pared with transverse, may be reasonably preferred, for after injury there is no tubercle to be ferreted out of corners, but simply the indication to remove just as much and just as little injured bone as will suffice, and to cleanse the joint of blood and dirt.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant.

Dec. 1886.

C. B. KEETLEY.

NOTE ON THE EXISTENCE OF IODINE IN THE FREE STATE IN A MINERAL WATER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It has been known for many years that the water of the Woodhall Spa, near Lincoln, is exceptionally rich in bromides and iodides. In the course of an investigation recently conducted by me, I have made an observation which appears to be important. I find that there is free iodine in the water—not a mere trace of free iodine, but sufficient to impart to the water a brown colour of considerable depth of tint. The proof of the presence of the free iodine in this water is very striking. There is the formation of the blue iodide of starch when a little starch paste is simply poured into the water. Another very striking characteristic is that when the water is shaken up with one-twentieth of its volume of bisulphuret of carbon it loses its brown colour, whilst the bisulphuret of carbon assumes a pink-violet colour, owing to the solution of iodine by the bisulphuret of carbon. So far as I am aware, this is the first instance in which free iodine has been found in appreciable quantity in a natural water. For many years the Woodhall Spa has been celebrated as a valuable remedy in skin diseases. The fact that it is a solution of free iodine is interesting in this connexion, and is well worthy of the attention of the medical profession.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Dec. 15th, 1886.

J. ALFRED WANKLYN.

THE TREATMENT OF ALCOHOLISM BY STRYCHNINE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—*A propos* of your interesting leader on the above subject published in THE LANCET of the 16th ult., I should like to be allowed to make a few passing remarks. The treatment in question, as recommended from theoretical and clinical researches by Luton, Giacomini, Magnus Huss, and other continental *savants* of the medical profession, and now tried by Russian practitioners, notably by Drs. Popoff and Talvinski, was extensively experimented upon, so far back as 1869, by Deputy Surgeon-General F. G. Joynt, who was at the time medical officer in charge of the European General Hospital, Bombay. I am not aware if any other army medical officer followed his method of treatment; but suffice it to say that the drug proved in his hands a sheet-anchor in cases of ebrietas (now termed alcoholism) and delirium tremens. I may *en passant* mention that Dr. Joynt's solution of strychnia was, unlike the British Pharmacopœial preparation, made with dilute nitric acid and a smaller proportion of the alkaloid, and the dose usually exhibited was twenty-four minims two or three times a day.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Aden, Nov. 25th, 1886.

A. LYON MERCADO, S.M.D.

ST. ANDREWS UNIVERSITY.

(From a Correspondent.)

THE Senatus Academicus of the University of St. Andrews has presented a memorial to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for Scotland, praying for two additional chairs for its medical faculty—viz., a chair of anatomy and a chair of botany. The St. Andrews Graduates Association are also moving in the same direction. About six weeks ago a deputation appointed by the University had an interview with the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Right Hon. the Lord Advocate, urging the propriety of augmenting the medical chairs to the extent indicated, by introducing a clause or clauses to that effect

into the forthcoming "Universities (Scotland) Bill." St. Andrews has always felt the necessity of increasing its teaching medical staff, and attempts have been made from time to time in this direction for very many years past. The present seems a favourable opportunity for attaining the desired end. The University is desirous of increasing its teaching staff to enable it to give two *anni medici*, the period of residence required for medical graduation at the Scottish universities. With two additional medical chairs, St. Andrews would not only be able to give the first two years of the medical curriculum, but it would be enabled to draw upon the Extra-Academical and Hospital Schools of the United Kingdom for the last two years, an arrangement which could not fail to be very convenient to many aiming at a university medical degree. St. Andrews has now a seat at the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom, and is splendidly equipped as regards the teaching of chemistry, physiology, and zoology. It has also a very fine medical library and museum, and the amenities of St. Andrews as a place of study are everywhere recognised. Of late years St. Andrews has made great strides in science teaching, and if it only succeeds, by public or private endowment, in obtaining its present quest, it may in the future become as well known for its medical teaching as it has in the past been for its divinity and arts teaching.

LIVERPOOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE MEDICAL INSTITUTION AND THE HOSPITAL INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

THE special general meeting of the members of the Medical Institution, which was held on the 3rd inst., to receive the report of the Hospital Inquiry Committee, was largely attended, there being more than a hundred gentlemen present. The President (Dr. Nevins) was in the chair. The report was read by Dr. Wm. Alexander, the secretary to the Committee, and was listened to with the deepest interest by all present, each of whom was furnished with a printed copy of the report. At its conclusion the adoption of the report and a vote of thanks to the Committee were moved by Mr. McCheane, consulting surgeon to the Lock Hospital, and a former president of the institution. This was seconded by Mr. C. B. Wilson, consulting surgeon to the Lying-in Hospital, and after some discussion it was carried by a large majority. Dr. Imlach spoke at considerable length, and as some of his statements were repeated in a letter which he addressed to the President of the Hospital for Women (a copy of which appeared in THE LANCET of the 11th inst.) it appears desirable to notice some points in detail. Dr. Cameron's reason for resigning his seat on the Committee was a purely personal one. He had been called in consultation with Dr. Glynn to see Dr. Imlach when the latter was dangerously ill, and expressed an opinion that the inquiry should not proceed; but as this did not meet with the views of the other members of the Committee he resigned his seat. Mr. Bickersteth's reason for ceasing to attend was because he found himself quite unable to devote the time which he considered necessary to so important an inquiry. The primary object of the Committee was not to prepare a scientific report for the profession, but a report on the management of the Hospital for Women to the Medical Institution. The Committee were only asked to go into the cases which were the subject of operations during the year 1885. Between the early summer and the month of October the Committee held no meeting on account of the trial of *Casey v. Imlach*. The only thing done by the Committee was to request information from medical practitioners as to cases which they had seen of patients who had come under their care before and after being patients of the hospital. This information was given quite impartially and in confidence. That it could have had any prejudice against Dr. Imlach in the trial was disproved by the jury giving a verdict in his favour, without waiting for the judge's summing up. The general opinion of the profession here is that the report is a most admirable one, being exhaustive, fair, impartial, and most moderate. Too much praise cannot be given to the members of the Committee for their prolonged and self-denying devotion to the extremely invidious duty cast upon them.