

may probably be attended with effectual relief of the most distressing symptoms, and is not obnoxious to any risks, which all things considered it would be unwise to incur.

(Signed) JAMES BLUNDELL, M.D.

Bath, August 8th, 1827."

THIS sanctioned, on Wednesday the 15th inst. I performed the operation, in presence of my friend, John Smith Soden, of the Bath United Hospital. The instruments employed on the occasion were,—Weiss's speculum vaginæ (which, by the way, every surgeon ought to possess); a pair of forceps, constructed for the operation after a model of my own; and a pair of strong curved scissars: this last I was induced to adopt in preference to the curved bistoury of Lisfranc, in consequence of the extreme difficulty experienced in drawing down the uterus. Mr. Turley reports, that in Lisfranc's cases, the os uteri was drawn down below the meatus externus; in the present instance it was impracticable, without using greater violence than would have been compatible with the safety of the patient, to seduce the os uteri nearer to the meatus than about an inch. Having, after repeated attempts, satisfactorily demonstrated this, the speculum was again introduced, the os tinæ cautiously but firmly grasped with the forceps, and drawn down to the extent before mentioned, Mr. Soden taking charge of the speculum and permitting it to retire, as the uterus advanced, without withdrawing it entirely; by this contrivance the external parts were kept dilated, and an uninterrupted view of the os uteri maintained. I then withdrew my right hand from the forceps, and carefully retaining the hold I had obtained with my left, introduced a pair of curved scissars, and readily excised the cervix uteri to the extent of at least half an inch. The hæmorrhage that ensued was trifling, and my patient has enjoyed a comparative immunity from pain to the present moment.

In my next communication I shall report the progress of the case, and offer a few remarks in reply to the strictures of Mr. C. Bell on Lisfranc's operation.

ABSTRACTION OF A GALLON OF BLOOD IN THE SHORT SPACE OF TWELVE HOURS.

By GEORGE TAYLOR, M.D. *Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.*

THE following case is reported for the purpose of showing, that under particular circumstances an immense quantity of blood may be safely and advantageously abstracted.

Goodeve, a strong muscular man, came to my house, and requested the assistant to bleed him for the relief of an oppression in his breathing, to which he had been occa-

sionally subject. Two pints of blood were taken! He soon returned to complain that his arm was painful and disposed to swell, when the bandage was removed, and a purgative administered. He returned home and threw himself upon the bed; but the swelling and pain increasing, he again came to my house, when I saw him; the arm was enlarged, painful, and hot. I ordered him thirty leeches, and desired, upon their falling off, that the whole arm might be enveloped by a cold poultice; gave him hyd. submur. gr. xii.; opii gr. iss.; ant. tart. gr. j.; a purgative mixture, and ordered him to bed. At night I was summoned in great haste; I found him writhing about in the most intolerable agony, his pulse too quick to be counted, his tongue dry and brown, and the arm enlarged to thrice its natural size, the swelling extending from the puncture in the vein to the scapula on the one side, and to the clavicle on the other, the whole surface looking polished, and in some spots black.

Under these desperate circumstances, I thought myself justified in bleeding him largely; I therefore tied up the left arm, and took away as much blood as was required to produce fainting, by which he was completely relieved; on the following morning the arm was greatly reduced in size, free from pain, and altogether in so very satisfactory a state, that in a few days he was enabled to leave his room.

Upon measuring, I found that I had taken away six pints, which, with the two abstracted by the assistant, furnished the startling quantity of "one gallon of blood within twelve hours," and I have no doubt that it saved his life.

Kingston-upon-Thames, Aug. 5, 1827.

FACULTY OF PHYSIC.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In my reply to Mr. Simpson's second letter I hope to be brief, it needing but little argument to refute loose reasoning and expose disingenuous animadversion.

Mr. Simpson arraigned at the bar of public opinion the Faculty of Physic, on charges of selfishness, and of direct hostility to the General Practitioners. I denied the justice of the accusation, and in the absence of all proof of the offences alleged, I, with dispositions not unkind, regarded Mr. Simpson's attack as the hasty expression of excited feeling. This courtesy Mr. Simpson formally rejects; I leave him then to enjoy all the honour which can attach to wilful and premeditated aggression.

He repeats the charges, and adduces his proofs, which it is my present purpose to examine. But first I must solicit your readers' attention to a distinction which Mr.