tion of all the rules of justice, had not taken the evidence of the officials who would have proved my charges! The guardians immediately suspended me, the guardian who moved it stating he had authority for saying that he knew the Poor-law Board wanted to get rid of me. Directly after my suspension was communicated to me I wrote to Earl Devon, as I felt satisfied there was no hope of justice from the permanent secretary. My letter was, however, sent by the Poor-law Board to the guardians, and subsequently made the basis for the charges upon which the suspension was justified! At first the guardians were puzzled how to proceed, when it was suggested that the minutes should be searched. This was acceded to, and the clerk was entrusted with the sole responsibility of extracting from the records of twelve years what he liked, without reference to explanation, denial, &c., from me. This individual had never evinced any kindly feeling towards me. I was so unfortunate as to incur his hostility some years ago. Being away from town, a groundless charge of neglect of duty was brought against my assistant, who acted as my deputy, by a late master of the workhouse, and was read to the board by the individual above referred to. Now it so happened that at the very time of the alleged default I had seen the master in company with this person nearly one hundred miles from town; and in the inquiry which took place this fact became known, and it then turned out that both these individuals had been absent from duty some days without leave; consequently, the false charge fell to the ground, as they could have no knowledge of what had been asserted. He did not, however, extract this from the minutes. The statement and charges thus prepared were sent to the Poor-law Board, and subsequently forwarded to me for my observations thereon. I answered briefly, that it was impossible to meet such assertions, so irrelevant, and spread over twelve years of time, in writing. I again asked for a public inquiry. My demand was silently refused. This was in accordance with the expressed wishes of the guardians. Had it been granted I could have disproved everything worthy of any consideration, but perhaps I should have shown that from the first there was a good understanding with the officials at Whitehall that my suspension would be confirmed. It may be asked, what grounds had the staff of the Poor-law Board for their unfriendliness to me? It is to be explained by the fact that it was well known to them that I had suggested the formation of the Workhouse Infirmaries Association, whose labours had incidentally reflected such lasting disgrace on the Board, and that I had warned Mr. Hardy against being led away, as he subsequently was, by the officials who surrounded him, and who, I knew, were leading him astray. In all this I may have been indiscreet, but I thought that if I failed not in the performance of my duty I should be unassailable. But it is now proved that such reliance was misplaced. I might have gone on, being 'antagonistic to the guardians,' as they choose to call it, and continued wanting in 'deference and courtesy' to them, as long as I liked. I should have been secure had I not unavoidably brought deserved discredit on their office. They have now laid down the rule that no amount of zeal or ability will avail to preserve a medical officer's appointment if he should be so unhappy as to offend the permanent staff of the Central Board. We have heard something this evening respecting the regulations recently issued to workhouse medical officers. There is not one requirement which, at one time or the other, I have not brought under the notice of the local board, and nearly always with the effect of exciting deep personal hostility. On three or four occasions during twelve years I have written to the Poor-law Board and requested their action and advice upon these matters, and, as a result, had hostile resolutions passed upon me, and, finally, I have been suspended and forced to resign. What security do they now offer to medical officers who will interpret these regulations literally? Absolutely none at all. If they neglect them, they will be censured, and perhaps dismissed; if they perform them, they will be in equal danger—deemed 'antagonistic and wanting in courtesy and deference to the guardians.' Truly we have fallen on evil days. Gentlemen, I must bring these observations to a close, but I cannot sit down without expressing my deep sense of obligation to the gentlemen and friends who have given me their sympathy and support, and especially those, including many members of Parliament, with whom I have worked so long in the Workhouse Infirmaries Association, and who, at a recent meeting in Wimpole-street, came to a resolution condemnatory of the injustice which the Poor-law Board had perpetrated in compelling my resignation without any open public inquiry into the truth of the charges. I must not forget my obligations to the members of the Council of our own Associa-

tion, and, above all, to a fearless and independent press, both general and medical, which, with one remarkable exception, has given me the most generous assistance. I need not name that exception; you all know to which journal I allude, and those of you who are supporters of it will, no doubt, share the indignation I have felt at the attacks and calumnies of which it has been made the medium. The hand that should have been stretched out to help me struck me again and again when he thought I was down, consented to become the apologist of my persecutors, and sought to injure me in every way, both privately and professionally. Yes, it was my 'own familiar friend, the man in whom I trusted,' the colleague with whom I had worked and fought, and at whose service I had placed all my official experience, who thus magnified himself against me—who forsook me in the hour of need, and turned against me the influence of a position of which he thus proved himself absolutely unworthy. I may well say, in the phrase employed by another medical journal, in commenting on this desertion, '*Et tu Brute.*' But I must quit this nauseous theme, and, as a concluding remark, let me advise you, although I do not see much prospect of any immediate beneficial result from your labours, to hold together as an association; avoid giving offence to your local boards, if possible, and await the turn of events, which, for good or evil, must arise from the dissolution of the existing and the election of another Parliament upon a more advanced and liberal basis. I now, gentlemen, resign into your hands the presidency of this Association."

