DR. RIGBY'S EDITION OF WILLIAM HUNTER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Although not particularly complimentary in tone, I cannot but thank — (THE LANCET, Dr. Rigby should have said. —ED. L.) for pointing out last week the eight errata which the reviewer has discovered in my edition of Dr. Hunter's "Anatomical Description of the Human Gravid Uterus and its Contents," and which I regret had escaped my notice. I have requested the publisher to insert a printed list of them into the unsold copies.

On the whole, I may congratulate myself that the errata are so few, and, what is of more importance, so immaterial, otherwise the reviewer's anxiety in my behalf would not have permitted him to overlook them. As it is, he actually misquotes the original in the very first erratum which he points out, omitting the word *accurate*, intentionally, doubtless (and very appropriately), for the purpose of demonstrating, at his own expense, how difficult it is to avoid such blunders and oversights. Indeed, I may say that the second edition is *more* correct than the original, as is seen at page 62, where I have pointed out a transposition of the words *head* and *trunk*, which had entirely confused the meaning of the sentence. With regard to errors in punctuation to which he alludes, I believe I may rest equally satisfied.

In not adding an "account of the various discoveries which have been made in the anatomy and physiology of the gravid uterus during the last fifty years" (which would have converted the book into a bulky and expensive volume), I was entirely guided by the opinion and advice of one who is acknowledged by all to hold first rank among the scientific anatomists and physiologists of this country, and who carefully perused and approved the few notes which I have added.

Dr. Baillie's Text.

"An accurate *anatomical* description of the human gravid uterus and its contents has not *hitherto* been published in this, nor I believe in any other country. It was, therefore, a desideratum in anatomy, and no person surely was so capable of supplying this want as the late Dr. Hunter."

SEAT OF TUBERCLES IN PHTHISIS.—In M. Louis' experience, out of 80 cases of pulmonary tubercle, the cervical glands also were found the seat of tuberculous matter in 8 instances; out of 102 cases, the mesenteric glands were tuberculous in 23 instances; the meso-cæcal and meso-colic glands were similarly affected a little less frequently than the mesenteric; and out of 60 cases, the lumbar glands were found tuberculous in 5 instances. Attention is

The reviewer declares that I am "not an anatomist," an assertion which, in his peculiar meaning of the word, is, perhaps, correct, as I willingly confess that I have not had such extensive opportunities of cultivating the *particular* branch of anatomy to which he alludes. He complains that my notes "are almost entirely mere compilations from Baer, Montgomery, Carpenter, Sharpey, &c.;" but there is one distinguished name which he has (rather unjustly, I think) omitted to mention, and to which, I trust, I have done justice, viz., that of Dr. Robert Lee.

With regard to his last charge, viz., of ignorance respecting the relation between the ovum and the vesicula umbilicalis, I think that a little calm reflection, and, perchance, a little study also of "Baer, Montgomery, Carpenter, Sharpey, &c.," will tell him that this recoils upon himself, and in no wise touches your obedient servant,

ED. RIGBY.

New-street, Spring-gardens,
Dec. 26, 1843.

* * Dr. Rigby is correct in saying that the word *accurate* was omitted from our quotation. The omission was accidental, and we regret its occurrence. In order, however, to make quite plain the variations of Dr. Rigby from the text, in the passage cited, we print, below, the original by Dr. Baillie, and the version of Dr. Rigby, in juxtaposition. Our own misquotation was accidental, but the misprints in Dr. Rigby's edition look exactly as if they had been indulged in under an impression that the reviewers in the medical journals would not look very sharply into the purity of the "new edition." We intend to return to the topic of the gravid uterus in an early number. It involves at least one question in the department of anatomy which *shall be set at rest*. All this, however, in good temper with Dr. Rigby, who has addressed to us a very good-tempered note :—

Dr. Rigby's Version.

"An *accurate description* of the human gravid uterus and its contents has not been published in this, nor I believe in any other country. It was *hitherto*, therefore, a desideratum in anatomy, and no person, surely, was so capable of supplying this want as the late Dr. Hunter."

naturally excited to the eminent frequency of tubercle in the lacteal glands, and some authors have asserted that they are the original seat of tubercles in consumption. M. Louis states, however, that all his experience has gone to confirm that after the age of fifteen, tuberculous matter never presents itself in any tissue or organ unless it exist also in the lungs.—*British and Foreign Medical Review.*