

and was the mother of a girl who died from cholera on the 23rd. The Registrar-General reports 3 deaths from cholera for the week ending Oct. 28th. No more deaths up to the 1st of November.

The Metropolis.—The Bill of Mortality for the week ending Saturday, the 28th, states:—"Forty-eight fatal cases of diarrhoea were returned, the corrected average for the forty-third week in ten previous years being 30. In the ten corresponding weeks the number varied from 16 to 39. From these facts it is evident that there is at the present time in London a greater amount of fatal diarrhoea than has been usually found to prevail at the end of October. Four deaths registered in the week are referred to cholera, of which cases the following are the particulars:—At 57, Frith-street, Soho, on Oct. 22nd, the widow of a courier, aged forty-eight years, "diarrhoea (five days), partly in Paris and partly in London; Asiatic cholera (twenty-four hours), exhaustion." The medical attendant of this case adds on his certificate, that "the patient never passed into complete collapse; the secretions became natural, but having been previously out of health, she sank from exhaustion." At 8, Lower Pellipar-road, Woolwich, on Oct. 21st, a private of the Royal Marines, aged forty-one years, "albuminuria (seven weeks), choleraic diarrhoea (thirty-six hours)." At 14, Buckingham-street, Marylebone, on Oct. 21st, the son of a plaster moulder, aged five months, "choleraic diarrhoea (two days)." At 1, Queen's-road East, Chelsea, on Oct. 27th, a widow, aged sixty-eight years, "choleraic diarrhoea (fourteen hours)."

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE MARSHALL HALL READY METHOD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me a few words relative to your annotation with the above heading in your journal of Oct. 21st. Dr. Smollett could hardly have better described the usual results of the "ready method" on the drowned than when he told us that, Mr. Bramble having been "turned from side to side, a great quantity of water ran out of his mouth; then he opened his eyes, and fetched a deep sigh."

Many people may think, and have, perhaps, thought, that Marshall Hall took the idea from this recovery of Mr. Bramble. That such was not the case I can show in a few lines. Marshall Hall was not indebted to Smollett for the idea of the "postural method." The "ready method," as now known and employed, is an experimental result—a modification of the original idea. The theory that filled the mind of Marshall Hall was that *pronation* would remove certain obstructions to the restoration of the drowned, which obstructions must exist without pronation. To perform artificial respiration with the patient on the back, and the throat and lungs full of water, was not, he conceived, the best way to recover that patient; and does it not almost amount to attempting artificial respiration with the patient still under water? Marshall Hall, therefore, proposed to Dr. Fox to attempt artificial respiration upon the dead body by lifting the head and shoulders up and down whilst the body was *prone*. Thus began the Marshall Hall method. The experiments of Dr. Fox, Mr. Bowles, and myself, at St. George's Hospital, fully showed the correctness and the value of the pronation of the body; but we found that to perform artificial respiration in that manner, upon an adult body of any size, was no slight task, and that if required to be long continued, the operator would be out of breath before he had put breath into the patient. Keeping, therefore, pronation in view as the main point, we, in our experiments, modified the practical or manipulative part of the method to that which we found would be the most easy of adoption—namely, of semi-rotation with and from pronation. The advantage of the method, as first proposed by Marshall Hall, still remain: so, the tongue falls forward at the time it is most wanted to do so, thus obviating the necessity for pulling forward the tongue or for tracheotomy; and the fluid in the throat and lungs is as freely expelled by the pressure on the back, in the intervals of semi-rotation, as when the shoulders are raised and depressed without deviation from the prone posture.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Wilton-place, Oct. 22nd, 1865.

CHARLES HUNTER.

THE LATE SIR JAMES M'GRIGOR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With reference to your observations relating to the late Sir James M'Grigor, Bart., in THE LANCET of Oct. 21st, let me assure you that your opinion is that of everyone who had the honour of serving under this distinguished man, who raised the Army Medical Department to its present state, or at least laid the foundation for the same,—namely, that a statue of him should be placed, and that the foremost one, at the Military Hospital, Netley. But I may inform you that "there is an obelisk of granite, seventy-two feet high, in Aberdeen, as also a bust in Wellington College, in honour of my deceased friend and commanding officer for some years." This information I copy from a note of the 16th inst., received from Sir Roderick Charles M'Grigor, the son of the deceased.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

S. A. EYRE,

The College, Epsom,
October, 1865.

Surgeon formerly of H.M. 13th Foot.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE winter session of the College of Medicine here, in connexion with the University of Durham, was commenced on the 2nd inst. Some of the municipal authorities were present, along with a fair sprinkling of the clergy, members of the profession from the town and vicinity, as well as some old lecturers and students from considerable distances, as Leeds, York, Berwick, &c. The familiar face of the worthy treasurer (Dr. Humble) was missed, and his absence, owing to domestic affliction, was much regretted. The students' benches were well filled—presenting, I thought, an array of more youthful faces than is usually seen here on similar occasions. The Rev. C. T. Whitley, Hon. Canon of Durham, presided; a gentleman long and well known for his kindly sympathy and warm feeling towards our profession. In commencing the proceedings, he observed that "the report of the College was one of continued prosperity and success. In the registration examinations which had recently taken place the number of candidates had increased; it was, in fact, seventy-two; and though it was found necessary to reject twenty-five of these, yet he had been assured by the senior examiner that they had found the acquirements of the students to be improving year by year. The best were not perhaps so good as some who had appeared before, and the worst were quite as bad as any of the preceding; but there was a better level. Those who had been unfortunate were deficient in Latin and English, and they did not possess information on subjects which were commonly discussed among educated Englishmen; these, however, were greatly diminishing." The President next referred to the necessity of medical men giving their evidence in courts of justice in a clear and intelligible manner, and as free from technicalities as possible. The Registrar (Dr. Embleton) read the report, from which it appeared that in the present year—the fifteenth year of the existence of the College—the number of students who had attended during the winter session was fifty, and in the summer forty-six; while twenty-nine students of the College had passed their examinations at London or Durham. Considerable additions had been made to the materia medica and chemical collections of specimens; and the museum, which was well worthy of its name, and a credit to all connected with its management, had been thrown open to the public under certain restrictions, and had been visited by upwards of 16,000 persons during the year. When the British Association visited our town, the completeness and general arrangement of this museum excited the surprise and admiration of the medical and other visitors. The Natural History Societies' Museum, which adjoins that of the College, must prove of great value to students, as it is open to all attending lectures. Dr. Heath delivered the introductory address. Of course in this place I can only refer to it in passing, but I do hope to see such an able and suggestive address as fell from the eloquent lecturer on this occasion placed in some way before the profession, for it contained gems of thought and of expression too rare to be lost. He was particularly emphatic when speaking of the paucity of honours bestowed by the State on our profession; and he spoke with much warmth on a subject which none of his hearers who knew anything of the modern history of