points and the relative distances at which the fetal hearts were, in each case, most distinctly audible; and whenever I detected the slightest variation in the pulsations at one point, I instantly removed the cylinder to the other, in order to ascertain if the same change was observable there also. This must be done with the least possible loss of time, and with great accuracy of auscultation. When there is only a single fœtus, the auscultator must have observed that, whilst counting the pulsations of the fœtal heart, he is frequently obliged to desist, in consequence of the fœtus suddenly changing its position in the uterus, except when the head has descended into the pelvis. This change of position I have not observed to take place in case of twins; hence the utility of observing the relative distances. The fœtal circulation, in cases where there is but one fœtus, is not, I find, so liable to alteration in rapidity as when there are twins; and to the physiologist it may appear a curious fact, that when the pulsations of one fœtus in the latter of the two cases I have given were accelerated, those of the other would appear to have lost something of their wonted rapidity.

October 23, 1830.

ON THE "PYRAMID," AND "PERE LA CHAISE."

By THOMAS WILLSON, Esq., *Architect.*

THE General Cemetery question having now permanently engaged the public attention, it is desirable to consider it deliberately, and without prejudice; it is therefore requisite to trace its origin, and minutely examine the merits of the plans.

One of them is the design of an architect, the other is a proposition originating with a gentleman at the bar. The first of these plans was submitted to government in the year 1827, and was duly laid before the late King as well as his present Majesty. The novelty of a Mausoleum, upon a scale that contemplated interment of the millions, at once attracted the attention of the public journals, and as is usual with first impressions, met with sarcasm and wit, rather than examination. The notice of the press obtained for it the attention of men of science, and it was pronounced "one of the noblest conceptions of the age." The encouragement given to it by this class induced the architect to examine his project more attentively, and with a view to its practicability, to consider how far it could be simplified, and reduced, without prejudicing its grand feature, to a principle of economy, so that in every point of view it might be desirable for the adoption of the

public. The result of these inquiries, from the minutest calculations, exhibits upon the whole an extraordinary saving, in the course of one century, of several millions sterling! Hence the busy speculators of the day were induced to make inquiry for the Star of the West, which was to direct them to reap a rich harvest of interest upon invested capital. Under this influence, the barrister alluded to made his first visit at the Pyramid Office in May, 1829; his proffered friendship and alliance to the project were received with the utmost cordiality, and the most perfect union of interests was entered into, cemented by professions of honour and implied mutuality of good faith, insomuch that reciprocity of interests, as well as the assurance of devotedness, opened the heart to the most perfect friendship and unreserved communication. Profiting by this, the learned gentleman, glowing in the ardour of unbounded ambition, and having recourse to the portfolio of his friend, possessed himself of the Pyramid, in detail, and liked it so well, that he borrowed the original before it was signed, and without permission, or further ado, took the said plans home with him, and exhibited them to his personal acquaintance as "a project of his own invention;" kept these plans for several months in spite of all remonstrance and expostulation, notwithstanding he had pledged his word to return them the following day; and finally, to crown all, this most honourable gentleman endeavoured to concoct the celebrated Pyramid Society at Paris, the plagiary of which the real projector was under the necessity of exposing in the English newspapers; he, however, could form no conception that this bold and foul attempt was the work of his confidential friend; and still confiding in the worthy gentleman's integrity and honour, they laughed over the Parisian levity with the utmost good humour and surprise! The projector, however, felt it his duty to publish "The Pyramid Prospectus," and this furnished the public with the real name of the architect, which proved no joke to his honourable friend, who now began to entertain a very different view of it, and Père la Chaise became his hobby, and his hobby he is determined to ride, "come what come may," and thus determined, resolved he would sink the Pyramid at a blow; and such a blow as is rarely, it is to be hoped, to be found in the history of such friendships! He proposed, as the last act of kindness to his unsuspecting friend, that he should transfer the whole force of his support to his (the honourable gentleman's) chambers, that he might advocate the cause, and teach the assembled party the value of The Pyramid which now began to be talked of to his confusion. So that with one pesti-

lential breath, and by the single word—*impracticable*—he might at length damn “the work of genius,” and the midnight labour of years, with one withering blast! That he did so attempt who will endeavour to deny?—(Vide the *Père la Chaise Prospectus*.)

