obliged to alternate the treatment before the patient was cured.

I need not say, that in those cases where I had recourse to local bleeding, I employed moderate diet; it is right to feed the patients on slops, or things little better. The French reproach us with employing the most violent remedies in the country in acute diseases, so that we nearly kill the patients by bleeding them and giving them calomel, and let them all the while eat beef-steaks and drink porter, and do what they like. There may be men so silly, there are men in every business and in every profession who do not conduct their concerns in the most judicious manner, but I am confident this is not the case with the great majority of practitioners. The same attention is generally paid to diet in this country as in any other part of the world; but in detailing our cases, we certainly do often omit to speak of the diet. We take it for granted that it is known we do not give wine and porter; and from the circumstance, therefore, that we do not say so, the French have imbibed the idea that we never attend to diet at all, but that we just see the patients, write a prescription, and then let them go on as they choose with respect to food. This, I am satisfied, is an unjust observation, if it be made generally; but still there are, doubtless, some who do not pay as much attention to diet in this country as they should. We may, however, reproach some of the French with carrying restriction in diet too far. I am sure that most persons who have seen patients that have been treated by the French, have every now and then met with instances in which starvation had been carried so far, that the patients have been in danger of sinking; but who, by allowing them a moderate quantity of animal food, and, in the same degree, stimulating liquids, have rapidly rallied and got well. If we commit one error now and then, the French commit an opposite error, I will not say every day, but as often as we run to the other extreme. Let those who commit the one fault or the other be blamed, but let us not blame each other generally. Every one should recollect that he does not do his duty, either surgically or medically, unless he lays down rules with respect to diet. There is no great difficulty with regard to these rules. Every one must know that those who write on the digestive organs carry the point much too far. It is sufficient to say, that when a person is in an inflammatory state so as to require bleeding, general or local, or antiphlogistic treatment, that one part of that treatment should generally consist in low diet, in the cutting off of animal food and stimulating liquors, or they should be taken in the lowest possible degree. But with respect to articles of diet

in general, what is said by Dr. Heberden is perfectly true, that beyond the general rules of low and moderate diet and full diet with which every practitioner must be acquainted, every man knows best what agrees with him, and he can ascertain it as well, if not better than the doctor. The object of minute rules is often rather to make an impression on the patient than to lay down any specific plan which will do essential good. *Assa vero, an elixa eligenda sint, olerumve utrum utro sit utilius, modo communi judicio non caret, quam alius quilibet, tutius meliusque deprehendet.* There is a difference between low diet, moderate diet, and full diet; and every practitioner should be very attentive to the quantity, and the nutritious and stimulating quality, of the food which the patient is allowed to take. But *excessive* nicety in directions is too often affected. *Quomodo sanis, quomodo ægris vivendum sit, medici sæpenumero videntur nimis curiose et subtiliter disputare.*

SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE WIDOW AND ORPHANS OF THE LATE DR. NUTTALL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I need not refer you to the Number of THE LANCET, in which you did me the favour to insert my letter relative to the lamented death of Dr. Nuttall. I feel convinced you have not forgotten the offer you then tendered in behalf of his amiable and disconsolate family. Your promptitude in giving my letter a place in your valuable Journal gratified my feelings, but when I read the note which you attached to it, I felt supported and sufficiently authorized in endeavouring to ascertain the state in which the family were left, in order to avail myself of your liberal proposal, or to thank you for the same, and to convince yourself and readers that our fears were ungrounded.

The result of my inquiries is far from pleasing. I regret I cannot conclude by returning you only the sincere thanks of the friends of the deceased, for your sympathy and proffered exertions, and mine for the unexpected assistance you tendered. I say unexpected, because at that moment you had commenced an arduous and expensive undertaking for the benefit of the medical profession. I had heard of the vast sums of money you must risk in the contest for coronership, I was not, therefore, a little surprised, when I found you had volunteered your purse, as well as the use of your pages, to aid the friends of Dr. Nuttall in any object they might have in view for the benefit of his helpless orphans.

