

his globules, and expatiating largely on their wonderful properties, when a gentleman, who happened to be present, in order to convince him of his folly, emptied the contents of every bottle into his hand, and swallowed them all one after another! I saw him repeatedly for days together afterwards, and I can state positively that he received no damage whatever from his supper on globules of arnica, arsenic, mercury, belladonna, aconite, dulcamara, nux vomica, hyoscyamus, besides a host of other harmless medicines!

I wrote to Dr. Laurie, and to Mr. Headland, the chemist, mentioning this fact, and asking for an explanation. I need hardly tell you that no explanation could be offered. I enclose Mr. Headland's letter for your inspection.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

H.M.S. Edgar, Feb. 1860.

J. MILNER, Chaplain R.N.

P.S.—There must have been at least 500 globules in each bottle.

MR. T. WAKLEY'S STRICTURE TUBES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have been a medical practitioner on this coast for the last eleven years, and by far the most troublesome disease I have met with has been stricture of the urethra, and particularly the permanent and irritable stricture, where the smallest-sized bougie could not be inserted. After reading one of Mr. Thomas Wakley's papers, published in THE LANCET of 1858, I sent to London for a case of his tubular instruments. Since I received them, I have had under treatment twelve patients troubled with stricture of the urethra, in whom all the characteristic symptoms were present.

In British Columbia, Victoria, Vancouver's Island, and Washington Territory, the natives communicate a virulent variety of gonorrhœa to the white people, which, if not attended to on the appearance of the first symptoms, causes stricture of the urethra in a number of cases.

One of the above twelve patients, M. B—, aged forty-nine years, nervous and emaciated, had been afflicted with stricture for twenty-two years, and had consulted a number of medical men of experience without any relief, until about three months ago he came under my care. Before using the tubular instruments I could not insert a No. 1 or 2 wax bougie into the stricture, which was situated in the membranous portion of the urethra. I placed him under the influence of chloroform, and then passed the director and tubes, as recommended by Mr. Wakley. The patient continued to improve from the first introduction of the tubes. Previous to that time he could only micturate drop by drop, with excruciating pain; then he could pass his urine in a small stream, without any straining or pain. Twenty days after commencing the treatment, he lost the appearance of anxiety previously noticed, had gained flesh, and "felt a new man," passing his urine in a full and continuous stream.

The other patients labouring under the same disease are either well or getting rapidly better under the same plan of treatment. The guides and tubes are my great "stand-by." I have deposited the old sounds, dilators, catheters, and bougies on my shelves, never more to be used by me, with the exception of catheters in cases of retention of urine, and I have great doubts in my mind if the above-named directors are not preferable and easier of introduction.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Olympia, Washington Territory, 1859. M. P. BURNS, Surgeon.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Amongst the numerous reports and opinions regarding the practice and advancement of medical and surgical science which are weekly expounded in your able journal, I consider none more deserving of notice than the efficient method adopted within the last few years by Mr. T. Wakley in the treatment of urethral stricture. I beg, therefore, to subjoin the particulars of my own case, leaving it to others of my professional brethren, of more ability, to institute comparisons between its obvious efficiency and merits, and the protracted, dangerous, and often inefficient treatment usually adopted.

Symptoms of stricture—an almost impassable stricture—developed themselves, in my case, about twelve or thirteen years back; and having consulted, and persevered in the treatment recommended by, some of the most eminent of my profession, without deriving benefit, while symptoms were even manifesting themselves of a tendency to invade the prostatic portion of the urethra, thus interfering with my professional pursuits, I

consulted Mr. T. Wakley; and after submitting to his treatment, I soon found the symptoms, both local and general, completely relieved, and was able, in the short period of two months, to pass with facility a No. 10 catheter.

I trust the manifest importance of this mode of treatment will become generally known, as I have no doubt, from my personal experience, its merits will ultimately demand our attention and approval.

I have the honour to be, Sir, yours obediently,

March, 1860. A PRACTITIONER OF 19 YEARS' STANDING.

(I enclose my card.)

ON THE INJURIOUS EFFECTS OF WHITE LEAD AS A PAINT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Our attention has been drawn to-day to the excellent letter of Dr. Hassall in your last number, and believing that it will give you pleasure to hear that the consumption of oxide of zinc as a substitute for white lead in the manufacture of paint is gradually increasing in this country, we hasten to inform you that our importations of the oxide of zinc at the present time are at the rate of about 1000 tons per annum, with every indication of an increased demand; while the Government returns for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1856, show an importation of only 235 tons from all sources. There is a large field for Dr. Hassall's exertions, as the consumption of white lead is still nearly 100 to 1 of zinc. We had, with the rest of the world, a general impression that the use of white lead paint was deleterious, but we are surprised indeed to learn that it is the cause of so much disease and suffering.

The two slight commercial objections named in Dr. Hassall's letter to the universal use of zinc no longer exist, for the "body" is now sufficiently dense for all paint purposes, and the manner of using it differs in no material respect from the common process of lead painting. A clean brush, and the paint pure, without any adulteration, are the two all-important considerations.

Until within the past two years, the price of the pure oxide of zinc has been higher than the best white lead. It is now much lower, in consequence of an improved and patented system of manufacture.

The real cause of the large consumption of white lead, to the almost entire exclusion of zinc, arises from the fact that white lead can be adulterated with barytes and other cheap ingredients, without being detected by the eye; and the paint so made affords a large profit to the manufacturer and contractor: whereas, the oxide of zinc has but little affinity for foreign substances, and must necessarily be sold pure to make a good and saleable pigment.

The commercial advantages of durability, cheapness, and beauty, are all, as stated by Dr. Hassall, in favour of zinc. France, the United States, and Russia prescribe its use in all important Government works, and it is largely used by the East India Company; yet the English authorities seem indifferent to the subject.

The statements contained in Dr. Hassall's letter of the serious consequences arising from the use of lead paint, not only to workmen, but to others, induce us to hope that you will, on the ground of humanity alone, use your great influence to promote the use of zinc paint as a substitute for lead; and we cannot better close than with a quotation from Dr. Hassall's letter, where he says:—

"It rests with the medical profession to enlighten the public on the subject, and thus ensure the more general adoption of zinc as a paint."—We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

Bread-street, Cheapside, March, 1860.

COATES AND Co.

THE COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS AND MESSRS. HORTON AND MEREDITH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In compliance with a resolution of the Plymouth Medical Society, passed at a meeting held on the 17th of February, I send you a copy of an address to the General Council of Medical Education and Registration, signed by fifty-six fellows and members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, whom you will greatly oblige by giving their address a place in THE LANCET.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. C. COOKWORTHY, M.D., Hon. Sec.

Plymouth, March 3rd, 1860.