body of the general practitioners throughout the kingdom, which, under the existing provisions of the bill, would be altogether unrecognized.

Such are the chief points contended for and affirmed by the resolutions so unanimously agreed to at the Derby meeting. They all admit of being engrafted upon Sir James Graham's bill, without detriment to its form, and, with the exception of the restrictive clause, without interfering with its principles. We do not know that any class of reformers who have given due consideration to the subject in all its bearings are disposed to call for more. There are, it is true, some minor points in the bill which will require correction, but these may safely be left to the sifting which it will undergo in committee, or to the workings of time, while if the alterations above indicated can be obtained, we believe that the measure so modified, will prove highly beneficial to the community, and at the same time tend materially to advance the status of the profession, and give a consolidation and unity to it, which it has never hitherto enjoyed.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE INFIRMARY.

Practice of Sir JOHN FIFE, Reported by Mr. T. A. GIBB.

CHRONIC HYDROCEPHALUS.

Thomas Shaw, aged 17 months, South Shields, admitted October 18, 1844, under Sir John Fife, with chronic hydrocephalus. The countenance of the child is pale and clear, otherwise it seems healthy.

When three months old, it appears to have had acute hydrocephalus; it however recovered, and since that, to all appearance has enjoyed comparative health, except that the head has continued to increase in size; has had calomel and other medicine without affecting it. The child has got four teeth, can see well, and hear perhaps too acutely; the head is immensely large, twenty-six inches in circumference, ten from ear to ear over the occiput, thirteen from ear to ear over the vertex, fifteen from ear to ear over the forehead; the skull appears to be dilated pretty equally; the eyes slightly project; the upper part of the face at the orbits is broadened; at the base of the nose it is completely blue from the collection of veins which are placed there, and issue out over the forehead; the other parts of the skull are also traversed by numerous tortuous and enlarged veins. The child seems as intelligent as others at the same age.

Operation. Sunday 22nd. Sir John Fife placed the child on the knee of a nurse, its head in a line with the spine, which was half recumbent; he then with a small trochar penetrated the membrane in the coronal suture on the left side, half way between the longitudinal suture and the temporal bone. After passing the trochar somewhat less than two inches, the stylet was withdrawn, followed by fourteen ounces of fluid, the first twelve of which were perfectly limpid, the last two bloody. Compression by the hands of assistants was carefully made on the head, and maintained afterwards by adhesive straps and a long bandage, a little dry lint being applied to the wound. In

an hour after the operation the child looked rather pale, but otherwise appeared the same, and was suckling vigorously its mother's breast.

2 p.m. Sleeping well. 6 p.m. Looking well; seems quite easy; pulse small.

23rd. Had rather a restless night, cried a good deal, and often took the breast, the mother thinks it is from some griping in the bowels; appears pretty well; bowels regular; skin cool; no thirst; head cool. A teaspoonful of castor oil to be taken immediately.

25th. Doing well; cries a little now and then. Bowels not very regular, costive, with some griping; head much smaller than on admission.

27th. Had a little castor oil yesterday, which opened his bowels; griping much relieved; rested well last night; looks well, and head the same.

29th. Not so well; it frequently sweats, and is often drawn up as if it was in pain; bowels open, but stools dark; seems rather stupid, but not otherwise unwell, except skin hot. Does not take medicine regularly.

31st. Much better; no griping; bowels regular.

November 1st. Sir J. Fife put a bandage round the head this morning.

5th. Going on well.

SCROFULOUS ULCER OF THE NOSE.

Mary Scott, aged 19, Brignall, Yorkshire, was admitted a patient at the General Infirmary, on September 19, 1844, under Sir John Fife, with scrofulous ulcer of the nose, destruction of the septum, and an aperture in the bones of the palate. The ulcer of the nose began about ten weeks ago, and that of the palate about eight weeks.

Powdered bark and potassio-tartrate of iron, twice daily. Rhubarb pill and calomel, the bowels being confined.

Solution of chloride of lime, tincture of opium, of each three drachms; water, eight ounces. To make a gargle, to be used frequently.

Operation, Tuesday, 22nd. Sir John Fife dissected a vertically oblong portion of the upper lip from the lining membrane of the mouth, and then cut off its red extremity which had formed part of the lip; having first divided the anterior and inferior portion of the remaining cartilage of the nose; he united the detached end of the portion of the upper lip to it by a silk suture. A short piece of elastic gum bougie was introduced on each side the new septum, to form a nostril, and the whole secured by straps of adhesive plaster. A suture was also passed through the divided edges of the upper lip, concealing the surface from which the septum had been formed.

The septum has united, and it improves the girl's appearance considerably. Going on well.

DISLOCATION OF THE ASTRAGALUS.

