68th Sample.

Purchased at the shop of—Mr. Elliott, 15, Great Howard-st.
More than *one-third* CHICORY.

69th Sample.

Purchased at the shop of—Messrs. Pugh and Co., 103, Park-lane.
About *one-fourth* CHICORY.

70th Sample.

Purchased at the shop of—Messrs. Twinem and Co., 133, Park-lane.
Fully *one-third* CHICORY.

71st Sample.

Purchased at the shop of—Messrs. J. M'Grew and Co., 3, St. James's-street.
Contains only a *small quantity* of CHICORY.

(To be concluded.)

Obituary.

SIR CHARLES MANSFIELD CLARKE, BART., M.D.

THE following correct biography of the late Sir C. M. Clarke appeared in *The Times* of Thursday last:—

Death has recently carried off one of the most distinguished ornaments of the medical profession, in the person of Sir Charles Clarke, who died on Monday, the 7th inst., at his residence on the Marine Parade, Brighton, in his 76th year, after a lingering illness of nearly two years' duration.

Charles Mansfield Clarke, the younger son of the late Mr. John Clarke, surgeon, of Chancery-lane, by a daughter of Mr. William Mansfield, of Thrapstone, Northamptonshire, was born in London, May 28th, 1782, and received the rudiments of his classical education at St. Paul's School, where he was the schoolfellow and, we believe, the playmate and form-fellow of the late Lord Chancellor Truro and the present Chief Baron Pollock. His father's example led him, at an early age, to turn his attention to medical studies; and accordingly, instead of passing to one of the Universities, he attended St. George's Hospital, and the lectures on anatomy delivered at the Hunterian School by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Thomas, and those on midwifery by his elder brother, the late Dr. John Clarke, who for many years enjoyed a most extensive practice in that particular branch of the profession in which his younger brother was destined to become so distinguished.

Having finished his preliminary studies, Charles Clarke was admitted a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and spent the first two years of his professional life as assistant-surgeon in the Hertfordshire Militia, which he subsequently exchanged for the post of surgeon in the 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards. Of this part of his early career he always felt proud, and frequently in his later years it was his lot to return thanks on public occasions at once for the military and the medical profession. Subsequently, however, he was induced by his elder brother to give up the army, and to devote his whole attention to the diseases of women and children, and more particularly to the practice of midwifery. He associated with his brother as a lecturer on these subjects as early as 1804, and continued to deliver his regular courses of lectures down to the year 1821, during which time he could reckon almost all the eminent accoucheurs amongst his hearers and pupils. For many years he held the appointment of surgeon to Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital, which he resigned about the same time that he ceased to lecture, though the interests and welfare of that institution continued to the last to be the objects of his attention and regard. In 1825 he was chosen a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Hitherto Mr. Clarke had practised only as an accoucheur, in which capacity his rise to fame and celebrity had been speedy, if not sudden, though not more so than he well deserved; for no man ever threw himself more zealously into his professional duties, or showed more tenderness and sympathy in all his dealings with his patients, or more kindness and courtesy to his professional rivals. He always had a kind word for everyone around him; and even when in the height of his London practice, and when carriages thronged his doors in Saville-row,

he would go on any distant visit to the wife or daughter of a medical gentleman, regardless of the consequences to himself. By these means, aided by his great sagacity and knowledge of the world and of mankind, he attained so solid and substantial a position that he was able to retire from the constant cares of London practice at an age when most men are still climbing up the hill, and to purchase the estate of Dunham Lodge in Norfolk when he had scarcely passed his fortieth year.

Having obtained the degree of M.D. from Lambeth, in 1827 Dr. Clarke became a licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, and on the accession of King William IV. to the throne he was honoured by the appointment of physician to Queen Adelaide. On September 30th, 1831, he was created a baronet, and in the year 1836 he was elected a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. In 1842 he had conferred upon him the honorary degree of M.A. by the University of Cambridge, and was created a D.C.L. of Oxford in 1845.

Incessantly engaged in the performance of the active duties of a most labrious department of his profession, Sir Charles Clarke had not the leisure for many literary productions; but it is observed by no less an authority than Mr. Pettigrew, that the excellence of that which he published serves only to awaken regret that he should not have written more. His chief work, and that by which his name will be longest remembered amongst medical circles, is his "Observations on the Diseases of Women and Children," which he published in two parts, in 1814 and 1821 respectively, and forms an essential part of every medical library. He was president of the Society for the Relief of the Widows and Orphans of Medical Men, in which he took the deepest interest to the last. He was the personal friend of nearly all the medical celebrities of the present century, and was beloved by all who knew him, whether in or out of his profession. Of late years he had resided almost entirely at Brighton.

