highest merit; in which case a man at a distance can give a written vote just as well as one who is present can drop a bean into a ballot box.

Clause 18,† contains, if I mistake not, regulations which may some day lead to difficulty and regret. It may very possibly happen from mistake, inadvertence, or some other casualty, that a gentleman may be unintentionally passed over; or it is quite possible circumstances may at one period exist, which would render the election of a Fellow, in other respects highly deserving, inexpedient, which in a few years may be entirely removed. Above all, the clause opens the door to intrigue and party cabals, which, though I do not suppose there is much chance of their occurring for some time to come, as I do not imagine the framers of it ever contemplated such an effect, yet I cannot shut my eyes to the fact, that if ever such a disposition should develop itself, and those who know human nature best will scarcely say it may not, this clause, especially when taken in conjunction with the disallowance of proxy votes, affords the means for a few individuals to exclude for ever a most meritorious Fellow, who from any cause may happen to be unpopular with them. I like not the idea of making any punishment, except for the most heinous offence against the laws and interests of society, irrevocable and perpetual, when perhaps the cause which called it forth has been trifling in its nature, and temporary in its duration. So long as the cause for the exclusion exists, let the penalty continue, but no longer. Surely those gentlemen who are thought worthy of the Fellowship may be safely intrusted to decide upon the fitness of any of their number to fill the post of honour; if they are incapable of this they are a disgrace to the profession to which they belong.

There are some other points in the charter, which probably many will consider might with advantage have been different, and some things omitted which I should have been glad to have seen inserted, but upon these I will not now trouble the Council. I must apologise to the Council for the length to which my remarks have extended, and throw myself upon the candour of its members for the plainness with which I have spoken. Feeling as I do that the science of medicine is the most important and arduous, and consequently the most honourable and responsible which a man can exercise, inasmuch as the highest interests of humanity are involved, I would have the laws for the regulation and encouragement of its members as perfect as can be devised, which I think every impartial person must admit, as indeed the fact of the new charter itself is evidence of, they have hitherto been far from.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
THOMAS NUNNELEY.

MR. BALFOUR,
Secretary to the Royal College of
Surgeons of England.

NOTES.

Though the charter of the Royal College of Surgeons of England has been published in most of the Medical Periodicals, yet, as it is scarcely probable many persons will very distinctly recollect the whole of its contents, I have transcribed the three clauses

upon which the above remarks are made, in order to place the matter more clearly before my readers.

* Clause 10. "That from henceforth no Member of the said College, who shall not also be a Fellow of the same, shall be eligible as a Member of the Council of the said College; nor (but subject and without prejudice to the validity of any election to be made as hereinafter directed) shall any Fellow be so eligible whilst practising midwifery or pharmacy, or who shall have practised midwifery or pharmacy at any time during the five years next preceding the day of election; nor unless he shall reside and *bona-fide* practise his profession of surgeon within five miles, by highway or road, from the General Post-office, Saint Martin's-le-Grand. And if any member of the Council shall at any time after his election practice midwifery or pharmacy, or shall cease to reside and *bona-fide* practice his profession of surgeon within five miles of the General Post-office as aforesaid, he shall be liable to removal from the Council.

† Clause 15. "That the Members of the Council of the College shall hereafter be elected by the Fellows of the said College, including the Members of the Council as such, and such Fellows, whether Members of the Council or not, shall be allowed to vote in person only, and not by proxy; and that every number of Fellows (not being less than fifteen present) at a meeting convened for the purpose of electing a Member or Members of Council, shall be competent to proceed to such election.

‡ Clause 18. "That when any eligible Fellow shall have been passed by for want of any such examination as aforesaid, or having been balloted for, shall not be elected a Member to the Council, he shall cease to be eligible to be elected, except on such special terms of nomination as shall be by the Council, by bye-law, be for the time being provided for such cases and upon such special terms. Any fellow so passed by, or not elected, may be re-nominated for and be elected a Member of the Council, but if he shall be on such second occasion, either passed by or not elected, he shall for ever thereafter cease to be eligible for election upon the Council."

GLOUCESTERSHIRE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND
SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

I am requested to send you an account of some additional proceedings that took place at a special general meeting of the Gloucestershire Medical and Surgical Association, held at the Gloucester Dispensary, on the 18th instant, trusting you will give immediate insertion to them.

I beg leave to remain,
Your obedient servant,
THOMAS HICKES,
Hon. Sec.

Gloucester, May 21, 1844.

At a special general meeting of the Gloucestershire Medical and Surgical Association, held at the Gloucester Dispensary, on the 18th of May, 1844, and numerously attended.

The answer published by the physicians and three of the surgeons of the Gloucester Infirmary, to the proceedings of the last Quarterly Meeting of the Association, having been taken into consideration, the President addressed the Association as follows:—

"Gentlemen,—At your last Quarterly Meeting I had occasion to detail certain circumstances which had occurred at the Gloucester Infirmary, by which our meetings at that Institution were no longer permitted.

