursued for a few more months!

The cases of *Mary Ann Simms* and *Sarah Welford* are also worth recording. They had both disease of the Hip joint, accompanied by extensive excoriations; in the latter, owing to pressure while constantly lying in one position; but in the former, extending far beyond the parts so pressed upon, and arising evidently from constitutional derangement. They had both been long under medical care, and in all respects, but one, had probably been treated with propriety. The most important question, however,—POSITION,—had been overlooked; and the BEST POSITION was of course unknown to the surgeons who attended them. The consequence was, that the legs were frightfully and permanently contracted. Those of *Sarah Welford* especially, were so drawn and doubled up, and the knees pressed so firmly against the chest, that it was found impossible to move them; and although, in both cases, repeated trials were made, the hope of ever getting them on the Couch in any way that could be beneficial, was at length given up in despair. If the Society has, in these instances, failed to effect the good at which it aims, it has to rejoice in having prevented similar results in several cases that have been more timely placed under its charge. It is, however, to be regretted, that DISEASES OF THE HIPS are rarely brought under the cognizance of the Society, until they have proceeded so far as to produce dislocation, and consequently a permanent shortening or lengthening of the limb. With this drawback, the cases of *Sophia Dighton* and *William Brazier* may be confidently referred to, as proofs of the advantages derivable from the use of the PRONE POSITION, while that of *Julia Smith* is one which has still more completely advanced towards a cure. *Brazier's* case is worthy of particular mention; it will serve, in a great measure, as a description of all the rest: and if it end as it promises to do, it will show, most triumphantly, how much

good may be effected, and what dreadful evils prevented, by a proper attention to position. This boy, aged eight years, was received as a patient in December, 1837. He had been for two years suffering from disease of the Hip, and for one year had had abscesses, which discharged very profusely. He had been long unable to move from his bed, where he had lain until he was greatly excoriated, and where he suffered constant and apparently excruciating pain, both in the back, which was much twisted, and in the affected limb. The leg was contracted and crossed over the other, and any attempt to separate them, or to straighten the limb, occasioned the greatest torture. He was excessively emaciated, and seemed to be rapidly sinking beneath his sufferings, and the excessive discharge. There was much difficulty, at first, in placing him on the Couch; but that being got over, a great improvement speedily began to take place. He is now in improved health; perfectly free from pain; and although the discharge is not yet much diminished, the excoriations have long been healed; *the spine is become perfectly straight; the limb completely extended, and the legs uncrossed.* The same good effects are likely to result from the treatment in the case of *Mary Ann Bradly*, whose state, six weeks ago, was nearly similar to the above. A termination even more favourable might have been expected in the case of *Eliza Wright*, but for the culpable inattention of her mother, who, in spite of every remonstrance, permitted her continually to leave the Couch, and to sit or stand about for many hours in the day, by which means inflammatory action was kept up, and a partial dislocation at length took place; the consequence of which will be a permanent shortening of the limb.

Of INJURIES OF THE SPINE there are two successful cases to record. That of *Downing*, of Enys, has been mentioned before, and may be referred to in Mr. VERRAL'S paper "On the Advantage and Applicability of the Prone Position." *John Tarbox*, aged forty, had a fall from a ladder, about the end of the year 1836, by which a fracture and dislocation took place between two of the dorsal vertebræ. The consequence was, immediate paralysis of the lower half of the body. He was taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, from whence he was discharged as convalescent, at the end of three months. From the time of his discharge, however, the progress of amendment ceased. When received as a patient, in July 1837, he was bent half double, was obliged to support himself upon two sticks, and even then walked with much difficulty. The spine, at the injured part, formed a considerable angle; and there was there a large puffy tumour, within which a loose portion of bone was distinctly felt. He was placed in the Prone Position; the natural curves of the spine were carefully preserved, and a firm pressure was made on the affected part. In a few weeks a very evident improvement took place, and he is now well; *the spine straight; the puffy tumour gone; the loose bone united; and he is able to support himself perfectly erect.* But for the existence of the Society this man, a husband, and the father of a large family, would most probably have remained a cripple for life. The case of *Henry Braham*, also, should be mentioned here. He had fallen from a tree and injured the spine, for which he was taken to an hospital, and treated accordingly. But he had also dislocated the left hip, which appears not to have been discovered; and he lay on that hip, suffering great pain, for more than four months. The parts had been wrung by pressure, and at length began to slough extensively, and he was removed from the hospital that he might try a change of air. When taken as a Society patient, in August 1836, he was fearfully distorted. The thigh and knee seemed immoveably fixed in the position in which he had lain, and the whole limb was twisted outwards. The spine also was curved, and the body bent forwards and sideways, in the most extraordinary manner. In walking, he supported himself by resting the right hand against the right knee, while the toe of the opposite foot just touched the ground. In this position, the right hip was raised at least three inches higher than the other. He lay, at first, most awkwardly and with difficulty on the Couch, and many contrivances were necessary to bring him into any thing like a proper position. He was also a most intractable patient; but, in spite of all this, he became in two months greatly improved; could walk nearly erect, and so extend the left thigh and knee, that he could set the foot pretty completely flat on the ground. At this time he was lost sight of, the family having moved off privately in the night, taking with them amongst their other packages, the couch and mattresses belonging to the Society.

