severe, the sulphate of copper solution and the red precipitate ointment; if very active, the sulphate of copper in substance, or the nitrate of silver, either in solution, ointment, or substance."—p. 75.

But although so warm an advocate for the nitrate of silver, Mr. Walker very properly cautions his readers against using it too often, so as to cause ulceration of the conjunctiva, or permanent discoloration. To avoid these evils, he recommends the sulphate of copper to be substituted for it when the symptoms improve.

We have carefully looked through the whole of Mr. Walker's work, and can conscientiously pronounce it to be no less valuable as a record of his experience than as a guide to the practitioner. We are particularly pleased with the chapters on Iritis and Amaurosis, which are described fully and clearly, and without those subtle minutiae and infinitesimal subdivisions that are to be found in many ophthalmological treatises. We can only express our hope, in conclusion, that it will meet with the success which it amply deserves.

SHEFFIELD MEDICAL SOCIETY,

November 2, 1843.

Dr. FAVELL (President) in the Chair.

Mr. Overend exhibited a truss with a spiral spring in the centre of the pad, invented by a mechanic, resident in the neighbourhood of the town, who has for several years been affected with *direct* inguinal hernia. He had experienced much more relief by wearing a truss of this description than from any he had previously worn.

Dr. Shearman, of Rotherham, exhibited a heart, the walls of which were about the normal thickness; but the cavities, especially the auricles, were greatly enlarged. The orifices and valves on the right side of the heart were natural, but the left auriculo-ventricular opening was so contracted as only to admit the passage of an ordinary sized quill. The aortic valves were considerably indurated. There was no effusion into the cavity of the chest, but the pericardium contained rather more fluid than natural. The lungs were healthy.

The specimen was taken from the body of a man aged forty-five, who had been ill for three years, and had suffered much from being *over-worked* and *under-fed*. Dr. S. first saw him about two months ago, when he was complaining of severe dyspnoea, accompanied with palpitation of the heart. The pulse was remarkably weak and small, but regular. No cough; but during the course of his illness there had been occasional attacks of hæmoptysis. On percussion, the whole of the inferior portion of the chest yielded a dull sound; and on the left side, the dulness reached to the infra-clavicular region. The first sound of the heart was feeble, but unattended with any murmur. The second sound was accompanied by a soft souffle, which was occasionally heard with extreme difficulty.

Dr. Porter exhibited a portion of the apex of the left lung, taken from the body of a woman aged eighty-six, who had died from double pneumonia. The por-

tion exhibited was very dense and dark colored, and bore a considerable resemblance to the condensed portions often met with in the lungs of grinders. Immediately below the condensed portion there was a small mass of calcareous matter. The pleura covering the whole was considerably thickened.

Dr. Favell afterwards, in the absence of Mr Overend, who was unexpectedly prevented reading the communication he had prepared for the evening, read the details of a very remarkable case of abscess in the brain, accompanied by extensive disease in the vena portæ, and giving rise to very anomalous symptoms.

We hope to give the particulars of this case, which in many points is unique, in an early number.

THE CHRISTIAN BURIAL SOCIETY—LETTER FROM DR. EAGER.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

"Base envy withers at another's joy,
And hates the excellence it cannot reach."

GENTLEMEN,—There is nothing perhaps that speaks more a generous nature than to be able to run the race of competition and rivalry, and to keep the heart at the same time a stranger to the base passion embodied in the lines above quoted. But while almost every day's experience proves how difficult it is in the case of rivalry and competition, to preserve the mind uninfluenced by this passion, it cannot fail to discover at the same time depravity of a much deeper dye and a more malignant description, which invests the words of the poet with a much more general character. What shall we say of the gratuitous slanderer, without even the poor pretext of rivalry or competition?—no motive save that of inherent malice? Alas! that there are such in every community cannot be questioned, and there is, perhaps, no more melancholy reflection to any man possessed of even the ordinary feelings of humanity, than that such utter depravity does exist. Those few observations, written certainly more in the spirit of sorrow than of anger, have been suggested by reading in your valuable journal of this week an article headed "Christian Burial Society of Manchester"—a society founded, I will say, in a truly benevolent and Christian feeling, or, to use the phraseology of the writer of the article, "a truly philanthropic association;" a spurious praise bestowed by this writer, with the true refinement of the practised slanderer, in order that he may level with more certain aim the shaft of his calumny at individual character. Had not this scribbler of calumny found his way into your respectable journal, I could have endured his efforts with perfect equanimity, the silence of utter contempt, mingled perhaps with a feeling of commiseration, would be the only refutation I should have offered; but now I feel it due to my own character and to that of the gentlemen who are patrons of this society, to adopt the same channel, with a view to set myself right with my professional brethren, and simply confine myself to a statement of facts as regards my professional connection with this society.

