rhœa supervened, and he died in a few days afterwards,

What was the nature of this disease? What morbid appearances would you expect to find *post mortem*? Detail the treatment you would have adopted.

MESSRS. JERDAN AND CHAMBERS.

To the Editor.—Sir: I have read with profound indignation and disgust the *exposé* in the last number of THE LANCET of the nefarious proceedings of Dr. Turnbull, for which, not only the profession, but the public at large, owe a debt of gratitude to the gentlemen who have come forward to expose such conduct, and to you, Sir, for publishing it. The "Literary Gazette," and several of the publications of Messrs. Chambers, of Edinburgh, have from time to time contained articles, couched in the strongest terms, eulogising Dr. Turnbull, and holding up to public admiration his peculiar treatment, the great advantage of which was said to be that he could, and did, cure cataract *without an operation*. What should be done when journalists, upon the most positive evidence, are convicted of the grossest deceit, of most scandalous ignorance, and of aiding grasping avarice, in matters which they have ventured to discuss, and especially upon occasions when they do so to the injury of honest and really skilful surgeons? If, Sir, those persons have the least regard for their character, or the smallest feeling of respect for honourable conduct, they will at once recall their former declarations, admit that they have been imposed on, and circulate the antidote as widely as they have disseminated the poison. Trusting that you, Sir, will not let the matter drop, I am, your obedient servant,

AN OPHTHALMIC SURGEON.

Jan. 9, 1843.

BORDEAUX PRIZE FOR AN ESSAY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Sir,—I have been requested to forward to you the accompanying "PROGRAMME"* from the Medical Society of Bordeaux, who desire to make known their intention of giving a gold medal of the value of 600 f s. (£24) to the author of the best essay on the following subject:—

"What is the influence of the penitentiary systems, and of solitary confinement in particular, on the health of prisoners, both in a physical and a moral point of view."

Papers to be forwarded to the Secretary, Mr. Burguet, Rue Fondaudège, No. 67,

* Programme des Prix de la Société de Médecine de Bordeaux. (Séance publique annuelle du 19 Nov., 1842.) Bordeaux: Hy. Faye, 1842. Pp. 20.

Bordeaux (post free), before the 15th of June, 1843, written either in the Latin, French, Italian, English, or German language. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. HOLLAND, M.D.

16, Queen-street, May-fair,
Jan. 12, 1843.

GALL'S RUBBISH.—A wiseacre, named David Leslie, of Armagh, prints "a few sentiments on phrenology" in the "Dublin Medical Press," of Jan. 4th, in which he thus sums and sets at rest the entire question:—"The whole philosophy of Gall consists in substituting multiplicity for physical and psychical unity. He divides the unity of mind into twenty-seven little minds; he divides the cerebral mass into twenty-seven little brains. Thus he destroys the unity of entity. Each organ must have its volition, its choice, in fact, its moral entity, thus destroying the unity of mind."—This perspicuous definition and fatal blow at phrenology is introduced to the reader with the following description of Mr. Muddlehead's whole paper, which we copy verbatim from his note:—"The article is too brief to be clear. However, brevity is the safest side to err on."

THE PERIODIC LITERATURE OF THE MEDICAL WORLD furnishes, daily, new facts, valuable observations, curious and anomalous forms of disease, improved methods of treatment and diagnosis, and thus becomes, to the practical and reading physician, more valuable as a reference than any strictly systematic book ever can hope to be. The numerous periodicals published in England and on the continent contain the accumulated experience and practical observations of a great number of observant medical men, on diseases, no doubt accurately described before, but also on many new and singular forms, thus furnishing cases of reference, and guides for our own especial practice. Such works are of inestimable value for the diffusion of sound medical knowledge. The periodicals are likewise indirectly useful by affording us the stimulus to seek improvement by adding our quota to the general stock of useful information through them. By their courtesy in inserting our lucubrations they stimulate us to work, to observe, and to record facts which otherwise would be lost. Our leisure is thus spent in a most interesting and profitable manner to ourselves, while, peradventure, we communicate facts worthy of the attention of our profession; our minds are, at the same time enlarged and usefully disciplined by the references we are obliged to make to the highest authorities; by their being written, facts of the greatest value are accumulated in the memory; the intellect is educated to habits of reflection; and the

highest faculties, instead of lying dormant, are called upon to reason, to analyse, and to compare.—*Dr. S. P. Evans, Dub. Jour., Jan. 4th.*

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

LIST of gentlemen admitted members on Friday, January 6, 1843: R. J. Mack, K. Kittoe, J. H. Wilmot, J. Virtue, L. Fowle, R. A. Varicas, C. R. Francis, W. H. Walker.

