into one of entire loss of power, and impaired feeling, in the lower extremities; and in this state she continued for thirteen weeks, with little or no change; meanwhile stimulating embrocations were used to the legs and feet, and the generous diet was continued, with good effect to her general health. By slow degrees she now regained her voice, and the use of her limbs was restored, so that at length she was able to walk; and beyond a very slight stiffness of the left side of the neck, there is not a trace of the disease remaining. She is now able to resume her usual occupations without inconvenience.

Trusting you will not deem this case unworthy of publicity,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Nantwich, Nov. 1858.

EDWIN S. BELLSE, M.D.

P.S.—Since writing the above, Dr. Kingsford's valuable paper, "On Diphtheria," has appeared in your journal, and I am glad to find that he so fully bears out the opinions I have advanced with respect to the symptoms, treatment, and complications of this disease.

E. S. B.

AN IMPUDENT IMPOSTOR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—“Spermatorrhœa; its Philosophical, Rational, and Mechanical Mode of Cure, by an entirely Novel and most successful System;” by Charles Watson, M.D., F.R.C.S., &c. Such is the title of the enclosed filthy pamphlet which has been sent to me at my residence, either by the *pseudo* Dr. Watson, or by his private secretary, Mr. William Hill. *Par bene comparatum!* I will only make such extracts from the dirty pamphlet as are necessary to convince the most credulous that the fellow is a most arrant and a most ignorant knave. He says, “It is highly desirable that parties who wish a thorough and permanent cure should pass urine, and send it in a phial (per post, pre-paid), when the author will make his chemical and microscopical examination; for it is impossible to attach too much importance to a careful examination of the urine in all cases of spermatorrhœa. Of this I have, unfortunately, had too many opportunities of judging.”

Thus he pretends to detect spermatorrhœa by an examination of the urine; in fact, it is the basis on which he pretends his verdict is founded. One more extract will suffice. It is headed “Important!” “Those having doubts as to their state of health, are invited to enclose twelve postage stamps, when a phial, fitted in a box, will be sent (*pre-paid*), in order that the same may be filled with fasting urine, and returned to the author, who will make the usual microscopical and chemical tests, and transmit his opinion of the case, *free of cost*.”

Wishing to test the man's honesty, or to obtain indisputable evidence of his dishonesty, I forwarded the required stamps. I then received a “phial,” which I returned filled with—*horse's urine*, and, in a few days, I received the following most impudent letter, signed by the “private secretary,” of which the subjoined is a *verbatim* copy:—

London, Oct. 19th, 1858, 27, Alfred-place, Bedford-square.

SIR,—Having microscopically and chemically examined your urine, and also considered your case, I am decidedly of opinion that your health is “critical” and unless immediately attended to, impotency and its concomitant evils must ensue. At the same time, I am glad to state, that your health (mental and physical) can be restored, provided you adopt the means which I have found so eminently successful in similar cases. The treatment required in your case will be “Local and Constitutional,” therefore, a curative Instrument is most essential.

If the means are applied as directed I can guarantee a cure.

Yours obediently,

pro DR. WATSON,

Mr. H. T. Maund, Ashford, Kent.

WM. HILL, M.A., Sec.

To comment on such unparalleled ignorance and knavery is unnecessary; but I do hope, by giving publicity to this man's delinquency, you may save many a nervous and credulous person from becoming the victim of this arch impostor. If the recent case of Dr. Kahn was vile, this is villanous in the superlative degree.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Ashford, Oct. 1858.

HENRY MAUND, M.R.C.S. & L.S.A.

P.S.—The addresses to which the pamphlet has been sent have evidently been obtained from the Game Certificate List. This is proved by a mistake in my initials, which also appeared in that List; and I find, on inquiry, that the pamphlet has also been sent to all those who have taken out game certificates in this town.

ON A CASE OF TWINS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Should you think the following case worthy of publication, I should feel obliged by its insertion in THE LANCET.

On the evening of Oct. 2nd, 1858, I was requested to visit a Mrs. S—, residing in Bedminster, and who was represented as having been in labour a day or two, a midwife being in attendance on my arrival. On making an examination per vaginam, I at once discovered the two feet of a foetus, just commencing to emerge from between the dilated os uteri. With gentle traction, these came down, and then the remaining portion of the body, occupying about two minutes altogether.

Intra-uterine existence had evidently ceased some four months, the length of the foetus being barely eight inches; the body and extremities were much flattened; the entire cerebral substance had disappeared; the imperfectly-developed cranial bones were collapsed; and the foetus presented the appearance of one that had been soaked in spirits, or rather of an adipoceros consistence.

As is my custom, I passed my hand over the abdomen of the mother, and was quickly convinced there was a second, but a child of full size. On further examination, I felt the head descending, ruptured the membranes, and in half an hour the child was born, at its full term, alive and healthy.

On the removal of the placenta, and careful examination of its substance, I found (which is not unusual) the two placentæ firmly incorporated at their edges; the one connected with the foetus was not adipoceros, but a mass of healthy, yellow-looking fat; the other portion was throughout of the usual character.

Having attended 4696 cases of labour (sixty-six being twins), I have only met with one case similar to the above, and in which the dead foetus escaped a half-hour or so subsequent to the birth of the living child; but in this case, which occurred on Nov. 5th, 1845, the placenta was adipoceros.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

THOMAS T. SMART,

Bedminster, Oct. 1858.

Medical Officer to the Bedminster Union.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the Diploma, were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 5th inst.:—

BENSLEY, EDWIN CLEMENT, Calcutta.

BROWN, ROBERT CHARLES, Preston, Lancashire.

DURANT, JAS. JOHN, Calcutta.

FREEMAN, WILLIAM, New York.

HARRISON, ALFRED JAMES, Belper, Derbyshire.

MASON, JOHN BRIDGES, Richmond, Surrey.

MORKEL, WILLIAM, Cape of Good Hope.

SMITH, EUSTACE, Leamington.

SQUIRE, ALEX. J. BALLMANNO, York-gate, Regent's-park.

WADE, CHARLES ALBANY, Kidderminster.

At the same meeting of the Court, Mr. JAMES McELROY WALLACE passed his examination as Naval Surgeon. This gentleman had previously been admitted a Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, his diploma bearing date May 20th, 1848.

THE FELLOWSHIP.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations during the past week, for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, in Classics, Mathematics, and French, will be admitted to the professional examinations when they shall have severally complied with the regulations:—

CARDELL, JOHN MAGOR, Salisbury; diploma of membership dated November 3rd, 1854.

LANGDON, JOHN, Yeovil, Somersetshire.

PARTRIDGE, SAMUEL BOWEN, Birmingham; Aug. 5th, 1851.

POWELL, WILLIAM, Dalston.

STONE, WILLIAM DOMETT, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

WILLEY, HENRY, Birmingham.

WOTTON, HENRY, Cavendish-square.

At the same time, Mr. ROBT. HENTON WOOD, of Leicester, who had formerly undergone the necessary examinations, was admitted a Fellow of the College, diploma of membership dated February 29th, 1856.