

Questions proposed to the Class of Practical Anatomy, with the Answers returned by the Four most distinguished Students, at the Examinations held in the University of London, for the Session 1828-9.
London. Taylor. 1829. Crown 8vo. pp.48.

Few will be disposed to deny the advantages which must ever result from bestowing upon pupils of talent and industry prizes and honours, in all large medical schools. But the manner in which many of the examinations for these marks of distinction are instituted, completely perverts the principle upon which rewards should be conferred. In many of our schools, medals and other prizes are mere baits thrown out by the lecturers to catch the pupils' fees, and students on hearing that prizes are easily obtained in a particular school, become anxious to enter there, in the expectation that with very little exertion they will be enabled to obtain, if not the highest rewards, some minor prize or mark of honour. It becomes, therefore, matter of great public importance, if distinctions are to be conferred upon particular students, that their claims to such distinctions should be made known. Otherwise, idle and incompetent teachers may puff themselves into notoriety, and, at the same time, send before the public an inferior class of practitioners, bedecked with gold and silver medals, and honorary diplomas. To render, therefore, the possessors of such prizes worthy of respect and confidence, the examinations should be in public, and the examiners and arbiters should not be the professors themselves, but should consist of gentlemen altogether unconnected with the classes. Further, the prizes should not be numerous, because their value will always be in the direct ratio of their scarcity and the difficulty of obtaining them. Honours thus won and awarded, will always mark their possessors as objects of respect. But bestowed as they now are in many of our schools, they render the pupils who obtain them subjects of ridicule, and the lecturers who give them objects of scandal and reproach. It is, therefore, with the highest satisfaction, that we have seen the little volume now put forth by Mr. Bennett. It is at once a proof of his talents and honesty.

As we gave a full account, in No. 300, of the manner in which prizes were awarded at the London University, and the names of the successful candidates, we shall only extract the eighth question and answer, for the first silver medal, obtained by Mr. Benjamin Phillips of Monmouthshire.

Question 8.—The anatomy of the duodenum.

Answer.—The duodenum is the commencement of the small intestines, succeeding immediately to the stomach, lying concealed by the transverse mesocolon. It is divided into three portions: the first, about two inches long, commences at the pylorus, passes horizontally backwards and to the right, and near the neck of the gall-bladder forms an angle with the second, which descends vertically, and ends near the third lumbar vertebra; the third, continuous, passes transversely to the left, and before the vertebral column, towards the superior extremity of the mesentery. In this course it forms a semicircle, which embraces the head of the pancreas. The first portion has, more or less in front of it, the liver, gall-bladder, and transverse colon. The second, or perpendicular portion, has in front the ascending colon, and behind it the right kidney and its vessels. The third portion is crossed in front by the superior mesenteric artery and vein, which separate it from the pancreas, and behind it has the vena cava, aorta, and vertebral column. Its inner surface is mucous like the stomach, having many curved folds (the valvulae conniventes) formed by the inflection of the mucous membrane. At the point of union of the second and the third portions is a small tubercle, at whose summit are seen the united or isolated orifices of the biliary and pancreatic ducts. The duodenum is not completely invested with serous membrane. Its muscular coat is thick, nearly all the fibres being transverse like those of the stomach.

As this answer may be taken as a pretty fair specimen of the whole, the public can appreciate the impartiality and discernment of the different professors in awarding the prizes.

CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.

Communicated by CHARLES BRADY, Esq.

— EDWARDS, aged 45, a dealer in dogs, was bitten on the morning of the 10th of April last, by a dog to which he had been giving aperient medicine, and came to me for the purpose of having the wound cauterised.

On inquiring into the circumstances, it appeared that he had been extensively connected with a trade in these animals the greater part of his life, had been frequently bitten, had often seen dogs in a rabid state, and, consequently, had many opportunities of knowing their various states and conditions of health. In the present case, he positively affirmed that the dog was neither rabid nor viciously inclined, but that he had been accidentally bitten by the dog, while making an effort to close its mouth after the administration of a dose of salts. He consequently refused to allow me to excise the bitten part, which I was very anxious to do. I therefore saturated the part with strong nitric acid, to produce sloughing, and destroy any virus which might have been communicated.

