over a great portion of the body; in both the application of external stimuli produces similar results. Here we have in a human subject an almost entire division of the two great antagonising functions—the voluntary, and the excito-motory.

We have an excess of irritability stored up in muscles, because the natural channel for its liberation—a connection with the brain—is cut off. We have the sphincters, the ejectors, and the penis, all involved in a morbid chain of action; we have that part of the muscular system, pronounced to be most under the excito-motory power, exhibiting all the phenomena of such a relation. In a word, we have a most interesting confirmation of all Marshall Hall's demonstrations—demonstrations daily gaining certainty from the bedside—and which incontestibly prove of how high an order the genius of their author must be, entitling him to the admiration and gratitude of the present and all future races of the medical profession.

CASE OF CHOLERA MORBUS.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—If you deem the following case of cholera, of the kind which was for a time so prevalent and fatal in this country only a few years ago, at all interesting, in a practical point of view, I beg you will give it an early insertion in the "Provincial Medical Journal."

Yours obediently,

JOHN WICKERS WEST, M.R.C.S., &c.

Poole, August 17, 1842.

Thomas Fall, aged forty-two, a strong, powerful man, by occupation a policeman, was attacked on Sunday night last, or rather early on Monday morning, the 15th instant, whilst on duty, with violent pain in his bowels, which was speedily followed by vomiting, and purging of a fluid resembling rice gruel. He was immediately assisted to his own home, but would not consent to have medical aid until ten o'clock in the morning, when I was sent for, and found him suffering from the following distressing symptoms:—Skin of a livid and slightly blue color, covered with a cold clammy perspiration; tongue peculiarly white; extreme thirst; pulse about 45, erect, and fluttering; great depression and anxiety of countenance, with sunken eyes; cramp in both legs; rice water vomiting and purging, and violent and continued pains in the epigastric region.

I could not ascertain that he had been eating anything the day before which would be likely to disagree with the stomach, but found he had returned home in the afternoon by water from Portsmouth, and had been exposed to an intense heat the whole day, which had the effect of considerably exhausting him. I immediately ordered the following:—

Brandy, one large tablespoonful in half a cup of arrow root every half hour.

Calomel, two grains;

Opium, half a grain;

Aromatic confection sufficient to form a pill, to be taken immediately, and to be repeated every hour, with the following draught:—

Camphor mixture, one ounce;
Compound spirits of ammonia, half an ounce;
Tincture of cardamoms, one drachm.

Fomentations to the bowels to be constantly applied.

Three o'clock. Diarrhoea still urgent, but vomiting less frequent; pulse rather less depressed and more regular; countenance the same. *Vespere*: Since the last report a very decided and marked improvement in his symptoms has taken place after getting two hours' sleep; vomiting and purging have ceased; pulse 65; and there is more vigor and animation in the countenance.

I omitted the brandy, and desired the pills to be taken through the night with the ammonia draught every four hours.

Aug. 15. Has passed a quiet and comfortable night, getting sleep at intervals; no recurrence of vomiting and purging; pulse 75; countenance improved; tongue white. To leave off the pills, but persevere in the draught.

17. Called on him this morning, and found him from home; but was informed by his relations that all symptoms of an urgent nature had ceased, and with the exception of debility was convalescent.

The above was a decided case of cholera, as it occurs so frequently in the East Indies, and interesting from the rapid improvement which followed the treatment had recourse to.

ON THE USE OF THE IODIDE OF POTASSIUM IN OPHTHALMIC DISEASES, WITH CASES.

By ISAAC PARRISH, M.D.,

One of the Surgeons to the Wills Hospital.

The value of the iodide of potassium, as a remedy in certain diseases of the eye, which have a constitutional origin, or are closely allied to a scrofulous or cachectic condition of the general system, is beginning to attract attention. During a recent term of service at the Wills Hospital, an opportunity occurred to me of employing the remedy in some cases of this description; and, although the number of patients was too limited to warrant a general conclusion as to its powers, yet the results were so striking and satisfactory, as to create a strong impression in its favour, especially when viewed in connection with the concurrent testimony of others.

If this article could be safely employed as a substitute for mercury in many diseases of the eye, in which we have been accustomed to rely upon that potent medicine; or, if it will produce a strong alterative impression, in cases where an enfeebled or irritable condition of the constitution renders a resort to mercury hazardous, it will constitute a most valuable auxiliary in the treatment of a numerous class of cases, which are exceedingly difficult of cure.