On many sufferers from POSTERIOR CURVATURE of the SPINE the Society has

been the means of conferring the most important benefits. The case of *Jane Gregory*, of Roehampton, was one of enormous posterior curvature of the dorsal vertebræ. Three of the bones, especially, were projected outwards in the most extraordinary manner, and from thence the spine suddenly proceeded forwards, in a straight and but slightly sloping line, to the base of the skull. The attempt to lie supine had formerly excoriated the points of these bones, and even now they were covered with corns, produced by the pressure and friction of her clothes. So completely was she thrown off her balance by this state of deformity, that she could not carry any thing of weight, without being in danger of falling forward on her face. In front there was no distortion and contraction of the chest, as there usually is in such cases; on the contrary, the sternum or breast-bone was, as it were, pushed down in a straight line, until it reached almost to the pubis, or shape-bone. In consequence of this, the whole of the abdomen was concealed, as it were, behind it, and three or four of the ribs on each side were hid beneath the projecting haunch bones. She was thin, pale, and, at ten years of age, had the countenance of an old woman. In this case the distortion had existed for several years, and as ankylosis, or bony union, had taken place between the bodies of some of the vertebræ, there was no possibility of effecting a perfect cure; but many of the bones, which during the existence of disease and debility had become involved in the curvature, were not ankylosed, and it was deemed not impossible to restore these bones to a more erect position. The event has justified the attempt. She is able to stand and walk upright. Seen in front there is no appearance of deformity; and even behind, though a considerable curvature, or angle, still remains, it is so thrown in when standing, that it is but little visible. She still, however, expects some further improvement from a continuance of the plan of treatment, of which she is not yet weary; and the cheerfulness and youthfulness of her countenance, and the bloom of health which now glows upon her cheek, are additional proofs of the advantage she has already derived from the use of the prone position.

The cases of *Jane Gregory*, of Dogmersfield; of *Charles Courtoy*, and of *Stephen Boughton*, of Hastings, are similar in their nature, and in their results to the above. That of the latter is worthy of some especial notice. From a thin, puny lad, with his body bowed forward, obliged to support himself by two sticks, or by resting his hands upon his knees, he is now, *after only nine months of treatment*, and at seventeen years of age, *become a tall, upright, stout and powerful man*. The amendment has been well deserved. The strictest attention has been paid, both by his parents and himself, to the rules that have been laid down for him. He has lain night and day upon his Couch, and has employed himself in making children's boats, mouse-traps, &c., the sale of which has partly contributed to his support. *Henry Rowlandson's*, also, is a somewhat similar case, but with some points of difference. He had had a considerable curvature of the vertebræ of the loins, which had been treated without any advantage, until he was placed under the care of a gentleman whose treatment is known to be frequently successful. For fourteen months he lay flat on his back, a very firm pressure being applied to the protruded spine. At first the curvature yielded considerably, but during the last six months no improvement appeared to take place, and his declining health at that time, induced him to seek a different method of treatment. He was placed in the Prone Position, on the 25th of February, 1837. He was at that time emaciated, pale, and feeble; his legs utterly powerless, and his arms nearly so: he complained of loss of appetite, headache, and most distressing vertigo. His back presented a singular appearance: excepting where the tumour still protruded, it was as smooth, flat and stiff, as a planed board, and it was long before the natural curves could be again restored to it. The curvature was still large, and there was a considerable turn of the spine towards the right side. On the tumour, and on the sacrum, there were extensive excoriations, which occasioned him great suffering. For the first two or three days the new position produced some tenderness about the chest, and for one night he was moved from the couch to sleep; but returning to it on the following day, he never left it again for a single moment, until he was taken off and placed on his crutches, on the 6th of March, 1838. Thus, this lad, who lay for fourteen months in the SUPINE, and more than twelve in the PRONE position, has had the fairest opportunity of comparing them, and he most earnestly proclaims the superior *advantages and comfort* of the latter. In that position he soon recovered his health,

his strength, and his appetite, and ceased to complain of headache and vertigo. *He is now perfectly erect*, the curvature is reduced to a small protrusion, formed by two or three anchylosed bones, but which is not visible when he is dressed, and the turn towards the right side has entirely disappeared.

