

person to occupy the Chair, Mr. W. Goodwin moved, "That Professor Coleman be solicited to become their President," which, on the question being put, was negatived by the casting vote of the Chairman.

It being thus decided that the President must be a member, Mr. Percivall, senior, was proposed, but declined the honour. Mr. JOSEPH GOODWIN was then proposed by Mr. CHERRY, and seconded by Mr. Percivall, and, upon this nomination, Mr. GOODWIN vacated the Chair, observing, that he wished the question to be impartially decided.

At this stage of the proceedings, when nothing remained but to put the question on this regular nomination; those who were for placing Mr. Coleman at the head of the society, evinced a determination to break up the meeting rather than suffer the ballot for Mr. GOODWIN to proceed. It was then moved, "that this meeting do adjourn to this day week," which was carried in great confusion, more than half the members having left their seats. The object of this motion was to obtain time for Mr. Coleman to become a member, that he may be elected at a future meeting; but we shall be greatly surprised if this gentleman, however anxious for office and patronage, should risk the alternative of another ballot, or permit his name to be proposed, when a majority of the members have declared against him. Next Tuesday, at six o'clock, an interesting discussion is expected, and it is thought that an INDEPENDENT President being once elected, the success and utility of the society are certain.

REDUCTION OF A SHOULDER WHICH HAD BEEN DISLOCATED SEVEN MONTHS.

Professor Smith, of New Haven, has recently effected the reduction of a dislocation, at more than seven months after the occurrence of the injury. The patient was a young woman, and the reduction was accomplished without the aid of pulleys.—*Phil. Journal of Med.*

ON SINGLE AND ERECT VISION, BY DR. FORSTER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

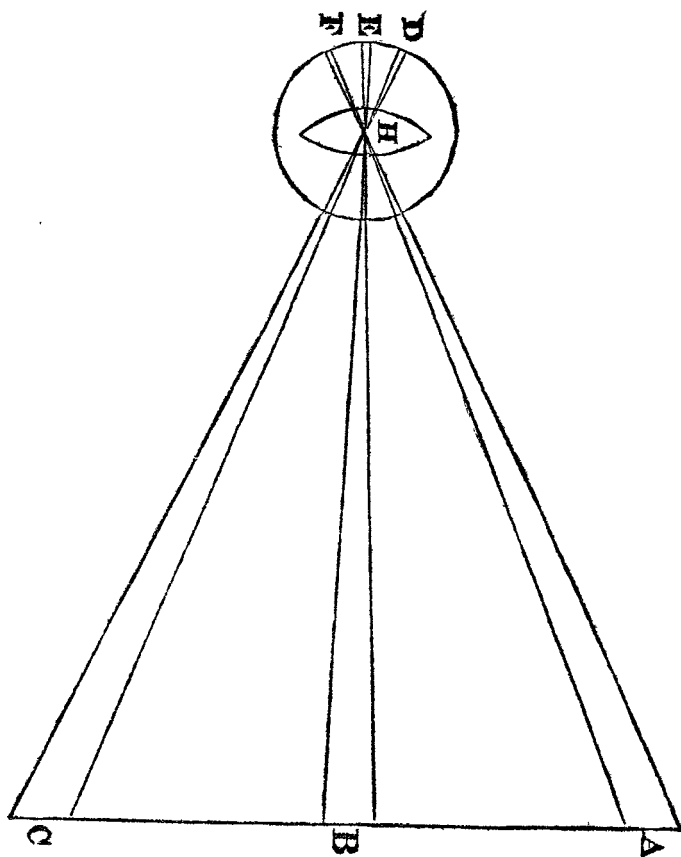
SIR,—The remarkable account of an anomaly in vision, described in your last Number, induces me to write a few observations on the subject, of which I shall beg your insertion. If the boy, (page 229,) whose case is described, saw the houses inverted, and standing on the roof, did their roofs appear to rest on the ground? If so,

