confinements; her children at the breast are liable to erysipelas and other skin diseases.

In Scotland, in addition to the effects of tobacco, may be added those of its adulterations—viz., copperas, salt of tartar, saltpetre, and sand. The salts cause the tobacco to feel intensely hot and acrid, irritating mostly all the mucous membranes. These adulterations are added to give colour, and, by retaining a large amount of water, to cheat both revenue and consumer. It gives rise to that form of caries of the teeth which commences by internal decay. The tooth being unduly stimulated by the oft-applied heat, a bony deposit takes place on the fangs, the canals are partially or wholly obliterated, and, the supply of nourishment being cut off, some day, while perhaps eating a piece of soft bread, the crown gives way, and the tooth rapidly crumbles down. Sand is used to a very great extent, finely sifted; it perhaps is harmless, but affords a good illustration of how openly adulteration can be carried on in our free country.

In conclusion, I may state that the germs of premature decay, which abuse of tobacco is spreading through the country, will ultimately, in my opinion, prove more overwhelming than even the serious abuse of intoxicating liquors.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Feb. 17th, 1857.

WM. M'DONALD.

ANALYSIS OF TOBACCO.

[LETTER FROM F. B. THOMPSON, ESQ.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With reference to the proportions of nicotina existing in tobacco, Dr. Hassall states (vide THE LANCET, Feb. 21st) that "1000 grains of tobacco yield, according to the kind used, from 3·86 to 11·28 grains of nicotina." The following are the results of M. Schloesing's analyses, published in the "Comptes Rendus," Dec. 1846:—

	Per Cent. of Nicotina in the Dry Tobacco.
"Lot	7·96
Lot Garrone	7·34
Nord	6·58
Ile de Vilaine	6·29
Pas de Calais	4·94
Alsatia	3·21
Virginia	6·87
Kentucky	6·09
Maryland	2·29
Havanna, less than	2·00"

I beg also to call attention to M. Schloesing's remark, that "tobacco containing a large per-centage of nicotina seems to be that generally preferred for the manufacture of snuff. *The snuff itself contains but about one-third of this nicotina, the remainder having been destroyed by the fermentation.*" The titillatory action of the snuff is ascribed to the quantity of ammonia generated by the fermentative process.

As M. Schloesing's experiments were made on the exact method, of which he is the well-known inventor, I trust that this matter-of-fact contribution may be serviceable in the discussion to which you have thrown open your columns.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Andover-place, Kilburn, Feb. 1857.

F. B. THOMPSON.

SMOKING A BLESSING!

[LETTER FROM W. SUMPTER, ESQ.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You will perhaps allow me the privilege of further contending for the moderate use of tobacco. Believing as I firmly do that in the chain of creation no link is deficient in its allotted use, I would ask the question of the infidels in the tobacco-blessing, Why was the tobacco-plant created?—what is its use? Shall we, arrogating to ourselves a greater power of reason than the Author of creation, deny ourselves one of the greatest blessings, which, in the present age of over-excitement of the nervous system, is peculiarly indicated as a counteracting sedative? A man who is obliged, of necessity, to overtax his brain in order to obtain a livelihood, requires a sedative, and the best sedative he can use is tobacco. Because we abuse almost every blessing which is given to us, are we to designate them (as some of your correspondents have done) as *curses*? I believe tobacco, diminishing as it does overaction of the heart, would be especially useful in violent mania; in

soothing and in inducing sleep in delirium tremens; in allaying fits of mental excitement from whatever cause produced, and as an anæsthetic in painful diseases.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Horncastle, Feb. 20th, 1857.

W. SUMPTER.

CLERICAL SMOKERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reply to "Clericus Anglicanus," I must refer him to a correspondence, within the last eight or ten years, on the subject of smoking, between a bishop and a curate, in which the former distinctly *refused* the indulgence to any clergyman belonging to his diocese. The entire correspondence was reported in the daily papers at the time. Perhaps "Clericus Anglicanus" was not then initiated in the art of smoking. My memory is rather treacherous as to the names and dates &c., but I hope shortly to be able to lay a copy of the correspondence (with your permission) before him and your readers.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Feb. 21st, 1857.

J. B. NEIL.

MR. THOMAS WAKLEY'S TUBULAR TREATMENT OF STRICTURES OF THE URETHRA.

