tioner, under whatever denomination, of the power of dispensing medicines, may look very plausible in writing, but in practice will be found quite another matter. It is not so easy to change the established habits of the community as he seems to imagine; the public have been accustomed from time immemorial to be supplied with medicines by their surgeon-apothecary, and to deprive them of this would be an outrage upon established custom, which they are in no wise prepared to expect or submit to. It must not be lost sight of, that the subject of medical reform is one in which the community at large take little or no interest: it is an affair of the profession chiefly. The public have no great cause to complain, so long as they can obtain efficient medical aid, on reasonable terms, and very often for nothing. It is the practitioner who has most need to be dissatisfied, that he is often badly paid, and frequently not paid at all, for services of the greatest value. Hence it is that an alteration in the system of remuneration is so loudly called for; it is an affair of equity betwixt the parties; and I would contend that the reform about to be sought by the profession should be established upon principles of equity and honour. Give us by law the proper place that we are entitled to hold in society by our scientific acquirements; establish our position, as men of art and science, in the first place, and let our mercantile proceeding assume a subordinate character; give us reasonable remuneration for our time, and skill, and judgment, and pay us for our medicines, at the same rate as the druggist is now paid—I say at the same rate as the druggist is now paid; and we shall then appear before the public in our true character, and the druggist, in all probability, will soon discover, and exclaim—"Othello's occupation's gone." But so long as medical practitioners continue to seek remuneration through high charges for medicines, the druggist will continue to flourish, and we must be contented to witness the apparent ingratitude of the public, displayed in the tide of favour which is for ever flowing from our hands into those of our gaudy rival.

The clause, No. 3, in Dr. Sinclair's proposed bill, promises effectually to establish the surgeon-apothecary in that position which all acknowledge he is entitled to hold, and which is of all things most essential for him to obtain. As a sequel to this, I would propose the addition of a clause to protect the public from unreasonable charges for medicines, rendered unnecessary by the passing of such act, but which, from various motives, might continue to be practised by the profession. Such enactment would effectually annihilate a custom which has tended more than anything to bring the profession into its present most unsatisfactory condition; it would, moreover, secure the elevation of the professional character of the surgeon-apothecary, by conspicuously placing the science of medicine above the trade with which it has ever been associated. As the matter now stands, the general practitioner is regarded as little better than a petty dealer in medicines at an exorbitant price.

I submit these remarks with diffidence to my colleagues in general, and to Dr. Sinclair in particular, whose proposed bill appears the most rational and practicable of anything that has hitherto appeared. He has rightly appreciated the importance of doing one thing at a time. The second division of the subject may safely be delayed for a season; but the abuses now existing, and which threaten us with ruin, call loudly for immediate and unequivocal reform. I am, Gentlemen, your constant reader.

A PROVINCIAL SURGEON-APOTHECARY.

NOTE OF A CASE OF CEREBRAL DISEASE IN A CHILD.

By J. TOOGOOD, Esq. Bridgewater.

THE child of a clergyman, two years old, had a violent attack of inflammation of the lungs in March, 1839, from which he recovered with difficulty, but completely. He was, to all appearance, quite well at eight o'clock in the

evening of the 10th of May; at twelve the nurse found him hot and feverish, and being very restless, she put him into a warm bath at three in the morning, and gave him some castor oil. I saw him at seven A.M., when he was hot, feverish, and much oppressed. A dose of basilic powder was directed, and at nine I found the lower part of the abdomen livid, and observed numerous petechiæ about his person. This was rapidly followed by convulsions, screaming, and total insensibility, and at two P.M. he died.

The *post-mortem* examination brought to light marks of inflammation and slight deposition of lymph on the surface of the brain, and a large collection of fluid in the ventricles. The lungs were perfectly free from tubercular deposit or any vestige of disease. I have never met with an instance in which this affection passed through its different stages with such extraordinary rapidity.

MEETING OF CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS.

A NUMEROUS and (to use the expression of one learned druggist, Mr. Herring) highly *intelligible* meeting of chemists and druggists was held on Monday last, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, for the purpose of taking into consideration those clauses of Mr. Hawes's bill which relate more particularly to the interests of chemists and druggists.

Mr. GIFFORD, the chairman, having read the clauses of the bill which regulate the future conduct of the trade, Mr. BELL, of Oxford-street, moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. KEATING: "That the provisions of this bill deeply injure the interests and lessen the usefulness of chemists and druggists, as well as affect the comforts and resources of the poorer classes of society; whilst the immediate and pressing wants of individuals would create a liability to informations, the which would be a source of unceasing vexation."

This resolution was, of course, unanimously adopted. From the speeches which were made in support of this resolution, we could gather but two arguments; 1st. That as the rich man belonged to the physician and surgeon, and the middle classes to the general practitioner, so the poor man naturally belonged to the chemist and druggist; and that any attempt to rescue him from so respectable and benevolent (not a word was breathed about "qualification") a set of practitioners would only affect his comforts and lessen his resources. 2d. That the bill of Mr. Hawes was tyrannical, unjust, and derogatory of the dignity of chemists and druggists, because it did not incorporate them with the medical profession, and give them an equal share in the election of councils, &c., but delivered them over to the tender mercies of their rivals, the apothecaries.

Mr. COOPER then came forward, and stated that he had attended the meeting at the request of Mr. Hawes, in order to explain any parts of the bill, or satisfy the meeting upon any points on which they might require information. Mr. Cooper, in a very clear and sensible discourse, explained to the assembled chemists and druggists the views of Mr. Hawes; showed in what manner their true interests were advanced by the bill now before them, and pointed out the fact, that the real question for them to consider was how far a properly educated chemist and druggist should be allowed to prescribe remedies for disease or not. This was the main point for them to deliberate on.

We regret to state that the candid and courteous observations of Mr. Cooper were received by the assembly in a way which reflected very little credit on the "manners" of chemists and druggists.

The hootings and hisses of the *soi-disant* *Æsculapii* having subsided, a silver-tongued member of the Society of Friends (Mr. Barry, we believe) moved, "That Benjamin Hawes, Esq. should be requested to defer, for one month, the second reading of his bill, to enable the public and all parties interested to form their opinion upon its merits."