comprise the president and part of the professional staff of the Johns Hopkins University. Several medical men have been honored by being included in the list of members, as congenial to and in sympathy with the work of scientists. Everything that may conduce to draw men together socially, such as the periodicals, cards, refreshments, etc., and handsome and comfortably furnished rooms, has been very judiciously provided for by the house committee, and already men begin to look upon the club as a part of their daily life. We all know how scientists, as they become more and more engrossed in their work, are apt to draw out of general society, from a feeling that they are out of place; they miss the sympathy with their especial work which they can find only in such an organization as this, where it is understood, and where it must be a pleasure to be able to detail to an interested listener work done and in anticipation, and they are insensibly drawn out of themselves to take interest in the work of others, on an equally scientific basis. And so with doctors: it is preëminently the club of clubs for them; not, to be sure, for finding patients, but for enlarging their views, and affording them a suitable relaxation. Apart from all this, the ability to introduce a visiting friend to a social circle of scientists, well known by reputation throughout the country, and to honor such from other sections of the country, and to know them away from the lecture room, etc., is certainly a great pleasure.

W. L.

February, 1879.

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS.

A NEW METHOD OF TREATING DISLOCATION OF THE FEMUR, WITH FRACTURED ACETABULUM.

BY W. L. FAXON, M. D., QUINCY.

MRS. FAXON, aged thirty-five, wife of Dr. W. L. Faxon, of Quincy, Mass., was thrown from a buggy while driving, October 1, 1877. When taken up there were symptoms of dislocation or fracture of the right femur. Examination proved the existence of a fracture of the lip of the right acetabulum and dislocation of the head of the femur downwards and backwards, with about four inches shortening. The fracture of the lip of the acetabulum was so deep that there was no feeling of the head of the femur being raised in its passage over the broken edge of the socket. Dr. John H. Gilbert, of Quincy, assisted her husband in the first care of the patient. Dr. Samuel Cabot, of Boston, saw the case in consultation on the Friday following the receipt of the injury, confirmed the diagnosis, and recommended the use of the long Desault splint. It was tried, but the patient's condition — she being five months advanced in pregnancy, and troubled with constant vomiting from the time she was injured — led to its being abandoned. Her husband then prepared a bed of which the following is a description: —

An iron cot-bed, six feet two inches by two feet three inches, was floored over with inch board to make a bottom that would not sag; on this was put a hair mattress of three parts, the upper part being thirty-seven inches long, the middle section twelve inches, and the lower section twenty-five inches. Under the twelve-inch section a corresponding piece of the flooring was adjusted for removal. Surrounding the bed, its lower edge just at the top of the mattress, was a frame of board, six inches wide, with legs at the corners extending to the floor, and securely lashed to the legs of the cot. Across the bed at the bottom of the upper section of mattress was a piece of board the same width at the ends as the side frame, but hollowed in the centre to one inch in width. About four inches on either end of this cross-piece were left of the same width as the sides, for reasons that will appear. On the upper piece of mattress thus cut off from the rest three bags of sand were put, the lower one extending from side to side, and its lower edge just covering the hollowed edge of the

cross-piece of frame. This bag was long enough to reach the small of the back, and was loosely filled with about three inches of sand. The space above this broad bag was occupied by two bags, each reaching to the middle of the bed. The sand was thoroughly baked before being bagged. The patient was removed to this bed about ten days after the date of injury, by her husband and Dr. J. A. Gordon. The sand in the loosely filled bags was adjusted by pushing and drawing to fit accurately all the curves of the back. The cross-piece, with the sand-bag just riding up on it sufficiently to take the shape of the lower part of the body, prevented the patient from slipping down in bed, and gave as perfect counter-extension as was ever seen. On the twelve-inch section below the cross-piece was a bag eighteen inches long and some six inches in diameter. This bag was quite tightly filled, and only by hard pressure with the ends of the fingers was made to accommodate perfectly the upper half of the thighs. This bag was made to lie close to the cross-piece. Below this the twelve-inch section was covered with a pillow, as was the lower section of the mattress. To keep the right leg in position a bag of sand was placed on each side of it. To support the foot several small bags, from one pound to four pounds' weight, *tightly filled*, were used as occasion required. The body was supported and confined on the sides by four bags, one on the side of each hip, with the lower end pressed against the uncut portion of the cross-piece. This end of the bag was made by setting in a piece of cloth the whole size of the end, so as to allow of an accurate adjustment at the hip-joint. The upper end of each bag extended nearly to the axilla. Smaller bags were placed above these to support the arms and keep the body from feeling its own weight.

The comfort and quiet brought by the removal of the splint and bandages were all that could have been desired. The patient's expression was: "There, now I feel perfectly comfortable." Almost as a matter of course the vomiting that had been present from the beginning soon ceased, and the stomach retained what was swallowed. The case progressed favorably. The bed linen was easily removed. The operations of nature, by the removal of the twelve-inch section of mattress with its sand-bag, were performed with comfort and cleanliness, and with not the slightest movement of the patient. No bandage or extension was necessary; passive motion was made as soon as it was deemed expedient, and on the fiftieth day from the receipt of the injury the patient was removed to a chair.

On January 21, 1878, she had a very easy accouchement, and the child, a boy weighing nine pounds, was apparently none the worse for his mother's injury.

At the present writing, December 5, 1878, Mrs. Faxon is able to walk a couple of miles with a cane, and barring a little pain, evidently not in the hip-joint, goes about her occupations as usual, and even has joined in a dance. Her weight, one hundred and sixty-two pounds, is a little against her very rapid recovery of complete use of the limb, but of the *perfect* recovery there is no doubt.

The simplicity of this new form of application of an old agent may be of benefit to other sufferers, and is the only reason for reporting the case.

DR. JONAH FRANKLIN DYER.

DEATH has again invaded the ranks of the medical profession of Cape Ann. At half past three o'clock Sunday morning, the 9th inst., died Jonah Franklin Dyer, a highly worthy and much respected physician and citizen of Gloucester.

Dr. Dyer was born in Eastport, Maine, April 15, 1826, and was consequently not quite fifty-three years old at the time of his death. After receiving his preliminary education, he commenced the study of medicine under the tuition of Dr. Trafton, of South Berwick, Maine, and finally graduated from the Medical School, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, in the year 1849. Soon after receiving his degree, he commenced the practice of medicine in Boston, where he remained two years. Thence he removed to Annisquam, a village in the northern part of Gloucester, in July, 1851, where he continued the practice of medicine successfully till the war of the rebellion broke out; and when the first call for surgeons for the Massachusetts volunteers was issued, he promptly offered his services, was commissioned by Governor Andrew in August, 1861, and appointed to the Nineteenth Regiment as surgeon. His activity and fidelity to trusts committed to him while in the army are matters worthy of record; suffice it to say they gained him the honorable position of division surgeon.