

to the conclusion that Miss F— had died of pyæmia autogenetically produced, under circumstances which hitherto I had regarded as most unfavourable to the production of this terrible malady. The symptoms, progress, and termination of her case corresponded precisely with those I had become but too familiar with in the several outbreaks I had witnessed in public institutions, and yet I can offer no explanation whatever of its occurrence. We had to deal with the hard facts that a woman, barely of middle age, residing in one of the most healthy and beautiful parts of Surrey, after an obstetric operation of perfect simplicity, separated entirely from every source of contagion, had fallen a victim to a blood-poisoning in a manner then, and happily now, unique in my experience.—I am, Sir, faithfully yours,
Brook-street, Grosvenor-square, Feb. 1874. JAMES PALFREY.

THE "BOUGIE CONDUCTRICE."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am glad that Mr. Rushton Parker likes the urethrotome, but if it be used in the manner described by him at p. 162 of your journal of January 31st, it will repeat some of its Parisian accidents. It is now twenty years since the instrument was brought into practice by M. Maisonneuve, and it has since then been much improved by M. Voillemier, Prof. Gauley, and others. There are three points which call for remark. In the first place Mr. Parker takes it for granted that when the "bougie conductrice" has passed down the urethra it has entered the bladder, and it is in this assumption that the danger lies. The bougie may have gone into the bladder, rectum, or false sac, and it is for the surgeon to verify the situation of the bougie before he passes the knife into the urethra. Now this can only be done by using the "sonde à vis," which is unknown in this country, or by inserting in the sound a stylet which shall fill the slit, so that when it is withdrawn urine will flow if the bougie has gone into the bladder. Secondly, Mr. Parker states that the blade cannot injure the healthy part of the urethra; but the contrary has been proved in Paris, hence M. Voillemier's modification to guard the blade. Thirdly, French surgeons are now of opinion that the blade ought to slide along the convexity of the sound, and not the concavity as described by Mr. Parker. I would recommend to him Prof. Gauley's tunneled urethrotome, which is vastly superior to the one he has illustrated.

As for "divulsion," "dilatation instantanée," "immediate treatment," or any other synonym by which the process of tearing open a man's urethra may be concealed, it has fully justified the almost universal condemnation passed upon it by Parisian surgeons. It has acquired the unenviable distinction of being the most fatal operation known for stricture, and I am aware of thirty deaths following its use by different surgeons. The operation has been abandoned or condemned by Sir William Fergusson, Mr. Thos. Bryant, Mr. Walter Coulson, Mr. O. Pemberton, Mr. H. Smith, Prof. Stokes, and others.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
Portman-square, Feb. 4th, 1874. W. F. TEEVAN.

THE WATER-SUPPLY OF ROTTERDAM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In consequence of the prevalence of cholera at Rotterdam, and the importation of a solitary case into this city some weeks ago by way of the Thames, I inquired from what source the steamships trading between that port and Rotterdam were supplied with water for drinking purposes, and found that in several instances this water was regularly taken from the Maas as the vessel steamed up the river. This stream, as you remarked last week, receives nearly all the sewage of Rotterdam, and I believe that in consequence of representations made by this port sanitary authority, the regular traders have ceased to procure their drinking water from the Maas. The water-supply on board ship, and the condition of the tanks that contain it, should always command the special attention of port medical officers of health.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HARRY LEACH,
Medical Officer of Health for the Port of London.
Port Sanitary Offices, Deptford, S.E., Feb. 9th, 1874.

PARIS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

ON Sunday last there was a general meeting of the Society for the Protection of Childhood, at the Vaudeville Theatre. M. Boudet, the President, opened the proceedings of the day with a short and substantial speech, after which Dr. de Ranse, the esteemed and talented editor of our Paris contemporary, the *Gazette Médicale*, read the report of the special committee appointed to give away the prizes and rewards of the Society for the last year. The general secretary then announced the names of those who had earned these various distinctions, as well as those of medical inspectors, mothers, and wet-nurses, for their zealous co-operation, as also those of the laureates who had been successful at the *concours* of the Society. This *concours* had consisted in writing for a prize on the question of "The Means of Generalising Maternal Nursing." Out of sixteen candidates the successful names were declared to be, Dr. Auner, of Brest (first prize); Dr. Segay, of Bordeaux (second prize); and MM. Bordier, of Bazancourt, and Bedel (each a silver medal). The latter end of the sitting was agreeably taken up by a very spirited and *spirituel* lecture by that most successful of Paris *conférenciers*, H. de Lapommeraye, and a concert, both instrumental and vocal, performed by the band of the Garde Republicaine and some of the best singers at the Paris theatres. M. de Lapommeraye was not only exceedingly sparkling and felicitous in the more cheerful parts of his lecture, but he deeply moved his auditory by his description of the sad tortures to which so many infants were subjected in the hands of mercenary wet-nurses. He remarked that it was a disgrace to our generation that this Society should be the younger sister of the Society for the Protection of Animals, and that in a huge city like Paris it should only number one thousand adherents. It was a farce to talk continually of humanitarian and patriotic feelings when the hope of the nation and the future of the race—namely, children—were neglected.

At one of the last sittings of the Municipal Council, one of the members—M. Hérold—presented a report claiming the assistance of the Council for a certain number of medical men whose duties as medical officers of the town ended with the year 1873, and whose position deserved the consideration of the Council. It appears from the report of M. Hérold that no pension is provided for these medical servants of the town, though all the other kinds of officers attached to the *Etat Civil* are provided for in that respect. Such an exception, touching some of the most useful members of the *personnel*, whose duty it is to visit private houses and report births and deaths, is a regrettable anomaly. The Council of course voted the grant of assistance demanded.

Several new medical journals have been started here, amongst which are two on obstetrics, the want of which was generally felt. One of them is conducted by such well-known men as Professor Pajot and Dr. Gallard, of Paris, and Dr. Courty, of Montpellier. The first number, which has just appeared, contains the following articles and papers:—Introduction, by Pajot; on Peri-uterine Phlegmon, by Boissarie; on the Employment of the Actual Caustery in Uterine Affections, by Leblond; Purulent Affections, by Longuet; Eclampsia, by Charrier; General Review, by Gallard. The *Annales de Gynécologie* will be published on the 15th of every month, in fasciculi of about eighty pages.
Paris, Feb. 10th, 1874.

BOOKS ETC. RECEIVED.

Mr. Armstrong: Introduction to the Study of Organic Chemistry.
Mr. T. Morrison: English Composition.
Mr. A. Wilson: The Student's Guide to Zoology.
Mr. T. Nash: Cicero's Oration "Pro lege Manilia."
Mr. Stimpson's Singing Class-Book.
Dr. Guy: Public Health.
Mr. Harbison: Elements of Zoology.
M. Emile Souvestre: Un Philosophe sous les Toits.
Dr. John Murray: Observations on the Pathology and Treatment of Cholera.
Dr. Wyeth: A Handbook of Medical and Surgical Reference.
Mr. Hartwig: The Polar World.
Dr. Clarke: Sex in Education.
The Middlesex Hospital Reports.