kicks, blows, and pressure with the knees, may rupture half the viscera within the abdomen, *without leaving the slightest trace or mark of violence on the skin*,—on the whitest, the most delicate, the finest-textured skin.

Mr. JOLTERHEAD and his companions will be disposed to ask, if *the Coroner and jury* could discover any marks of injury, in the second case, by merely *viewing the body*? The answer to such a question is simply this,—Certainly not. But there is a *probability* worth considering, namely, that *if an inquest had been held in the case first described, the second death would not have happened*. The *fear of the inquest* would have been sufficiently strong to restrain the passion of the man who, in the absence of such a salutary admonition, has become a murderer.

Thus, by *waiting for suspicious circumstances*, an invitation is almost held out for the commission of crime, and when it is committed, *the criminals escape detection*.

THE BAT CLUB.

A

PRELIMINARY MEETING

Of several of the oldest members of this club was held at the

HOLE-IN-THE-WALL TAVERN, on WEDNESDAY EVENING LAST, NOVEMBER 9th.

There were present, on that occasion,
 Sir B. BRODIE, Mr. J. G. GUTHRIE,
 Mr. B. TRAVERS, Mr. STANLEY,
 Mr. J. H. GREEN, Mr. WHITE,
 Mr. KEATE, Mr. ANDREWS,
 Mr. H. MAYO, Mr. B. COOPER,
 Mr. TYRRELL, Dr. LATHAM,
 Dr. SEYMOUR, Dr. BRIGHT,
 Dr. RODK. MACLEOD, Mr. LLOYD,
 Sir Hy. HALFORD, Dr. BURNE,
 Mr. VINCENT,
 And some others, whose faces our reporter could not recognise.

The meeting, it appears, was called for eight o'clock, but several of the members did not arrive until a little before ten. At about half-past nine there was a loud inquiry for Mr. STANLEY, who had not yet made his appearance, and who, when at length he arrived, entered the room with a mind apparently in a state of confusion, and almost breathless from anxiety, or from the haste with

which he had travelled. He apologised for his non-attendance at an earlier moment, and trusted that, as he had been professionally engaged, a professional cause for his absence would be received as a sufficient apology. At about six o'clock he had been called to attend a gentleman who had fallen from his horse, and sustained an injury of the knee-joint. The diagnosis was extremely puzzling, as, although a considerable portion of the patella was evidently detached from the main body of that bone, he was unable to distinguish at what part the fracture had occurred. He feared he should require the aid of some of his brother hospital surgeons in the case, with a complete history of which the club should be furnished hereafter. He would now read the circular that had been issued to the members generally, and explain afterwards why it was issued. It ran as follows:—

“ Sir,—As I have ascertained, on a reference to the books in which the proceedings of the Bat Club were recorded in the year 1833, that you were a member of the club in that year, and as the institution was never authoritatively *dissolved*, I have particularly to request the honour of your attendance at the HOLE-IN-THE-WALL TAVERN, on WEDNESDAY next, the 9th day of NOVEMBER inst., to consider whether the club shall be formally abolished, and the accounts closed, or whether its meetings shall be resumed, and at what periods. I am, dear Sir, yours very faithfully,

“ E. STANLEY.

“ St. Bartholomew's Hospital,
 Oct. 31st, 1842.”

Such was the notification that had called them together. It would be useless to explain to the older members the sound, the scientific, the social principles of the Bat Club. They had all been participators in the benefit of the institution, and had shared in its enjoyments, and they also knew that the meetings had been discontinued for several years. The causes which had led to that result might have been guarded against by some judicious by-laws, but the simple question they had now to determine was, whether the club should be dissolved, or its meetings resumed under new and invigorating auspices.

Mr. LAWRENCE: Our secretary, Mr. Stanley, need scarcely be reminded that he is out of order. He has himself satisfactorily shown that the Bat Club is still in existence, and that this is one of its meetings. Indeed, he has stated that the question before us is, whether the club *should be dissolved*. It is contrary to our rules to discuss this, or any other question, at our meetings, without first electing a president.

Mr. STANLEY: Quite true. I admit that I was wrong. As secretary, then, in conformity with our laws and usages, I call upon

an individual member, and on this occasion I request Mr. White to propose a president for the evening.