You have their thanks and mine, and you merit, not only on this occasion but many others, the applause of every well-thinking medical man, indeed of all mankind. You will do me the favour to omit no part of what I have written; I feel honoured in sounding your praise, and trust you will not allow any feeling of false delicacy to interfere with my request. And now, Sir, to my painful task.

For the benefit of some of your readers who may not possess No. 367 of your Journal for Sept. 11th, 1830, or rather for the benefit of our cause, I beg to refer them to pages 941 and 942 of the same, they will there see how I became acquainted with the late Dr. Nuttall, and why I feel so much interested for his family, also your appendix to my letter, which I shall copy here:—

“Should the friends of the late Dr. Nuttall consider a subscription for his amiable and distressed family desirable, our mite and the use of our pages shall be at their service.—ED. L.”

This unasked-for kindness on your part induced me to inquire more fully into the circumstances of the disconsolate family; having done so, and consulted with some of the late Doctor's friends, I find a subscription is not only deemed desirable by them, but absolutely necessary for the benefit of the five fatherless children. You, as well as your readers, will be convinced of this, when you are put in possession of facts.

Some time prior to the demise of my friend, his affairs had become embarrassed, owing to his having on more than one occasion lent his name to friends who proved treacherous—to the house in which he resided before he lived in Norton Street, remaining untenanted for upwards of two years—to his having contributed to the support of an aged and beloved mother,—and to the tender nature of his heart, which melted at almost every tale of woe, and induced him to alleviate the sufferings of the sick and distressed by pecuniary aid.

My former letter will partly serve to prove this last assertion. I could add many others of a similar nature, indeed I could fill a small volume with anecdotes of his charitable and other virtuous acts, which I have witnessed and heard of. Scarcely a day passes but I see some poor creature who has benefited by his kindness or professional advice, and who laments with genuine tears his departure from this world. Some may think Dr. Nuttall was indiscriminate in his givings. Not so: no man in London ever witnessed more real misery than he—no man's feelings were ever more tried. He has seen disease, starvation, and every misery, combined in one family; he has visited such at night in the severest wea-

ther, all huddled together in a cold desolate room, without a bed to lie upon, a blanket to cover them, or fire to warm their shivering frames. He has felt as every Christian should feel—he has acted as every Christian should act—he has placed fire on their hearths, food in their mouths, and from the dispensary sent medicine to restore the sick member to health. In many cases he has paid for medicines when delay would have proved dangerous. Who is the man that could condemn him—who is the man that would not applaud him?

I trust I have said enough to account for Dr. Nuttall's not leaving riches behind him. He may be blamed for not having made a provision for his family; he endeavoured to do so; he insured his life some years back for five thousand pounds, paid the insurance for a length of time, but through the perfidy of the friends to whom I before alluded, and from other causes, he failed to pay one instalment, and the insurance therefore fell. Some time after, he commenced again for two thousand pounds, which sum, I am happy to say, is safe, and the interest of which is all that is left to support the widow and five of the loveliest children parents ever smiled upon. Their education was their father's greatest care; he spared no labour to improve their minds—he allowed not a moment to pass without imparting to them some useful knowledge—he endeavoured to make them not only good members of society, but was preparing them for a life hereafter. What can supply the loss of such a parent? Can money? no; but it may serve to nourish the seeds he has so carefully sown in such fertile soil. Those who have the will, possess not the power, at least not to the extent which is necessary; I allude to the relations on either side.

The widow is still confined to a sick bed, her recovery is as yet doubtful; the loss of a beloved husband preys upon the mind, and other circumstances combined with bodily affliction, are almost too much for so delicate a frame to combat with.

For the information of some of your readers, I ought to have stated that Dr. Nuttall was one of the physicians to the Westminster Dispensary, Gerrard Street, Soho; that he laboured for the institution fifteen years up to the period of his last illness.

