their endeavours to advance the student. Opportunity would also be afforded of witnessing the practice and hearing the opinions current in various schools, and of avoiding the risks of exclusive attachment to those of any school in particular.

Such are the reflections which the text supplied by Mr. Churchill has called forth.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

August, 1860.

SENEX.

TREATMENT OF RETAINED PLACENTA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following case, as illustrating Mr. Pemberton's evidence upon "Extensive Laceration of the Uterus and Vagina between the Fourth and Fifth Months of Pregnancy," especially the fourth point—namely, "that any such introduction of the hand into the uterus at that period of gestation (the fourth and fifth month) was uncalled for and improper," is at your service:—

Late in the night of May 17th, 1860, I received a message that D. C—, a farmer's wife, four months and a half advanced in her third pregnancy, was suffering pains and some amount of hæmorrhage. Not considering it necessary to visit her from the nature of the message, I prescribed a mixture of infusion of roses, with additional sulphuric acid (diluted) and laudanum, enjoining strict rest in the recumbent posture, and visited her in the morning early, when I found the hæmorrhage and pains had ceased. This state of things continued until Sunday afternoon, May 20th, when she got up and came down stairs. The result was a return of pains and flooding, which continued with more or less severity until the following day. At thirty-five minutes past eleven A.M. I delivered her of a living fœtus, about nine inches long, whose heart continued to pulsate for nearly three hours after birth. I passed my finger by the side of the funis, and found the os uteri rigid, thick, and unyielding, and was unable to touch the insertion of the cord without using more force than I thought desirable. I waited some time, and, finding neither pains nor hæmorrhage, left her, with directions that I was to be summoned if flooding occurred. I watched her carefully; no untoward symptom presented, and on the 24th, the third day after the expulsion of the fœtus, the placenta was expelled during defecation after the action of a dose of castor oil. This was attended by the expulsion of a few ounces of blood, and the patient made a most satisfactory recovery.

In this case I acted upon the advice of Dr. Blundell, than whom a more sagacious accoucheur never lived, who says: "If the placenta be retained, and the hand cannot be carried up so high as to command the placenta, *without the risk of bruising or lacerating*, leave it in the uterus; not because it is *not* an evil to leave it there, but because to leave it in the uterus is a smaller evil than to abstract it with violence, and we had better abide by the smaller evil than expose ourselves to the greater evil of lacerating, bruising, or killing." (See Blundell's Midwifery, edited by Dr. Severn, p. 407.)

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Potter Newton, near Leeds, Aug. 1860. J. B. CARTER, M.R.C.S.

SUCCESS OF THE MARSHALL HALL METHOD IN A CASE OF HANGING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following case may, perhaps, be interesting to your readers as exemplifying the benefits of Marshall Hall's treatment in suspended animation:—

On Thursday, the 2nd inst., I was hastily summoned to a case of hanging in the County Gaol, at four A.M. I found the man lying upon a swing cot, with scarcely a particle of life left in him; his eyes were fixed and motionless, insensible to the touch; the respiration was scarcely perceptible; and the heart's action appeared confused and wavering. The left side of the body appeared paralysed; the arm and leg were inflexible and stiff; whilst, on the right side, the muscles were twitching and contracting, as if in death. The persons about all thought the case hopeless; and so did I. However, plenty of assistance being at hand, I wiped out the mouth, which was filled with bloody, frothy saliva, pressed down the tongue, and commenced rolling the patient from side to side most vigorously. For a long time not the slightest improvement took place. Now and then a grasp, as at first; then hope seemed to vanish. I put a lancet into his arm, and managed to get a little blood, dark, thick, and grumous; never allowing the body to rest, except for a moment, when the coma seemed to get more intense, and the muscular contraction more severe.

For two hours I plied my calling, ably assisted, I must say, and at last I had the satisfaction of seeing the patient evince a movement in the upper lid of the unparalysed side. Friction about the neck where the ligature had made a deep indentation, and also about the region of the heart, continued rotation in blankets, with now and then the inhalation of ammonia and ether, brought the patient round at eight A.M. During recovery, convulsions the most intense set in, and threatened to destroy life, after the comatose symptoms had begun to disappear. The result proved ultimately successful; and in the course of the day he walked from the cell to the infirmary, and partook of a broth meal.

This man was a most determined fellow. He had threatened over and over again to commit suicide, and two men slept in the cell with him to prevent the attempt. He however, at early dawn, got on a stool, as if looking at the morning sun. The other prisoners saw him get up, but never suspected he had a handkerchief tied fast round his neck, which he hooked on to the window fastener. When one of the prisoners awoke, he saw the dark features of the man and the ligature, and so frightened was he that he had to call the warders to cut him down.

The case subsequently proved most interesting, as illustrating the success of the Marshall Hall treatment when, as in this case, it was speedily and promptly administered.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Trinity-street, Southwark, Aug. 1860. ALFRED EBSWORTH, F.R.C.S.

THE GRAPE-CURE AT VEVEY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your remarks upon the above subject in last week's LANCET nothing is said of the injurious effect which the continued grape-eating exerts upon the teeth. I have seen the enamel of the front incisors very greatly corroded in a patient of my own, who had spent some time at Vevey. This must be a serious objection to the unlimited use of a fruit which, taken in moderation, is so abundantly wholesome.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Burton-on-Trent, Aug. 1860.

SPENCER THOMSON, M.D.

AN ACT TO AMEND THE MEDICAL ACT.

THE following Act of the Session relates chiefly to the Royal College of Physicians of London:—

Whereas by the Medical Act, 1858, (21 & 22 Vict., c. 90,) it is provided that it shall be lawful for her Majesty to grant to the Corporation of the Royal College of Physicians of London a new Charter, and thereby to give to such Corporation the name of "The Royal College of Physicians of England," and to grant to the Corporation of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh a new Charter, and thereby to give to the said College of Physicians the name of "The Royal College of Physicians of Scotland," and to grant to the Corporation of the King and Queen's College of Physicians in Ireland a new Charter, and thereby to give to such Corporation the name of "The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland;" but provision is not made by the said Act for reserving to the said Colleges, and the Presidents and Censors, Fellows, Members, Licentiates, and Extra-Licentiates thereof respectively, by their said new names, the powers, privileges, liberties, and immunities to which they are respectively entitled by their existing names, and doubts have arisen whether, in case of the acceptance by these Colleges respectively of new Charters under such altered names respectively, the said powers, privileges, liberties, and immunities would legally attach and be preserved to them, and it is expedient that such doubts should be removed: And whereas by an Act passed in the 14th and 15th years of the reign of King Henry VIII., (c. 5,) entitled, "The Privileges and Authorities of Physicians in London," certain letters patent, dated the 23rd day of September, in the 10th year of the reign of his said Majesty, whereby certain physicians in London, therein named, were incorporated by the name of "The President and College, or Commonalty, of the Faculty of Physic in London," were ratified and confirmed; and by the said Act it was enacted, that the six persons named in the said letters patent, and two more of the said Commonalty to be chosen by them, should be called Elects, and that the said Elects should yearly choose one of them to be President of the said Commonalty, and that as oft as any of the places of the said Elects should become void, the survivors should choose and admit one or more, as need should require, of the said Faculty, to supply the number of