and remained stationary at the expiration of three years. With respect to the treatment of inflammation of the peritoneum, much of course would depend on its cause. In Dr. Bird's case it was probably essential to the healing of the wound, and would be more likely to be influenced by the mode of treatment employed than if it had arisen from other causes.

Dr. WALLER inquired the size of the ovarian tumour which had been influenced by medical treatment under the care of Dr. Bennett. He (Dr. Waller) had certainly seen no case of ovarian tumour, of any size, that had been affected by remedial treatment. In the early stages of the affection, and when there were inflammatory symptoms, the employment of antiphlogistic means might remove the affection; beyond this he had seen no good result from treatment. The operation under discussion came to our assistance when medical treatment failed. He had been surprised to hear a physician to a metropolitan hospital assert that in the institution with which he was connected the removal of ovarian dropsy by the use of iodine was very common.

Dr. BENNETT, in reply, stated that the size of the tumour in the case to which he had alluded was, previous to the employment of remedies, as large as a good-sized cocoa-nut, and that after the treatment it was so much reduced in size as to be detected with difficulty. It had existed for months, and was gradually enlarging; there were no very acute symptoms, but the tumour was somewhat tender to the touch. Leeches were first applied, and then mercurials and iodine alternately. The non-success of remedial measures in ovarian disease he believed was over-stated.

Mr. PILCHER believed that ovarian dropsy generally was not amenable to medical treatment, although he had seen one or two cases in which tumours, apparently ovarian, had given way to remedies. He related the case of a woman of middle age, with a tumour, apparently ovarian, to whom iodine had been given, and applied externally. Peritonitis came on; to relieve this mercury was given, and the tumour disappeared. In the early stages of this affection, the diagnosis was obscure, and tumours, supposed to be ovarian, were not always so. Generally speaking, he did not think ovarian tumours were curable; or, at all events, the chances of cure were so slight that they could not be taken into consideration in the question of the propriety of an operation. Tapping commonly only relieved, and the cases of spontaneous cure, by rupture of the cyst, either into the abdominal cavity, or the vagina, were the exceptions to the rule. The question might arise, how far the surgeon was justified in the performance of an operation of a formidable character, like the one under consideration, for the removal of what might merely be an inconvenience, for the disease did not appear generally to affect the duration of life. In some cases it would be wrong to listen to the request of patients on this point, but in other instances, where the mind was harassed by the presence of the disease, and the bodily constitution was sympathising to a serious extent from this cause, then, looking at the success of the operation in well-selected cases, he thought the surgeon was justified in resorting to the knife, due care being taken in the selection of his case. Sir. A. Cooper had removed the testicle, in cases of neuralgia, with the view of quieting the mental anxiety which was undermining the constitution of the patient. Mr. Pilcher then detailed a case of ovarian dropsy, in which he injected the cyst with a solution of sulphate of zinc, in the manner pursued in cases of hydrocele. Acute inflammation, followed by suppuration, came on, and a pint of matter was evacuated. The woman got well. It might, however, in this case, be a question, whether this proceeding, or an operation, were the more dangerous.

Dr. G. O. REES was of opinion that the depletory effects of perspiration, even when profuse, were not so great as many imagined, for it was a fact that, although the quantity of the circulating fluid was decreased by profuse perspiration in a heated atmosphere, the specific gravity of the blood became increased. He believed that in many cases of "ovarian disease" the ovary itself was healthy, the enlargement being in the cellular tissue surrounding the Fallopian tube. He thought that we did not pay sufficient attention to the treatment of ovarian disease by remedies, and that we should try new plans for its removal before proceeding to operation. He alluded to the plan recommended by Mr. Brown, in a paper read before the Physical

Society, and since published in *THE LANCET*, as one advocating a plan which appeared reasonable and likely to be followed by success. The chief features in this plan were the employment of mercurials and the application of pressure after paracentesis.

Dr. F. BIRD dissented from the opinion that had been expressed as to the value of medicines in the treatment of ovarian dropsy. In all those cases in which he had operated general remedies had been fully and judiciously employed by those under whose care they had previously been; in all iodine had been largely and long employed, but no good effects had followed; and in one case decided mischief had resulted. He had lately, also, tried the method alluded to during the discussion, of applying firm pressure by means of graduated compresses immediately after the evacuation of the contents of the cyst by paracentesis, but without success. It was true that cases were occasionally met with in which the disease could scarcely be regarded in any other light than as an inconvenience, but the average duration of life of those afflicted with ovarian tumour would be found to be very short, and he had seen but very few instances in which the disease, even in its simplest forms, had not been associated with, and productive of, much local suffering and impairment of general health.