Of PARALYSIS, partial or complete, of the lower extremities, connected with disease and distortion of the spine, there are several cases to record. *George Smallman*, aged three years, had a considerable rounded, but not angular, protrusion of the dorsal vertebræ, and the lower limbs were completely paralyzed. The bones had not yet come into contact, and, consequently, anchylosis could not have taken place. A few months of confinement to the prone couch, accompanied by some pressure, friction, &c., has completely removed both the curvature and the paralysis. *John Tarrant's* is a similar case, and promises the same favourable result, although it has not so rapidly advanced towards a cure, in consequence chiefly of the general ill health of the patient. In several cases the paralysis has been completely cured, although the curvatures are not altogether removed. *Sarah Ann Mills*, *Robert Toll*, *Alfred Lipscombe*, and *Maria Blegborough*, are instances of this. The cure of the latter, however, is as nearly as possible complete. At the age of eleven she was received as a patient on the 6th of February, 1837, on the nomination of Miss Curle of Ranelagh Place, Pimlico, to whose honour it may be said, that, not satisfied with subscribing on her account to the funds of the society, she took her from the poor and desolate home of her mother and received her into her own House, that she might be the better nursed and fed, and the treatment be more perseveringly attended to. So favoured, the child most rapidly improved in health and strength, and from a poor, emaciated, feeble object, bent almost double, and incapable of walking without support, she is now a plump, strong, healthy girl, capable of great exertion, walking perfectly upright, and the spine straight, excepting a slight protrusion of two of the vertebræ of the loins, which are evidently anchylosed. *Rachel Chandler's* was a case of paralysis, accompanied by a slight rounded curvature of the dorsal vertebræ. At the age of two years and a half she was utterly incapable of using her legs. She was deriving some benefit from the kind attentions of Dr. Smith, of Reading, who recommended a trial of the PRONE POSITION. In a few weeks she was enabled to walk with a little support, and she has now thrown away the couch; walking about firmly without assistance, and with the spine perfectly straight. The case of *Alfred Lipscombe* was somewhat similar, but his spine was much more curved, and showed, by a slight angle in the middle of the back, that two of the bones had most probably united. This little boy, who has been a most cheerful and tractable patient, has had hooping cough since he has been lying on his couch, and went through the disease remarkably well. His mother states that, *during the fits of coughing, the position appeared to be a great comfort to him*, and was a great relief to herself, as he suffered less from the paroxysms and required less assistance than her other children. It will be well here to remark, that in several other cases in which there has been hooping cough, the same observations have been made in favour of the position: and when it is considered how frequently distortion of the spine is caused or has been aggravated by that disease, it adds greatly to the credit of the present method of treatment.

Of DISEASE AND DISTORTION of the SPINE, with ABSCESS, the cases are very numerous. They are, of course, amongst the most formidable and the least capable of cure. The treatment, nevertheless, has often been eminently successful. The progress of distortion, and with it the extension of disease which had previously been proceeding with rapidity, has usually been arrested at once, and the existing deformity has been in most instances diminished, although no considerable stretching of the parts has been allowed, lest it should prevent anchylosis, which is considered to be the only means of cure in a carious state of the bones. *The more perfect rest afforded by the prone position*, its sudden arrestation of the progress of the local disease, together with the improvement of health which almost invariably accompanies its use, have generally contributed to the diminution of the discharge, and often to the perfect healing of the abscess. In the case of *Thomas Davies*, whose unfortunate termination has already been recorded, that most favourable event had taken place. It has taken place also in *Elizabeth Bainbridge*, in *Adelaide White*, in *Richard Bowen*, and nearly so in *Alexander Lundie*. In these cases a perfect

restoration of the form cannot, of course, be expected, but it has been found that, without interfering with the progress of union which is so necessary for the cure of the diseased bones, the modified and cautious employment of the prone position has most essentially contributed to its improvement. Of this, or rather of all these benefits, *Richard Bowen* affords a remarkable instance. From a fine young man, living as footman in a noble family, he was reduced to a wretched state of deformity and feebleness by psoas abscess, connected with caries of some of the spinal bones. He had been the inmate of Hospitals; he had been for two summers a patient of the Margate Sea-bathing Infirmary, but from year to year the disease proceeded, until it almost bowed him down to the earth. Blisters, issues, &c., had been uselessly, perhaps injuriously, applied. Nothing appeared to do him good, until about a twelvemonth ago, a favourable change took place in his general health. He was then congratulated by an eminent surgeon, who had sometimes kindly seen and prescribed for him, upon the prospect there was of his being speedily cured. But what would have been the cure? When, in September last, he became a patient of the Society, the abscess was still discharging, and there was considerable pain and tenderness about the diseased bones. But the most remarkable feature in his case was the form of the spine, which had become curved and bowed forward throughout its whole length, so as to form a considerable segment of a circle. He could not walk without support; he could not even raise his head so as fairly to look any person in the face. As he was a single man, and without a home, Mr. Verral took him into his house, that his treatment might be the more effectually pursued. In a few weeks his health and strength seemed completely re-established. The pain and tenderness gradually subsided. In four months the discharge from the abscess entirely ceased, and the improvement in his form is now so great as to astonish every one who previously knew him. Already the general curve of the spine is nearly removed. The ankylosed bones form an angle in the middle of the back, which, under his clothes, becomes from week to week less visible, as the improvement proceeds. He now stands nearly erect, and, with long crutches to take off the weight of the head and shoulders, he is allowed to walk in the garden for half an hour every day. *Mary Ann Heness*, *Sarah Moorhouse*, and *Mary Hichen*, are deplorable cases of abscess and disease. They are yet far from well, but they have probably been snatched from a premature grave, into which, but for the existence of the Society, they would assuredly long ere this have been hurried by disease, discharge, and excoriation, with their concomitant sufferings and exhaustion.

