We entirely agree with Mr. Gamgee, that there is abundant evidence to show that diseased meat and milk are inflicting serious, though by many unsuspected, injury upon those who partake of them. But supposing for the nonce that we take only Master Pig, and reflect upon what he may do for us. Following Mr. Gamgee's calculation,* we may say that the 34,500 measly pigs from Ireland (not to speak of measly pigs reared in Scotland and England) are capable of giving tapeworm to as many hundred people as there are pigs. But, as fortune will favour us in spite of our neglect, so many of the *cysticerci* get roasted, that comparatively few reach the human bowels alive. But it may be assumed with Mr. Gamgee, in the absence of statistics on the point, that of the 30,000,000 inhabitants of the British islands, the number who yearly suffer from tapeworm are not less than 15,000—i. e., one in every 2000, or one for every other measly pig eaten. This calculation of the able veterinarian allows for the destruction of at least 999 out of every 1000 *cysticerci*. And to this we may add, that recent inquiries in the North have shown that two per cent. of the human beings dissected in the anatomy rooms of the University of Edinburgh indicate the presence of that dangerous parasite, the *Trichina spiralis*, in the muscles of the body. This is another friend whose acquaintance we make from eating imperfectly cooked and diseased pork. Were Elia to revisit us, what would be now the style of his "Dissertation on Roast Pig" after reading this?

DR. BURROWS AND DR. WHARTON.—ALLEGED CONSULTATION WITH A HOMŒOPATH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reply to your note respecting the "complaint of several medical practitioners of Bedford and its neighbourhood of my meeting in consultation a professed homœopath," I answer, there is no foundation. My predecessor, Dr. Francis Griffith Evans, who was in the habit of meeting the said "homœopath," assured me of this. In the case alluded to, Dr. G. Burrows was called on the following day, and found his former pupil, whom he appeared to hold in high estimation, and made several such visits without hesitation. Perhaps, Sir, it would be as well were you to encourage your supporters to listen to complaints rather than to hate them.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

The Grove, Bedford,
Jan. 1863.

G. WHARTON,
Physician to the Bedford General and
Fever Hospitals.

* * In relation to the above subject, we quote the following extracts from the Minutes of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration.

At the meeting held June 21st, 1860, Sir Charles Hastings was in the chair.

"First Report of Special Registration Committee.

"The committee have to report that there are five applications from persons having graduated at Homœopathic Colleges in America, viz :—

"Henry Thomas and William Smith, Homœopathic College of Pennsylvania.

"Samuel Eadon, James Coombs, and John Marchant Davison, Homœopathic College of Cleveland, Ohio.

"In regard to the cases of Henry Thomas, Samuel Eadon, James Coombs, and John Marchant Davison, who have got their degrees after examination at the colleges named, a considerable difficulty occurs.

"Moved by Mr. Syme, and seconded by Dr. Alexander Wood,—'That the names of Samuel Eadon, James Coombs, John Marchant Davison, and Henry Thomas, be registered, in strict compliance with the Medical Act.'

"Amendment moved by Dr. Corrigan, and seconded by Dr. Apjohn,—'That the names of Samuel Eadon, James Coombs, John Marchant Davison, and Henry Thomas, be not registered.'

"The further consideration of this subject was adjourned."

At the meeting held June 22nd, Dr. Burrows was in the chair.

1. "The adjourned debate on the First Report of the Committee on Special Claims for Registration was resumed.

"Mr. Syme was permitted by the Council to withdraw his motion,—'That the names of Samuel Eadon, James Coombs, John Marchant Davison, and Henry Thomas be registered, in strict compliance with the Medical Act,' and to substitute for it the following motion, seconded by Dr. Storrar :—'That the opinion of the Attorney-General be taken on the claims of Henry Thomas to register his Degree obtained from the Homœopathic College of Pennsylvania; and of Samuel Eadon, James Coombs, and John Marchant Davison to register their Degrees obtained from the Homœopathic College of Cleveland, Ohio; and that it be delegated to the Executive Committee, after receiving the opinion of the Attorney-General, to take such steps as may seem to them expedient.'"

The opinion of the Attorney-General was against the claims, and the homœopathic degrees were rejected.

In the letter which Dr. Burrows addressed to us last week, he stated that he was greatly surprised at the course pursued by the practitioners of Bedford in complaining to THE LANCET on this subject. Perhaps the profession will not now share that surprise. Dr. Burrows asserted in respect to Mr. Coombs that there was nothing in his position or antecedents which in the slightest degree savoured of homœopathy. From these official extracts of the Minutes of the Council, it appears that Dr. Burrows himself was in the chair when Mr. Coombs, whom he designates as his former pupil, attempted to register a degree from an American homœopathic college, whereupon a discussion ensued, which ended in the reference of the homœopathic claims to the Attorney-General, and their rejection on the strength of his opinion. It is for Dr. Burrows to explain this striking discrepancy.—ED. L.

PREVALENCE OF SCURVY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you allow me to correct an error in the article on "Scurvy" which appeared in your impression of last week. The writer, having given his own views on the symptoms and pathology of this disease, proceeds thus : "To persons who are familiar with the treatment of scurvy only in print, it will seem strange when I assert, from extensive inquiry and practical experience, that few ships, even amongst the best regulated transports, pass through a voyage of more than four, or even three months, without being visited by this loathsome pestilence." To this statement I must emphatically demur.

It is perfectly well known that in ships belonging to the port of London, and specially in the Blackwall ships, a case of scurvy is of very rare occurrence. The average passage of the latter vessels to India is 100 days; and, in my own experience of a passage to Bombay of 139 days, and from Kurrachee of 120 days, no case of scurvy or the ghost thereof occurred. A report from the late Dr. M'William, which appeared last year, went far to prove that scurvy was now an unknown disease in the Royal Navy. The united opinion of all the medical officers of this hospital (which hospital receives more cases of scurvy than any other in the United Kingdom) has always been that scurvy is most undoubtedly preventable. Lime-juice (good in quality and constant in quantity), good meat, and a plentiful supply of water, are given generally to all ships belonging to this port; and hence the immunity from scurvy that the crews invariably enjoy. The fact cannot be too widely known, that Glasgow, Liverpool, and North country shipowners are, by carelessness and superlative disregard of the wants of the sailors, perpetuating a disgrace that ought long ago to have been blotted out of the list of Britain's shortcomings.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HARRY LEACH,
Physicians' Assistant.

Hospital Ship *Dreadnought*, Jan. 1863.

* Edinburgh Veterinary Review, Jan. 1863, p. 32 et seq.