THE BEAKED SOUND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you permit me to thank my friend Sir Henry Thompson for his letter in the last number of your journal, and to add a few words in reply to it? I must apologise to Sir Henry for having for the moment forgotten the remarks in his excellent work on "Diseases of the Prostate," to which he alludes in that letter. They show, indisputably, that the sounds to which I drew the attention of the profession in 1845 had been used and figured by Leroy and Mercier at least as early as 1836, the date of Mercier's work "*De la Lithotripsie*," and probably that their use had been anticipated by Tolet.

But nothing whatever was known of this sound in this country at the former date. Dr. Costello, who was, as I understood, in constant personal communication with Civiale, and also with myself, did not, when I showed him my sound, appear to have any previous acquaintance with such an instrument; and I remember, too, that Mr. Coulson, who was much occupied in stone operations, regarded the sound, on my showing it to him, as a novelty, and at once adopted it. The old sound was everywhere in use; Mr. Ferguson, the eminent instrument-maker, knew of no other; and in Paris, I imagine, the knowledge and employment of the short-beaked sound were restricted to the small circle of lithotomists and lithotritists who, from their well-earned renown, must have had almost the exclusive care of the stone cases in France.

Whilst writing, I have been favoured by Sir Henry with an extract from Mercier's work, from which I copy the following passage:—"Tolet avait vu et démontré par l'expérience de quel avantage est une sonde à courte courbure, pour explorer la vessie; mais il en fut de ce sage précepte comme de beaucoup d'autres choses utiles qui tombent si complètement dans l'oubli, qu'il leur faut être inventées de nouveau pour revoir le jour."

I leave it to be determined whether the introduction of this sound into use in this country under the circumstances to which I have referred may or may not be regarded in the same light,—viz., as an "invention de nouveau."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Finsbury-place South, May 12th, 1868.

JOHN GAY.

ETHER AS A STYPTIC.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—If you consider the following case, which came under my notice, worthy of a place in THE LANCET, you will much oblige by inserting it, as I am not aware that a similar case has been published.

S. P.—, a girl twenty years of age, came to this institution at 10 A.M. on the 14th of this month suffering from considerable hæmorrhage following the extraction of a lower

molar. The tooth had been drawn at 7 o'clock the previous evening, and the hæmorrhage immediately commenced, and continued all night, sometimes so profusely as to nearly choke her. Cold water and perchloride of iron were applied, which temporarily arrested the hæmorrhage. But after the patient had been home only a short time, the bleeding began with renewed vigour. At 3 o'clock P.M. she came back here very weak and frightened. Nitrate of silver was applied, the alveolar cavity stuffed with lint, and a bandage placed so that the jaws could not separate. This was kept on for six hours, and then removed, when a stream of blood rushed out, and the patient fainted. Seeing that ordinary remedies had failed, I thought of ether spray; so I got some common ether, and applied it by means of Dr. Richardson's apparatus, which allowed me to send the cold right down into the cavity. The effect was wonderful. After two applications, neither lasting longer than one minute, the bleeding ceased, and has not again returned.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.,

J. LINDSAY PORTEOUS.

South Dispensary, Liverpool, April 18th, 1868.

GERMANY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ANYONE at present visiting the medical department of the University of Bonn on the Rhine will not find very much to see. The hospital accommodation is indifferent, and the school of medicine is not furnished with the ordinary modern facilities. This want, however, of suitable advantages for the students has been so felt, that the University is now making the most strenuous efforts to build without delay improved establishments. A new and very handsome school of chemistry, planned and fitted in the most approved fashion, has just been completed; and it is expected that this will be in perfect working order next winter. With such teachers as Professors Bishop, Mohr, and Landolt, and with a laboratory constructed with every possible modern improvement, it is thought that the chemical school at Bonn will in a few years equal, if not surpass, the schools at Heidelberg and Göttingen, which are still reckoned the best in Germany. Nor are the attentions of the University Board confined to the development of chemical knowledge alone. They have obtained from the town a grant of £50,000 sterling, which they intend, if necessary, to increase from their own funds, for the purpose of building a new hospital. The site has been already obtained, the work begun, and it is expected that in two years it will be finished. It is further contemplated to add a new school of anatomy, and possibly additional lecture rooms. The energy with which these plans are being carried out expresses well the mental activity of the University; and it is not therefore surprising to find that the number of students of medicine is already rapidly increasing. In 1865 the total number of medical students was 150, and in this last year the total number registered was 204. It is true, certainly, that most of these students are from the neighbouring Rhine provinces, but still this serves to show the increasing reputation which the school of medicine is obtaining. To an Englishman, Bonn would only be useful as a place to study pathological and microscopical anatomy under Schütze, or as a good school of chemistry; but otherwise the limited hospital practice incidental to a town of 20,000 inhabitants would always continue to be a disadvantage. I may also observe that though Bonn is so small, it is nevertheless one of the most expensive universities in Germany.

