for some weeks before her death, but her extreme debility and emaciation rendered a repetition of the operation inexpedient.

6. A portion of liver, containing large scirrhus masses. The patient from whom the specimen was obtained, by Mr. Harrison, had long suffered from inveterate jaundice. A large tumour could, during life, be detected in the epigastric region, which proved to be an immensely distended gall-bladder, which was capable of containing at least eight ounces of fluid. The ductus communis choledochus was also sufficiently dilated to hold a finger; a large mass of scirrhus pancreas surrounded the duct at its entrance into the duodenum.

Mr. J. H. Smith exhibited a portion of the transverse and descending colon of a child, aged 5, who had died of fever, in which a remarkable constriction existed, and so reduced the calibre of the intestine that the little finger could not be passed through. There was no ulceration nor disease of the lining membrane.

The President read an interesting paper on chorea, an abstract of which will be given in the next number.

STATEMENT OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE BENEVOLENT FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND
SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

So much has been lately said by several of your correspondents, and such misapprehensions appear to prevail, on the subject of the Benevolent Fund, that the Central Committee deem it advisable no longer to delay the publication of the accompanying statement, drawn up by them to be presented at the approaching meeting of the subscribers to the fund; they will, therefore, feel obliged by its publication in the Journal at your earliest convenience.

I am, sir,

Your very obedient servant,

WILLIAM CONOLLY.

Secretary and Treasurer.

Castleton House, Oct. 30, 1845.

The Benevolent Fund has been in operation since the year 1836, (with the exception of two years that it was suspended from want of funds.) During this period seventy-seven cases have been relieved, viz.:-

1836	2
1837	4
1838	4
1839	5
1840	1
1842	12
1843	17
1844	19
1845	13

77

Thus making the number above specified, at a total cost of £852.

The suspension of the operations of the Fund which will be observed in the years 1840 and 1841, arose from the claims in the former years having been greater

than the income. These claims were met by drawing on the Donation Fund; the pressing nature of the applications for help rendered this proceeding almost inevitable; as, however, it was contrary to a fundamental rule, it was resolved at the anniversary meeting of the Association, held at Southampton in 1840, that no further relief should be awarded until the money borrowed from the Donation Fund should be re-paid, and that there remained a sum of £100, over and above, of the Subscription Fund. This was accomplished in 1842. From that period the Donation Fund has been slowly increasing, and it now amounts to something short of £750. As soon as it reaches £2000 the interest is to be applied to the granting of annuities and loans. The annual subscriptions have been sufficient to enable the committee to administer relief in every proper case; scanty, it is true, but still substantial and most needful relief.

Among the recipients of our benevolence have been some of the descendants of several of the most eminent physicians of this country. Many children of medical men, who have died in distressed circumstances, have been aided in their education. Several practitioners, struggling under great difficulties, have been enabled to overcome them, and have been restored to health and usefulness; others, by timely aid, have been rescued from the greatest destitution. All this has been effected with very limited means; but all who have been engaged in distributing them know how efficient the relief has been, and how thankfully it has been received. It is to be observed at the same time that the mechanism provided for the distribution of your benevolence has worked admirably. Every proper object has been more or less aided; not, perhaps, to the amount that could have been wished, but still most beneficially; and be it remembered, few, if any of them, could have obtained help from any existing or contemplated institution that we are acquainted with. We would also observe that the nucleus of an Annuity Fund exists, which, if duly augmented, would become a permanent source of relief, yielding its annual income, and not liable to the fluctuations which must necessarily arise when reliance mainly rests on annual subscriptions.

Shall such an institution as this be suffered to decay? We trust not. The experience of several years has satisfied us, that it needs no alteration in its principle; it is simple, easily carried into execution, and purely benevolent. What then is needed to augment its usefulness? Nothing but a larger number of contributors. We cannot doubt that such will be found, and that a claim of right to some return of their contributions will never be needed to induce the members of our profession to lend a helping hand to so excellent an object.

REPLY TO MR. NEWNHAM'S LETTERS ON MESMERISM.

LETTER II.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND
SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

Mr. Newnham's sixth letter contains nothing requiring notice from me.

The seventh letter contains three specific charges. Mr. Newnham takes exception to the authorities I have