the source of the flooding, supposing that it comes from the uterine orifices.

In a case where the placenta is attached to the os uteri, labour has begun, and hæmorrhage sets in before the os has begun perceptibly to dilate; this commencement of labour is the action of the longitudinal fibres, by whose contraction the os uteri is dilated and the tissue around is thickened; as labour progresses, renewed hæmorrhage takes place from the detachment of fresh portions of placenta, which exposes from time to time new uterine orifices, from which the flooding proceeds. As the os uteri continues to dilate by the contraction of the longitudinal fibres, the uterine orifices that were situated immediately round the os become closed and cease to bleed. Yet we find that the hæmorrhage still continues, nevertheless it becomes diminished in quantity from the detachments that now take place being near the circumference of the placenta, where the orifices are not so large. Thus by the continued dilatation of the os uteri, which is in reality a contraction, the exposure of new and consequent closure of old orifices goes on, until one organ is separated from the other. It is in this way we find that Nature overcomes the difficulties connected with these very dangerous cases. And if we are not too wise we may copy a little from the book which she now and then opens for our improvement.

Note.—How would Dr. Simpson, according to his theory of unavoidable hæmorrhage, account for the flooding that takes place on the separation of the placenta in natural cases, or after the placenta is detached, as in cases of relaxation, if venous hæmorrhage by retrogression is prevented? If such hæmorrhage is prevented when the placenta is attached to the os uteri, why not if the connexion is at any other part?

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Mr. L. D. MORGAN, the Secretary of the Middlesex Hospital, has written to us to say that the lecturers at the school of that Hospital would be obliged by our insertion of the following notice:—"In consequence of certain transactions with reference to the entrance of pupils by Mr. Tuson, it has been resolved by the lecturers of the Middlesex Hospital School, that no pupil of Mr. Tuson will in future be admitted to the School."

VOLTAIC ELECTRICITY IN TETANUS.—*To the Editor.*—SIR: Many years ago, I applied voltaic electricity in a case of tetanus, (*trismus opisthotonos*), at the request of a medical friend. The issue was successful. More recently, tetanus has been subdued in America by the application of the same means. In a recent occurrence of lock-jaw, in Hull, I offered my gratuitous aid to Dr. S—, as I do not practise in any way as a medical man, nor meddle with therapeutics. My reception was far otherwise than courteous; but I had no right to complain of this hauteur, seeing that it *might* have proceeded from some mental idiosyncrasy, while I must nevertheless assume, that my recognised scientific character might have reasonably anticipated a very different reception. The efficiency of this powerful auxiliary might have been tested in a few minutes, but would not have interfered, in any way, with other remedial measures. I have heard that Dr. S. observed to some one afterwards, that the patient could not withstand the shock! Now, sir, you know there is nothing of the kind, and that voltaic electricity might be safely applied to a baby. Dr. S. says that he did without it. But the question is, might he not have done better with it than by the sanguinary system of Sangrado. Lock-jaw, although formidable, has been conquered by very different treatment. It is the last time I shall condescend to submit to such an undeserved repulse for an act of pure benevolence. I am glad to see that medical galvanism is rapidly extending; and I cannot but think it was the duty of Dr. S. to have accepted the proffered aid, and allowed the simple and safe experiment to have been made.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient, humble servant,
Hull, Nov. 7th, 1845.

J. MURRAY, Ph. D.

EXTRACTION OF NEEDLES FROM THE FLESH.—The following statement is taken from the *Sheffield Mercury*, and certainly, from what appears in the imperfect state of the report, presents some curious circumstances for consideration. The degree of credit to be attached to it we leave to our readers, premising only that one very remarkable circumstance, and seeming to indicate a more recent introduction of the needles than the correspondent of the paper seems to imply, is, that their polish was not at all affected. It most generally happens in such cases that the needles are corroded

