parts, which are now in a much more natural position; pain nearly gone, and is dressed daily; palmar surface of hand and forearm placed on a straight splint, to which the wrist especially is bound tightly down by a bandage.

24th. Continues to be dressed daily, the pressure of the bandage upon the still very much flexed wrist being each time increased. To have an aromatic purge, as she has some griping.

July 8th. Ulcer has been healed three days; the wrist is becoming gradually straighter, and the thumb and forefinger can now be used in conjunction. The extensive cicatrix binding the forearm to the arm was divided in a similar manner to that at the wrist, the elbow extended as far as allowable, and the wound appropriately dressed.

16th.—Elbow can be extended to a right angle; a large wound covers the front of the joint from the separation of the edges of the incisions; she is directed to straighten her arm frequently; less pain; to continue the opiate and saline, and to be dressed with the oxide of zinc ointment.

20th.—A straight splint of pretty firm whalebone applied to the forearm and hand in the same manner as the other one.

26th.—Wrist and elbow can be extended further; ulcer beginning to cicatrize; has the wrist and forearm firmly bound down upon the elastic splint, and has a pound weight suspended from over the wrist, so that a continued extending force may be acting upon the elbow, whilst it at the same time tends in some degree to straighten the curvature of the wrist.

August 10th.—Ulcer healing, and extension of joints progressing gradually under the last treatment, the weight being increased from time to time.

30th.—Doing well; continues in good health.

September 20th.—Ulcer almost healed, and wrist and elbow can now be nearly straightened, whilst the thumb is restored to nearly its natural position.

October 9th.—Dismissed; the ulcer having been well for a few days, and the power of fully extending the arm almost completely regained.

Remarks.—This case illustrates, as well as possibly could be wished, the great amendment that those deformities which unfortunately are yet so frequently met with, are susceptible of, by the active and well directed use of manipulative measures.

IMPROVEMENTS IN LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

IN the *American Journal of Insanity* for October, 1845, there are one or two suggestions which might be adopted with great advantage in the asylums in England. At the present time, there is a proposal for the erection of a new metropolitan asylum, and it is right that any suggestion conducing to augment facilities in the management of the establishment should be well considered, and, if practicable, adopted.

One of the most annoying duties (the unpleasant effects of which, in the present arrangement of asylums, it is most difficult to correct) is the removal of foul linen, bedding, &c., from the wards. At present, this is generally accomplished by conveying them along the wards, corridors, &c., at an early hour of the morning, to the great discomfort of the entire establishment, and the effects of which proceeding often do not disappear for some hours. At the asylum of Pennsylvania there is a room on the basement floor containing a funnel, into which a branch opens from each ward; down these the soiled articles are thrown, and at once conveyed away to the detached washing establishment, thereby preventing, in a very great degree, unpleasant effluvia in the wards. In asylums where there are very large numbers of patients, these sanitary precautions should be most particularly attended to, especially as, in them, the subject of complaint is one of no trifling kind.

Another plan, as practised in the establishment above referred to, is one of high importance, since it adds much to the tranquillity, and therefore to the improvement, of the inmates. In all large establishments, it is usual to make a continual and frequent examination of the wards &c. through the night: these constant visits cannot be made without a certain noise, sufficient often to arouse the restless patient to sleeplessness, and be the occasion of a riotous night. To avoid these unpleasant circumstances as much as possible, the corridors of the Pennsylvania asylum are carpeted, adding not only to their comfortable appearance, but contributing, in a great measure, to the quiet of the house. To this purpose, coir matting—a fabric not long introduced, and of an economical character—could be most advantageously applied. At Han-

well, this object is obtained by the use of list slippers, but these are not worn during the day, nor by the patients.

At page 151 of the journal, when referring to the Maryland hospital for the insane, the following statement is made, which militates, in some degree, against the present views of the metropolitan commissioners.

"Since it has been devoted to the insane, 553 patients have been admitted, of which number 265 have been cured: present number, 87. It should, however, be borne in mind that this lunatic hospital, contrary to the practice of most others, receives cases of mania-a-Potue, (a very curable disease;) consequently, the recoveries at such institutions cannot properly be compared with those of other lunatic hospitals. During the past year, thirteen cases of this disease were under treatment, and all the patients recovered. We are of opinion that cases of mania-a-Potue ought not to be received into asylums for the insane." This, however, is certainly a question of some difficulty, since it may be as fairly argued that such cases are scarcely fitted for a hospital for general disease.

ETIQUETTE OF THE PROFESSION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—If you think the following unprofessional conduct worthy to be placed before the readers of *THE LANCET*, its insertion will oblige, your obedient servant,

Hyde, March, 1846. SAMUEL BEECROFT, M.R.C.S., L.A.C.L.

