and now very little, which he ascribes to his bowels not being regular. The Surgeon ordered occasional doses of the oil, and up to the present time, Nov. 17, there has been no discharge of any consequence.

This is supposed to be a case of chronic inflammation of the mucous membrane of the small intestines, extending to the serous, producing ulceration and adhesion to the parietes of the abdomen.

ESSEX AND COLCHESTER HOSPITAL.

LITHOTOMY.

On Friday, October 2nd, the operation of lithotomy was performed by Mr. Partridge, in the presence of a numerous assemblage of spectators. The subject, J. Justance, a muscular man of healthy appearance, 72 years of age, being placed upon the table, and bound in the usual manner, the staff was introduced, and the existence of a stone clearly ascertained. The operator commenced by making a free incision, which at once reached the staff; on running the common gorget along the groove into the bladder, it met with considerable resistance at the prostate, in consequence of that gland being indurated and enlarged. But little urine was contained in the bladder, and that readily escaped when the gorget entered. The straight forceps were then passed and withdrawn without extracting any stone; but on the introduction of a curved pair a calculus was readily grasped and extracted. After four minutes had elapsed, three other calculi were removed, each weighing about half a drachm, and being about the size of a flattened nut-kernel. The bladder was subsequently washed out by means of a common clyster syringe, and the patient removed to bed. The operation was completed, in a very scientific manner, in twelve minutes.

Oct. 3. Very little constitutional disturbance; pulse steady, between 60 and 70; tongue dry; no pain or tenderness of abdomen; urine flowing freely through the wound; no evacuation from the bowels; complained of flatulence of stomach.

Hæm. ammon. subcarb. gr. v. mist. camph. ʒiiss. p. r. n.

4. Going on well. Bowels not having been moved, ordered an enema of common gruel, which answered the purpose; to be repeated occasionally; urine passed in part by the natural passage.

5. Urine passed entirely per urethram; the wound looking healthy and granulating. From this time the case has gone on well, but the wound occasionally required a little stimulant.

Nov. 12. The patient discharged, free from every symptom of the complaint.

THE SIAMESE YOUTHS.

Two boys, twins, united to each other by a mutual prolongation and union of the cartilages which terminate the breast bones, have been brought to this country from Siam for the purpose of exhibition. As there are few peculiarities, either of structure or habit, which there have yet been sufficient opportunities of observing, that have not already been made public by the daily press, we refrain from giving at present any description of this accident of nature. We may observe, however, that although these individuals possess qualities of a very interesting character, they are rather objects of wonder to the eye than to the mind, and are certainly more rare than curious.

MEDICAL BENEFIT SOCIETY OF LONDON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me, through your medium, to call a preliminary meeting of the friends to the formation of a Medical Benefit Society, on Thursday evening, December 3rd, 1829, at my Lecture-room, at 8 o'clock precisely, to take into consideration the best means of forming the said institution. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. W. DEWHURST, Surgeon,

Lecturer on Veterinary and Comparative Anatomy.

22, Queen Street, Golden Square.

24th Nov. 1829.

BOOK FOR REVIEW.

ELEMENTS of Practical Chemistry, comprising a Series of Experiments in every Department of Chemistry, with Directions for performing them, and for the preparation and application of the most important Tests and Re-agents. By DAVID BOSWELL F.R.S., Conductor of the Classes of Practical Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, Experimental Assistant to Professor Hope, &c. Edinburgh: MacLachan and Stewart. 1829. 8vo. pp. 511.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It will render the insertion of Mr. Heddon's queries unnecessary, if we state, that water, in a state of *perfect purity*, is composed solely of oxygen and hydrogen, and is resolvable into these two gases, in weight equal to that of the water decomposed. Animalcula can be detected only in water which has been in contact with animal or vegetable substance.

"A Widow" could carry on her business in the way she states, but she could not recover debts, in her own name, in a court of law.