fore two or three hundred students, and have afterwards traced the same nerve on the same subject, and on the same side the operation was performed, through its whole extent, undivided or untouched! This, then, is enough, I should suppose, for that operation.

I am now then to submit to the profession the operation I deem prudent, as being safe, sure, and easy, and one which I have regularly taught, while it was my duty to superintend the dissections of students.

I never attempt its division till such time as it has passed into the substance of parotid, and then having placed the subject, I make an incision through skin, cervical fascia, and parotid, deepening gradually, immediately anterior to the lobe of the ear, or half way betwixt zygoma and angle of inferior maxilla, until such time as I expose the nerve. I then trace it back, to make sure of having got it, before its division into tempo-ro-facial and cervico-facial branches, and then having done so I remove part of the nerve altogether, as, after simple division, the cut extremities soon unite.

In this operation we cut no important part, and we command all the branches of the nerve, unless two or three given off before, and immediately on escaping from the stylo-mastoid foramen. Great care must be taken of the external carotid artery, or it may be wounded, and require a ligature.

Brechin, Dec. 1831.

INVESTIGATION INTO THE CHOLERA AT SUNDERLAND.

LETTER FROM DR. CLANNY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me to return you my best thanks for the readiness with which you inserted my last communication. I feel much reluctance, after having showed up a certain editor, to resume the, to me, painful task of setting him and his readers right in the few points to which he even now adheres.

Every man in our very respectable, though poor profession, who takes any interest in the subject of epidemic cholera, must know the trying and delicate position in which the present writer was placed during the first days of the visitation of that disease at Sunderland. It was, and still is, to him a subject of felicitation, that his professional brethren voluntarily expressed their full approbation of his conduct, in a most flattering address, at a time when the zeal of commercial enterprise displayed itself in a manner that did no credit to his fellow towns-

men. However, the eyes of the people, by the spread of this disease to the neighbouring towns, are now sufficiently opened.

I was highly gratified by the Lords of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council having been pleased, by letter dated Council Office, White Hall, 18th November, to express to me their sense of the value of my services as connected with the recent appearance of disease at Sunderland.

It was not to be supposed that I communicated to such distinguished personages the discoveries I had made upon that very disease, nor did their Lordships, I believe, intend any cutting reply to a person they had, so recently, so highly honoured. I could say much more upon this subject, but shall reserve the particulars for a more suitable season.

"The editor" remarks "that he could not have animadverted on the doctor from any private or sinister motive." I believe it is an axiom in law, that an accredited agent, or publisher, is held equally responsible with the principal. When "the editor" or his friends take the trouble to refute me by direct experiments, or by an honest statement of facts, we shall be on a footing, but not till then.

"The editor," not the present writer, was the first to mention Dr. Jenner; and for the purpose of drawing a most invidious distinction between the two physicians. Again; he mentions Dr. Jenner's "discovery." Now what is the fact? Nearly fifty years ago the cow-pox having affected the hands of the milkers in the county of Dorset, they found that having passed through such disease, they were, *ipso facto*, rendered safe from the attacks of small-pox; and one individual had the sagacity and courage to try the experiment of vaccination on himself, and succeeded, it is said, completely. Thus the first vaccinator was a rustic. Many facts were upon this subject communicated to the late Sir George Baker, and Dr. Jenner, residing in another dairy county, having witnessed the diseases with similar consequences, pursued the hint with distinguished talents and success. The "discovery" was with the first inoculator most certainly.

As to our disease, all the world now knows that as every medical man in the town of Sunderland considered himself competent to the administration of salt and water, laudanum and brandy, heat and frictions, blood-letting and blistering, ice or hot irons, as directed *ex cathedra*. How could I, or any other "country physician," *a l'instant*, expect that anything I had to say would, after such authority, be attended to in treating the new disease? There is one thing we all know, viz., the facility with which we may accuse, and the difficulty of rebut-

ting, effectually, even a lying accusation; and often the truth appears only after the parties are gone hence.