Of DISEASE of the SPINE in its EARLIER stages there are a few cases to record. *Ann Bass*, a married woman, aged 40, had great pain and tenderness, especially in moving, of two of the lumber vertebræ. A fall she had had a few months before appeared to have occasioned the complaint, and which a few weeks of treatment in the prone position entirely removed. The case of *Eliza Vickars* is especially worthy of notice. She had lain in bed on her back for ten months, in consequence of disease of two or three of the lumber vertebræ, which were exceedingly tender to the touch. She was utterly unable to support herself upright, and the act of moving in or from her bed was productive of extreme pain. Even when lying quiet, the back was constantly painful, and it seemed, as she herself said, "as if some of the bones were slipping away from the others." She had been attended by Mr. Malyn, one of the surgeons of the Western Dispensary, who was kind enough to afford her the benefit of his advice and assistance after she was placed on the PRONE COUCH. That took place on the 2d of Dec. 1837, but it was some few days before she could bear to remain night and day in the position. After the 12th of December, however, she continued constantly upon it, and the pain and sense of dislocation, which from the first moment were much diminished, were speedily removed altogether; the tenderness gradually lessened, and setons or issues, which had been proposed, were rendered unnecessary by the favourable progress of the case. She now moves without pain, and towards the end of March, was taken off the couch, and for the first time for a twelvemonth, with the assistance of her mother's arm, was able to walk across her chamber.

From LATERAL CURVATURE of the SPINE, a malady so prevalent at the present day amongst the higher circles, the poor are not altogether exempt. Regardless, however, of the mere imperfection of form, as long as it is not accompanied by absolute disability and disease, the poor do not often, in these cases, seek for

assistance until the deformity has proceeded to a very formidable extent. Many of such terrible cases are on the list of the Society's patients. They must, the greater part of them, be long indeed before they can advance towards a cure; but there are none that have not found, or are not finding, the greatest benefit from the plan of treatment. The cure of *Triphina Moulton* is almost complete. Her case has been already recorded, and will be found in Mr. Verral's paper appended to this report. *Elizabeth Denyer* is steadily advancing towards a cure, while *Charles Cohen* whose case was of recent date, but who had considerable curvature of the spine, both towards the right shoulder and in the left loin, is, at the end of four months, as nearly as possible, well. *James Knight*, and *Elizabeth Cohen*, may be noticed for the very great improvement they have experienced, both in their forms, and in their general health, although their ages, and their very great deformity, forbid the hope of their ever being perfectly cured.

