cations to the vulva had a partial effect in allaying the hæmorrhage, but a full dose of the ergot, (Æij. by guess), in addition to the external remedies, completely checked the flow of blood, and brought on slight pains, which speedily improved to forcible and effective uterine contraction. The progress of parturition went steadily on for three or four hours, when the mouth of the womb, being dilated to the size of the brim of a tea-cup, the pain almost entirely went off. Ergot, Æj. in powder, brought the labour to a speedy conclusion; in an hour after its exhibition, the fœtus and placenta were expelled. Case terminated favourably at the time, though the mother has since died from pulmonary consumption.

Mrs. R., at her first labour, was delivered of twins, which proceeded as usual. On the second occasion, the uterine efforts were feeble, and at long intervals throughout, and so continued for many hours, without any corresponding advance of the child commensurate with the open state of the uterus. A moderate dose of ergot improved the pains in frequency, though not in power, and in an hour after the first administration, a second dose, the same quantity as the former, was given; this in twenty minutes produced a full stimulant effect, and from that time the parturient efforts continued steadily till their final termination, in fifty minutes from the second dose of the secale. A favourable getting-up followed.

Mrs. L., mother of four children; the pains in this case were sharp and lancinating, attended with much abdominal uneasiness, yet with but slight propulsive efforts. The os uteri being soft and readily dilatable, ergot ʒss. was given; in twenty-five minutes the character of the pains had altered, a strong bearing-down action was excited, and in an hour and a half, both child and placenta were delivered. The patient did well.

Mrs. N. First labour; the character very similar to the last. A moderate dose of ergot, a beneficial and speedy termination. This case did favourably also.

Mrs. P. First labour. Liquor amnii discharged before uterine pains commenced, in consequence of great bodily exertion. Pains, when they came on, feeble, and productive of much abdominal distress, continued many hours without advancing the labour. Ergot, ʒss., had the effect of permanently improving the uterine efforts, both in force and duration. Os uteri freely dilated, and the head progressed. This afterwards proved to be a case of arrest, and injurious consequences to the bladder being feared, delivery was completed with the

forceps. The child, from its appearance, had been dead some days, being somewhat putrescent. The mother had no untoward symptom during the month, with the exception of headach, to which she was very subject.

Mrs. W. First child; labour pains sharp, but not propulsive, continued some hours; os uteri readily dilatable; ergot, ʒss. in powder, produced in half an hour forcible contraction, and in two hours after the expulsion of the fœtus and placenta was accomplished. Case did well.

Mrs. T., mother of three children. Child born before my arrival; placenta came away readily, and in an hour after, hæmorrhage supervened. The flow of blood was copious, though not violent, and the quantity lost on the whole was considerable. Cold applications to the vulva produced but trifling, if any effect. Ergot, Æij., was given in powder, and shortly after, the hand introduced into the uterus. Uterine contraction at first very feeble, but in ten minutes after passing up the hand, and fifteen from the time of administering the ergot, the contraction was firm and powerful, the hæmorrhage rather speedily decreased, and in an hour the woman was safe.

In none of these cases, nor in others which I have met with, have I seen the least injurious effect produced upon the child. I mention this, because it has been asserted, that bad consequences to the infant frequently follow the exhibition of this powerful drug. I have never witnessed any in my own practice, nor in the circle of those professional friends who have favoured me with opportunities of investigating this matter.

EXTRACTION OF A BREECH-PIN FROM
THE ORBIT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The perusal of a case of "Extraction of a breech-pin from the orbit," recorded in your Number of the 10th instant, brought to my recollection one of a similar nature, which fell under the care of my late respected master, Richard Moyle, Esq., of Penzance.

The accident happened prior to my entering with him as a pupil, but I remember the patient's coming to the surgery in the year 1813. I believe Mr. Moyle extracted the piece of iron a few hours after the explosion had taken place. It consisted of the entire breech-pin with the screw, two inches in length, which secures it to the stock, and which you are aware passes off at right angles from the pin itself. The whole of

this substance, weighing, I should suppose, nearly four ounces, was buried amongst the bones of the face, immediately below the orbit.

