have had made for me by Mr. Sutton, instrument maker, 108, Holloway-road, at the moderate charge of three shillings and sixpence. It is composed of a brass collar to affix to

the eye-piece of the microscope, to which are attached two light brass arms, between which revolves the glass, so that it may be placed at the required angle.

I am, Sir, yours &c.

W. KESTIVEN, Jun.

Grove-place, Upper Holloway, Dec. 18, 1873.

SANITARY CONDITION OF LEAMINGTON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your last issue you give a paragraph relative to the popularity of Leamington as a health-resort. I am happy to say that Dr. Jephson still lives among us, though long retired from practice, and he is now always ready to give his valuable advice in matters bearing on the welfare of the town. In 1872, at the meeting of the British Medical Association, I read a paper "On the Residual Salts in Leamington Spa Water," and if I mistake not that paper was the source from which you derived your information, as I am not aware that any other analysis has been published since that time. I am pleased to be able to corroborate the opinion you have formed of the sanitary state of the town. Your well-known impartiality will, I am sure, secure the insertion of this letter.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Leamington, Jan. 5th, 1873.

JAMES THOMPSON, M.B.

WORCESTER DISPENSARY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—This institution, with an income of some £200 per annum, has lately adopted the provident system, and elected three out of the profession in the city to work it. Of these one is an old practitioner who was one of the late honorary staff, the other the late house-surgeon, and No. 3 is a young practitioner lately set up in the suburb, who passes over the other medical men practising in the city. Will you be kind enough to signify your opinion of this policy?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Dec. 31st, 1873.

AN OLD PRACTITIONER.

* * We should be glad to be informed on what principle the selections were made, and by whom? The number of medical officers in provident dispensaries varies much in different institutions; but in most it is limited.—ED. L.

THE THAMES.—At the Richmond Sessions on Wednesday, application was made by letter from the solicitors to the Thames Conservancy for an adjournment of the summons against the Richmond Select Vestry for refusing to divert their sewage from the river. The ground of the application was the convenience of the counsel retained (Mr. F. Meadows White). The application, being opposed by the other side, was refused.

Obituary.

THOMAS WORMALD, F.R.C.S.

IN Mr. Wormald has departed one of the last representatives of the school of Abernethy, so far at least as St. Bartholomew's Hospital is concerned. The race of hearty, bluff old gentlemen, who prided themselves on being old-fashioned, has now pretty well come to an end, and Mr. Wormald was a favourable specimen of this school, for he was a gentleman by birth and education; and, although not especially successful in his professional career, he was, thanks to the possession of a sufficient fortune, spared the souring influence of jealousy, and relieved from the tendency to cling to office which marked some of his contemporaries.

Born at the beginning of this century, Mr. Wormald served his apprenticeship to Abernethy, and in due course succeeded, as the fashion then was, to the post of demonstrator. He became a Member of the College of Surgeons in 1824, and continued to teach anatomy for some years, joining Mr. M'Whinnie in producing some anatomical plates which were popular in their day, but have long been forgotten. He became assistant-surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital at a comparatively early age; but, like Skey, he was the victim of hope deferred as regarded the senior more lucrative appointment, and, being junior to Skey, it was not until Mr. Lloyd's resignation in 1861 that he became surgeon to the hospital. This office, by the altered laws, which pressed hardly upon individuals, though beneficial in themselves, he was only able to hold up to the age of sixty-five, and he retired accordingly in 1867, when he was elected consulting surgeon.

Mr. Wormald was one of the first batch of Fellows of the College of Surgeons created in 1843, and he became a Councillor in 1849. He delivered the Hunterian Oration in 1857, and became a member of the Court of Examiners in 1858. In 1865 he served the office of President, and two years after he retired from the Court of Examiners, having completed the full period now allotted to the office. Mr. Wormald became a Vice-President of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society in 1854, but contributed nothing to the Transactions of the Society.

He was an excellent surgeon, who made no pretence to great scientific refinement, but knew thoroughly well how to treat most successfully the cases that came before him. Of a kind and hearty temperament, he was popular both with his colleagues and his pupils, many of whom will remember acts of kindness done by him. He never strove after practice, but enjoyed a considerable one for many years in Bedford-row, where he resided to the last, although his brass door-plate was removed some time since. He possessed an estate in Herts, where he spent much of his time, and devoted a good deal of attention to farming; in fact, his outward man was rather that of the farmer than the professional man, and was well calculated to set a nervous candidate at ease when coming before him as an examiner. Mr. Wormald's death leaves Sir James Paget the senior surviving member of the St. Bartholomew's Hospital surgical staff.

J. THOMPSON DICKSON, M.B. CANTAB.

AN able and assiduous worker in the field of medicopsychology has just been removed in this promising young physician. Mr. Thompson Dickson died suddenly on the 5th inst., in his thirty-third year. He was educated at Cambridge, where, having taken the degree of Master of Arts, he embraced the study of medicine. Guy's was the metropolitan school at which he pursued his clinical courses, and he took the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1863, the Licentiate'ship of the Apothecaries' Company in 1866, the degree of Bachelor of Medicine at Cambridge in 1867, and the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians in 1868. He became lecturer on mental diseases at Guy's, and his pupils always spoke highly of his prelections. He belonged to most of the medical societies, and occasionally took part in their discussions with spirit and effect. He wrote a work on "Matter and Force in Relation to Mental and Cerebral Phenomena," and contributed