the roots can be of little or no use. And, to establish this more fully, let me remind you of the fact, that an *annual* may, by its flowering being prevented, be made to exist for *another year*; in other words, a plant, which exhausting itself by flowering would die, is perpetuated by this exhaustion being prevented. Need I add any more to show the utter uselessness of the roots of valerian obtained from plants that have *flowered*?

Such, Gentlemen, being the difficulties connected with obtaining true valerian root, it seems not at all astonishing that such differences of opinion should exist in regard to the medicinal powers of this article of the *materia medica*.

The virtues of this medicine we shall enter upon on another occasion.—*Part of a Lecture at the Westminster Dispensary, Gerrard-street.*

CASE OF

SPINAL IRRITATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In some of the last Numbers of your valuable periodical, I have read several cases of affection of the spine, &c., which have brought to my recollection a case that came under my observation some time since, after reading an interesting clinical lecture on spinal irritation, by Dr. Corrigan, of the Jervis Street Hospital, Dublin. Should you deem it of sufficient interest, you will be good enough to insert it in your pages. I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

L. O. Fox.

Richard Hendley, a labourer, ætat. 36, was attacked on July 6, 1831, with inability to use the right arm and leg whilst walking to his work. Had felt a sensation of numbness in the affected limbs for two days previously. Complained of pain in the back. The arm and leg were painful, excepting when he lay down in bed, when he felt perfectly easy. Had, during the day, palpitation, darting pains about the chest, particularly on the right side. Pressure over the superior dorsal vertebræ brought them on immediately, and occasioned also severe pain in the right arm. Pulse 80; tongue slightly furred; bowels confined; slight headach.

Mitt. sanguin. a vertebr. dors. ad 3xij;

R. Hydrarg. submur., grs. x, statim sumend.

R. Ol. ricini, 3vj, post horas duas sumend.

July 7. Felt better to-day; had less palpitation; pressure over the dorsal vertebræ occasioned less pain in the arm. Bowels slightly acted upon.

*Applicentur hirudines xx vertebr. dors.
Repetatur medicinam.*

9. Leeches bled so profusely as to occasion syncope. Expressed himself greatly relieved; scarcely any pain from pressure on the spine, excepting tenderness from the leech-bites; bowels freely opened; pulse 76, and soft.

I need not trouble you with any further account of the case, otherwise than that the man rapidly recovered, and at the week's end was enabled to follow his usual employment.

Remarks.—There is a striking analogy between the foregoing case and some of those related by Dr. Corrigan in *THE LANCET* of May 7, 1831, to which the name of spinal irritation has been applied.

I was induced to follow the simple method of treatment recommended in the lecture referred to, which succeeded most satisfactorily.

Broughton, Stockbridge, Hants,
May 4, 1832.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

Monday, April 30, 1832.

Sir H. HALFORD in the Chair.

PAPER ON CHOLERA.

A LARGE assembly of Doctors, clerical, legal, and medical, took place in the library of this College. Amongst the most prominent were the celebrated linguist Dr. Ireland, Dean of Westminster, Baron Vaughan, the Dean of Chichester, and Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, Bart. and M.D. *jure divino*. A paper on the threadbare subject of cholera was presented from Dr. Heberden, and read with feminine grace by the President's nephew, Dr. Hawkins. Dr. Heberden took a historical view of the various contagious maladies that have prevailed at different epochs, and compared them with recent epidemics, and with the rise and progress of the cholera, "in its regular movement from the rising to the setting sun, and from the torrid zone to the arctic circle." From all his researches, the writer came to the conclusion, that two conditions were necessary to the communication of the disease,—a predisposing state of the body, and the presence of the morbid principle. The rule according to which these circumstances acted, might mathematically be described as follows:—the relative power of the two causes did not matter, provided the resulting influence attained a certain amount. It signified not what relation A, the predisposing cause, might bear to B, the morbid matter, if C,