as guaranteed by the signatures of six Fellows, is the best criterion which can be selected under the unfortunate circumstances in which we have been placed. There may be some hardship in requiring a fee of ten guineas, but it would be still more hard to admit men of twenty years' standing now, without payment of a fee, after demanding and receiving ten guineas from men of even thirty years' standing and upwards, together with an examination, as has been hitherto the case. Taking, then, all the difficulties of the position in which the College officials are placed, we are certainly of opinion that, *as far as regards the Fellowship*, the proposed plan, if carried out, ought to be accepted as the *amende honorable;* and if this compromise should be accompanied by a measure of reform in the general constitution of the examining bodies;—if the College of Surgeons should come forward, and by co-operating with the College of Physicians, should offer to the profession a Board of Examiners, which might form a common portal to the different departments into which the practice of our art has hitherto been divided, we trust that all old grievances would be buried in oblivion, and that we should one and all of us exert ourselves in carrying out the plans necessary for such a comprehensive measure of educational improvement. There never has been so favourable a time as the present within the memory of man, and we trust that it will not be allowed to slip by, but that the College authorities will take the matter earnestly in hand, and prevent the necessity for the formation of the projected College of General Practitioners, which can only act as a fresh element of discord in our already disorganized ranks.

Reviews.

Medical Ethics; or a Code of Institutes and Precepts adapted to the Professional Conduct of Physicians and Surgeons. By the late Dr. Percival. Third Edition.

Code of Ethics of the American Medical Association. Pamphlet. pp. 36.

That the intercourse of man with man should be swayed by certain arbitrary rules, has been acknowledged by the general experience of ages, and in all classes of men, whether living under a civilized, or what we somewhat arrogantly choose to denominate, a *savage*, regime. This is a fact so well established that not only is it admitted by the well-ordered sections of the community, but even the disorderly and the immoral are compelled to subscribe to its justice. "Honour among thieves" has become a proverb.

It is a fortunate thing too, seeing the necessity for ethical ordinations, that mankind in general tacitly concedes the point; and that taking society throughout its whole extent, from that of the highest "*ton*" to its dregs, there is for the most part little inclination to run counter to what custom or convenience has allotted as rules of social conduct. We allude of course to no other than the arbitrary and in some respects, comparatively unimportant regulations of life, for by a strange paradox, a man will ofttimes scrupulously attend to them, while he cares nought for those higher moral obligations, the observance of which not only renders him a happier man here, but is imperatively required for his wellbeing hereafter.

That which has been found so necessary for the social government of mankind in general, has also been thought requisite, in a modified degree, for particular sections of society, and among them for the guidance of professional intercourse. But strange to say, for the medical profession alone has it appeared important to *publish* a code of laws, by which their individual and collective conduct is to be regulated. It may well be asked what there is in the profession of the healing art, to require a sign post to good behaviour more than in that of the law or divinity; and why the ordinary and well-acknowledged dictates of gentlemanly feeling and Christian temper, should not suffice for it as for the others. The question we leave for others to solve; all that we can say upon the matter is, that so it is; the fact remains, that, (to the best of our knowledge at least,) the medical profession is the only one which has a published code of ethics.

Granting, however, that the want of such a published code exists, however humiliating the admission must be, it is satisfactory to know, that as far as a profound acquaintance with professional weaknesses, and a truly upright mind, could enable a man to frame a code of laws for the regulation of the intercourse of medical men, we have all that is wanted in Dr. Percival's code of ethics, a new edition of which has recently appeared, and which in the present disturbed state of medical polity, is well worthy the attention of our readers. We are not, however, so sanguine as to expect that those who are irregular in their professional conduct, will become altered men by the simple perusal of this excellent essay; for we know that the majority of those who systematically disgrace their calling, by derogatory practices, do so with the full consciousness that they are transgressors; they connot plead ignorance, but are actuated by a deficiency of moral sense, which a mere acquaintance with the rules of propriety will not rectify. Of what avail would it be with the licensed charlatan, with his

mountebankery of infinitesimals;—the receiver of the chemists' per centage;—the medico-chirurgical vendor of tooth brushes, and eau de cologne;—the triune representive of the doctor, barber, and grocer,—to have the written evidence of his delinquencies before his eyes? None we fear whatever; he knows that he is doing wrong; but self and mammon are to him of far greater importance than the honour of the profession he desecrates, or even than his individual respectability.