why did not the ground appear inverted also? And if it did, by parity of reasoning, we must suppose that the patient saw *all objects inverted*; and, in that case, there is an end of the phenomenon of *inversion* altogether; for that term implies the *version* or turning of some objects, in a direction opposite to that of others. I mention these circumstances, merely because they bear immediately on the great question now before the philosophical world. "*Why, with two retinas, both receiving the impressions of external objects inverted, we have, nevertheless, Erect and Single Vision?*" In the paper on optics, published by the Society for promoting Useful Knowledge, no satisfactory account of this phenomenon is given; indeed, all the modern treatises on optics that I have seen, with the exception of one by Mr. Crisp, twenty years ago, have mis-stated the very question itself, and it has been no where well stated or answered; nor have any correct metaphysical views of vision been published of late, except the observations contained in a work, entitled "*On the Perception of an external Universe,*" by the author of "*Cause and Effect.*" In the former of these two works, page 408, are some observations on vision, of such a correct and truly philosophical character, that I am rendering a service to the public, and particularly to those who study optics, by pointing them out through your widely circulated Journal. I have read many modern works on the physiology and pathology of the eyes; but, with the exception of the German surgeon, Beer's, work, and of Mr. Lawrence's excellent lectures, recorded in THE LANCET, I have found in them few new or philosophical observations on the laws and disorders of vision. Indeed, I have *nowhere* seen *this particular part of the subject, viz. single vision, clearly developed, except in the work alluded to*; nor indeed is that all that might be said on the subject. The truth is, that the deeply metaphysical question, *what is the cause of single and erect vision?* is not generally understood; and should nothing appear on the subject before-hand, I intend, as soon as I have time, to communicate some curious observations and experiments through your Journal, prefacing, at the same time, that they would not have been original discoveries of my own, had they not been suggested by the perusal of the work on the "*External Universe,*" above alluded to. The subject involves some very curious considerations respecting "*spectral illusions,*" so often produced by the reaction of the stomach on the brain, in cases of disease. And I shall be obliged by any communications of cases of this sort in your Journal.

Yours, &c.

T. FORSTER.

Chelmsford, May 27th, 1828.



THE writer having recently stated the position, that it is *not* necessary for the perfection of vision, that any peculiar adjustment should be effected in the organ of sight, for objects which are situated at different distances, or which subtend different angles at the eye; and deeming that he has succeeded in proving the same by decisive experiments, he will now proceed to show that this remarkable fact is strictly accordant with optical principles.

The object, represented by the line *A B C*, subtends a large angle at the centre of the lens *H*, and may be supposed to be situated beyond the point of distinct vision, and its image perfectly apparent on the retina. Now it is evident that the part of this object which subtends an angle at *B*, and the whole object *A B* and *C* cannot subtend equal angles: hence it may be imagined that as rays of light emitted from a minute object at *B* must pass nearly in a parallel direction through the pupil to form an image on the retina; that rays from the whole object *A B* and *C* must be much more converged, and a conflux or image form *nearer* to the lens. But it will require little reflection to detect the fallacy of such argument. If rays of light are transmitted nearly

parallel through the pupil from a small part at *B*, then it is plain that rays from other parts of the object, as at *A* or *C*, which subtend the same minute angles, will take the same relative direction, and form images as *F* and *D*, the image of every part of the object *A B C*, being found on corresponding points of the retina. Then it is evident that if an object subtending a minute angle at the centre of a lens can form an image at its principal focus on the retina, a large object, being equally distant, will form its image on the same retina with the same *mathematical precision*. Thus if a minute object approach too near the eye for distinct vision, its image being virtually beyond the retina, a large object will become obscure *precisely at the same distance*, and *vice versa*: this will be found true on experiment. Then the following conclusion is warranted, both by optical theory and demonstrative fact: so far from a change in the refractive powers of the humours of the eye, or in the relative situations of the retina and crystalline lens, being ever absolutely essential to the perfection of vision in the perfect organ; every such *change*, however *produced*, or however slight in degree, must always be found proportionally detrimental.