I afterwards saw the dog. It was labouring under pain and uneasiness, from frequent efforts to void fæces; this it shortly did, and immediately devoured them. He also took oil and food, with greediness. On the patient's (his master) speaking to the dog, the animal fawned on him, and appeared in no way vicious. The eyes were slightly turgid; but, on the next day, this was gone; the animal lay quiet, walked firmly, breathed easily, showed no saliva, had drunk, evacuated, and showed not the slightest symptoms of rabies. In the evening he died, without apparent pain, and knew, and caressed his master to the last moment. On examination, the stomach presented its natural appearances; there were a few ends of straw present, there was neither turgidity nor inflammation; the duodenum was impacted with black fæces of a purely stercoraceous nature. Under all the circumstances, I came to the conclusion, that the animal was not rabid, and that his death had been occasioned by constipation. His master said, it was not unusual for dogs to die in the same way. The interest of the case is enhanced by the doubt there exists, whether the dog laboured under hydrophobia or not.

On Wednesday, the 27th of May, at 6 P.M., forty-seven days after the accident, the man came to my house in the greatest anxiety, and stated, that it was all over with him, that his hand and arm had been greatly pained the day previous, that he had had cold sweats during the night, and felt chilly now, and could not drink water without spasm and fear, though thirsty. I requested him immediately to return home, and in a few minutes I saw him, with Mr. Shea of Great Charlotte-street. We presented him with a little salts dissolved in water, which he was obliged to quaff very precipitately, experiencing for a few seconds much spasmodic action. He then resumed a quiet manner and conversed rationally, repeatedly saying,

as he continued to say throughout, that he should be much better if he could be sick.

The symptoms were now of too unequivocal a nature to admit of a doubt of their arising from hydrophobia. Anxiety of countenance, rapidity of motion, spasm of the pharynx, rigours and stertorous breathing, were very marked; the pulse small, feeble, slightly remittent, and 76. Three grains of calomel, and one of opium, with one ounce of castor oil, were administered. At 9 P.M., I found him in a comatose state, waking at short intervals. I had then seen Mr. Callaway, who wished him to enter the hospital immediately, and on a promise that he should not be left there, he consented to go. Drs. Bright and Addison now saw him with Mr. Callaway, who all concurred in opinion as to the cause. He was ordered to be cupped to ten ounces, a belladonna plaster to the scrobiculus cordis, an enema, with tincture opium, two drachms—tincture asafœtida, half an ounce—sulphuric ether, half a drachm, every three hours. A suppository with four grains of opium, and five grains sulphate of zinc, to be kept in the rectum.

At 2 P.M. a second consultation was held; the sufferer's case had become decidedly aggravated; his sickness and desire to throw up mucus from the larynx increased; at seeing or hearing fluids, the spasms returned; his pulse 100, and intermittent; his countenance wretchedly anxious; bowels slightly relaxed; tongue less white than in the morning; on suddenly rising in the bed, or making exertion, the spasms returned; the interval between the paroxysms shortened; the pain at the scrobiculus cordis violent. The enemata and suppositories on being administered, almost instantaneously came away. He had not submitted to them long, before his temper became exasperated, which rendered it impracticable to continue their use sufficiently long to expect any advantage to follow. It is worthy of remark, that the wretched sufferer could sit for a minute or two, at this time, without being incommoded by the free current of air from the open window.

At 5 o'clock, Dr. Bright, Dr. Addison, and Mr. Callaway again met, when the patient's sufferings were truly appalling, his pulse 109, and intermittent, the four quarters of a minute being, 32, 23, 25, 24. Dr. Bright suggested the propriety of inducing local inflammation in the part, by making an incision, and inserting cantharides, to which Mr. Callaway acceded, and without delay proposed it to the wretched sufferer, who, however, peremptorily refused submitting to the operation. The pure kali was then proposed as a substitute, but this he also violently refused. Two drachms more of tincture of opium, were ordered to be added to each enema. And, in order to render the

