much amended, the disease being confined to this red spot, which has ceased discharging. The fissure which engulfed the nipple is obliterated, and the nipple stands much more prominent.

In conclusion, permit me to remark that in this case the sulphate of zinc has exerted a very beneficial influence over the cancerous diathesis. Whether it would be found generally to possess this power I cannot say; I should, however, question it, from the knowledge that steel medicines will work wondrous changes in some, while in others, under apparently the same circumstances, they will produce the greatest discomfort. Be this as it may, the subject is a very important one, and well worthy of serious reflection.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY GEORGE, M.R.C.S.

Horton Villas, Kensington, Feb. 1862.

THE SURGEONS AT NEW HARTLEY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—After the magnanimous offer of Dr. Kennion, of Harrogate, to commence a subscription with the view of presenting the surgeons who attended while the operations were being carried on at New Hartley with something to mark the approbation and esteem of the medical profession, I think the subject ought to be kept in agitation in your columns. All who witnessed, as I did, the earnest, unflinching attention of Messrs. Davison and M'Alister, and other humane surgeons who stood on the pit-heap—some of them ready and willing to go down into the workings—during those terrible eight days of agonizing suspense, will heartily approve of, and give their support to, the movement.

As the names of *all* the medical gentlemen have not hitherto come before the public, I take the liberty of giving you a list of those who attended from first to last:—Messrs. A. Davison, Seaton Delaval; J. M'Alister, Dudley Colliery; E. Ward, Blyth; T. Nichol, Bebside; J. Lambert, Seaton Delaval; — Waddle, Seaton Delaval; H. D. Ward, jun., Blyth; — Ambrose, Yacht, *E. deavour*. Nearly the whole of them expressed their willingness to descend the shaft if their services were required.

A gold medal, with a suitable inscription, would be an appropriate testimonial; and trusting you will continue to give the subject your powerful advocacy,

I am, Sir, yours truly,

West Cramlington, Feb. 1862.

OBSERVER.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As there are still a few, though happily very few, life insurance offices which refuse to pay the medical referee, the battle is not yet quite won. The following fact, for the correctness of which I can vouch, may assist the directors to overcome their conscientious scruples in this matter:—

A life office which for years most obstinately refused to do justice to our profession has for the last five years, seeing the error of its ways, paid to its medical referees £400 in fees, and has thereby saved £6000 to the society, through the faithful report of those medical referees on pathological facts which the medical examiners for the office did not and could not discover.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

St. Helen's-place, Feb. 1862.

SAMUEL SOLLY, F.R.S.

OPERATION FOR NÆVUS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A few weeks since, I read in THE LANCET an interesting operation for the radical cure of nævus, as performed by Mr. Gay, of the Great Northern Hospital. Since then I have had a similar case come under my notice, and I determined to follow his plan for its removal. Similar to Mr. Gay's case, it was situate in the forehead of a child aged two years and a half, and was about the size of a pea. Two needles were passed through the base of the nævus, and an elliptical incision made in the direction of the corrugator muscle; the tumour was then removed, and the edges quickly drawn together by means of ligatures. The hæmorrhage was very profuse for the moment, but, as Mr. Gay remarks, it is soon arrested by means of the junction of the edges of the wound.

I much prefer making the incision in a transverse rather than

in a vertical direction, in consequence of having the assistance of the corrugator palpebrarum muscle. If, however, the long axis of the nævus should extend vertically, the incision would of course follow the same direction. One objection to the needles is, in my opinion, their tendency to ulcerate through the skin from the tight interlacing of the silk. I should imagine that the divided edges of the wound would be as effectually brought together by means of small steel or silver bars, placed horizontally along the margin of each lip of the wound, and firmly drawn together by means of a double silk suture.

In this case I have every reason to be well satisfied with the operation, and I do not think there will be the slightest scar.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ROBERT TASSELL, M.R.C.S.E.

St. Margaret's, Canterbury Feb. 1862.

INFLUENCE OF RAILWAY TRAVELLING ON PUBLIC HEALTH.