The above proceeding was, doubtless, enough to astound the boldest projector, who now writhing under his wound, and disgusted with the world’s deceit, nearly sunk into a state of fatal stupor. He, however, rose above the shock, looked upon its depravity with pity rather than contempt, but for security-sake requested permission to deposit his plans of the Pyramid in his Majesty’s Office of Works; and we shall now show how graciously they have been received by the Surveyor-General, who was pleased to send the following acknowledgment, with his unbiassed judgment, which will speak for itself:—

“Office of Works, 14 April, 1830.

“SIR,—I have to acknowledge, with many thanks, the receipt of your obliging letter, with the accompanying plans of your very valuable and scientific design for a general metropolitan cemetery, which does great credit to your professional talents, and with my best wishes for your success in your great and arduous undertaking,

“I have the honour to be, Sir,

“Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) “B. C. STEPHENSON.

“To Thomas Willson, Esq.

&c. &c. &c.”

The foregoing letter, with several others of the same encouraging nature from some of the most eminent scientific individuals in the kingdom, which admit “that the Pyramid has the exclusive property of creating hundreds of acres out of a void space, and that no other plan can be invented with the like advantages, that it is also the most complete and comprehensive for the purpose required, and that no other plan can compete with it for its numerous and original qualities—that, in fine, it is the only one commensurate with the end proposed,” &c. These testimonials had the good effect of cheering up the spirits of the projector, and emboldened him to meet his honourable friend in the field of argument. He addressed him publicly at the meeting at Freemasons’ Tavern, in condemnation of servilely copying the French, in the *Père la Chaise* scheme, and without deigning to think of his treacherous wound (fearing to injure a good cause), he checked every emotion of his aggrieved soul, and even offered his support for the general benefit—he moreover purchased five shares, in order to qualify himself to be a member of the committee—and, how has he been treated for his liberality and public spirit?

It is only a few days ago that the honourable gentleman (still smiling in the confidence of his proffered friendship) called at the Pyramid Office, and made the extraordinary proposal of a bribe to the projector, “if he would only descend further to qualify himself for the committee, by renouncing his Pyramid, and give the pledge of his word to support the vanity of the *Père la Chaise* hobby, through thick and thin, to the exclusion of every other plan, he would then confer office upon him, and have him on his committee forthwith; for (continued he) as long as your Pyramid is before the public, it distracts our hopes, retards our progress, and prevents our receiving subscriptions, (which are of the utmost consequence to the honourable treasurer!) Write me, I beseech you, that you consent to my proposal, and you shall have my friendship for ever—adieu.” He instantly disappeared, like the bursting of a bubble! Adieu! aye, for ever; his friendship! what an insult! further qualification! a bribe too for dishonour! Surely as the projector has been duped of his deposit (12*l.* 10*s.*), he has doubly a right to demand restitution. These were the natural feelings of the insulted author of the Pyramid; and he appeals with confidence to an enlightened public to examine well the plan of the General Cemetery which they are about to adopt, before they venture upon subscriptions that may otherwise be applied contrary to their wishes, without regard to their true interests, and derogatory to the honour of the country.

From this statement the public will be assisted to form a correct judgment of the kind of man they have to deal with in the projecting barrister, who has travelled out of his record to obtain emoluments and fame. He is deliberately accused of duplicity and meanness, of cajoling and deceit; he has betrayed confidence, and under the mask of friendship deprived a deserving and laborious individual of all that he had ever hoped to enjoy, as the reward of talents devoted to the public. It remains to be seen whether that public will allow itself to be duped by pretensions, unsupported by a single claim to its patronage,—whether it will be satisfied with a *Père la Chaise*—a servile imitation of what requires no ingenuity to carry it into effect, which is a mere temporary expedient to meet a necessity which accumulates with every succeeding generation, and which is designed to supersede a great national undertaking, which combines within itself a novel and permanent monument of metropolitan wealth and magnificence, commensurate with the growing demands of a dense and increasing population. Must the Pyramid sink to prepare the way for a scheme without genius, and a pro-

jector without veracity? who has forfeited every claim to confidence by a dishonourable breach of unsought and proffered friendship to him whom he first betrayed and then insulted? These are grave accusations: the worst part of them is that they are true, and cannot be controverted by the miserable delinquent they thus publicly and fearlessly denounce.