I feel convinced, and it is the opinion of many others, that the incessant toil of attending to the duties of the dispensary, assisted mainly in undermining his constitution, and to hasten his death. I have, on several occasions, seen him out after midnight in all weathers, visiting the sick poor; have walked with him, and felt delighted in offering him my arm, that I might profit by his conversation. Whilst I was in his

company he was never idle; I may say with truth, that his mind and body were constantly at work; indeed, "he was a man, take him for all in all, we ne'er shall look upon his like again." From the long-continued illness of the widow, and from the impossibility of Dr. Nuttall's attending to his professional duties, the little stock of cash he possessed prior to his fatal attack was so nearly exhausted, that the day after his death there was not found sufficient in the house to defray the next day's expenses. A friend, into whose hands was entrusted the arrangement of affairs, from his own purse supplied the deficiency, and paid the funeral expenses. An aunt of the unhappy widow arriving from Scotland, relieved him from a continuance of his voluntary kindness, and up to this moment, a period of nearly three months, the family are indebted to her for support.

The interest arising from the insurance will not be payable till twelve months after the demise of the insured. I am informed six months must elapse before even the claim commences, so that at the end of the year there will be only half a year's interest due amounting to 40%. When I first began this letter, it was my intention (wishing to spare the feelings of the widow and her relations) to have named only the orphans of my lamented friend; but having been made acquainted with what I have just stated, your readers will with me conclude, that some pecuniary assistance is even at this moment required.

From what I have heretofore witnessed, I doubt not but the sympathy of the profession, and mankind in general, will enable us soon to lighten the burden of the distressed widow and her praiseworthy relation, and to raise a sufficient sum to continue that which the last parent had so well begun—the education of the children.

We ask not for large sums from the profession, their mite will be gratefully received; but we call upon them to plead our cause, where they know charity to exist. Every medical man has it in his power, in the large circle of his acquaintance, to make known this case. We hope then that each into whose hands your valuable Journal falls, will lend us his aid, that he will become the receiver of subscriptions from his patients and friends, and that he will forward the same to Messrs. Hammersley, Greenwood, and Co., bankers, 69, Pall Mall, or to any of the undermentioned repositories for subscriptions. Three of the late Dr. Nuttall's friends have been fixed on to take the charge of subscriptions, and to dispose of them as circumstances may require.

As often as may be deemed necessary, the money received at the different places will be forwarded by them to the bankers,

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and, from time to time, your readers shall be apprised of the success met with, the manner of disposal, &c.

I remain, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

J. H. TUCKER.

16, Howland Street, Fitzroy Square,
Nov. 27, 1830.

A book (in which subscribers are requested to write their names, and the amount of donations) will be sent to the following gentlemen, who have consented to receive subscriptions:—

Messrs. Hammersley, Greenwood, and Co.,
69, Pall Mall.

Mr. Robertson, 34, Gerrard Street, Soho.
The Rev. Mr. Stevens, 15, Huntley Street,
Bedford Square.

Mr. Tucker, Surgeon, 16, Howland Street,
Fitzroy Square.

THE LANCET Office, 210, Strand.

Messrs. Callow and Wilson, Medical
Booksellers, Great Windmill Street.

Messrs. Burgess and Hill, Medical Book-
sellers, 55, Great Windmill Street.

Mr. Highley, Medical Bookseller, 174,
Fleet Street, and Webb Street, Maze Pond,
Borough.

Mr. Anderson, Medical Bookseller, 40,
Smithfield.

Mr. Taylor, 30, Upper Gower Street.

P.S.—Allow me, Sir, to say a few words to your brother EDITORS, whether conductors of medical journals, or of newspapers.

GENTLEMEN,—Having availed myself of the kind offer of the Editor of THE LANCET, namely, the use of his pages for promoting a subscription for the benefit of the orphans of the late Dr. Nuttall, and whose character (intended for those who knew him not) I have but very faintly sketched, I sincerely hope you will likewise grant us, the friends of the deceased, all the assistance you can, and kindly publish to the world our intentions, with respect to the unfortunate widow and orphans.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. TUCKER.

16, Howland Street, November 27, 1830.

SUBSCRIPTION.

THE LANCET..... 5*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.*