pose of this operation: it cannot do so when the ligamentous resistance is at all considerable.

I trust it will appear that I have discussed this proposed operation for congenital varus upon its anatomical merits alone, and as the division of the posterior tibial tendon is one of the most important operations in orthopædic surgery, and when performed in the infant one of the most difficult, I hope the practical importance of the subject may be sufficient apology for the length of this communication.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

Henrietta-street, Cavendish-square.

WM. ADAMS, F.R.C.S.

THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In January, 1853, I took the liberty of addressing you respecting the position of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association. Shortly before that time our *Journal* had been placed in the hands of Dr. John Rose Cormack, as editor. The manœuvre by which he obtained that position I fully exposed to you—a manœuvre by no means creditable to Messrs. Cowan, Ancell, and Co., who were the projectors of it. Knowing the men, I predicted nothing but misfortune as the result of the success of the trick. Now, Sir, three years have not elapsed since that time, and look at our position! Look at the career of the *Journal* during those three years! To this day I have been silent on the subject: I saw the time must come when my forebodings would be realized. I waited for this period. It has come. But do not think, Sir, that I, a loyal and independent member of a once great and powerful Association, have been an indifferent observer of events. I have watched with an anxious eye the proceedings of the so-called “Metropolitan Counties Branch,” for I saw in its establishment and its career the mode by which it would be attempted by certain persons to swamp the interests and the influence of practitioners throughout the country. I saw there was an attempt to grasp at power for selfish objects; I saw “looming in the distance” the struggle that must come, and I feared not for the result.

But, Sir, look at the discreditable mode in which the leaders of that Branch, like “a certain minister, with a majority behind,” attempted to lead public opinion. The low cant, the sectarian bigotry, the cry “for peace, when there was no peace,” was characteristic of the men. I pass over the wretched attempts to injure rival journals by most unworthy means; the unwarrantable “sale” of the *Journal* for party purposes; the unseemly personal squabbles; the tyranny and persecution exercised towards individuals opposed to the clique. Then the *Journal* itself was exposed—an exposure disgraceful to the members of a liberal profession, and subversive of every principle of justice and liberality. Talk of the honour and dignity of the profession! The profession, I affirm, has never been so disgraced and injured as it has been by the conduct pursued by the Metropolitan clique. Thanks to the spirit and sagacity of our Yorkshire brethren, the career of this faction has been for a time, at least, arrested; but I caution my associates throughout the country not to regard the “snake as killed;” it is only “scotched.” Intrigues will still go on; attempts will still be made to regain the lost prize. Already have the most desperate and unwarrantable means been resorted to by the disappointed leaders of the “Metropolitan clique” to re-establish themselves in power. One, indeed, with less sagacity but more malignity than his brethren, has even attempted to ruin the Association itself! But he will not succeed.

I shall again address you on this subject.

Your obedient servant,

AN OLD MEMBER OF THE PROVINCIAL
MEDICAL & SURGICAL ASSOCIATION.

Brighton, Oct. 1855.

“BECK'S MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.”

[NOTE FROM DR. MERRIMAN.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention has been specially directed to a note in that excellent work, “Beck's Medical Jurisprudence,” in which my father is represented, in an extract from the *Globe* newspaper, as saying in his evidence before the House of Lords, on Bailey's Divorce Bill, March 10, 1817, that “he had known a child born in six months and eighteen days live to grow up,

but never to become stout,” (7th Edition, p. 209, and repeated in subsequent editions.)

As I was unable to find any record of this amongst my father's papers, I obtained a sight of the “Lords' Journal” of that date, and there I find the following:—

Question asked by counsel,—“As far as your experience goes, have you ever known a child of six months and eighteen days after the conception, to live and grow as a strong child?” Dr. Merriman answered,—“I have never known it to live long, certainly not to grow as a strong child.”

As this totally alters the whole character of the passage, I beg to draw the attention of your readers to the error here, most unwittingly perpetuated, and request them to alter their respective copies accordingly.

The remainder of the extract is very fairly reported, but when the pith of the argument is taken away, this becomes of little or no value.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

S. W. J. MERRIMAN.

Charles-street, Westbourne Terrace, October, 1855.

THE SURGERY OF THE WAR.

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA

DURING THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 14TH.

In transmitting the usual state of sick, the Inspector-General of Hospitals remarks:—

The sanitary condition of the army has improved, and may fairly be considered satisfactory. Cholera has nearly disappeared, as only 25 fresh cases have presented themselves, and 19 of these occurred amongst the newly-arrived regiments in the Cavalry and First Divisions.

The following abstract shows the admissions and deaths under the leading heads of disease, and by it, it will be seen that a considerable improvement has taken place, and that nearly one-third of the whole admissions, and just one-half of the casualties which have occurred during the week have been occasioned by the chances of war:—

	Week ended September 14th.		Previous Week.	
	Admitted.	Died.	Admitted.	Died.
Fevers	396	20	515	15
Diarrhoea	561	7	692	10
Cholera	25	20	65	40
Dysentery	169	6	159	5
Wounds	702	56	418	46
Other Diseases	481	5	525	3
	2334	114	2374	119

The proportion of admissions to strength this week has been 4·91 per cent.; last week it was 5·12 per cent. The proportion of deaths to strength this week has been 0·23 per cent.; last week it was 0·25 per cent. The proportion of sick to healthy this week is 10·96 per cent.; last week it was 11·13 per cent.

The newly-arrived regiments are getting acclimated, and we may reasonably expect still further improvement in the general health of the army, as their duty now will be less severe, and the weather is becoming cool and pleasant.

THE WOUNDED AT THE ATTACK ON THE REDAN.

The wounded of the British force, which attacked the Redan on the 8th of September, amounted to 133 officers, and 1893 men. Of these, 29 officers and 189 men were wounded dangerously; 55 officers and 718 men severely; and 49 officers and 730 men slightly.

ROYAL PANOPTICON, LEICESTER-SQUARE.—This popular establishment opened for the season on the 1st inst. In addition to the very rich bill of fare that has hitherto been presented to the visitors, are now some very beautiful scenes from Venetian history, and views of places and incidents connected with the war in the Crimea. For young persons especially, but to those of every age, the scientific amusements of the Panopticon may be strongly recommended; and the school of chemistry connected with the institution is in a highly prosperous and effective condition.