LEVANT TOBACCO includes *Turkey*, *Latakia*, (a Syrian tobacco,) and *Salonica* tobacco; these are all the produce of *Nicotiana rustica*; they are mild, but valuable tobaccos. *Turkey* tobacco comes over in broad and separate leaves, of a bright-yellow colour.

Persian or *Shiraz Tobacco* is also a Levant tobacco; it is delicate and fragrant, and is the produce of *Nicotiana Persica*.

Another description is EAST INDIA TOBACCO, of which a small quantity only is imported; it is not much esteemed.

Manilla Tobacco, grown near the town of Manilla, in Lucon, one of the Philippine Islands, is a dark-coloured tobacco, and is extensively used in the manufacture of cheroots.

In the hands of the manufacturer the leaf is converted into manufactured tobacco in the following manner:—

The leaves are unfolded and “stripped”—that is, the mid-ribs or stalks are removed; this is done by a sudden jerk of the stalk by the hand, holding by the leaf. They are then sprinkled with “sauce” or “liquor;” this, properly, should consist of water only, but in some cases it contains salt, and is coloured with treacle or liquorice; but these additions are adulterations. After the sprinkling, by which the leaves imbibe a good deal of the liquor, and therefore become increased in weight, they are put into large, flat, square, iron boxes, and pressed into a solid cake; during the pressure, if too much “liquor” has been used for the sprinkling of the leaves, some escapes, deeply coloured with extractive derived from the tobacco-leaf. This, mixed with the washings of the cloths used in pressing, is sold as “tobacco water,” and is used as a sheep-wash, and also by gardeners to destroy worms and other vermin. The cake is then cut into shreds with knife-edged chopping-stamps, the shreds varying in diameter of from sixteen to one hundred to the inch. Lastly, the tobacco in this state is lightly dried or “stoved” in a flat copper or iron tray, heated by sand, and frequently by steam.

The above process of course applies only to CUT OR SHAG TOBACCO; in the manufacture of “ROLL TOBACCO” a totally different method is followed:—

The leaves, or rather the half-leaves, are arranged end to end in a line down a long table; this is mostly done by women or boys. One of the leaves, having first been twisted into a kind of thin rope, is attached to an iron hook, which is made to revolve rapidly, by means of a wheel, in a horizontal position on a level with the surface of the table. The “spinner” then, with a small board fixed to the palm of the hand, while the rope is turning, attaches leaf after leaf, rolling and hardening it with the board as the length proceeds. When sufficient is manufactured, the rope is coiled up so as to form a barrel-shaped pile or mass, each layer being well oiled with a brush, to prevent the coils from adhering to each other. The coils being firmly pegged together with wooden nails, the whole pile is then steeped in “liquor,” and finally pressed, oiled, and polished with a brush. It is estimated that this kind of tobacco increases in weight in the manufacture from fifteen to twenty-five per cent.

All manufactured tobaccos may be referred to one or other of the four following forms or kinds:—

In the first kind the leaves are cut into shreds; to this all the different varieties of *cut tobacco* belong.

In the second, the leaves are twisted or spun into a kind of rope; this includes the different kinds of *roll*, *spun*, or *twist tobacco*.

In the third, the stripped leaves are folded one over the other, so as to form *cigars* and *cheroots*.

In the fourth form, the leaves are reduced to powder, constituting *snuff*.

We need only describe at present the different varieties of cut and roll tobacco:—

The chief kinds of cut tobacco are *Shag*, *Returns*, and *Bird's-eye*; other less common kinds are *Maryland*, *K'Naster*, *Oronoko*, *Turkey*, *Persian*, and *Varinas*.

Shag is prepared chiefly from Virginia and Kentucky tobacco.

Returns is a light-coloured, mild tobacco. The true derivation of its name is said to be, that formerly the tobacco known as “*short cut*” was with much labour rubbed through a wire sieve; the finer portions and dust, technically called “*smalls*,” passed through, and were supposed to be much the strongest; when no more would go through, that which was left upon the sieve was reckoned to be milder, and of superior quality, and called in the trade “*Returns*.” According to Pereira its name is derived from its being formerly prepared by returning *Shag* for re-cutting. In the Report on Tobacco*

it is described as “made up of the small pieces of broken leaves, and the dust and siftings produced in the various processes of manufacture.”

Bird's-eye differs from the other varieties in containing the mid-ribs of the leaves, the transverse slices of which have been fancifully compared to the eyes of birds.

The principal kinds of roll tobacco are *Pigtail*, *Bogie*, *Alloa*, *Negro-head*, and *Cavendish*.

The three first are used entirely for chewing, and are distinguished by the difference in the thickness of the ropes, *Alloa* being the thinnest and *Bogie* the thickest.

Negro-head and *Cavendish* are used nearly exclusively for smoking.

Negro-head is manufactured in the form of a thickish rope, it also sometimes consists of two ropes coiled together in short pieces.

Cavendish is made in small square flat cakes, about an inch and a half wide by five inches long.

