established ; but if the lawfulness of the one act be allowed, we see not how, the end being substantially the same, the lawfulness of the other may not be equally justified, and on the same grounds.

The question still remains whether, in seeking the attainment of these ends, the sustenance and support of life, directly by means of food, or the preservation and restoration of health, indirectly by means of experimental investigations of this nature, the infliction of any suffering beyond the mere act of depriving the animal of life is justifiable.

We will candidly own that we see much difficulty in coming to a determination on this point on either side. The infliction of suffering upon animals, and that to a considerable extent, is absolutely unavoidable, if they are to be made subservient to the purposes of civilized man. We need only instance the training of horses to the draught, the fattening of cattle, and the compelling of animals to work even no more than up to their strength, all of which are attended probably with as great an amount of suffering, as is requisite in the performance of experiments for scientific research. Many other instances of similar character might be alluded to, while at the same time it is unquestionable, that in the ordinary relations of animals with each other, and especially among the carnivoræ, apparently great and lingering suffering is often inflicted.

Still we would most carefully and anxiously guard against abuse on this head, and it is our firm conviction, that a vast amount of sacrifice of life, and still more, perhaps, of suffering, might be saved by a due consideration of the best methods of attaining the real object for which any experimental research is investigated. The physiologist should ever bear in mind, in experimenting on living animals, that when the suffering is great his results are liable in a corresponding degree to be interfered with, if not altogether vitiated. The best experimentalists are not those who perform the greatest number of experiments, and the most trustworthy experiments are always those in which the greatest care is taken to preserve the animal experimented on, as far as possible, in all other respects but the one under inquiry, in a perfectly natural state. The wretched and reckless disregard for the sufferings of animals shown, especially, by some foreign experimentalists, has contributed

much to introduce obscurity into subjects, when a more humane and cautious mode of investigation might have elicited results worthy of attention.

On the whole, then, while we admit that where the end itself is a lawful one, animal life would seem to be placed at our disposal, it is evident that any unnecessary waste of it is morally and indefensibly wrong, and that when the occasional infliction of a certain amount of suffering for the purpose of rendering animals subservient to the use of mankind is necessary, every precaution should be taken to confine this amount within the smallest possible limits, whatever may be the object for which it is had recourse to.

MR. CARMICHAEL'S EXPLANATION OF THE CHARGE MADE IN HIS ADDRESS AGAINST THE GENERAL PRACTITIONERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

In the leading article of your last number* you were pleased to notice my address to the Medical Association of Ireland, in which I introduced a communication from a young Irish Apothecary in the employment of a general practitioner in England, with the view of showing the injurious effects of the present system of remunerating the general practitioner for his medicine, and not for his advice. From the context of the letter, and from the channel by which it got into my hands, I believe the facts detailed respecting the instructions this young man received from his employer to be perfectly true. I by no means intended to implicate the great mass of general practitioners in these abominations ; on the contrary, the high opinion I entertain of them is sufficiently indicated by my observing, that "The respectable portion of the general practitioners of England, and there are amongst them men of the highest medical attainments, no longer vend medicines ;" and again, "They, (the pure physicians and surgeons,) should recollect that such men as John Bell, Hey, and Abercrombie, distinguished ornaments of our profession, thus commenced their career." Now, surely, sir, those passages alone are sufficient to prove that the part of my address which has offended you, as the organ of the Provincial Medical Association, was only intended for the corrupt portion of the general practitioners of England, and you must know too much of the world not to agree with me, that there are men capable of every kind of rascality, not only in our own profession, but in every other ; and that the only way to keep in check the unprincipled and mischievous propensities of these miscreants, is to remove, as far as can be done, all motives or opportunities of indulging them. On this account alone, every man who wishes to advance the respectability of the medical profession, ought to advocate the principle of remunerating this most useful class of practitioners for their medical opinion and advice, and not for their

medicine; and I am sure there are no men more anxious to obtain this most desirable result than the respectable portion of the general practitioners of England.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your very obedient servant,
RICH. CARMICHAEL.

Rutland Square, Dublin,
June 28, 1844.

* No. 13, June 26th. Mr. Carmichael's letter was unfortunately too late for insertion last week.

