in which the same remedy was equally successful. Arsenic was most efficient in cases of atonic menorrhagia, but he had employed it with much benefit in cases of the acute form of the affection, after depletion had been resorted to. Respecting the use of arsenic in cases of cancer of the uterus, he had had a case some years since in which the pain was so excruciating as almost to set the influence of narcotics at defiance. As much as 24 grains of the acetate of morphia, in 24 hours, gave little relief. In a consultation with Sir B. Brodie, the use of arsenic was suggested, Sir A. Cooper having found it remarkably efficacious in a case of cancer of the womb. Small doses of the liquor arsenicalis, given repeatedly in the day, but never collectively, amounting to more than ten drops in the 24 hours, afforded the patient more relief than the dose of acetate of morphia just mentioned.

Dr. MERRIMAN could have wished that the cases of menorrhagia, related by Mr. Hunt, had been given more in detail. In only two instances had the author made an examination per vaginam, in consequence of which we were left in ignorance of the state of the uterus in the other cases. Menorrhagia might be the result of causes in no way implicating disease of the uterus itself; and he (Dr. M.) thought the author had not clearly made out, in all his cases, the proposition he wished to establish, that arsenic had a specific and local effect on the uterus. Regarding cancer of the uterus, we found, occasionally, that a remedy which was remarkably beneficial in one or two cases of the disease, failed when resorted to in other instances. About the time Mr. Carmichael published some observations on the effects of the preparations of steel in cancerous affections, he (Dr. M.) had under his care a severe case of cancer of the uterus. He gave the carbonate of iron internally, with the effect of considerably increasing the sufferings of the patient. An injection of a solution of sulphate of iron had, however, a remarkably soothing and beneficial effect. He had not found such benefit from the remedy in other cases of the disease, though occasionally it had afforded some relief.

Dr. LEONARD STEWART believed that the curative effect of the arsenic in Mr. Hunt's cases depended on its specific and local action on the uterus. Many cases were on record which proved that arsenic acted on the genital organs specifically.

Dr. Locock considered that in many cases the arsenic acted merely as a tonic, but he believed more as a local than a general one. He was quite aware that many cases of menorrhagia depended on causes which did not in any way implicate the uterus. He had seen many cases of menorrhagia from local debility, as after frequent miscarriages, or frequent parturitions. In this

kind of cases the use of the arsenic was generally most successful. The cases of menorrhagia related by Mr. Hunt were of the atonic kind. In the other cases related by that gentleman the arsenic was employed to relieve the pain which followed inflammation of the uterus. It was not generally necessary in cases of menorrhagia in young women to examine the uterus. He (Dr. L.) did not understand the nature of Dr. Merri- man's objections to Mr. Hunt's cases. Mr. Hunt was a sound practitioner, and would not employ a remedy like arsenic without a full inquiry into the history of the case. He (Dr. L.) had employed arsenic in small doses, in a case of dysmenorrhoea occurring in a hysterical patient. Both the hysteria and painful menstruation were materially relieved. In that case he believed the arsenic acted on the uterus itself.

Dr. MERRIMAN did not deny that the arsenic in Mr. Hunt's cases had produced great benefit; but he thought no evidence had been adduced to show that the uterus itself in these cases was affected, to support Mr. Hunt's proposition, that arsenic acted locally and specifically on the womb in the process of cure.

Dr. BURNE said, that disordered function of the uterus was often the result of disorder of the functions in general; let these functions be restored, and the uterus generally would be set right. All the viscera of the pelvis were affected by sympathy with one another; thus we had dysuria in stricture of the rectum, &c. There were cases, however, in which the function of the uterus was not properly performed, when the other functions of the body were set right; and he thought these were cases in which medicines having a special and direct action on the uterus were most successful. He had employed ergot of rye in very many cases of menorrhagia with success, and also in those cases of constant discharge of blood from the uterus after abortion. The ergot of rye, either in decoction, infusion, or powder, he had found of great benefit. In cases of painful menstruation, he had found quarter of a grain doses of extract of belladonna of great service, and of more effect in relieving the pain than opium.