MR. WHITE: Being thus named, I at once propose my hon. friend Mr. Vincent. ("Hear, hear;" "Excellent choice.") My hon. friend has been too long distinguished for his eloquence, for his extraordinary facilities in unravelling intellectual difficulties, and for his peculiar powers of arranging and methodising any propositions which are submitted to his capacious mind, to require any eulogy from me to induce you to place him in the distinguished position of president for the night.

MR. H. MAYO seconded the resolution, which was carried *nem. con.*

The PRESIDENT (much affected) took the chair, and thanked them for the honour thus conferred upon him. He hoped he should discharge the duties of his office satisfactorily.

MR. STANLEY: In further explanation—(Several voices: "Order, order," "Move, move").

The PRESIDENT: Mr. Secretary, you are out of order. There is no motion before the meeting. (Cries of "Excellent chairman," and "Hear, hear.")

MR. STANLEY: I am sure I beg pardon; but I will at once place myself in a proper position before the meeting, by moving, as a resolution, "That the Bat Club be forthwith dissolved, the funds distributed amongst the members, and the books destroyed." In making this proposition I am chiefly influenced by recollecting the manner in which we were lampooned and vilified in former years, and had I entertained the remotest conception that the members would vote for resuming our nocturnal meetings, nothing could have induced me to issue the circular which brought us together to-night; but I feared that some other member might try to revive the club: I therefore yielded to certain entreaties to call this meeting, in the hope that I should induce the majority to vote promptly for its dissolution.

DR. MACLEOD seconded the motion. It was dootful wather the cloob had ever randered any sarevice to the praufeeshun, and he could staat fram his oon paresonal knowlidge that it had been the means of casting a havey lood of ooblookay upon maany distinguished officers belonging to the hospitals.

MR. BRANSBY COOPER. Sir, I have an amendment to propose: I don't care a d—n ("Order, order," "Chair, chair,") for the Secretary's qualms, nor for the obloquy described by the last speaker. There used to be life, soul, and fun, in the club, and I am for meeting again,—not so much for prosecuting dull plots and trumpery schemes, which almost broke up the club before, but for frolic, and joke, and creating a general *esprit du corps* amongst us. ("Hear, hear, hear.") I don't pretend to be a spouter, and

can't deliver myself with the solemn and measured intonation of my enlightened friend, the Secretary. Therefore I propose at once, as an amendment, "That the meetings of the Bat Club be resumed, and that arrangements for the purpose be made forthwith."

MR. GUTHRIE never supported an amendment more heartily. He was entirely for a resumption of the meetings. He cared nothing for satire or criticism. He was proof against both. Merit always made its own proclamation. For *his* part he was anxious that the meetings should be resumed, and he cared not a straw if the reporter for THE LANCET was always admitted. He was determined to speak always there, as elsewhere, as the greatest medical reformer of the age. ("Hear, hear;" "No more speeches;" "Order, order;" "Chair, chair;" "Submit the amendment.")

The PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, it is my duty, in conformity with Parliamentary usage, and the former practice of this club, to state that the following motion has been submitted to you (reads the motion); and that, since that, it has been proposed to leave out all the words after the word "that," and to substitute the following words. (Reads the amendment). That the words proposed to be left out do stand part of the question. As many as are of that opinion say "aye." As many as are of the contrary opinion say "no." The *noes* have it.

MR. STANLEY: I demand a division.

The PRESIDENT: The members must please to divide; the *ayes* to the right, the *noes* to the left.

Ayes.—MR. STANLEY, MR. TYRRELL, DR. MACLEOD, DR. ELLIOTSON, MR. LAWRENCE.

Noes.—SIR B. BRODIE, MR. TRAVERS, MR. GREEN, MR. KEATE, MR. MAYO, DR. SEYMOUR, SIR H. HALFORD, MR. VINCENT, MR. GUTHRIE, MR. WHITE, MR. ANDREWS, MR. B. COOPER, DR. LATHAM, DR. BRIGHT, MR. LLOYD, DR. BURNE, and some others.

The numbers are, *ayes* 5, *noes* 21. It is now, therefore, my duty to offer the amendment to you as a substantive motion, namely, "That the meetings of the Bat Club should be resumed, and arrangements for that purpose made forthwith." Those who are for the motion say "aye;" against it, "no." The *ayes* have it.

MR. STANLEY: I again demand a division. The four *ayes* in the previous case have now become the *noes*, and the *noes* have all become *ayes*.

The result, however, was received with great cheering, several of the members exchanging enthusiastic congratulations, and shaking hands with convulsive energy.

