minimal reply to my letters, I must request you to accept my thanks for your patience and courtesy, and as it is very improbable I shall ever join issue on this subject again, would conclude with remarking, "Exceptions prove the rule," lest Mr. Gosset should "stumble" over one or two of them given in Hodgson, and think them otherwise, as I now find, I have induced him, Mr. Gosset, to read Hodgson for example, although I have stated aneurism is always formed by rupture of the internal coat and dilatation of the outer, these exceptions take place, and the lamellated blood has been deposited even in simple dilatation of its circle. He is fond of giving advice, and, at parting, I would wish to be good natured, and recommend him in future never to play with edged tools, and even to be cautious with ridicule, for if time or inclination had led me, I could have traced an admirable portrait of Sir Fretful Plagiary in his voluminous letter.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. F. BLICKE.

Walthamstow, Jan. 27th, 1830.

LETTER FROM DR. HODGKIN TO MR. CALLAWAY, ON MR. GOSSET'S CASE OF ANEURISM OF THE RENAL ARTERY.

Description of a preparation of the Kidney removed from a female patient of Mr. Gosset, who had died from copious hæmaturia.

(On inspection, it appeared that aneurism of the renal artery had led to the hæmorrhage, but doubts were afterwards attempted to be thrown on the correctness of this opinion.)

TO T. CALLAWAY, ESQ.

My dear friend,

Understanding that the interesting preparation of kidney affected with aneurism of its artery, had acquired an additional interest in consequence of doubts having been raised respecting the nature of the pathological appearance which it presents, I have been induced to make a very careful examination of the preparation. Our friends C. A. Key, B. B. Cooper, Dr. Addison, and Mr. Gosset, were present, and, as well as the preparation itself, can confirm my statement. Before I proceed, it may not be amiss for me to explain that I had not only not been present at the inspection, but had not examined the preparation in a recent state. I saw it especially, but considered it as a specimen of aneurism of the renal artery, not merely on the very sufficient ground of thy authority, but also from seeing a coagulum which,

though it had been detached, appeared to have been cut from the interior of the pelvis, and had quite the character of an aneurismal clot; indeed it was not easy to conceive what else it could be: I must have given an erroneous impression to Dr. Blicke, if he conceived that I doubted its being aneurism. Until the moment I saw him I entertained no such doubts, and on his expressing his, I explained to him what I have above stated as my reasons for believing it to be an aneurism, but observed that as the preparation had been put up by my Assistant, with only a cursory examination by myself, I could not state my opinion as to the fact. The detached clot above mentioned, I observed had been lost; the portion of the sac in which it was contained, was attached to the part from which it had been separated.

Having more completely cleared away the fat and cellular membrane from the sinus of the kidney, I find that the renal artery, which is tolerably healthy to a short distance from its division, preparatory to its penetration into the substance of the gland, there becomes thicker and somewhat dilated. The principal dilatation however is in one of the branches, from its very commencement in the renal. It is dilated to the size of a tolerably large nut, independently of that portion which, from its projection into the cavity of the pelvis, had been cut off in laying open the kidney in the ordinary way. The membrane of the pelvis adhered not with uniform firmness to the sac. Both having given way, in all probability led to the fatal hæmorrhage. The greater part of the sac is still filled with coagulum, and lies in the sinus of the kidney. It appears that this sac is more completely formed from the coats of the vessel than is often the case with aneurismal tumours. In examining the preparation as I have now myself put it up, thou wilt observe the trunk of the vessel laid open, and a bristle inserted which passes between the coats of the dilated vessel and the clot into the pelvis. On the interior thou wilt see the pelvis laid open, and, on each side of the slit, dissected from the sac. The kidney appears to be in every other respect healthy.

Thine, &c.

(Signed.) THOMAS HODGKIN.

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It is of the first importance that the laws affecting the profession should be distinctly stated, correctly explained, and perfectly understood. Your labours have contributed more to forward the attainment of