not have signed the certificate. I have been in practice with large success for forty-two years. I was fully educated for the profession. My father was a professional man before me. The Act of Parliament for the registration of medical men—

Mr. Flowers, interrupting the defendant, suggested that it would be apart from the question to go into these matters now, as he had no power to deal with the case. It would be better to reserve these remarks for another tribunal.

The defendant said he meant merely to say that it was not compulsory on him, when he commenced practice, to be registered. He would throw himself on the mercy of the Court.

Mr. Poland.—No man is a legal practitioner unless his name appears on this Register.

Mr. Flowers.—It is my duty to send this case for trial, having no power to deal with it summarily. I do not consider it necessary to ask you to find bail if you have not friends in attendance. I shall be satisfied with your own personal recognisances in £100 to appear at the Central Criminal Court to answer this charge.

The defendant was then committed for trial.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

MR. PEMBERTON ON LITHOTOMY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Whether Mr. Teevan's remarks on median lithotomy are recorded at p. 237, vol. ii. of THE LANCET for 1870, or at p. 891, is a matter of little moment, so long as I have quoted the language correctly, as given in the abstract of the paper (which alone I read), and this is not disputed. I can only explain the fact of my missing the full paper, to which I should certainly have referred, by the circumstance that it was published in THE LANCET twelve months after the abstract had appeared—namely, December 23rd, 1871, p. 882. I have now read it, and I am obliged to Mr. Teevan for calling my attention to it. It will repay perusal at the hands of all practical surgeons, and I will at once say that I should not have used the term "reckless" to characterise the conclusions at which Mr. Teevan had arrived had I had the advantage of perusing it previously to reading my address. I would, however, have termed the conclusions "eminently dogmatic," and as being "deductions," to use Mr. Teevan's own terms, "drawn from experiments on the dead body." I yet believe that the neck of the living bladder in children and young adults admits of most free dilatation without any approach to laceration, and in this I must, for the present at any rate, differ from Mr. Teevan.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Birmingham, Sept. 4th, 1872.

OLIVER PEMBERTON.

WATKINS VERSUS MEERES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The recent trials for malpraxis are deeply interesting to all medical men, and the Watkins-Meeres case is especially so. Writing to Dr. Meeres to express my sympathy, I learnt in reply that his costs would be about £150. I am sure that many medical men will wish to help Dr. Meeres, and I shall be very glad to receive subscriptions on his behalf. Dr. Meeres is unknown personally to me.

In the Paris correspondence of THE LANCET, about three weeks ago, was a case similar to Dr. Meeres's, in which the plaster-of-Paris bandage was applied as the only apparatus which would keep the bones in place.

Cases of fracture of the neck of the femur have occurred in my practice, in which the shortening has not been at first apparent, but has been found some days later; and it seems likely that the case which has brought Mr. Buckley into trouble was of this kind.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,

CAREY P. COOMBS, M.D. Lond.

Castle Cary, 30th August, 1872.

THE ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Do not you think the medical officers serving at Malta should receive almost as much consideration as those on the West Coast of Africa? Only five of them have been invalidated this summer—Paynter, inspector-general; Bernard, surgeon-major R.M.F.A.; Williams, 28th Regiment; and Hoysted and Colahan, 52nd L.I.! A year's leave for every year's service should at least be given! Fever is very prevalent among all classes, and the executive officers who are obliged to do duty during the summer have no immunity. A large number have been invalidated, and two of the 18th have died.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

August, 1872.

A SUBALTERN DOCTOR.

Obituary.

M. LOUIS.

NOT France alone, but Europe, America, and the colonies, have sustained a severe loss in the death of this great physician, who, advanced in life as he was, yet contributed by his genius and the inspiration of his presence, to the furtherance of that medical knowledge of which he was so successful a pioneer. His writings, precious as they are, and monumental for their author, exercised an influence on his contemporaries even smaller than that of his clinical prælections. Year by year fresh bands of students came to imbibe from his lips the instruction which their grateful predecessors had abandoned with reluctance, till his academic progeny knew no distinction of race, rank, or even colour, but coalesced into a noble army of enthusiasts in the cause of medicine, of science, and of humanity.

Pierre Charles Alexander Louis was born at Ai, in the department of the Marne, in 1787. From early youth he manifested a strong determination to medical observation and research, while invigorating and refining his faculties by all the resources, classical, artistic, and social, at his command. Proceeding to Paris, he threw himself with ardour into the studies most congenial to him, and graduated with distinction as Doctor of Medicine in 1813. A short time thereafter he travelled through Russia, availing himself of every opportunity to extend and deepen his knowledge. On his return he settled in practice, and soon acquired a *clientèle* equally numerous and distinguished. In spite of the incessant calls upon his time, he entered *sans titre et sans fonctions* the hospital of the Charité, where for several years he made minute and comprehensive studies in diagnosis and pathology. In more than conformity with the Horatian doctrine to let nine years elapse before publication, he began independent authorship comparatively late in life. His first treatise was his "*Recherches Anatomico-Pathologiques sur la Phthisie*," which appeared in 1825 in one volume octavo. This was succeeded next year by his "*Mémoires sur la Muqueuse Membrane de l'Estomac, sur la Croupe, et sur l'Abscess du Foie*," also in octavo. A second edition of this valuable work was called for in 1843. The reputation won for M. Louis by these books also secured him the honour of being chosen a member of the Academy of Medicine. By this time the esteem in which he stood among his contemporaries was established. No better auxiliary had reinforced the ranks of that school in which Bayle and Laennec were masters. Engagements official as well as private poured in upon him with a celerity to which he vainly endeavoured to respond. Among the former, however, he found time to co-operate with his friends MM. Chervin and Trousseau in the commission of inquiry appointed to investigate the genesis, course, and pathological issue of yellow fever at Gibraltar. His share in this enterprise was embodied in two octavo volumes of "*Documens*," published in 1832. In these he was claimed as one of themselves by the partisans of the contagious view of that malady. The year before (1831) he had applied, but without success, for the chair of Clinique Interne