NEWS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor.—Sir: The Council of the Royal College of Surgeons issued a proclamation, some few months ago, stating that all diplomas bearing signs of any "alterations and erasures" must be considered as forgeries. Now, in my diploma, bearing the date of August, 1839, there is an erasure caused by the Secretary neglecting to spell my Christian name correctly; on my remarking the circumstance to him, at the time, he exclaimed that it was not of the least consequence, and wrote my name in full on the margin of the diploma, with his signature attached. Having soon to present my diploma before a board of guardians, I applied to the Secretary for a new diploma, but he still persists in saying that "it is of no consequence." Perhaps, the fact is that he does not like paying the expense of a stamp for his own error. Should I petition the Court, and what cost should I incur? Your obedient servant, A SUBSCRIBER.—Jan. 3, 1843. *** An application on the subject to the Court of Examiners would not be attended with any expense.

Sir,—Mr. Nussey, before the Parliamentary committee in 1834 (*LANCET*, 1835-6, vol. ii., p. 488), intimated that the Apothecaries' Company had then conceded their licence to University graduates without subjecting them to examination; and he gave various reasons for their so doing. I am a graduate of Glasgow, for many years in general practice. I do not think the Company will prosecute me, but I occasionally meet with a practitioner who refuses me the usual medical courtesies from my not having an apothecary's licence; or a patient who is willing to offer this as an objection to paying my bill. The medical reform so long expected seems still far distant, and I wish to remove my disqualification. Can my object be obtained in the manner stated by Mr. Nussey? Your most obedient servant, M. D.—Jan. 4, 1843. *** Mr. Nussey must have given incorrect information. Probably what he intended saying was that the Board had examined some Scotch graduates who did not possess any indentures of apprenticeship.

The letters of *Mr. W. Simpson* and *Dr.*

Dickson were put into type for publication this week, so was that of *Mr. Darey*, but the distribution of papers to various medical journals imparts to such papers the character of hand-bills, and we, therefore, always endeavour to save them from appearances which may be false, by excluding them from our columns.

SPIRITUS TEREBINTHINÆ.—The profession are solicited, by *Mr. J. H. Horne*, to try twenty-drop doses, on sugar, of the spiritus terebinthinæ, in phthisis, given three times a day. The remedy (he says) was suggested to him unconditionally, but backed by the successful cure of three successive cases. Its merits are becoming daily more known as of great value in various diseases.

Castigator.—Circulars and hand-bills similar to those of the Messrs. Sutton are so frequent in the profession that our journal might easily be filled with reprints of them. The council of the college never attempt to expel such advertisers, and could not, even if they would.

Mr. Ed. West.—Periodicals not appertaining to medicine are announced in this journal only on the cover.

Stephenus.—We are not acquainted with the terms of the keepers of the asylums. The newspapers, however, frequently contain their advertisements, and letters addressed to them would elicit some information on the subject, or an advertisement might be inserted by our correspondent.

The paper of *Mr. Ross* was received and shall be inserted.

Inquirer.—*Mr. Abernethy* died on the 18th of April, 1831.

A Med. Student.—The company has no charter, but conducts its operations under an Act of Parliament, which contains no express term of expiry.

Ignotus.—He may legally act as an apothecary, but however eligible in that respect as a medical practitioner, he would not be re-appointed to the office without a relaxation of the regulation of the commissioners.

We will endeavour to insert in an early number the cases and communications of *Dr. Moore* (London); *Dr. Lanyon* (Lostwithiel); *Mr. T. C. Lewis* (Wolverhampton); *Dr. W. F. Henderson* (Clapham); *Dr. Thompson* (Stalybridge); *Mr. T. B. Hooper* (Reading); *Dr. Ayres* (Thame); *Mr. Adam Thompson* (New Bond-street); *Dr. Frederick Bird*, *Mr. Charles Brookes*, and *Dr. Reid*.

W. S. W. should procure the work of *Mr. Bell*.

ERRATA.—In *Dr. Smyth's* paper on Impotence and Sterility, page 534, line 31, for "clear infusion" read *compound* infusion.—Column 2, for "organised systems" read *systems and organs*.—Page 535, read line 4 thus: "It is to this physiological circumstance," &c.—Page 536, line 19, erase the words "so of."