

Grove's battery with eight cells. When using it I have in my hand a holder with two copper wires passing through it, one positive from the battery, and the other terminating in a groove in the holder and fastened to a spring, by which I make or break contact at will with the negative wire. To the further end of the two wires a thin platinum wire is connected, and on the battery being charged and contact made, this takes suddenly the electric heat.

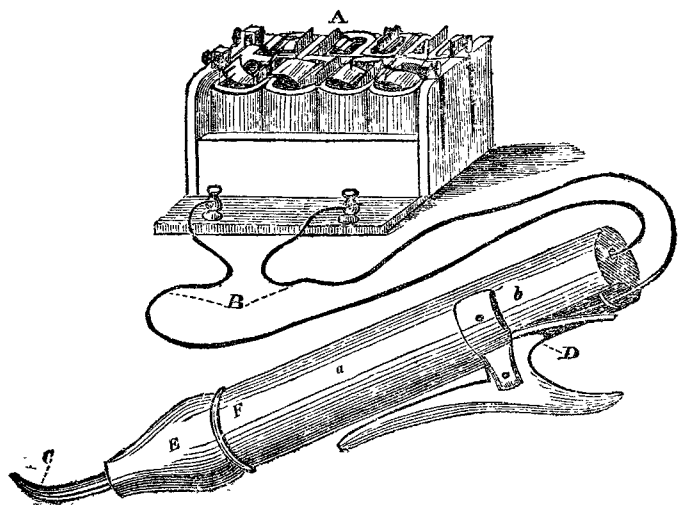
"The efficacy and simplicity of the process being so decided, I am enabled to use it for many purposes, viz. to evaporate quicksilver from cements, and render them much less injurious to teeth than they otherwise would be; also where too great sensitiveness exists, and which prevents the operator from removing the caries; where gums have receded and left the necks of teeth highly sensitive to the touch; where teeth are affected by mollities which cannot by other means be combated; where teeth have to be pivoted, and when vitality remaining in the root would subject the patient to serious inflammation; where teeth have been broken, or cut, or filed, and left sensitive to cold and warmth; where violent toothache exists; where hæmorrhages come on, or slight bleeding into the cavity, preventing a continuance of any operation.

"The electric heat retains its force differently to all other heat which can be applied to the mouth; the platinum wire can be placed, without the patient being aware of it, near the part affected, heat can be produced almost momentarily, and suddenly deadened, and as a most interesting phenomenon, and one which has surprised me very much, in patients of a highly nervous temperament where I have expected much suffering, none has been endured on its application. It would be superfluous here to detail many interesting facts which the use of electric heat will discover to the scientific dentist; these philosophy explains with the laws of the sensitive faculty. It is my sincere hope that operators will be judicious in the use of this agent, and not bring it into disrepute by ill-judged and ill-timed applications.

"In many cases it will be found equally efficacious when holding it near the teeth, as if they were touched by it.

"Care must be taken not to continue its application too long, as it will burn up and blacken the part it touches.

"As time passes on, I look forward to its use being generally understood, and it will then give rise to many improvements tending to the benefit of society."



This plate represents the electro-dental apparatus ready for use. A, Grove's battery; a, an ivory-holder pierced with two grooves, one of them open at the end; B, the copper wires, one terminating at b; C, the platinum point; D, a spring to make contact with the wire which terminates at b; E, a mouth piece unscrewing at F, and in which the platinum and copper wires are connected.

THE JOHN HUNTER CLUB.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I should not trouble you with communication if you had not alluded personally to me in your leader of last week. I shall not perhaps be able to remove your unfavourable impression of one who entertains opinions different from your own on some points of medical policy; but in the hope that those who know me will believe what I assert, I have to request, as a matter of justice, the insertion of this letter in your next number.

To your statement that the committee for managing the Fellows' dinner have attempted to revive the John Hunter Club, and endeavoured to influence the election of members of the Council at the ensuing annual meeting, I give the most positive, direct, and unequivocal denial. I have heard nothing about the John Hunter Club since its dissolution two years ago, and the merits or demerits of those gentlemen who are likely to be candidates for seats at the Council Board, have not been alluded to at any meeting of the committee.

A public dinner cannot take place without some preliminary arrangements, and these are generally managed by a few individuals who feel interested in the measure. The members of the committee assisted in the arrangements on former occasions, and as our worthy honorary secretary, Mr. White Cooper, thought their experience would be useful to him, they very gladly offered their services. They were also desirous of showing their esteem and respect for Mr. James by doing anything in their power to promote the success of a meeting over which he is to preside.

The fellows of the College have dined together for the last five years on the day of the annual meeting; but these prandial meetings have been social, and not political. They have been considered as a sort of neutral ground on which professional brethren might meet in a friendly way, and avoid the introduction of any matter likely to occasion dissension. To divest them, indeed, of every appearance of official character, the presidents have been alternately metropolitan and provincial.

It is unnecessary perhaps for me to say more. I will, however, declare, that in endeavouring to promote these annual *réunions*, I have not been influenced in the slightest degree by party or political motives. I have given them my feeble support because I am really anxious for the best interests of my profession, and believe that they are calculated to be beneficial by promoting social and friendly intercourse between the metropolitan and provincial practitioners, and because they afford an agreeable opportunity for residents in distant provinces to meet, to renew old and form new friendships.

I am, Sir, very respectfully yours,

Sunbury, June 1851.

JOHN S. SODEN.

* * We readily give insertion to the letter of Mr. Soden, and of course regard his denial of participating in any way in the attempted revival of the John Hunter club as conclusive. We are not surprised that Mr. Soden should be anxious to set himself right on this point, for a more odious combination than the club in question never existed. Mr. Soden, it is evident, though the chairman of the late club, is not in the secret of the proceedings of some of his colleagues. We are fully aware that the policy of the new combination is widely different from that of the original club. Its proceedings, however, are not so secret as to elude the vigilance of THE LANCET.—ED. L.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I regret to find that, notwithstanding Mr. W. Cooper's emphatic disclaimer, and the circumstance that the Fellows' dinner is announced to take place as usual *after* the meeting for the elections into the Council of the College of Surgeons, you persist in imputing to the committee of management an intention to interfere in the elections, and to revive the John Hunter Club. Having withdrawn from the club immediately after its formation, before the proceedings took place which gave offence to many of the Fellows, and having studiously abstained from interfering in medical politics, I cannot but feel indignant that you should strive to lead the members of the profession to believe that the part I and other gentlemen are taking in the arrangements for an annual social meeting to which the whole of the Fellows are invited—a meeting to promote harmony and good feeling—has an entirely different tendency and object. I cannot suppose that many of Fellows of the College partake in your sentiments. Had I conceived it possible that any of them would have received in any other than a kindly spirit the performance of so humble an office as that of catering for a social meeting, I certainly should not have joined the acting committee, since the only reward that could be desired for the little trouble incurred is the good-will of the parties for whom I was requested to act.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

New Broad-street, June, 1851.

T. B. CURLING.