truth of all this; and it, therefore, really becomes a question of how far any member of the profession is warranted in accepting and retaining the office of medical attendant to a charitable institution in which the object is less to relieve the sufferings of the poor than to add to the sufferings of the profession. It is no part of the duty of any medical practitioner to seek his own preferment, and add to his professional income, by adopting measures which may serve to place his own position in a doubtful light, and to essentially interfere with the interest of his medical brethren. We conceive that the creation of the class of charitable institutions to which we have referred, in truth tend much to effect this, and we have long regarded them with a suspicious eye. That our suspicions were not founded in injustice, is sufficiently established by a retrospective glance at these establishments, and the labors of their medical officers. How much have they effected for science? Of what advantage has been the great amount of experience which these institutions have afforded them? Alas! the stock of medical literature has received no improvement. Essays and volumes, it cannot be denied, have been written upon the several subjects to which such institutions relate; but so manifest has been their object, so evident their popular tendency, that they can lay no claim to the rank of scientific productions, or be received as affording any evidence of the desire of their authors to add aught to the common stock of knowledge.

We cannot, therefore, but believe that little good can result from the continued formation of the species of medical institutions under consideration, and we must pause ere we apply the title of a charity to any such establishment, which, however calculated to fulfil the objects for which it was founded, exerts so little of charity towards the profession whose name it bears.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

Tuesday, June 27, 1843.

EDWARD STANLEY, F.R.S., President.

CASE OF MR. BRUNEL.

Mr. B., on the 3rd of April last, whilst engaged after dinner in amusing some children, placed half-a-sovereign in his mouth; the coin accidentally slipped behind the tongue and passed into the larynx. He was immediately seized with a fit of coughing and severe sense of choking, which were quickly followed by vomiting, by which the contents of the stomach were ejected. He strained a little with efforts to vomit for two or three hours after, and coughed occasionally; he also suffered from a soreness at the upper part of the throat. With the exception of the latter symptom, he remained quite well for the two following days, and did not suffer from any cough.

On the 6th of April cough again came on, but he was so well on the 7th that he took a long journey,

and was for two nights and days exposed to the cold. The cough now became worse, and he expectorated a little mucus tinged with blood, and also what appeared to be a little thin membrane. He now also felt pain on the right side of the chest, immediately over the right bronchus. On the 9th of April he took two aperient pills, one of which he vomited. He now placed himself in an inverted position over the back of a chair, and could distinctly feel that a loose substance changed its place in the air-passages, coming up from the situation of the bronchus to the larynx. The pain in the chest ceased. A careful examination of the chest was made by Dr. Seth Thomson, but no abnormal sound whatever could be detected by the stethoscope.

On the 17th Mr. B. took another journey, and the cough again returned. On the 18th Dr. Chambers, and afterwards Sir Benjamin Brodie, were called in consultation; all thought that there was no doubt the coin had passed into the trachea, and that it was situate in the right bronchus. This opinion was confirmed by the effect of inverting the body over a chair, during which process the foreign body was distinctly felt by the patient to be passing up the trachea, and produced cough. The coin afterwards passed down into the chest.

On the 20th, at a consultation held between Drs. Chambers and Seth Thomson, Sir B. Brodie, and Mr. Stanley, the chest was again carefully examined, but no unusual sound could be detected. The other evidences, however, of a foreign body in the bronchus were so strong, that it was decided to repeat the experiment of inverting the body; accordingly, on the 25th, he was placed on a machine which elevated the lower part of the body and depressed the upper portion, or *vice versa*, at the will of the attendants. On the head of the patient being lowered, no cough was at first produced, but on striking his back the cough became so violent, and the choking sensation so urgent, that it was deemed advisable not to proceed with it further without some alteration of the plan. At a consultation on the 27th, it was determined to make an artificial opening in the trachea. This proceeding was adopted for a two-fold reason: the first was to remove the coin by forceps, if possible; the other that, if relief could not be so afforded, the opening might act as a safety valve in the prevention of suffocation on the body being inverted. The opening was made, and the forceps attempted to be introduced, but so much irritation and convulsive coughing took place that the attempt was not persevered in. The forceps were again used on the 2nd of May, but with no better result.

On the 3rd of May it was decided that nothing farther could be done at that time, but when the patient had recovered from the effects of the previous proceedings, it was determined to invert the body; this was accordingly done on the 13th. The body being inverted, the back was struck two or three times, and the coin passed into the mouth and stuck against the incisor teeth; a little blood was passed at the time, but there was no cough, and no convulsive distress such as had taken place in the previous efforts to remove the coin. On the 28th of May the patient was able to leave town, and fourteen days afterwards the wound in the throat had nearly healed.

On the Presence of Spermatozoa in the Fluid of Hydrocele. By A. LLOYD, Esq., Assistant-surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and Surgeon to Christ's Hospital.

