SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, WITH EMPLOYMENT.

THE following remarks, extracted from Miss MARTINEAU'S recent work on America, bear on the subject which we briefly discussed when analysing, lately, the pamphlet of Mr. MALCOLMSON on the effect of solitary confinement and low diet on health:—

"In the treatment of the guilty, America is beyond the rest of the world, exactly in proportion to the superiority of her political principles.

"I was favoured with the confidence of a great number of the prisoners in the Philadelphia Penitentiary, where absolute seclusion is the principle of punishment. Every one of these prisoners (none of them being aware of the existence of any other), told me that he was under obligations to those who had the charge of him, for treating him 'with respect.' The expression struck me much as being universally used by them. Some explained the contrast between this method of punishment, and imprisonment in the old prisons, copied from those of Europe; where criminals are herded together, and treated like anything but men and citizens. Others said, that though they had done a wrong thing, and were rightly sequestered on that ground, they ought not to have any further punishment inflicted upon them; and that it was the worst of punishments not to be treated with the respect due to men. In a community where criminals feel and speak thus, human rights cannot but be, at length, as much regarded in the infliction of punishment, as in its other arrangements. Much yet remains to be done; to this end, an enormous amount of wrong must remain in a society where the elaboration of a vast apparatus for the infliction of human misery, like that required by the system of solitary imprisonment, is yet a work of mercy. Milder and juster methods of treating moral infirmity will succeed when men shall have learned to obviate the largest possible amount of it. In the meantime, I am persuaded, that this is the best method of punishment which has yet been tried. Much as the prisoners suffer from the dreary solitude, cheered only by their labour, and the occasional visits of official superintendents, they testified, without exception, and without concert, to their preference of this over all other methods of punishment. The grounds of preference were, they could preserve their self-respect in the first place; and, in the next, their chance in society on their release. They leave the prison with the recompense of their extra labour in their pockets, and without the fear of being led by vicious old companions, or hunted from employment to employment by those whose interest it is to deprive them of a chance of establishing a

character. There is no evidence at present, that solitary imprisonment, *with labour*, is more injurious to health than any other condition which is attended with anxiety of mind. The Philadelphia prisoners certainly appeared to me to be more healthy-looking than those at Auburn, or at any other prison I visited.

INGUINAL HERNIA,

SUCCESSFULLY OPERATED ON, AFTER BEING STRANGULATED SEVEN DAYS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—I shall feel obliged by the insertion of the following case in your valuable periodical. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. G. RAWSON.

Kegworth, Leicestershire,
July 4th, 1837.

About twelve months ago, Elizabeth Baguley, ætat. 45, after lifting a heavy weight, complained of symptoms resembling those arising from strangulated hernia, but as she denied having any tumour in the ordinary situations of hernia, and positively refused to be examined, it was treated as a case of intussusception, by bleeding, the warm bath, purgatives, calomel, &c., but without effect. On the fifth day, stercoraceous vomiting took place, and on the eighth day, there were hiccough, the pulse scarcely perceptible, but intermittent, cold extremities, and great distention of the abdomen. She now submitted to an examination, when a small tumour was detected in the left groin. I immediately proceeded to operate: the peritoneal sac was highly distended with gas, and also contained a considerable quantity of serum; the small knuckle of intestine was pretty strongly adherent to the ring, and of a deep purple hue; the adhesions were carefully separated, the opening was enlarged, and the intestine returned. The patient rapidly recovered, and is still living.

The success of this case appears to me an encouragement to operate, even under the most unfavourable circumstances.

OBSTRUCTED INTESTINE, ENDING FATALLY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—The following case of obstructed intestine occurred to me some short time back, the particulars and dissection of which I have drawn up, and hope you will think them of sufficient interest for a place in your valuable Journal. I am, Sir, yours most obediently,

WM. HARVEY.

42, Great Queen-st., Lincoln's Inn-fields.
July 12th, 1837.

Mrs. C., a stout woman, the mother of several children, was the subject, for some years, of large varicose veins in the left thigh and leg, which, I believe, were produced by suspending a heavy weight in the left groin for some time during the day?