I will now copy verbatim the reports of the *Sunderland Herald* newspapers, which are most correct. Observe that "the editor" states, upon the 24th of December last, and now, January 14th, reiterates the assertion, "that the rate of mortality at Sunderland has remained nearly one in three." In the *Sunderland Herald* for Saturday, 17th Dec., we find the following official returns, which are in themselves very interesting.

"CHOLERA MORBUS.

	New cases.	Recov.	Dead.	Rem.
Dec. 9.....	10.....	3.....	9.....	46
10.....	17.....	23.....	4.....	36
11.....	10.....	9.....	5.....	32
12.....	9.....	9.....	6.....	23
13.....	8.....			
14.....	7.....	3.....	2.....	18
15.....	8.....	5.....	2.....	19

"It will be seen by the above returns, that the town is assuming a more healthy appearance."—Dec. 17.

Dec. 16.....	14.....	6.....	8.....	19
17.....	17.....	5.....	3.....	28
18.....	8.....	4.....	7.....	25
19.....	4.....	3.....	7.....	14
20.....	2.....	6.....	2.....	8
21.....	2.....	1.....	2.....	7
22.....	3.....	2.....	2.....	6

"The disease in this town is fast diminishing."—Dec. 24.

Dec. 23.....	3.....	1.....	1.....	7
24.....	5.....	1.....	3.....	8
25.....	3.....	1.....	1.....	9
26.....	0.....	2.....	1.....	6
27.....	2.....	1.....	0.....	7
28.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	7
29.....	1.....	1.....	1.....	6

"The disease is gradually subsiding in this town."—Dec. 31.

"With unmingled pleasure we refer our readers to the above returns, issued, since our last, by the Board of Health of this town. On Sunday last there was not a single new case reported."—Jan. 7th.

Dec. 30.....	1.....	2.....	1.....	4
31.....	0.....	1.....	0.....	3
1.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	3
2.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	1
3.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	1
4.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	1
5.....	1.....	0.....	0.....	2

In the last *Sunderland Herald*, dated 13th January 1832, we find the following cheering paragraph:—

"CHOLERA MORBUS.

"We have at length the happiness to state, that the towns of Sunderland, Bishop-

wearmouth, and Monkwearmouth, are wholly free from the above malignant epidemic, not a case having occurred since our last, and there is only one remaining at Ayre's Quay, of a very slight nature." Nevertheless, on this very point, "the editor" goes on—"It thus appears, that Dr. Clanny has the unparalleled insolence to accuse us of falsehood for making an assertion notoriously true, corroborated by the official returns, and of the inaccuracy of which no proof is offered." I hope, after "the editor" has read the above account, he will remain for ever satisfied. Can any man be insolent when, in his own defence, he gives a just refutation to a personal, malevolent, and mendacious attack? I remain, with much respect, Mr. Editor, your most obedient and very humble servant,

W. REID CLANNY.

PRESENT STATE OF THE
MEDICAL PROFESSION
IN THE
BRITISH NAVY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A brief sketch of the present state of the Medical Profession in the Navy will not, I believe, be uninteresting to your readers. I am induced, therefore, to transmit the following for insertion in your much-esteemed and widely-circulated Journal.

NAVAL SURGEONS.

Prior to the year 1805, the situation of a naval medical officer was a degraded and most uncomfortable one. When taken a prisoner of war, he was not allowed his parole, in consequence of having no specified rank; and being placed in confinement with the common seamen and marines, his sufferings may be better imagined than described. By the recommendation, however, of the late Lord Melville, the surgeons of his Majesty's navy obtained the rank of lieutenants in the navy, and captains in the army, and the assistant-surgeons that of lieutenant in the army, besides a considerable increase of pay. The advantages occurring from these changes were almost immediately apparent. A better educated and more respectable class of men was induced to enter the service, and all those who were incapacitated, either by age or want of knowledge, from performing the important duties of their office, were placed on the retired half-pay-list.

THE HASLAR MUSEUM.

In commemoration of this event, and with a view of expressing their gratitude to Lord