As this species of distortion, perhaps more than any other, demands the personal assistance of the surgeon, and, as the cases must of necessity be of very long duration, they particularly awaken the wish that the Society may one day be enabled to enlarge its sphere of usefulness by opening a House for the reception of the most diseased and the most destitute patients. In this immense metropolis—in this great kingdom indeed, so celebrated for its numerous and magnificent benevolent institutions, it is surely strange that the hand of charity should never before have been held out to the assistance of the deformed poor. Distortions of the spine, with all their concomitant evils, the sufferings, the discharge, the paralysis of which they are the frequent cause; diseases of the hips, with the abscesses, the contracted limbs, the pain, the emaciation, and the premature death, which they so often occasion,—for these dreadful maladies, and for many other distortions of minor, but still of very considerable importance, no adequate means of relief have hitherto been benevolently afforded. The Hospitals cannot receive such Patients, or receiving them cannot retain them long enough to give them a chance of cure. Their beds are wanted for accidents, operations, and for diseases of a more acute character. That excellent institution, the Margate Sea-bathing Infirmary is in part an exception to this rule, but that is open only during the summer months, and it has for its object the restoration of the patient's health, rather than the amendment of his figure. Our humble and infant Society is the only one that especially aims at both these objects; the only one that professes to save the unhappy sufferers from helpless deformity, from lingering anguish, and perhaps from a premature grave. That such objects could generally be best accomplished in an Institution devoted to the peculiar purpose, must be evident. In such an Institution too, education might be afforded to the young, and some profitable employment be found for the more adult patients. Most earnestly is it to be hoped, that the funds of the Society may one day enable it to found an Institution so greatly needed. There are two circumstances that particularly call for these observations. First, the sad privations to which the wretched objects of the society's benevolence are too frequently exposed in their own desolate homes, where not only are they often in want of that nutritious diet which is so essentially necessary for their restoration, but also of the cleanliness, the clothing, the warmth, and even the kind and constant attentions which are such important aids. And secondly, the difficulty of getting patients at their own homes to conform to the rules that are laid down for them, or to bear the tedious confinement that their cases so frequently require. When positive disease and suffering have not existed, or have ceased to exist, confinement becomes irksome, especially to those who, having few mental resources, have little to cheer or amuse them. There are many fortunate exceptions to this too general rule, and the reward of these will be found very constantly proportioned to their tractability and patience. Thus, while *James Bowler*, who began with a few months of attention and consequent improvement, but who has since got weary of his couch and has at length thrown it away altogether, has doomed himself to a life of helplessness, perhaps of suffering, and certainly of frightful deformity, the little girl, *Jane Gregory*, of Roehampton, is already repaid for her sixteen months of patient submission, by an extraordinary improvement in her shape; while her cheerful and youthful look, and the bloom of health that glows upon her cheek, form a delightful contrast to the pale, aged, and care-worn countenance with which she began her career on the prone couch.

Of DISTORTION and CONTRACTION of the CHEST, it will not be necessary to say

a great deal. There are few of the patients of the Society, whose chests were not in some measure deformed; and in many of them, they were contracted to such an extent, as to occasion shortness of breath, distressing cough, and palpitation of the heart; and *there is no case which has not speedily given way to the use of the position*, and to such treatment, in the way of medicine, exercises, &c., which have been recommended to them.

The Founders of the Society, whose pleasing office it has been to assist in framing this report, venture most earnestly to entreat those who have already contributed to its funds, not only to continue their own Subscriptions, but to spread the knowledge of *its existence and of its usefulness*, wherever their voices may be heard, or their influence extend. They implore them to explain the benevolent objects of the Institution; to describe the forlorn and miserable beings who look to it alone for relief; to point out the inadequacy of its present means for the necessary attendance of all the cases which have already solicited its aid; and to proclaim the urgent call there is for a "local habitation," which, while the Society's original purpose of attending the poor at their own homes was still steadily pursued, would be the means of granting *more effectual assistance*, to some of the worst and most important cases. This appeal to the feelings of the public, is made with the greater confidence, inasmuch, as they who have the honour of advancing it, are conscious of having evinced their own great earnestness in the cause, their thorough and most solemn conviction of the immense importance of the Institution, and their deep commiseration for the suffering and unfriended objects of its care. Nothing but considerations of so high a character, could have induced them to undertake the arduous and protracted struggle in which they have been for two years engaged. Nothing else could have induced them, at the great sacrifice of their leisure, and of their private convenience, to persevere in spreading a knowledge of the very simple, but very efficacious plan of treatment, upon which the operations of the Society are founded; in soliciting the patronage of those exalted persons who could only, through such representations, become acquainted either with that peculiar plan of treatment, or with the urgent cry for assistance,—a cry until now unheard and unattended to,—of those who had found no friendly hand extended for their relief; and in seeking, and almost begging for those subscriptions, which have enabled the Society, in its earliest infancy, to render itself so essentially and extensively useful,—they feel bound also to say, that nothing but the same high considerations could have induced the Surgeon of the institution to undertake, gratuitously, as he has hitherto done, the arduous duties of the situation; to undergo its fatigues, to bear its privations, to devote his talents and his time, often perhaps to the prejudice of his private practice, to the attendance of so many patients, scattered as they are, not only round every part of this great metropolis, but also over the counties of Surry, Sussex, Kent, Essex, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Somersetshire, Cornwall, Hampshire, &c., in several of which his personal attendance has not unfrequently been demanded. But for the spontaneous proffer of such gratuitous attendance, during the early days of its existence, the very attempt to establish the Society could never have been made by its Foundress.

It will be seen by the subjoined List that, even in the infant state of the Society, ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE PATIENTS have already been entered upon its books, and have derived, or are deriving, relief and improvement from the assistance thus charitably and benevolently afforded them; and this consideration,—together with the reflection that there are hundreds more who, but for this Institution, would assuredly sink into helpless and hopeless deformity, would become the prey of painful disease, and the victims of premature death,—will, it is hoped, "plead like angels trumpet tongued," to the hearts of those whom Providence has blessed with the means of contributing to the comforts of the poor, and alleviating the sufferings of the sick; and induce them, BY SUBSCRIPTIONS OR DONATIONS, to extend the usefulness of a SOCIETY, at present the only one in existence, which offers a prospect of relief and a chance of recovery, to some of the most distressful maladies by which the human race has been afflicted.

