behaviour can only be accounted for by the dread Sir William entertains of his cases appearing in *THE LANCET*. Some time since, he grossly insulted one of the pupils, because he saw him standing on the steps of the hospital with a number of *THE LANCET* in his hand. This abominable conduct was repeated on Saturday.

It is not from any ill feeling towards Sir William that I make these remarks, for I really feel respect towards him on account of his great age, and also for his very courteous behaviour towards the regular pupils of the hospital, but I earnestly trust that they may induce some kind friend of the knight to convince him how ridiculous he renders himself. In fact—he ought to be urged to resign his situation as surgeon of the hospital, now that he is incapacitated from fulfilling the humane duties devolving on that situation. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

AN OLD PUPIL.

Jan. 7, 1833.*

NITRATE OF SILVER IN DISSECTION WOUNDS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have much pleasure in communicating the following case, on the use of the nitrate of silver, which probably will prove of no little benefit to medical students, as pointing out the means by which punctured wounds, received in the dissecting-room, may be divested of all their terror, and ultimate constitutional derangement be avoided.

A few days ago, when dissecting at St. Thomas's Hospital, I received a wound in the index finger, which did not immediately manifest any symptoms of increased vascularity, that is to say, not till about two days after, when heat and tenderness came on, with redness, and increased arterial action, and swelling along the course of the absorbents.

This rather alarmed me, but having previously read Mr. Higginbottom's work on the "Use of the Nitrate of Silver," I resolved to give that remedy a fair trial.

I moistened the finger, back of the hand, and, in fact, every part which presented the least appearances of inflammation, and drew a stick of caustic three or four times over the parts, which, in twenty-four hours, completely blackened them. The eschar remained on the parts for several days, and then began gradually to separate; and at this moment there scarcely remains the least vestige of its colour. I am convinced from this case, which I think an important one, that the usual counter irritants and

applications are totally inadequate in point of efficacy when compared with caustic.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY HARRIS.

St. Thomas's Hospital, 30th Jan. 1833.

* * * As the remaining portion of the letter of our intelligent correspondent does not clear up the obscurity which he acknowledges to surround the mode of action of the nitrate of silver, we have been induced to omit it, especially at a moment when our table is so laden with "copy," awaiting insertion, as it at present is.—ED. L.

MALIGNANT CHOLERA

AT THE HOSPITAL IN GREVILLE STREET, HOLBORN.

(Communicated by the Central Board.)

Guildhall, Dec. 18th, 1832.

SIR,—I have this morning received a communication from Mr. Marsden, and transmit the same for the information of the Central Board of Health. I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

J. F. DE GRAVE,
Hon. Med. Sec.

To W. Maclean, Esq.

2, Thavies Inn, Dec. 15, 1832.

Dear Sir,—In conformity with your request of the 6th inst., and for the information of the "Central Board," I beg to lay before you the following statement of the number of patients admitted into the Free Hospital, Greville Street, up to the 12th of October last, with the modes of treatment and the results.

184 patients afflicted with malignant cholera in the 2nd stage—that is, having no pulsation at the wrist, livid extremities, &c. &c.

Of this number seventeen died, either on their way to the hospital, or immediately after admission, no medicine having been administered. Eighteen were treated by various plans, previously to the introduction of saline remedies, of whom thirteen died, and five recovered. Thirteen who were treated by the above plans, were, after all hopes of recovery were lost, injected with the following saline solution, at the temperature of 110 degrees.

R *Sodæ muriat.* ʒij;
Sodæ carbon. ʒj;
Potassa oxymur. gr. viij;
Aqua ʒxxxij. M.

Eleven died and two recovered.

Twenty-three were treated in the first instance by calomel and opium, brandy, ammonia, external stimulants, &c., without

* We have not before had room for this letter.—ED. L.

success; afterwards by the saline medicine.

R *Sodæ carbon.* ʒj;
Sodæ murias. ʒij;
Potassa oxymur. gr. viij. M.

This powder, dissolved in four ounces of cold water, to be given to the patient (an adult) every fifteen minutes, till reaction is established; afterwards every thirty minutes, one hour, two hours, and so on, till out of danger. A hot saline bath to be used every four, six, eight, or twelve hours, according to circumstances; fourteen pounds of salt dissolved in each bath, at 120 degrees. The patient to drink as much cold water as possible; no spirits, wine, or indeed anything else.* Eighteen died and five recovered.

Of twenty-eight who had taken freely of opium and brandy previously to their admission, but afterwards put on the saline treatment, twenty-one died and seven re-

covered. Of four, who were aged and previously diseased, treated by saline remedies only, all died. Of eighty-one who were treated by the saline remedies alone, seven died and seventy-four recovered.

In addition to the above number, 315 patients (who were not reported) labouring under the first stage of the complaint, were treated by calomel and vegetable purgatives; twelve cases ran into the second stage, and were treated by the saline remedies; eventually four died; all the rest recovered.

The Powder and Draught for an Adult.

R *Calomel* gr. xx;
Zingiber in pulv. gr. xx. M.

R *Ol. ricini.*
Tinct. rhei aa. ʒj. M.

The powder given immediately, and the draught four hours afterwards; both to be repeated, if required, every four hours, for three times, providing collapse do not supervene. Small doses of simple saline mixture to be taken with the above in order to keep the stomach tranquil. I am, dear Sir, your obedient servant, W. MARSDEN.

* It is my opinion that the large quantity of cold water taken by the patients was of the utmost importance. One patient who died, swallowed forty gallons within ninety-six hours; he took seventy-eight pints during the first twelve hours. Ten patients who were quite restored under the saline treatment, took 225 gallons within 72 hours.

MALIGNANT CHOLERA IN LONDON.

Comparative View of the various Modes of Treatment adopted in Cholera, within the jurisdiction of the City of London Board of Health, transmitted by Mr. F. DE GRAVE.

	Cases.	Deaths.	Recoveries.	Deaths per Cent.	Recoveries per Cent.
Calomel and opium	196	112	84	57. 14	42. 86
Opium	81	47	34	58.	42.
Calomel	75	35	40	46. 66	53. 34
Stimulants	63	42	21	66. 66	33. 33
Combination of salts proposed by } Dr. Stevens	25	22	3	88.	12.
Combination of salts used at Gre- } ville Street Hospital	26	8	18	30. 77	69. 23
Venous injection	20	18	2	90.	10.
Miscellaneous	17	8	9	47. 06	52 .94

ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

CLINICAL REMARKS

BY

MR. BRODIE AND CLOT BEY.

January 28, 1833.—Mr. Brodie this day went round the wards in company with Clot Bey, and a native of Grand Carro, his attendant. As the several surgical cases in the hospital, under the care of Mr. Brodie, were shown to him, he made remarks upon most of them. We select the following:—

DISEASED SCALP.—In a case which has

been treated by mercurial ointment, and to which Mr. Brodie is now going to apply the strong acid, Clot Bey remarked, that in Egypt such cases were treated by covering the head with an ointment composed of lard and charcoal, with a nightcap covering of brown paper for the head.

STRICTURE.—There is a case of spasmodic stricture in which Mr. Brodie is using the caustic, with the view of diminishing the spasm, it being so applied as only to touch the anterior rugæ of the stricture, and not the sides. Clot Bey gave it as his opinion, that if the caustic were applied *laterally* as well, the difficulty of overcoming the disease would be soon obviated.