

Whatever he may do on the occasion can be of no importance to any one but himself. Probably he will receive a visit of condolence from his friend ALDRED, of Yarmouth. Instinct would seem to indicate that such kindred spirits and intellects ought not to be disunited at this festive season of the year.

While we are quoting from the Act, it may be as well to insert also the fourth clause, for the information of Messrs. RAMSBOTHAM, SEMPLE, ALDRED, and other amateur dissectors and attendants at post-mortem inspections and inquests, but more especially for the information of Mr. SEMPLE:—

“IV. Provided nevertheless, and be it further enacted, That no order of payment shall be given, or fee or remuneration paid, to any medical practitioner for the performance of any post-mortem examination which may be instituted without the previous direction of the coroner.”

Sir B. C. BRODIE has subscribed five guineas towards defraying the expenses which Mr. BAKER, of New North-road, Hoxton, incurred, in procuring signatures to the general petition in favour of the Medical Witnesses Bill.

CURVATURE OF THE HUMERUS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—About twelve months ago, as I was visiting some patients with scarlatina maligna, in a village about two miles from home, I was requested to see an old woman (Mrs. Emmerson) who wished to shew me her arm, as she “considered it a curiosity.” Being rather early in the morning, I found her in bed, and was astonished at the singular appearance which the limb presented. She said, that she was then seventy-two years of age, and had never received any hurt on her arm; but had sometimes suffered a good deal from rheumatic pains, in various parts of her body, for years, particularly in the curved part of her arm. The “bend,” however, as she termed it, had only taken place within the last six years; it began when she was about sixty-six years of age, prior to which period “one arm was as straight as the other.” The woman was of rather a thin or spare habit, but had always enjoyed tolerably good health. Of

course I felt rather anxious to preserve so valuable a specimen of morbid structure, whenever her decease might occur. This took place a few months since; and having obtained the consent of the woman’s friends, I took a scalpel and removed the arm at the shoulder-joint; and beg leave, as I have not seen any thing of the kind before, in any of the museums in London, to send you an outline of the bone, together with this brief history, for insertion in your valuable Journal.* After removing the fleshy parts, you will observe that the humerus appears to be thickened in nearly the whole of its length, excepting at the neck and head of the bone, which preserve the normal state. But, independently of the curvature, the thickening is not regular throughout; there is a sort of corner, or angle, in one or two places, the bone between *a a* being covered with a kind of osteo-cartilaginous substance, of several lines in thickness, which was of a very vascular character, the blood oozing in considerable quantities when the point of the scalpel was pushed into it;† this substance contained several deep holes, or cells, and furrows in some parts, which give it a spongy appearance, which I have endeavoured to represent in the outline above. It is now a dried preparation, and placed in my museum, and considered valuable by several medical men, in consequence of its rarity.

How is this curvature of solid bone, occurring in so short a time, to be accounted for, without any marked disease externally, since no other bone in the body was at all affected by the same diseased action?

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

B. W. BROWN,
Wimeswold, Leicestershire,
Dec. 6, 1836.

SECTION OF THE PERINEUM IN LABOUR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—In consequence of my attention having been lately directed to some observations in your valuable Journal on the subject of division of the perineum during labour, I forward the accompanying case, in which the operation was performed in each labour. I am, Sir, your humble servant,

JAMES TOWNLEY.
Marlborough-place, Kennington,
December 15th, 1836.

I was summoned, on March 26th, 1833, at 7 A.M., to visit Mrs. K., residing in Kenning-

* The outline sketch with which Mr. Brown has favoured us, cannot, we find, be transferred to a wood engraving with advantage. We therefore state, that the curvature of the sketch would about invest the half of the rim of a crown-piece.—ED. L.

† The bone under this substance appeared to be as firm as the other parts of the humerus.