CLINICAL LECTURES

DELIVERED AT

'St. Bartholomew's Hospital,

BY MR. LAWRENCE,

Friday, Nov. 5, 1830.

PHLEGMONOUS ERYSIPELAS.

GENTLEMEN,—The severe case of phlegmonous erysipelas in Darker's Ward, to which I directed your attention at the last lecture, has since terminated fatally. I regret much that I cannot give you any account of the morbid appearances which the disease may have produced, in consequence of the examination of the body having been prevented by the friends of the deceased. The case was altogether one of unusual severity, and it would have been interesting to ascertain the state of the internal organs, whether they were sound, or whether there existed in them any morbid condition which might have given rise to a new state of the general system, and might, in some degree, have explained the occurrence, and the serious extent of the local disease. The nature of the case was moreover interesting, both in a pathological and practical point of view; pathological, since it afforded us as severe an example as I have ever witnessed of inflammation and mortification of the cellular tissue of the upper arm to at least two-thirds of its extent, and which, had the patient lived some time longer, would have induced sloughing of the integuments to a corresponding degree; practical, since it afforded a salutary caution with respect to the necessity of treating this disease efficiently from the first; and it shows also the danger that arises from inappropriate or inadequate treatment. In this patient, from the first, the disease must have been severe, yet the necessary treatment was not adopted, and he was six days in the Fever Hospital before I saw him.

When I mentioned, on the preceding evening, the mode of treating this disease by incisions, I did not mean that they should be limited in their application to that period in which suppuration and mortification have already taken place. On the contrary, they

are of the utmost utility in a far earlier stage, for they prevent the occurrence of the suppuration and mortification of the cellular membrane, which would otherwise supervene. When these have occurred, this treatment is above all others the best calculated to limit the further progress of the disease, and to relieve the congestion and tension of the inflamed parts. From the incisions in the present instance, the patient derived all the relief which could have been expected; the pain was diminished, and the general irritation lessened, but the disease had proceeded too far before they were performed.

SIMPLE ERYSIPELAS, FOLLOWED BY METASTASIS.

The patient Robinson, in Faith's Ward, also requires notice this evening. Since the last lecture she went on fairly enough, as regards the inflammation, till to-day. A blister was applied above the inflamed parts, with a view to prevent its spreading towards the body, and this seemed to produce the desired effect. Subsequently, however, the inflammation has extended a little above the blister, but it soon stopped, and did not reach the groin. To-day the case has again become alarming, but from a different cause, from the sudden supervention of serious internal disease on the cessation of the external affection, or that which is technically called "metastasis." You will remember, that for the erysipelas she had been treated with considerable activity; in consequence of this depletion, the local inflammation has abated. She complained much of debility and exhaustion, and I ordered her the sub-carbonate of ammonia and camphor mixture. Early to-day she complained of extreme pain in the chest, in the abdomen, and in the back, and her breathing became very much oppressed. She appeared in great distress, and in such general pain, that she could not precisely indicate the parts which were most affected; so that when I desired her to inspire deeply, she referred the pain which it created to her back. Her pulse was excessively rapid, and very feeble; her tongue inclined to be dry. Under all the circumstances, there is no doubt but that she has been seized with a violent pulmonary attack. As to the treatment, depletion has already been carried so far during the progress of the erysipelas, and she has been so enfeebled by the duration of that affection, that very active treatment cannot be instituted at present. I have directed twenty-four leeches to be applied to the chest, and a mixture containing tartar emetic to be taken occasionally, but I fear there is but little chance of a desirable termination of the disease.