About sixteen months ago a person waited on me to request that I would act as honorary secretary to the society, and having had detailed to me the advan-

tages which it afforded the poorer classes, I did not hesitate to accede to the request. It was also added, that a board of health for the poorer class would be annexed to it. Matters went on to their satisfaction, and, without my knowledge, possibly imagining that it would be agreeable to me, they appended to their circular what, I must confess, has a charlatanic appearance, but *without my consent or knowledge*. The only intimation I received of its existence was on paying a visit to one of my most respectable patients, who informed me that he received a circular of an extraordinary character, and in an envelope, on which was written, "puff direct." I immediately communicated with the directors, and was informed that they did not send it to the party mentioned. Apprehending that some interference existed, they made all inquiries, and at length discovered that an individual called at their printer's for the copy-plate, which was given to him; this person lives in St. Anne's Square, and is an engraver. They immediately called on him, and were to their astonishment informed that an individual called on the engraver and gave him an order for 180 circulars, adding, that he wanted his crest engraved, and that as he was leaving town, he wished the circulars to be left at a surgeon's house, giving the address. The engraver's apprentice delivered the circulars at the house of which the address was given, in this town, and was paid for them at the same house. Thus it is, that a kind friend has made use of this means, with the view of destroying my character, by sending those circulars not only to all the respectable medical men in Manchester, but also to the greater number of respectable families whom I attend professionally. I need not add, that when I discovered the objectionable addition to the circular, I had my name removed from it by the directors. With respect to clubs in general, I hold the opinion, in which many respectable men coincide, that they are of eminent service to the operative class as tending to elevate their moral character and give them a sense of self-respect.

* * * * *

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient humble servant,

JAMES EAGER.

St. Peter's Square, Manchester.

* * * We feel much pleasure in inserting Dr. Eager's explanation. It is, as he justly observes, satisfactory and explicit. We happen to know something of the professional qualifications and character of Dr. Eager, and we can affirm that few better deserve the success which he is rapidly attaining. The *interne* of the Hôtel Dieu and la Pitié, the favored pupil of Dupuytren, Louis, and Lisfranc, may rest assured that neither malice nor jealousy can retard the advancement of a man whose reputation is founded on the solid basis of unwearied industry and high professional attainments. But the notice in question was written by a gentleman who has no knowledge of Dr. Eager, and feels neither envy nor malice. The "charlatanic appearance" of the circular must be a valid excuse for the writer in Dr. Eager's eyes.—Eds.

MR. COULSON AND THE DISPATCH.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL JOURNAL.

GENTLEMEN,—My attention was directed for the first time, a few days ago, to your Journal of the 14th ult., containing laudatory notices of myself, taken from the "Weekly Dispatch," and more than intimating that these notices were written either by me or by my connivance. I distinctly and unequivocally deny that these notices have been published with my sanction, connivance, or approbation. They were, on the contrary, as distasteful to my feelings as they were likely to be injurious to a professional man; and I, some time since, remonstrated against them, as strongly as I could against the acts of those over whom I had no control. I call on you to insert this denial, and the letters which I subjoin.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM COULSON.

London, November 8, 1843.

Frederic-place, Nov. 7, 1843.

SIR,—A letter appeared in the Provincial Medical Journal, dated October 14, but which only came under my notice a few days ago, in which extracts are made from the "Weekly Dispatch," containing laudatory notices of me; I beg you to do me the favor to state whether I am directly or indirectly in the slightest degree connected with their insertion.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM COULSON.

To the Editor of the "Weekly Dispatch."

"Weekly Dispatch" Office,
Tuesday, Nov. 7, 1843.

SIR,—In reply to your communication of this day's date, I beg to state that it is contrary to the practice of this establishment to afford information to parties making inquiries into matters connected with the management of it; but, in this instance, I have no hesitation in saying that the notices in the correspondents' columns of the "Dispatch" regarding yourself, and which have appeared from time to time, have been written entirely without your knowledge or solicitation.

I have a distinct recollection of your calling upon me some three or four months' since, requesting the omission of your name in the "Dispatch." I then thought I ought not to be dictated to except by the proprietors; and I still think so. I assure you that your name has only been used in common with the names of other gentlemen who have become eminent in the medical profession.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. WRIGHTSON,

Editor of the "Weekly Dispatch."

To W. Coulson, Esq., Old Jewry.