conducted, nor unless it be shown that restraint would have prevented the patient from being struck, and also that such occurrences were carefully sought out under the restraint system, and disproved on fair, impartial evidence.

I have not yet met with such a case as Dr. Corsellis describes, of a powerful patient continuing a struggle to rise from bed, between two attendants, until entirely exhausted. If I met with such a case a different course would be pursued. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient and faithful servant,

ROBERT GARDINER HILL,
House-Surgeon.

Lunatic Asylum, Lincoln,
March 28, 1840.

INCONTINENCE OF URINE, DURING SLEEP, IN FEMALES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—You will oblige me by inserting the accompanying case in your Journal. I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

E. W. DUFFIN.
14, Langham-place, March 26, 1840.

The "habit of wetting the bed," usually contracted during infancy, occasionally continues beyond that period of life, and is sometimes very difficult to overcome. For the most part, as the young person approaches puberty, the shame that attaches to the practice alone effects a cure; but this is not always the case, and it then becomes an object of professional interference. In females, when the habit is so riveted as to resist the correcting influence of moral reproach and feminine delicacy of feeling, it is not only very difficult to remedy, but in sensitive minds may give rise to a state of mental depression of the most alarming description. An example of this kind presented itself to my notice a few months ago, the urgency of which suggested the mode of treatment to be presently explained.

The patient, a young woman in humble but respectable life, was 19 years of age, in perfect and robust health, regular, unusually good-looking, well made, fully developed in every respect, and extremely sensitive, so that the misfortune could only be regarded as the result of habit, and not of local debility, or disease of the urinary organs. She had an advantageous offer of marriage pending, but was prevented accepting the proposal in consequence of being unable to retain the contents of the bladder while asleep. Her mother and sister slept with her in turn, but their surveillance was of no avail, as latterly it

appeared the girl did not void her urine while asleep at stated intervals, but as it was secreted, or as soon as a few ounces only were accumulated in the bladder. The habit had resisted every means, moral and medical, hitherto devised for its correction; and the young woman had for a length of time, in consequence, fallen into a state of despondency of the most distressing nature, and which had latterly, from the painful position in which she was placed with respect to her lover, increased to such a degree that her parents were apprehensive she might destroy herself. Being aware that the girl had been under medical treatment on various occasions, and that all the usual remedies had been fairly tried, it occurred to me, as the case was pressing, to establish a perpetual monitor at the orifice of the urethra. For this purpose I applied lunar caustic freely, to about an inch in extent, along the mucous lining of the urethral canal, so as to excite acute inflammation of the part. This had the desired effect. When the urine passed over the irritated surface the pain it produced was sufficient to awaken the patient, and arouse the sphincter vesicæ to the performance of its office. At first she slept but little, the scalding being very troublesome, from the urine almost constantly flowing; but in the course of a week the bladder admitted off a natural accumulation of urine, and the intervals between micturition were proportionably increased. A few weeks sufficed to completely correct the habit, though it was necessary to repeat the application of the caustic three times at intervals of fourteen or sixteen days, as the inflammation subsided. She has had no relapse during the last four months, and is to be married very shortly.

SIR ANTHONY CARLISLE, AND HIS NIGHT-WORKING COLLEAGUES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Sir Anthony Carlisle appears in "The Times," of March 31, as the advocate of the London College of Surgeons. I dare say you have seen his production, but lest, in the multiplicity of your avocations, it may have escaped your attention, I am induced to mention it, in the hope that you will expose to the readers of THE LANCET the special pleading with which it abounds. One part of his letter I know to be untrue, and I am much at a loss to conceive upon what authority he has made the statement: I mean that part in which he says that "the Colleges of Edinburgh and Dublin are both open to English candidates upon less expensive terms." Of the Edinburgh College I know nothing, but I know that the Dublin College charges for its letters