In her last pregnancy I was directed to see her, having a severe pain in the groin, with great discharges of blood from the rectum; these symptoms readily subsided by leeching and saline aperient medicines.

On the 2nd of March, I attended Mrs. C. in a lingering labour, caused by a breach presentation, and a small portion of the funis. The child was born asphyxiated. The usual means were adopted for the resuscitation, during upwards of an hour and a half, without success. The mother, for the first three days, had not a bad symptom. On the morning of the fourth day, she was seized with a severe rigour, and great pain in the situation of the uterus and left inguinal region. She was treated antiphlogistically, and her mouth was speedily brought under the influence of mercury. After a week she gradually recovered, so as to occupy herself in her bed-chamber. She now remained well and free from pain for ten days, when, indulging rather freely in a meat and porter diet, she was again attacked with the pain in the groin, accompanied with some degree of tumefaction, with great pain and swelling along the course of the femoral vessels. At this time there were great discharges of blood from the uterus, which lasted for an hour each time, for two days. She was again freely leeches, and an open blister was applied to the groin. The bowels, up to this period, were much relaxed. The symptoms now went on favourably, for a week or ten days, when she was suddenly attacked with vomiting and constipated bowels. Dr. R. Lee was now consulted, and, after a careful examination, thought that there was some enlargement about the ovary and uterus, which produced the obstruction in question. She was again ordered to be leeches, and to take calomel and opium every two hours, until the mouth was affected, at the same time to have a strong turpentine enema administered in the intervals. These means, although actively pursued for five days, produced no effect. Tympanitis gradually set in, and the vomiting continued. She died six days after the first setting in of the vomiting, with all the symptoms of internal strangulation.

The body was opened twenty-four hours after death.—The parietes of the abdomen and omentum were found unusually loaded with fat. The omentum was adherent, by its left side, to the sigmoid flexure of the colon, and the colon, at its lowest part, by recently-formed lymph, to the parietes of the inguinal region. The peritoneum, covering

the large intestines, the uterus, &c., was inflamed. An aperture, of the size of a sixpence, was discovered in the descending colon, from which a large portion of its contents had escaped into the cavity of the abdomen. For the purpose of more minutely examining morbid parts, they were removed from the pelvis, *en masse*, when the following appearances were noticed:—Uterus. rather large, with the remains of some recent inflammation about the os and cervix. The left fallopian tube and ovary were found firmly bound down to the under surface of the colon, leaving scarcely a vestige of either. The direct obstruction was found to be one of the appendices epeploicæ, coiling round the colon, and the intestine adhering to the fundus and side of the uterus.

On reviewing the nature of Mrs. C.'s occupation, the obstruction produced to the return of blood in the groin, and the very old and firm adhesions connecting the fallopian tube and ovary to the surrounding parts, I think it highly probable that her pregnancies have been produced solely by the right ovary.

ERRORS IN TRANSLATIONS OF THE PHARMACOPŒIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—IN THE LANCET (January 21), you were pleased to insert my corrections of errors in Mr. Philip's translation of the Pharmacopœia; permit me to request the medium of THE LANCET to correct rather important errors which occur both in the translations by Dr. Spillan and Dr. Collier. It is a singular circumstance, that although there have appeared four translations, and an original, we have not a correct Pharmacopœia. I remain most respectfully, Sir, your obedient servant,
London, July 5, 1837. G. WHIPPLE.

SPILLAN'S TRANSLATION.

"Strychnia:" insert, *Solution of ammonia*; fol. 68. Read, *Extractum pareiræ*—fol. 119.
"Tinctura ammoniæ composita:" read, *Mastich, two drachms*—fol. 242.
"Tinctura assafoetidæ:" read, *Rectified spirit, two pints*—fol. 242.
"Tinctura opii:" read, *Proof spirit, two pints*—fol. 253.

COLLIER'S TRANSLATION.

"Confectio piperis nigri:" read, *Fennel, three pounds*—fol. 82.
"Hydrargyri ammonio-chloridum:" read, *Solution of ammonia, eight fluid ounces*—fol. 153.
"Hydrargyri bichloridum:" omit, *Distilled water*—fol. 154.