

with the facility with which, according to Dutrochet, fluids may be drawn through animal membranes, it is not difficult to believe that nourishment is directly imbibed from the vessels of the mother by the circulating fluid of the embryo, through the fine intervening membranes.'

"It is possible, also, that other means may be at play in the promotion of such an effect in the foetus, besides the one before mentioned. We may instance, as a probable one, lymphatic absorption. The probable existence of lymphatics in the placenta was admitted by Dr. Hunter. 'It is most probable that it (the foetus) is nourished by thousands of small lymphatic vessels which absorb nourishment from the blood of the mother, and carry it along the navel strings. It is true we cannot see any lymphatics running upon the navel-string, yet it is reasonable to conclude they do.' Hunter's conjecture has since been realised. (See Chaussier, Fohman, Uttini, Lauth.) The second of these anatomists has delineated them in rich profusion, extending from the placenta along the funis, leaving the funis at the navel, and directing their course to the groin."

The author quotes certain speculations relating to the nutrition of the foetus, but these for the most part are mere hypotheses. The nature of the changes which the foetal blood undergoes is not understood. There is no change of colour, but that does not imply the absence of any intrinsic alteration in the properties of the fluid. It is, however, of the utmost importance to bear in mind the great distinction which exists between the independence of the foetus *quoad* life, and its dependence *quoad* nutrition. The former is secured by a total separation of the two circulations, and the latter by the close contact of the organs supporting those circulations. Thus it is we find the foetus living on, after its connexion with the mother has been severed; whilst, on the other hand, the influence of the mother over her offspring is unquestionable.

The principal part of Dr. Granville's work, as we have already hinted, and as the title-page declares, is *graphic*. The plates, which are twelve in number, are, as we remarked when they first came under our notice, most accurate and beautiful; in truth it would be vain for us to attempt to describe what these plates so well represent. It becomes the duty

of every man who loves study, and to encourage the labours of others in the higher walks of the profession, to examine the book itself. We have now simply to say, that every point in the text which could be advantageously illustrated by original drawings, is made the subject of a beautiful reference to nature, as she may be seen in the bright mirror of pictorial art. The figures are, first, those of morbid ovula, from three weeks after menstruation, supposed to have passed away from the womb almost immediately after entering it, in consequence of a deficient formation of the peculiar lining which the uterine cavity weaves for itself after a successful congress of the sexes. Then, rudiments of an embryo, more than usually diminutive; the transparent involucra and placental covering imperfectly developed; an embryo of about *five* weeks old, the volume of the transparent involucra in which, is disproportionate to the embryo itself, and the placental covering, with its filiform vessels, bearing a still larger proportion to them; then, abortions at from eight weeks to five months. *Ovum fecundum in receptaculo ovarico*, early period; *in receptaculo tubico*, more advanced period, with a large collection of other highly interesting plates, all admirably finished, and in every way worthy of the important views they are destined to elucidate.

The work is admirably executed, and proves, most indisputably, that Dr. Granville, as an investigator in the field of medical science, is endowed with high mental capabilities and attainments.

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#### EXCLUSION OF MEDICAL MEN FROM THE COLCHESTER HOSPITAL.

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*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—As Chairman of the meeting at which the accompanying address to the Committee of the Essex and Colchester Hospital was agreed to, I am requested to send it to you, together with the answer.

In the present stage of our proceedings I think it only necessary to state, that there are but three surgeons residing in the town, unconnected with the hospital, who did not sign the Address, and that

one of these was a party to the proceedings we complain of during the ten years he was Surgeon to the Institution. The present surgeons are, Messrs. Nunn, Partridge, and Waylen. You have effected mighty changes in the management of kindred institutions in London since you began your Herculean task, and I do trust that you will prove your power of *ubiquity* by an exposure of our provincial abuses. You will be informed of our ulterior measures, and have a full account of the *staff* kept up for the use of our hospital, which accommodates about 40 in-door patients.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES MORSS CHURCHILL, F.L.S.