Next week the subject of the Adulteration of Tobacco will be investigated.

Correspondence.

“*Audi alteram partem.*”

TRACHEOTOMY IN HYDROPHOBIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your journal for March 11, 1849, you obliged me by publishing a case of hydrophobia, with post-mortem appearances and remarks thereon. I am now led to address you in consequence of having seen some observations and suggestions on this fearful disease by that most justly celebrated physiologist and physician, Dr. Marshall Hall, in which he very strongly, and, as I think, *unwarrantably*, recommends the operation of “tracheotomy.” As a reason for such recommendation, he asserts that the patient dies of “laryngismus,” and that of this he “will not die if tracheotomy be performed.” From this assertion I entirely dissent, and for the following reason:—The laryngismus which he asserts is the cause of death in all cases of hydrophobia, I consider as a mere symptom or concomitant of the extensive lesions met with in the brain and spinal system. For proof of this I must refer your readers to my case. What real or permanent advantage could have resulted from the operation of tracheotomy in such a case I am utterly at a loss to imagine.

In hydrophobia the spasm of the glottis and the dyspnoea are temporary, and obviously arising from a cause essentially distinct from any primary or permanent affection of the larynx, trachea, or other organs of respiration. In fact such affection of the respiratory system is a mere effect. Were this otherwise, I would, perhaps, subscribe to Dr. M. Hall's views. That gentleman affirms that all hydrophobic patients have died of laryngismus. This, with every possible respect for such an authority, I most emphatically deny. My little patient did not die of laryngismus, nor, if I know the disease so designated, did he ever suffer from it. He died from exhaustion, consequent on the frequent convulsions, which formed the prominent feature in the case, and which convulsions had their origin in a part of the system very remote from the larynx. This will be self-evident to any one who will be at the trouble of looking over the autopsy of my case. The only symptom in that case which in the slightest degree tended to corroborate the opinion of Dr. M. Hall was the presence of the tracheal râle: of this it may suffice to say that it was as evanescent as were the convulsions. In whatever mode the hydrophobic poison may act, and however enveloped in obscurity its *modus operandi* may be, one fact is abundantly proved—i. e., that the nervous function is mainly affected, and, as the scalpel demonstrates after death, from a cause which admits of neither doubt nor denial.

But from a feeling of reluctance to trespass on your valuable space, I would now transcribe the post-mortem appearances of the case alluded to. As it is, I have only to request Dr. M. Hall to peruse them in THE LANCET, and I do most confidently believe that the candour inseparable from such a position, as he so justly holds in the estimation of every man capable of judging of professional merit, will more than justify me in thus expressing myself in antagonism to his views.

On a reference to the post-mortem report, it will be found that the “larynx and trachea were healthy in every respect,” whilst the appearance of the lungs is very readily accounted for by the constant recurrence of the spasms, which not only

* Report on the Tobacco Trade, by Select Committee of House of Commons, August 1st, 1844.

interrupted respiration, but to a looker-on appeared to threaten life.

Now, Sir, I will make a few very brief remarks on the cases in which tracheotomy, when *timously* and judiciously resorted to, holds out reasonable hopes of utility. First, where foreign bodies are lodged in the larynx or upper portion of the trachea; secondly, in œdema of the glottis consequent on inflammation of the larynx; thirdly, in croup, where the inflammation has not extended to a serious degree into the bronchial ramifications. In the last case the unsatisfactory results which have attended the operation are, in my opinion, to be attributed to the circumstance of the operation being too long delayed—the result of such delay being that the lungs become engorged to an extent bordering on hepatization or pulmonary apoplexy, and are hence incapable, even when the mechanical obstruction is overcome, of resuming their function. It is hardly necessary to say, that this is the effect of continued interruption to the transit of the blood through these organs.

In conclusion, I would ask your readers, what appearance the corpse of one dying of laryngismus or suffocation presents? What is the state of the venous system—especially the sinuses of the brain—and also the condition of the heart? It only remains for me to re-assert, that in hydrophobia the patient does *not die suffocated*, which in laryngismus *he does*. That the only derangement of the respiratory function observable is *temporary* as to duration and purely *symptomatic*—*ergo*, that the operation recommended on such deservedly high authority is no more to be relied on in this most dreadful malady than any other means hitherto so vainly employed.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Newcastle-on-Tyne, July, 1853. GEORGE FIFE, M.D.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.

CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I rely on your candour to give me space for a few remarks on the report of a cholera case at St. Mary's Hospital, which appeared in THE LANCET of July 16th. It is the introductory remarks to which I allude more especially.

The author admits that according to some authors the presence or absence of bile in the intestinal secretions forms the actual and almost only distinction between Asiatic and English cholera. He admits that cramps, vomiting, coldness and blueness of skin occur under the latter denomination, and that the registrar's reports (which, be it remembered, are of deaths only) show this English form to have been pretty prevalent of late. At the same time he is at great pains to assure us that an epidemic of this "pretty prevalent" disease is not existing at the present time. He raises the old etymological objection to the Asiatic disease being called cholera, and states the English pest, with its bilious dejecta, to be quite a different thing from the epidemic, spasmodic, or *algide* variety; although he owns it to be pretty prevalent (that is, *epidemic*, one would have thought) with cramps, (certainly *spasmodic* then,) besides coldness (that is an *algide* state) and also blueness of skin.