Patrick Bramon, was brought into the theatre on the 22nd of October, when Sir J. Fife pointed out an oblique fracture of the tibia separating the internal malleolus, the fracture passing from the centre of the end of the bone upwards and outwards; the astragalus was dislocated backwards, the foot being shortened and the heel lengthened in an extraordinary degree; the tendons were rigid and the foot apparently firmly fixed in its dislocated position, the accident having happened ten days ago, in a very remote part of the country.

Sir J. Eise, divided the tendo-achillis, after which, with some exertion of force, he succeeded in reducing the dislocation; the limb was then placed upon a splint and the bandages round it covered with starch. Much relief was experienced, and no unpleasant symptom has followed the operation. Going on well.

INCORPORATION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

I have read with much pleasure the letter of "Medicus," in the Journal of November 13th, because it shows that the attention of the profession is increasingly turned to a subject of great importance, the necessity for the incorporation of general practitioners. When "Medicus" wrote, he had not seen the Address of the Society of Apothecaries, nor the manifesto of the Marylebone Association. I hope that a perusal of these pamphlets has not only confirmed his views as to the necessity of a College of General Practitioners, but has also shown him that to such a College ought to be entrusted the care of the education of the third class in the profession. I quite agree with "Medicus," that whatever advantages the bill may afford, will be enjoyed almost exclusively by the physician and surgeon; no less do I agree with him that the material interests of the general practitioner are but too likely to suffer. Threatened thus with a powerful attack by the minister, the general practitioners of England and Wales find themselves comparatively defenceless for want of an organization which should enable them to see clearly their interests, to ascertain the share of influence which should belong to their class in the professional hierarchy, and having ascertained their rights, firmly to maintain them. A very large majority of general practitioners are members of the Royal College of Surgeons, and it might perhaps be expected, that thus assailed by those in power, the members of the College should seek succour under its wings, and receive that aid and protection which the heads of the profession might be able to give. But, Sir, the College of Surgeons is worse than useless to its members at the present crisis; it has just inflicted upon the great body of them an injury and dishonour which is keenly felt, and will long be remembered. If we turn to the Apothecaries' Society, we shall find a body with less power than the College of Surgeons, but with all the will to aid its licentiates to the utmost of its power—a body, which has raised those licentiates to the degree of estimation in which they are at present held by the public, and which by the universal suffrage of the profession has performed its duty well—one might almost think *too well*, to please the supporters of the present bill. For my part, Sir, I see no course so fitting for general practitioners to adopt, as to invite the Society of Apothecaries to form the basis of a College which shall include all now qualified to practise in that class. I cannot refrain from expressing my surprise at the hope expressed by "Medicus," that "the Society of Apothecaries will voluntarily retire from all participation in the examination of future licentiates, a duty which, though they have most ably performed, should never have devolved upon them." I will not stop to

enquire whether the duty of the examination of licentiates ought ever to have devolved upon the Society of Apothecaries, but I must be allowed to doubt whether if in 1815 that duty had been accepted by the College of Physicians, we should now have had a body of licentiates equal to the present in professional attainment. But, Sir, I should like to ask for one single reason, why this honourable office of examining and licensing, having been so performed, should be thus rudely taken from the Society? Is it because they are a trading company? "Medicus" should know, and Sir James Graham when he brought in his bill, *did* know, that the Court of Assistants and the Court of Examiners are distinct from, and do not derive their power from, the trading part of the corporation. They are the *virtual representatives* of the general practitioner, and in that quality, not as trading druggists, they have possessed and exercised their power of licensing. Is it then, because they are incompetent to exercise the powers entrusted to them, that they, and with them the whole "tiers état" of the profession is to be visited with this bill of pains and penalties? "Medicus" shall answer this by repeating his acknowledgment that their "duty has been most ably performed." Let then the Society of Apothecaries, instead of the virtual, become the real, representatives of the general practitioner; let them admit into their body all qualified practitioners not exercising their art as pure physicians and surgeons, and become a real College of Licentiates in medicine, surgery, and midwifery. Such a college, I agree again with "Medicus," should be brought into fitting and honourable relations with the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons; but these relations should be neither of rivalry nor subordination. The licentiates, Sir, would readily submit to have the foundations of their edifice laid one step lower than those of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons—they would not aim at exact equality with those bodies, but they must be independent of them. The Colleges must not have the power to throw among them a body of men less skilled and less informed than the present race of licentiates, and that this would be the effect of the power given to the Colleges by the new bill, I am firmly persuaded. If physicians and surgeons will aid us in obtaining the organization and maintaining the privileges which we ought to possess, it will tend to cement the bonds between the different classes of the profession, which are now being somewhat loosened; but let them not seek to acquire a power and authority over general practitioners, which the public interest should forbid, and the freedom enjoyed for the last thirty years will prevent, our submitting to.

I am, Sir,

Your faithful servant,

PETER MARTIN.

Reigate, November 15, 1844.

POOR-LAW AUTHORITIES: MR. DESHON'S CASE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

I have seen with indignation, but without surprise, Mr. Deshon's statement of the manner in which he has been treated by the Poor-Law Commissioners. In the