hastens to the Coroner's Court to offer it in evidence, or he keeps out of the way for a purpose of an opposite nature. It not unfrequently happens, that upon inquiries of this description no person appears to take part in the investigation; sometimes no witnesses are in attendance, except such as the constable has in *his wisdom* summoned.

It is manifest that in a court so convened, offering such imperfect assurance that the required witnesses are in attendance to give evidence, the witnesses cannot be held to that strict line of examination observed in superior courts, without injury to public justice. On the contrary, justice seems rather to require that some latitude should be allowed to witnesses in offering testimony before such a tribunal. If this be so, and it is impossible to doubt the fact, who, we ask, can be so unfit for Coroner as a crotchety and, perchance, legally speaking, a half-educated *attorney*? His strictness would be out of place and season, and tend rather to stifle than develop the truth; whereas, a *non legal* gentleman, proceeding upon the inquiry in an intelligent, matter-of-fact manner, would not let one feature escape him, in however undigested or irregular a form it might be presented to himself and the jury.

If it be true that a gentleman of education can ably fill the office of Coroner, although not of the legal profession, it follows that *a medical gentleman is the most proper man for the office*; for can it be denied that upon view of the body he would approach his subject with an intelligence which would be of unspeakable advantage to public justice, almost forbidding the possibility of concealment in any case where death has resulted by other than natural causes?—*Morning Journal*.

THE EXCITO-MOTORY SYSTEM.

WE have been requested to correct a misconception in the note of Mr. Carpenter in our last Number. Mr. Carpenter imagines that Dr. Marshall Hall had written to M. Flourens, upon the question between them. In this we are assured that Mr. Carpenter is mistaken.

TO THE FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

GENTLEMEN:—At the close of the contest for the office of Coroner, my grateful acknowledgments were offered on the hustings for the distinguished honour which your support had conferred upon me. I now earnestly repeat the expression of my thanks.

The success which I obtained in the late competition is in the highest degree satisfactory to my feelings. I infer from it that, however zealously I have acted in the field of general politics, the integrity of my motives has not been questioned; and that by your votes and support you have furnished the best evidence of your belief that I shall not abuse the office of Coroner by allowing my conduct to be influenced by any impulses connected with party politics. In entertaining this generous expectation you shall never feel disappointment.

I have now during one week executed the duties of my new situation, and I am more than ever convinced, that in the absence of medical knowledge, the efficient discharge of the functions of the Coroner's office must be the effect of accident. It obviously cannot be the result of a rational and discriminating deliberation.

In conclusion, permit me to assure you that I shall strive unceasingly to prove that your confidence has not been ill bestowed on,

Gentlemen,

Your faithful and obedient servant,

THOMAS WAKLEY.

Bedford-square, March 5, 1835.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE Deputation of the Council alluded to in our last Number waited upon the Poor-Law Commissioners, by appointment, on Wednesday last. A long conversation took place on the subjects which more immediately led to the interview, and also on the operation of the Poor-Law Medical Department generally. The Commissioners expressed themselves as most anxious to do all in their power to remove the grievances of which the profession had complained, and to render the medical department as efficient as possible. With this view they had caused a document to be forwarded to their Assistant-Commissioners for the purpose of obtaining information on various points connected with the working of the present system. This document the Commissioners read