MORBID EFFECTS OF RAILWAY TRAVELLING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As regards the effects of railway travelling upon hæmorrhoids, I have observed that those already affected with them have had them greatly aggravated; and in many instances which I have seen they have been produced by a series of prolonged railway journeys. The presence of an over-distended bladder and loaded rectum also tend to produce this condition of the hæmorrhoidal veins. They act locally by interfering with and impeding the circulation; encroach and press upon the venous channels, and this mechanical obstruction tends to produce or aggravate hæmorrhoids. Again, the resistant efforts (when the calls for defecation and micturition are urgent) leading to enforced and spasmodic contraction of the sphincters will materially aggravate already existing piles, because the sphincter ani will play the part of a ligature around any piles already extruded. I have seen adults whose bladders have been so distended that paralysis has been established to some extent, so that when the chance for micturition has arrived (by leaving the carriage) they have been unable to empty the bladder on the first trial, and the muscles have required an indulgence of a minute, or perhaps more, before their contractile efforts could be brought to bear. I have traced incontinence of urine to an over-distended bladder, in children; and convulsions, also in my young patients, from a loaded state of the bowels.

After the immediate effects of prolonged railway travelling upon nervous persons have passed away, I have noticed that a second series of symptoms occasionally manifest themselves. For days afterwards, tinnitus aurium, headache, and vertigo may persist, whilst awake; and the moment such subjects lose their consciousness in sleep, they go over all the incidents of their journey again. They feel the oscillatory undulating motion; they shudder as they fly past a bridge, meet a train, or enter a cutting; they shiver through a tunnel; and awake (with a start, scream, and palpitations) at the fancied shriek of the whistle. Persons travelling at night through the iron and coal countries, where all around lies in the lurid glare of kilns, forges, and furnaces, and the figures of the workmen are seen distorted and moving to and fro (presenting a picture of what one may suppose aptly to resemble the ancient domains of Pluto and the infernal regions),—persons travelling in such districts may undergo a shock to the nervous system which it will require weeks to remedy. From my observations, made when superintendent to a large lunatic asylum, I consider that such shocks are very detrimental to a constitutionally weak person, and that their frequent occurrence in a subject of low mental power would materially assist in aggravating any tendency to mental disease.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Bromyard, Feb. 1862.

RICHARD MARLEY, M.R.C.S.

EFFECTS UPON ENGINE-DRIVERS AND GUARDS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In connexion with the subject of the Influence of Railway Travelling upon Health, there are a few facts which came under my own observation during the fourteen years I was surgeon to the railway works at Wolverton.

With regard to engine drivers and firemen, they are subject to severe attacks of rheumatism,—frequently acute inflammatory rheumatism, which is very like inflammatory gout. Should any of them have disease of the lungs, it is sure to become de-

veloped very soon; consequently many have died of consumption. Pneumonia and bronchitis are frequently contracted, and the expectoration is generally melanosed and very bad, from the particles of coke dust they constantly inhale. I used to recommend strongly the use of flannel clothing next the skin, and in many instances the men have thanked me for my suggestion. From the alternations of heat and cold to which they are subject, I consider them much more liable than any other class of men to contract the diseases before mentioned. If they drink much beer and spirits they cannot last long. They are generally too many hours on their engines at one time; and, altogether, I think their lives are in most cases very much shortened.

With respect to guards on the line, they are, as a body, well-conducted, healthy men, and are not so exposed to the weather as engine drivers and firemen; but of course there are exceptions in both cases. There are a few old drivers I know who have always been steady men, and who, having got used to the changes, seem never to have anything the matter with them.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
Winslow, Bucks, Jan. 1862. WILLIAM A. ROGERS, M.R.C.S.

ABORTION RESULTING FROM RAILWAY TRAVELLING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following case is, I think, interesting as showing the susceptibility of some constitutions more than others to the injurious influences of railway travelling:—

A lady of rank, twenty-three years of age, of a highly nervous and excitable temperament, travelled to London by rail, a distance of some two hundred miles. She felt labour pains coming on about an hour after she had started; they increased in severity from the moment of their commencement, and within one hour after her arrival in town, an ovum of between three and four months was expelled. She made a good recovery, and as this accident lost her a son and heir, she naturally enough resolved not to attempt long railway journeys for the future when *enceinte*.

In the course of two years after this mishap, she again became pregnant, and studiously avoided all railway travelling occupying more than one hour; but when within a month or six weeks of her full time, she was obliged to leave London for the country, a distance a little over one hundred miles, by rail. She had not travelled half an hour before labour began, and with such power and rapidity that the liquor amnii escaped; and it seemed inevitable that she must be delivered in the carriage, which event, however, fortunately did not occur, but took place immediately on her reaching her destination.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
Green-street, Grosvenor-square, Feb. 1862. GUSTAVUS MURRAY, M.D.

