of soup and bouilli; 2000 quarts of gravy soup; 1000 lbs. calves'-feet jelly, all adapted for hospital diet, and one ton of patent preserved potatoes.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

CLINICAL LECTURES AND PHYSICIANS'
ATTENDANCE.

To the Editor.—Sir, In the last number of THE LANCET is a paragraph referring to the medical clinical lectures at University College Hospital, and containing by implication a double misstatement, which I have no doubt you will immediately correct. The paragraph in question implies—First, that since the appointment of a special professor of clinical medicine the other physicians to the hospital have ceased to deliver clinical lectures as before; and second, that the professor of clinical medicine lectures upon cases treated by the other physicians, and not upon cases under his own care. Now both these statements are exactly the reverse of the truth: Dr. Williams and Dr. Thomson both lecture on their own cases, and lecture as often as they did before Dr. Taylor was appointed. Dr. Taylor also lectures upon those cases only which have been under his own care, so that his lectures, instead of being a substitute for those of the other physicians, are so many added to them; and this additional number amounted last year, I believe, to sixty.

There is another inuendo in the same communication scarcely less unjust than those I have disposed of: it is stated that the physicians are "pretty" regular in their attendance, leaving it to be inferred, I suppose, that they are not so regular as they should be. Now I confidently challenge your informant to point out any instance of irregularity on the part of any of the physicians, or to show in what manner they could do more than they do at present. I authenticate this communication by sending you privately my name; and am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A PHYSICIAN'S PUPIL OF UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL, OCT. 14.

A CORRESPONDENT, whose letter is thus dated, writes as follows:—

I read with pleasure the letter of "AN OLD STUDENT," in the last LANCET, and take upon myself to address you as a *young* student, but who, having been quite long enough there to comprehend the great mismanagement of the anatomical school, can bear witness to the truth of all that is stated by the older student, who, if he were in Kinnerton-street at present as much as I have

occasion to be, could have informed you of many more abuses. The absurdity of appointing three students to act as "prosecutors" is so manifest, that I am sure it cannot last long. The noise in the dissecting-room, from the disputing between the "dissectors" and the "prosecutors," about the different situations and uses of minute parts of the body, is so great that it is impossible for any student to study who may be inclined. The prosecutors cannot command that respect among the pupils that is necessary between teacher and scholar, and therefore they do more harm than good. As to Mr. Sayle, he is a harmless fellow, not often accused of having two ideas in his head. Respecting the lecturers I have a word to say on this occasion. Mr. Tatum is a gentleman, in every sense of the word, an excellent surgeon, and a most persevering teacher. One who considers more the welfare of the students could not be found. Mr. H. C. Johnson is not surpassed as a demonstrator by any other in town, and the desire he ever evinces to make the pupils fully acquainted with anatomy, cannot but excite deep gratitude in them. But now I come to one who, though named last, is not the least, at any rate in his own estimation. Instead of eloquently teaching us the physiology of the several parts of the body, he launches into long harangues, quite unconnected with the subjects before him, and filled with vulgar allusions, the offspring of a most vulgar mind. For instance, "As Tom Wackley says;"—"The tittle of the whole," as Joe Hume says;—"Women sit wide, as any one knows who rides in a buss;"—"Poor Maria sat upon the po, and *** breaking, dislocated her coccyx," and such like trash, that amuses a few gaping blockheads, who sit grinning with their graceless mouths open from ear to ear. I allude to Mr. James H. Johnson. The school, in short, requires in very many respects a thorough reforming, and until this takes place it must fall away, gradually. I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

A STUDENT AT PRESENT AT
KINNERTON-STREET.

NOTE FROM MR. REEVES.

[THE following reply is short enough to induce us to find it, as a final communication on the subject, a place in our columns.]