An answer to the statement I then made has been

published, and as it contains a declaration that I was incorrect, I feel it due to you, as much as to myself, to show you the grounds on which that representation was founded, and to make a few other remarks on the reflections which that answer contains.

After a recital of the proceedings at the Weekly Board of the Infirmary, it is observed, "Mr. Wilton's colleagues did and do feel themselves aggrieved by the course pursued towards them by him, which, however inadvertent, was yet *carried on consistently, and for a considerable length of time.*"

I confess myself quite unable to understand what is here meant; reviewing the proceedings, I see no course pursued or *carried on* by me for any period whatsoever, which could be either offensive or otherwise.

In the month of October last, I requested the Governors of the Gloucester Infirmary to permit our Association to hold occasional meetings in that institution. A ready assent was given, and our first meeting was held there on the 2nd of November following; of which circumstance, all those of my colleagues, who were not members of the Association, were informed, without delay, by a circular from the Secretary, which explained to them the objects of the meetings, and solicited their opinions upon them, and their aid and co-operation in carrying them into effect. From this time, till the 15th February, (more than three months,) the most friendly intercourse subsisted between my colleagues at the hospital and myself; and nothing arose to create the smallest suspicion in my mind that I had done anything discourteous towards them.

In the interval between the meetings at the Infirmary in October and February, namely, at the Quarterly Meeting on the 4th of January, one of my colleagues joined the Association, all the members of which were promptly informed that, on that day, the plan of holding their meetings at the Gloucester and Cheltenham Hospitals had been finally arranged, and, at my suggestion, the secretary wrote to request the three, who were not members, and who had not then answered our circular to favour us by attending our second meeting on the 15th February. This was the occasion when it was announced to me I had been guilty of a want of courtesy. I have before represented to you my efforts to soothe the displeasure of my colleagues; those efforts were sincere, and acknowledged to be considered so, but they were ineffectual, and my colleagues went in a body to the Board, and on the plea that *some time might be fairly required for deliberation*, instituted and carried on proceedings, which led first to the suspension of our meetings at the Infirmary, and ultimately to the entire exclusion of the Association from that Institution. In all this I took no part. How can it be said, or where is the evidence that I *carried on* any course to expose my colleagues to a charge, justly or unjustly, of a want of generous feeling? On the contrary, I declare most sincerely,—I may add, even solemnly,—that I viewed *their* proceedings with extreme sorrow, as calculated not only to produce disagreement between us, but to injure and depress the character of the profession to which we belong.

On the next point noticed by my colleagues, I am as much at a loss as on the last. They claim a voice and an opinion "in the administration of that department of the institution which is their peculiar province."

Surely, their peculiar province is the care of the patients committed to their charge; and what that has to do with the meetings of the Association in the Board-room, I cannot perceive, and of course am unable to explain my offence in this respect.

But, lastly, I am said to be utterly incorrect in having stated that the medical officers voted at the two meetings of the Weekly Board. Now, as it is evident that they instigated and promoted the decision of the Governors, it is not material to the general character of the proceedings, whether they voted or not; but that the Association may know that my representation was not made on light grounds, I must call attention to these facts. At the first meeting the five medical officers attended, with their written request to the Board, to suspend the privilege which had been granted to us. One of them (*Dr. Evans*) proposed the *resolution* to the effect that such privilege be suspended. Governors who were present believed them to have voted, and reported them to me as having done so.

I called on the Secretary and requested to see the minute-book, explaining that I wished to know who were present, and how they divided. He said that *Dr. Evans'* resolution was opposed by certain Governors, whom he named. He gave me to understand that all others present supported the *proposition of the Medical Officers*. He certainly did not say that any parties declined to vote, nor do the minutes record any neutrals. It is true he *now* tells me the Medical Officers did not vote.

On the occasion of the second meeting "two dissentients" are reported in the minutes. These were lay Governors, whose names were furnished me by the same gentleman; he mentioned no neutrals, nor were any recorded.

In conclusion, I have only to express my regret, at being compelled thus to address you. Had I not felt it a duty to give the above explanation, I should have left the reply of my colleagues without notice, as the general facts are admitted, and I would willingly have avoided any course that could possibly keep alive in their minds a feeling of anger or displeasure. And I trust it will be acknowledged that, both in my verbal and in my written communications to you, I have abstained from violent language, and ill-natured reflections; and time, I would hope, may change or efface the unfavourable impressions which either party may have received of the other."

The President having left the chair, Dr. Gooch, of Stroud, was elected chairman of the meeting.