[NOTE FROM MR. W. SETH GILL.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In common fairness, and as one convinced of the great practical utility and infallible certainty of one of the most useful and effective discoveries of modern science, I cannot withhold offering *another* proof to those already published, through the wide-spread pages of THE LANCET, as additional testimony of the value of Mr. Thomas Wakley's tubular instruments for the *rapid* treatment of strictures of the urethra. This case of stricture was of *twenty years'* standing, and had been treated by surgeons of distinction in this country and in America. It had also been relieved by me occasionally, under complete retention, by the introduction of the smallest-sized catheter *with very great difficulty*, and after many fruitless attempts, with the employment of the usual accessories. My patient became so incapacitated at last by continued pain and inconvenience, and the frequent necessity of instrumental aid, that I determined on consulting Mr. T. Wakley. The patient was temperate in his habits, with a countenance indicating *extreme* suffering; restless nights and failing health rendered him incapable of attending to business, which he relinquished, despairing of relief. In this condition he was seen by Mr. Wakley, who has restored him to comparative health and happiness. He has resumed his usual avocations, was at my surgery this morning, and speaks in rhapsody of the treatment which has conferred so great a blessing. This, Sir, has been accomplished in the short space of *three weeks*, without pain, and without the appearance of blood, which is remarkable, as my own efforts gave rise to extensive hæmorrhage.

In five other cases in my own practice (two of them complicated with urinary fistulæ), treated by Mr. Wakley, I have witnessed a similar amount of success, and with very little suffering. Two of these were under treatment two years ago, and have had no return; the others are of a more recent date, but doing well. With these demonstrative proofs, how can I but estimate these simple but effectual instruments! I am persuaded that the *direct case* of urethral stricture is amenable to this *painless* and *bloodless* operation and invention. This system of curing stricture of the urethra is indeed worthy to rank amongst the most valuable discoveries of the age.

The neglect of the *primary* symptoms of stricture, from either delicacy or ignorance, too often involves the victim in all the sufferings experienced in the more advanced stage, which the use of these instruments would entirely prevent. So satisfied am I on this point, that I cannot pass over so important an observation, seeing, as I have done, the fearful false passages, extravasations, &c. &c., caused by the efforts to relieve this most distressing disease under the old plan of treatment.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. SETH GILL, M.R.C.S.

White Lion-street, Pentonville, Jan. 1857.

NEW SLIDING STAFF FOR PERINEAL SECTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Amongst the "Hospital Notes," in your last week's number, the attention of the profession is drawn to a new sliding staff for perineal section. An instrument very similar

to that of Mr. Marshall's was in use by the late Dr. Mackenzie, of Edinburgh, three years ago. It consisted of two parts, a curved grooved staff about the size of a No. 2 catheter, with a movable head. After the operation had been performed, he removed the head, and slipped an elastic catheter guided by it into the bladder. The reason he gave at the time for this improvement was, that sometimes he had great difficulty in introducing a catheter into the bladder after the operation. The only difference in Mr. Marshall's is, that he uses two catheters, as you might call them, instead. Considering it only proper that you and the profession in general should be aware of this fact,

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
Norfolk-street, Strand, Feb. 1857. R. WILLIAM DUNN.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the Diploma, were admitted members of the College at the meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 20th inst. :—

DENNE, THOMAS, Tange, Sittingbourne, Kent.
DYER, GEORGE HENRY, Royal Navy.
FORBES, WILLIAM, Aberdeen.
JONES, CHARLES MARCHANT, Beyrout, Syria.
LAMB, ROBERT, Sutherland-square, Walworth.
LAVER, HENRY, Paglesham, Essex.
TOLLER, EBENEZER, H.E.I.Co.'s Service.
TUCKER, OWEN, Army.
WOOD, WILLIAM, Middlelans, Beverley, Yorkshire.

At the same meeting of the Court, Mr. ARCHIBALD LESLIE ARCHER passed his examination for naval surgeon. This gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the Edinburgh College of Surgeons; his diploma bearing date July 4th, 1849.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—Names of gentlemen who passed their examination in the science and practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on

Thursday, February 19th, 1857.

BLEASE, THOMAS TORKINGTON, Altrincham.
COOPER, ASTLEY, Plymouth, Devon.
GREENWOOD, JAMES, Queen's-road, Dalston.
GULL, FREDERICK, Stanway, Essex.
HUTCHISON, GEORGE SMITH, Norwich.
KENDRICK, PHINEAS JOHN, Goldthorn-hill, Wolverhampton.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting for the election of officers of this society will take place on Monday next, at eight p.m. Mr. Cæsar Hawkins will deliver his usual address on retiring from the Chair.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—This evening (Saturday) a paper will be read by Mr. Jabez Hogg, "On the Ophthalmoscope; its Value as a Diagnostic Aid in some Diseases of the Eye."

ARMY MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY.—The next meeting of this society will take place on Saturday evening, the 7th of March, at 32, Sackville-street, when Staff-Surgeon Matthew will read a paper "On the late Epidemic of Cholera in the Island of Madeira."

SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN IN LONDON AND ITS VICINITY.—The annual dinner of this Society was held on Saturday last, at the Freemasons' Tavern. The chair was occupied by Mr. Hussey, one of the vice-presidents, supported by Mr. De Grove, member of the Society of Apothecaries, Dr. Conolly, and others. About forty gentlemen attended. After the usual loyal toasts, the chairman gave "Prosperity to the Society." He dwelt with much force on the claims of the society to the attention of medical practitioners, and considered that it could really be little known in the profession, or more than one-tenth of the persons entitled to belong to it would ere this have become subscribers. For two guineas a year, a member receives all the privileges of the society. During the last sixty-five years it has granted relief to the extent of £51,087 19s. At the present time there are thirty-four widows and twenty-six children receiving relief. Mr. Hussey urged upon the gentlemen present to bring new members. Mr. De Grove returned thanks for the corporations, and alluded to the late conferences respecting the Medical

Reform Bill, which he hoped would be carried, and be satisfactory to the great body of the profession.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, CORK.—Sixty-eight students of medicine are now at this college.

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITIES.—Colonel Muir, Mr. Cosmo Innes, and Mr. Stirling, have been appointed commissioners to inquire into the state of the universities, with a view to their reform.

A DECEPTIVE CONSULTATION.—The "Gazette Hebdomadaire" of Paris, gives the following professional anecdote: A lady, not quite satisfied with the result of the treatment of her medical attendant, requested a consultation. This was immediately consented to, and the next day the practitioner presented himself, accompanied by an eminent professor of the faculty. The patient was examined, the gentlemen conferred, the prescription was framed, the fee paid, and everybody was satisfied. A short time afterwards, the lady wished to see the professor alone, and went to his house, when she found him most alarmingly changed, and his hair turned quite white. She expressed her astonishment, and it was discovered that the consultation had taken place with a sham professor.

FRENCH HOMŒOPATHS IN TROUBLE.—The Cour de Cassation (Supreme Court of Appeal) has just decided that homœopathic practitioners are not at liberty to dispense their globules in localities where a pharmacien is residing. Our readers are aware that no one can legally dispense medicines in France, save the regularly-educated and diplomated pharmacien, who is himself prohibited from practising medicine.

MURDER OF A DENTIST AT NEW YORK.—A most mysterious and appalling murder was committed yesterday morning at No. 31, Bond-street. The victim was Dr. Harvey Burdell, a well-known dentist, who was found dead in his room, his body being pierced with fifteen wounds, and his neck showing evidence of strangulation. The motive for the murder does not appear to have been plunder, as none of the property of the deceased was taken, nor his papers disarranged.—*New York Herald.*

MEDICAL DIARY OF THE WEEK.

MONDAY, MARCH 2.....	ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.
	METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.
TUESDAY, MARCH 3 ...	ROYAL ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.
	ROYAL INSTITUTION.—2 P.M. General Monthly Meeting.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4	EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—8 P.M. Dr. Murphy, "On Puerperal Fever."
	GUY'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1 P.M.
THURSDAY, MARCH 5...	ROYAL INSTITUTION.—3 P.M. Prof. Huxley, "On the Sense of Sight."
	PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—8 P.M.
FRIDAY, MARCH 6	ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1 P.M.
	UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—Operations 2 P.M.
SATURDAY, MARCH 7...	ROYAL ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL.—Operations, 3½ P.M.
	ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.—4 P.M. Gulstonian Lectures. Dr. Garrod, "On Diabetes and Saccharine Conditions of the Urine."
	MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.—Operations, 12½ P.M.
	ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1 P.M.
	CENTRAL LONDON OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1 P.M.
	LONDON HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1½ P.M.
	ROYAL INSTITUTION.—3 P.M. Prof. Tyndall, "On Sound."
	OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL, MOORFIELDS.—Operations, 10 A.M.
	WESTMINSTER OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1½ P.M.
	ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.—4 P.M. Croonian Lectures. Dr. Owen Rees, "On some Points relating to the Pathology of Urinary Affections."
	WESTERN MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—8 P.M. Mr. Cumberbatch, "On a Case of Hæmaturia in a Child."
	ROYAL INSTITUTION.—8½ P.M. Mr. E. B. Denison, Q.C., "On the Great Bell of Westminster."
	CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL.—Operations, 12½ P.M.
	WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1 P.M.
	ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1 P.M.
	ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.—Operations, 1½ P.M.
	KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—Operations, 2 P.M.
	ROYAL INSTITUTION.—3 P.M. Prof. Phillips, "On the Origin and Progress of Life on the Globe—Vertebrata."
	MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—8 P.M. General Meeting.