every case they continue, because it is thought "the thing;" it then becomes tolerable to them, then a pleasure, then a habit, then a necessity. It was stated in one of the first letters on this subject that leeches, fleas, &c., would not bite a smoker. This I can confidently say is a mistaken idea; for the other day I put six leeches on for a friend who smokes from four to six ounces per week, and all took but one, and remained on the usual time; some of them lived a fortnight afterwards. Fleas are particularly partial to me, and I am always attacked at midwifery cases, where all students attending in London must know they are pretty abundant. I also think smoking promotes expectoration. This might be worth a trial, though it will never be given to the public as an expectorant. When a person comes into a room where there is smoking, it makes him cough; directly he takes a pipe himself he is easy. Why is this?

St. Bartholomew's Hospital, March, 1857.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

O., STUDENS.

WHAT IS MEANT BY MODERATE SMOKING?

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—What is *moderate* smoking? I am acquainted with a baronet who consumes on an average *three* dozen cigars *daily*. The inveterate smoking sailor (in addition to chewing), as stated during this controversy, consumes sixteen ounces of tobacco in a month, and yet both of these considers themselves *moderate* smokers! In Milton's life, it is mentioned by his biographer that he only smoked the last thing before retiring to rest one small pipeful of tobacco, drinking a glass of water after so doing. Milton, therefore, must be said to be the type of moderate smokers! In Shakspeare's time, smoking was practised, and yet in none of his plays does he make mention of tobacco. But Lord Bacon, the Christison and Pereira of those days, says, "Tobacco smoking is a secret delight, serving only to steal away men's brains." It is a well-known fact that our Premier, Lord Palmerston, (who perhaps requires more soothing agents &c. than any man living,) is a bitter opponent of the weed, and on every possible occasion, when addressing his tenantry and the labouring classes, takes care to denounce it in the following words: "Avoid the public-house as much as you can, but always steer clear of the tobacco shop."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

March, 1857.

VERBUM SAT.

P.S.—As tobacco is a strong narcotic poison, the medical profession should be called on to regulate the doses or quantities to be smoked, and to determine "What is meant by moderate smoking?"

TOBACCO QUERIES—WHEN TO BEGIN SMOKING?

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Our facetious friend, *Punch*, makes Mrs. Blue Stocken (Minerva Hall, Bath) to ask, "If smoking is not injurious, perhaps you will have the kindness to inform me why *we* ladies are not allowed to smoke?" This leads me to ask, if smoking is ever prescribed for *females* in lunatic asylums? Dr. Conolly, in his recently published work on the "Treatment of the Insane," says: "In very few instances do I allow a very small quantity of tobacco, but only occasionally." This, no doubt, is on the *similia similibus* plan. Knowing the effects of the *first* pipe or cigar on the constitution, I take it for granted that Dr. Conolly would only order it to those patients, of *either* sex, who had been smokers *previous* to their admission. Dr. Webster insists that smoking causes insanity, and supports his dictum by statistics.

I can confidently assure "A Philanthropist," that crime keeps pace with the *increased* consumption of tobacco! ("Smoking leads to Drinking.") Statistics will bear me out in this assertion. Witness the necessity of providing "reformatory schools" for juvenile delinquents—the *inveterate* smokers of the present day. Our medical brethren having charge of those valuable institutions, no doubt, will favour us with the results of their experience in the columns of THE LANCET. Smoking, by no means, should ever be attempted before the twenty-fifth year, or before the human frame is fully developed.

I am, Sir, yours &c.,

March, 1857.

"AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM."

CAUTION TO SMOKERS!

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The nicotine and empyreumatic oils coming in contact with "the *spurious* gold mountings of artificial teeth, and very many of the mineral stoppings* for decayed teeth," produces *verdigris*, as all chemists are aware; consequently much of this last must find its way into the stomach! Many of the cheap pipes are provided with tin, Britannia metal, and German silver tubes, all of which are highly dangerous to use. It follows that only pure leaf-gold should be used for stopping teeth, and that none but respectable dentists should be employed.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

March, 1857.

PHILANTHROPUS SECUNDUS.

ARE OUR PRESENT GREAT STATESMEN SMOKERS?

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It would be most interesting to ascertain whether the "leading men" in the House of Commons are smokers. Many of your thousands of readers must be in a position to supply this information.

I am, Sir, yours &c.

March, 1857.

E. M.

DISEASED MEAT IN LONDON AND THE CATTLE EPIDEMIC.

