occurring from the tying of the femoral artery so high up as the point of its emergence from below Poupart's ligament, where it only could be done from the shortness of the stump. In her cachectic constitution could she in her weakened state survive a second recurrence of hæmorrhage and the tying, if necessary, of the external iliac? I think not, and am of opinion that acupressure saved this woman's life, and that in this case it was at least *triumphant*.

The other case referred to by Dr. Kerr is that of a patient who had had his thigh amputated by Dr. Keith for a crushing railway accident. Acupressure was in this case successfully applied in securing the arteries. The patient did not die because acupressure was employed, but from shock for which no operator can fairly be held responsible. Dr. Kerr implies that the amputations were unnecessary. But he had not seen the case, and Dr. Keith in his experience did what he thought best for the poor man. I think, in discussing acupressure, insinuations that amputations were not necessary in the case are foreign to the subject and uncalled for.

There are many inconsistencies in Dr. Kerr's letter, which must be apparent to anyone who reads it, but which need not be noticed in this communication. Dr. Kerr in conclusion states that acupressure has nothing to recommend it but its novelty. Let him say whether its application in the other cases in the hospital have proved successful or not.

I regret having felt called upon to write this letter, and that one of Dr. Kerr's high standing and abilities should remain unconvinced of the benefits of acupressure.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

DAVID FIDDES, M.D., &c.,

Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen.

March 30th, 1867.

THE OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY AND MR. BAKER BROWN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall be obliged by your allowing me, through the medium of your columns, to thank the many professional friends who have written to me to express their approval of the course I felt it my duty to adopt at the meeting of the Obstetrical Society on Wednesday evening last.

Nothing but a growing conviction of the necessity for what was then done, and the apparent indisposition of better men to do it, induced me to take upon myself so odious a task. I trust it will do good.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Sloane-street, April 10th, 1867.

F. SEYMOUR HADEN.

BIRMINGHAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE General Hospital election has resulted in the return of Mr. T. H. Bartleet. I use the word "return" advisedly, for in a contest conducted on such a parliamentary scale the term seems the most suitable. Mr. Goodall retired about a week before the day of election, and by this wise step the heavy expenses consequent on the polling were saved for each candidate. Mr. Goodall, in his notice of withdrawal from the present contest, has intimated his intention of seeking the appointment on the next vacancy. By Mr. Bartleet's election the surgeoncy to the Children's Hospital will be rendered vacant; for this office Mr. C. J. Bracey and Mr. Kettle (a former house-surgeon) will probably offer themselves.

Our sanatorium has at last found a home at Sutton Coldfield, in a building erected a short time back for an hotel. The selection is a very wise one, as the locality is most healthy, only six miles from Birmingham and easily accessible by railway, and in the immediate vicinity of Sutton Park, where the convalescents will have the privilege of wandering over a large tract of airy beautiful country. The expenses of the purchase and the sum required to render the building fit for the reception of some fifty patients will amount to considerably less than the £10,000 which would have been requisite for the erection of a new building on another site. Now that the institution is likely to have a building worthy of its purpose, the hospital officers and the general practitioners of the town will no doubt fully avail themselves of the privilege of using it for their convalescent patients.

During the past quarter the health of Birmingham has im-

proved on that of the corresponding quarter of last year. Birmingham and Bristol have enjoyed the lowest death-rate—viz., 25·3 per 1000—of any of the large towns. This improvement must be a source of much satisfaction when considered in connexion with the great severity of the weather during some weeks of the past three months. For the corresponding thirteen weeks of 1865 and 1866 the death-rates were 28·7 and 30·7 respectively. Scarletina has been the prevalent epidemic and is still committing serious ravages in many parts of the town.

Birmingham, April 7th, 1867.

Parliamentary Intelligence.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

APRIL 4TH.

CRIMINAL LUNATICS BILL.

THIS Bill, on the motion of Lord Belmore, passed through Committee, after the expression of a hope by Lord Kimberley that a similar measure would be made applicable to Ireland.

APRIL 5TH.

The Mutiny Bill was read a third time and passed, Lord Longford making some explanations with respect to the 22nd clause, having reference to flogging in the army.

APRIL 9TH.

THE LONDON UNIVERSITY.

Earl GRANVILLE, in reference to the suspension of the works of the London University, said that it was desirable the building should be in harmony with the other buildings on Burlington House site. This was the opinion of the authorities of the University and out of doors.

The Duke of BUCKINGHAM said the works of Burlington House site would be suspended for a few weeks so as to leave open the question of any modification or alteration of the place and elevation which had been proposed for the buildings of the London University.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

APRIL 5TH.

THE TOOMER CASE.

Sir R. COLLIER called the attention of the House to the case of Toomer, and moved for copies of all memorials presented to the Home Office in his behalf and the answers thereto. He thought Toomer had suffered a great wrong, and he entered into a long and elaborate argument to show that Toomer had been most unjustifiably convicted of an offence of which he was not guilty. The evidence showed most satisfactorily that there was no foundation for the charge against him. Sir Robert admitted that under ordinary circumstances the Home Secretary should not be made a court of appeal in criminal cases, but this was so exceptional that he thought the Home Secretary was bound to interfere.

Mr. WALPOLE declined to consider the motion, and entered into the same arguments which he had used on a former motion of Toomer's case in the House. He defended the line of conduct he had pursued, and said it was one of impartiality and fairness. Toomer could prosecute Miss Partridge for perjury, and his friends might memorialise for a mitigation of his sentence, which was no doubt a severe one.

Mr. Clive, Sir F. Goldsmid, Mr. Neate, Mr. Otway, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. T. Chambers, Mr. Lowther, and Mr. Hugesson were in favour of the interference of the Home Secretary, both on the grounds of the conviction and the sentence. Mr. Denman, the Solicitor-General, Mr. M. Chambers, and Mr. Bagdall defended the judge and supported the course Mr. Walpole had taken.

THE CHAIR OF ANATOMY IN EDINBURGH.

THE Curators of Edinburgh University met on Thursday afternoon to appoint a successor to Professor Goodsir. The candidates were Dr. Turner, Demonstrator of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh; Dr. Struthers, of Aberdeen; and Dr. Pettigrew, of the College of Surgeons, London. Dr.