The question having been further discussed, it was resolved unanimously,—

1st. That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. Wilton, for the full, clear, and temperate explanation which he has now presented of the recent proceedings at the Gloucester Infirmary, establishing all the main facts of his original report, and justifying the resolutions passed at the last Quarterly Meeting.

2ndly. This Meeting is decidedly of opinion that none of the five Medical Officers of the Infirmary, whether Members or not of the Association, could, with justice, complain that they had not been apprized of the proceedings of the Association, and that they had not had time for deliberation as to the propriety of its Meetings being occasionally held at the Infirmary.

3rdly. With regard to the denial of the two Physicians and three Surgeons of the Infirmary, that they voted in support of those resolutions of the weekly Board, which rescinded the permission granted to the Association; this meeting, while admitting the literal truth of that denial, can only express its regret that these gentlemen should have condescended to resort to expedients, which enabled them, without incurring personal liability, to defeat the intentions of the Association, and to exclude it from the Infirmary.

4thly. With regard to their assertion that the ultimate decision of the Governors was not instigated or promoted by the Medical Officers, this Meeting is reluctantly compelled to re-affirm the third resolution passed at the last Quarterly Meeting, it being obvious that the Governors of the Infirmary would not have recalled the permission granted in October, and cordially confirmed in February, had not they perceived that such permission was offensive to certain of their Medical Officers. And with respect to the proceedings at the last Quarterly Board, on which the Medical Officers have laid some stress, it is well known that the Governors present on that occasion negatived the discussion of the question, not because they felt any objection to professional meetings for scientific purposes being held in the Infirmary, but because they were resolved to avoid a collision with so large a majority of their Medical Staff.

5thly. With regard to the opinion again expressed by the Medical Officers, that such Meetings, if allowed at the Infirmary, should take place under the regulations of the Medical Board of the Institution, this meeting does not hesitate to declare, that had those Medical Officers complied with the request of the Association for their aid and co-operation, and had they become members, their wishes and opinions with regard to the regulations of its Meetings at the Infirmary, would have been received with all the deference and attention due to their official position; but that, not having joined the Association, they were obviously unqualified to interfere with its proceedings, and could never have been permitted so to do.

6thly. At the conclusion of the reply of the Physicians and Surgeons, it is observed that they fear not to ask the Association (among other parties) "whether the conduct they have pursued is not what any one of them would have adopted under similar circumstances." To this appeal it is incumbent on this meeting to answer—that no one present, and, it is hoped, no Member of this Association, would have adopted a similar course of conduct under any circumstances.

HYDROPATHY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

Within these few days past, a respectable tradesman of Leeds has died under the operation of the "water cure." The case, on *post-mortem* examination, is said to have exhibited such palpable proofs of ignorance and malpractice, that if the rumours afloat be correct, exposure and reprehension are but an act of justice to the bereaved relatives, the public, and, though last not least, the medical profession.

For the purpose of ascertaining the correctness of

the report, I beg leave with your permission, and with the object of placing the case on record, respectfully to call upon the three medical gentlemen, Dr. Hobson, Dr. Drennan, and Mr. Garlick, who I understand were present at the autopsy, and under the care of the last of whom the deceased had formerly been, to favour their brethren with the whole facts connected with this serious case, which have come under their cognizance.

Should the information solicited be found to verify the *gravamen* of the report in circulation, I may have to crave permission for insertion of another communication on the subject. Meanwhile,

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
INQUISITOR.

Leeds, May 18, 1844.

MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

Dr. Ferguson has resigned the Professorship of Midwifery, at King's College, London.

Dr. William Gregory, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Aberdeen, has been appointed Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, in the room of Dr. Hope, resigned.

PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Suffolk branch of the Association, is appointed to be held at the Guildhall, Bury St. Edmunds, on Friday, the 7th of June. Any communications connected with the meeting should be made to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Bree, of Stowmarket.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Education: the Substance of an Address delivered before the Members of the Worcester Literary and Scientific Institution, at their Annual Meeting, in 1841. By Jonas Malden, M.D. Worcester: 1844, pp. 20.

Report on the Progress of Practical Medicine in the Department of Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children, during the years 1842-3. By Charles West, M.D., Member of the Royal College of Physicians, Physician to the Royal Infirmary for Children, and Physician Accoucheur to the Finsbury Dispensary. London: 1844, pp. 37.

Remarks on the Efficacy of Matico, as a Styptic and Astringent; with Additional Cases, Mode of Exhibition, &c. By Thomas Jeffreys, M.D. Longman and Co., London. W. Grapel, Liverpool, 1844; 8vo., pp. 37. Second Edition.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. Crosse, Dr. Kennon, Mr. Eden, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Pope. The letter from Dr. Hardwicke was too late for insertion in this week's number.

It is requested that all letters and communications be sent to Dr. Streeten, Foregate Street, Worcester. Parcels, and books for review, may be addressed to the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal, care of Mr. Churchill, Princes Street, Soho.