The object of the author was to announce that he had met with, since the last meeting of the society, a third case of hydrocele, in the fluid of which an immense number of spermatozoa were present. The fluid was of paler color than that of common hydrocele of the tunica vaginalis, and very much resembled water with which a very small quantity of milk had been mixed. When tested with nitric acid, and also with heat, the fluid was found to contain a considerable quantity of albumen. There was also much saline matter in it. When examined with the microscope from three to four hours after it was drawn off, there were seen spermatozoa in a living state, and also an immense number that were dead; moreover, the fluid contained a few blood-discs, transparent cysts, granular bodies of different sizes, and epithelial scales. The testis and its appendages were healthy. From the situation and form of the tumor it appeared that the fluid was contained in the tunica vaginalis. The spermatozoa were seen in a living state by Mr. F. Wood, surgeon, of Brownlow-street, and Mr. John Quekett, of the College of Surgeons.

ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

YORKSHIRE BRANCH OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above branch was held at the Museum of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, York, and was attended by the following members:—Mr. James Allen, Mr. E. T. Allen, Mr. Barker, Dr. Belcombe, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Brunton, York; Mr. Dickson, Elvington; Mr. Dodsworth, Mr. Dolman, Dr. Goldie, Mr. Keyworth, York; Mr. W. Hey, Leeds; Mr. R. Hey, York; Dr. Hopper, Leeds; Mr. Hornby, Pocklington; Mr. Husband, Mr. W. Malleison, and Dr. Morris, York; Mr. Ness, Helmsley; Mr. Nunneley, Leeds; Mr. Russell, York; Mr. Sandwith, Beverley; Dr. Simpson, York; Mr. Teale, Leeds; Mr. Truman, York; Dr. Watmough, Pocklington; Dr. Whytehead, Easingwold.

Dr. Simpson, the President elect, was called to the chair, and opened the meeting by a brief address, in which he noticed the advantages to be derived from meetings such as the present, and expressed the gratification which he felt at presiding over an assemblage of so much talent and respectability. The President concluded by calling on the Secretary to read the Report of the Council for the past year.

The Secretary then read the following Report:—

In presenting their first Annual Report to the members of the Yorkshire Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, your council beg to congratulate you on the prospect which the branch holds out of promoting unity of purpose and the acquisition of professional knowledge among its members. Your council have reason to hope that the approaching visit of the parent Association to Leeds, will secure for this, her offspring, some degree of advantage, by removing the objections of the few, and dispelling the indifference of the many. They know

well that a vast amount of professional intelligence and zeal exists in the west riding of the county, and they feel assured that the rallying point, which the Association offers, will be eagerly seized upon, and that, while the Association on the one hand will be strengthened, and the sphere of its operations enlarged, on the other, the union thus secured to them will enable the many, by their united efforts, to accomplish much, that would be for ever denied to solitary and uncombined exertion.

The number of members of the branch has greatly increased since the last meeting. The number of original members was 61, the present number is 102.

It will be in the recollection of most here present, that, at the first general meeting held in this room in July last, it was determined to invite the members of the East York Branch to unite themselves with this branch, and thus make this both in name and reality a "Yorkshire Branch." Such invitation was duly conveyed by the secretary to the council of the East York Branch, but, though favorably received, and recommended by them to the members of the branch, was at a general meeting declined.

Your council cannot but regret this determination on the part of the members of the East York Branch, for they felt anxious to meet in friendly intercourse, for the interchange of thought and opinion, many who by this refusal are still kept without the sphere of their personal acquaintance.

Your council have had their attention directed to the subject of poor-law medical relief, and in the month of March last addressed memorials to the First Lord of the Treasury and the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in which they endeavored to lay before those ministers the claims of the medical man to a fair and reasonable compensation for his arduous and important services, and to show that the present system of contract, while it is on the one hand so derogatory to the respectability of the profession, and indirectly impeaches the honor of the medical officer, is on the other unnecessary for the protection of the rate-payer or the pauper. Similar memorials were presented from the central council and the other branches of the Association. Your council trust that these memorials have not been addressed in vain, but that, while the interests of the rate-payer are fully protected, the medical practitioner shall be recognised as a valuable officer, and receive an adequate remuneration for those services which call into such active exercise the physical powers of the human frame and the highest energies of the human mind.

The reform of the medical profession has also engaged the attention of your council, but they did not consider it expedient to adopt any measure, either by petition to the Houses of Parliament, or by memorial to her Majesty's ministers, until they were in full possession of the contemplated scheme of reform.

Your council cannot, however, forbear expressing their opinion that the first step required in the reform of the profession is, that the standard of preliminary education shall be so raised, that its privilege shall in future be confined to those only whose education and station in life will enable them to maintain inviolate their respectability as members of a learned profession. It is generally admitted that the number of