MR. STANLEY: I resign; I throw up the secretaryship. I know well what will be the end of it. Talk of *fun* and *frolic*! I recollect nothing but torture and scarifications. Not a thing could we keep secret. Every word was published, and my late venerable

friend, Abernethy, emphatically declared that he believed the d—I had turned reporter. You must, therefore, at your next meeting, choose another secretary. I cannot act.

However, several well merited compliments being bestowed on the Secretary, the heavy frown disappeared from his brow, and his dignified and handsome countenance was quickly adorned with an interesting smile. Finally, he relented, and consented to retain his office.

Mr. B. COOPER : Now sir, I am for having no more tom-foolery. ("Order," "Chair.") Well, I call it so, if Mr. Secretary will excuse me. I am for going to business at once. You have resolved that the club shall flourish. Now then, when shall we resume? When, I say? I propose "That a regular meeting of the Bat Club be held on this day fortnight, at the usual hour, and in this place."

Mr. GUTHRIE : I second the motion, but should prefer this day week.

Mr. STANLEY : Take my word for it, the members will find this day fortnight too soon. The fruits of any meeting will prove bitter enough to most of us. (Cries of "Question, question!" "Chair!")

The PRESIDENT : I submit the motion as proposed. I declare that it is carried.

Mr. J. H. GREEN wished to know whether the next was to be an open or a close meeting.

Mr. B. COOPER : What's the difference? I don't understand it.

Mr. J. H. GREEN : I am surprised, sir, at the inexplicable forgetfulness of my honourable friend. I do not know, sir, that it is necessary, or that I am required, to go into any diffuse philological explanation of the words "open" and "close;" but that there exists a difference between their significations must, I should hope, and as I may almost positively state, be admitted by the generality—

Mr. B. COOPER : Sir, I admit I am wrong, for I can bear that confession better than my hon. friend's explanation. I wish he understood the word "brief," as well as "open" and "close." I am just reminded, sir, by a friend, that the close meetings are meetings of members only, and that at the open meetings visitors may attend.

Mr. J. H. GREEN : If, sir, the honourable member had condescended—

Mr. B. COOPER : What's *condescending* to do with it? ("Chair, chair." "Order.")

Mr. J. H. GREEN : When, sir, I was, as I think, and probably, justly think, so irregularly interrupted, I was about to offer as lucid an explanation as could be presented to the meeting of the two important words "open" and "close;" and as that explanation would have presented no superfluous phraseology—

Mr. B. COOPER (*in a corner*) : He's off again.

Mr. GREEN—but would have been precisely, exactly, unquestionably, similar to the one which has been offered to the club by my honourable friend—

Mr. B. COOPER : That's what you always say, brother Green, you are *going* to do it, and then it is done by twenty other people before you are up to the mark. You are *always* going to do it. *Always exploding*, but never *hitting* us. You remind one of a long-barrelled duck-gun, with the powder at top and the shot at bottom. Off goes your powder with a d—lish long whiz, but nobody is struck, excepting with the uselessness of the exploit.

Mr. J. H. GREEN : In meditating on this weighty subject, with that solemn seriousness which its importance imperiously demands, I shall endeavour—

Mr. B. COOPER : There ! He's off again ! I can't stand it. ("Chair." "Order.") I rise to order. I am up to *order* now. ("Order, order.") That's why I'm on my legs ! What's the question ? There's no motion before the club. I move, therefore, that the next be an *open* meeting, that visitors may attend; and I do trust that however many explanations my hon. friend may wish to hear from others, he'll give none himself, He'll pardon me for saying that when he attempts an "explanation," as he calls it, of one single word, his complicated phraseology's like a mile-long herring-net, run out to catch one little minnow. He'll pardon my remark, but his explanations quite choke me. There, Mr. President, I've submitted another motion. Who'll second it ? It wants no *explanation*.

Dr. SEYMOUR : I strongly approve of the open meetings. The motion before the chair greets me well. I approve and second it.

After a few additional words from two or three other members, the motion was put and carried unanimously, when

The PRESIDENT said, Gentlemen, the motion having been adopted, I should inform you that one of our by-laws states that the visitors to be admitted at any meeting should be named at the preceding meeting of the club, or that their names should be placed in the hands of the secretary at least three days previously to the assembling of the club.

