

cold air bursting into the ventricles, facilitates the ascent of vapours, and, on particular occasions, the descent of pituitary excrement! Galen, moreover, conceived that the soul was enthroned in the brain, and that man was originally created of dust; in support of which opinion he quotes Moses and Plato—(see *Galen on the use of parts* 8, 9, 11; or, *Mundelis Theâtrum Galeni*.)

Having prolonged these observations beyond the proposed limits, I shall make but one more remark on the subjects of the Lecture, and that is, that M. Broussais can scarcely expect the profession, on his bare assertion, to believe that Cuvier disapproved of Gall's theory in consequence of a tyrant's frown, and not in consequence of the reasons stated in the Report to the Institute on the Memoir of Gall and Spurzheim, especially as he afterwards maintained his published opinions, when M. Broussais's supposed cause of them was far, and for ever, removed. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

R.

Lichfield, August 12th.

RESULT OF THE DEVICES OF MESSRS. SMITH AND BREE, AND THEIR COADJUTORS.

GENTLEMAN AND FARMER'S TWO-PENNY MEDICAL CLUB.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Enclosed is the Prospectus of a Medical Club which has been established in this neighbourhood. My principal object in sending it to you is to furnish, not a "supposed," but a real, fact, in answer to Mr. Bree's opinion that there is no danger of the system of Medical Clubs being extended to Farmers. You will, see, by the second paragraph in the handbill, that there is a special provision for Gentlemen and Yeomen being admitted to all the privileges of the Club, on paying an increased subscription.

The system of Medical Clubs has not been adopted in the Taunton Poor Law Union. I believe it was recommended by the Assistant Commissioner, but the Guardians were disposed, on the whole, to be more liberal to the Medical Officers than other Guardians have been in many other Unions, and the salaries fixed by the Board, though small, and inadequate as a remuneration for the labour required, are, at all events, not worse than the former system of payment.

The surgeon whose name appears in the Prospectus, is not one of the Union surgeons. He is, I believe, the only medical man who has any connection with the Club, of which, indeed, he is considered to have been the projector, although he only publicly appears as the Medical Attendant appointed by a Committee.

I send you this document without any comments of my own;—you may make what use of it you please. I have no wish that my name should appear, unless you think it desirable. You can withhold it or not, as you think proper.* I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

H. ALFORD, Surgeon to the
Taunton and Somerset Hospital,
Taunton, Aug. 11, 1836.

"MEDICAL CLUB,

"CREECH ST. MICHAEL.

"It was determined at a MEETING, held at the BELL INN, CREECH ST. MICHAEL, by the members whose names are annexed, to form themselves from henceforth into a regular Society, to pay their own Medical Attendant during any future illness, casualties, &c., (Midwifery excepted), at the rate of Six Shillings per annum, for each subscriber, which will include his family under his own roof, not arrived at the age of maturity, and that the same be paid by quarterly instalments of One Shilling and Sixpence; and any member neglecting to pay his quarterly subscription will be considered to have withdrawn himself from the Club, and not to be re-admitted until the arrears due be paid up; and that the funds are to commence with a quarter's pay in hand.

"It is understood that the above regulations strictly apply only to Mechanics, Labourers, and the Second Poor, independent of parochial relief; *but GENTLEMEN, YEOMEN, AND OTHERS, joining this society, WHOSE MEANS MAY BE DEEMED ADEQUATE TO PAY AN EXTRA PRICE, are to be admitted as MEMBERS accordingly, WITH EVERY BENEFIT ARISING FROM THIS INSTITUTION,* on condition of their so paying a further charge, which is to be arranged by the Medical Attendant and Committee, which shall be afterwards formed according to a just scale, taking the number of their families, servants, &c., into consideration.

"And we forthwith and hereby appoint Mr. James Dyer, Surgeon, &c., of Taunton, our Medical Attendant, and that his services are to commence forthwith, upon the payment of a quarter in hand. And should any complaint arise from any member as regards neglect, or non-attendance of that gentleman, that the aforesaid committee so appointed shall have a delegated power of inquiring into and regulating his future attendance.

* As communications of this description always carry more weight when they are supported by the name of a respectable author, we deem it expedient to allow the name of Mr. ALFORD to remain attached to his letter.—ED. L.