We have much pleasure in inserting the foregoing letter from Mr. Carmichael, because, although it does not exactly meet our statement, it affords such an explanation and qualification of the expressions attributed to him, as tend to relieve the great body of the general practitioners of this country from the serious and disgraceful charge brought against them. We repeat, and with all respect for Mr. Carmichael, for it is precisely his high standing in the profession, and honourable character, that render it necessary to come to a clear understanding on the subject, that we put no faith whatever in the assertions of any individual, whose principles of morality are so lax as to permit him to comply with such a code of instructions as that referred to. We are quite aware with Mr. Carmichael, that there are unworthy members of the medical as well as of other professions, and that the evil to which he alludes of charging upon the drugs the value of medical advice and attendance, has and must have most injurious tendencies. We neither defend the custom, nor question that individuals will be found to abuse it. But when Mr. Carmichael was reported to have said that the communication of the young Irish Apothecary "admirably describes the common practice of the general practitioners" of this country, we felt it our duty at once to point out the falsehood of so sweeping an assertion, and to question the authority on which it was made. Mr. Carmichael, in stating that he "by no means intended to implicate the great mass of general practitioners in these abominations," limits the application of the obnoxious expressions, and so far qualifies their signification as to remove their offensive character.—Ed.

BIRMINGHAM PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

May 4, 1844.

— ARCHER, Esq., in the Chair.

CARCINOMA OF THE BREAST AND LIVER.

Dr. Fletcher exhibited specimens of carcinoma, taken from the breast and liver of a woman, who was a patient at the General Dispensary, aged 50, which had the same appearance, modified slightly by the original structure of the glands.

The disease in the mamma had existed some years in a state of ulceration, and for about two years she had suffered from symptoms of disease of the

liver. Ascites came on about six months before her death, which took place in April, 1844, previous to which she had been a patient of the dispensary only about three weeks. She suffered great pain in the region of the liver, the abdomen was much distended, and she suffered much from constitutional irritation. Palliatives only were resorted to.

Post-mortem examination thirty hours after death. Body not emaciated nor decomposed; belly much distended; œdema of the legs; cancer in a state of ulceration, to the size of about a crown-piece, in the left mammary gland, which was enlarged and generally carcinomatous.

Head not examined. Contents of the *chest* healthy.

Abdomen. Liver about double its normal size, and generally carcinomatous; pale, yellow, transparent fluid in the gall-bladder. The cavity of the peritoneum contained about two gallons of transparent fluid. All other organs of the cavities of the abdomen and pelvis healthy.

MEDULLARY TUMOUR CONNECTED WITH THE LEFT KIDNEY.

Mr. James Russell exhibited to the Society, a tumour larger than a child's head, with which the left kidney was closely connected, formed of white medullary matter, in some portions tolerably firm, in others of scarcely greater consistence than thick cream; he gave the following particulars of the case:—

Mr. J., a traveller, aged 35, a thin active man, returned from one of his journeys, August 20, 1843, complaining of severe pain in his back and loins, which attacked him chiefly whilst he was walking, and was especially severe if he took exercise soon after a meal; he was often obliged to stop and sit down by the road side, in consequence of the severity of these sudden attacks of pain. On interrogation, nothing was elicited which threw a clear light on the cause of the pain; his chest was healthy, and no abnormal sound was heard along the aorta, to which attention was directed by the nature and seat of the pain; his tongue was much loaded. The case was treated as one of gastric derangement, and under some mild treatment his symptoms improved, but his bowels continued obstinate.

In the course of a few days he was examined whilst in bed, and a hard tumour was then discovered on the left side of the abdomen; it was of very firm consistence, its surface somewhat irregular; it passed upwards beneath the false ribs on the left side, and extended nearly as low as the navel, and in front to the median line. It was very tender to the touch, and seemed to have existed for some time. He complained much of pains in the iliac region. Iodine was prescribed, and the region of the tumour was rubbed with the camphorated mercurial ointment. His mouth became sore, and the pains were relieved.

In the course of the four months ensuing he made several journeys. In December, he stated that he had lost all sexual appetite, and that he had no erections. The tumour remained unaltered in size, and in consistence. His urine was healthy. At this period of the case the patient consulted Dr. Todd, in London.

In March, he returned from a journey, much distressed by severe diarrhœa; his legs and feet had begun to swell, and he had suffered severe pain in his testicles and in his penis, which almost prevented his