DANGER TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Last evening I made a communication to the Pathological Society of London, on the subject of cattle epidemics and diseased meat, in relation to the public health. The President and members expressed a general and very decided opinion, by the manner in which they received my statement, that I had not over-rated its importance, and if you, Sir, entertain the same belief, I trust to your bringing the following facts before the public.

The statement I am about to make is substantially the same as I made to the Pathological Society last night. My note-books contain many more facts of a similar nature, and they shall, with the least possible delay, be published, with the results of the inquiries I am personally conducting. I pledge myself to make no statement without the fullest and most strictly accurate evidence.

On Monday morning last, the 16th inst., I proceeded to the New Cattle-market in Copenhagen-fields, to inspect the live and slaughtered cattle. The live beasts were generally extremely well-conditioned and thoroughly sound; but standing amongst them were *three diseased beasts*. One of these was emaciated and hidebound with *abscesses* in various parts of the body, particularly over the region of the head and neck. From the clinical observations I made on diseased cattle nine years ago, I believe this case was most probably one of pyæmia following typhoid fever. A second beast was in ill-health—viz., thin and feverish, but I could not make a precise diagnosis. The third diseased beast was a fat one: it was lying down, moaning, looking round anxiously at its flanks; pulse 110; respiration 45; pleuro-pneumonia.

I now proceeded to the slaughter-house of the market. In that slaughter-house I saw five carcasses, three of oxen, two of sheep. One of the latter was of magnificent shape and condition, so far as fat was concerned, but the whole carcass had a uniform dusky-red colour, evidently the result of general infiltration with bloody serosity. The carcass having been trimmed and completely dressed for the butcher, I had no means of inspecting the viscera. Two of the oxen were much emaciated, and had apparently died from typhus or typhoid fever; they presented numerous bloody extravasations in the sub-cutaneous, inter-muscular, and sub-pleural cellular tissues. I should have required to see the intestines, in order to state accurately the nature of the disease, but those viscera had been removed. The third ox was large, moderately fat; pleuro-

* Quicksilver, tin, zinc, lead, and different metallic compounds, &c.

pneumonic. I carried away the lungs of this beast; they were infiltrated with solidified plastic matter in almost their whole extent; so that, whereas their average weight should have been about eight pounds, it was twenty-seven pounds. The disease was in its acute stage. Although the carcase had been very skilfully trimmed and dressed, the flesh in the walls of the chest and abdomen bore unmistakable marks of disease. The slaughterman stated that these carcasses would be conveyed to the City markets, where they would be sold as food. In his opinion, those carcasses were not diseased, nor would they be considered such by the City meat inspectors. He even maintained that the lungs were not diseased; he said they only contained congealed healthy blood!

I proceeded on the 17th instant to the Mansion-house, with a portion of the above diseased lungs, and of a healthy lung, to demonstrate the difference. I was not permitted to make a statement of the facts in open court, the clerk stating such a course could not be pursued. As the Lord Mayor did not sit in court yesterday, I took the liberty of sending in my card to his lordship, with a prayer for an interview, which was most graciously granted; but his lordship could not, in his capacity as magistrate, hear my verbal statement, and he suggested that I might take out a summons against any guilty party, or submit to him a written statement, which he would forward to the City Markets Commission. I sincerely thanked his lordship, and applied in the Court for a summons against Thomas William Farey, the slaughterman whose name was painted on the door of the building in the New Cattle-market, wherein I saw the diseased carcasses, and whence I had carried away the lungs; being careful, however, to obtain full evidence that these lungs had belonged to a beast slaughtered and hung up as fit for human food, by a servant of the said Thomas William Farey. But the summons against this individual was not granted me, on the plea that the New Cattle-market, in Copenhagen-fields, is not in the City police district, but in a totally different one, in which jurisdiction was exercised by the magistrate sitting in Clerkenwell. His worship received me most kindly, and with great pains examined with me the Acts of Parliament under which we might summons Thomas William Farey. His worship stated that the case was new to him, that he did not feel that he had any jurisdiction under the circumstances; but he pressed me to continue my researches, with the certainty of their being of great public utility.

The amount of diseased meat sold in London is enormous. Sanitary legislation, with reference to this particular subject, is defective in principle, in so far as it is based on insufficient knowledge; it is useless in practice, in so far as entrusted for execution to a very few persons, neither fitted by education nor station to protect the public health. I shall demonstrate the whole nature and extent of this gigantic evil; point out the errors in legislation, errors of omission and commission; and propose simple, economical measures, which, if immediately carried into effect, will arrest the evil all but instantaneously. Inspectors, competent in knowledge, and sufficient in number, must be appointed at all ports of importation, and at all live and dead meat markets; these inspectors must be professional men, who can distinguish between simple pneumonia, epidemic pleuropneumonia, typhoid fever and pestilential typhus, to all of which diseases cattle are extensively subject. These inspectors must be men of energy, and the work must be begun immediately and thoroughly. All private slaughter-houses in large cities—in London especially—must be abolished. Public slaughter-houses must be established; they will pay their own expenses, and sufficient guarantees can then be given that only healthy beasts shall be killed and distributed to the population.

