

my statement, that bleeding generally ceases as soon as the placenta is detached; he says "the placenta however was quickly and completely detached, and the hæmorrhage almost at once ceased." I would here beg to express my approbation of the mode in which this part of the operation was performed, as the success of the case very much depends on the quick and complete separation of this organ from its uterine attachment. Mr. Wilkinson has, however, mistaken the views I have taken of the practice to be adopted in cases of unavoidable hæmorrhage, which is modified according to contingent circumstances, as they exist in different cases. (Vide *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, No. 39, vol. 1, December 24th, 1844; also No. 4, vol. 2, January 22nd, 1845.)

I shall not, at this time, further enter upon the subject, but beg respectfully to refer Mr. Wilkinson and your readers in general to the numbers of your *Journal* above cited.

In conclusion, I beg to assure Mr. Wilkinson that I feel much obliged to him for his communication, and that my only object in drawing his attention as well as that of the profession generally to it, is to induce them to take a correct view of this most important subject.

I have the honour to be,

Yours, most respectfully,

THOMAS RADFORD.

Manchester, July 25, 1845.

PROVINCIAL

Medical & Surgical Journal.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1845.

We cannot but congratulate the members of the Provincial Association, on the harmony and good feeling manifested at the recent Anniversary Meeting. That amongst so large a number as the Association now enrolls in its ranks, there should be differences of opinion on the important subjects which engaged the attention of the Meeting, is unavoidable. That the agitating nature of some of these subjects should call forth the expression of this opinion, was to be expected; but that amid the excitement and contention in which, for months past, the profession has been involved, the general result of such a meeting of its members from all parts of the kingdom, as that which has just taken place at Sheffield, should, upon many of these subjects, have so nearly approached to unanimity, speaks much for the high tone of feeling which pervades the Association, for the moderation and prudence which distinguishes its proceedings, and for the progress which has been made towards the establishment of those really sound principles of internal reform, which formed one of the principal objects of its original institution.

Whatever may become of the questions of medical polity in which we have for months past been so deeply immersed;—whatever may be the future constitution of this or that branch, or of the

profession, as a whole, the real interests and standing of the medical practitioner are most intimately mixed up with the attainment of those objects, to the cultivation of which the Provincial Association is especially pledged. The collection of useful information, and the recording of facts which daily observation accumulates, with a view to the improvement of medical science and practice; investigation into the laws of disease, into the nature of epidemics and endemics, and into medical topography, with the view to the prevention or restraint of many of these scourges of densely populated districts; and the advancement of medico-legal science, upon the knowledge of which the ends of public justice on the one hand, or the liberty and even the life of innocent individuals on the other hand, may depend:—These are objects, the marked attention to which must challenge public esteem, and the successful cultivation of which must tend to elevate the character and sustain the moral force of any Association, by which they are carried out. But the best of all reform—the improvement of the character, and principles, and general tone of feeling, of the members of the profession at large, can only be finally and effectually attained by the cultivation of those principles expressed in that clause of the objects of the Provincial Association, which cannot be too prominently kept in view by each and all of its members:—"Maintenance of the honour and respectability of the profession, by promoting friendly intercourse and free communication among its members; and by establishing among them the harmony and good feeling which ought ever to characterize a liberal profession."

The Half-yearly Abstract of the Medical Sciences. Being a Practical and Analytical Digest of the Contents of the Principal British and Continental Medical Works, published in the preceding six Months. Together with a Series of Critical Reports on the Progress of Medicine and the Collateral Sciences during the same Period. Edited by W. H. RANKING, M.D., Cantab., Physician to the Suffolk General Hospital. Vol. I., January—June, 1845. London: 1845. pp., 390.

The Retrospect of Practical Medicine and Surgery, &c. Edited by W. BRAITHWAITE, Surgeon to the Leeds General Eye and Ear Infirmary, &c. Vol. XI. January—June, 1845. London: 1845. pp., 335.

