Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

A NEW UTERINE DILATOR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Convinced that the uterine dilator at present in use was deficient in its action upon the *internal os* and upper part of the cervix, I have been led to attempt improvements to remedy these defects. The accompanying engraving represents the instrument I have had constructed, the advantages of which will, I think, be sufficiently obvious to those who are acquainted with the dilatation now in general use.

Whether dilatation is required for the introduction of a metrotome, sponge or laminaria tent, or stem, especially when we consider the almost universally strictured condition of the *internal os* in mechanical dysmenorrhœa, it is obvious that the *internal os* and upper part of the canal require to be dilated to at least an equal extent with the remainder.

The engraving represents the instrument open. It has three joints, a central (B) and two lateral (A and C). To the centre one (B) is attached a rod (D), which is included within the two halves when the instrument is closed. By shortening the rod D, dilatation is accomplished to the extent required by turning the screw-handle.

I am, Sir, yours &c.,

J. WM. HEMBROUGH,

February, 1866.

Resident A. coucheur at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

LAMBETH WORKHOUSE INFIRMARY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As regards the report in your journal of Feb. 17th on the Lambeth Infirmary, I would state that there are three paid nurses in the female sick wards of that building. The third was appointed in June last, and commenced her duties on the 19th of that month. I believe this was prior to the visit of your Commissioner, but I write this subject to correction.

I am not aware of any deficiency in the number of foot and stomach warmers, bed-rests, or other apparatus of this description for the comfort of the sick. They are at hand when wanted, and are frequently in requisition.

With regard to the diet of the lying-in women, objected to by your Commissioner, it is only used for a few days, and, with the addition of cocoa and oatmeal gruel, during such short period is found to answer well. Afterwards a good diet of meat and beer, &c., is given until the end of the month.

These are, however, minor matters; and I beg leave to bear testimony to the general correctness of the description given by your very able and intelligent inspector of the arrangements of our infirmary.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HY. ST. J. BULLEN,

Kennington, Feb. 20, 1866.

Medical Officer of Lambeth Workhouse.

FELIX HENRY KEMPSTER, M. B. LOND., &C.

(DECEASED.)

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having had the distinguished privilege of the acquaintance and friendship of the late Mr. Kempster, I cannot let this week pass without correcting an error in your notice of him in your number of February 3rd. You say that "he gained two of the three scholarships open for competition;" I beg to state that he obtained all the three, and also the Gold Medal, then the highest reward for Midwifery (the exhibition

or scholarship in that department having been since established).

Such astonishing success had never been known before, and only once since, in the case of an eminent gentleman now connected with Guy's Hospital.

I may add a fact illustrative of Mr. Kempster's character, and confirmatory of the old aphorism that "true merit and true humility are always combined." It is, that after passing the examination for the first M.B., one of the examiners observed to Mr. Kempster that he supposed he should soon see him again—viz., at the competition for honours; to which Mr. Kempster replied, "No, I am not prepared for that; I daren't attempt it." The examiner told him he was foolish to think so poorly of himself, and at length persuaded him to alter his intention, with this result, that Mr. Kempster carried all before him.

Mr. Kempster was the admiration of his college (University),

and was beloved and respected by all its professors and students, amongst whom was,

Yours, obediently,

Feb. 1866.

THE WRITER OF THE ABOVE.

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have just read your article on the above subject. I have lately returned from Paris, and whilst there had full opportunity of comparing the two systems. You say that the examination of the University of London is by no means superior to that of the University of Paris. The grand difference between the two examinations is that that in London is conducted by means both of written papers and *viva voce*—that in Paris by *viva voce* examination only. In Paris, also, the examination in anatomy is not on the dissected subject, the student being only occasionally required to show his knowledge of anatomy practically by tying an artery, or by some other operation. Whether these differences do not tell in favour of London I leave you to judge.

Another thing which would, to most men, render the French examination the easier of the two is that it is at the option of the candidate whether he will take his four final examinations (each consisting of a single subject) at one and the same time, or whether he will put an interval between them.

Most heartily do I concur in your observations on lectures. A good practical lecturer will always command an audience, as may be seen by the way in which the theatre of such a man as Pajot is crowded, whilst those of men who merely read addresses of an hour long are deserted. Could not the University of London give us some really able University lectures?

I remain, Sir, yours &c.,

Bridgwater, Feb. 1866.

M.B.

THE NEW FLOUR OF MEAT.

WITH the cattle plague stalking through the land, destroying its hundreds of thousands of oxen, all processes for the preservation of meat become invested with peculiar importance; but when any particular process has for its object not merely the preservation and utilization of meat, but deals with its adaptation to the wants of the young, the invalid, and the aged, it acquires a special interest for the medical practitioner. It is on this ground that we call attention to the method of treating and preserving meat devised by Dr. Hassall, whose letter on the subject appeared in THE LANCET of the 17th of February. Of each pound of lean fresh meat free from visible fat and bone, no less than three-fourths of a pound consists of water, the quarter of solid matter being composed of albumen, fibrin, gelatine, interstitial fat, salts, &c. Now the process in question consists in the removal of this water at so low a temperature that all the other constituents remain unchanged,