amply justifies the operation; and the man probably owes his life to Mr. Wardrop's fortunate suggestion and example. Should any untoward circumstance occur, leading to any other conclusion, it shall be communicated.

It is now five weeks since he resumed his usual avocations, and he regularly attends the markets and fairs of Derby, a distance of seven miles.

Belper, Oct. 22, 1823.

ERGOT OF RYE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having read in your weekly publication several cases of lingering parturition, as well as of abortion, successfully treated with the ergot of rye, I beg to transmit to you the following case, if you think it worthy a place in your valuable Journal. Mrs. G., ætat. 26, who has had seven children, (and has generally trifling pains, with a sanious discharge, a week before delivery) sent for me to attend her, Sept. 26, in consequence of a violent flooding she had had upon her for three days, (being in her sixth month of pregnancy with the eighth child.) From all the circumstances of the case, considering the debility my patient was labouring under, I thought it advisable to deliver her as soon as possible. I prepared an infusion of the ergot, (ʒiij. to ʒiv. of water), and administered half, and after waiting ten minutes I gave the remainder, without any effect whatever; I sent out for ʒiv. from a friend and infused it in ʒvj. of water, administering one-third every quarter of an hour, without producing the least action about the uterus. As I was anxious to know how far it was possible to push the ergot, I sent to another friend, and obtained ʒss. more, the time occupied by sending, and making it, was not more than a quarter of an hour. I then gave her half of it, and, in ten minutes, the other half, which, like the rest, had no more effect upon the uterus than if the same quantity of water had been given. After the administration of the third dose the hæmorrhage entirely ceased; the pulse, which before was very feeble, and indistinctly felt, gradually rose until it had attained its original standard. From the favourable symptoms above-mentioned I did not feel inclined to adopt other means to deliver her, she has now every possible chance of going the full time of utero-gestation. I have since given her ʒj of the ergot occasionally, by way of experiment, as she complained, after she had the first quantity, of the desire she had to void

her urine; I found, after every dose I gave her, that it produced the same sort of strangury; but I could not ascertain that it affected the uterus in any way whatever.

Yours obediently,

F. FROGGATT, Surgeon.

Westminster, Oct. 2, 1823.

THE APOTHECARIES' COMPANY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The universal circulation of your publication renders it imperative on you to hear both sides of every question brought before the tribunal of public opinion. I appeal to your candour, justice, and interest, on behalf of the Apothecaries' Company, against the heavy charges brought against that body by you, and some of your Correspondents. You say, (and I take your assertion, *cum grano labis*, for truth,) that the general body of Practitioners possess intelligence and skill equal to monopolising Hospital Surgeons and Physicians; and does it not occur to you, that nine-tenths of them are apothecaries as well as surgeons? and does not the contempt you show for venders of drugs insult the understandings of most of your readers? You must be well aware that the apothecary is the physician of the poor and middling, the most numerous and most useful class of his Majesty's subjects; and the Apothecaries' Company, by requiring higher qualifications in their licentiates confer a *great benefit equally on the profession and on the public*.

The Apothecaries' Act was an *ex post facto* law to me, but I cheerfully complied with its enactments, because I saw I should gain in knowledge and respectability far more than I lost in additional expense of time and money. When every class in society is advancing, would you have the apothecary the productive labourer's physician, alone stand still, or retrograde? And what knowledge do the Apothecaries' Examiners require that is not useful, not to say necessary, to the medical practitioner? Botany is not wanted in London, it is true, and perhaps less latin than they require might do to decipher M.D.'s scrawls; but is it no thing to raise the respectability of the profession? Is it not disgraceful to every member of a supposed learned profession, no to possess knowledge enough of Latin to read the quotations that frequently occur in scientific books, and even newspapers? So far from asking too much, the Examiners do no ask enough; and, if they do their duty faithfully to the public and to the profession they will, after sufficient notice, require Greek and French, at least, to form part of