testicle, and so forth, and which more or less tend to impair the health and shorten life, and whose origin is within, from internal causes.

Under the first category may be classed Larrey's Egyptian cases, the present one, Hoo Loo, and probably Mr. Liston's case. Under the second, those cases mentioned by John Bell, and the older surgeons, where abscesses, hydroceles, diseased testicles, &c., are spoken of; and also those cases of Mr. Brett published in the *Lancet* of the 28th of February, 1846, and the more recent case of the 11th of July. The disease, as described by Dr. Titley, in the West Indies, and Mr. Brett in the East, appeared to be accompanied in its origin with acute fever, but less so in the scrotal cases than where the leg is affected, so that after a time the tumour increases, independently of the febrile attacks. (*Vide Medico-Chirurgical Review*, February, 1830.) Mr. Brett has, however, argued in his account of the last case, in which he operated successfully, and which had its origin from rupture of the urethra, with extravasation of urine, that the pathological condition of all these cases is the same. This, I think, is carrying generalization too far, for the peculiar condition of the skin seen in some cases, gives a distinctive character to the disease, if our pathology is to be based on anatomical structure; for although some of the other conditions may be the same under which these growths occur, and the same size or greater may be attained to, by the accumulation of deposits in the cellular tissue from whatever cause arising, yet, if the commencement, progress, and termination of, and method and success in operative procedure in, such cases be different, it is evident that on physiological, pathological, and surgical grounds, distinction ought to be made.

The following are the weights that some of these tumours have arrived at:—

M. De la Croix, operated on by De Lannes	30 lbs.
Chopart, case of a negro on the coast of Guinea	40 lbs.
Larrey, in Egypt, from - - -	50 lbs. to 100 lbs.
Dr. Titley, in a native of St. Christopher, operated on unsuccessfully by Mr. Wilkes,	165 lbs.
Mr. Liston's case - - - - -	50 lbs.
Mr. Brett's seven cases in India, weighed in the aggregate - - - - -	240 lbs.
Mr. Brett's last case, - - - - -	9½ lbs.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE INFIRMARY: PRACTICE OF SIR JOHN FIFE.

(Reported by Mr. A. TAYLOR.)

STRANGULATED SCROTAL HERNIA.

James Gilbert, aged 48, a sailor, of the nervous, sanguine temperament, tall, thin, and always healthy, was admitted, July 23rd, at three p.m., with a strangulated scrotal hernia of the left side. He had had the hernia from being seven years old, and has worn a truss for a long time. He had been drinking some beer five days ago, and the morning following was seized with vomiting, pain of stomach, with hiccup, and the super-vention of all the symptoms of ileus; his truss was a very weak one, and he had worn it upon the unreduced

hernia until two days ago, when, on attempting to return the hernia, he found it impossible.

An injection was given, which brought away a few knots of hardened fæces.

Sir John Fife came, and by the taxis reduced its bulk about one third, but a large tumour remained behind, which it was impossible to return, he therefore at once began the operation, as follows:—

By successive incisions the sac was soon exposed, and proved extraordinarily dense; it was opened in its whole extent on the finger by a bistoury. At the lower end of the sack was a coagulum, the size of a pigeon's egg, in which the rudiments of organization were demonstrable; it adhered firmly both to the intestine and to the sac, which was carefully separated by the finger. On the intestine was a vesication, an inch in length, surrounded by dark inflammation. The stricture was at the neck of the sack, within the internal ring, and although freely divided by the bistoury, the intestine could not be returned until Sir John Fife separated with his finger and a bistoury some adhesions within the abdomen. The wound was closed by the interrupted suture, in the course of which an expedient was resorted to for the purpose of preventing the future protrusion of the intestine; the sides of the sac were included in the suture, with the lips of the external wound, which was then covered with a simple dressing.

24th. No more hiccup nor vomiting; belly much swelled yet, and has passed much wind, but no stool; scrotum much swelled; urine free; slept well. An injection.

In the evening, easy; free passage of natural stool; belly somewhat less tumid; hiccup returned severe. Calomel and opium every night; effervescing draughts with tincture of opium.

25th. Doing well; slept well; feverish; hiccup severe; no vomiting; bowels moved once during the night.

26th. Erysipelatous inflammation and sloughing of the wound; belly still very tumid, though not painful; hiccup sometimes worse; bowels not free since yesterday morning; very easy; sleeps well. Wound dressed with unguentum terebinthinæ.

27th. Has been purged; his belly flat and easy; less thirst and no pain; scrotum less swelled; pulse quiet, weak; hiccup still very severe. Continue the calomel, with Dover's powder; broth, sago, &c.