As this is holiday time, there is nothing in the schools especially interesting to see or hear; but the experiences of Professor Rühle of the use of water in promoting the defervescence of the continued fevers, is worth noticing, as he pursues this now to the exclusion of every other plan, and with the most successful results. As soon as the thermometrical temperature of the patient has ascended to fever heat, and even often before, he is placed in a bath of water ten degrees below his own temperature; and after he has remained in the bath about ten or fifteen minutes, and has been returned to bed, it is generally found that his temperature has sunk one or two degrees. This bathing is repeated from four to five times a day, or as often as the temperature begins to rise, until the fever-defervescence becomes general. The advantages claimed for the general use of this treatment are, great relief to the feelings of the patient, a diminution of infectious influence,

an alleged speedier convalescence, and results generally more successful. This bathing is peculiarly agreeable to the patient, and usually relieves thirst and restlessness. Any complications that arise during the course of the fever must of course be treated by suitable remedies as they arise. The weather here at present is so warm that most of the fever patients have been placed in the open air under the trees.

The following remarks of Dr. Schauffausen, at the last meeting of the Medical and Natural History Society at Bonn, upon the post-mortem of a dwarf, are interesting. The dwarf in question had died at Coblenz, at the age of sixty-one. Such an age among dwarfs was very rare, although a case had been noted in Scotland where the age of sixty-three had been attained. This dwarf had grown after he was thirty years old; however, the same phenomenon had been remarked in Bebe, the dwarf of King Stanislaus. In this case there was a remarkable contradiction in the signs of bodily development, for when old he had lost his front teeth, but had not a single grey hair, and no trace of baldness. The first change of incisor teeth had not begun until he was twenty-two years of age. His height was 2 feet 10 inches, and his weight forty-five pounds. Most of the relations of his body had retained a child-like ratio. The circumference of his head, 520 millimetres, corresponded with that of a boy five years old. The brain weighed 1183.33 grammes. The brain of a man of sixty years of age is said to weigh, on the average, 1344 grammes. Among new-born children, the weight of the brain was one-fifth of the weight of the entire body; among adults one-thirtieth up to one-forty-fourth; but in this case it was one-nineteenth. All the sutures of the skull remained open, and had bony cartilage, as in early childhood. The brain showed numerous deep convolutions, and the deceased had, if not remarkable, at any rate fair mental qualities. A simple arrest of development seemed to affect all organs of the body, and consequently he was not virile. This dwarf was the child of large parents, and he had two brothers five feet high, and a sister of ordinary size; but his other two brothers, who are still alive, are dwarfs, one the same size as himself, and the other five inches higher.

April, 1868.

Foreign Gleanings.

BENCE JONES'S QUINOIDINE AND DR. CHALVET.

DR. CHALVET has repeated, before the Biological Society of Paris, experiments on efflorescence which tend to throw some doubt on Dr. Bence Jones's conclusions respecting quinoidine. The facts, however, mentioned by the latter physician have been fully confirmed by Dr. Chalvet, whose experiments again prove that the living tissues contain a substance giving rise to an efflorescence exactly similar to the refractive phenomena of sulphate of quinine. Dr. Chalvet has also found, like Dr. Bence Jones, that this efflorescence disappears in acute febrile diseases; but he does not agree with Dr. Jones as to the origin of this supposed quinoidine. Dr. Chalvet has shown, on the contrary, that this efflorescent substance exists in most articles of food, especially in wine and vegetable substances. From these researches the French author concludes that the so-called quinoidine is not derived from albumen; that it is introduced into the organism by the ingesta; that it mixes with the animal fluids, as happens with iron; but that (herein quite similar to iron) it does not spontaneously spring up in the animal tissues. As this quinoidine is rapidly eliminated, low diet somewhat prolonged must cause the efflorescence of the urine to disappear, and thus is explained the supposed destruction of quinoidine by fever. Dr. Chalvet is inclined to class the substance in question with quinine itself, which may be supposed to exist in infinitesimal quantities in all vegetables, and thus would its constant presence in the tissues and fluids of animals be accounted for.

HEREDITARY NATURE OF HARE-LIP.

M. Demarquay lately asked the advice of the members of the Surgical Society of Paris touching a little girl, five years old, who presented a double hare-lip. Some difficulties will be encountered in the operation, but the interest of the case lies in the fact that, in the family, from the grandparents downwards, eleven children have been born with hare-lip, or with a peculiar conformation of the lower lip—namely, two openings on either side of the mesial lines, traversing the