Government. But if I have been unjustly dealt with by Government, am I not when I am at liberty to do so to defend myself, and to secure that my reply is as widely circulated as the documents to which I reply?

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

JAS. IRVING, M.S.I.,

Late Surgeon-General to the Bengal Government.

Edinburgh, 18th June, 1880.

THE DISPUTE AT GUY'S HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The battle raging at Guy's is so important to the interests of the medical staffs of hospitals generally, that the time seems to be come for an independent expression of opinion on the merits of the controversy. For want of knowledge of the precise circumstances, I will not attempt to decide whether or not the students were justified in the particular form of their demonstration against the treasurer; but a demonstration of some sort was probably required. At Guy's Hospital the treasurer came into the inheritance of a noble reputation, absolutely created by the medical officers of former, and well maintained by those of modern times. To attempt to revolutionise an important department of the work, without one word of consultation with those who are solely responsible for the results, was surely an act not only of folly, but also of ingratitude; and of forgetfulness that the surgeons of Guy's Hospital have made the place so great that to become its treasurer is a distinction. As far as this officer is concerned, I look upon the rebellion against the medical staff as an uprising against the scientific knowledge and the practical skill of men who are renowned over the whole world for both. He holds his office, manifestly, for the advantage of the patients, and therefore his conduct with reference to them ought to be guided by that plain rule, to do as he would be done by. It is hardly conceivable that if he were dangerously ill himself he would desire to be nursed in a manner at variance with the opinions and the instructions of his medical attendants. With regard to the women, no doubt allowances should be made for them. I have read Miss Lonsdale's writings, and in these she seems to me to be careless of the distinction between truth and inaccuracy. She does not purposely disregard the difference, but she does not appear to recognise that there is one. I have been familiar with hospital nursing, on what she calls the old system, now for more than thirty years, and I do not believe her aspersions against the nursing staff. Medical students and nurses are men and women; and it is possible that improprieties may have occurred between them. But, if so, they would not have been prevented by the presence in the hospital of any matron, even one who had been trained in St. John's House. As for the bulk of the stories we hear, which have been so industriously put in circulation, I do not believe one word of them; they are mostly hearsays, which do not rest upon the personal knowledge of those who relate them, and my experience of the world is that slanderers as a rule are untruthful. Taking the question as a whole, I cannot express my opinion upon it more strongly than by saying that, if the system now introduced at Guy's were introduced at St. George's,—where, happily, we live under a different and better form of government—I would not continue to hold office as a surgeon for a single day, not even until my successor was appointed, for the simple reason that I could no longer do my duty to my patients; and nothing fills me with more surprise than that the physicians and surgeons of Guy's should continue to submit to a yoke which I should regard as intolerable. The only explanation which I have heard is one highly creditable to their magnanimity and to their sense of duty. It is said that the governors have been waiting for the resignation of the whole staff; hinting that they then would get men who would bind themselves to obey. The answer has in effect been, "We are not going to hand over a sacred trust delivered to us by famous men into the hands of hirelings."

Your obedient servant,

June 20th, 1880.

R. BRUDENELL CARTER.

CHIAN TURPENTINE IN CANCER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Mr. Clay's letter in THE LANCET of June 12th is causing much surprise here. At the Women's Hospital we have been using the drug very largely in various kinds of cancer of the uterus, rectum, and breast, and we have the assurance of Messrs. Southall that the Chian turpentine we are using has been submitted to and "approved by Mr. Clay." His objection to the experience of Drs. Simpson and Macdonald does not therefore apply to ours. In the practice of my colleagues, and in my own, some twenty cases have been subjected to the treatment for several weeks, without the slightest improvement in any case—without the slightest appearance that the ordinary progress of the disease has been interfered with in the least.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

LAWSON TAIT.

Birmingham, June 21st, 1880.

VOTING BY PROXY AT THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you kindly insert in your next number of THE LANCET the following correspondence, relative to voting by proxy at the Royal College of Surgeons, and oblige your obedient servant,

EDWIN MORRIS, M.D., F.R.C.S.

Spalding, June 23rd, 1880.

Spalding, June 22nd, 1880.

DEAR SIR,—Several Fellows of the College have written to me to know if you are prepared to pledge yourself to support vote by duly attested proxy papers. As the law now stands, the larger part of the constituency is virtually disfranchised; and it is the determination of several Fellows not to vote for any candidate who will not support vote by proxy. It is my intention to make your reply public.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

EDWIN MORRIS.

To Sydney Jones, Esq., George-street, Hanover-square, London.

16, George-street, Hanover-square, London,
June 22nd, 1880

MY DEAR DR.—I am quite prepared to support vote by duly attested proxy papers. I think that this is a right to which the provincial Fellows have a very decided claim.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Morris, Spalding.

SYDNEY JONES.

PARIS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

AT the Academy of Sciences a communication was read from Dr. Perroncito on an epidemic of pernicious anæmia, which has recently been observed amongst the miners of the St. Gothard tunnel. Three different helminths were found in the dejections of these patients, an anchylostoma, to which the name of *Dochmius duodenalis* has been given by Dubini, and two varieties of anguillula—the *A. stercoralis* and the *A. intestinalis*. Dr. Perroncito thinks that the presence of these two parasites in the intestine is sufficient to account for all the symptoms.

A new alkaloid, which has been named Thalictrine, has been obtained from the *Thalictrum macrocarpum*, a plant which grows in the Lower Pyrenees. Two to five milligrammes of this substance killed a frog in from twenty to forty minutes. A gramme to a gramme and a half of the extract injected into the veins of a dog or rabbit kills in five minutes, death being preceded by convulsions, complete abolition of general sensibility, acceleration of the respiration, weakness of the pulse, and vomiting.

Mr. Golding-Bird of Guy's Hospital was summoned last week to Paris to advise in a severe case of osteo-malacia. The patient is a Greek princess, well known in Parisian society, and was anxious to have a jacket applied during extension. Mr. Golding-Bird is the more to be congratulated, as there are now at least a dozen young surgeons here who have adopted Sayre's principle of treatment. But if any envy is felt at the distinction conferred upon our English colleague, it will be tempered by the feeling that a practical