Again, should Parliament grant the Medical Council an exclusive copyright in the new Pharmacopœia, whereby it must be always used by practitioners and pharmacutists, its price being made considerable, large profits may then accrue, seeing no competition can in that case exist, excepting through piracy. Nevertheless, instead of making the profession pay ten or twelve shillings, which some advocates confidently assume will be charged for the proposed official volume, the same system ought to be followed which is now applied to all published Parliamentary documents—that is, it should be sold at the actual cost for paper and printing, and not made a means of raising revenue. One chief object desired from establishing a national standard for dispensing drugs being publicity, that can surely be best obtained by cheapness. Were the Medical Council therefore to imitate Government in selling all their printed papers by weight, such conduct would give great satisfaction to every registered practitioner, by thus affording some return for their fees of registration, which as yet have produced so few benefits. Besides doing as here recommended, it would be also liberal on the part of the Council were they to present to each medical practitioner who shall hereafter register, when paying five pounds, one gratis copy of the new Pharmacopœia, seeing that the above sum is excessive, considering the few privileges it confers.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A FELLOW OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

August, 1862.

SCOTT VERSUS WAKEM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As the ready advocate of the rights and privileges of the medical profession, its members will confidently rely upon your experience and judgment in commenting upon the medico-legal aspect of the recent most disgraceful verdict given in the above case, and I feel it would be unnecessary on my part to offer any suggestions on this head.

I am induced to urge upon my brethren the duty which plainly devolves upon them, of aiding to defray the expenses incurred by Mr. Wakem, whom I know to be an old-established, highly respectable, and judicious practitioner. Who can tell how soon any one of us may be subjected to the same cruel and monstrous persecution! Common safety demands immediate action in this matter, and I shall be happy to co-operate with any gentlemen who may feel disposed to assist, and take charge of any subscription which may be forwarded to me for the "Wakem Defence Fund."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. SEDGWICK SAUNDERS, M.D.
Queen-street, Cheapside, Aug. 1862.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I venture, through the columns of your extensively circulated journal, to call the attention of the profession to the above case, and to beg you to exert your influence on behalf of one of our brethren who has been severely mulcted in the way of legal expenses, while defending an action on the issue of which rests the right of exercising one of the most important duties which a medical man may be called upon to perform. Mr. Wakem seems to me to have vindicated, in his person, the right of every practitioner to do for his patient that which in his judgment is best for him; and as in carrying out that principle Mr. Wakem has rendered himself liable to a prosecution entailing great anxiety of mind and loss of valuable time, as well as heavy expenses, I think the profession ought to stand by him as one man, and not allow him individually to bear a severe loss for that which indirectly concerns every member of our body. He is, in my estimation, deserving of general sympathy, and I shall feel a pleasure in contributing a guinea towards the fund which I hope will at once be raised to defray his expenses in this matter.

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,
Newhall-street, Birmingham, J. MRS F. WEST,
Aug. 1862. Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital.

THE ORIGIN OF DIGITAL COMPRESSION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having read with much interest a valuable paper published in THE LANCET of March 15th, by Mr. Ernest Hart, on "Intra-orbital Aneurism, cured by Ligature of the Carotid Artery," and allusion having been made therein to the subjec

of digital pressure applied to the artery leading to the aneurism, I am desirous of being informed who was the originator of this mode of treatment as applied to the arteries and aneurisms generally. Mr. Hart in his paper mentions that Professor Vauzetti, of Padua, perfected the application of digital compression, from which I infer that he was not the originator of that mode of treatment. Will he have the goodness, in an early impression of your journal, to answer my query—namely, Who was the surgeon who originated the practice of digital compression?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Dublin, Aug. 1862. HENRY GRAY CROLY, L.K.Q.C.P.I.

PARISIAN MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

THE "slip between the cup and the lip" was never more painfully exemplified than in the case of ovariectomy detailed three weeks ago to his *confrères* of the Academy of Medicine by M. Nélaton. On Tuesday last this surgeon again mounted the tribune to announce the death of his patient, which occurred on the twenty-first day after the operation from tetanus. The *Gazette Hebdomadaire*, in commenting upon this singularly unhappy termination of what promised to be a brilliant success, winds up with a verdict of "*died cured*," and very properly protests against such a complication as tetanus figuring in the list of *contras*, when the expediency of the operation is called in question.

M. Isidor, Grand Rabbi of the Israelite community of Paris, has written a letter to the Academy of Sciences, relative to an assertion publicly made by M. Boudin, with respect to the extreme frequency of deaf mutism amongst the Jews, and its origin in consanguineous marriages. "M. Boudin's memoir," he observes, "contains, so far as the Jews are concerned, certain opinions which are exaggerated, if not erroneous, and against which I find it necessary to protest." M. Boudin, after asserting that surdo-mutism was common amongst the Jews in all countries, stated that in the case of the Israelite population of France, no statistical documents existed, but there was good reason to believe "that here, as elsewhere, a prevalence of like causes produced similar effects." "I do not intend," continues the Rabbi, "to dispute with M. Boudin the danger that may ensue from consanguineous marriages; but, granting this fact, beg leave to observe that alliances of this nature are not so frequent amongst Jews as M. Boudin seems to think them. The Mosaic law, it is true, permits the intermarriage of uncles and nieces, but the civil code prohibits the same, and dispensations are not easily obtained. Between male and female cousins, intermarriages are everywhere allowed, the canonical objections being easily surmounted. I have no certain and indisputable data any more than M. Boudin, regarding our Israelite population of France; but in the Paris community, which exceeds 25,000 souls, I affirm that there are not four deaf mutes. A few weeks ago the Asylum in the Faubourg St. Jacques contained three, one of whom (a Prussian) is now gone, and the two who remain are from Bordeaux. The number of Israelites in France is estimated at 100,000; and by applying the ratio of Paris to the total Jewish population of this country, we should obtain an average of twelve or fifteen, a figure far less than that mentioned by M. Boudin. I am at a loss to comprehend the statistics furnished by Dr. Liebreich, of Berlin, which show a total of 27 deaf mutes in a population of 10,000, as also those of Mr. Elliotson of London, and, until there be proof to the contrary, must consider both as incorrect."

M. Devergie, one of the physicians of St. Louis, has written an interesting letter to the papers, in which he suggests certain important modifications of the existing programme for the *concours* of admission to the Bureau Central. As one of the judges in the late examination, by which MM. Lays, Parrot, and Tamarel-Mauriac, have been called to fill the existing vacancies, he has been struck by certain deficiencies, which he proposes to remedy. "The *concours* for admission to the Bureau Central," he observes, "is the most important event in the life of the medical man of this capital. It opens to him the doors of the hospital, because the medical staff of this institution are called upon in turn to fill up the vacancies which, from age, resignations, or death, may occur. The number of candidates is often considerable (as many as thirty-six or