suppositories less stimulating, the zinc was discontinued, and each suppository composed of six grains of opium. A consultation was again appointed for nine, but he could not be prevailed upon to see any of his medical attendants, except Mr. Callaway. His pulse had risen to 120, and was intermittent, with peculiar expression of countenance. At 3 A.M. of Thursday, the phrenzy had reached a height at which he could not be soothed, even by his wife and sister, whom he severally attempted to injure by blows; their affection and firmness, however, eventually overcame his rage. At half past 3, he inquired for Mr. Callaway, who, upon being called up, immediately attended, and soothed the unhappy sufferer's mind, and continued to do so by his presence until 5, when he left, the pulse of the deceased being then so rapid, as to render it difficult to count it. From this time, his miseries increased; Mr. Callaway called again at 7, but did not get admitted; in this state the poor fellow continued with scarcely any intermission until half past 10, when death terminated his sufferings.

I am informed by Mr. Callaway, that shortly before his arrival, on the morning of Thursday, the deceased's sexual propensities had led him to express himself very lasciviously.

Charlotte-street, Blackfriars,
June 3, 1829.

THE MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL JOURNAL.

THE last Number of this melancholy magazine exhibited a glaring instance of "the scant measure that is abominable," and this fact we took an early occasion of hinting to the editors. The case appeared the more flagrant, because the measure was leanness itself in quality, as well as quantity. Our hint on the subject, however, has not passed unheeded, for Mr. Souter, sensible of the injustice of charging half a crown for half a dozen pages of bald matter called "original papers," though a large parcel of reprint may at the same time be thrown into the scale, has this month sent forth a number, at least two-thirds of which its purchasers have not paid for before in some other shape.

But, as experience has taught us that mere appearances are deceptive, and that, whatever show it may make, the *Yellow Journal* is not every month a *golden* treasure; that this publication, as in the reign of RODERICK MACLEOD, has often borne a close resemblance to the money of Lycurgus,

the weight and value of which were out of all proportion; we shall take the liberty, without further preface, of examining its contents, and ascertaining what the little band of three, (for Dr. Webster's elegant and grammatical second-hand "observations" hardly entitle him to rank as a fourth,) have just contributed towards supporting the character of that work which the unfortunate RODERICK so effectually ruined in the eyes of "the faculty in Europe and America."

We are induced to pass over for the present the paper on the medical schools of Italy, for the sake of a few words on the subject of the second, "*Observations and Experiments on Mesmerism*," which professes to be written by Mr. RICHARD CHENEVIX, a gentleman who is not a member of the profession, but "a fellow of the Royal Society," in which body, we fear, the philosophers are fewer than they ought to be. The subject of Mesmerism has been, tied to the tail of Mr. CHENEVIX on the other side of the water, by some French wags, who pretend that they believe in the doctrine (if it be not an abuse of language to dignify such an art with the name,) and we suppose that, like a dog with a tin kettle, or the wild bull of Thebes with Dirce at his tail, Mr. C. will drag this "mesmerism" about, till one of the two, Mr. C. or the subject, (and heaven long preserve the life of the former,) gives up the ghost. It would be perfectly in character with the paper to treat the whole as a joke, which was too good to be spoiled; but this is No. 2 on the same topic, and has been prefaced by another, with which Mr. CHENEVIX rushed into the presence of the sedate public two months since, exclaiming in a voice that, coming from St. Paul's Churchyard, might have been heard in Hyde Park, "Mesmerism is true, is true! Mesmerism is true! Rejoice ye sick, ye maimed, ye bilious, ye blind, and ye deaf, it is true, every word!"

We cannot, in reason, expect such of our readers as are under three or four score years of age, to understand what is meant by the term "mesmerism," but those who have arrived at this venerable period of life, will probably call to mind some particulars of the birth and progress of a mania which raged for a time in their youth under the name of animal magnetism, an importation from the French capital, after it had been kicked out of every other city on the continent, and was finally knocked on the head in England, in consequence of a patient and most careful investigation into its claims, by a committee of the first philosophers and physicians living. For the benefit of those, however, whose hairs time has not yet silvered, we will state here what mesmerism is, an explanation which is the more neces-