

## THE NEW PHARMACOPŒIA.

REPLY OF MR. EVERITT TO MR. PHILLIPS.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR:—Fortunately for me the four errors in my communication, placed in relief by Mr. Phillips, can be unequivocally proved to be misprints, irrespective of any assertion of mine;\* first, because the same paper in the "Gazette" of the same week, from a duplicate MS., does not contain one of them; next, because the context in every case shows them to be such; indeed, in three of them only one letter was wrong; and, lastly, because you yourself, in a foot note, acknowledge that my MS. was correct.

Mr. Phillips claims the privilege of a similar cause for the error of ordering in the Latin edition three measures in the room of two (or, more correctly, of one and three-quarters) of water to one measure of the strong ammoniacal liquid, to reduce it to the weaker. By a curious coincidence the same misprint occurs in his English translation.

The last paragraph of Mr. Phillips' letter, in which he apparently has me on the hip, will lose all its point when a reference is made to that part of my communication to which he alludes. Every one knows how changed the meaning of a few words may become by separating them from their associates. In giving the process for making liquor ammoniæ, it is very evident I confined myself to a general description, and did not intend to give the exact strength of the product, for I said put "*about*" (a little word omitted by Mr. Phillips), 30 parts of water into the receiver; and then, a few lines further on, I contended that 10 ounces of sal-ammoniac can, in practice, at any rate, make 30 fluid ounces of liquor ammoniæ of .960, in the room of only 15, as prescribed.

Now, 10 ounces of this salt contain 1511 grains of ammonia; and 30 fluid ounces, at .960, contain 1260 ditto; hence, a very liberal allowance (one-sixth) for loss, viz. 251.

Hence, I think, I did not wish to get more ammonia out of the salt than it contained; although, on the other hand, I do contend that the process of the Pharmacopœia, where 881 grains out of 1511 are admitted to be lost, is one which no manufacturer in his senses will follow, and which ought not to have been in the edition of 1836. Yours sincerely,

THOMAS EVERITT.

Medical School, Middlesex Hospital,  
Jan. 16th, 1837.

## SEVERE INJURY OF THE THIGH.

QUESTION OF TREATMENT.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR:—I shall feel greatly obliged by your inserting, in the forthcoming Number of your periodical, the following case, which I am induced to publish in consequence of some rather severe animadversions having been made respecting my treatment thereof, by the surgeon who was subsequently called in:—

Thomas Bickley, of Hill Hook, three miles hence, ætatis 50, of large stature, good constitution, and temperate habits, a miller, whilst engaged in adjusting the machinery of his mill, got part of his dress (a smock-frock) entangled in the cogs or teeth of the wheels, in consequence of which his left thigh was drawn between two of them, with sufficient force to arrest their progress, although moved by an overshot water-wheel of considerable power. This occurred at about two o'clock on Saturday, the 7th ult., and I was sent for immediately.

I found him in bed, lying upon his back, in a state of collapse from the shock of the accident, complaining of extreme coldness; the surface of the body was quite cold, as were also the extremities; pulse scarcely perceptible. On examining the thigh, severe contusions were observed in the upper half, on the outer, back, and inner sides, where the marks of the cogs (which were about six inches broad, and three deep) were very evident. There was no laceration of the integuments, yet the cuticle was slightly abraded in some places. Upon handling the thigh, the contused parts could readily be distinguished, feeling completely broken up by the severe compression of the wheels. There was a circular external wound of the size of a goose-quill, situated an inch above the contused parts, and about the same distance below the trochanter major, and from this a very small quantity of venous blood was oozing. I was informed that he had lost some blood (not much) before my arrival; there was no fracture of the femur.

I ordered flannels, wrung out of an anodyne fomentation, to be kept constantly applied from the knee to the hip, hot applications to the extremities, and a little brandy and water to be given should faintness come on, directing that I should be immediately sent for on any appearance of hæmorrhage, intending to visit him again in the evening.

Eight o'clock, P. M. More comfortable, skin warmer, extremities also warm, complains of weight and numbness rather than pain in the limb; there has been slight hæmorrhage from the wound, to the amount of about five or six ounces, certainly not more; the thigh a little more swollen, but perfectly soft and pliant, slight ecchymosis in the groin, painful on being touched, I

\* No one could suspect these errors to be any other than misprints. We certainly thought that in trusting the proof to the scrutiny of Mr. Everitt the necessity for our own vigilance was superseded.—  
Ed. L.

cleaned the thigh, and introduced a slight pledget of lint into the wound, merely as a placebo, as I looked upon both the wound and the hæmorrhage as favourable, considering the extent of injury done to the deep-seated parts. Continue the fomentation; apply it also to the groin. Take immediately six drachms of castor oil, and repeat in two hours, if necessary.