The dose in which we administered the article at the Wills Hospital, was from two to six grains, three times daily, in a tablespoonful of the compound syrup of sarsaparilla. The selection of the latter article as a vehicle for the iodide was prompted by the ex-

severe neuralgic pain, from which the patients had suffered so long and so intensely. The remedy seemed to put a period to this in a very short time, and the relief was permanent, placing the patient beyond the influence of those changes of temperature which so often induce or aggravate this peculiar affection. As a consequence of this immunity from suffering, tranquil sleep was enjoyed, the appetite and strength returned, and the local inflammation rapidly subsided.

The remedy was tried in several other cases of strumous inflammation of the eye, in all of which its effect was happy, except in one instance. That was the case of a young woman with scrofulous iritis, whose disease had resisted a great variety of treatment during several months, and in which I had strong hopes of effecting a change by the iodide. It produced in this instance severe vomiting and purging in doses of three grains, and could not be borne even in two grain doses.

In the case of a young woman with scrofulous conjunctivitis, in which the cornea and iris were slightly involved, secondarily, I relied altogether on the iodide in five grain doses, without any external applications, except a few leeches to the temple, in the commencement of the attack. The improvement in this case was much more rapid and steady than is usual in this form of disease.—*Philadelphia Med. Examiner*, April 16, 1842.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1842.

A circumstance has recently occurred in Ireland which we think it our duty to record as a warning and example. John Pasley, senior coroner of the county of Dublin, and B. R. Shanahan, a medical man, who had been in the habit of attending the coroner at his inquests, have been found guilty of fraud, and condemned—the one to twelve, the other to six months' imprisonment.

The fraud was concocted between the coroner and the surgeon in the following manner. A young man, named Fry, died rather suddenly, and was interred without any inquest having been held to ascertain the cause of death. Four days after his burial, Mr. Shanahan presented an order, from the coroner, to the county treasurer for the sum of £3 10s. "for examining the body of the late George Fry, Esq., and attending before Mr. Pasley and his jury, at an inquest held by him upon the 29th of September, and giving evidence as a medical witness." The order was in the handwriting of the coroner, and it was signed by Mr. Shanahan. Now, as no inquest was holden on the body of Mr. Fry, the surgeon could not have given attendance at it, or examined the body for the purpose of enlightening the minds of the jury; there was, therefore, collusion and fraud on

the part of the coroner and his medical attendant, and, after a severe reprimand from Baron Pennefather, they were sentenced to imprisonment. Had the indictment been framed under the statute against obtaining money under false pretences, the punishment would have been transportation.

We regret extremely to state, that this is not the first offence of the kind by which the dignity of the judge and the honor of the profession have been sullied in Ireland. Mr. Pasley had, it appears, been already tried for a similar crime; a coroner named Irwin was transported in March last for the fraudulent issue of orders; and if any deduction be legitimate from the character of some of those who fill the office of coroner in Ireland, and from the strange connection which they appear to have formed with the same medical attendants, we fear that the evil is great and wide spread.

Great, indeed, it is, when a man holding the high office of a judge and a member of our own profession, which, above all others, is one of honor and without reproach, appear before the bar of public justice, and are found guilty of common swindling. There must be something rotten in a system under which such things occur, and it is to be hoped that an effort will be made to place the system on a better footing—to prevent the recurrence of acts whereby the purity of justice and the respectability of the medical profession are so grievously compromised. A law to regulate the election of coroners in Ireland, and to ensure the proper selection and remuneration of medical witnesses, is absolutely requisite.

In our last number we mentioned the changes which had recently taken place in the medical department of the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Home has resigned the chair of practice of medicine, to which Dr. Alison has been unanimously elected, and Dr. Henderson fills the chair of pathology, vacant by the resignation of Dr. Thompson.

The election of Dr. Alison to the chair of practice of physic cannot fail to be most beneficial to the university. The truth is, that time had laid his heavy hand on many of the professors, and the state of oral instruction had become intolerable. Dr. Home especially was long since physically incapable of fulfilling the duties of the office which he held.

It is now many years since we assisted at a lecture given by the worthy professor. The pupils were "*rari nantes*" in the vast amphitheatre; one half of them were playing cards; the other half listening to the notes of an old violin, on which an Irish student was playing "Home, sweet home;" while the professor, unconscious of that which was passing on above him, mumbled from an ancient manuscript words unheard by himself, and unheeded by his pupils.