

## MISCELLANEOUS.

## MESMERISM.

From a letter published in a Dublin paper, it appears that the £100 note deposited for six months in the bank of Messrs Ball and Co., which was, according to the terms of the advertisement in the public papers, "to become the property of any person who, without opening the envelope in which it was contained, should describe every particular respecting the note—such as its number, its date, the bank at which it was payable, &c., and who should read three English words, plainly written on a slip of paper, which was contained in the same envelope with the note," has not been awarded. The six months expired on the 31st March, but the time was extended to the 18th of April, to meet the convenience of a lady, a professor of mesmerism, and the authoress of an ingenious book on the subject, who arrived from London in the beginning of the month, and who expressed a wish to have some time longer to prepare her *clairvoyance* for the test. Six months and seventeen days having expired, and no person having appeared at the bank to examine the envelope, it was opened on the 18th instant, in the presence of Messrs. Ball and Doyne, and one or two other persons connected with the establishment. The note proved to be a printed cheque issued by the house of Messrs. Ball and Co., for £100, payable to (Edipus or bearer, and dated the 1st of October, 1845. The English words (written on a separate slip of paper) were, "To Edipus alone." Although no person applied at the bank to inspect the envelope containing the note, some communications were received from different parts of England, and one from America, (but none from Ireland,) containing mesmeric revelations respecting the number of the note; and one letter (from Plymouth), enclosed a picture, or (intended) *fac simile* of it. It is unnecessary to add, that these mesmerically-inspired persons were mistaken in every particular.—*Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*.

## CONCOURS FOR THE PROFESSORSHIP OF ANATOMY IN THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE OF PARIS.

The concours for the appointment of the successor of Breschet to the chair of anatomy in the School of Medicine and Surgery of Paris has been completed. The exercises which the candidates have to undergo are five in number; 1. A written essay, the subject being the same for all the candidates, which must be composed in five hours, without any extraneous aid whatever, and subsequently read in public. 2. An oral lecture, one hour long, on an appointed subject, after twenty-four hours' preparation. 3. An oral lecture on an appointed subject, after three hours preparation, without any extraneous aid. 4. An anatomical dissection or preparation, to be made without assistance, and a public lecture thereon. 5. A thesis to be supported by argument. The subject of all these exercises is appointed by lot. The credit given to each candidate for what is termed "*anterior titles*?"—that is to say, his previous scientific and practical labors, is not determined until the foregoing exercises have been completed.

"The subject of the written essay on the present occasion was the *Skin*.

"The following is a list of the subjects of each lecture, with the name of the candidates to whom they were respectively allotted:—M. Dumeril—the secreting organs in general; the liver. M. Chaissagnac—the organ of hearing; the liver. M. Bourguery—the eye; articulation of the head with the spine. M. Despretz—the digestive organs in general; articulation of the head with the spine. M. Gosselin—the cerebro-spinal nervous centres; testicle, vas deferens, and vesicula seminalis. M. Giralde—comparison of the upper and the lower extremity; the bladder. M. Beclard—the hand; the appendages of the uterus. M. Denonvillers—the organs of sense compared with each other; the appendages of the uterus; M. Sanson—the respiratory apparatus; the appendages of the uterus.

"The subjects of the theses are:—M. Gosselin—The

ganglionic nervous system; its connections with the cerebro-spinal system of nerves. M. Dumeril—the evolution of the fœtus. M. Denonvillers—comparison of the two muscular systems. M. Sanson—the articulations in general. M. Giralde—How far comparative anatomy is useful in the study of human anatomy. M. Chaissagnac—the mucous membranes. M. Despretz—on the value of microscopic researches in anatomy. M. Beclard—the cartilaginous system. M. Bourguery—the appendages of the fœtus and their development.—[M. Denonvillers was the successful candidate.—Ed.]—*New York Journal of Medicine*.

## CONCOURS FOR THE CHAIR OF EXTERNAL PATHOLOGY (SURGERY) AT MONTPELLIER.

The following were the exercises performed by the candidates. The subject of the written essay was, "Pass in review the principal divisions of external pathology, to shew theoretically the relations between medicine and surgery."

"In a lecture, after twenty-four hours' preparation, M. Guissac considered *Cysts in general*; M. Boyer, *Scrofula in a surgical point of view*; and M. Alquie, *Tumours in general*.

"M. Guissac's thesis was, *On the improvements in surgery due to the progress of pathological anatomy*. M. Boyer's, *What is due to nature and what to art in the cure of surgical diseases?* M. Alquie's—*Appreciate the labors of the Academy of Surgery*.

"All the candidates had to deliver an extemporaneous lecture on the same subject, viz.—*On foreign bodies in the air-passage*.

"M. Boyer was unanimously elected Professor of Surgery, and the jury passed a warm eulogium in the most complimentary terms on M. Alquie."—*Gazette Med. de Paris*.

## MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS OF ITALY.

Dr. Morland in a letter to the Editor of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, published in the last number of that journal, thus observe with reference to the Medical Institutions of Italy:—

Italy certainly possesses many very noble institutions for the poor and the sick—and was, during the middle ages, far in advance of the rest of Europe. At Naples, the "Royal Poor House" should be mentioned as an institution of great usefulness and merit. It was commenced in 1751, and now is an immense building; one side is allotted to females, and the other to males. At present, between 5 and 6000 (according to the statements) are maintained and instructed by this establishment; among other things the inmates are taught *surgery*.—The hospital for *Incurables* is capable of containing upwards of 1000 persons; the sick are received from all parts of the kingdom—and foreigners also. There are *cliniques* also—medicine, surgery, midwifery, an anatomical theatre, &c.

In *Rome*, the hospitals are not so well looking, *internally*, nor, I should think, so well conducted, as in most of the other Italian cities. The small hospital of Benfratelli, containing 80 beds, is much neater and better ventilated than San Spirito, the principal one. The Benfratelli is in the hands of the monks, who perform the services and duties for the sick. The aspect of things was exceedingly *dubious* as to the comfort of the patients. The immense wards of San Spirito are disgustingly dirty and wretchedly ventilated—and, what is worse, they have the most unscientific, *outrageous* arrangement of "*stowing away*" the poor patients in *double tiers—two tiers* on each side of the ward; the heads of patients in tier No. 2, lying at the feet of those in tier No. 1. I have never seen so bad an arrangement in any hospital—nor one so calculated to produce bad effects. More is the shame, too, for this hospital is very richly endowed. The Foundling Hospital and the Lunatic Asylum are also in this building, which, as