court "blow-fly," Sir Henry Halford,—the once wriggling maggot, Vaughan.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

SAMUEL YOUNG.

Strutta, East Looe, Cornwall,

Dec. 26, 1835.

FREE GASES IN DIABETIC URINE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—For some months I have been much interested with respect to the free gases *supposed* to be contained in healthy urine, and have put the question to the test of experiment, by submitting the urine of different healthy persons to the action of my air-pump, in the manner formerly explained in the pages of your very valuable Journal, but I was not enabled to extricate a single bubble of gas from any specimen of urine experimented on.

Not deterred, however, by this, I was again induced to experiment on the urine of a sailor, belonging to this port, who had long been afflicted with that incurable and most severe disease, diabetes. This person, a dependant in the Sunderland Workhouse, came at two different periods to our infirmary, and in my presence passed twenty ounces of urine each time, in the most steady and correct manner, so that no gases were lost during micturition. The exact proportions of gases which ten ounces of this urine contained at the first micturition, were as follows:—

	Cubic Inch.
Oxygen gas.....	.06
Carbonic acid gas	.02
Nitrogen gas	.19
	—
	.27

From the second of the two micturitions, which was performed about five days afterwards, I obtained from a similar quantity of urine the following gases:—

	Cubic Inch.
Oxygen gas	.03
Carbonic acid gas	.02
Nitrogen gas	.26
	—
	.31

I need not point out to the medical faculty the importance of these facts. I beg that they may be compared with what I have published in the pages of THE LANCET, with respect to human arterial and venous blood. I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,

W. REID CLANNY.

Sunderland, Dec. 24, 1835.

P.S. I forgot to mention, in a former communication, that in every experiment with my new safety-lamp, I used bladders of coal-gas, or explosive atmospheres of coal-gas and atmospherical air.

MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS OF MANGANESE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Among the numerous metals which have been introduced into the class of medicines, I have never observed any preparation of manganese. This metal is principally employed in the art of dyeing, and for chemical purposes, but I now wish to introduce it as a remedial agent. About two years ago I prepared a chlorine solution of that metal, and introduced it as an alterative and tonic, but afterwards found it a valuable medicine for epistaxis. Several remedies are now employed for this complaint, under the name of styptics, but I believe they are not to be relied on in severe cases of hemorrhage; and the acetate of lead is frequently objected to, on account of its irritating property.

It will be useless to mention the number of cases of epistaxis which have effectually yielded to the chlorine solution of manganese, as I have given the form for preparing it, and will leave the surgeon to judge of its application from his own experience.

To prepare the chlorine solution of manganese, put into a bottle which will hold about two pints, one ounce of carbonate of manganese previously mixed with three ounces of distilled water. Let a current of chlorine gas be slowly passed immediately upon the mixture (by means of a glass tube connected with the retort whence the gas is distilled) until the manganese is dissolved. The solution must then be put into a flask, and a gentle heat applied for a short time, when the mixture will become clear. Filter when cold, and add one ounce of alcohol.

This process occupied a great deal of time, and was attended with some little trouble; therefore, instead of using the chlorine gas, I have since prepared a muriate of manganese, which is not attended with trouble, and its medicinal properties appear to be precisely the same. To prepare the muriate, take one ounce of carbonate of manganese and two ounces of muriatic acid, mix them together in a flask, and apply the heat of a lamp for a few minutes. Allow the mixture to cool; filter, and add one ounce of alcohol.

With respect to the alterative properties of this medicine, I have not received sufficient proofs to enable me to speak much in its praise, but in some instances it has