several cases were adduced in which mechanical aid had been dispensed with,) his zealous aide-de-camp found abundant proof of Mr. Syme advising mechanical treatment in the following words—"In cases of lateral displacement, unless you operate early, a great deal of subsequent care is required."

In these words, the great principle of mechanical treatment is supposed to be embodied and recommended. Can sophistry be carried to a more ridiculous point?

The successful results of Mr. Syme's treatment of club-foot in dispensing with mechanical aid, have been ably shown in the practical illustrations of Mr. Lizars. The correct interpretation of *subsequent care* is here exhibited in Plate V. of Mr. Lizars' "Practical Observations on the Treatment of Club-foot," in which the unsuccessful case "of Master J. B., after having been three times operated upon by Mr. Syme, and only the boot Fig. 2. (a simple laced boot) put on" is represented: and a complete cure of the same case by Mr. Lizars' treatment is also figured.

Relying upon the evidence of facts, I now leave this subject to the discerning judgment of the profession; and permit me, Sir, to acknowledge with thanks, the liberality with which the pages of your journal have been equally at our disposal.

I am, Sir, yours &c.

WILLIAM ADAMS.

Henrietta-street, Cavendish-square, Nov. 13th, 1855.

THE DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM AT EDINBURGH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In THE LANCET of Saturday last there is a paragraph headed "Death from Chloroform," which besides being intended to cast odium on an agent which has proved—in this quarter of the empire at least—one of the greatest blessings to suffering humanity, is especially calculated to injure my professional reputation. Allow me to call your attention to another paragraph which has appeared in some of the newspapers of this city, and to beg that you will in justice accept it as a brief explanation of the circumstances of the case referred to, until you see the particulars more fully stated in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* for December.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

Queen-street, Edinburgh.

W. A. ROBERTS.

"REPORTED DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM.—In reference to a paragraph inserted in several of the newspapers, noticing the death of a lady, on the 30th ult., from chloroform, under the hands of a highly experienced dentist of this city, we are requested to state that the melancholy event alluded to took place before that powerful agent had been administered in sufficient quantity to produce the usual physiological effects; that the lady had, on four previous occasions, been under the full influence of chloroform, three of these under the care of the same dentist, without exhibiting any unusual symptoms, and on this occasion had it at her own urgent request; and that, on examination after death, in presence of several medical men, disease of the heart, of a nature, we understand, not easily ascertainable during life, was found to exist. We are likewise requested to state that one of the nearest relatives of the deceased fainted and died suddenly several years ago, and that the particulars of the present unfortunate case will, in due course, be communicated to one or other of the medical journals."

MR. PROPERT AND THE MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

[NOTE FROM DR. SIBSON.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I regret that "A Country Surgeon," whose letter, written from Liverpool, appeared in THE LANCET of Nov. 10th, should have been erroneously led to think that Mr. Propert had joined actively with others in "an attempt to damage the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association." I am convinced that Mr. Propert has always endeavoured to promote the welfare of the Association, and on more than one recent occasion he strenuously urged the members to a renewed and hearty co-operation.

I have had frequent opportunities of observing Mr. Propert's actions, both in the Association, and when I was a member of the Council of the Medical Benevolent College, and I can with

truth say, that he is the very embodiment of that great institution which he has founded and brought into operation. Mr. Propert has done more, perhaps, than anyone to unite the whole profession, without regard to rank or place, in the execution of a noble object.

I should, indeed, regret the day when the town and the country medical man refuse to join in the maintenance of any great and good work, such as the Association itself, the Medical Benevolent Fund, and the Medical Benevolent College. Mr. Propert has worked even more in the provincial than the metropolitan spirit, in effecting his great purpose. Thus, seventeen out of the twenty foundation scholars elected last June were the sons of provincial practitioners.

I feel sanguine that "A Country Surgeon," and those gentlemen who think with him, will with pleasure do justice to one who has done so much for the unfortunate of our profession.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Brook-street, Nov. 1855.

FRANCIS SIBSON, M.D.

THE SURGERY OF THE WAR.

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA

DURING THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 27TH.

THE Inspector-General of Hospitals states:—The health of the army continues very satisfactory. Cholera, which made its appearance a short time ago, has now nearly disappeared, and its attacks are confined chiefly to new-comers.

The Artillery, Second and Third Divisions, and Land Transport Corps, which has recently been augmented by drafts from England, are the only portions of the army which have sustained loss by cholera this week; and in the Land Transport Corps alone six out of the thirteen casualties from this disease took place. Indeed, out of the whole mortality of the army for the week, 21 out of 44 deaths occurred in that corps.

No deaths occurred in the cavalry, in the Highland, Fourth, or Light Divisions this week; and when it is taken into consideration that 139 of the admissions were mere transfers from Regimental to General Hospitals, it will be seen how satisfactory the sanitary condition of the army is, and it would be even still more so if the intemperance of the men could be controlled; but, unfortunately the additional pay is all spent in the canteens, and the establishments appear to be multiplied to meet the demand.

The admissions to strength this week have been 2·69 per cent.; deaths to strength, 0·08 per cent.; exclusive of Land Transport, 0·05 per cent.; proportion of sick to healthy, 7·12 per cent.; exclusive of wounded, 5·30; which is about as low as can well be expected in an army on active service in the field.

	Week ended October 27th.		Previous Week.	
	Admitted.	Died.	Admitted.	Died.
Fevers	228	14	239	9
Diarrhoea	366	8	418	9
Cholera	26	13	41	25
Dysentery	81	4	78	4
Wounds	108*	4	12	10
Other Diseases	623	1	685	4
Total	1432	44	1473	61

Obituary.

WILLIAM DAY, ESQ.

At Isleworth on the 3rd inst. William Day, Esq., surgeon, in the seventy-sixth year of his age.

Mr. Day was born near Colchester, in Essex, on the 10th of March, 1780, and at the age of fourteen was articled to the late Horatio Cock, Esq., surgeon of that town. He remained with that gentleman several years, and gave such early proofs of assiduity in the duties of the profession, that he was enabled to attend patients, and perform minor operations, at an age when many have scarcely acquired the rudiments of medical and surgical knowledge. Mr. Cock frequently sent him as his

* Of these 102 were transfers from several Regimental Hospitals in camp to the General Hospital at Balaklava Castle.