

the nurse the nature of the operation of ovariectomy, and became so alarmed as to leave the hospital and return to Twickenham. The increase of the fluid within the cyst was rapid; and the pain becoming intense, and having sleepless nights, she again underwent the operation of paracentesis a month after the first temporary relief. I drew off about eight quarts of dark-coloured, slimy fluid. This was effected without much suffering, and I left her in comparative comfort, but was summoned hastily an hour afterwards by her husband, who stated that she was bleeding. I went at once, and, assisted by my son, Mr. Campbell Litchfield, we succeeded in arresting the hæmorrhage (arterial) by means of moistened matico and slight pressure with pledgets of lint over the opening. No further difficulty happened, and in a few days she was about as usual.

A fortnight afterwards the cyst again filled rapidly, and the pain became intense. I felt assured that the only chance she had was to have it removed as soon as possible. She refused to go into the hospital, and said that whatever was done should be performed at home. I wrote to Mr. Thomas Wakley, who kindly called upon me. I stated to him the nature of the mischief. He gave but an unfavourable opinion, and strongly dissuaded my son from attempting it, in which advice I coincided. Mr. Wakley offered to come down to me; but in the meantime the nature of the case had become known. Our worthy curate, Mr. Coulson, mentioned it to his brother, Mr. Walter Coulson, who, in an interview with me, said he would come down and perform the operation. He did come down, and on Tuesday, the 4th of March, in my presence, and in the presence of Dr. Broadbent, Mr. Brookes (of St. Mary's Hospital), and my sons (Mr. Campbell and Mr. Randolph Litchfield), all of whom rendered aid, ovariectomy was performed by Mr. Walter Coulson, jun. The operation presented many difficulties, from the large size of the cyst, and from its adhering to the right lobe of the liver. However, by care and considerable skill, the cyst was detached by Mr. Coulson, and I was surprised at its size and weight as I held it in my hands while the ligature was applied to the pedicle. The wound was rapidly closed, and, as soon as could be, she was removed into bed. For some time we thought she would sink from the shock. She rallied, however, and twenty minims of Battley's solution, in some brandy, was given, and an opium suppository used.

On the third day sickness came on of dark-green biliary matter, and it became necessary to give nutrition alone by enemata of beef-tea and brandy, to counteract if possible the exhaustion and inability of the stomach to retain food. Champagne was grateful, and for a time rendered service; but occasionally beef-tea mixed with brandy was given in small quantity every second hour or less, and to some extent exerted influence. However, the exhaustion was great and the pulse feeble. The bladder performed its functions readily, but the bowels were inert until the day before her death, which happened on the 12th of March, eight days after the operation. Some hours before, the bowels acted, and beef-tea and brandy well retained; but little advantage accrued, as the stomach had lost power and no nutritious matter was taken up. During the whole period after the operation she was thoroughly self possessed; the wound was almost closed and all the stitches removed, leaving the ligature alone round the pedicle. She suffered at times great pain at the fundament, but which was relieved by opiate suppositories and warm napkins renewed. There were no symptoms of peritoneal inflammation, and she died from exhaustion.

A word or two as to chloroform, without which so formidable an operation could never be performed with any safety. Talk about monuments indeed!—what monument can swell out the wonderful discovery of this potent agent, which extends its influence over the sentient nervous system, and rescues the patient from the pangs of severe operations? The love of science frequently pulls down the mind of the student of nature, who too often wants creature comforts during its pursuit. He sinks down exhausted, and his valuable aid to his fellow-men is too often forgotten in this money-loving country, where wealth is more considered than mental power. It has some reward still: the intellect which discovers such human aid in agony is appreciated by a Higher Power than man's, and by His agency alone can it be brought to perfection.

I cannot conclude this letter without thanking Mr. Coulson jun. and his friend Dr. Broadbent for their great attention and kindness to my patient. It was unwearied and gratuitous, therefore the more thankfully received by her.

"A prophet has little honour in his own country," it is said; but I had forebodings that the result would be fatal. I hope,

however, that no negligence or want of subsequent skill or attention can be placed to my charge.

Mr. Coulson kindly sent down a trained nurse, and her services were invaluable. She has an amount of nerve and steadiness few nurses I have met with have. I had never seen her before, and possibly may never meet her again. I can only say that, if any of my professional brethren should require so valuable a help, her name is Hickling, and that she resides at 52, Star-street, Norfolk-square, Hyde-park.

The cyst, opened, contained twenty-four pints, by measure, of dark-coloured glutinous fluid, and the tumour weighed more than ten pounds. From the commencement to the termination of this terrible disease not more than six months elapsed.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

THOMAS LITCHFIELD, M.R.C.S.

Augusta Villa, Twickenham, April, 1862.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg leave to inform you, that the Directors of the Equitable Society have resolved that a fee of £1 1s. shall be paid for every medical certificate required in reference to the proposals of parties in future proposing to assure their lives in this office. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ARTHUR MORGAN, Actuary.

Equitable Assurance Office, April, 1862.

VACCINATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—“Do you vaccinate gratis?” is a very common question put to all general practitioners in towns, and the greater number of the most respectable reply, “No.” But if a medical man is practising amongst the middle and lower classes, he will find it necessary (under the present condition of the profession) for him to say, “Yes, I vaccinate gratis all those infants I have assisted in bringing into the world.” And the reasons are obvious. Firstly, the mother can get her child vaccinated free by either a medical man who keeps a shop, and fills his window with placards, or through the district vaccinator, who receives remuneration independent of the parents; and secondly, there is always an attempt on the part of those who publicly profess to vaccinate gratis to deprive the surgeon of his patient. Introduction and a little tact are all that is required for getting up a practice in large towns, and in self defence any surgeon is obliged to vaccinate free, and at an early period, to prevent his patient, on the one hand, from being “hunted up” by the district vaccinator, operated on and dosed with powders, or from being subjected to the self-interested advice and physic of a medicine vendor. For these reasons, in the Midland Counties it is the custom to make no charge for vaccination to the operative, but of course every medical man reserves to himself the right of charging from 2s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. for vaccinating children amongst the poorer classes.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Kentish-town, March, 1862.

WM. D. SLYMAN, M.R.C.S.

THE ORPHAN CHILDREN OF THE LATE DR. JONES, OF DEPTFORD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me to hand a further list of contributions in aid of the orphan children of the late Dr. and Mrs. Jones, of Deptford.

Through the Rev. B. S. FINCH, Rector of St. Paul's, Deptford.

Dr. Hawkins	£5	0	0
C. Bell, Esq.	5	0	0
W. Lawrence, Esq.	2	0	0
Mrs. Kane	2	0	0
M. G.	0	10	0
Stamps	0	2	6

Through THE LANCET Office.

Prescott Hewett, Esq.	5	5	0
J. C. Clendon, Esq.	2	2	0
F. H. Reynell, Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs. Buck	1	1	0
A Lady	1	0	0
Mr. Bishop	1	0	0
9 B. S. B. C.'s	0	9	0
Mr. F. Moore	0	5	0