

physis; the psoas and iliacus muscles were entirely destroyed, with the exception of their common tendon, which had, however, no point of insertion, as the little trochanter was also destroyed by caries. The centre of the abscess was at the right ilio-sacral symphysis, and from this part there extended three large sinuses, one ascending between the peritonæum and the transversalis muscle up to the navel; another which descended anteriorly along and under the common tendon of the psoas and iliacus in front of the hip-joint; and a third, which was the largest, down into the small pelvis, at the exit of which it traversed the great ischiatic notch, passing under the glutæus maximus anteriorly, so as to communicate with the second branch. The capsular ligament of the hip-joint was entirely destroyed; the acetabulum carious and flattened, and no trace of the cartilaginous surface left; the head of the thigh-bone was also destroyed, and the rest of the femur enlarged and carious. The disease had apparently been only of eight weeks standing.

TAPPING IN HYDROCEPHALUS.

DR. CONQUEST has again succeeded in tapping for *water in the head*. It will be recollected that in one of the former numbers of THE LANCET the particulars of his *first* case were detailed; and it is highly gratifying to learn that the little girl continues in perfect health, without a vestige of her former deplorable disease.

The *second* case is also a girl, and was exhibited to the pupils at St. Bartholomew's Hospital last week, and appeared to be an intelligent infant, and free from the ordinary characteristic symptoms of hydrocephalus, although before the operation she had fits every day, and was altogether a very pitiable object. The water had been withdrawn by two operations. Twelve ounces were taken away at the first operation, and eighteen at the second. In this case the trocar was introduced into the lateral ventricle by the coronal suture on the left side of the head, just below the anterior fontanelle.

DR. CONQUEST has a *third* case under his care, for the relief of which he has already operated four times, and proposes very shortly to perforate the head a fifth time. The total quantity of fluid hitherto taken away is about forty ounces. The operation was performed twice before his pupils at the hospital, and although he does not seem to anticipate a cure in this case, yet the relief afforded has been very decided, and it must be extremely consolatory and encouraging thus to have accumulating evidence that this

direful malady admits of cure in many, and of relief in most instances.

Dr. Conquest, after his lecture at St. Bartholomew's on Tuesday evening, had the child, about seven months old, brought into the theatre, whose head he had punctured on the above occasions, in consequence of hydrocephalus. The head appeared enormously swollen, its veins very much distended, the bones separated to a great extent, and the skin covering it had a shining appearance. A fine trocar was introduced through the coronal suture, on the left side, just above the squamous portion of the temporal bone, and carried into the lateral ventricle; upon withdrawing it, about twenty ounces of a transparent fluid were evacuated. As the fluid escaped, pressure was made on the head in every direction, by means of adhesive plaster. When all the fluid had been evacuated, the wound was closed by a strip of adhesive plaster, and the mother removed the child from the hospital. Dr. Conquest stated that, in his former operations on this child, the fluid that was voided was tinged with blood, and portions of brain were mixed with it.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital,
November 17th, 1830.

OPERATION OF TYING THE AORTA.

LETTER FROM MR. JAMES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Allow me to trouble you with the following observations, which I feel it right to make, in consequence of seeing, in the Review published in "THE LANCET," of the case which I transmitted to the Medico-Chirurgical Society, an incorrect statement to the following effect; namely:—"Mr. James resolved upon tying the aorta, notwithstanding the objections of his colleagues, who all saw the hopelessness of the case." Now the fact is, that one of my colleagues, Mr. Barnes, whose opinion I conceive is entitled to much deference, did fully concur with me in opinion that the man should receive the chance, however small, which the operation afforded, if, upon a full explanation of the circumstances to him, he was disposed to take that chance; and I believe, upon this point, I may appeal to any of my colleagues—that the most explicit statements were made, both to the patient and to his friends, on the circumstances of his case; and it was at his own desire, and with his friends' concurrence, that the operation was performed. With respect to the time at which it was done, I

can only say, I was convinced myself that Sir Astley Cooper judged rightly in advising its being performed before matters had proceeded to extremity, as in his own case. The same feelings which actuated him, led me not to abandon a fellow-creature to what I believe was an inevitable death, without an attempt to save him.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
J. H. JAMES.

Exeter, Nov. 11, 1830.

THE PROSECUTOR'S COSTS, IN THE LATE
TRIAL OF JOHN LONG.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I find it stated in one of your recent numbers, that Mr. Wakley has, hitherto, borne the whole expense of conducting the prosecution of the great metropolitan arch-quack, John St. John Long, who was found guilty, by a respectable jury of his countrymen, of having *manslaughtered* (O the goodly fitness of law terms!) a young lady, while in the prime of life and health, and whose punishment has been the subject of no inconsiderable surprise to the higher, and of indignation to the lower, classes of society. Respecting the manner in which Mr. Wakley conducted the original inquiry, which led to that prosecution, there never was but one unanimous feeling of commendation among the numerous members of the profession with whom I have the pleasure of associating. But now that we are informed, that in order to complete his praiseworthy enterprise of exposing unblushing and criminal ignorance, Mr. Wakley has not hesitated to buckle on himself the whole of the pecuniary responsibility,—often very heavy, and always inevitable, which attaches to those who, in this country, claim the protection of the laws, it becomes our duty, as it must be the duty of the public at large, who will reap ultimately the benefit of Mr. Wakley's endeavours, to come forward and relieve him, as the *Medical Gazette* very justly observes, from a burden which it would be disgraceful to suffer him to bear.

It is in accordance with such a feeling that I beg you to offer to the proper quarter the inclosed mite towards defraying the law expenses incurred by Mr. Wakley in procuring the conviction of John St. John Long of his *first* legalized murder.

I remain, Sir, your
Humble Servant,
A. B. GRANVILLE.

16, Grafton-street, Berkeley-square, Nov. 13, 1830.

* * * Received the cheque for 2l. 2s.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The reform which has taken place in the hospitals of this metropolis since the publication of *THE LANCET*, has induced me to lay before you some abuses which at present exist at St. Bartholomew's.

Mr. Earle has on every occasion evinced a great desire to be of service to the pupils, and in no instance more so than by the valuable lectures which he delivers weekly. He has, however, chosen an hour to lecture, during which Mr. Vincent is going round the hospital, and thus those who accompany Mr. Vincent are deprived of Mr. Earle's remarks. I feel assured that it is not intentional, and that it needs only to be mentioned to be remedied.

I may also take this opportunity of exposing the conduct of *certain puppies* who make a practice of smoking cigars in the anatomical theatre, previous to Mr. Lawrence's entering to give his surgical lecture. Their exploits, however, are not confined to the anatomical theatres, but extend to the wards of the hospital, infecting their already not too salubrious atmosphere. Some of them may have learned it abroad, but the others have not travelled beyond the precincts of the London pot-houses.

Mr. Lawrence has already given the *puppies* a hint to discontinue the practice, but without effect. If this notice should be also disregarded, I shall take an early opportunity of forwarding their names for insertion in *THE LANCET*, if you think they will not sully its pages; but if so, perhaps an application to Mr. Helps the treasurer, stating names and particulars, may prove equally beneficial. By the insertion of this letter in an early number of your excellent Journal, you will add to the many obligations already conferred on the pupils and patients of this hospital.

A PUPIL.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital,
November 15th, 1830.

REVIEWS OF NEW WORKS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I cannot too greatly admire the boldness and impartiality with which you review all new medical works; the advantage of your just criticisms is of infinite importance, not only to the profession in general, but to the student in particular.

A few weeks since, "Professor Pattison of the London University," introduced "Fyfe's Anatomy" to the notice of his class, "observing that it was usual to re-