THE PRODUCTION OF NAUSEA AND SICKNESS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My experience as to the influence of railway travelling on health does not afford many decisive examples. I have, however, known ladies frequently to complain of the motion producing precisely the same nausea and eventual sickness which so many experience on a sea voyage. I have now a lady under my care who suffers dreadfully whenever she travels by rail to Brighton. I read the commissioners' report weekly, and that with much satisfaction.

I remain, Sir, yours respectfully,
West Brompton, Feb. 1862. FRANCIS GODRICH, M.R.C.S.

EFFECTS OF RAILWAY TRAVELLING UPON THE URINARY ORGANS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to forward you the following two cases which came under my notice, showing the injurious effects of railway travelling upon the urinary organs:—

An elderly gentleman, who resides in the Isle of Wight, and who has been the subject of stricture of the urethra for several years, and has latterly been suffering in addition from subacute inflammation of the bladder and prostate gland, came to me about nine months since, and placed himself under treatment. He came to town at short intervals, and after each journey complained of great annoyance from an aggravation of his more urgent symptoms. Upon close investigation it could be clearly traced to the modes of conveyance: he was obliged to

have three—namely, a carriage to the pier, the steam-vessel to cross, and the rail to town. His several miles' drive to the pier and crossing produced no inconvenience; but he had not performed half his journey to town before he was overtaken with an almost insurmountable desire to pass urine, with all the accompanying pains and penalties, which increased as he progressed. He continued to suffer more or less each visit, and only lost the annoyance with the cure of his disease.

The other case was that of a gentleman farmer from the further end of Berkshire. He has been suffering from stricture for the last ten years, and has, to use his own words, "travelled almost all over the world." He very seldom rides on horse-back, but walks many miles daily, being fond of field sports, and frequently uses carriage exercise, from neither of which does he experience any sort of annoyance; but his journey to town, made by express train, very soon painfully reminds him of his mode of transit by producing very great irritation in the urinary organs; indeed, he occasionally suffers so much, that he is obliged to have recourse to the warm bath before he can submit to the necessary treatment.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
St. Thomas's-street, Feb. 1862. SAM. J. BAYFIELD, M.R.C.S.

SYMPTOMS OF SPINAL MENINGITIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I think the following will be deemed of sufficient interest to the profession for insertion in your journal, showing, as it does, the serious results which sometimes follow a most trivial injury, and the difficulty of giving a proper prognosis immediately after an accident:—

George B—, aged four years, a fine, stout, healthy boy, was returning from the chapel attached to the workhouse, on Wednesday, the 12th instant, when a playmate, aged six years, kicked him (as was stated) in the loins. He cried at the time, but afterwards walked into the school-room. For the next few days he appeared rather feverish, but nothing occurred to induce the nurse to call my attention to the child until the Sunday following. I then found him hot, feverish, and restless, but sensible, moaning slightly, with an indisposition to move his extremities. I ordered him to the infirmary, and prescribed a saline and diaphoretic mixture, together with a purgative of calomel and jalap, with a hot bath. In the evening of the same day he was reported a little better, but afterwards passed a restless night; and, on the following morning, I found that the mischief was extending upwards, for the breathing became laboured, with great tenderness over the dorsal region. Leeches were then applied to the spine, the powder and bath repeated, his diet consisting of beef tea, milk, &c.; but the extension of the paralysis was hourly perceptible. In the afternoon, the arms became powerless, the breathing shorter, and twitching of the lips had commenced. The powder had operated and urine had passed. At seven P.M. convulsions commenced, which continued until five A.M., when death ensued.

On the Friday following an inquest was held. Without having made a post-mortem examination, I gave it as my opinion that death had resulted from injury to the spine. The jury returned a verdict—Homicide by misadventure. Feeling the seriousness of such a charge, I have since made a post-mortem examination, and found no external marks of violence. All the internal organs were healthy; the brain firm, but congested—the congestion greater towards the pons Varolii; and strong evidence of spinal meningitis, continuing downwards to the first lumbar vertebra, below which there was apparently freedom from disease.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

EDMUND ROBINSON, M.R.C.S.,
Birmingham Workhouse, Feb. 1862. Resident-Surgeon.

PARISIAN MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

THE Central Society of the General Medical Association has, through its working Committee, recently made a statement of accounts; the "Compte Rendu" comprises an announcement of the receipts and expenditure for 1861, as well as of the actual financial position. This Society, still in its infancy, will only in the ensuing month of April complete its third year of existence, and not until the expiration of the triennial period do the functions of the relieving Committee come into operation. The capital is a very small one to begin with, only 14,264 f.