after the first application, and the unpleasant symptoms entirely disappeared after a few repetitions of the same process. I am perfectly aware that this case is not by any means conclusive as to the advantages of electro-galvanism in traumatic tetanus, as the case was under treatment from its commencement, and never fully developed itself. At the same time nobody who saw the marked relief afforded to the patient on its first application could doubt that it was of great benefit to him. As to the rationale of action, there is certainly some difficulty in its explanation, at least at first sight, the principal use of electro-galvanism in medicine being as a powerful stimulant to the nervous and muscular systems. Those, however, who have seen it extensively and *carefully* used must be aware that, besides this action, it has the power (curious as it may seem) of allaying pain and irritability in a part. This I have often witnessed.

Whether in the case just mentioned it acted as a sedative to the affected part, and the afferent nerves leading from it to the spinal cord, it is impossible to say. Be this as it may, however, I would suggest, in conclusion, that this plan of treatment is at least worthy of a trial, in *traumatic* tetanus more particularly, as, although a satisfactory explanation of its action may not be apparent, still this is scarcely a reason why it should be altogether rejected, especially in a disease of so grave a character as tetanus. Some of the most valuable remedies which we possess have in the first instance been used empirically.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE S. DYKES, M.R.C.S., &c.

Penrith, Cumberland, April, 1855.

ON BANDAGING THE ABDOMEN DURING AND AFTER LABOUR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me to endorse with the authority of fourteen years' experience the opinions expressed by Mr. Hanks, in the last number of THE LANCET, on the subject of "Bandaging the Abdomen during and after Delivery." A careful and observant accoucheur need desire but one test of the propriety and importance of a proper abdominal bandage *after* labour—the patient's own comfort. Let a woman, who has once had a binder properly applied, be left without such support, and see what she will say to it. She will at once express a wish for something to simulate the pressure which a natural process has just deprived her of, and to yield the pressure which an artificial process realised to her at her last labour. For myself, I should as soon think of leaving a patient with the placenta unexpelled as with an abdominal binder unapplied; and I take leave to say that I learned my midwifery practice in one of the best schools in Europe—the Dublin Lying-in Hospital.

It may be as well here to observe that there is a very great art in putting on a binder properly. Nothing is better adapted for application than a strong "jack-towel." Strong fingers and strong pins are essential; and the great secret of comfort lies in getting the lower edge of the bandage *over* the trochanters. Unless this be done, the binder cuts, and produces no real comfort. It is very common to hear patients complain of the bandage "cutting and hurting," when it has been put on by the nurse, or by a careless medical attendant, who has failed to comply with the essential rules above indicated. Hence the disrepute of a most salutary and (as it seems to me) indispensable measure, the neglect of which involves the greatest danger.

I have confined my observations to the question of bandaging *after* parturition. The nine reasons for its desirableness given by your correspondent, whose opinions I re-echo and confirm, are amply sufficient, and there is no occasion for my taking up your space by an unnecessary enlargement of Mr. Hanks' views.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Enfield, April, 1855. EDGAR SHEPPARD, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

THE DUKE TESTIMONIAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit us, as the honorary secretaries to this fund, to call the attention of the profession, by means of your influential journal, to the resolutions which appear in your advertising columns, in reference to Mr. T. O. Duke, of Kennington. It may be as well to remark, that Mr. Duke filled, in a most efficient manner, the arduous and responsible post of medical

officer of Lambeth Workhouse, containing on an average from 1000 to 1200 inmates, for the long space of fifteen years, and during the prevalence of that fearful scourge, the cholera. In August last, the master of the workhouse, Mr. Piercy, of his own accord, and without the knowledge or sanction of Mr. Duke, as medical attendant, thought fit to introduce a number of beds made of coarse unbroken straw for the use of the cholera patients. As soon as Mr. Duke was aware of this fact, he instantly ordered these beds to be discontinued, as being most improper, and calculated not only to hurt the poor sufferers, but also to aggravate their symptoms, and thus render recovery almost hopeless. Notwithstanding the remonstrances of Mr. Duke and his assistant, the master persisted in using these straw beds, although one or two persons who had been placed upon them had actually died; and Mr. Duke, feeling the responsibility of his position, and also much hurt at seeing his authority set at naught by the master, whose duty was to bow to the opinion of the medical officer, rebuked him (the master) in strong terms for his cruelty and inhumanity to the sick poor; and thereupon the master thought fit to bring an action for slander against Mr. Duke for the expressions which, in the exercise of an imperative duty, he felt bound to use, as being warranted by the urgent circumstances of the case; and, although the jury, in deference to the judge's ruling in point of law, simply gave a verdict of 40s. damages, the effect will be to throw the costs of both sides (which are heavy) on Mr. Duke, and thus inflict an unmerited punishment upon a most respectable and deserving man, for daring to speak the truth in opposition to a workhouse official.

Several of Mr. Duke's friends, who cordially sympathize with him, and approve of his conduct, have determined to subscribe for a testimonial; and inasmuch as we conceive that Mr. Duke has endeavoured to uphold the rights of his profession against the unwarrantable interference of the master of a workhouse, we trust that his medical brethren will not be backward in recording their appreciation of his spirited and disinterested behaviour. We need scarcely add, that subscriptions will be gladly received by any member of the committee or by the undersigned.

Your obedient servants,

H. D. POOLE, { Hon.
ALFD. JENKINSON, } Secs.

April, 1855.

TARTAR EMETIC A REMEDY FOR DRUNKENNESS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In THE LANCET of the 17th ultimo I note "tartar emetic" being advanced by Dr. Gilbert as a new antidote to "drunkenness." Whether it be so or no to the profession at large I can only say that I have given tartar emetic to drunkards for several years past, and am happy to add my testimony to that of Dr. Gilbert, that in several cases its administration has been attended with very beneficial results. I have always found two grains at a time to answer the desired purpose. The stomach, after a debauch of this kind, soon becomes very irritable, and the system so depressed, that I should much doubt the propriety of a larger dose.

It would indeed be a great boon to hundreds of families in this country if we could find out some agent of sufficient power to close the flood-gates of intemperance, and so wipe away from the path of man that curse which so often, I fear, carries him on to the loss of body and soul.

By giving these few remarks publicity, you will much oblige

Your obedient servant,

Nantwich, April, 1855.

JAS. WEAVER.

COD-LIVER OIL AND QUININE.—The combination of tonic with cod-liver oil has long been a desideratum to practitioners. Mr. Bastick has succeeded in producing a preparation combining the above two valuable medicines. It appears to answer all the purposes intended, and is prepared in the following manner:—The requisite quantity of disulphate of quinine is dissolved in distilled water with the aid of a little dilute sulphuric acid. The quinine is then precipitated by means of an alkaline carbonate; the precipitate treated with boiling alcohol; the alcoholic solution, after being filtered, is evaporated to dryness. The residue, which is pure quinine, is then added to the cod-liver oil, and the mixture is heated in a water-bath until solution is completely effected, which may be known by the oil becoming perfectly transparent. The quantity of quinine employed may be varied according to the wish of the prescriber, but it is generally used in the proportion of two grains to the ounce.