nell, "I told the patient, that his bladder was full of urine, and could only be relieved by puncture." If the Dr. had said, *I can only relieve you by puncturing the bladder*, it would have been more correct, for an instrument *had* entered the bladder, and, on its being withdrawn, a pint of urine followed; and I boldly assert, that, in the hands of a well-informed surgeon, instead of those of an M.D., a catheter might have been introduced. Sir A. Cooper has given it as his decided opinion, that the operation of puncturing the bladder is unnecessary; however, Dr. O'Donnell does not agree with Sir Astley, and recommended the patient to send for Mr. Manifold, or some other operating surgeon. Why would not Dr. O'Donnell meet Dr. Macrorie? Mr. A., the patient, called in Dr. Macrorie when he found that he was neglected by Dr. O'Donnell. "In the course of the evening Dr. S. and Dr. Macrorie were sent for," says Dr. O'D.; and very properly; for Dr. O'Donnell says, that he (Dr. O'D.) "promised to attend him, but neglected to do so;"—more shame for him. Both the conduct and the practice of Dr. O'Donnell are defensible. He calls on the patient with Mr. Manifold, the surgeon, and says, that he will not meet Dr. Macrorie. The poor patient says, "he has no wish to have Dr. Macrorie, and that he never had a wish to have any person but Dr. O'D., if he would attend to him." Here we have a proof that the patient considered that he had been sadly neglected by Dr. O'D. "About time this the patient," says Dr. O'D., "had a severe rigor." Poor fellow! some *would* not help him it seems, and others *could* not; for the practice altogether was bad, and reflects as little credit on one party as the other. However, it seems that his bladder was punctured, and just afterwards in came Dr. Macrorie, who considered himself as extremely ill-used, and so I think he was. He stated, that he had long known that it would be necessary to puncture the bladder, but he deferred doing so, hoping to succeed by other means. Dr. Macrorie is highly to blame for not having sent for some practical surgeon, who could have passed a catheter; but, instead of doing so, he adopts a very inefficient practice. After Dr. Macrorie saw the patient, he had the bladder punctured *four times*! This, Sir, is scandalous surgery.

It is a disgraceful affair altogether, in a medical point of view, and reflects no credit on any of the parties concerned. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

AN OLD SURGEON.

P. S. Sir A. Cooper's words, on the subject of puncturing the bladder, are, "I hold, that we ought to avoid all these operations, and that puncturing of the bladder at all, for stricture in the urethra or enlargement of the prostate gland, is perfectly unnecessary."

DRS. O'DONNELL AND MACRORIE, OF LIVERPOOL.

LETTER FROM DR. MACRORIE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Having seen, the "short statement put forth" by Dr. O'Donnell, which appeared in your Number of Saturday last, and which seems to be intended as a defence, on the part of the writer, of conduct which is unjustifiable by every law of etiquette, or honour, I feel myself called upon to give a brief relation of the circumstances, so far as I was concerned in the case, which, I trust, you will do me the favour of inserting in the forthcoming Number of your widely circulated hebdomadal.

Late in the evening of July 31st, I was summoned to visit Mr. A., of whom, and of whose family, I had been the professional adviser for a period of about five years. I found him labouring under considerable mental agitation, in consequence of his not having been able to pass his urine since the earlier part of the day. He had taken of his own accord, two tea-spoonfuls of spirits of turpentine, and had just been in the warm bath by recommendation of Dr. Sorley, who, I found, had seen him a short time before, and who joined me in the mean time. It was agreed to give him five grains of calomel, and follow this up with another purgative, and, having now learnt that other professional men had been sent for, I took an opportunity of saying to Mr. A. (who was disposed at times to be a little impatient under illness), that we must fully understand each other; when he said, "Since I have got you, I want no one else." Next morning we found him more tranquil, his bowels having been freely acted upon, but he had not passed his water. A bougie of a large size was now passed along the urethra, and was arrested, and firmly grasped, Dr. Sorley said, a little before it reached the membranous portion of that canal. Having been allowed to remain there for some little time, and as it would not pass on, it was withdrawn; and one of much smaller dimension immediately introduced, which, passing on to the bladder, the urine flowed freely by its side, and the organ was finally emptied, to the entire relief of the patient, which he did not fail to express in the strongest terms. Some leeches were now recommended to be applied to the hypogastrium, and the bowels to be farther evacuated by a purgative. The following day he was comfortable; had passed his urine freely; pulse quiet; tongue clean, and expressed himself as entirely relieved. On Thursday and Friday he was doing well, and said he passed his urine in as free a stream as he had been in the habit of doing for some time back, as he had had a stricture