This first report of the proceedings of our Charity, cannot, it is thought, be better concluded than by an extract, from Count Von der Recke's interesting description of the benevolent Institution which he was the means of establishing at Dusselthal

Abbey:—"Individual exertion can do much for the amelioration of human misery. The most necessary, the most intimate, the most delightful exercises of kindness, benevolence, and affection, among the human race, are those which individuals, as relations, as friends, and neighbours, perform in their individual characters. But the most extensive, and the most efficient, in relieving general misery, are those which they perform in their associated capacities as families, as societies, and as communities. But when the *disinterested* exertions of individuals, who have time to spare, and who, from motives of real piety, are disposed to spend it in the service of the destitute,—when they are supported in their designs by a charitable, but busy community, who delegate to them the inspection, the relief, and the superintendence of the objects who need assistance, the maximum of good which can result from human benevolence is perhaps in this way attainable."

MR. VERRAL,

The Medical Officer of the Society, may be consulted, gratuitously, at

No. 10, LOWTHER ARCADE, STRAND,

On Tuesdays and Saturdays, between the hours of Ten and Twelve.

Donations and Annual Subscriptions received by Messrs. Houlston & Hughes, Booksellers, 154, Strand, who are Agents to the Society; by Mrs. Henry Ogle, East Bourne, Sussex, who at present acts as Honorary Secretary and Manager; by Messrs. Houlston & Son, 65, Paternoster Row; and at the Office of the Society, No. 10, Lowther Arcade, Strand.

REGULATIONS.

SUBSCRIBERS of One Guinea annually will be entitled to nominate a Patient, and to renew the nomination every succeeding year, provided the former Patient shall have been discharged.

Subscribers of Two or more Guineas annually will be entitled to nominate Patients in the same proportion.

Donators of Two Guineas will be entitled to nominate a Patient.

Donators of Five Guineas will be entitled to nominate three Patients.

Donators of Ten Guineas will be entitled to nominate six Patients, and so on in proportion.

In the present infant state of the Society it is impossible to fix completely the regulations, or to calculate the probable expenses of couches, medicines, applications, &c.; but it is supposed that donators to any considerable amount may be entitled to an unlimited nomination.

When Patients nominated reside at some considerable distance from London, it will seem necessary that some addition should be made to the guinea subscription, to cover the necessary expenses of an occasional visit.

It is expected that the persons nominated shall be in such circumstances as to render them proper objects of benevolence, in consequence of their being unable to defray the expenses for themselves. On the part of the patients or their friends, it is expected that all couches, mattresses, &c. shall be returned to the office of the Society as soon as they may be done with.

A Report of the transactions of the Society will be presented, at the end of the first year, to every Patron and Subscriber, when some further regulations will be proposed relative to its future management.

ABSTRACT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE, from the Formation of the Society,
July 1st, 1836, to June 30th, 1837.

<i>Dr.</i>	<i>Cr.</i>
To Couches, Mattresses, &c.	By Donations and Subscriptions.
£61 11 10	£ 129 2 0
— Coach-hire, and other Expenses in Visiting Patients, in Corn- wall, Hampshire, Berkshire, Kent, Sussex, &c. &c.	— Cash for Papers sold.
30 2 5	2 6 6
— Medicines, and Incidentals.	
10 3 3	
— Messrs. Houlston & Co.'s Ac- count for Paper, Printing, Postage, and Carriages, &c.	
20 18 5	
— Balance in hands of Treasurer	
8 12 7	
£ 131 8 6	£131 8 6
	By Balance on hand brought for- ward
	£ 8 12 7