A tradesman's child in Hyde had been attended upwards of a week by me for severe paroxysms of headach, sickness, costiveness, &c., the premonitory symptoms (as I suppose) of hydrocephalus, when the child not improving, I told the parents that it was, in my opinion, in a precarious position, and as Mr. Vaudrey, of Woodley, had been, until of late, the family medical attendant, I advised them to call him in to consult with me, so that if the case terminated fatally, they could have no regret, by not calling for another opinion. Accordingly, yesterday, February 17, Mr. Vaudrey was requested to visit the child with me, and I received a message that I was to be at the house immediately, to consult with him; and on going to the house, and after waiting half an hour, Mr. Vaudrey not having arrived, I wrote a short note, to be given to him, containing my opinion and treatment, and said that if he found it necessary, he must write a prescription for me, as my engagements prevented me waiting any longer.

On my way home I met Mr. Vaudrey, and stated to him the case, when he said that "he would be candid with me, and that he and his father never met in consultation any one but a consulting physician or surgeon, and that he could not consult with me on the case: he had no disrespect for me, but it was their invariable rule."

I stated to him, that surely two qualified practitioners could consult together for the benefit of their patients, and also that he would not have been sent for, only at my request, the parents not having expressed a wish for another opinion; but it did not produce any other reply than the above.

Mr. Vaudrey then visited the patient without me, differed, of course, in diagnosis and treatment, saying something about the child labouring under lumbago of the head, (as the mother of the child tells me;) but, however, the event will show whether Mr. Vaudrey's lumbago, or my opinion that hydrocephalus existed, be correct. Surely, Mr. Editor, if we general practitioners cannot meet each other in consultation, the consulting physicians and surgeons may well think meanly of us.

I should not have troubled you with this communication, had not some of my medical friends thought it incumbent in me to lay the case before the profession.

THE MEMORIAL OF THE BRISTOL ASSOCIATION OF SURGEONS.

TO THOMAS WAKLEY, ESQ., M.P.

SIR,—At a full meeting of the Committee of the "Bristol Association of Surgeons," held on Friday last, March 20th, a cordial vote of thanks was unanimously agreed to, and which I am requested to convey to you, for your great kindness and attention in presenting, in conjunction with the Hon. F. H. F. Berkeley, M.P., the Memorial of the above Association to the Right Hon. Sir James Graham, Bart.

I would respectfully call your attention to the inaccuracy of the number of signatures attached to the Memorial, as reported in the last *LANCET*, and beg to hope you will cause the

error to be corrected in your next publication. The number of signatures was one thousand and seventy-two, as stated in my communication of the 20th ultimo, which I had the honour of addressing you.—I beg to subscribe myself, Sir, your most obedient servant,

HENRY ROBERTSON, M.D., Hon. Sec.
Terrel-street, Bristol, March, 1846.

THE PHYSIOLOGY OF THE SPINAL MARROW, AND ITS DISCOVERER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It is by no means my wish to write a single word which should be offensive to your correspondent, Mr. Anderson; but it is clear that gentleman, without having adopted the well known resolution of Scholasticus, has ventured into water beyond his depth.

It appears that Mr. Anderson has not yet detected his "egregious error;" let him compare the various tables and plates, first of the cerebral, and then of the spinal systems, and observe in which of these the olfactory nerve is arranged. This ought to enlighten him.

Mr. Anderson says, that the discoverer of the true spinal marrow, with its incident and reflex nerves, and their functions, has "merited his wreath." Wreath indeed! What wreath? Has the Royal Society, who was bound to take cognizance of such a matter,—has the profession, conferred any such? Did the first award him a medal, or any other honour? On the contrary, when Sir B. Brodie, a few years since, recommended him for the royal medal, did not oblique and sinister influences divert the reward into some insignificant channel, that I can scarcely remember at this time? Have the professional critics, from Professor Alison downward, ever espoused his cause? Harvey placed his noble bark high upon the shore, and waited twenty-five years for the returning wave of public opinion to set it afloat. His physiological successor of the present day has already waited fourteen years: one might have hoped that the fleet intelligence of our age would have shortened the term of probation. It is now nearly three years since a "New Memoir" on the nervous system was published, containing five most graphic and speaking plates, depicting *living* nervous pathology, the first of the kind ever attempted. Now, Sir, not twenty copies of this work have been sold in all. In at least three of the medical journals of this metropolis it has been sneered at or ridiculed, and by the rest, here and elsewhere, it has, for the most part, been passed over without notice. This is in the author's own country. The finger of the next generation will point its scorn at those of the present, who have effected such injustice. It is not so in other countries; this memoir *has* been thought worthy of translation into both the German and Dutch languages.

I would add, that nothing can more tend to pluck the "wreath" from the brow of the meritorious labourer in science than continued and querulous disputes by those who have to fortify themselves with facts *after* they begin. With such, and with all ignorant meddlers in the subject, "Vindex" will continue to deal. If the discoveries in question be real, let them be admitted; if unfounded, let them be rejected; but let it be after investigation at least by those qualified to judge.

March, 1846.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

ABERDEEN DEGREES IN MEDICINE.—We have ascertained, on the best authority, that Dr. Curie, the homœopathist, whose doctorate formed the subject of a paragraph, which we lately quoted, under the above title, from THE LANCET of the 24th ultimo, is not a medical graduate of Marischal College, Aberdeen.—*Berwick Paper*.