To the Editor.—Sir, With this terminates my communications upon a disagreeable subject, and I beg you will give it insertion: first, because I exposed the case for the public good (disregarding the misrepresentations of my conduct which might ensue); and, secondly, because the circle of argument will not be complete without it. I regret ever having had occasion to trouble you with any of my professional grievances;

but if our profession had other efficient means of preventing professional improprieties, you never should have heard from me concerning *the case of cystectomy*. Allow me to thank you for inserting my first letter. I have enjoyed comparative freedom from undue interference since. I cannot congratulate Mr. Elliot on his friends, whom he wished to show that I was on intimate terms with,—having helped him entirely out of his difficulty. I could enumerate the minutes during which I ever was in the company of Dr. Cartmell. And how Dr. Tinniswood can imagine that, before signing the document, he was prepossessed in my favour, I cannot conceive; for I, as well as others, told him that the boy's statement which he was about to sign, in favour of Mr. Elliot, was contrary to fact. Had he been a friend of mine, would he have signed it? Of Dr. Jackson, I knew little; and leave the public to judge whether I have suffered any reproach (which Mr. E. wishes to insinuate that I have) by Dr. J.'s declining my acquaintance. The boy had consulted Mr. E. before the latter sent for his father; but by what means Mr. Elliot first obtained the boy as a patient is already before the public. And, at last, he offers as his excuse for having enticed the patient from under my care, that I never intended to operate. I have before shown that I did fully intend so to do. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. REEVES.

Lowther-street, Carlisle,
Oct. 17, 1842.

PROTRACTED SUCKLING.

MR. ORWIN, of Worcester, publishes a case of epilepsy, from protracted lactation, in which the suckling was continued for the unwarrantable period of three years and a quarter. The woman was twenty-seven years old. The worst symptoms of debility at last attended the monstrous proceeding, and several fits of epilepsy were experienced. With great difficulty only was she persuaded to wean the child. The fits became less violent then, and, the pain in the head being reduced, the citrate of iron was afterwards given, and recovery ensued.

SLEEP.

THE hitherto secret plan of Mr. Gardner, calling himself the "hypnologist," now published by Dr. Binns, is as follows:—Let the sleepless person turn on his right side, place his head comfortably on the pillow, so that it exactly occupies the angle which a line drawn from the head to the shoulders would form, and then, slightly closing his lips, take a full inspiration. The lungs are then to be left to their own action, that is, the respiration is neither to be accelerated nor retarded. The attention must now be fixed upon the action of respiration. The patient must de-

pict to himself that he sees the breath passing from his nostrils in a continuous stream, and it is alleged that the instant he succeeds in doing this, he falls asleep!

CROTON-OIL PLASTER.

A PLASTER, used by Chomel, at the Hôtel Dieu, is thus prepared:—Melt four parts of diachylon plaster, at a very gentle heat, and while half liquid, mix one part of croton oil with it. Then spread the mixture in a thick layer on calico. Apply pieces cut from this to the skin, like ordinary sticking-plaster. They quickly produce an active irritation.

POISONING WITH ARSENIOUS ACID.

ITS treatment by the tonic and stimulant method, latterly so much praised by the school of Rasori, has been lately tested by one hundred and thirty-six experiments, which justified the conclusions drawn by Orfila in 1840-1. Twenty horses were poisoned by arsenious acid in presence of a Paris commission, and subjected to the stimulant plan of treatment, all of whom died in a very short time. This result, says Orfila, is too important not to be known to those who still accredit a mode which cannot bear the slightest examination.

CREOSOTE IN SEA-SICKNESS.

DR. CORMACK, of Edinburgh, had an opportunity of seeing its effects when going from Edinburgh to London by sea. A gentleman was leaning over the side of the ship, very sick, beside whom was a bottle smelling strongly of creosote. He was a great martyr to sea-sickness, and had been advised to take the creosote mixture; but it had had an effect directly the opposite of what was intended. On the first dose he was seized with retching. Upon the following day the gentleman became exceedingly sick. In desperation he applied again to the reputed specific, when the very same dose that had on the previous day made him squeamish, on this trial almost entirely relieved him. *It is worthy of remark (says Dr. C.) that creosote, though excellent in allaying vomiting, often excites it when it does not exist.* Vomiting is caused by creosote very frequently where the dose is too large.—*London and Edinburgh Journal.*

SPUTA OF PHTHISICAL PATIENTS.

M. SANDRAS has selected from the Hôtel Dieu forty-nine patients in whom phthisis was well marked, collected their sputa, and submitted it to a microscope of 300 diameters, and he believes that the expectoration is quite different from that given off by the lungs in other diseases, and that this mode of examination will materially assist the diagnosis of this disease by the stethoscope. The expectoration consisted of round globules, separated, greyish-white, and similar in size and form to the globules of pus, but that the

former are surrounded by a kind of rough layer, which it is impossible to remove by washing. They are also opaque in the centre, but gradually clearer towards their border. But he observes that the sputa of all phthisical subjects is not similar, invalids being in general affected at the same time with bronchitis. M. Sandras was unable to discover such globules in tuberculous abscesses in other parts. Cases are occasionally met with in which it is difficult to decide whether the disease is phthisis or bronchitis.

