rest between the real times. An impartial *résumé* of the many theories of dreams is given by Dr Sully in the article on "Dreams" in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and also in the work on "Illusions" (International Science Series) by the same author. I may here say that the physiological theory there given completely accounts for all the phenomena of dreams except their visual aspect, or what Wundt calls "the light chaos." In your second volume for 1889 I suggested that the visual aspect was due to actual light being more or less perceived by the intellect during the sleeping state. That there is actual light developed in the body at all times is certain from the physical transformations of energy taking place, and from the presence of phosphorised fats, whether in the blood-corpuscles, nerve tissue, or brain substance. The chemistry of these phosphorised fats, which is very complex, can be studied in Dr. Thudichum's "Physiological Chemistry of the Brain," and also in a most interesting address on the cerebro-spinal system in the last number of the *Asclepiad*. Dr. Sully describes a dream he once experienced after trying to fall asleep by counting. The numbers took on visual form, and he saw them coming in endless procession, knocking and jostling against each other in most grotesque and comical fashion. Were these blood-corpuscles actually seen and mistaken for the numbers with which the mind had been engaged a moment previously?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Plumstead, May 14th, 1892. FRANCIS EDWARD CANE.

THE ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Mr. W. G. Dickinson, in his letter published in your issue of the 14th inst., employs an expression "took offence" which, as applied to myself, scarcely meets the case. Will you therefore permit me to say that in my letter of resignation, dated April 15th, I stated that "I declined to forward to any professional man so insulting a communication" as that passed, in the unavoidable absence of both Dr. Steele and myself, on April 12th, and received by me for transmission to the solicitor on April 14th? This was one of my two immediate reasons, and I should again decline to forward, for any body of men, to any professional man a resolution that he be "forthwith informed that his services are no longer required." How would Mr. Dickinson regard such a proposal if the gentleman whose "services were no longer required" were himself and the dismitter a patient? Moreover, as to the plea of the committee's "desiring to ascertain the extent of their liability as soon as possible," they had already, at a meeting at which the solicitor was present, on April 6th—i.e., only six days previously—requested him to forward his bill of costs to one of themselves as soon as feasible, and did not then breathe a word as to this prospective curt dismissal. Declining, therefore, to forward the resolution of April 12th, my resignation followed as a matter of course; for I did not wish the committee to be placed in the painful position of having to deal with a rebellious secretary. My other decisive reason, which I also stated in my letter of resignation, was that I strongly objected to the manner in which the Association's Minute-book had been obtained and subsequently withheld from its lawful custodian, myself, the acting secretary.

With regard to the resignation of my colleague, Dr. Steele, I hear from him that the grounds stated by Mr. Dickinson formed but a portion of the reasons which influenced Dr. Steele in forming his decision, although anxious to assist the committee in any possible way, and that he likewise declined to forward to the solicitor the resolution above referred to. Mr. Tait was naturally informed by me of the above chapter of events, and this is probably one, but by no means the "sum total," of the matters to which he alludes; though neither the solicitor, nor my co-secretary, nor myself was aware of his intention to write you, until, in common with all your readers, we saw his letter in your columns of the 7th inst. It is no doubt a compliment to Mr. Lawson Tait that his "advice" should be considered by Mr. Dickinson to have outweighed the better judgment of the rest of the Committee, but it now appears to be met by them with a recognition as marked as that shown to their other advisers.

Mr. Dickinson now having publicly occupied himself with the question of the recent changes in the officering of the Association, perhaps he will go a little further and induce the Central Committee to assemble and officially receive the month-old resignation of two honorary secretaries who have served that body for over seven years.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

W. A. ELLIS,
Late Honorary Secretary of the Association of
Members of the Royal College of Surgeons
of England.

May 18th, 1892.

THE NEW CURRICULUM AND THE SCALE OF FEES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Rumour has many tongues, and not all of them are truthful. It would be interesting to know what truth there is in the rumour that when the new prospectuses of the eleven London schools for the coming session are issued it will be found that there is the same wretched under-bidding of each other in the matter of fees for medical education as in the years gone by. We all know that in view of the five years' curriculum there have been meetings of the deans to consider the question of fees, and that there has been a widespread feeling that the opportunity should not be lost of raising the London fees to something like an adequate sum, and at the same time also of putting the fees of all the schools on an equal footing. Is it true, however—is it possible—that this excellent scheme has been frustrated by the action of one of the smaller schools, by one which surely ought to have known better, by independently and, it is said, irrevocably fixing its new scale of fees at a contemptibly small increase upon that of last year; that others of the smaller schools feel it in the circumstances impossible to raise their fees to the sum which they had wished, and which had been advocated and will be adopted by the large schools; and that yet others of the schools are even descending still lower, and are proposing an addition to their fees, already too low, which is simply ridiculous? I name no names and no amounts, but if rumour be true we shall have three various and unmeaning scales of fees in force at our eleven London schools, instead of one and the same at all of them, for which many had wished, and for the consummation of which a unique opportunity had at length arisen. Is it too late even now for the deans to arrange and finally settle that we, the constituents of the one great school of medicine in London, shall act together and in unison, that we shall raise the fees for medical education to a scale somewhat commensurate with those of other professions, and that an era shall be begun when the various schools will show that they individually seek to attract students by the quality of their teaching, rather than by the deplorable system of under-bidding which to many of us is disgusting in the last degree?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

May 11th, 1892.

OLIM DECANUS.

DEATH UNDER CHLOROFORM.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—A case of death under the influence of chloroform having unfortunately occurred here, I think it right to report it. A boy aged eleven years was recommended to have adenoid growths removed from his naso-pharynx. He was a pale, anæmic child, with no disease of lungs or heart. He had been told to have nothing to eat after his breakfast at 7.30 A.M. on the 14th ult. (being an out-patient); and at 1.15 P.M. I was asked to give chloroform. He took it slowly, not breathing well, but with no difficulty or struggling. His pupils being slightly contracted, and the cornea insensitive, the operation for removal of the growths, by Lœbberg's forceps, was commenced. There was not much hæmorrhage or coughing, and the operation was just finished. While sponging out the pharynx, however, the respiration was noticed to stop for a second, but commenced again, there being slight cyanosis about the eyes, though the lips remained of good colour. The gag was at once removed. The pulse was imperceptible. On auscultating the chest no heart sounds were audible, though the breath sounds could be well heard and air was entering