"Corrosive sublimate in the solid form. A solution of iodide of potassium turns it to a bright scarlet."—*Guy's Medical Jurisprudence*, p. 473.

"Hydriodate of potass causes in solutions of corrosive sublimate a beautiful pale scarlet precipitate, which rapidly deepens in tint. The precipitate is the biniodide of mercury. This is a test of great delicacy."—*Christison*, 4th edition, p. 376.

"Hydriodate of potash causes a beautiful pale scarlet precipitate, which rapidly deepens in tint."—*Beck's Medical Jurisprudence*, 6th edition, p. 441.

So much for the reviewer's knowledge of chemistry, or so much for his veracity.

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

London, Dec. 1848.

MEDICUS.

A BULLET SWALLOWED.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reply to the question contained in Mr. Litchfield's note, which I have only just observed in your journal, I beg to say, that I well recollect one of my brothers swallowing a large bullet, accidentally, about twenty years ago; and that, although it caused us considerable alarm at the time, it passed per anum, two days afterwards, without any bad symptom having appeared.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Seething-lane, Dec. 1848.

ROBERT TRACY WYLDE.

PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE IN SCOTLAND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a letter published in THE LANCET of the 11th Nov. current, dated Dollar, Clackmannanshire, and signed J. M. Strachan. As that letter manifestly refers to me, and is evidently intended to reflect upon my professional conduct and mode of behaviour on a certain occasion, I will feel greatly obliged if, through the medium of your useful journal, you will allow me the privilege of giving publicity to the following plain statement of the facts of the case alluded to.

About a month ago I was driving out to visit some patients about four miles from this, when I was overtaken on the road by Mr. C—, who stated that his wife was very ill, and requested me to visit her. I explained to him that as I intended to go some distance from home next morning, and would probably be away for a few days, it would be very inconvenient for me to attend her at that time, and therefore declined to visit her. Mr. C— then informed me that Dr. Strachan had been attending her for some time past—that she was daily getting worse, and was supposed to be very dangerously ill; and he again begged that I would go and see her. I told him that Dr. Strachan and I were not upon friendly terms—that he was an individual with whom I did not now hold the slightest converse or acquaintanceship, and could not meet in consultation in any case whatever, and on that account I did not wish to visit any patient under his care; and besides, I said, Dr. Strachan would no doubt be offended were I to visit his wife. He replied that it was a matter of indifference to him whether Dr. Strachan was offended or not, he only considered that his wife was seriously ill, and had expressed a strong desire to see me, and he hoped I would not persist in refusing to visit her, for if his wife died (and he feared much she would) he would ever after regret that her wish had not been complied with. I represented to him that as I could not undertake the treatment of her case myself, and as I could hold no communication, either directly or indirectly, with Dr. Strachan, I could be of no use to her further than simply to give my opinion as to the probable issue of the disease. He said he would be content with that, and he thought his wife would be satisfied. On that express understanding I then agreed to visit her, and forthwith drove to his house. While I was at the bedside of Mrs. C—, Dr. Strachan entered the room, and heard all the conversation that passed betwixt the patient and myself. I examined her carefully, and then remarked, that although she was doubtless very ill, yet I saw no occasion for any serious alarm, and gave it as my opinion that she would ultimately recover; advised her to persevere in taking the medicines she was then using, to keep her mind easy, and I had little doubt she would soon get better. On leaving the house, Mr. C— accompanied me to the door, and there asked me to give him my candid opinion regarding his wife. I repeated what I had already stated to Mrs. C—. He inquired if I could suggest any remedy that had not been tried. I replied that of course I could not know exactly what reme-

dies had been used, and I could give no particular directions regarding the treatment. The medicines I presumed she was then taking appeared to me appropriate enough in the meantime, but circumstances I said might occur which would render other medicines in addition to those necessary, and in that case I had no doubt Dr. Strachan would prescribe them. I then left.

If Dr. Strachan sent for me Mr. C— did not say so, neither did he mention that Dr. Strachan was waiting at his house to meet me. If he had, I most certainly would have refused to go upon any consideration. In a letter I addressed to Dr. Strachan, upwards of twelve months ago, I gave him distinctly to understand, that for the many and valid reasons I then stated, I could never in future have any communication with him in any way whatever; and it does appear strange to me, indeed, that he could suppose after that I ever could meet him in consultation, or that he could expect I would return his salutation; and I must own I was not a little surprised when I saw him at Mr. C—'s house.

Having thus laid before the profession a plain and true statement of the facts of the case, I deem it unnecessary to make any further comment. I will leave it to my professional brethren to judge what degree of reprehension, if any, is due to my conduct.