*"To the Committee of the Essex and Colchester Hospital."*

"Gentlemen,—We believe you will consider no apology necessary from us for addressing you on a subject connected with the interests of the institution of which you constitute the executive.

"You are doubtless aware that the medical practitioners of Colchester not in immediate connexion with the hospital, are at all times sedulously excluded from it, while their brethren resident in the neighbouring towns and villages are generally present by *invitation*, at the performance of all important surgical operations in your operating theatre. So that not only are we prevented from all opportunities of rendering professional assistance to the objects of the charity, by the law which enables the medical officers of your institution to hold their places for life; but we are also shut out by the interdict of the surgeons from a participation in immunities to which our more favoured brethren around us are admitted. This proscription we hesitate not to designate *uncourteous, invidious, and unjust*, and such as the governors of no public charity, supported principally by the voluntary munificence of the public at large, should either countenance or allow. We, therefore, confidently hope, that your attention has only to be more fully directed to the subject, to cause the enactment of such statutes as shall effectually destroy those invidious distinctions, and open the doors of your institution, at all proper seasons, to every respectable member of the medical profession.

"In thus appealing to you, we know we are acting in accordance with the views of many of the supporters of the charity, who consider a more liberal policy essentially connected with its best interests, and likely to render it more extensively useful to the community.

"We are, Gentlemen, yours respectfully,

(Signed)

"PHILIP GRETTON, J. M. CHURCHILL,  
JAMES BARKER, J. A. PHILBRICK,  
SAM. PHILBRICK, E. L. GIRLING,  
DAVID MORRIS, B. G. WALKER.  
"Colchester, October 10, 1833."

*Answer to the foregoing Address.*

"To J. M. CHURCHILL, Esq.

"SIR,—Having communicated the letter accompanying your note to the Committee this day, I am desired to state in answer, that it was the unanimous opinion of the Board, that a compliance with the request contained in the above letter, would be in direct opposition to several rules of the institution in which the Board do not consider it desirable to recommend any alteration.

"Herewith you will receive copies of the rules and regulations of the hospital. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"C. E. STUART, Secretary."

"Essex and Colchester Hospital,  
14th October, 1833."

## ALDERSGATE-STREET DISPENSARY

### MEETING AT THE NORTHAMPTON INFIRMARY.

At a numerous meeting of the members of the medical profession resident in Northamptonshire and the neighbouring counties, held at the Northampton Infirmary, Oct. 5th, 1833, Dr. A. ROBERTSON in the chair, the subjoined resolution was passed unanimously, and with acclamation, the following gentlemen being present:—

A. Robertson, M.D., Physician to the Northampton Infirmary.  
John Horwood, Surgeon, Northampton.  
H. Teiry, Surgeon to the Northampton Infirmary.  
James Mash, Surgeon, Northampton Infirmary.  
Geo. Osborn Rogers, Surgeon, Newport Pagnel.  
William Roughton, Surgeon, Kettering.  
W. S. Wyman, Surgeon, Kettering.  
A. Billson, Surgeon.  
F. H. Ripling, Surgeon, Newport Pagnel.  
Samuel Bucknell, Surgeon, Rugby.  
Thomas Osborne, Surgeon, Northampton.  
John Scriven, Surgeon, Wellingborough.  
Thomas Heygate, M.D., Harborough.  
John Elderton, Surgeon, Northampton.  
Benjamin Duley, Surgeon, Wellingborough.  
William Dix, Surgeon, Buckby.  
T. H. Lewis, Surgeon, Stony Stratford.  
Charles Noble, Surgeon, Brixworth.  
Thomas Clark, Surgeon, Wellingborough.  
John Marriott, Kibworth, Leicestershire.  
A. M. Outlaw, Surgeon, Wellingborough.  
J. Parker, Surgeon, Towcester.