later period to appreciate exactly the progressive or retrograde march of the disease. Such trials are made, for example, with printing types, or writings of various sizes, if the patient can read, or with points of various size, traced with ink on white paper, or with chalk on a black ground, and preserved for the repetition or comparison of future experiments. To test the vision of colours, we may use ribands or slips of paper of all varieties of tint, or even wafers, when the former cannot be conveniently procured. Brilliant and polished objects, such as those of steel, &c., give deceptive information; since while they are shining they frequently become too indistinct for a weak eye, and in the contrary case they are not sufficiently striking. Many experiments on persons operated on for cataract, have taught me this. We must equally make trials at various distances, and observe the length of time during which the patient sees distinctly while reading or otherwise exercising his sight. We must not place implicit reliance on the statement of the patients when they fancy they see distinctly their own hands or clothes, or other objects with which they are previously familiar.

XXXVIII. Lastly, in these trials we should in general not neglect to compare both eyes, one with the other, for which purpose one must be well covered with a bandage, while the opposite is examined. In conclusion I have only to remark, that my object in this article was not to trace the mode of diagnosis of single affections, but to advance the general precepts applicable to the examination of the alterations which the tissues of the eyes may present.

MONTHYON PRIZES.

The *Académie des Sciences* has decided in secret committee, that the following premiums should be awarded from the Monthyon funds. To M. Manec for his treatise on ligature of the arteries (analyzed in a late number of *THE LANCET*) 4000 fr. To M. DELEAU for his treatise on diseases of the ear, 4000. To M. Bennati, for his researches on the voice 2000. To M. Merat, for his treatise on tenia, 1500. To M. Lecanu, for his researches on the blood, 1500. To M. Parent du Chatelet, for his works on hygiene, 1500. To M. Villermé, for his statistical researches, 1500; and to M. Emmanuel Rousseau, for his researches on the employment of holly, 1500. In a subsequent meeting the academy also awarded 2000 to M. Leroux, for his discovery of Salicine, with the understanding that next year, if he produce further proofs of the febrifuge efficacy of this substance, he will receive the great prize of Monthyon, viz. 10,000 fr.

No. 433.

PHRENOLOGY.

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR,—As a sincere lover of useful knowledge, it gave me great pleasure to hear at the last meeting of the Westminster Medical Society, that Dr. Epps was able to give the appropriate name and situation to any organ of the brain presented to him separately, from the peculiar disposition of its fibres. *This proved*, Sir, and the most obvious objection to the science of Phrenology is shaken, “the impossibility of determining where one organ ends and another begins.” Based upon anatomy, and supported by the success of its applications in the judgment of character, its destiny can no longer give any anxiety to its warmest admirers. The “*cui bono*” can never be urged against it until the mind ceases to be the subject of disease, and a knowledge, of its nature unnecessary in the framing or administering to all human institutions. Under these impressions, to see so vital an objection disposed of by the knife of the anatomist, must be a source of great delight to every candid inquirer, and to none more so, than to your obedient, humble servant,

A PHILO PHRENOLOGIST.

December 24, 1832.

SUPPLY OF SUBJECTS TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of *THE LANCET*.

SIR,—In accordance with the promise which the Right Hon. Lord Melbourne made to me, as stated in your journal of the 22d ult., I have the happiness to inform you, that, by his Lordship's interposition, the monopoly in the distribution of subjects is completely destroyed, that I have now a good supply, and that I am to be henceforth provided with them from the same source, and in the same degree, as those teachers who are the *would-be monopolists*.

His Lordship has thus, in the most prompt and honourable manner, fulfilled the very letter of his promise.

Yours, very obediently and truly,

G. W. DERMOIT.

30, Francis Street, Bedford Square,

January 1, 1833.

* * We are happy to find that the Home Secretary has been enabled to exert a sufficient *moral influence* over certain parties to empower, at least, one of the private schools to obtain a competent supply of subjects, but we should feel obliged if Mr. Dermott will state if the bodies are *purchased* from the parochial authorities. And at what price the subjects are placed before the students.