And so, the Admiralty, finding that at length medical men had recognised their proper position, and had refused to lower themselves by entering a service in which, they were well aware, they would not meet with the respect or emoluments due to their position and education, have recourse to an expedient unparalleled for meanness in the annals of any civilised nation—"a new way to pay old debts." For, I say, what hard-up, dissipated, bankrupt medical student will not greedily catch at a means whereby he may, for the present, better his condition; two guineas a week for the term of probation is past, the examination shows the candidate to be utterly ignorant of the very rudiments of his profession; or perhaps he has absconded, and in either case the money is paid down by the Admiralty; the student rejoices in the easy way of bettering his condition, and acts accordingly; and when the test of probation is past, the examination shows the candidate to be utterly ignorant of the very rudiments of his profession; or perhaps he has absconded, and in either case the wretched suspectry pay.

And is it from the ranks of such men that the British navy is to be supplied with an efficient medical staff? Must bribery be had recourse to in order to entice even the most needy and, of necessity, the most uneducated to offer their services, and have entrusted to their care the lives of the bravest of our national defenders? In a word, the Admiralty show by this proposal that for their part education is merely a matter of very secondary consideration.

Sir,—At a consultation with Dr. Lyon and Dr. J. G. Fleming on a patient of mine with a scirrhous tumour of the right mamma, it was resolved to try the treatment by injection with acetic acid, lately introduced by Dr. Broadbent. On the 6th of last December the treatment was commenced, and was followed for four hours by severe pain. In a few days the injection was repeated, and the pain continued eight hours. Dr. Fleming therefore suggested that one-third of a grain of morphia should be added to the injection. On the next occasion that was tried, the patient fell asleep, and slept soundly for four hours; when she awoke she was free from pain. The acetate of morphia has been added to every injection since, and always with the same happy result. The tumour, which was very much retracted, is now much less so. The tumour has diminished considerably, and the nipple, which was very much congested and saturated with spirit, and even the water in the bladder, only 32 were treated by lithotomy; 6 underwent no operation."

I subtract the 6 cases from the 91, and say: "In London hospitals, in 1862 and 1863, out of 83 adults treated for stone, lithotomy was performed in only 32; therefore the operation of lithotomy is the one most commonly performed in the general hospitals." In this there is no misstatement on my part. I also beg to point out that, as regards the Hospital for St. Peter's, you have, by an incorrect statement, altered the statement in Holmes's System of Surgery. You were permitted to state that, of the 17 patients admitted into the hospital, 8 were not operated on; these were doubtless adults, and this reduces the adult cases operated on to 4, of which 2 were cut and 2 were not. Lithotomy was performed on 6 of the adult cases, and not on only one-sixth, as you have stated.

These statistics of the Hospital for Stone are for '62 and '63, long before I was in any way connected with the institution, and I can be in no way answerable for my predecessor.

In the last four months of 1866 four adults were treated for stone in St. Peter's; I performed lithotomy in every case, and they all left the hospital cured.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WALTER J. COULSON.

St. James's-place, S.W., Feb. 6th, 1867.

"* What we complained of was that Mr. Walter Coulson made a statement to the lay governors of St. Mary's calculated to convey the erroneous impression that lithotomy was neglected in the general hospitals, and that the Hospital for Stone was medically necessary to remedy that neglect. Mr. Coulson quoted Mr. Hawkins's article in Holmes's System of Surgery to prove his case against the general hospitals; we therefore pointed out that, according to the same authority, the general hospitals showed a much larger proportion of cases subjected to lithotomy than the Hospital for Stone itself during the same period. Nothing was omitted which could fairly affect the comparison. We took the numbers of the adults admitted, and stated the proportion in which lithotomy was practised in four of the large general hospitals and in the Hospital for Stone. —Ed. L.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

(From our own correspodent.)

On Wednesday last, Asiatic cholera broke out at Shincliffe Colliery, a short distance from the city of Durham. Shincliffe has a station on the North-Eastern Railway, and is about twenty miles from Newcastle. The return of Mr. Robson, the medical officer of the district, shows that up to and including Saturday last there were 23 cases of cholera and choleraic diarrhoea: 4 deaths, 3 recoveries, and the number under treatment was 43. A comparison of this return with that for the previous week exhibits a decrease of 39 in the number of attacks, and 8 in the deaths.

At our Medical Society, on the 4th of January, Dr. Eastwood read some interesting medico-legal remarks "On the Cure's Hill case," and Mr. T. H. Pyle "On the Physiological Effects of Alcohol." This paper gave rise to a lively discussion; Mr. Pyle's object being to show that the theory of Liebig as to the decomposition of alcohol in the system, and its subsequent contribution to animal heat, was untenable. Mr. Pyle in his paper related a post-mortem, conducted by himself and assistant, of a man run over by an engine after leaving a public-house. "The calvaria being removed, we were astonished at the powerful odour of whisky which the membranes emitted, and which increased as we proceeded to cut into the substance of the brain. There was some fluid in the lateral ventricles which appeared to be more transparent than serum, and which burned with a blue flame and had all the characteristic properties of alcohol; the whole brain was congested and saturated with spirit, and even the water in which I washed my hands retained the effluvium for several hours afterwards." —Newcastle-on-Tyne, Feb. 5th, 1867.