Sir Charles Clarke married, in 1806, Mary Anna, daughter of the late Wright Thomas Squire, Esq., of Peterborough. This lady, by whom he had a family of two sons and five daughters, died in 1856. His eldest son, who now succeeds to the title as second baronet, is in holy orders, and was appointed to the rectory of Hanwell, Middlesex, in 1847.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

ARSENIC AN IRRITANT TO THE SKIN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—We are all aware that notes written with our patient before us, or immediately after our visits, are far more trustworthy than notes from the best of memories; and so also many of your readers who would give partial credence only to the recollections of your correspondents on "Arsenic as a Cosmetic" might feel more satisfied with a case of present occurrence.

On Friday, the 14th of August, two shepherds were engaged together in sheep-dipping for nine hours. They both began to suffer in a similar way on the day following. The one who became my patient did not send for me till Tuesday the 18th. When I saw him, his whole scrotum seemed to have been covered with eczema rubrum, and now resembled the appearance of the derma after vesication, and separation of the cuticle in frequent patches. The vesicles had been closely aggregated; many of them were still discharging, while others were in an encrusted state. He lay on his back, and motion of the pelvis or thighs was almost intolerable. The pain seemed to be exquisite, yet he was a man of great spirit and endurance. There had been vesicles on the thighs, while the eruption on the legs had more of the character of a stain, and lay chiefly at the roots of the hairs. There was slight febrile constitutional disturbance; but he remarked on the peculiarly intense thirst which no drink could allay. An ointment, containing litharge, muriate of morphia, and spermaceti, completely relieved the local irritation, while rest also was enjoined, or rather demanded by the painful state of the parts, and he got perfectly well in a few days.

The powder he has used for a long time is a proprietary medicine, and "highly nourishes and increases the growth of the wool, considerably more than those pernicious corrosive poisons so generally applied." I find, however, on careful analysis, that it is a mechanical mixture of oxide of arsenic and carbonate of potash, the quantity of the former greatly prepondera-

ting. (The tests I have made use of are Reinsch's process, sulphuretted hydrogen, and the ammoniaco-sulphate of copper.)

My patient had often suffered from similar eruptions in a milder degree, but never after only one day's dipping. He accounted for the present aggravated attack by the length of time occupied in the process, and his neglect of the ordinary precautions of using a leather apron or some water-proof substance, and subsequent ablution with soap and water.

I have conversed to-day with five shepherds, who have all been in the habit of using arsenic, and their statements are consistent and uniform. They have all been in the habit of compounding their own dipping material. None of them have ever suffered from mixtures of tobacco infusion, oil of tar, and black soap, nor even when "sublimate" has been used. Several of them have themselves suffered, after using arsenic, from eruptions, principally on the hands and forearms, scrotum, and thighs; and the suffering proves intense should they have chapped hands at the time. Almost all of them can narrate cases of severe constitutional as well as local irritation. My patient remembers his father lay fourteen days, and he knows of a case where the mixture of arsenic and potash in the solid form was rubbed into the unbroken skin of a sheep, (the only case he knows of such practice,) and it died in four hours.

They all recognised the comparative insolubility of arsenic, as well from the sediment in the washing utensils, as from the fine grittiness of the liquid even after long boiling. My patient was the only one who used the mixture of arsenic and potash. I believe the potash had nothing to do with the skin affection, as the quantity of it was so small, (probably not more than four ounces to forty-two gallons of water,) and the others had observed or suffered similar results when they had purchased arsenic alone.

They have all a salutary dread of the arsenical dipping liquor, and I know a neighbouring farmer who uses arsenic and tobacco infusion whose servants are so cautious as to pour the liquid on the sheep from a kettle or tea-pot, rather than incur the risk of having the arsenic in contact with the skin.

Hoping the foregoing remarks may not prove uninteresting or uncalled-for,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Ludgate Lodge, Ratho, Aug. 1857.

WALTER WATSON, M.D.

NAVAL MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In THE LANCET of the 5th instant, "J. J. C." has answered my letter, and states that it merely corroborates his. I beg materially to differ with him in some of the most important points.