In conclusion, permit me to express my regret that I should have been compelled to occupy any part of your valuable columns with any remarks on such a silly, trifling, and uninteresting subject.

I have only to add that Mrs. C— recovered.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Dollar, Nov. 1848.

DAVID S. RITCHIE.

QUACKERY AT WALWORTH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having seen, in your "Notices to Correspondents," that you had received a handbill, with the enquiry as to my having a diploma from any College of Surgeons, I beg to inform you that I am a M.R.C.S. Lond., and Licentiate of the Apothecaries' Company. I have no doubt but that some jealous surgeon near me has sent it to you.

When your correspondent has stated his name, I shall be ready to prove that I am perfectly justified in what I have done; that I am second to no one in London for respectability and high moral character; and that no one is more anxious than myself to elevate the dignity of the medical profession.

I am, Sir, a Constant Reader,

William's-place, Walworth-road.

WM. EMERSON, Surgeon, &c.

* * As Mr. Emerson has given the above answer to the enquiry which we made in our "Notices to Correspondents," Dec. 9th, we think it right to publish a copy of the printed handbill.

"1st Edition of Prices.

MR. W. EMERSON,

SURGEON & CHEMIST,

6, WILLIAM'S-PLACE, WALWORTH-ROAD.

Comparison of Prices.

EMERSON'S.

RUTHERFORD'S.

ALMOND OIL, 2d. per ounce.
BEST SALAD OIL, 1½ per ounce.
OPODEDOC, 2d. per ounce.
SPONGE, from 1d. and upwards.
CASTOR OIL POMADE, in bottles, 6d. each.
BROWN WINDSOR SOAP, 2d. each.

ALMOND OIL, 3d. per ounce.
BEST SALAD OIL, 2d. per ounce.
OPODEDOC, 3d. per ounce.
SPONGE, from 6d. and upwards.
CASTOR OIL POMADE, 1s. each.
BROWN WINDSOR SOAP, 3d. each.

MR. W. EMERSON begs to inform the public that it is his ambition to have the Purest Drugs in London, and he is enabled to do so by having them from wholesale chemists and druggists of immense capital, who have the most intelligent agents constantly on 'Change, ready to buy the Drugs most recently imported at the Docks, from various parts of the World.

N.B.—W. E., being anxious that the poorest of his fellow-countrymen should have the purest Drugs, intends, at a future time, (according to circumstances,) to sell them at the Wholesale prices.

W. E. hopes, in his Second Edition of Prices, to offer Drugs at a still more reasonable rate.

Advice Gratis.—Vaccination Gratis.

Poor Women attended in their confinements for Half a Guinea."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In answer to your inquiry about Mr. Emerson's qualification, I have to inform you that he calls himself "Licentiate of Apothecaries' Company," and "Member of College of Surgeons," and has a certificate of the latter suspended in his *drug-shop* window.

The young man, Rutherford, whom he has attacked, is a druggist, son of a late surgeon of great respectability, and whose shop is at some distance on the opposite side of the street. Allow me to ask you if such conduct is not disgraceful, particularly in such a case as the present; Mr. Emerson having thrust himself into interference with a business which does not not belong to, or accord with, the practice of his profession?

It is to be hoped that some measure of general medical reform will soon be enacted, defining the duties of all persons connected with medicine, and giving power to suspend and expel such persons as infringe the rules.

The druggists are under obligation, and not insensibly, to you, for the very temperate and indulgent view you were pleased to take of the unfortunate case of poisoning by Mr. Jones, of Romsey; and if a similar tone were general in the behaviour of surgeons and druggists to each other, it would be better for both.

Surgeons say, "Druggists should not prescribe;" the latter reply, "Surgeons should not keep shops." Both are right, but neither will give way; so that nothing but a legal enactment can settle this "vexata questio," the opprobrium of the profession.—With thanks for your attention, I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

London, Dec. 13, 1848.

S.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the last number of your journal I perceived a query from you to a correspondent who had furnished you with a handbill of Wm. Emerson, as to whether its author had obtained a diploma from any College of Surgeons. I can furnish you with the information you require, although you will probably also receive it from the correspondent to whom the query was addressed.

I saw the diploma of the College of Surgeons exhibited in one window of the shop this day, and by its side, a number of your journal and a stethoscope, and, underneath, several handbills, requesting the public to procure a certain medicine prepared by himself, a "sure cure for the cholera." In the other window, sundry certificates of hospital practice, lectures, &c. In addition, there is painted, in large letters, over different parts of the shop-front, "Wm. Emerson, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons," "L.A.C.," "Surgeon," "Apothecary," &c.