I will not, however, anticipate the account which, I have no doubt, Mr. Moyle will readily give in an early number; and being himself an excellent draughtsman, he will have no difficulty in furnishing you with a diagram. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

FRANCIS BROWN LLOYD.

13, Oxford Street, Liverpool,

October 14th, 1829.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE PROFESSION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have been rejoiced to observe in your Journal, several letters on the subject of farming parishes and clubs, and a prospectus for forming a New College of Surgeons, which, I think, may be so regulated, as most effectually to advance the welfare of the profession, and may be the medium of forming a benevolent fund (as projected in No. 312) for the relief of distressed members and their destitute widows and orphans.

The letter signed “A Country Apothecary,” in No. 311, points out, alas! too truly, the hardships to which the poor are exposed by the vile system of farming parishes, the degradation of the profession, and the means of restoring its members to that rank in society they ought to hold. I will class myself with the *οἱ πολλοί*, and say we are the only persons to be blamed for thus speculating. He who offers to physic the poor for the lowest annual stipend, is the person selected for “parish doctor,” causing contention between the neighbouring practitioners, and cancelling that friendship, than which nothing can be more desirable in a village, when, in cases of emergency, it may be necessary to send many miles for a second practitioner, even when the loss of time in doing so may prove fatal, because of the animosity that exists between two who reside on the spot. In such cases, I say, humanity should be uppermost, and that dictates unanimity in a body of men who fill, or ought to fill, an exalted and useful station in society, and the observance of which is the only mode of securing reputation in its members.

The necessity of a new college must be apparent to every discerning mind, and all who wish well to the undertaking, are urgently called upon to suggest plans to be subjected to a committee, or argued at the meeting proposed to be held; and it is under this impression that I presume to address my medical brethren, entreating them to join hand and heart to promote this

most desirable of all objects. As an individual, I entirely concur with the projected scheme for forming a new College upon such advantageous principles, and whenever it is carried into effect, will not be backward in appearing in *propria persona* to support the measure, and contribute my mite. I would, however, before it goes further, and with the view of exciting others to do the same, throw out two or three hints on the subject of a benevolent fund. It might be decided, first, that in addition to the money to be paid on being admitted a member, the sum of one guinea annually be contributed towards such fund by members whose age at the time of admission does not exceed twenty-five years, and that for every fifth year above that age, when admitted, there shall be an increase of half a guinea. That out of this fund such sums be granted to widows and orphans, as can be apportioned without endangering the fund. That the relict of any member, whose property in the right of her deceased husband shall be an equivalent to a certain sum per annum, shall not receive benefit from the funds. That in cases of unavoidable distress, a weekly allowance be made according to the urgency of the case, after proper inquiry shall have been made. On the subject of the College, I should think it proper that a monthly meeting should be held in London, for the purpose of publicly examining and admitting members. That there should be quarterly meetings held in London, and district meetings in all principal towns in the kingdom, the provincial meetings to take place in the early part of the month, and the London, or grand meeting, in the latter part of it, that the provincial secretaries may be enabled to transmit to the metropolis the transactions of the provincial meetings. A statement of the College affairs should be annually printed for the inspection of all the members. At every quarterly meeting, the members should dine together, after the business of the day is over, each member defraying his own expenses. This regulation may be considered unnecessary, but, in my opinion, it is obviously a desirable object to bring together, as often as convenient, medical men who may live within a few miles of each other; by so doing, their feelings and sentiments would be harmonised, unanimity be obtained, information extended, and their respectability increased; and it would tend to do away with that illiberal competition which has become so general and so ruinous. We should then hear no more of farming parishes at an average of sixpence a head per annum, and clubs at two or three shillings. Indeed every member, on admission to the new College, should be required on oath, not to be guilty of any act which shall be consi-