entered the chest through the canula, and in many to so great an extent as to produce the same amount of pressure on the lung as had previously been produced by the accumulated fluid : a few hours generally sufficed for its removal, and in proportion as the lung became capable of expansion the air disappeared, and he had never seen even uneasiness caused by the admission of air into the chest. In answer to a question, Dr. Bird stated that the occurrence of empyema on the left side had, in his cases, been much more frequent than on the right, the ratio having been as three to one in favour of the former.

APPLICATION FROM MR. GUTHRIE TO THE PROFESSION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

[WE insert the following communication, which was received too late for publication in THE LANCET of last week, merely observing that we fear that Mr. GUTHRIE is becoming garrulous.]

SIR,—In March, 1842, I addressed a letter to the surgeons of the London unions who had called on me as the then president and on the vice-presidents of the Royal College of Surgeons, stating my views respecting the medical order of the poor-law commissioners of the 12th of that month, regulating the payments to be made to the medical officers of unions for *extraordinary* services, which letter you were pleased to publish. You also thought it right to make known a second letter I addressed to the same gentlemen on the subject of an arrangement I hoped I had made with the secretary of state and the poor-law commissioners, with respect to certain fixed payments for the ordinary services of medical officers of unions, and which I was led to apprehend would have formed a part of the amended Bill about to be laid before Parliament.

The difficulties and alarm under which the country and particularly the agricultural part of it, have been for some time labouring will, I fear, prevent the accomplishment of this object, which is so much desired by the members of the medical profession, unless the sense of the House of Commons should be strongly expressed upon it. In order to obtain this, it is necessary that a clear and accurate statement of the sufferings of the sick poor should be laid before it, and of the grievances which medical men sustain under the authority (but I am firmly convinced against the wishes) of the poor-law commissioners, which prevent their being able to give those unhappy persons that assistance which their state demands, and deserves, at the hands of their more fortunate neighbours.

Colonel Wood (Middlesex) has moved for such returns (and will move for more if

necessary) as will enable him to bring this matter under the consideration of the House of Commons as soon as the amended Bill shall be presented. To enable him to do this with effect, a statement must be furnished to him of all the sufferings and grievances above alluded to; and if the members of the medical profession who have suffered and are suffering or are aggrieved shall be pleased to address their statements on these points to me, I will prepare such digest of them as will enable him and the House of Commons to understand this subject.

I shall be careful in alluding to the different facts confided to me, not to mention either names or places, and those who may think fit to send them may rely on my discretion. I shall be obliged by your giving insertion to this letter, and have the honour to be, Sir, your very obedient servant,

G. J. GUTHRIE.

Berkeley-street, Berkeley-square,
April 11, 1843.

TREATMENT OF LIVER DISEASE WITH VERATRINE.—Iodide of potassium has long been employed as a remedy for dropsy; Dr. Weike, a German practitioner, has combined its internal use with frictions of veratrine in that form of dropsy associated with enlargement of the liver. He advises that a portion of an ointment, composed of a grain and a half of veratrine to half an ounce of lard, should be rubbed over the region of the liver night and morning. The urinary secretion is soon greatly increased, and in a week the dose of veratrine in the ointment may be doubled. A few weeks with such treatment is often adequate to effect a cure.—*Med. Zeitung*, 1843.

M. VELPEAU lately exhibited to the Acad. de Medicine of Paris, the brain of a man who had died under his care in the Hôpital La Charité. A scirrhus tumour existed between the anterior and middle lobes of the cerebrum, on which it pressed, causing a considerable loss of substance. The man had been distinguished in the hospital for loquacity and salacity. In reference to the latter circumstance the French journal from which we quote this case remarks,—“If what phrenologists say be true, the cerebellum, the organ of desire, ought to have been in this case largely developed, and the anterior lobe also, in which the organ of language is placed, ought to have been found in its normal condition. The contrary was the fact. The cerebellum was of only medium size, and the anterior lobe was diminished by compression.” Admitting the fact as stated, we altogether deny the ratiocination of our contemporary on *this head*, and it would not be difficult, though it might be tedious, to point out all its fallacies.