mediately renew, if he chooses, his dissection, again, with impunity. In every case where the above plan has been adopted, no sensible degree of local inflammation has succeeded, and no bad effects whatever have been produced.

In some neglected cases a great deal of pain is often produced by a collection of a very small quantity of matter under the aponeurosis of the finger, which, if not let out, will be probably succeeded by enlarged axillary glands and more extensive symptoms of irritation. I know the presence of matter has been denied by many, but my experience has proved that as soon as an exit was made for it, the intolerable pain has at once ceased. This was remarkably so in the troublesome case already alluded to. This pupil I took to a consulting surgeon of high repute, and proposed to him that an opening should be made, with which he did not coincide, alleging that no matter was present. In the night, however, the pain became so intolerable that I was induced to do it; a small quantity of matter escaped, and the patient was instantaneously and permanently relieved from pain.

Yours very obediently,

G. D. DERMOTT.

35, Dean-street, Soho.

PUBLIC EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN WITH
THE SMALL-POX.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I observe in the last number of your Journal, a letter from a correspondent signed *M. M.* on inoculation, wherein he confesses himself to be not well acquainted with the subject of medical jurisprudence, yet justly complains of a parish surgeon introducing the small-pox in the neighbourhood near where he resides. If you think that the information I here forward can serve his case, may I ask the favour of its insertion in your next number?

From the relation of the following cases, which are to be found in Maule and Selwyn's Reports, it is evident that inoculation under the circumstances he relates in his letter is unlawful. It is in their book said to be unlawful and injurious to carry a child infected with small-pox along a public highway in which persons are passing, and near to the habitations of the King's subjects, and it is an indictable offence, as the following cases evince. Some years ago two trials took place in the Court of King's Bench; one, of the

mother of a child infected with the small-pox, and the wife of a journeyman coach-maker named Vantandillo, then residing in a court near Long-Acre, for exposing and taking the child in a diseased state of small-pox through the public streets to the house of the surgeon who inoculated it, by which the contagion infected most of the children in the court where she resided.

The second case emerged from the foregoing (if my recollection is correct). — Burnett, a surgeon-apothecary, was tried and found guilty in the King's Bench, for unlawfully advising and allowing a child to be brought through the public streets in a state of disease to his residence. So it appears to be an indictable offence in an apothecary, after having inoculated children, unlawfully and injuriously to cause them to be exposed in the public streets to the danger of public health. The learned judge (Le Blanc), in passing sentence on the defendant in this case, observed that the introduction of vaccination did not render the practice of inoculating for the small-pox unlawful, but that at all times it was unlawful and an indictable offence to expose persons infected with contagious disorders liable to be communicated to the public, and injurious to the public health. The defendant was sentenced to six months imprisonment.

A case under similar circumstances was tried some terms subsequent to the above trials. Mr. Ridout, of Paternoster-row, was, in this instance, found guilty, but was not called up for judgment, on a promise to discontinue the practice.

I remain, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

W. WALFORD.

Church Row, Limehouse,
May 11, 1834.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The surgeon referred to by *M. M.* is punishable by indictment, not for inoculating children with small-pox, but for ordering them to be *brought for inspection*. — The decision of Mr. Justice Bailey, the Royal Jennerian Society and London Vaccine Institution publish every year in their yearly report; I beg to inclose it.

Believe me yours, &c.,

JOHN EPPS, M.D.,

Director of the Royal Jennerian and
London Vaccine Institution.

89, Great Russell Street,
May 13, 1834.