Mr. CRISP alluded to the perspiration in Dr. Bird's case, and remarked that in idiopathic inflammation of serous membranes it was most difficult, if not impossible, to produce perspiration.

The society afterwards adjourned until the last Monday in September; previously to this, however, a memorial was presented to Mr. Pilcher by the society, expressive of their admiration of his conduct as president during the past two years.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

May 29, 1844.—W. H. BODKIN, Esq., M.P., V.P., in the Chair.

THE Secretary read a paper by Mr. HUTCHINSON on his Pneumatic Apparatus for Valuing the Respiratory Powers, which was illustrated by about twenty large diagrams and tables. The apparatus was also placed on the table.

This apparatus consists of two instruments, the one called the "Breathing Machine," for measuring "volume," and the other called the "Inspirator," for measuring "power," by which the three principal observations for arriving at correct results are taken, viz., the number of cubic inches of air thrown out of the chest, and the power by which that air can be drawn in and given out.

The breathing machine consists of two vertical cylinders, one within the other. The outer one contains water, while the inner one, being inverted, is intended to receive the breath, and hence is called the receiver; this receiver is raised in proportion to the quantity of air given out of the lungs of the person under examination.

The receiver is counterbalanced by two leaden weights working in two vertical hollow brass perpendicular tubes. To each of the weights is attached a cord, which, working over a pulley at top, passes down another brass tube or column, and is connected with the cross-head of the receiver, which cross-head, with the receiver, works up and down by means of slots formed in the inside column.

In order to determine how much air is given out, a scale is connected with the receiver which ascends and descends with it; on this scale the figures represent cubic inches calculated according to the contents of the receiver, which contains 388 cubic inches of air.

The level of the water is the datum or standard line from which the number of cubic inches is to be determined.

A bent glass tube is connected with the water in the reservoir, so that the level of the water in the reservoir is readily ascertained by an inspection of the tube. The divisions on the scale on the same level as the surface of the water indicate the number of cubic inches contained in the receiver at any elevation.

The breath enters the receiver by a tube passing up through the reservoir water, and when the experiment is concluded, and the receiver is to be drawn down again, the air is discharged by a valve-cock at bottom.

Three taps are fixed in front of this machine, one for drawing off the water when necessary, the second for discharging the breath through, and the middle one, called the drain-tap, for drawing off water that sometimes, by accident, is forced into the vertical tubes.

The "inspirator" is constructed on the principle of elevating, by the power of the muscles of inspiration and expiration, a column of mercury, and, according to the elevation of the mercury, to determine the relative power exerted by these muscles.

It consists of a dial-plate, graduated with inches and tenths, and is divided equally by a perpendicular line. The left side is graduated for measuring inspiration, the right half for expiration. Certain words are engraved in each division expressive of different degrees of strength, thus:—

GRADUATION OF POWER.		
INSPIRATION. Inches.		EXPIRATION. Inches.
1.5	Weak.	2.00
2.	Ordinary.	2.50
2.5	Strong.	3.50
3.5	Very Strong.	4.50
5.5	Remarkable.	5.80
5.5	Very Remarkable.	7.00
6.	Extraordinary.	8.50
7.	Very Extraordinary.	10.00

These expressions of power are obtained from the results of nearly 1200 observations.

The mercury is contained in a bent tube, one end of which is surmounted by a flexible tube, which is terminated by an Indian-rubber nose-piece, through which the person under trial draws in or blows out to the extent of his power.

Several persons, including fire-brigade men, wrestlers, gentlemen, and particularly Robinson, the well-made dwarf, thirty-six years of age, and three feet nine inches high, were subjected to the trial of Mr. Hutchinson's apparatus, under his immediate superintendence; and it was highly gratifying to the meeting to observe how accurately these cases agreed with Mr. Hutchinson's table of heights, by which it appears that the capacity of a man's lungs increases in an arithmetical progression of eight cubic inches for every inch of his actual height.

MEDICAL PROTECTION ASSEMBLY.

