the other, a little spare woman, of a highly nervous diathesis. In both cases a frightful hæmorrhage on previous occasions had succeeded the birth of the child, notwithstanding the use of a timely dose of ergot, placing their lives in the greatest peril. In the former case nothing suppressed the flow of blood but the injection of cold water; the other yielded before that remedy was resorted to. In their subsequent labours the tourniquet was loosely applied as soon as the pains commenced, and brought fairly into operation as soon as the child was born, and in both instances, as well as on similar occasions since, no more than the ordinary amount of blood was lost.

Some years back I was called to assist a friend in a case of post-partum hæmorrhage. The patient was a poor, feeble, little woman, and a large quantity of blood was expelled as soon as the child was born, after a long and hard labour. The hand was immediately placed on the mother's abdomen, but the uterus was found loose and flabby; the placenta was carefully and readily removed. Effort after effort was made to get the uterus to contract, by firmly grasping it externally, and by introducing the hand internally, and irritating the walls of the organ. Ergot was given, cold water poured from a height on the naked abdomen, and afterwards injected into the cavity; but all failing, including spontaneous vomiting, to produce contraction, the patient sank soon after I entered the room. In this case the poor woman had swallowed nearly a quart of French brandy, at intervals, the pulse responding feebly to each repeated wineglassful, but the rally was only for a moment.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS CHAVASSE, F.R.C.S. (Hon.)

Wylde Green House, near Birmingham, Aug. 1860.

P.S.—I unseal my envelope just to say that I have only received your journal of the 11th this morning (15th.) The excellent letter of "G. H. R." so completely conveys my own views on the subject, that had I previously read it, I should have hesitated whether to trouble you with the above observations. The prophylactic treatment, perhaps, might have tempted me to do so.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—For two or three weeks past your excellent journal has contained letters on the treatment of "Post-Partum Hæmorrhage," but none on its prevention. May I be permitted to offer the following experience, not as being anything fresh or original, but because it may have escaped the thoughts of many in the profession:—

Some ten years since I attended a woman in her third confinement. She had very severe, almost fatal, post-partum hæmorrhage, but rallied and did well; and she had the same thing, but not so severe, at each of her previous labours. At her subsequent confinements I applied pressure,—the hand of her friend,—as the child was being expelled, and sustained the same by tying something very tightly around her, before the placental expulsion, and she had no hæmorrhage.

From that time till this I have done the same thing in every case, and have not since then had a case of post-partum hæmorrhage. I think the same is recommended by Dr. J. Burns, of Glasgow.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

St. George's-street East, Aug. 1860. R. W. LAMMIMAN, M.R.C.S.

REVACCINATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention having been lately arrested by one or two communications in THE LANCET, in which untoward results of the operation of revaccination at Colchester and elsewhere are alluded to, perhaps you will allow me, through the medium of your columns, to add my testimony to that of "Another Army Surgeon," which appeared in your issue of the 11th inst., as to the entire immunity from any of those fearful consequences which has attended my practice.

During the last eighteen months I have performed the operation in the same spot—viz., "on the front of the right arm, about two inches above the elbow-joint," on 1144 adult men, and 15 adult women; and have never, in one instance, witnessed any of the catastrophes stated, nor, indeed, been obliged to do more than recommend that the individuals should be excused, for a few days, from their ordinary duties. An admission into hospital has never been requisite, notwithstanding that a great many of these soldiers were cut from the arms of their comrades.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

August, 1860.

A REGIMENTAL SURGEON.

** There is evidence to show that revaccination from adults is objectionable.—ED. L.

MALTREATMENT OF LUNATICS IN WORKHOUSES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The attention of the guardians of the Leicester Union having been called to an article in THE LANCET of the 18th inst., under the above heading, which article contains an especial reference to the workhouse of this union, as one in which such maltreatment is permitted, I am directed by the Board to state that those allegations—from whatever source derived—are a tissue of falsehood and misrepresentation.

The Commissioners in Lunacy usually make a report of their inspections in the Workhouse Visitors' Book. These reports, which testify to the cleanliness and well-being of the patients, make no mention of the serious deficiencies to which your article refers, which, had they existed, would surely have been noticed.

The guardians wish me further to say, that the workhouse is open to the inspection of any of your readers who may choose to satisfy themselves in this matter; and that the recommendations of the Select Committee (quoted in your article) are, and have long been, all carried out at this workhouse. The insane paupers, instead of being visited quarterly, are visited weekly by the guardians, and the attendants are each required to note in a journal any violence, strangeness of manner, or other circumstances affecting the well-being of the patients, and submit such reports to the visiting guardians.

The Commissioners have at times recommended the removal of insane persons from the workhouse to an asylum; and these recommendations have, in most cases, been immediately carried into effect, or a reason has been assigned for non-compliance.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Leicester, Aug. 21st, 1860.

B. G. CHAMBERLAIN, Clerk.

P.S.—The guardians think it probable that there may be some mistake in the name of the workhouse, and that your remarks have reference to some other locality.

** The reports on which we commented are affixed to the Special Supplement to the Twelfth Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy. We learn with satisfaction that the recommendations of the Commissioners have, in the instance of Leicester Workhouse, been carried into effect.—ED. L.

THE MEDICAL DIRECTORIES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the annual circular of the Medical Directory it is stated that "Several eminent London practitioners having suggested the desirability of adding the particular medical school at which each practitioner was educated, the editors have decided to adopt the suggestion, and will append thus, (Guy's,) or (St. Barthol.) or (Univ. Col.) or any other school, to the names of gentlemen who will supply the necessary information."

I have no hesitation in saying that this is a retrograde step, tending to foster a system which cannot be too strongly deprecated. The "pride of place" derived from having been educated at a particular hospital is paltry of itself, but would be harmless were there not other motives in the case. The close-boroughism of the London hospitals has been often alluded to in your pages, but has never been sufficiently exposed. Take, for example, the great hospital of St. Barnabas. A man who has not been educated therein, no matter what his ability and acquirements may be, dare not compete for an appointment with an individual who possesses that absurd qualification, but whose fitness for the post may be immeasurably inferior. Certain opinions and even rules of practice, obstructive to progress, become thus perpetuated in particular hospitals from one generation to another. I do not say that the present system has not produced many able men; but I maintain that if our hospital appointments were thrown open to the best candidates, as determined by *concours* or otherwise, not merely the cause of medical science, but the immediate object of the institutions—the interests of the poor—would be immensely benefited.

I am strongly of opinion, too, that the London method of binding the student to a particular school is far from advantageous to him, although highly beneficial to his teachers. Students frequently regret their choice of a school, or, as generally happens, the choice made for them by parents or guardians possessing little information on medical matters. But supposing him free to choose, the student would, after his first year's experience, select the school of best reputation; and it would be obviously the interest of teachers to be uniform in