PNEUMONIA IN CHILDREN.

THE frequency and fatality of pneumonia in childhood, as contrasted with advanced life, form very interesting subjects of consideration. The following extracts from a report of the registrar-general of deaths, throw an important light on the subject. The deaths of the metropolitan district are divided into three classes—those under 15 years of age, between 15 and 60, and above 60. One table is a return for each of five weeks in January and February, 1840. Under "pneumonia" the total of these weeks is as follows:—Under 15 years of age, 257; from 15 to 60, 73; above 60, 30. How far this remarkable difference is owing to a less energetic treatment it is not easy to say, but I fear that a false tenderness in treating the disorders of infancy mildly, is partly the cause; and that when practitioners adopt more decided efforts we shall see a great improvement in this respect, for pneumonia, when fatal in infancy, very rarely is found to have advanced beyond the stage of hepatisation, whereas the reverse of this is generally observed in adults.—*Dr. J. F. Duncan, Dublin Journal.*

DISEASE DISCOVERABLE IN INSANITY.

DR. PARCHAPPE, of the Rouen Asylum, says, that there is no cerebral disease which can be regarded as the essential lesion of insanity; but the following are those most frequently found:—Ecchymosis under the arachnoid and pointed injection of a part of the cortical surface, with or without softening; extensive softening of the middle portion of the cortical substance; adherence of the pia mater to the brain; rosy, lilac, or purple colour of the cortical substance; atrophy of the convolutions; induration of the brain.—*Acad. of Sciences, Oct. 3.*

BIRMINGHAM MEDICAL SCHOOL.

THE friends of this institution assembled in the lecture-room on Monday week, to witness the annual distribution of prizes to the students, Dr. Johnstone in the chair. Previous to the distribution Dr. Eccles delivered an address "On Design in the Human Body." At the close thereof the sixth Jephsonian prize of 21*l.* was given to Mr. G. Yates, of Dumbleton, resident student of the hospital, for the public examination

which he had passed in medical knowledge, good conduct, etcetera. Dr. Johnstone, in conclusion, referred to certain efforts which were being made to establish a collegiate institution in connection with the Royal School of Medicine, in which the students were to enjoy "a home and parental, moral, and religious superintendence." Five silver medals were then distributed, two of gold (subscribers), value five guineas each, the latter to Mr. Moore, Moreton-in-Marsh, and Mr. Chambers, Wolverhampton, for "diligence, regularity, and good conduct, ascertained by an examination of the class books of each lecturer."

INJECTIONS INTO SEROUS CAVITIES.

FOR some time M. Velpeau has devoted his attention to injections into serous cavities. Making a small puncture into the cavity, and injecting a solution of iodine, he has effected a cure in cases of serous cysts, sanguineous cysts, and colloid cysts, in almost every region of the body. Bronchocele often consists in cysts filled with a serous or dark fluid; in five cases of this kind the author tried the iodine injections, and was completely successful. He has recently employed a more simple mode in cases of hydrarthrosis, and hopes that it will be as easy to cure this disease as hydrocele, with iodine injections.

MR. GRAINGER'S "INTRODUCTORY" LECTURE.

To the Editor.—Sir, In your notice of my lecture last week it is stated that I was appointed to deliver the introductory lecture of the school. The fact is, that Mr. Green was requested to undertake that office; the lecture you have noticed being merely introductory to the anatomical course. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant, R. D. GRAINGER.—Manchester-square, Oct. 20.

WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE first meeting for the session will be held this evening (Saturday) at Exeter Hall. A paper is announced to be read from the pen of Dr. Golding Bird.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

LIST of gentlemen admitted members on Friday, October 14, 1842, T. Peat, J. Moore, H. D. Scholfield, J. Rhodes, W. Boyd, C. D. Telfair, J. L. Vickerman, J. I. Acheson, J. M. Best.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Anatomy of the Arteries. By Richard Quain. Part XIII., Five Plates. Delineations by Joseph Maclise. London: Taylor and Walton. 1842.