sons, and nearly four times the same number of establishments scattered throughout the country. The idea is preposterous; yet has it found favour in the eyes of a reformed House of Commons.

The amendment of Mr. Wakley will effect, we fear, but little change for the better. If the choice of commissioners be left to the Lord Chancellor, the predilections of the head of the law will naturally lead to a choice of legal men. The hon. member for Finsbury, however, fought our battle manfully, and probably accomplished all that he could effect. We fear that the eccentricities of the medical member have, by lowering his consideration in the House, somewhat narrowed the sphere of his usefulness. If, instead of rapid jests on poetry, which he understands not, and puerile squabbles about an old hat, the member for Finsbury would confine himself to subjects within his scan, and rally a few friends of the profession around him, we might hope for something. Now, our only trust is in the rectitude of our cause—a rotten reed, we fear, in our reformed legislature.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

The monetary affairs of the University of London are not, it would seem, in a very flourishing condition. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has curtailed the portion of the grant destined to supply the salaries by a sum of £800. This has induced a proportionate docking of the salaries paid to the different examiners. Thus the examiners in classics and mathematics now receive £175 each, instead of £200; while the salaries of the examiners in anatomy, surgery, and medicine, are cut down from £250 per annum to £175. In the department of comparative anatomy and physiology a still greater reduction—viz., from £250 to £100 has been effected. In consequence of this latter change Dr. Roget has resigned his office of examiner in comparative anatomy and physiology, feeling that the reduction of salary had a tendency to place his department "far below the other branches of medical study, to which it had hitherto, from the first, been considered by the senate as being of equal importance."

We mention these matters, in which the public will probably take little interest, because they have led to an act that we cannot pass over without a few remarks.

The time at which the University of London was instituted, and the objects for which it was created, are known to us all. One of the guiding principles of the new university was said to be a liberal encouragement of science, for science's sake. The offshoot of our newly-acquired freedom would, it was said, grow up, untainted by those defects which have taken root in the older and less vigorous institutions. Alas, that public virtue should so often consist in mere

words! We have watched the proceedings of the University of London with some interest, but have sought in vain for indications of a liberal and enlightened encouragement of science.

On the retirement of Dr. Roget from the office of examiner in comparative anatomy and physiology, two candidates presented themselves before the senate. We do not for a moment pretend to insinuate that the gentleman selected was not fully competent to fulfil the duties of his office; but we say, freely, that in overlooking the claims of Dr. Grant, the senate have inflicted a very heavy discouragement on Science and on her friends.

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BIRMINGHAM.

April 2, 1842.

JAMES RUSSELL, Esq., in the Chair.

GALL-STONES.

Mr. PARTRIDGE exhibited an ounce box full of gall-stones, composed of white crystallised cholesterine, of sizes varying from a millet seed to a pea, which he said were a very small portion of a quantity which had passed from an abscess near the navel, in a female patient of his, now near seventy years of age. Mr. Partridge then exhibited to the society two of a deep brown colour, which, he stated, when fitted to three others which the patient retained, formed a cast of the interior of the gall-bladder. He supposed they had been evacuated by the natural passages, as they were discharged per anum; they were preceded by very little constitutional derangement. Another, about the size of a sparrow's egg, was exhibited by Mr. P., which had been passed by another patient of his, per anum.

DISEASE OF THE KIDNEYS.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT brought before the meeting two kidneys taken from the same subject, transformed into multilocular cysts. From the absorption of the cones, and tubular structure of the organs, and from dilatation and thinning, there was very little of the cortical structure left. They contained together nearly a pint of pus, mixed with urine, by which they were so much distended that the right was about the size of the head of a seven months' fœtus, and the left little less. Floating loose in this fluid were several very irregular shaped calculi, and in the right kidney, one about two drachms in weight, and coralliform in shape, contracted in its middle into a narrow neck, which was confined in an aperture which communicated with two of the cells; the other viscera in the abdominal cavity of this patient, Mr. Cartwright said, were healthy, except the spleen, which was so soft as to be broken down by very slight pressure. This patient went on with his work, although he had suffered for years from pains in the back and difficulty of making water, which had been generally purulent; and at times bloody, up to five days previous to his death. He had shiverings, fever, and a pulse at 120, feeble and wiry. In spite of remedies, he became comatose, and affected with urgent diarrhoea on the Wednesday morning, which gradually increased, and he died on Thursday night.

Mr. ALFRED BAKER presented to the society a beautiful drawing of the right kidney, taken from a child ten years of age, which was loaded with yellow tubercular deposit, aggregated in some parts, whilst in others it assumed the form of distinct rounded tubercles. The child was of strumous appearance, and had been affected with various symptoms of the disorder from its infancy, and on examination of the body after death, the brain, lungs, liver, both kidneys, and the left temporal bone, were found affected with the disease. The remarkable part of this case was, that there had been scarcely any indication of such extensive disease in the kidneys.

