ASSOCIATION OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR, We ask leave to inform your readers that active steps have been taken by the Association to assist general practitioners of this country to give combined and united force to their wishes and interest, especially in relation to the actions of the various corporations, and to the representation of the general practitioner thereon. We desire especially at this moment to assist the licentiates of the College of Physicians to give organised expression to their claim to a voice in the administration of the affairs of their College. We believe their claim to be so strong that adequate representations made by a strong body of licentiates duly organised could not fail ultimately to secure for the licentiates of the College of Physicians a just voice in the management of their own affairs, and in the government of the profession of which they constitute so large a proportion. We should be glad to hear from licentiates of the College of Physicians on this subject, and have names of those willing to take part in securing for themselves and fellows a less contemptuous and more honourable treatment than they now receive at the hands of the self-elected Council of that body. May we be allowed to add that we forwarded yesterday a requisition signed by twenty members of the Metropolitan Counties Branch to the secretaries of the branch calling for a meeting of the Metropolitan Branch to consider the action of the College of Physicians and College of Surgeons in respect to the Apothecaries' Society, which threatens to create a new and competing class of general practitioners throughout the kingdom? We have every reason to believe that that requisition will be favourably considered, and we trust that general practitioners will largely attend the meeting when summoned. Hoping to hear from all who sympathise with our efforts in the objects we have stated,

We remain, Sir, your obedient servants,

H. W. VERDON, M.D., F.R.C.S.,
410, Brixton-road, S.W.W. GIBSON BOTT, L.R.C.P. and M.R.C.S.,
414, Clapham-road, S.W.

Nov. 18th, 1886.

Hon. Secs. Association of General Practitioners.

"DEATH OF A PASTEUR PATIENT."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to correct a statement in Dr. Hime's letter to you on a Pasteur patient (Wilde), the remarks being made in a postscript that Wilde was not really intentionally bitten by the deceased Oates. I emphatically contradict this hazy piece of information. *Wilde was savagely bitten by Oates*, and the latter had remarked that he should bite someone if they did not mind. I saw the lacerated teeth-marks. I had Wilde's own evidence and my own observations bore out the man's statement. I had several opportunities of questioning Wilde on this point; his statement was always the same. If there had been any doubt in my mind that it was an abrasion only in the struggle, he would never have gone to Paris. This interpolation of Dr. Hime's letter in your annotation also gives an utter misrepresentation of the facts of the case.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Nov. 1886.

HARRY O'D. FOOTE, M.D.

THE MEETING OF GERMAN NATURALISTS AND MEDICAL MEN IN BERLIN.

(Concluded from p. 847.)

At the first meeting of the Surgical Section Professor von Bergmann showed some interesting and rare cases. One of these was a young man who from a fall received compound fractures of the legs and fractures of both the thigh and the patella. In order to unite the fractured patella, some months after the accident, Professor Bergmann chiselled off the tuberosity of the tibia, and placed it between the two fragments of the patella, after which union took place. The patient can now extend the leg very freely, but the mobility of the knee is yet a good deal impaired. The other

cases shown were two cases of Actinomycosis. At the second meeting, Krause spoke of the changes in the nerves and in the spinal cord after amputation, and afterwards demonstrated his specimens. The changes consist in atrophy of the medullary substance and subsequent atrophy of the axis cylinder in the sensory peripheral nerves; hence the changes spread to the spinal ganglia. As shown before by Dickinson and others, alterations were also seen in the posterior column and in the ganglia cells of the posterolateral group in the anterior horn. The observations were made under the direction of C. Friedlander. Grünfeld showed an Endoscope of simple construction, which enabled him to make out the exact form, surface, and extent of bladder tumours. Madelung introduced the subject of Diffuse Lipomata, and an interesting discussion followed, in which several surgeons spoke of the neuralgic pains associated with these tumours and the recurrence of these tumours after removal. Madelung described an affection of the sole of the foot corresponding to Dupuytren's palmar contraction, and exhibited some casts. Of the other papers read in this section we wish briefly to notice one by Küster on Stenosis of the Trachea. The author distinguished between traumatic, diphtheritic, and syphilitic stenosis and the narrowing produced by new growths (sarcomata and carcinomata), &c., and recommended, whenever possible, removal of the granulations, dissection of bands, &c., and subsequent dilatation by means of instruments. In very severe cases, especially in cases of new growths, he recommends resection of the trachea. Baumgärtner spoke of the Cachexia following the removal of Tumours of the Thyroid. The cachexia is not present in all cases of thyrectomy, and in six cases no cachexia strumipriva resulted. In the discussion which followed, Semon of London gave an interesting account of Myxœdema, of the cases observed in England, and of Horsley's researches. This disease seems as yet to have escaped the notice of German observers. Bardeleben stated that in more than a dozen cases where the thyroid was removed no symptoms of cretinism followed. Others, however, such as Küster, were less sceptical, and advocated only partial removal of the thyroid, except in cases of malignant tumours. Böker related a case of Enchondroma springing from the cricoid cartilage, for the removal of which he extirpated this cartilage, with successful results. The case, which seems unique, has since been published in the *Deutsche Med. Wochenschrift*, No. 43.

In the Medical Section several interesting communications were given. Of these the more important ones were: Runeberg on Pernicious Anæmia produced by Bothriocephalus Latus; Finkler on the Principles of the Pathology and Therapeutics of Fever; and Immerman on Rheumatism. Lenhartz spoke of the antagonism between Morphia and Atropia. His observations and experiments did not lead him to look favourably upon the administration of atropia in cases of morphia poisoning. In 173 cases of opium poisoning 59 cases treated with atropia showed a mortality of 28 per cent., whilst in 73 cases not so treated the mortality only amounted to 15 per cent. In the discussion Freimuth and Lewin spoke in favour of atropia as an antidote in these cases, an opinion which agrees well with the results seen in English hospital practice, many of which are not published, and thus render the statistics of Lenhartz untrustworthy. Penzoldt reviewed the use of Digitalis in various diseases; this drug acts best in simple muscular insufficiency of the heart and in valvular heart disease, and in insufficiency of the right ventricle in emphysema; its effect is more doubtful in nephritis and in the acute diseases associated with weakness from the heart's action; it has little effect also when there is much fatty degeneration of the heart. Cantani gave an interesting communication on the poisonous properties of the Cholera Bacilli. Experiments on dogs showed that if pure cultivations of cholera bacilli in peptone gelatine after having been heated to 100° C. were injected into the peritoneal cavity, symptoms of cholera poisoning appeared; and he argued that the dead cholera bacilli, if absorbed, have a poisonous effect. As therapeutic agents he recommends enteroclysis with hot solution of gallic acid (which destroys the bacilli rapidly), and large hypodermic injections to increase the elimination of the absorbed poison. Strümpell spoke of Compression-myelitis, and expressed the opinion that in these cases there is simple compression of the cord and no myelitis, and often no descending degeneration.

In the Gynæcological Section a number of interesting specimens (preparations of Extra-uterine Foetation, Ovarian Tumours, and Diseased Fallopian Tubes) were shown, and