for several years, which, at times, annoyed him when at sea and while abroad. I had visited him once each day, with Dr. Sorley who saw him generally in the intermediate time, and on one of these occasions the patient said to Dr. S., as he was now getting well from his present attack, he meant to place himself under his exclusive care on account of the stricture, and, accordingly, an expression escaped him at our joint visit, which led me to think that he began to feel that he might now dispense with the visits of his physician. The following day, however (Saturday), he sent for me, and we saw him together at noon, when we found he had passed a less quiet night; tongue rather brown in the centre; some thirst; pulse only 72; bowels slow; tenderness on pressing the lower part of the abdomen; when, though he was a corpulent man, with a considerable adipose disposition, it was pretty evident that, notwithstanding the urine was coming away, there was some accumulation of it again taking place in the bladder, and it was therefore agreed, in the first place, to apply some leeches, to purge, and use the warm bath, and afterwards an opiate enema, and in a few hours to meet again (namely at eight, P. M.), when, if he was not relieved, the catheter, or bougie, should be had recourse to, with (it was hoped) the same success as formerly. On arriving at home, between seven and eight the same evening, my servant told me a message had just come from Mr. A., desiring me to visit him, for he was a good deal worse. On my way thither, Dr. Sorley met me, and said that he had been to the house of our patient, where he had found Mr. Manifold and Dr. O'Donnell proceeding to puncture the bladder, and that the latter had behaved to him in a most ungentlemanly manner; in compliance, however, with the message I had received, I proceeded to the residence of the patient, and then, indeed, was verified Dr. Sorley's statement; the operation was actually performed, and in this way only were we made acquainted with Dr. O'Donnell's being in attendance. Four days afterwards, meeting with Mr. Manifold, he asked me if I knew how the patient was going on, and told me that he had not since seen Mr. A., and did not intend to visit him again, though he understood Dr. O'Donnell had wished him to do it; that, in reference to the part he had been induced to take, Dr. O'Donnell had peremptorily ordered him to perform the operation, and that he believed Dr. O'D. had been glad of an opportunity of vexing me! Of such a line of proceeding on the part of one of its members, the profession at large will now be enabled to judge. With reference to puncturing the bladder, that operation, which, though simple in itself, is at all times (on account of its probable consequences) to be performed only when every other expedient has failed, I had men-

tioned it to Dr. Sorley as one to which we might ultimately be obliged to resort, but which we had not yet been without the hope of avoiding, by a renewed perseverance in the means formerly so successful, along with the use of the catheter.

With regard to the statement of Dr. O'Donnell itself, so far as it respects me, being made up of a tissue of misrepresentation from beginning to end, I do not deem it deserving of farther notice, and as I have long since declined to have any intercourse with its author, either professionally or otherwise, in consequence of his unjustifiable conduct in a case of his to which I was called to consult with him, I need scarcely add, that I shall not again (even in this way) be tempted to notice him. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

DAVID MACRORIE, M. D.

Liverpool, Sept. 7, 1837.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

ULCERATION AND RUPTURE OF THE SMALL INTESTINES.

In a late clinical lecture Dr. ELLIOTSON exhibited some portions of intestine which had been taken from a patient in his private practice, and of whom he related the following interesting particulars:—The patient, a woman, 50 years of age, was servant to a friend of his (Dr. E.), and first sent to consult him on the 1st of August. She had felt generally indisposed for a week or two previously; she now complained of general indisposition and thirst, but did not suffer from pain in any part of her body. She had walked to his house, a distance of about half a mile. On looking at her tongue he observed it to be all very red, and quite dry, but not in the least sore or inflamed. Seeing the tongue in this state, he felt all over her abdomen very carefully, but there was no tenderness and no pain. She said she "felt unwell all over, and was weak." He considered that some disease was going on in the abdomen; there was no symptom of anything wrong in the chest; the bowels were regular; not the slightest symptom of inflammation was present. No active measures seemed to be called for; accordingly he ordered her diluents, chiefly, and gave her nitre in small quantities. He saw her again in four days time; she felt a little better, but the tongue was in the same state, and the thirst continued. A week after this she again walked to his house; she was much in the same state as at the last visit, but it was noticed that for the last day or two she had occasionally forgotten things, and was sometimes a little drowsy. She had also, after taking some oysters, suffered severely with a sense of heat in the stomach. This was the first symptom that had presented