THE BRAIN.—SORE NIPPLE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I forward the following cases for insertion in your valuable Journal, and remain your obedient servant,

R. DAVIS, Surgeon.

1, Worship-square, Finsbury,
May 10, 1842.

Mr. B., a married man, forty-five years of age, of plethoric habit, florid countenance, light brown hair, blue eyes, and of the middle stature, was seized, about eighteen months ago, with an attack of paralysis, under rather peculiar circumstances. Being of the sanguineous temperament, he has been a man of warm passions, very fond of women, sexual intercourse being his besetting sin. He has a short, thick neck, and a tolerably good development of the occipital region; he has no disease of either heart or lungs, nor had he ever suffered from any particular illness previous to his late attack. He states, that about eighteen months ago while walking in company with a friend, and without much previous warning, he was seized with a fit in the street. A stick which he held in his hand suddenly fell down, and, leaving his friend, he was propelled forwards for several yards by a power over which he had no control; his friend, surprised at the strangeness and suddenness of his movement, getting in front of him, arrested his further progress. He was then taken home, where he immediately became insensible, and so continued for eight hours. Before consciousness returned he was bled, had mustard plasters to the feet, and all the remedies applied which are usual in such cases.

Paralysis of the whole of the right side was the consequence of this attack. In the course of four or five weeks he so far recovered his muscular strength as to be able to walk about. He is now under my care; his present symptoms are stammering and loss of memory; the treatment consists in the administration of an occasional dose of calomel at night, and a dose of some saline aperient in the morning; cold effusion on the head, and bathing the feet in hot water. The cause of the paralysis is evident, rupture of a blood-vessel, and the gradual effusion of blood into some portion of the brain; but the question is, Into what part did the extravasation take place? Did the extravasation take place in the cerebellum? The habits of the man would incline us to think so, but Magendie and Andral, who attribute the regulation of muscular action in a particular direction to it, deny it: they say that lesions of the cerebellum cause the patient to walk backwards. The effusion, then, must have taken place in the corpora striata; which bodies, according to the foregoing authori-

ties, regulate motion forwards. The point of interest in this case is, what practical illustration does it afford of the truth of Magendie's experiments, which assign motion in different directions to effects produced on different portions of the brain.

Treatment of Sore Nipple.—Having read a short account of the treatment of sore nipple in THE LANCET, and as its cure is a great desideratum, I beg to state one case out of many. Mrs. W., residing in Primrose-street, Bishopsgate, suffered very much from this troublesome affection after her last confinement, not having had a child for some years previously. The summit of each nipple was completely sloughed off, and such was her pain whenever she gave the infant the breast, that she contemplated weaning it. I had resorted to several remedies for her relief; such as a shield nipple, bathing the parts with diluted sulphuric acid, and tincture of myrrh. The last remedy applied, and that which proved successful, was the lunar caustic, in substance. The surface of the sore was touched with it every morning, and the nipple was then covered with a piece of wet lint; the child was not allowed to suck the nipple under treatment, being supported from the other breast, the draught of milk in the unused breast being excited by friction. Under this treatment both nipples were healed in a comparatively short time.

DEFENCE OF TOTAL ABSTINENCE
FROM ALCOHOLIC DRINKS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—IN THE LANCET of the 16th instant you favoured your readers with an extract from Dr. Clutterbuck's account of Dr. Birkbeck, bearing on the subject of total abstinence and temperance, upon which I beg to offer a few remarks.

"A rigid abstinence," observes the doctor, "in regard to either food or drink, is not, generally speaking, advisable." That a rigid abstinence with regard to food is, generally speaking, anything but advisable, every person in his senses will admit, and that a like abstinence from wholesome drinks would be equally absurd, I am quite ready to concede. But the question is, Are intoxicating drinks good for man in a state of health? I believe that they are not; and if chemical and physiological facts, and the opinions of medical men of the very first eminence in all countries, and in all ages, and the experience of millions of total abstinents, are at all to be relied upon, they are anything but in favour of the doctor's *observation and experience*.

That "of a generous diet both with respect to food and drinks, with the addition of arti-