PIN DISLODGED FROM THE ŒSOPHAGUS—INGENIOUS METHOD.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

ABOUT thirty years ago I was called in the night to visit a lady about four miles from home, who had accidentally swallowed a pin, which had lodged in the œsophagus, and which caused her some pain and much alarm. I had seen directions for patients, under such circumstances, to swallow a small piece of compressed sponge suspended to a piece of strong twine, by which the sponge could be drawn up again, with the prospect of loosening the pin, and then suffering it to slide harmlessly into the stomach. But from the lightness of the material thus employed, it was impossible for the patient to swallow it. Failing, also, in the use of an emetic, and having no instrument at hand suitable for the occasion, it occurred to my mind to substitute a small leaden bullet for the sponge above mentioned; which, after being thus swallowed and drawn up two or three times, was completely successful. This method has since been used by me, and always with success. Not knowing as such a means has ever been used by any other person than myself, I have thus communicated to you the result, and should you think it of sufficient consequence you may give it an insertion in the Journal, or commit it to the flames, as you may think proper.

C. BANNISTER.

Phelps, N. Y., April 4, 1842.

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LIBRARY OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE.

DR. GERHARD, the American editor of Dr. Tweedie's System of Practical Medicine, has prepared a new edition, which is complete in all its parts. Not long ago the first edition that appeared in the United States was issued in five massive volumes, which necessarily made it an expensive, although a desirable work. The profession prized it so highly that this second edition is called for unexpectedly soon, which is a gratifying evidence of the value placed upon this series of writings. In the new and recently announced edition, the publishers, Messrs. Lea & Blanchard, have studied economy for those who are the patrons of scientific works. By condensing the former five huge volumes, into the convenient compass of three large octavos, the price is very considerably lessened, although the original matter is all there, with such additions and emendations as Dr. Gerhard considered essential to keep pace with modern discoveries and improvements. Copies may be found at Mr. Ticknor's, Washington street; and we would recommend young practitioners, especially, to secure a medical guide which can be followed under all circumstances, with safety and satisfaction, since the principles taught in the dissertations of the Library are immutable.