interest. The patient, he said, had been afflicted since a very early period of his life, and had suffered a great deal. He had undergone, in another hospital, the operation of lithotrity ten times. There was extensive disease of the mucous membrane of the bladder, and some indications of disease of the kidneys. These circumstances, combined with the weakly state of the man, rendered it a very unfavourable case for operation. The pain and misery, however, which the man was undergoing, the certainty of a speedily fatal termination to his sufferings if the stone was not extracted, and his own anxious desire to have it performed, clearly pointed out that, in the hope of prolonging life, the path of duty was to operate.

At about four o'clock, p.m. (three hours after the operation), he complained of pain in the penis, which he described as if greatly distended. He expressed a desire to make water by the urethra. This however, suddenly ceased, and a considerable gush of urine took place both by the urethra and wound. On lifting his shirt, he was found to have passed a large clot, with some fluid blood and urine, from the urethra. Blood oozed also from the wound. This continued to increase, but no pulsating vessel could be detected by the eye. Mr. Solly was immediately sent for. In the interim the wound was plugged with lint. This, however, proving inefficient, the plug becoming saturated, and blood flowing rapidly, the lint was withdrawn. Two fingers were introduced a considerable distance, and firm pressure made against the tubes ischii. This, after some time, proved effectual, but not before the patient became somewhat faint. The hæmorrhage had in great measure ceased on Mr. Solly's arrival, who ordered the pressure to be continued. This was kept up until six p.m., when the bleeding had entirely ceased, and showed no tendency to return on the withdrawal of the fingers. On account of the faintness he was ordered to have some gin and water, with a small piece of dry toast. At eight, p.m. he felt more comfortable, had had no return of hæmorrhage, but still felt rather faint. Tincture of opium, forty minims. At a quarter past twelve, having had no sleep, the opiate was repeated.

19. Nine, a.m. Had dozed frequently during the night; feels comfortable; urine has passed freely by the wound. About mid-day he was rather feverish; tongue coated with a brown fur; skin hot and dry; feels thirsty, and has pain in the abdomen, increased by pressure; wound rather swollen about the edges, and painful to the touch, but with little redness.

Nine, p.m. Pulse rapid; countenance anxious; tongue furred in the centre; complains of pain in the abdomen, a little above the vesical region; urine does not flow freely. Compound senna mix-

ture, one ounce; tincture of opium, five minims; immediately. Soda water occasionally.

20. Nine, a.m. Better; countenance more natural; pulse less rapid, with more power, and becoming slower as you continue to feel it; wound healthy, smarts when the urine flows through it. Has had an excellent night—slept nearly six hours, without any opiate, and only waking for a minute or two occasionally. Bowels have been relieved four times. Mutton-chop; beef-tea occasionally; soda water.

Nine, p.m. Pulse quick, without much power; countenance rather anxious; bowels freely open; evacuations healthy; has slight pain about the umbilicus. To have a little gin and water.

21. Nine, a.m. Bowels having been freely opened, has passed a restless night; stools loose and watery, but of healthy colour; countenance still anxious; pulse quick. There is no pain in the vesical, and less in the umbilical region. Tincture of opium, one drachm; compound chalk mixture, one ounce; aromatic confection, one drachm; tincture of catechu, one drachm; immediately. Mustard-poultice to the abdomen; brandy, one ounce, with ground rice.

Three, p.m. Better; no stool since last report; is now almost free from pain.

22. Has passed a very comfortable night, and is in every respect better. From this period he went on progressively improving, and left the hospital perfectly well.

LETTER FROM DR. COPLAND ON CROUP AND LARYNGISMUS STRIDULUS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have not until now perceived that Dr. Golding Bird is reported (in your number of the 27th ult.) to have said, in a discussion on croup, at the Medical Society of London, that Dr. Copland had confounded together croup, pellicular inflammation of the throat, and laryngismus stridulus. Now, so far from this being the case, it will be found, upon referring to the articles on these diseases, that I have not only carefully distinguished the several states of croup, both in my description and in my diagnosis, but I have treated of these diseases under different heads. When describing the several varieties of *consecutive*, or *symptomatic*, croup, the extension of inflammation, with pellicular exudation, from the fauces and pharynx to the larynx and trachea, could not be overlooked; and this disease, which is more fully considered under a different head, was, therefore, cursorily noticed in connection with croup, or noticed so far as the croupy complication of it is concerned. *Laryngismus stridulus* is treated of in its

appropriate place, it being a distinct affection from any of the states of croup, and symptomatic of very different pathological states. Dr. G. Bird will find this affection described under the article "*Larynx*," and by the name of "Spasm of the *Larynx*," or "Stridulous Laryngic Suffocation." It is no further noticed in the article "Croup" than as regards the diagnosis, in which chapter of that article he could have seen this particular topic discussed, and reference made to "*Larynx*." I do not accuse Dr. G. Bird of intentional misrepresentation, but I am desirous of removing the misapprehension he has fallen into, as well as of counteracting the effect his representation may have on the minds of your readers. Having been physician to the Infirmary for the Diseases of Children during fifteen or sixteen years, it must appear somewhat odd if I should have confounded together diseases so different from each other as those in question, and which were not very rarely observed at that institution. I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

JAMES COPLAND.

Old Burlington-street,
Feb. 12, 1844.

THE LANCET.

London, Saturday, February 17, 1844.

THE extraordinary, the unprecedented, success which has attended the publication of THE LANCET, was sure to produce a host of attempted imitations of that Journal. The plan of our undertaking was novel; the vast field into which we plunged was unoccupied by a medical press; the Augean stables, which we undertook to assist in cleansing, had been accumulating their noxious deposits for centuries. The novelty of the scheme, and the utility of the enterprise, were at once acknowledged by the members of our important profession.

The conflicts in which we were engaged for a series of years (and the fight, we regret to say, still continues, for the *casus belli*, though mitigated in force, is not yet destitute of incentives to hostility,) were often of a perplexing, perilous description; but, we believe that it cannot be alleged by any one, unless he be a malignant slanderer, that we ever blenched or quailed before the innu-

merable difficulties by which we were surrounded, or the obstacles which chicanery and corruption raised to impede our progress. From the first, THE LANCET was, and it is still, an independent work. The plan and the title were his whose hand traces these lines; the integrity of the property is unbroken, and he who was entitled to call the work his own at the first hour of its existence, still regards and controls his mental offspring with paternal care and anxiety. If, therefore, he be entitled to approbation for any merits which THE LANCET may have exhibited, he is, at the same time, both legally and morally responsible for the contents of that publication. In connection with that responsibility—great as it has often been—the name of the Proprietor and Editor of the work has been boldly and unflinchingly displayed.

The constant avowal of personal liability, as Editor of the work, in addition to the legal responsibility of Proprietor, has not been without its perils; but the reward of a chivalrous daring has more than compensated for the evils of the risk. The determination to write openly, and not in ambush, or behind a mask, was influenced by what we believed to be a sound principle in periodical literature, namely, that the best safeguard for society in the conduct of the press is the *personal* as well as the *legal* responsibility of the parties by whom it is controlled.

Numerous as have been the attempts to successfully imitate our work, few have endeavoured to follow the example that we have set them, of openly incurring a moral and personal responsibility in the execution of our labours. Crowds of weekly medical journals have appeared, and disappeared after existing for a few weeks, months, or years, since THE LANCET was first published, the names of the owners of them having been seldom known until they were proclaimed to the world through the Bankrupt and Insolvent Courts; and of the large number that at different times have issued from the press,