In the present activity which pervades the writing as well as the reading community, when the quantity of matter committed to the record of the printing press, surpasses so far the powers of intellectual digestion, if not the extent of intellectual appetite, greatly are we indebted to those who, like the authors of the works

before us, undertake the labour of sifting and preparing for use the materials with which the press overflows. To analyse what is in itself an analysis would be impracticable, and each of these half-yearly periodicals possesses its advantages and usefulness, which are of a character to render criticism unnecessary. In Dr. Ranking's Abstract there is more of science, more method and arrangement of the materials, and its value is greatly enhanced by the admirable series of reports with which it concludes. Mr. Braithwaite's Retrospect, on the other hand, is our old familiar friend and companion, and if deficient somewhat in this respect, it abounds in information of practical utility, as many engaged in the active duties of the profession can testify. It is a digest of the practical medicine of the day, and may ever be consulted with advantage by most members of the profession. Dr. Ranking's new work affords a view of the progress of the science, as well as of the art; and while not deficient in practical information, has claims also on the attention of the scientific physician and surgeon and the cultivator of medicine in all its branches. But we have no intention of drawing comparisons invidious or detrimental to either work, and as there is room for both, we cordially wish them both the encouragement and success they so justly merit.

REPORT OF THE BENEVOLENT COMMITTEE.

(Read at the Anniversary Meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, at Sheffield, on Wednesday, July 30th.)

The Central Committee for the Management of the Benevolent Fund of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association in presenting their Annual Report, beg to congratulate its friends and supporters upon its gradually increasing prosperity and consequent utility.

During the past year various suggestions have been made to the Association, through the medium of its Journal, for augmenting the fund; but these gentlemen seem perfectly unconscious of the long and anxious investigation entered into at its formation, respecting its form and constitution. Various plans were proposed and considered; some on the principle of Benefit Societies, Insurance of Life, Annuity Fund, &c. &c. Each plan was fully considered by the Committee, who corresponded at great length with various members of the Association interested in the formation of the Fund. The subject underwent discussion at three successive annual meetings of the Association; and after the fullest consideration, occupying a period of two years, the present constitution, on the purely benevolent principle, was finally adopted by the Association at their annual meeting at Manchester in 1836, after a full report presented by the Committee. The Fund, under this form, has now been in operation, with a slight intermission, for ten years, and has been found to work admirably well; it has the recommendation of great simplicity and facility of

operation; the only difficulty the Committee have ever had to contend with has been a want of funds. When these matters are duly considered, the Committee feel assured less anxiety will be evinced for a change of its constitution, and more zeal will be manifested to obtain contributions; and they are not altogether without hope that at some future, and perhaps no very distant period, the Association may be enabled to devote a portion of their surplus funds to the purposes of the charity, which may thus become a noble and enduring monument of the liberality and munificence of the medical profession.

The Committee would further beg strongly to urge upon the Association, the necessity of increasing, if possible, the amount of the Permanent or Donation Fund, so as to bring it up to the sum required by the regulations, (£2000,) before it can come into operation. They would also beg to suggest the propriety of investing the present amount of Donation Fund in some permanent Government Security, and the appointment of Trustees, in whose names it may be invested.

In the list of donors to this branch of the charity during the past year, the Committee gratefully acknowledge the name of Dr. Jephson, of Leamington, for the munificent sum of *fifty guineas*, presented through the hands of H. L. Smith, Esq., of Southam.

To the zeal and activity of the Stewards in different localities, the Committee have been as usual greatly indebted; in addition to those of former years they have to add the name of Dr. Beddome, of Romsey, whose benevolent exertions have procured between fifty and sixty pounds to flow into the treasury; a striking instance of what may be done by an individual of eminence and influence, in his own immediate neighbourhood. The kind contributions of several not belonging to the medical profession, both ladies and gentlemen, are gratefully acknowledged.

It will be seen that the Committee have this year been enabled to distribute £220 to twenty-four applicants recommended to their notice; and they have the satisfaction of knowing that, although the sum given to each case may appear small in amount, that they were in every case gratefully acknowledged, and declared to have afforded essential relief.

In conclusion, the Committee would express their earnest hope that the fund will continue to increase and prosper, as they are convinced it is entitled to the confidence and support of every member of this great and flourishing Association.

JOHN BARON, M.D., President, Cheltenham.
WILLIAM CONOLLY, M.D.,

Treasurer and Secretary,
Castleton House, Cheltenham.

The following is a short account of the cases relieved during the past year:—

1. To the widow and family of a general practitioner in Gloucestershire, to assist in obtaining some education for the children. This sum has now been given to this family for three successive years, but will not be longer required. Recommended by Dr. Baron and Mr. Cooke £10
2. To the aged widow of a very respectable prac-