public. I rejoice in the occasion it presents me, of acquainting him and some others, (whose spleen may surmount their judgment,) of the opportunities of improvement which are afforded to the surgical pupils of the Westminster Hospital.

Any pupil is at liberty to accompany the House-Surgeon in his daily round at 10 A.M., and to assist in dressing the patients. Any pupil may enter the wards at all times, question any patient he may select, or take notes of any case. Mr. Harding, the assistant surgeon to the Hospital, attends regularly every Tuesday and Friday at half past twelve o'clock, and is ready to give clinical explanations of any, or every case. Mr. W. B. Lynn is equally punctual in his attendance, at the same hour, on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Mr. Lynn, sen., and Sir A. Carlisle, are constant in their visits at the fixed hour on Wednesdays and Saturdays and are willing to impart every instruction, in their power. Mr. White, although his extensive private practice may make him occasionally a little late, bestows more time on the patients, from his frequent intermediate visits at the Hospital, than probably any one of the other surgeons. Of Mr. Guthrie's precision, the pupils have already borne testimony.

But it is in vain to point out these sources of instruction to our modern "*Filii Æsculapii*," they are not content to work except in a crowd; "*turba ruit*" is with them the "*march of intellect*," and pushing and jostling after Mr. White or Mr. Guthrie, annoying each other as well as the patients, is considered a more efficient mode of study, than the careful and solitary contemplation of disease. To every pupil of this Hospital, sincerely desirous of professional improvement, one word will suffice "*CIRCUMSPICE*."

Your obedient servant.
WESTMONACHUS.

ABSCESS IN THE FAUCES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET

SIR,—Observing in your review of the Glasgow Medical Journal, a case of obstructed respiration in a child, arising from a tumour in the fauces, the particulars of the following case may not be uninteresting, as it illustrates the plan of treatment subsequently recommended in your Journal. A child, three years of age, had been attacked with a series of fits incident to children from disordered stomach or bowels, which were successfully treated by warm baths, purgatives, &c. To these succeeded an enlargement of the whole chain of glands in the neck, which, on subsiding, ushered

in the symptoms as related by Dr. Sym. Great difficulty of breathing, accompanied by a noise resembling that of croup, more particularly when the child attempted to doze or sleep, producing an agonising sense of suffocation, and attended with a copious secretion of frothy mucus. On examination, there were no particular indications of the existence of a tumour; the tonsils, uvula, and fauces, presenting but little appearance of inflammation. Leeches, blisters, emetics, &c., were employed without any alleviation. Deglutition, which at first was not at all affected, now became alarmingly impeded, breathing stertorous, the child gasping for breath, and appearing every moment likely to be suffocated. The suspicion of the existence of an abscess or tumour, became more confirmed. On attempting to pass the finger down the œsophagus, all ambiguity was at an end; a large and elastic tumour was instantly perceptible to the touch, which appeared to be situated on a level with the epiglottis; a gum lancet (a trocar not always being a pocket-case instrument) was directed by the finger, and from two to three ounces of pus let out. The result was most favourable, the child being now perfectly convalescent.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. J. CULVERWELL.

Islington, Feb. 16.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

ADHERENT EPIPLOCELE, WITH SUBSEQUENT DESCENT AND STRANGULATION OF THE SMALL INTESTINE.

Operation by Mr. Tyrrell, twenty hours after the Strangulation—Division of the old Adhesions of the Omentum, and return of the Prolapsed Mass into the Abdomen.

ELIZA CANFIELD, twenty-eight years of age, and healthy in appearance, was admitted into Dorcas Ward, under the care of Mr. Tyrrell, on the 6th of March, at noon. The account which she gave was, that she had had a rupture for the last seven years, that it was produced by violent exertion, and was always reducible until the present descent, which took place on the evening of the fifth. She had worn a truss for some time, but being of an imperfect kind, she had obtained but little benefit from it.

When admitted, there was a tumour of about the size of a hen's egg in the situa-

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