"THE REAL LORD BYRON."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Can you inform me on what authority Mr. Cordy Jeaffreson, in his late work "The Real Lord Byron," vol. i., page 35, states: "There exists conclusive evidence that the birth took place in London, and that Mrs. Byron was attended at her accouchement by the famous surgeon, John Hunter, &c."? This was in January, 1788, only five years before Hunter's death. I do not recollect ever seeing it recorded that at that period he practised midwifery.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Savile-row, May 29th, 1883.

CHARLES HAWKINS.

Having referred the above letter to Mr. Cordy Jeaffreson, we received the following reply:—

24, Carlton-road, Maida Vale, N.W.

As I am not in a position to publish the *ipsissima verba* of the authorities, or even to declare in general terms the sources of information that enabled me to produce my book about Byron, Mr. Charles Hawkins must, in his kindness, be content, at least for a few months, with my assurance that John Hunter attended at Mrs. Byron's accouchement in 1788. The famous surgeon may have been called to the accouchement so as to be at hand to give advice and practical help in the case of emergencies arising outside the obstetrician's peculiar province. He may also have been the actual accoucheur. In either case the evidence is conclusive that he was summoned to the accouchement, that he attended the accouchement, that he saw the infant at the moment of birth, and that he gave the young mother instructions respecting the malformation of the right foot both before and after her return from London to Scotland.

June 4th, 1883.

JOHN CORDY JEAFFRESON.

USE OF HYPOPHOSPHITES IN THE DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The administration of the syrup of the ferruginous and alkaline phosphates has become so general of late years in most cases of anæmia and debility occurring among children, that it appears to me a matter of no small importance that any phase of disease in which experience shows it to be injurious should be brought to the notice of the profession. The class of cases I allude to, and in which I believe this valuable medicine should either be withheld or used with great discrimination, will be found to occur in those children who, from the age of four to six or seven, display signs of great mental activity and excitement, amounting occasionally to meningeal and cerebral hyperæmia, with a history perhaps of an hereditary tendency to scrofulous or tubercular disease. In these cases I have sometimes found good results follow the simple withdrawal of the phosphites, which would appear to have been stimulating inordinately the pliant little brain so much in need of repose. Hence quietude and relaxation from all mental strain are of the first importance, and in case a change of air is rendered necessary the utmost circumspection is required. The sea air, and that at first not too bracing, is in my experience the best, while the air of hills should especially be avoided. So much is this so, that I have found Hampstead-heath so injurious and exciting after a fortnight's sojourn that a prompt removal was alone effectual in removing the dangerously threatening symptoms, and preventing their return.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Welbeck-street, May 28th, 1883.

D. H. CULLIMORE, M.D.

"THE ANASTOMOSIS OF THE CORONARY ARTERIES."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The question of the anastomosis of the coronary arteries has been so often debated with variable results that, as Dr. West says in his very interesting communication, the text-books show a want of uniformity, which, indeed, they could hardly help unless they had all followed one authority. Ellis's "Demonstrations," eighth edition, says they descend

toward the apex, but says nothing about their joining. Gray, fifth edition, says they do. Beattie, "Practical Analysis," says they anastomose freely; and Quain and Sharpey, on the authority of Hyrtl, one of the most successful injectors, says or said they do not. Some years ago, when junior demonstrator of anatomy at the Middlesex Hospital, I made some injections of the coronary arteries at the suggestion of Mr. Morris, and found that in some cases they anastomosed, and in others they did not, the latter being as two to one. I can only find actual notes of two cases, both children, one successful, the injection going in, at the left and coming out at the right artery; the other unsuccessful, and where, on injecting both arteries, it was shown that no anastomosis existed. There is no record of the time after death when the experiments were made, and probably, as Dr. West points out, this may have something to do with it. His remarkable success will, of course, reopen the matter, and be the cause of fresh experiment, but the conclusion will probably remain as before, that in some cases the anastomosis is very free, in some slight, and in others does not occur at all.—Yours obediently,

Holland-road, W., June, 1883.

GEORGE C. KAROP.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SANITARY CONDITION OF NEWCASTLE.

OUR medical officer of health, Mr. H. E. Armstrong, has just issued his report for 1882. The volume possesses much to interest a general as well as a local reader, and it will no doubt be noticed by you under its proper heading. I may, however, say that it is creditable to our sanitary authorities and all who have been engaged in its preparation, which has evidently been a work of no small labour. It is supplemented by a series of valuable statistical tables, maps, and plans, some of the illustrations showing very clearly defects which were found in dwellings in our city and how the sanitary shortcomings were remedied.

NORTH OF ENGLAND MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.

This Society, which includes many of our *confrères* in its list of members, and does much good to them and all others connected with it by its field meetings, had its first out-door gathering for the summer recess last week at Whitehill Hall, the seat of Colonel Fife Cookson. This mansion is situated near Chester-le-street, which ancient and historic little town is coming into notice just now as a health resort. There was a good attendance of members and lady visitors, the weather being charming. Mr. Mason Watson, the agent of the estate, and who is also president of the Society for the present year, was most assiduous in his attention to his guests on the part of the worthy proprietor; and so upon the whole the first meeting of the Society for this out-door season is likely to be long remembered by all who had the good fortune to be present.

NEW SANITARY HOSPITAL FOR NEWCASTLE.

The Sanitary Committee of our Corporation has invited architects to compete for the construction of a new hospital for infectious diseases, to be erected at Heaton, at the east end of Newcastle, and will probably be commenced this summer. The hospital will be on a large scale, on the separate block system. As regards the wards for patients, there are to be six, each to accommodate fourteen patients; the general ward is to be twenty-six feet in width, the cubic capacity of all wards to be at the rate of not less than 2000 cubic feet per bed. The lighting, warming, and ventilation are to be carefully and specially provided for, so that we may look forward to this building, I hope, as being the exponent of the sanitary science of the day as regards the important matter of hospital construction.

SMALL-POX AT WALLSEND.

Small-pox is epidemic at Wallsend, and considerable commotion prevails amongst the inhabitants in consequence of a patient in a state of delirium having escaped from his nurse and ran about the streets of the place. Complaints are stated in the papers as to want of precautions being taken by the Local Government Board and the School Board, and it is alleged that the schools are foci of infection; at all events, one of the teachers is down with the disease.