That "indiscriminate apprehension" should reign among the public if they see, and see *through*, such specious arguments will, I think, be natural enough. If they are to die of a disease which has diarrhoea, vomiting, cramps, and blueness, among its symptoms, and a very short course to its fatal end, what on earth can it signify to the expectant sufferers whether their motions will be with or without bile?

Instead of denying the identity between two diseases which cannot be distinguished from one another by any essential difference, let us rather admit, without quibbling, the presence of a formidable epidemic, happily as yet less fatal and less general than we so lately had it, but still at any time liable and likely to break out with its former fury, when, in addition to atmospheric viscidities, which we cannot control, those causes of pestilence which are as it were of our own making, spring up again in their former rankness.

Not by special pleading (however ingenious) as to its nomenclature and minor diagnostics is this destroyer to be stayed, but by looking it, as an enemy, in the face, and by not only attacking it with early and vigorous treatment, but cutting off from it those supplies of bad air, bad water, and bad food, without which its malignity is powerless—is, indeed, annihilated.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
Knightsbridge, July, 1853. F. A. B. BONNEY.

PROJECTED AUTHORS' PUBLICATION ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—May I be permitted, through the medium of your pages, to address myself to the profession and to the authors of scientific works in general, in relation to a proposal for the formation of an Authors' Publication Association, for the extension of the sale of their works.

It is a notorious fact that the sale of a book, in common with every other commodity, is in proportion to the cheapness of its cost. This fact has been very strikingly exemplified by the sale of a small work I published two years ago. This work was issued from the press at 2s. a copy, and an edition of 500 copies was sold in about seven months, at a certain expense of advertisements. The expenses of the work having exceeded the estimate for printing and getting it up, on the issue of a second edition, the sale price was augmented to 2s. 6d., when, to my mortification, with the same amount of advertisements, the sale fell off nearly one-half. The consequence necessarily was, that instead of gaining anything by the additional 6d. paid by the purchaser, I sustained an augmented loss, and the circulation of my work was materially impeded also.

With these facts before us, and seeing that the publisher's charges on the sale of a book exceed 40 per cent. on the author's receipts and sale price, exclusive of the profits accruing to him on the printing, paper, binding, &c., in getting up the work, it is proposed to form an author's publication establishment, by which at least 30 per cent. of the charges now paid by authors may be saved to them, and the sale of their works, by this reduction in its price to the public, may be as proportionately increased.

In furtherance of these intentions, if those gentlemen who are favourable to the objects proposed, will communicate with me, we will convene a meeting for the purpose of considering the subject, and determining upon the plan to be pursued for carrying out the same. I will be prepared to submit to the meeting very simple and efficient means for the organization and carrying out all the requirements of such an association, the outlines of which may be communicated in a few words: it consists in establishing, in the Strand or other locality, an authors' *depôt* for the publication and sale of works at a commission price, which shall do no more than pay the expenses of the establishment; and further, if approved, for printing, binding, and getting up of the work, the profits of which alone there is little doubt would pay all the expenses of the establishment; and seeing that books may be now sent at a small charge by post, not only to any place in Great Britain, but to the colonies also, the present may be considered a very favourable opportunity for carrying out these views, and placing authors in a much better position in relation to their works than has hitherto existed—emancipating them, indeed, from the trammels of an intolerable monopoly.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
14A, Weymouth-street, Portland-
place, June, 1853. C. SEARLE, M.D.

ON THE PHYSIOLOGICAL USES OF THE GANGLIONIC NERVOUS SYSTEM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having perused your report of Dr. Davey's paper, on the Physiological Uses of the Ganglionic Nervous System, read before the Medical Society of London, and Mr. T. L. Walford's letter, claiming the merit of the doctrines advocated for his old preceptor, Dr. Fletcher, I feel mightily disposed to trouble you with a remark or two on the said merit, with a view to determine its amount.

The view proposed is, that the ganglionic is an independent nervous system; and not only so, but that the integrity of the whole organism, as well as all the organic functions, is dependent upon it. The first part I pass over, and deal only with the second, which states either that all the organic functions are absolutely dependent on the organic system, or else so controlled and governed by it as to be incapable otherwise of maintaining the bodily integrity: it is not quite clear which is meant, but both seem to be wrong—certainly the first.

And why do they seem to be wrong? For a very simple reason—because we see the organic functions performed perfectly well, and without any defect, in creatures which have no vestige of a nervous system at all—for instance, in plants and cellular animals. Here absorption, assimilation, growth, excretion, &c., all occur where there are no nerves at all, and seem to be inherent powers of the living structures. Is it, therefore, reason-