DEAFNESS IN THE ENGLISH.—DR. FOSBROKE, MR. WRIGHT, AND M. ITARD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You inserted in your valuable work for 1831, several papers by Dr. Fosbroke, of Cheltenham, on the pathology and treatment of deafness, to which you allowed me to reply. In THE LANCET, No. 389, p. 646, Dr. Fosbroke said, "M. Itard, the physician to the Deaf and Dumb Institution of Paris, and a writer of a very able work on the diseases of the ear, informed me that the deafness of the majority of English who apply to him, is caused by polypi in their nostrils, the frequency of which growths he ascribes to their climate." In No. 408, p. 413, I replied that "polypus in the nostrils is not so very common in this country, as to allow M. Itard with reason to make the observation ascribed to him."

At that time I doubted so much the correctness of this report of M. Itard's opinion, to which Dr. Fosbroke appeared fully to subscribe, that I resolved to ascertain whether the foreign physician and surgeon had ever committed himself in the manner mentioned by Dr. Fosbroke. The opportunity of accomplishing this only recently presented itself. A lady who had formerly been a patient of M. Itard, but who since then had always consulted me respecting her occasional deafness, was at Paris, and wrote to make an appointment respecting her coming to London, on account of some derangement in her health, which had brought on a trifling return of deafness. In my reply I gave Dr. Fosbroke's words relative to M. Itard, and requested the favour that my patient's husband would apply to M. Itard. This he did in writing, with the trifling variation in the question from Dr. Fosbroke's word "informed;" for the question was asked M. Itard, if he had ever written to Dr. Fosbroke such an opinion, to which M. Itard gave this very conclusive reply, the original of which, in French, I have:—

"Sir,—I have neither written the letter supposed, nor have sent forth the opinion attributed to me. I have much remarked, that amongst the greater number of the English whom I have had to treat for deafness, there existed otorrhœa, followed by development of fungous polypus; but by this observation, I never made any general application to the deafness of the English, which only differs from that of the French, Italians, &c., in its being more frequently complicated with scrofulous diathesis, which easily explains itself.

(Signed) "M. ITARD,

Paris, Feb. 27, 1833."

M. Itard is a scientific man, and I trust you will not allow the preposterously absurd opinion attributed to him in Dr. Fosbroke's paper to remain any longer uncontradicted.

If you will allow me a little space in your next, I will offer some remarks on M. Itard's views of otorrhœa, and in a subsequent paper point out the practical errors that exist in regard to extraneous substances in the auditory passages. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. WRIGHT,
Surgeon-Aurist.

18, Sackville Street, Piccadilly,
March 18, 1833.

EXPENSES OF VACCINATION IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I here transmit you a statistical account of vaccination, and the expense of the Vaccine Establishment, in France, as it appeared in the last number of the *Annales d'Hygiène Publique*. The report, which was presented to the Minister of Commerce by the Royal Academy of Medicine, is for the year 1830:—

Births	398,516
Numbers vaccinated	253,972
Cases of small-pox	9,764
Deaths from small-pox	1,340
Expense of Vaccine Establishment	24,217 Francs.

Equal to about 960*l.*, which is at the rate of about one shilling of expense for every 130 children vaccinated!

It would be interesting, were the means before us, to compare this statement with the total expenses to which our own country is put, in order to carry the purposes of vaccination into effect. The emoluments derived by the five members of the English Board, are equivalent to the expenditure required for the vaccination, annually, of no less than 80,000 children. What is done for the sums thus taken from the charitable objects of the Institution? Are there any returns published of the numbers annually vaccinated, compared with the births, throughout Great Britain,—or of the influence of vaccination in arresting the progress of the small-pox,—or any such necessary professional documents?

Let our Government allow sufficient for all necessary purposes, but cut off all sinecure emoluments.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JUSTUS,

March 25th, 1833.