DONATIONS AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1837.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Davies Gilbert, East Bourne	5	0	0
Mrs. Henry Ogle, ditto.	5	5	0
The Right Honourable Lady Elizabeth Whitbread, Kensington	1	1	0
Miss Grant, Kensington	1	1	0
Charles Shaw Lefevre, Esq., M.P., Heckfield	1	1	0
Mrs. Shaw Lefevre.	5	5	0
Henry Ogle, Esq., East Bourne	5	5	0
The Right Honourable Lady Elizabeth Tufton	1	1	0
The Honourable Lady Grey	5	0	0
Lady Macdonald, Woolmer Lodge	1	1	0
Mrs. Frederick North, Hastings	1	1	0
Her Grace the Duchess Dowager of Beaufort	1	0	0
The Right Honourable the Countess of Galloway	1	0	0
The Rev. John Savile Ogle, Kirkley, Northumberland	1	1	0
Mrs. Ogle, Kirkley	1	1	0
Lady St. John Mildmay, Dogmersfield Park	1	0	0
} Subscription	1	0	0
} Donation	1	0	0
Charles Holte Bracebridge, Esq., Atherstone Hall	1	1	0
Mrs. Bracebridge	1	1	0
Mrs. Chaloner Blake Ogle	1	0	0
Mrs. Thomas Dumbleton, Winkfield Park	5	5	0
The Honourable Frederick Calthorpe	1	1	0
The Right Honourable Lady Charlotte Calthorpe	1	1	0
The Rev. Hugh J. Rose, Principal of King's College	1	1	0
The Rev. Wm. Streatfeild, Vicar of East Ham, Essex.	1	1	0
The Most Noble the Marquis of Cholmondeley	1	0	0
The Most Noble the Marchioness of Cholmondeley	1	0	0
Sir Walter Farquhar, Bart.	1	0	0
Mrs. Henry Bertram Ogle, Upper Grosvenor Street	1	1	0
Charles Brinsley Sheridan, Esq.	1	1	0
The Right Honourable Lady George Murray	1	1	0
Carried Forward	£ 56	17	0

	£	s.	d.
Brought Forward	56	17	0
Mrs. Holt, Tottenham	1	1	0
Mrs. John Lefevre	1	1	0
Mrs. Jones Loyd, Norfolk-street, Park-lane	5	5	0
George Butler, Esq.	1	1	0
Miss Watson, Park-street, Westminster	1	1	0
Received by Miss Ogle, of Hans Place	2	1	0
The Rev. John Lloyd Lugger, Tregony	5	0	0
E. S. by Mrs. Shaw Lefevre	1	1	0
A Lady, by Mrs. Henry Ogle	5	0	0
Miss Pocock, St. Katherine's	1	1	0
Walter Henry Bracebridge, Esq., Moreville House, Warwick	1	1	0
Mrs. W. H. Bracebridge	1	1	0
Andrew H. Poulett Thomson, Esq., Roehampton	10	0	0
Mrs. Macan, Reading	1	0	0
Colonel Clitherow, Boston House	1	0	0
Mrs. Clitherow	1	0	0
The Rev. Sir Henry Duckinfield, Bart.	1	1	0
James Scott, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. Willard, East Bourne	1	1	0
The Honourable Mrs. Gosling	1	0	0
Miss Curle, Ranelagh Place, Pimlico	1	1	0
Joseph Martineau, Esq., Basing Parks, Hants	1	1	0
Her Grace the Duchess of St. Albans	3	3	0
The Rev. Edward Chaloner Ogle, Bedlington, Northumberland	1	1	0
Mrs. E. C. Ogle	1	1	0
Captain Charles Ogle Streatfeild, Royal Engineers	1	1	0
Mrs. C. O. Streatfeild	1	1	0
John Rickman, Esq., Wellingham	1	1	0
Inigo Freeman Thomas, Esq., Ratton	1	1	0
The Honourable Mrs. Thomas	1	1	0
Mrs. Plumtree, Fredville	1	1	0
Miss Neave, for the Westminster Asylum	2	2	0
A Widow Lady, Willingdon	1	1	0
G. J. Fox, Esq., Durham	1	1	0
Mrs. Guillamard, 27, Upper Gower-street	1	0	0
T. Longley, Vale Cottage, Chelsea	1	1	0
Mrs. Longley	1	1	0
Mrs. Enys, Enys, Cornwall	1	1	0
George Bulmer, Esq., 2, Belle Vue, Chelsea	1	1	0
William H. Whitbread, Esq.	5	5	0
Mrs. Swaysland, Kemsing, near Seven Oaks	1	1	0
	<hr/>		
	£129	2	0

DONATIONS OR SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED OR ANNOUNCED FOR
THE YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1st, 1837.

	£	s.	d.
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ADELAIDE, Annual subscription	10	10	0
The Right Honourable Viscountess Gage	1	1	0
The Honourable General Trevor, Glynde	1	1	0
The Honourable Mrs. Trevor	1	1	0
The Honourable Miss Brand, Chapel-steet, Mayfair	1	1	0
The Right Honourable the Earl of Leicester	1	1	0

