"That the determination of the local council to form a district branch be confirmed, but that this branch be called the Yorkshire District Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association."

Mr. W. Hey seconded the amendment, and confirmed the statement of Dr. Hopper respecting the general feeling in Leeds, that the branch should include the whole of the county.

After considerable discussion, the amendment was carried by a large majority.

Rules for the government of the branch were then adopted, after which Dr. Simpson was chosen president-elect for the ensuing year, and Mr. Husband secretary and treasurer. The following gentlemen were appointed to constitute the district council for the ensuing year:—Dr. Goldie, Dr. Belcombe, Mr. Brown, Mr. Williams, Mr. R. Hey, Mr. Russell, Mr. James Allen, and Mr. Dodsworth, York; Mr. Hey, Mr. W. Hey, Dr. Hopper, Mr. Garlick, Mr. Smith, Mr. Teale, Leeds; Mr. Sandwith, Beverley; Dr. Whylehead, Easingwold; Mr. Ness, Helmsley.

As much time had been spent in considering the constitution and rules of the branch, the questions of medical reform and the poor laws were unavoidably deferred.

The following memoirs and cases were submitted to the meeting, and elicited some interesting and valuable remarks.

1. A paper on Diabetes, by Dr. Belcombe.
2. A Case of Fatal Hæmorrhage from a Wound of the Carotid Artery, by Mr. W. Hey.
3. A paper on Perforation of the Stomach, with two Cases, by Mr. Williams.

The following communications could not be read, on account of the length of time which the proceedings had already occupied:—

A Case of Dislocation of the Cervical Vertebræ, by Mr. R. Hey.

A paper on the Weight of the Heart, by Mr. Thurnam.

A Case of Ossified Gall-bladder, by Mr. Dodsworth.

We hope to be permitted to insert most of the above in the pages of this Journal.

A vote of thanks was passed by acclamation to the president, and the members proceeded to dine together at the George Inn.

The next meeting will be held at York on Thursday, June 29, 1843.

CONVERSION OF BENZOIC INTO HIPPURIC ACID.

In a paper published in the 12th number of the "Pharmaceutical Transactions" Mr. Ure alludes to some recent investigations on the interesting subject of the conversion of benzoic acid into hippuric acid in the human subject.

The presence of hippuric acid in the urine, after the administration of benzoic acid, has been confirmed by Mr. Garrod, who says, "I have repeatedly performed Dr. Alex. Ure's experiment, swallowing from a scruple to half a drachm of benzoic acid at a time, and have always obtained a copious crop of crystals of hippuric acid, amounting to from fifteen to twenty-nine grains, by the addition of hydrochloric acid to the urine passed about three or four hours afterwards (evaporated or not, according to its state of dilution). These crystals possessed all the characters of hippuric acid, with the crystalline form, the small solubility in alcohol, the evolution of nitrogen, and also the odour of the Tonquin bean, when heated to destruction; and my experiments therefore so far confirm Dr. A. Ure's fundamental observation."

Mr. Garrod mentions his having always been able to obtain a distinct trace of uric acid from human urine containing hippuric acid. This had been also observed by M. Bouchardat.

Mr. Garrod has suggested a very ingenious theory for explaining the manner in which the benzoic acid is converted into the hippuric, a theory likewise put forth by Liebig, in his recent work on Animal Chemistry, p. 150. According to this theory, one equivalent of lactate of urea minus two equivalents of water give the requisite elements for the conversion of two equivalents of benzoic acid into two equivalents of hippuric acid. The following formula will express this more clearly:—

Benzoic acid (2 eqs.) . .	$C_{28}\ H_{10}\ O_6$
Lactate of urea (1 eq.) .	$C_8\ H_8\ O_6\ N_2$
	$C_{36}\ H_{18}\ O_{12}\ N_2$
Minus	$H_2\ O_2$ (2 eqs.)
	$C_{36}\ H_{16}\ O_{10}\ N_2$

$=$ Hip. acid (2eqs) $C_{36}\ H_{16}\ O_{10}\ N_2$

In opposition to this theory, Mr. Ure brings forward the following experiment:—

"On the 20th April last, one hour after breakfast, I swallowed a scruple of cinnamic acid, procured by Mr. Bell, of Oxford-street, from the decomposition of cinnamon water. In the course of three hours afterwards I collected the urine voided, and which amounted to about 4½ ounces. It was of a pale hue, and of a specific gravity of 1.024. A portion of this urine being allowed to evaporate spontaneously upon a slip of glass, and a drop of muriatic acid added, minute acicular crystals, radiating from a centre, ere long made their appearance. These having been re-crystallised, and examined by the microscope, were seen to consist of quadrangular prisms, with dihedral summits. On exposure to heat they melted into an oleaginous mass, and exhaled the fragrant odor of Tonquin bean—all distinctive characters of hippuric acid of which I thus obtained several grains."

If we apply the arithmetical formula to this fact, substituting the cinnamic for the benzoic acid, we obtain a result (says Mr. Ure) wholly incompatible with the hypothesis in question.

For two equivalents of cinnamic acid + one of lactate of urea—two of water will give $C_{44}\ H_{20}\ O_{10}\ N_2$, while two equivalents of hippuric acid give $C_{36}\ H_{16}\ O_{10}\ N_2$, leaving $C_8\ H_4$ to be accounted for.

EFFECTS OF DATURA.

For the purpose of facilitating theft, and other criminal designs, the seeds of datura are very commonly given in Bengal with sweetmeats to stupify merely, but not with the intention of killing; intoxication or delirium is seldom produced, the individual sinks into