In his first letter, "J. J. C." says that an assistant-surgeon on entering the service has 8s. 1d. per diem, (correct,) and in three years 10s., when he is also eligible for promotion, when his pay is as high as 18s. In answer to my letter, he says that he did not mention the *length* of service required to attain the pay of 18s. Now, I call that a shabby way of getting out of a scrape. With the same ambiguity, he did not say how long an assistant-surgeon must serve after three years, or in what class of ship, in order to attain the pay of 10s.; therefore his language is calculated to mislead; and I ask all who have read his first letter if they should not argue, from the statements contained in it, that an assistant-surgeon had 10s. per diem immediately after having served his three years, and that if he should be promoted at the end of that time, he would have 18s. per diem *at once*? This is a complete mistake. An assistant-surgeon of three years' service has 8s. 7d., and not 10s., per diem. When he has been ten years on full pay, and is in medical charge, he *then*, and not till then, gets 10s. 1d.

A surgeon's pay on promotion, after three years' service as assistant-surgeon, is 11s. per diem, after six years it is 12s., after ten years it is 14s., and after *twenty* years' service it is 18s. per diem.

If "J. J. C." will take the trouble to ask any medical officer in the navy, he will find that an excellent outfit may be had for £100.

I can only say, that if the average sick-list of the *Duke of Wellington* was 40, it was very small indeed for a ship of her size. I have had some experience of a ship with 600 men, and the number of sick was nearly double that mentioned as the *Duke's* average, and that, too, on a healthy station. A 50-gun frigate the other day in England had upwards of 60 men sick. If your correspondent will inquire of any naval medical officer, he will be told that the average number of sick in a man-of-war

is 5 per cent.; and the only way that I can understand such a mistake being made by "J. J. C." is by believing that he was ignorant of the complement of a 60-gun ship. Our largest class of 50-gun frigates has a complement of 560 men, and a 60-gun frigate would not have less than 600. If "J. J. C." will look at his first letter, he will find that he did not say a word about the Mediterranean till after he had made the statement about the sick-list. Let him read the letters from two correspondents in THE LANCET of the 5th instant, and see what assistant-surgeons think of the accuracy of his statements.

There is a slight mistake in Mr. Keele's letter. *All* time as assistant-surgeon counts towards surgeon's pay and retirement, instead of only three years, as Mr. Keele says.

I believe there are many naval surgeons practising in the west-end, but that is no argument against my statement. The time they spent in the service might have been much more profitably employed on shore, and I dare say they think so now. The very fact of having no obstetric practice for years is enough of itself to render a naval medical officer to a certain extent unqualified for the practice of his profession on shore, or at least to make it very difficult indeed.

I have had some short experience in the navy, and I know that when a person who does not belong to the service (and who consequently does not understand it) begins to write on the subject, he is always sure to make *some* mistake, and as sure to be corrected, (which of course is disagreeable;) and as this will be my last letter on the subject, I leave it those of my own profession in her Majesty's navy to judge whether my views and statements, or those of "J. J. C.," are the more correct.

Apologising for troubling you so far,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Sheerness, Sept. 1857.

ASSISTANT-SURGEON R.N.

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on

Thursday, September 3rd, 1857.

BRIGHT, JOHN MEABURN, Richmond.

SMITH, JAMES THOMAS, Sutton Coldfield.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—The library re-opens on Monday next, the 14th instant.

M. PIRAGOFF.—We announced last year, that M. Piragoff, the distinguished Russian operator, contemplated retiring from the profession. This he has since done. The Emperor, in acknowledgment of the professor's eminent services during a period when they were so greatly needed, has enabled him to accomplish his wish in a very agreeable manner. M. Piragoff is now "Curator" of the educational district attached to the Imperial Lyceum of Odessa. This is a very responsible post; but his excellency's antecedents must have quite qualified him for it. The new curator is very popular with the students; and the improvements he has already introduced are highly spoken of. A more acceptable retreat could scarcely have been offered, as the district is healthy, and the more agreeable from former associations.

A QUACK.—Last week, at the Wakefield Court-house, a fashionably dressed individual, who wore a profusion of jewellery, a moustache, and an imperial, and who gave the name of William Langley Riley, was charged with obtaining money on false pretenses. A very smart-looking young woman, named Sarah Smith, was also charged with aiding and abetting Riley. The chief constable applied for a remand till Monday, which was granted; Mr. Wainwright, who prosecutes, briefly stating that the prisoners were travelling about the country in a conveyance, under the designation of "Drs. Langley Riley and Co." "Dr." Langley Riley's manner of duping the public was original. He pretended to be one of the medical officers from the Royal Botanical College of Health, London, and to be sent down by Government for the especial behoof of the poor. He professed to dispense medicines gratis, only charging for what he pretended was the "government stamp." A large medicine chest was produced in court, containing spurious drugs. Since the apprehension of the prisoner it has been discovered that he has a wife and six children, who have been