28th. Sac exposed by sloughing, but the surface now exhibits healthy action, and disposition to cicatrization; belly pretty natural; no hiccup; no appetite; free passage; stitches removed. Continue the powders; cataplasm; beef tea, and chops.

31st. Doing well; rather weak, but no other complaint; sac sloughing out very favourably, with no inflammation.

August 8th. Sac quite gone; ulcer healthy, and quite recovered in himself.

15th. Ulcer healing rapidly; granulations high. Nitrate of silver applied, and wound drawn together by straps of adhesive plaster.

21st. Wound healed, and is going to sea in a day or two.

Sir John Fife afterwards remarked to the pupils that this case was peculiarly instructive for the following reasons:—It proved, first, the importance of operating

without delay, though the hernia was lessened, and some feculent matter had passed; secondly, that the intestine might retain its vitality, though gangrene threatened; and thirdly, that means might be resorted to for the purpose of preventing future protrusion.

PROVINCIAL

Medical & Surgical Journal.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1846.

The trial for illegal practice, at the instance of the Society of Apothecaries, reported in our last number, is an important one, as shewing that power still exists in one at least of the Medical Corporations to protect the rights of its members from infringement, and the public from the consequences of the administration of drugs by unqualified persons. Whether the Society has been happy in the selection of this individual case for prosecution, for either purpose, is another question. No evidence was adduced on this point, and all we know on the subject is from the statements of the counsel on either side. According to his own counsel it would appear that the defendant is a gentleman highly competent to practice, that he had served a regular apprenticeship (as an apothecary we presume,) in Bristol, and that he had been actually practising (with or without a diploma, does not appear,) as a physician in America. On the other hand the counsel for the prosecution was not instructed to say a word against the defendant's competency; he might or might not be qualified; the counsel knew nothing on the subject.

So far therefore the trial is without moral effect, involving a question of mere corporate privileges rather than any public or professional principle. Still it is of value, as evidencing the existence of a power which requires only to be exercised in the right direction to produce a large amount of benefit to the profession, and what is of more importance, to obviate a far greater amount of evil, of which the incautious and the ill-informed portions of the community are the daily victims.

The extensive practice as apothecaries carried on by the lower-class tradesmen among the chemists and druggists throughout the country, is attended with most calamitous effects on the public health. Among the adult population, the working portion of it especially, there is, from this cause, much waste of money, loss of valuable time, and impaired efficiency, together with frequent chance-medley, as we presume it must be termed, since the judges refuse to convict of manslaughter in such cases, while the sacrifice of infant life by the indiscriminate administration of calomel, opium, antimony, and other powerful drugs, by this class of recognized, though illegal and incompetent

practitioners, to say nothing of the irremediable injury inflicted on the constitution of a still larger number who escape, is fearful to contemplate.

Here then, is a direction in which the powers possessed by the Apothecaries' Company might be most beneficially exercised. A very few convictions obtained here, would operate as a decided check upon a fatal, a most extensive, and an increasing evil; and certainly the service rendered to the corporation itself, would far outweigh any which can be obtained from the prosecution of the few competent individuals scattered throughout the country, who may be practising as apothecaries without possessing the license of the Company. The recent Plymouth case for instance, is one which might well have been taken up; and though, as it appears, the loss of life ensuing from the administration of improper remedies, and from the extreme of ignorance, in a party undertaking the treatment of disease with no medical qualification whatsoever, is not in the eye of the law a criminal offence, the acting as an apothecary by such a party must surely subject him to the penalties arising out of the infringement of the Apothecaries' Act.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM.

The annual meeting of the Governors of this Institution was held in the Council Room of the establishment, on Wednesday, August 26th, G. M. Muntz, Esq., M.P., in the chair.

The following are extracts from the Report of the Council:—

"It is with unfeigned satisfaction, that the Council of Queen's College present to the honorary governors, the governors, the friends, and the public on this their twentieth anniversary, the report of their proceedings, and the progress of the Institution during the past year.

"Among the considerations tending to advance the welfare of the College which have pressed themselves on your council, there is none which has occupied more of their attention than the extension of its usefulness, by offering the means of preparatory education, more especially to the sons of those engaged in the clerical and medical professions. On no subject has there been evinced such entire concurrence of opinion as upon the necessity of laying the foundation of medical education at an early age, upon the principles of revealed truth, and the elements of classical literature, and mathematical science; neither has this unanimity prevailed only in the private sentiments of individuals. It has been attested publicly by gentlemen of the greatest eminence in every branch of the profession, before committees of the House of Commons, and it has formed the subject-matter of special requisition by bodies corporate and collegiate, and by the army and navy medical boards, as a necessary condition upon which students should be permitted to undergo their professional examination, and obtain the certificates, honours, and privileges which are granted to proficiency. But though a most salutary revolution has