payable out of the rates for the relief of the poor of the parish where the person for the time being dwells in respect of whose default or offence the same were instituted; and the court or justices shall ascertain the amount of such expenses. And proceedings for enforcing penalties under any of the said Acts, on account of neglect to have a child vaccinated, may be taken at any time during which the parent or guardian is in default.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

HOMŒOPATHIC CONSULTATIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The explanations I offered in your journal of the 20th ultimo, regarding my alleged communion with homœopaths, not appearing satisfactory to the profession, I beg to state that, for the future, I shall feel it incumbent on me to decline any meeting or so-called consultation with homœopathic practitioners.

Enjoying a large share of professional confidence, and holding various important public appointments, I should consider myself unworthy of such honour were I, at the present time, to offer any objections to the expressed wishes and declared opinions of my professional brethren.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WM. FERGUSSON, F.R.C.S.

George-street, Hanover-square, Aug. 1861.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—From Mr. Fergusson's note, published in your journal of last week, I can but infer that he received no history (or an incorrect one) of the case; did not ascertain the cause of the patient's symptoms, and gave no advice as to the future treatment. If this really were so, can anything be more farcically dishonest than this form of mock consultation? I would simply ask, Who was to be benefited by it? Certainly *not the patient!* The plea of humanity, therefore, cannot be urged as an excuse; nor can I understand how the welfare and dignity of the Royal College of Surgeons (which all members are bound to maintain) can be honourably supported by such irregular communions. I feel convinced that Mr. Fergusson was used as a mere professional tool, and roughly handled too, as the patient was led to believe "that few men possessed such a delicate sense of touch" as the homœopath, who could detect more than Mr. Fergusson.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Dulwich, August, 1861.

EDWARD RAY, F.R.C.S.

CANCER OF THE MALE BREAST.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Seeing you are publishing in THE LANCET cases of scirrhus cancer of the male breast which have occurred in hospital practice, I think probably the report of cases from the country may be equally interesting to your readers. I therefore venture to forward one, which has recently come under my treatment.

J. C—, aged thirty-seven, robust, and of full habit, consulted me on May 15th about a tumour in the right breast. On examination, I found it to be a scirrhus cancer. He described it as having commenced about thirteen months ago, with a pricking and itching in the part, which he thought arose from the friction of his braces, which he had altered. He soon discovered a lump, which continued to increase to the size of a small orange, when I saw it. He cannot remember having received any injury to the breast, nor assign any cause for its origin. I recommended its immediate removal, to which he assented.

On May 22nd, having placed him under the influence of chloroform, I removed the tumour by excision. About four or five ligatures were required. The parts were brought together and retained by sutures. The case progressed well, and in four weeks had healed. As the glands in the axilla are free from disease, I hope the recovery may be permanent.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Kintbury, August, 1861.

JOHN LIDDERDALE, F.R.C.S.

THE PRACTICE IN PLACENTA PRÆVIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Knowing your readiness to assist in the settlement of all practical medical questions, I now respectfully request your kind co-operation to obtain statistical data on a most important obstetric subject—namely, the practice adopted in cases of placenta prævia. From the various opinions now entertained by the profession, the question must be considered as debatable and unsettled; some advocating one line of practice, some another.

Now it is well known, from my former communication to THE LANCET, that I recommend (conditionally) the placenta being completely detached. As the statistics of this practice, either in accordance with my own views or with the opinions of others, are, however, so limited in comparison with the statistics of the other modes of practice which this operation is intended to supersede, I beg, through your influential journal, to appeal to the general profession to aid me in more fairly estimating its comparative merits.

Those who kindly comply with my request will much oblige me by stating the case or cases according to the suggestions below, and by granting me the privilege of using them for statistical purposes. The name of each contributor shall be inserted in connexion with each case (when tabulated), if such a course is approved of by him.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

THOMAS RADFORD, M.D.

Higher Broughton, Manchester, Aug. 1861.

P.S.—The following particulars are required:—

- 1st. The number of cases of placenta prævia.
- 2nd. Whether partial or complete.
- 3rd. What was the state of the os uteri?
- 4th. What was the general condition of the patient?
- 5th. What was the degree of hæmorrhage?
- 6th. What was the presentation (if ascertained) of the child?
- 7th. What was the mode of practice? Was it—
 - A. To leave the case to the natural powers?
 - B. To merely rupture the membranes, and then leave the case to nature?
 - C. To turn and deliver the child?
 - D. To completely detach the placenta, and then leave the child to be expelled by the uterus?
 - E. To completely detach the placenta and then extract it, and afterwards deliver the child?
 - F. Was the placenta separated or detached by the hand or by a finger?
 - G. What was the degree of hæmorrhage which occurred after the complete detachment of the placenta?
 - H. What was the mother's fate?
 - I. What was the child's fate?
 - K. Was galvanism applied?
 - L. At what period of pregnancy, and if first or which other pregnancy?

THE PROPOSED SANITARY MUSEUM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—There is an error in your notice of the exertions of the Medical Officers of Health to establish a Sanitary Museum, which it is desirable to correct. At their meeting in January, last it was unanimously resolved, "That it would materially assist the labours of Health Officers, and promote the cause of sanitary science, if all the more direct sanitary appliances were brought together in the International Exhibition of 1862, and if a permanent Sanitary Museum could be formed in the metropolis." A sub-committee was appointed to carry out these objects. After some delay the first object was attained; in reference to the last, the only difficulty has been to find a convenient room, of easy access, for the proper display of models and appliances. Several manufacturers, engineers, and inventors promised to present their works to such a Museum free of cost; indeed our Association has already received several such presents. Application for a room has been made to the Society of Arts and to the Metropolitan Board of Works (not the Government, as you have it), with the results stated in your journal. It is due to the Chairman of the Metropolitan Board of Works to say that he cordially approved the idea of a Sanitary Collection for public reference, and made every effort to provide space for it at the Offices in Spring-gardens.