I send you the above statement, without apology or comment, in the hope, if you have not derived the information required elsewhere, that it may enable you to deal with such an individual as seems meet to you.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ONE WHO HAS ALWAYS UPHELD THE DIGNITY
OF THE PROFESSION, EVEN AT A PECUNIARY
SACRIFICE.

DENTAL SURGERY.—NEW APPLICATION OF CHLOROFORM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have lately been successful in the application of chloroform locally, as a preventive of pain during the operation for the removal of diseased teeth.

The plan which I adopt is first to remove as much of the carious portion of the tooth as possible, so as to bring the chloroform into immediate contact with the nerve of the tooth itself, by applying to it lint or cotton wool, which has been previously saturated with it. This causes the most violent pain to subside, soon after which the tooth may be removed with comparatively no pain. In fact, by the description of those on whom I have operated, there is no pain but that occasioned from the unavoidable contact of the forceps with the gum.

In thus applying chloroform, the advantages over inhalation are obvious, since the quantity used is less, and the risk to the patient is reduced to a minimum, he being conscious during the whole operation. Pain is superseded, and consequently severe and difficult operations for the removal of stumps and teeth may be effected with security and comparative ease to the permanent comfort of the sufferer.

That it might also be made use of as a curative means for the ultimate preservation of the tooth, by means of stopping, must also follow as a natural consequence; but as what I

have already said is a sufficient hint to the adoption of its use for the prevention of pain in the teeth, I will take no more room than to subscribe myself Your obedient servant,

Swansea, Dec. 1848.

C. SPENCER BATE.

A SECOND HEROD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having an objection to bring charges against a medical man without some little provocation, I wish you would favour me with your opinion as to what course I ought to adopt under the following circumstances. Some few months ago, having called to vaccinate some children, I was not pleasingly surprised to find that I was too late, as Dr. — had been round on one of his periodical excursions, and had performed the little operation the week previously. As this did not tally with my opinion of fair play, I requested the doctor not to interfere with my patients for the future. He partly explained the circumstance, by stating he was not aware that I had attended the mother, (at any rate, he knew he had not;) and that he was in the habit of freely vaccinating amongst the patients of other medical men. Having requested him not to include my patients in his list, we parted. Recently I find the doctor has resumed his piratical excursions, and to such an extent, that a medical friend humorously observed, he was a second Herod, laying violent hands on all the newly-born.—Hoping you will either give this note insertion, or bestow what little consideration upon it you think proper, I remain, your obedient servant,

Darlington, Dec. 18th, 1848.

WM. D. EMMETT, M.R.C.S.E.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the college at the meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 15th inst.:—

BOWEN, SIMON, Haverfordwest.

BURTON, BINDON JOHN, Dublin.

DRAGE, CHARLES, Ipswich.

FERGUSON, THOMAS, Belfast.

FRAMPTON, DECIMUS NELSON, Eaton-square.

O'KEEFE, WILLIAM, Cork.

PRYCE, CHARLES, Brighton.

ROGERS, HENRY, Regent-street.

SQUIRE, SAMUEL NATHANIEL, Pakefield, Suffolk.

TUKE, JAMES KINGDON, Week St. Mary, Cornwall.

At the same meeting of the Court, Mr. ALLAN BROWN passed his examination for naval surgeon: this gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the college, his diploma bearing date June 27th, 1842.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday,

December 14th, 1848.

BOSWOOD, THOMAS WARD.

BURTON, JOSEPH STEWART.

FLETCHER, FREDERICK DICKER, Canterbury.

GRANT, HENRY SANDERS, Northampton.

HARVEY, JOSEPH, Milford, Derbyshire.

MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE, WILTS.—Dr. Fergus, the house-surgeon of the Staffordshire General Infirmary, was, on Wednesday, the 13th inst., elected by the council to be resident medical officer to this college. A vacancy, of course, occurs in the infirmary at Stafford.

ELECTION IN THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF PARIS.—An election of a member of this learned body, in the section of physics and chemistry, took place at the meeting of the 28th of November. The following names, well known in the chemical world, were placed on the list in the subjoined order—1. M. Mialhe; 2. M. Gaultier de Claubry; 3. M. Lassaigne; 4. M. F. Boudet; 5. M. Gobley; 6. M. Foy. After several ballots M. Gaultier de Claubry was elected.

SUFFOLK GENERAL HOSPITAL.—Mr. Cream has resigned the appointment of surgeon to this institution. There are two candidates in the field for the vacant appointment—viz., Mr. S. Newham, for six years the house-surgeon; and Mr. J. Kilner; both of Bury St. Edmunds.

POOR-LAW OFFICERS.—At a meeting of the Bradford Board of Guardians, on Friday last, an angry discussion ensued, respecting the remuneration to their medical officers, who