Directed the nurse how to introduce a tight pledget, should sudden or excessive hæmorrhage occur, and if so, to send for me immediately.

Jan. 8, half-past ten, A.M. Found him very much improved; heat of the skin a little above the natural standard, with gentle diaphoresis; pulse readily perceptible, and about ninety; tongue clean; has had two motions from the castor oil; complains of sickness; the thigh looks much the same as last night; there is no increase of tumefaction; it is quite soft and elastic; pain in the groin not increased, nor is there any swelling in that part; extremities warm; sensorial functions unimpaired; no hæmorrhage since last night.

Continue the fomentation.

Take every four hours an effervescent saline draught, with half a drachm of *Tinct. Hyoscymus*, and 3ss of *Spir. Æth. Nit.*

Repeated the directions with respect to the occurrence of hæmorrhage, promising to visit him again in the afternoon.

At about five o'clock I received a message, stating that I need not visit the patient, as Mr. Robert Blick had been called in, who had altered the treatment; I, however, considered it my duty to see him, as I was of opinion that a plan of treatment, which had hitherto been so advantageous, ought not to be rashly interfered with.

On visiting him, however, I found that Mr. B. had thought otherwise, for he directly, as is his invariable custom, pronounced my treatment to have been "improper and inefficient," inasmuch as no means had been adopted to heal the wound, no bandages had been applied to prevent hæmorrhage; and the fomentations he considered injudicious, as tending to starve the patient to death, and render his bed uncomfortable. He, therefore, commenced his new plan of treatment by getting him up, and placing him in a chair, whilst the bed and body-linen were changed; he then strapped the wound with sticking-plaster, and applied a compress, bandaging the limb from the knee to the wound, and round the right hip, in the usual way, excepting that the interstices of the cross formed over the wound were left uncovered by the bandage; the patient was placed in bed, upon his right side, with the injured thigh across the opposite one. I soon discovered that so entirely had Mr. B. succeeded in prejudicing both patient and relatives against me and my plan, that I found it impossible to get him again, al-

though a club patient. I understand that Mr. B. was summoned to him in the night, as the limb was considered to be "taking bad ways," but that he refused, alleging that he had already *done* all that he could for him. Query,—Was there anything he might have *undone*?

At eight o'clock on the following evening the man died, having survived the accident only fifty-four hours. An inquest was held on the 11th, and a verdict of "Accidental Death" returned. The above statement embodies my evidence before the coroner.

Now, Sir, as I understand that Mr. B. had, previous to the inquest, industriously circulated a report that death was caused by hæmorrhage, in consequence of my neglect, and also insinuated in his evidence before the jury, that the man might have lived longer had my treatment been more judicious, I call upon him to oblige me by stating in what respect he condemns it, and how he would have improved upon it had he been placed in my situation, and also to inform me what he considers to have been the immediate cause of death, as at half-past ten o'clock on the morning of the 8th I considered the patient to be going on as favourably as possible, considering the extent of the injuries received. Waiting his reply, I remain, Sir, yours truly,

J. P. OATES, Surgeon.

Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire,

Jan. 16, 1837.

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DISSECTION.—A correspondent, who writes under the signature of "*Demonstrator*," recommends teachers of anatomy, who consider that they have reason to complain of a deficiency in the supply of subjects for dissection to their pupils, to apply for redress to the "Anatomical Committee," from whom, he says, they will "easily obtain it." "*Demonstrator*" advises this course instead of preferring charges against the Inspector of Anatomy. Perhaps, however, there are some teachers who see in the "Anatomical Committee" a body of men whom it might be injudicious, on their part, to recognize as adjudicators in questions of "distribution." The present lamentable epidemic has set at rest all disputes on that subject for the present. The schools are too abundantly supplied. The Inspector of Fogs is at fault now, the melancholy "subjects" being sadly disfigured with candles stuck into artificial holes in the abdomen, or between the ribs, or in punctures among the muscles, to dispel that obscurity in the atmosphere which the clerk of the weather has so impartially distributed in all the schools.