to a greater or lesser extent:—"A striking illustration of one of this class of cases has occurred in Sheffield in the course of this week. The subject in this instance is a servant in the family of Mrs. Heppenstall, of Upperthorpe, and about 21 or 22 years of age. It seems the young woman was recently under the care of a medical man whose treatment produced salivation, subsequently to which she fancied that needles were slowly progressing from her left shoulder to the arm at some depth in the muscular substance. On Monday the pain became excruciating, and presently one, and soon afterwards three small needles were extracted from the fleshy part of the arm; and on the following morning two more, with part of a third! They made their appearance partly above and partly below the elbow, and seem perfectly bright and uncorroded. Mr. John Heppenstall, who himself drew out the latter portion of the needles, says that they did not by any means easily come away; and that no blood followed from the puncture. Next in interest to the curious fact of the undoubted extraction of so many needles under the circumstances, is the question as to how they got in the young woman's flesh? Of this she can give no account, having no recollection of having either swallowed them or received them into her body from any external accident; but she says that sometimes she has felt the pricking of needles in her chest, while their progress down her arm was quite perceptible. She states also, that seven years since she recollects not fewer than fifty similar needles and pieces of needles came from one of her fingers in the course of a fortnight."

APOTHECARIES' HALL, LONDON.

Names of gentlemen who obtained Certificates of Qualification to practise as Apothecaries, on Thursday, 15th January, 1846:—William Skaife Gibson, Dublin; Frederick Augustus Crisp, Orford, Suffolk; John Cowburn.

CORRESPONDENTS.

Oxoniensis.—If a medical man, we recommend the necessary study; if a patient, he should apply to his medical attendant.

B.—Williams on Diseases of the Chest, and Walshe on Physical Diagnosis.

A Country Bookseller.—We never prescribe in the pages of THE LANCET.

We have to offer a thousand apologies to our respected correspondent, Mr. Crisp. His long lost paper has been discovered.

We should like to receive a copy of one of the bills reported to have been distributed to the congregation at the Catholic church, Portland Town, on Sunday last.

A Governor of the Salisbury Infirmary.—We are not at this moment acquainted with a similar case, but, as the advocate for one faculty of medicine, we can see no objection to such an arrangement.

We shall publish the communication of Mr. John Calvert, (of Witherne,) but we must first address him privately on the subject.

F. P. C. is informed that the cases would be inserted in the pages of THE LANCET.

Another able report from the pen of Dr. Taylor will appear in the next LANCET.

A most diligent search shall be made for the communication of Mr. J. W. Bellamy.

Magister.—No apprenticeship is required by any of the colleges.

We advise A Medical Student to write to the Hall, as we believe that he would receive a satisfactory reply to his application.

Dr. Turnbull (of Liverpool) shall receive a private note.

Chiron (Westminster) wants to know "what will be the next move of the veracious BENJAMIN, at the CABAL-HOSPITAL, near the Abbey." Chiron thinks that "the late lamentable failure is likely to make the plotter more than usually cautious." He also wants to know "why it is that BENJAMIN now enacts the toady to a weak old gentleman whom he has often virulently abused. Mr. GUTHRIE," he adds, "evidently treats his former tool with disdain." BENJAMIN appears to us to be a very busy, meddling, inflated person, whom a single touch of THE LANCET would reduce to a permanent state of collapse. Hitherto we have treated his unprovoked hostility with contempt.

Mr. Robinson's communication has been received, and shall be published in an early number.

We will make an inquiry for Dr. Hinxman. We believe a very good one has been lately published.

For what purpose was the *Liverpool Standard* of Jan. 20th sent?

Communications have been received from a Gownsmen of King's College, Mr. Hampson, Mr. J. G. Shelburne, Mr. Blacklock, S. P. B., Mr. W. Royle, Medicus, Mr. W. M. Colchester, (Old-street-road,) A Country Surgeon, Dr. Tod, Mr. T. W. Paterson, (Ibstock,) Mr. W. Anderson, Mr. J. Eustace, A Liverpool Student, H. S. B., Mr. C. R. Elliot, Mr. Barker, Censor, Amor veritatis, A Country Practitioner, M.D., (Cambridge,) A Subscriber, Mr. Alfred Bower, Mr. Carson, and Mr. Hunt, (Herne Bay.)