ACCOUNT OF A CASE IN WHICH THE ENTIRE LOWER JAW WAS REMOVED ON ACCOUNT OF DISEASE.

By JOHN G. PERRY, Esq., Surgeon of the Foundling Hospital.

The case here related occurred in the St. Marylebone Infirmary, during the last year, in a young woman of a scrofulous habit, aged 20 years. According to the history given by the patient of the progress of the disease, as well as from the anomalous position of some of the teeth, it appeared pro-

bable that it had been of very long duration, and that the commencement of diseased action was, at least, coeval with the period of the permanent dentition. From the appearance of the bone (which was exhibited to the Society) there could be, as the author conceived, no doubt that the disease by which it had been destroyed was necrosis, or that it had up to a certain period undergone the natural process of cure, since the entire bone was enclosed, even to the condyles, alveoli, and coronoid processes, with a case of new osseous matter. This reparative process had, however, been interrupted by the separation of the periosteum from the new deposit in consequence of extensive disease of that membrane and suppuration within it. Thus the new bone also perished, and the process of reparation became arrested. The author removed the bone without difficulty, by dividing it into three portions, and the wound healed kindly. Care was taken to leave as many as possible of the teeth suspended in the gum, in the hope that a sufficient degree of solidity would be acquired in the process of healing to render them serviceable. The patient is now, nine months after the operation, quite well, with the exception of an inconsiderable sinus, which discharges in a trifling degree, and has the power of masticating solid food with surprising facility, when it is considered that the process is chiefly performed between the tongue and the upper teeth. There is no reproduction of bone, but the patient can bite with considerable firmness, and the form of the countenance is less altered than might be expected after the removal of so large a portion of its solid basis.

DUBLIN APOTHECARIES' HALL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—As Secretary to the Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Hall here, I beg to correct a misstatement which appeared in the last Number of *THE LANCET*. In alluding to the discrepancies which prevail among the different examining boards, it was advanced, that whilst the London Court of Apothecaries' Hall extended the examination to every department of medical science, the Dublin Court restricted it to mere pharmacy, and that the licentiate of the latter corresponded with "the Continental pharmacien, or with the chemist who has been examined and licensed."

So far, Sir, from this statement being correct, the Dublin Court also requires from its candidates certificates of attendance on each branch of medical knowledge, and always conducts its examination in reference to subjects of general practice, the licentiate

apothecary being here, as in England, the only general practitioner.

Your giving insertion to the above will oblige, your obedient servant,

C. H. LEET, M.D., Sec.
Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland, Dublin.

March 20th, 1838.

DESERTION OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—I doubt not that when the attention of the ruling authorities is directed to the following, the grievance will be instantly redressed:—

Last month, business calling me to London, and having a great desire to see the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, I intended to pay it a visit, and accordingly went to the College, but on entering the hall I found it vacant; I wandered about the building for some time, being unable to find the museum, or any person to direct me towards it; and after waiting for some time I was, to my great chagrin, obliged to return without having fulfilled my object. Now, if it had only happened on this one occasion that there was no one present in the Hall, to show to members that attention which they have a right to expect, I should not trouble you with this letter, but, on consulting my medical friends, I find that it is a very usual circumstance. I certainly should think that gentlemen who contribute so materially as the members do to the funds of the College, ought to meet with more respect in their visits to that establishment. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE.

The Works of John Hunter, F.R.S., with Notes. Edited by JAMES F. PALMER, in 4 vols. 8vo., with a vol. of Plates in 4to.

THIS valuable work is now completed, and in a manner which does credit to the editor, who has not only kept his promises to the public, but considerably exceeded them, as well in the extent of new matter added to the text, as in the length and value of the notes and illustrations. Having in a former number made some observations on the first volume, and on the general objects of the editor, we shall not repeat, on this occasion, what we then said. We have no hesitation in affirming, that most of the great modern improvements of surgery are mainly traceable to Hunter, whose works, like those of a kindred genius—Bacon—abound in luminous hints, which only require development to constitute them real improve-