Dr. ELLIOTSON felt gratified on learning that a strong disposition prevailed in the club in favour of the admission of visitors. It offered a great opportunity for elevating the character of the society, by affording opportunities for introducing there, and associating with, persons of great attainments and distinction; and as they knew that genius was not restricted to either sex, he felt confident that no restrictive construction would be put upon the by-law which regulated the admission of visitors, but that it would be administered in its largest and fullest sense, thus allowing its operation to

extend to talent and skill wherever they could be discovered.

Mr. WHITE begged to inquire if the learned doctor was not out of order, unless he intended to submit a motion to the meeting, there being now no question before the chair.

Dr. ELLIOTSON had no motion to offer at that time. His object was rather to obtain some information on the subject to which he was advertising.

Mr. LAWRENCE concurred with Dr. Elliotson in thinking that the arrangement of the club for the admission of visitors admitted of being used with considerable advantage to the members,—not only as a means of giving a moral tone to their social habits and professional pursuits, but extending to a far higher object and sphere. He could not refrain from saying that he thought that the opportunity might be made religiously useful, by introducing at their nightly meetings the highest and most pious dignitaries of the church, and when there was no question before the chair he would move that the right reverend father in God, Bishop Philpotts—

Mr. B. COOPER: Who? Who? Who? (Cries of “Hush, hush,” and “Order.”)

Mr. LAWRENCE continued: Bishop Philpotts, whose consistent maintenance of principle in politics, and whose amiable and generous toleration in religion, were too well known to render it necessary to offer any eulogistic comments on his character in that club.

The motion having been put from the chair, it was carried unanimously, when up started

Mr. BRANSBY COOPER, who said, Mr. President, I beg leave to propose as a visitor, Samuel Evans, Esq.

(“Samuel Evans, Esq., Samuel Evans,” ran through the meeting; and then, over and over again, “Samuel Evans, Esq., who is he?”)

Sir B. BRODIE: Mr. President, may I beg you to read that by-law which relates to unknown visitors.

The PRESIDENT: Certainly. “When any visitor is proposed whose discoveries, scientific labours, or public services are unknown to the club, the proposer shall be required to state to the president the address of the individual, and his profession, and the nature of any distinctions which he may have obtained in art, science, or literature.”

Mr. B. COOPER: I deny, Sir, that that by-law applies to *my* visitor, who is known for his scientific accomplishments throughout the United Kingdom. I’ve as much right to propose Samuel Evans, as brother Lawrence has to propose Bishop Philpotts. I don’t think we have any business with bishops at this club, unless it’s Bishop Sharpe.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Oh, ah! I see through it now! I’ve got the clue! Bishop Sharpe?

Why he was a prize-fighter! We had him at the Westminster, and so we had Samnel Evans, *Esquire*, who, however, was better known in our wards by the title of “Young Dutch Sam.”

Sir HENRY HALFORD: Such a motion I humbly and respectfully take the liberty of saying is somewhat like a scandal to the club. Indeed, Sir, I can hardly avoid intimating that it seems to me to approach very near to an act of gross immorality.

Mr. J. G. GUTHRIE: But Samuel Evans, Esq., certainly is a *scientific* gentleman. He’s a kind of oculist, an operator on *eyes*, eh?

Mr. B. COOPER: You might call him a *brother* operator, Guthrie. There are oculists who put the light out of eyes as well as oculists who let it in. May be, both of you belong to the same class of practitioners.

Dr. ELLIOTSON: Perhaps the club will agree with me in thinking that we have had enough of this somewhat irregular debate. My honourable friend must surely see the propriety of withdrawing his motion. (Motion, by leave, withdrawn.) I beg to thank him for this mark of good sense, and I am sure he will allow me the liberty of saying that it is of the utmost importance that in proposing the names of visitors, the members should always keep steadily in view the dignity of the club, and its exalted reputation in the ranks of science. I hope that from this hour no name will be proposed, that is calculated to burlesque its proposer. In my previous observations I briefly remarked that genius was not restricted to sex, and that I confidently believed that the most liberal interpretation would be put upon the by-law which regulated the admission of visitors. I therefore at once submit to the club the motion which I have to make. You must have already anticipated its nature, though not, perhaps, its precise object. You are too well read in modern literature, too familiar with the labours of Mrs. Somerville, Mrs. Jameison, Mrs. Shelley, Lady Morgan, Mrs. Marcet, and many other ladies whom I could mention, not to be thoroughly acquainted with their reputation in this kingdom. But the name that I am about to propose has obtained an European fame, and the transcendent merits and superhuman capabilities of the lady to whom it belongs, render her an object of attraction and admiration throughout the whole civilised world. I have now only to propose that Elizabeth Okey,—whose knowledge of the divine science of mesmerism enables her at will to invert the actions of the senses; to see with her ears, to hear with her eyes, to smell by the touch,—be admitted to the club as a visitor at the next meeting.

