1st. That flattening an artery, especially a large one, is better than constricting it. 2nd. That it should only be tied tight enough to bring the edges in apposition; for if "the vessel be tied too tightly, we shall run the risk of dividing, at too early a period, the part included with the artery, (!) or the vessel itself, if it be alone contained in the noose. Every one has his own opinion about the way in which the cavity of an artery is obliterated," &c. 3rd. We have a recommendation of thick ligatures; and 4th, of ligatures of reserve. I may observe, that as the work only extends to the end of the last century, it contains no intimation of the modern views on these subjects.

We have also, in other parts of the book, successful cases of the operation of cutting down on the tumour, &c. Is it right that such papers should stand side by side with papers by Hunter, and Baillie, with no more indication of their being obsolete and dangerous than is indicated by their date?

It would have been well if the Society had brought out a history of aneurism, showing the progress of knowledge and the improvement of practice; exhibiting the influence of the great discoveries of Harvey and others, as leading to the improved practice of Hunter; and teaching how, in this striking disease, practice has influenced theory, and theory practice. In such historical monographs we are very deficient, and it is a form of medical literature instructive and valuable, but which, for obvious reasons, requires the assistance of a Society.

I am somewhat surprised that so respectable a man as Mr. Erichsen should have been willing to appear as such a mere compiler, or rather collector, (the title says, "edited by:" this must be a mistake.) The original remarks would certainly not fill a page, while the contents, bibliography, and index, are exceedingly meagre.

It is well to raise the note of warning, as we are threatened with another such budget of scraps on the subject of midwifery. Let the committee understand that the public do not want either abstracts or extracts, especially not extracts from works which they contemplate publishing *in extenso*, as is the case with several of the papers in the volume in question. We want good editions, carefully edited, of the masters of our science; not scraps and odds and ends, jumbled together without editorial care or editorial comment.—Your obedient servant,
MEDICUS LOND.

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE SYDENHAM SOCIETY?

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I take the liberty of requesting you to allow me, through *THE LANCET*, to ask a question of much interest to no less than about 3000 medical men in the United Kingdom.

Is the Sydenham Society defunct? It is now nearly the end of August, and the Society, though it has taken our money, has issued no volume for this year. Yet, years ago, the Society solemnly promised, among other works, translations of Sydenham, and of Harvey, and a new edition of the works of another of our eminent countrymen—William Hewson. Surely the members of the Society have a right to ask why it is that these promises are broken, so that the defaulter or defaulters may be held up to public odium. If the editors employed are either incompetent, or unwilling, surely the council ought immediately to apply the proper remedy. But it is absurd even to try to shift the blame from the council to the editors; because it is, and was, the duty of the council, before making any promise to the members, to see and examine the MSS., and calculate the time required for the printing of them.

The council, or their mouthpiece the secretary, are much in the habit of attributing such reasonable inquiries as I am now making, to the agency of interested persons of the publishing trade. But if the council continue to disregard their promises to the members, the trade will very soon cease to have cause to be jealous, and will, indeed, only have to smile over the remark, that "The Sydenham Society is defunct."

I have the honour to remain, Sir, your humble admirer,
A GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

MICROSCOPIC ANATOMY OF THE HUMAN BODY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It is my earnest desire to render "The Microscopic Anatomy of the Human Body" as complete as possible; I therefore would esteem it a favour if you would make known, through the medium of *THE LANCET*, to those gentlemen who are interested in the study of minute anatomy, and especially

to such as are connected with hospitals, and infirmaries, how happy I should be to enter into correspondence with them, and also to receive from them examples of any morbid growths which they might wish to have examined microscopically, and which examples (mere fragments would be sufficient) might be readily transmitted, even from the most distant parts of the country, by post, wrapped up in tin-foil. Specimens of tubercle, cancer, fungus hæmatodes, melanosis, and tumours in general, in their different forms and stages, would be of the utmost value in the prosecution of my undertaking.

I beg to remain, Sir, very faithfully yours,
Notting-hill, Aug. 1846. ARTHUR H. HASSALL.

ON MILITARY FLOGGING, AND ITS DANGER IN THE INDIAN ARMY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have to offer my most cordial coöperation in the measures about to be adopted for the suppression of corporal punishment in the British army and navy.

It has been my lot to serve for seventeen years in the East Indies, during which period I have had medical charge of numerous bodies of European and native soldiers, of her Majesty's and the Hon. East India Company's services. As their medical officer, you can well imagine that I carefully studied their moral, as well as their physical condition, and I have always found, wherever I have been, in every clime and amongst every race of our fellow-men, that human nature is influenced by the same principles, and governed by the same laws, whether for good or for evil. If the physician treats the soldier with kindness, unremitting care, and assiduous attention, and familiarizes himself with him as his friend, he is devoted to him. He wins his respect and his confidence. Why should it not be the same with his immediate commanding officers? I have seen that the soldier will do anything with a kind word.

Now I may mention as a proof of the injurious consequences of even the very name of corporal punishment, or of any other system of discipline adopted in our armies, that in India the higher-caste soldiers, I mean the more chivalrous castes, who are born soldiers from a long line of ancestors; the real Rajpoot, and the real Pathan; such is their respect for their honour, that they will not enter the ranks of our regular cavalry or infantry "because there is corporal punishment," and because there is "galley," which is the Indian term for abuse. They prefer entering on smaller pay in some of the irregular or Cossack cavalry, or under the banners of some native chieftain, where their characters and customs are better understood than with us. I had the honour of being the surgeon of the most distinguished cavalry regiment in the Bengal army, for five years; I mean, the Right Hon. the Governor-General's Body Guard. These brave men have evinced the most conspicuous gallantry in all parts of India, in Java, Burmah, and latterly at the several celebrated actions in Gwalior, and with the Sikhs. But there have been instances known where these men have been struck. What has been the consequence? Their first impulse was to revenge the insult: they have chosen another alternative; they have gone home and blown their own brains out. This has occurred three or four times in that regiment. They could never look upon their comrades, or respect themselves, after such an insult, and therefore they committed suicide.

I will mention another instance of the danger of insulting the honour and wounding the pride of soldiers. In one of the regiments of cavalry in the Nizam's service, the commanding officer wished to introduce some alterations in their appearance, and ordered the men to curtail their whiskers and moustaches. The native officers and men objected, it being the greatest dishonour to an Asiatic to touch his beard. The consequence was, that the adjutant took an opportunity, at his own quarters, of trimming the beard of one of the native officers. The result was, that the whole regiment mutinied, and shot all the three British officers on parade!

The British soldier, it is well known, when once subjected to the degrading punishment of flogging, either becomes desponding or hardened. He is never afterwards so good a soldier; he loses his ambition and his self-respect; he often becomes a drunkard; in short, his moral character is very much deteriorated.

The more the moral and the intellectual character of the soldier, or the sailor, is cultivated, the less will the more heinous crimes be committed; the services will become more popular, and we shall have a better class of men; there will not be so many bad characters. Many of those who would other-