EXPERIMENTS PERFORMED AT THE
HOPITAL DE LA PITIE,

IN AUGUST, 1837, BEFORE M. SERRES, MEMBER
OF THE INSTITUTE, AND OTHER GENTLEMEN;

By MARSHALL HALL, M.D., F.R.S., &c.

THE head of a river tortoise being separated between the third and fourth vertebrae :

Experiment 1.—The lower end of the spinal marrow attached to the head was irritated by means of a probe, acts of *inspiration* were induced.

Exp. 2.—The dorsal portion of the spinal marrow was laid bare to the extent of an inch, below the origin of the brachial nerves; the spinal marrow was excited by means of the probe and by galvanism; both anterior and posterior fins, with the tail, were moved.

Exp. 3.—A lateral intercostal nerve was laid bare, and stimulated in the same manner; the same movements were produced as in Experiment 2.

Exp. 4.—The *cutaneous* and *mucous* surfaces of the *head* were stimulated; the same acts of inspiration were produced as in Experiment 1.

Exp. 5.—The spinal marrow being raised upon a portion of paper, the *posterior* and *anterior* surfaces were subjected to the agency of the galvanic influence, in separate experiments; in the former case slight, in the latter energetic movements were produced, in the four extremities and the tail.

Exp. 6.—On irritating the border of the sphincter ani, very energetic movements were produced in the four extremities and in the tail.

We gladly lay before our readers the account of these experiments, *made at the request* of a Member of the French Institute. What a contrast is afforded by this circumstance with the refusal of the Members of the Council of our R. S., to see with their own eyes similar experiments! *Si nullus pudor est!*—ED, L.

MEDICO-BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

—At the anniversary meeting, held on the 16th inst., Earl Stanhope was elected President for the ensuing year; William Henry Judd and Edwin Sanders, Esqs., Honorary Secretaries; Thomas Everitt, Esq., Professor of Chemistry; Charles Johnson, Esq., Professor of Botany; William Tiffin Iliff, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence; and George G. Sigmond, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica. The reports of the different officers of the Society on the state of the funds, of the library, of the museum, and of the herbaria, were read, from which it appears that the objects for which this Institution were founded, begin to be properly appreciated and generally recognised, as deeply important to the progress of medical science.

A VACANCY has occurred in the office of surgeon to *St. Bartholomew's Hospital*, in consequence of the decease of Mr. HENRY EARLE, who was lately one of the medical staff in that institution.

THE LATE PROFESSOR TURNER.—A bust of the late Dr. TURNER, Professor of Chemistry, has been recently erected in *University College*, London, by his pupils, who have taken this means of publicly testifying their respect for his memory, and of paying, in some degree, the debt of gratitude which they owed to their honoured teacher and beloved friend.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

IT is not necessary, after what has appeared in this Journal on the subject, to publish the honourable testimonial to the professional conduct of Dr. J., forwarded for insertion by *Mr. Pretty*, of Mabledon-place.

Wix. Spears should be light in the head. However, it is better to fill tin boxes with treaties of peace than the implements of diabolical war.

Mr. Davies' letter was mislaid. The Provisional Committee is not in existence, and the document which he desires to have could not be obtained by purchase, at that or any other institution.

A Subscriber. The *Hospital Accident Case Society* seems to be well deserving of support. We have examined the prospectus and recent Report, and find in them many useful suggestions, and some satisfactory and gratifying information respecting the proceedings of the Society.

Has *Mr. Dodds* ever tried the apparatus which he describes, or do his communication and drawing merely embody a suggestion?

The valuable information forwarded by the *Messrs. Prince* shall be added to the fund already in hand, for use, if needed.

A Lic. of the Ed. Coll. The absurdity can only be remedied when the entire fabric of medical law is under renovation.

The facts mentioned by *Dr. Robert D.* (of A. L.), will be brought fully forth in the committee.

BOOK RECEIVED.

On Warming and Ventilating; with directions for making and using the Thermometer-Stove, or Self-regulating Fire, and other New Apparatus. By Neil Arnott, M.D., Phys. Extra. to the Queen. London: Longman, 1838, pp. 138.

ERRATUM.—In *Mr. Streeter's* paper (LANCET, No. 17, p. 611) for the words "in every 1000 cases of small-pox there were deaths," substitute *out of every 1000 deaths from all causes, there were from small-pox, &c.*