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Edward Ellice, Arlington-street	1	1	0
The Rev. Dr. Gilly, Prebendary of Durham	1	1	0
Mrs. Gilly	1	1	0
Mrs. Jones Burdett	1	1	0
Lady Verney, Claydon House, Bucks,	5	0	0
} Donation			
} Annual Subscription	1	0	0
The Parish of St. Luke's, London	1	1	0
Mrs. Streatfeild, Penshurst,	2	2	0
} Donation			
} Annual Subscription	1	1	0
Miss Copeland, Leyton, Essex	1	1	0
The Right Honourable Lord Seaford	1	1	0
Mr. Toll	1	1	0
Lady Mulcaster, Eaton Place	1	1	0
Mrs. Swaysland	1	1	0
Messrs. Truman, Hanbury, and Buxton	1	1	0
Robert Hanbury, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. John Smith, Dale Park	5	0	0
Miss Touchet, West Meon, Hants	1	1	0
The Rev. E. Auriol, Hastings	1	1	0
The Honourable Rd. Nevill, Flower, Godstone	1	1	0
The Honourable Mrs. Nevill	1	1	0
Mrs. Henry Ogle, East Bourne	5	5	0
The Honourable Lady Grey	1	1	0
Colonel Ansten, Kippington Park, Seven Oaks	5	0	0
Mrs. Wilgress, Riverhead	1	1	0
Mrs. Bunce, Blackheath Park	1	1	0
Mrs. Douglas Halford, 9, Charles-street, Berkeley-square	1	1	0
Mrs. Ord, Whitfield Park, Northumberland	1	1	0
Mrs. Mabbott, Uckfield	1	1	0
Richard S. Streatfeild, Esq., The Rocks, Uckfield	1	1	0
Miss Macdonald, Brighton	1	1	0
Chas. Shaw Lefevre, Esq., M.P., Heckfield	1	1	0
Mrs. Shaw Lefevre	1	1	0
Mrs. John Lefevre	1	1	0
John Streatfeild, Esq., Home Department	1	1	0
Miss Foyster, Hastings	1	1	0
William Ord, Esq. M.P.	1	1	0
The Right Honourable Lady Elizabeth Tufton	1	1	0
Joseph Martineau, Esq.	1	1	0
George Butler, Esq.	1	1	0
John Gurney, Esq. Ham House, Essex	5	0	0
The Most Noble the Marquess of Cholmondeley	1	1	0
From Great Ilford, Essex, by Mrs Morris Thomas	4	4	0
The Right Honourable the Countess of Sheffield	1	1	0
Mrs. Selwyn, Kensington	1	1	0
Miss Selwyn	1	1	0
The Rev. J. P. White, Droxford, Hants	5	0	0
Mrs. Francis Walpole, Upper Seymour-street	1	1	0
Her Grace the Duchess of Sutherland	5	0	0
The Right Honourable the Countess Dowager of Rothes	1	1	0
The Right Honourable Lady Mary Leslie	1	1	0
The Right Honourable Lady Emily Pelham	1	1	0
Lady Shiffner, Combe Place, Sussex	1	0	0
J. Longley Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. Longley	1	1	0
The Rev. Mr. Trowers, Mill-land House, near Liphoo	1	1	0
Mrs. John Bridges, 23, Red Lion Square	1	1	0
A Widow Lady, Willingdon	1	1	0
Lady St. John Mildmay	1	1	0
John Rickman, Esq.	1	1	0

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Willard, East Bourne	1	1	0
Walter Henry Bracebridge, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. Bracebridge	1	1	0
John Anderton, Esq, Russell-square	10	10	0
Messrs. Hanbury, Taylor, and Lloyd	1	1	0
Osgood Hanbury, Esq. Oldfield Grange	1	1	0
The Rev. Robert Drummond, Feering, Essex.....	1	1	0
Mrs. Scott, Camberwell Grove.....	1	1	0
Mrs. Samuel Lidbetter, Uckfield	1	1	0
Mrs. Belli, Belgrave-square	3	3	0
The Rev. J. S. Ogle, Kirkley	1	1	0
Mrs. Ogle	1	1	0
Henry Ogle, Esq. East Bourne	1	1	0
Lady Macdonald, Woolmar Lodge	1	1	0
Miss Watson, Park-street, Westminster	1	1	0
Mrs. H. B. Ogle, Upper Grosvenor Street	1	1	0
Miss Champion	5	0	0
Miss E. Champion	5	0	0
Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. G. Rice Trevor, M.P.	2	2	0
Miss Burdett Coutts	3	3	0
The Right Honourable Lady Elizabeth Whitbread.....	1	1	0
Miss Grant	1	1	0
The Right Hon. the Countess of Burlington	1	0	0
Mrs. Cavendish	1	0	0
Miss Larkins, 2, Park-square, West.....	1	1	0
Mr. Fisher, Nettlebed, Oxfordshire	2	2	0
From Hastings by the Rev. J. Jenkinson	5	0	0
Dr. Williamson, Dean's-yard, Westminster.....	2	2	0
Mrs. William Wescomb, Langford Grove, Maldon, Essex	1	1	0
Mr. Simpson, 9, Tottenham Court Road	1	1	0
Miss Sergeantson, Yorkshire.....	1	1	0
The Right Hon. Lady Harriet Clive	1	1	0
Mrs. Tyars	1	1	0
Mrs. Evans	1	1	0