The committee met at Exeter Hall on Monday evening, Mr. Ross in the chair. The usual business having been transacted,

The CHAIRMAN remarked that they had then to consider a "statement" lately published by the council of the College of Surgeons, explanatory of the manner in which the principles of the charter had been applied, and he said that he had no hesitation in denouncing that "statement" as one that embraced the most unjust principles and the most fallacious arguments. The Assembly, composed of members, graduates, and licentiates of the various colleges and halls of England, Ireland, and Scotland, was called upon to stand boldly forward in defence of the principle of representation, the foundation and spring of all their operations.

Mr. H. H. RUGG said the council had never yet consulted the interests, wishes, or welfare of the members, or ever sought to give any kind of protection to them or the public against quacks and unqualified practitioners. "I think you will agree with me that the 'statement' is a tissue of absurdities and contradictions from beginning to end, and proves them to be perfectly unworthy of the high post which they have assumed. Mr. Guthrie, one of the council, considers their conduct so bad, and is so disgusted with their proceedings, that he has written a note, declaring that he had not any share in obtaining the charter or preparing the 'statement.'" The speaker concluded by moving the following resolution, viz.:—"That a sub-committee, composed of members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, be appointed to consider the propriety of issuing a counter-statement to the deceptive and insulting document lately promulgated by the council of the said college."

Mr. HUNTER having seconded the motion, it was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. CARPUE condemned the "statement" issued by the college, and fully concurred in the observations that had fallen from the gentlemen who had spoken, and mentioned that Mr. Thomas had retired from the council. He trusted that the committee would continue their exertions with that zeal and activity which had hitherto marked their career, and signified his intention of shortly giving a few lectures on surgical and medical reform, to which he would invite the council. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BULLIN said the council had imputed to the advisers of her Majesty much that was never contemplated; the fact that Mr. Guthrie had dissociated his name from the charter lately granted to the college, as well as from the "statement" issued by order of the council, ought not to be without its effect on the minds of the committee; the meaning of the charter (faulty as in itself it was) was strained to the disadvantage of the members of the college.

Mr. HUNTER was of opinion that the general body of the profession would not be deceived by the tissue of absurdities and inaccuracies which that statement contained, but he felt assured that not a few members of the profession had been beguiled into a hope of obtaining the fellowship, and had not adopted an independent course of action!

Mr. HILLES thought that the Assembly should condemn, in the most emphatic terms, the principles on which the charter was founded, conferring as it did on the council of the college the power of election, as a substitute for the representative system, which the members ought to claim as a *right*, and not seek as a favour!

After other members of the committee had addressed the chair, to the same effect, the sitting terminated.

THE ANATOMY ACT.

ON Tuesday evening (June 11th), Mr. P. BORTHWICK moved, in the House of Commons, for a select committee on the operation of the Anatomy Act. This motion was made avowedly in order to bring before the house the claims of the notorious Mr. Roberts. Mr. Borthwick contended, at great length, that the poor who died in workhouses, without friends to claim them, ought not to be given up to dissection. After entering into a long detail of the case of Mr. Roberts, he stated, that were his antiseptic discovery adopted in the schools of anatomy, two hundred bodies would suffice for all the purposes of dissection, instead of the six hundred now thus employed; and that, moreover, the entire body might be preserved for interment.

Sir J. GRAHAM thought that an inquiry into the operation of the Act, so far from soothing any irritation which may exist in the public feelings, was calculated to irritate, excite, and wound them. He should, therefore, resist the motion. The hon. gentleman had made an unintentional misrepresentation. It was true, the 7th clause gave any person in possession of a body a right to sell it for anatomical purposes, but the clause limited that right with a proviso that if the party dying, even in the last extremity, expressed a wish that his body should not be examined, no person, however nearly related, should have the power to dispose of it; and, again, that no body claimed by any relative, however distant, should be subject to examination if that relative objected. Few grounds had been stated for a committee. Objections were raised to the general policy of the measure, and next a personal grievance was alleged; and, perhaps, but for the latter, the house would never have heard of the former. The late government had appointed a commission to inquire into the general working of the measure. Since the present government had come into office, a more particular inquiry had been suggested; Mr. Green, the eminent surgeon, and Mr. Rogers, deputy-judge-advocate, being the commissioners. They carefully investigated the matter, and found that the allegations which had been made against the working of the law were incorrect. There had been no violation of public decency, no wounding of public feeling, and the silence with which the Act had been carried into execution was the best proof of its success. He now came to the personal grievance. Mr. Roberts had applied for an investigation into his