Still, hopeless as may be the endeavour to instil any feelings of shame into the minds of those who knowingly violate the laws of medical decorum, there are doubtless, some, and we willingly believe not a few, whose divarications from the path of honourable practice arise from want of information as to what their demeanour should be under the various circumstances contingent upon their avocations. To such Dr. Percival's maxims offer a ready and trustworthy guide. We can none of us, however, be the worse for studying them, and we sincerely hope the benevolent Editor's object will be fully answered in an extended distribution of his labours.

The American code of ethics is based upon that of Dr. Percival, and appears in every way deserving of the attention of the profession. If all we read be true, they want instruction on these matters in the United States, still more than in England.

Proceedings of Societies.

BATH AND BRISTOL BRANCH OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

*Quarterly Meeting, held on Thursday, September 27.**

Mr. Crouch, of Bruton, read a paper "On Ovariotomy, illustrated by a dried preparation of a large tumour removed by him. (Since published in the *Journal.*)

Mr. Swayne having had a very large experience in cases of this nature, though thinking the operation might occasionally be needed, would hesitate to recommend it, unless he found the tumour very rapidly increasing, causing much distress, and evidently endangering life. He felt convinced that a certain number of patients suffering from ovarian disease would live a longer period if the symptoms were merely palliated than if they had been operated on. He did not mean to say that some cases might not require the operation, but in these there was great risk in the probability of adhesion being formed when the peritoneum was laid open, which adhesion could not previously be ascertained, so that in ordinary cases patients stand a better chance of living by the diseased ovary being let remain.

Mr. Vicary fully concurred with the views of Mr. Swayne, and narrated several cases confirmatory of it.

Mr. Jennings then detailed some cases illustrating the different types fever will occasionally assume from the modifications apparently induced by a local cause. In several cottages close together on the margin of a semi-stagnant brook, some patients had suffered from diarrhœa; others from constipation; while others laboured under erysipelatous inflammation.

Mr. King mentioned some facts of the same kind.

Mr. Colthurst described the following case of diseased hip-joint, for the purpose of showing the marked advantage of a long wooden splint (from the arm-pit to the ankle) in ensuring the perfect rest, so absolutely necessary to stop diseased action. He explained that it in nowise interferes with the requisite daily observation, nor the varied local applications usually adopted during the first stage of the complaint, whilst in the second it permits exercise on crutches at a very early period, much earlier than otherwise would be safe. He also specially directed attention to the very great comfort and convenience to the patient of being placed in the prone position, on a bed or mattrass, so elevated at the head as to form a slight incline downwards to the feet, a point that all must feel to be of considerable importance when the usual difficulties of affording amusement or occupation to the youthful patient, during this tedious and painful disease, are borne in mind.

Case.

M. A. Thorn, aged 7 years, was admitted under Mr. Colthurst, at the Clifton Dispensary, May 3rd, 1849. Her mother reported that in September, 1848, she first observed the child to limp, but thought nothing of it, as she was considered to be imitating one of her companions, who was lame. This gait continuing, and indeed increasing, induced her to consult a surgeon, at the Hotwells, who told her that there was disease of the hip-joint, for which he treated the child by directing her to be kept quiet (without any special instructions as to the mode of doing so,) by using salt water baths, administering some powders, and blistering the joint, until in February, 1849, the child getting worse, was taken to a physician, who prescribed four leeches to the groin, hot salt-water pads to the hip, and cod-liver oil internally, during about eight weeks, when the pain in the joint became so intense that he applied some very strong poison, *(sic)* with a view to allay it, and ordered the child to be allowed to remain in any position that seemed most comfortable to her, and a leather apparatus to fix the limb, as nothing could prevent her having a stiff joint. In this state of affairs, to avoid continued expense, she was admitted at the Dispensary, and upon being visited at her own house, was found to be suffering from such extreme pain as scarcely to permit the clothes to be

* Concluded from page 551.