At the conclusion of this address, the only two members at the meeting whose faces were not covered with their hands, were the president and the proposer of the motion. Not

being seconded, it was not submitted to the club by the chair.

Sir B. BRODIE then proposed the name of Sir James Graham, as he thought it very desirable that the Home Secretary should be invited to attend, that he might make any communication to the club which he might desire, relative to a "Medical Reform Bill" which he was about to introduce into Parliament. (Carried unanimously.)

Dr. LATHAM thought that if the subject of medical reform was to be considered in the club, Dr. Webster, from the British Medical Association, should be invited, and Dr. Hastings, from the Provincial. It was a highly interesting question, and as they had already fully determined on the line of policy that the club should adopt, and as they could not be moved from their purpose by any arguments that could be advanced in debating the question, it would make, at any rate, a *display* of liberality (hear, hear,) to invite the advocates of the proposition for demolishing the corporations.

Finally, the proposition for inviting the two doctors was carried, and, on the motion of

Sir HENRY HALFORD, an invitation was directed to be forwarded to Sir Robert Peel, as he (Sir Henry) hoped that the idea of having one fixed title in the New Reform Bill, would be scouted, and he thought it not unlikely that the genius of Sir Robert would enable him to suggest a sliding scale, with some rests in it, which would not be disadvantageous to the high moral character and dignity of the body to which he (Sir Henry) had the honour to belong.

This motion was received with uproarious applause, and the meeting separated, soon after midnight,—every one (by this time, even Mr. Stanley,) apparently anticipating a brilliant assembly on

THAT DAY FORTNIGHT.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE tenth anniversary meeting of the above association was, as announced last week, held at the British Coffee-house, Cockspur-street, on Tuesday evening, the 8th inst. The attendance was very numerous, and reckoned amongst its numbers many very distinguished members of the profession.

The chair was taken by the president, Dr. WEBSTER, who, in introducing the business of the evening, commented in strong terms upon the leading features of the Bill which Sir James Graham intended, last session, to lay before the House of Commons, with reference to medical law. He pointed out that so far from elevating the great body of the profession, its direct tendency would be to degrade medical men even more than the existing corporations had already done. Union, organisation, and energy, he con-

sidered to be the only means of effecting the important purposes for which the Association was formed.

The SECRETARY afterwards read the report, which brought under review the proceedings of the Council during the past year, and elicited repeated marks of approbation.

A series of resolutions, some *pro forma*, and others embodying the great principles for which it was deemed requisite to contend, were severally moved and seconded, and unanimously adopted.

The annual oration on "Medical Reform," was delivered by Mr. R. D. GRAINGER, and enumerated the grievances under which the profession labours, and contained suggestions as to the mode of their removal.

The business of the evening being concluded, the majority of the company held a *soiree*, and partook of refreshments, when several toasts were drunk, and many excellent specimens of vocal powers rendered in aid of the agreeable business of the evening, the proceedings of which extended, with the highest gratification to all parties, to a late hour. In the next LANCET we shall supply a fuller report of the proceedings of this highly interesting meeting. We may add here, that Mr. Secretary Bel-four intended to be present at the meeting, from the Royal College of Surgeons, but was suddenly and accidentally prevented. In his absence, Mr. Stone, the learned beadle (in plain clothes), and his son, the sub-librarian, attended, to fulfil, with their eyes and ears, the duties of the worthy Secretary.

Food, and its Influence on Health and Disease. By MATTHEW TRUMAN, M.D. London: Murray. Pp. 240. Royal 12mo.

It is certain that a vast number of human ailments might be avoided if people would modify their habits of living, and remove themselves from the numerous causes of disease which surround them. The doctrine that diseases come of themselves, has led many persons to conclude that most maladies are produced by causes over which they have no control. No opinion can be more erroneous, for almost every disease is produced by some external influence whose effects could either be combated or neutralised, if its mode of action were well understood. The advance of experimental science shows more clearly every day how much what is termed "the vital principle" is controlled and directed by external agents beyond what the older physiologists were willing to admit. Dr. Truman very properly inculcates that more benefit will be conferred on the human race by pointing out