DISEASE OF THE PANCREAS.

Dr. FLETCHER then brought before the society a specimen of lardaceous disease of the pancreas. It was taken from the body of a male who had died suddenly, at the age of forty-seven, from fainting, after having been afflicted for a considerable time with symptoms which were thought to indicate disease of the stomach, liver, or some important organ of digestion. The examination of the body took place fifty hours after death. The body was not decomposed at all; inclined to fat, remarkably exsanguineous in its appearance, and slightly jaundiced. The lungs were somewhat infiltrated; the cavities of the heart were quite empty; the omentum and peritoneal coverings of the intestines were thickened and uneven, as if they had been affected with previous inflammation, and they were much loaded with fat; the liver was a third larger than its normal size, generally white, and somewhat fatty; the lower portion of the common gall duct was compressed by the pancreas; the pancreas was a third larger than normal, and so much affected with lardaceous deposit, which is in large masses, that very little of its healthy structure could be recognised; around the pancreas the mesentery was adherent, and included between its layers a creamy and fatty deposit; there was no lardaceous deposit or other disease in the mesenteric glands, or in any of the viscera, except those mentioned above. Dr. Fletcher stated that the rarity of this disease had induced him to make very strict inquiries relative to the symptoms that this patient suffered from, in order to compare them with those described in cases already published; and after looking over about sixty cases recorded by different authors, he found the most general symptoms were, pain in the region of the pancreas (that is, half way between the ensiform cartilage and the umbilicus); vomiting; emaciation; jaundice; an exsanguineous appearance of the skin; thirst; occasional pytalism; occasional purgings; loss of appetite; and Dr. Bright has mentioned, in connection with disease of the pancreas, fatty stools. The patient, in the case under consideration, had all these symptoms, except the vomitings and fatty stools; and Dr. Fletcher added that, after carefully considering this and the recorded cases of diseased pancreas, he thought that it was possible to detect this very rare affection during life.

Mr. CROMPTON mentioned the case of a relation of his, who had all the symptoms spoken of except the pytalism and fatty stools (the existence of which he was not aware of), and the only disease he understood to have been found, on examination of the body, was a scirrhus pancreas.

CIRRHOSIS OF THE LIVER.

Dr. FLETCHER then exhibited to the society a liver affected with cirrhosis. The right lobe had a blue appearance, studded all over with yellow points of cirrhosis; the left was very pale, but studded over with the same disease; the structure of the liver was ramified by cirrhosis all through, and in those portions which were free from disease the lobules were atrophied and indistinct; the liver was about a third less than normal; all the other organs were found healthy, except the lungs, which were generally much infiltrated, and the stomach, the mucous membrane of which was pultaceous. The patient, during life, had been affected with intense jaundice, which had come on very gradually, bile still being present in the stools up to the time of his death. The jaundice was the only urgent symptom until a short time before death, when great irritation of the stomach became very distressing, and two days before he died delirium came on.

A remarkable thing in the formation of the body of this patient was, that he measured two inches more from the spine to the ensiform cartilage over the right hypochondrium than over the left (although, as above-mentioned, the liver was a third smaller than normal), which, as the liver did not encroach so high as normal under the ribs, nor down into the cavity of the abdomen, which was ascertained by percussion, induced Dr. Fletcher to believe, during the life of the patient, that there was some tumour in or upon the liver, which pushed the side out directly laterally. There was no ascites in this case, which is very common in patients suffering from cirrhosis.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, April 21.

The house went into committee on the

LICENSED LUNATIC ASYLUMS BILL.

On the first clause being read and proposed,

Mr. WAKLEY rose for the purpose of moving his amendment. The hon. member stated, that if he should succeed in inducing the house to adopt his amendment, it was not his intention to offer any further opposition to the progress of the bill. He objected to the clause appointing barristers to the office of commissioners of lunatic asylums. What could be more absurd than to select members of the legal profession to sit in judgment on cases of mental derangement? Was not insanity invariably associated with bodily disease? The investigation in which the commissioners would be involved would be purely of a medical character, and therefore the barristers, if they were appointed, would be incompetent to perform the duties which would devolve upon them. Supposing barristers were appointed, what would they have to do? Their principal duty would be to ascertain whether the lunatics were subjected to proper medical treatment. That was the main object which the commissioners ought to keep in view. Was not the noble lord aware that the selection of a competent medical man to fill such an office as that of commissioner would have a most beneficial effect on the conduct of those physicians and surgeons officially connected with establishments set apart for the reception