20th. Appeared to be perfectly free from any of the symptoms, and requested to be allowed to take exercise.

July 10, 1845. I have the pleasure of saying, that the condition of the patient affords me the opportunity of stating he is perfectly free from any symptoms of this once formidable disease.

PUNCTURED WOUND OF THE ABDOMEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

May I request the favour of the insertion of the following speedy recovery from a remarkable and dangerous injury, in the columns of your widely circulated *Journal*, should you consider it of sufficient interest.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

SAMUEL SUMNER DYER,

House Surgeon.

King's College Hospital, Portugal Street,
Lincoln's Inn, August 11, 1845.

August 2nd. George Copley, aged four years, residing in Drury Lane, whilst playing with a lancet-pointed erasing knife, accidentally punctured his abdomen three inches above, and to the right of the umbilicus; he was immediately brought to the Hospital, with three inches of the omentum protruding from the small wound, from which there had been no bleeding. The patient complained of but little pain; and as the returning of the protruded portion would have necessitated much handling, and the probable consequence thereof—severe inflammation—I immediately cut it off to a level with the abdominal parietes; a small quantity of blood was uninterruptedly permitted to flow, before the application of a compress of lint, which was kept in its place with strapping and a bandage, and the patient was put to bed.

3rd. He has slept well all night; there is neither pain nor tenderness of abdomen; pulse tranquil; bowels have not been open.

4th. Still without any pain, or alteration of character of pulse; but the bowels being still confined, he took half an ounce of castor oil.

5th. No pain whatever; the bowels have been freely open; wound exposed, and has quite healed. Ordered to resume his ordinary diet, for which broth and arrow-root had been hitherto substituted.

PROVINCIAL

Medical & Surgical Journal.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 1845.

Our legal friends have an old proverb, that "the man who conducts his own cause has a fool for his client." We fear that the wisdom of him who is his own patient, does not stand in a less questionable light. A melancholy event which has recently occurred to a respected member of our own profession forcibly sets forth the danger, not only

of those who thus incautiously undertake the management of severe disease existing in their own persons, but also of the venturing without sufficient care on the administration of powerful medicinal agents, with the operation of which we are but imperfectly acquainted.

Dr. Male, of Birmingham, whose death has been recently announced, fell a sacrifice, it appears, to these practices. He had been reading a work in which was recommended a new and powerful agent, (aconite,) for the removal of deep-seated neuralgic pains, and having been suffering of late from an affection of this kind, which had resisted the ordinary means for its removal, he was induced to make trial upon his own person of the powers of the remedial agent recommended. Not sufficiently mindful of his age, Dr. Male took the tincture of aconite in doses, the accumulation of which produced an alarming depression of the nervous system, from which he was ultimately unable to rally, and thus fell a victim to that want of a due appreciation of the circumstances of his own case, so common, we may add, amongst medical men when treating themselves, combined with the incautious use of a powerful drug, with the operation of which he was but imperfectly acquainted.

This unfortunate case should prove a warning to every medical practitioner, as well in the pursuit of his professional avocations; as in inducing him, when himself suffering under serious illness, to have recourse to the advice of some brother practitioner. But there is another class of practitioners to whom the warning may prove equally beneficial, while at the same time, it is infinitely more needed,—we mean such as are guilty of the insane practice of experimenting upon themselves or their fellow creatures, by employing powerful medicinal agents, with the properties and operation of which they are entirely unacquainted, and in cases of disease, of the nature and symptoms of which they are in like manner profoundly ignorant. We allude not here to those pests of society whose impudent and unprincipled traffic in human suffering and human life, is not simply permitted but actually protected by the government—the nostrum-monger and the quack doctor; they are equally beyond shame on the one hand or conviction on the other. It is to those, who, influenced by the desire, we would fain hope, of administering relief to suffering, are ready to catch at each new remedy that appears, although unacquainted with its powers, and with the nature of the case in which they would employ it, whether such case be their own or that of another individual; to the domestic empiric, the amateur practitioner, and the practitioner of whatever denomination, who has not been by competent education and long and careful study prepared to understand disease and its treatment,