In conducting these inquiries, in appreciating the evil, in legislating for it, the interests of all parties must be duly weighed and provided for. The question must be treated with the lights of medical and veterinary science, in strict accordance with the principles of political economy.

My machinery for the work is sufficient. My brother, who is professor at the Royal Veterinary College in Edinburgh, is pushing the inquiry in every direction; my father, a veterinary surgeon, is my assistant; and, so far as I am personally concerned, I am prepared to stand or fall by the issue. The evil shall be exposed; the remedy proposed. As a councillor of health, I shall then feel to have done my duty. Let legislators do theirs.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JOSEPH SAMPSON GAMGEE,

Late Staff-Surgeon of the First Class,

Upper Woburn-place, March 18, 1857.

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ARMY SURGEONS AND THE VICTORIA CROSS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The medical officers of her Majesty's Army and Navy are under deep and lasting obligations to you for your constant and unflinching advocacy of their just and rightful claims; and it was, I assure you, with mingled emotions of pleasure and regret that I read in THE LANCET of last week your leader with regard to the unfair and niggardly distribution of the Victoria Crosses—with pleasure that, however unwilling the Horse Guards authorities may be to recognise in the case of medical officers acts of heroism and valour, (numerous instances of which were displayed during the Crimean war,) you, at least, are not insensible to such; and with regret, that in the distribution of this much-prized and coveted distinction, the just and rightful claims of many medical officers have been most unfairly and undeservedly passed over.

This is not, by many, the first occasion on which you have prominently brought before the medical public the names of several surgeons who distinguished themselves during the late war; and as you have ever been, whether a senator or a journalist, the advocate of the weak, and uncompromising reformer of abuses, may I earnestly trust that you will not allow your all-powerful pen to rest without ere long giving the authorities another Philippic on the subject.

In your just and eloquent article you have paid nothing more than a true and honest tribute to the personal bravery and humanity of the lamented Thompson, as well as to the signal and undaunted courage of Wilson, "to whom the Duke of Cambridge owed his life, and his division its salvation from destruction." But yet his services, great and heroic as they were, have remained unrewarded. Further on, you state:—"We could mention other acts of heroism which called for some signal acknowledgment at the hands of the authorities—some unusual distinction, such as that of the Victoria Cross. We know that two surgeons were highly recommended for that honour—one by the Medical Director of the Army, for carrying a wounded soldier into the trenches under a heavy fire; the other by several distinguished officers, who bore personal testimony to his claims for the honour. The latter gentleman is Dr. Frederick Robinson, of the Scots Fusileer Guards." Now, as Dr. Robinson has been mentioned by name, (and most justly and deservedly so,) I would most respectfully suggest that, in justice to the Medical Department, the Director-General, and the gentleman himself, whoever he may be, that the name of the officer recommended for this distinction by the Director-General be published in some conspicuous part of your journal, if it is not contrary to your sense of propriety, or an infringement of confidence, (which I should hardly think it was,) as the omission was, I presume, purely accidental. I venture to make this appeal to you, as I believe it may be of great advantage to him, (who he is I know not,) and possibly obtain for him yet the distinction for which he was recommended; as from what fell from Mr. Peel a few nights ago in the House of Commons, there is a probability of there being a further distribution of the Victoria Crosses.

Apologising for this long letter, and hoping that the omission I have alluded to will be rectified in your next,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Chatham, March, 1857.

CHIRURGUS.

P.S.—I have reason to know that your giving the name would be pleasing to many brother medicos, as well as executives, with whom within the last hour I have been conversing on the subject.

* * If the Director-General will kindly furnish us with the name of the surgeon alluded to, we will gladly publish it.—
SUB-ED. L.

DENTISTS AND SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As several of your correspondents appear to wish that you would publish the names of those members of the College of Surgeons who are practising as dentists, I venture to suggest that you should first invite the gentlemen who are so practising to furnish you with the particulars of their education as dentists. It is important that the profession should know that there are many gentlemen who, by education, are not only qualified as surgeons, but as dentists; for it has gone forth to the world, and has been made a strong point by the promoters of the so-called College of Dentists, that the members of the College of Surgeons practising as dentists are doing