MR. GREEN and MR. LISTON have been elected upon the Court of Examiners of the College of Surgeons to fill the vacancies caused by the resignation of Sir B. Brodie and Mr. White.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GENERAL INFIRMARY, AYLESBURY.—The appointment of House-surgeon to this Institution was, on Wednesday last, the 18th instant, gained by Mr. Thomas Atchison, of University College, London.

The election was strongly contested, eleven candidates having appeared in the field; and each competitor having been duly ballotted for, the gentleman above named was returned by a large majority.

Aylesbury, March, 1846.

APOTHECARIES' HALL, LONDON.

Names of gentlemen who obtained certificates to practise as apothecaries, on Thursday, March 19th: John Marshall, Ely, Cambridgeshire; John Morris Bennett, Broseley, Shropshire.

CORRESPONDENTS.

If W. R. W. would address letters to the secretaries of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, Dublin, and to the registrar of Trinity College, in that city, he would then learn whether the party in question took any medical degree, or obtained any medical diploma or licence there.

Medicus, (Dublin).—We should have been delighted to see Dr. Corrigan a member of the commission, and agree with our correspondent in considering that his services would have been of the utmost value to the poor. The note of *Medicus* did not reach us until after the Bill had passed the House of Commons.

A Provincial Subscriber.—He is not. The Medical Witnesses' Bill was introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Wakley. There has been no alteration of the law since that period, relative to the amount or the application of the fees.

A Subscriber would be glad to see published, an account of the ingredients which are used, and the practices which are adopted, in dyeing the hair. He states that some of them are injurious to the brain.

A Worcestershire Subscriber.—The question might properly be answered by stating, that no examination had been made to prove that a hernia existed. The censure of the court could not follow such a reply.

F.R.C.S. of E.—The Council ought, without doubt, to address the members of the College on the subject, and make an official announcement of the vote of censure. The silence of the Council, as regards the memorials addressed to them, and the application from the Committee of Associated Surgeons, is extremely reprehensible. The institution of a Faculty of Medicine, on a just basis, would soon bring the insolent members of this incomprehensible body to their senses. Within a very few weeks the opportunity will be afforded for forming a tolerably accurate conjecture as to what will be the future position of the College of Surgeons of England in its connexion with the medical affairs of this country.

Medicus Discipulus is advised not to enter the Sydenham Society. We cannot state whether that Society will issue two more volumes this year. There is no other medical society in London similar to the Sydenham. In this respect we ought to be thankful.

The date of the communication of Dr. Wilson, on the Liability of the Muscle in Disease, published in the last LANCET, at p. 332, was incorrectly stated to have been February. His communication was dated in November last.

The latter of Mr. Burgess, of Holborn, if it was received, has been mislaid. No entry of it is found in the "communication book."

We would advise *A Student* (University College) to apply to Professor Graham on the subject. We cannot doubt of his receiving a satisfactory explanation.

Esculapius is informed that we can only advise him to publish a description of his remedy in the medical periodicals. If it be a valuable one, he will discover his reward in the confidence and support of the public. We deprecate the use of all secret remedies, and the conduct of their authors and abettors.

Mr. Gibb's contributions will continue to be acceptable.

Verax will see the information he requires in THE LANCET of last week.

Mr. Hoggins.—We have several communications from Dr. Routh, which shall receive insertion as early as we can find space for them. Our table is so laden with original contributions of merit, that our greatest difficulty is to find room for all in our pages.

An Old Student has not yet accomplished the age specified by the Hall and College, and until he had done so he would not be admitted to an examination at either place.

Mr. Christophers will see his paper in the present number of THE LANCET. We may address the same answer to Mr. Bunce and Mr. Gregson, whose communications were not noticed among those acknowledged in last week's LANCET, because we then expected, until nearly the hour of going to press, to have found room for their insertion.

We do not believe a word of the report mentioned by *An Old Correspondent*. But even did some reason exist for believing in its truth, the note could not be published unauthenticated.

In our number for March 14th, p. 313, read "Tu ne cede malis," for "In ne cede," &c. The error is that of our printer, not of our correspondent, and it is now so long since we studied the "Æneid," that we expect to be excused for having suffered the mistake to pass.

Communications have been received from—Dr. Routh; Mr. C. F. Hodson, (Bishop's Stortford); P. H. F. B.; Mr. Gay, (Report of cases); M.R.C.S.L., Halstead, (on a subject which shall speedily receive comment from us); Dr. Taylor, (University College Hospital); Dr. J. H. Bennet; Dr. Moore, (Gwallior, India); Mr. Hunter Lane; Dr. Barnes, (Notting Hill); Dr. Woolf, (Berlin); Dr. Thibert, (with a card); Mr. C. Mitchell; T. P.; Mr. Barnard, (Hereford); F.R.C.S.E.; Mr. Markwick, (King's College); Mr. Grove; H. B.; H. G. G., and N. J. W.