

more work is expected and no more pay, I trust you will agree with me that it is not right to expect it from men who now serve nearly fifteen years before they get their first step of promotion.

I have the honour to enclose my card, and in place of my name will subscribe the motto

QUI SE SERT DE LA LAMPE AU MOINS
DE L'HUILE Y MET.

Malta, July 30th, 1872.

PUERPERAL CONVULSIONS TREATED BY CHLOROFORM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Some months ago Dr. Wiltshire recorded a case of puerperal convulsions successfully treated by chloroform; and I think the following case, in which such treatment was inapplicable, on account of the frequency of the convulsions and the length of the attack, may be interesting to your readers:—

S. M., aged twenty years, unmarried, in the sixth month of pregnancy, after suffering for a day or two from great depression of spirits, was suddenly seized with violent stabbing pain in the right breast. I saw her at 1.30 A.M., Sept. 12th, 1870. Patient flushed and feverish; breast swollen, hard, and painful; ordered poultices to breast, and gave febrifuge with opium.—1 P.M.: Much better; fever reduced considerably; breast still painful, though much relieved; suffering from griping pains in bowels. On examination, os uteri quite closed and firm.—5 P.M.: Sent for; found patient in convulsions, recurring every twenty or thirty minutes; the whole body violently convulsed. Chloroform relieved the spasms, but did not increase the interval, nor in any way affect the recurrence of the fits; the os uteri still closed. At 1 A.M., on consultation by note with my partner, Dr. Webb, I decided to induce labour. Gradually dilating the os by passing the finger within it, I punctured the membranes with a stylet, and, action of the uterus commencing, a dead foetus was born in about seven hours. The convulsions entirely ceased after the liquor amnii was evacuated. Patient was insensible for several hours, but made a rapid recovery, only retarded by the abscess forming in the breast.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Wirksworth, Aug. 13th, 1872.

WM. MILLIGAN.

ELECTRIC FORCEPS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention has been called by Messrs. Evans and Wormald, the makers of my "Electric probe and forceps," to a letter in your journal on August 10, signed by Dr. Taylor, who claims to be the inventor of the application of electricity for the extraction of bullets from gunshot wounds.

You will, I am sure, in justice allow me also to state my claims to be the inventor. The idea was suggested by the case of Garibaldi; and my first instrument was constructed for the purpose of extracting the bullet which he received in his foot at Aspromonte. It was not, however, used owing to the delay which was incurred in endeavouring to obtain an introduction to the proper quarter; the bullet being in the meantime extracted by Dr. Nélaton.

Beyond sending a description to the *Daily Telegraph*, in the hope of arousing interest in the invention, nothing further was done until 1866, when I introduced it to the notice of the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, Dr. Logan, who immediately appreciated the idea; and it was shortly after reported upon by Professor Longmore, of Netley. The latter being well acquainted with the invention, I do not understand how he should ascribe it to a German (as stated in Dr. Taylor's letter), unless he has distinct record prior to the affair of Garibaldi. It is possible he may have been misled by one of a number of my instruments, which were sent out to Berlin in anticipation of the war with France, and which had the instructions inside printed in German.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Belsize-road, N.W., Aug. 1872.

S. DE WILDE.

WATKINS VERSUS MEERES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The above is one of those cases unfortunately of too frequent occurrence, in which the directly conflicting medical evidence reflects so much discredit upon our art. The treatment pursued, as testified to by several highly respectable medical men, seems to have been quite correct and proper; and the judge decided that no blame could be attached to Mr. Meeres. That any medical man should in this case have allowed himself to appear in the witness-box and swear that the treatment was "quite wrong," was most unjust and inexcusable; and that a man of Mr. Gore's age and position should have done so is much to be regretted. If medical men would only show a little more *esprit de corps*, and be less eager and reckless in casting reflections upon the practice of their professional brethren, these vexatious actions would become much less frequent, and our profession gain greatly in esteem and respect. I have always made it a rule to abstain from expressing any opinion of the treatment pursued by any gentleman who may have preceded me in the management of a case, on the ground that, as I was not present at the time, and consequently not acquainted with all the circumstances, I could not say what might or might not have been necessary; and I think that we cannot possibly be too careful in this respect.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Leeds, Aug. 18th, 1872.

PHILIP FOSTER.

AGE OF PATIENTS IN NOTES OF CASES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It is a great pity that in many of the most instructive cases reported in your columns weekly the age of the patient should be omitted to be stated. In all cases, both medical and surgical, the age and sex of the patient should be mentioned. When one hears of some diseases almost the first question one asks is the age of the patient. In your number for August 3rd, 1872, are the notes of two interesting cases, one of "Cancrum Oris, after Broncho-Pneumonia," the other "Colotomy for Stricture of the Rectum," but in neither of them is the age of the patient given; and on this account no small amount of interest that would otherwise be taken in reading such cases is lost, for in both the age is of importance.

Some of your readers, also, that may be collecting notes of cases for statistical purposes are thus debarred from making them so complete as they could wish.

Trusting I may have drawn attention to an omission which has not escaped the notice of others,

Believe me to remain yours faithfully,

J. LACY MORLEY, M.R.C.S.,
Late Lieut. 20th Regiment.

Guy's Hospital, August, 1872.

AN APPEAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I appeal through THE LANCET to the profession on behalf of a medical man personally well known to me, whose health and circumstances are in a very deplorable condition. For many months this gentleman has been the subject of liver disease and dropsy, and quite unable to attend to his duties; he has consequently lost a public appointment, and his practice has dwindled down to almost nothing; he lies in a most precarious state, his wife and three children are in great distress, taxes are due, distraint is threatened, and help must be got from some quarter. I hope those who can afford to do so will send a small sum of money. I would willingly act as receiver, but to avoid any suspicion of a second Carden case, it would be better to send donations to THE LANCET Office, if you, Mr. Editor, will consent to receive them.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

DANIEL HOOPER, B.A., M.B.,
Physician to the Surrey Dispensary.

Trinity-square, August 17th, 1872.