the *junto*? Anxious, however, that other gentlemen may not take the trouble to disclaim a "concurrence" with any of the leading articles in *THE LANCET*, we may as well state at once, that those articles are never dictated with any other "concurrence" than the feelings of the editor, who, as their author and publisher, is, alone, morally and legally responsible for the doctrines they inculcate. Until the present moment we were not aware that such an avowal was necessary.

Mr. KING cannot be alarmed, although, from his speaking of the "late trial," and from his being apprehensive lest it should be supposed that he "concurs" in the language of *THE LANCET*, one could almost imagine that he believes he has been found guilty, and that he is about to be called up for judgment. There has been *no* "trial," the late argument was on the question of filing the "criminal information;" it was only a preparatory step—a simple adjustment of the culinary apparatus. The *feast* is forthcoming, and we hope to see Mr. KING at the glorious repast, as a prominent and honourable guest. The weather is now too hot for the adequate enjoyment of such a festival, and, fortunately, the arrangements for it are not likely to be completed before the autumn, a particularly appropriate season, because if the fare partake not of a rich display of "*game*," the entire exhibition will be dull, flat, and unprofitable.

EXTENSIVE FRACTURE OF THE SKULL AND
LOSS OF BRAIN.—GREAT PROTRACTION OF
LIFE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—If you think the following case worthy of publication, I shall feel obliged by your giving it a place in your useful Journal. I do not present it on account of any practical conclusion which may be deduced from it, though some interesting circumstances attend it. No examination took

place after death, and I chiefly wish to see it recorded as an example of a necessity for "reform" in the present mode of conducting inquests in the country. On these occasions a mistaken tenderness for the feelings of the relatives operates too frequently with coroners to prevent *post-mortem* examinations, thereby excluding the only authentic source of elucidating the point which the jury meet to decide upon, and depriving the medical profession of valuable information in many important cases.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN RUDKIN, Surgeon.

Brigg, Lincolnshire;

May 10th, 1831.

CASE.

JOHN SHERWOOD, a delicate boy, twelve years of age, received, on the 27th of February, a severe kick on the left side of his head from a horse. On examination I found an extensive lacerated wound of the scalp, over the anterior superior angle of the left parietal bone. The bone was so much fractured and comminuted, that several pieces were actually driven into the substance of the brain, part of which had escaped through the wound; the fracture extended upwards through the sagittal suture (about an inch from the coronal) downward through the sphenoid, and forward through the coronal to the frontal bone. The symptoms were those of compression of the brain; the pupils were dilated and immoveable, with partial ptosis; and a total loss of all consciousness, with hemiplegia of the right side. In this state of collapse he was brought home, after losing a great quantity of blood from a division of the temporal artery. A part of the parietal bone was removed by the trephine, and the depressed pieces of bone were raised, without any relief, when a large quantity of venous blood issued from the brain: the dura mater was lacerated and covered with bloody serum. He was ordered low diet and quietness, and his bowels were purged with calomel and jalap. He continued in this state four days, when he began to have some sensibility, and took some light nutriment, but was never able to speak; his pulse was never quick, nor had he the least appearance of fever, notwithstanding the wound looked very unhealthy. A piece of loose bone was taken from the upper part of the wound on the tenth day after the accident, when part of the brain began to rise considerably above the wound. On the 12th, a very large piece of bone was removed from the lower part of the wound, two inches and three-quarters in length, and one inch and a half in breadth. Upon dressing it the following morning, hernia cerebri had formed to a great extent, with a very fetid discharge of sanious fluid,

which kept increasing until the sixteenth day, when hæmorrhage came on from the middle meningeal artery, which proved fatal on the seventeenth day after the accident. His head was not allowed to be examined after death.

One portion of bone which came away bearing through nearly its whole length the impress of the meningeal artery.

P.S. It is rather extraordinary, that after so great an extent of bone had been detached, life should have been prolonged to so late a period after the injury.

MR. GUTHRIE'S PROMISES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me to state, in reply to the complaint of a "Medical Student" in your Journal of last week, that Mr. Guthrie said, in his advertisements and introductory lecture, that he should lecture on Mondays and Wednesdays only until the 1st of May; he, however, repeatedly lectured on the Thursdays and Saturdays, thus giving above twenty lectures more than he promised. Mr. Guthrie also informed the class in February that there would not be time to include the diseases of the eye in the course, and as he intended to make them a part of his lectures at the College of Surgeons, those pupils who wished to hear them might

have tickets by applying for them; and Mr. Guthrie also added, that he should be glad to see any gentlemen at the Ophthalmic Hospital in Warwick Street, whenever they pleased to attend, his object being to give them all the information in his power. I may further state, that Mr. Guthrie *did* give clinical lectures at the Westminster Hospital last season, particularly on amputation, on injuries of the head, and on cataract, and has always made remarks on any cases of interest, when going through the wards.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient humble servant,
A PUPIL OF LITTLE WINDMILL-
May 24. STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I demand of you in justice, and I am sure I shall not call in vain, to insert the following contradiction of a gross misstatement, emanating from a medical student, contained in your last number.

Your correspondent states that in the face of a promise, not a single clinical lecture has been delivered at the Westminster Hospital by Mr. Guthrie or either of the other surgeons. In reply I have to state that if he be a student of the Westminster, which I much doubt, he is either guilty of a deliberate falsehood, or makes but a sorry use of the opportunities which are open to him; for not only has Mr. Guthrie, to my certain knowledge, delivered five or six *formal* clinical lectures since October in the board-room and surgery, but he is also regular in his attendance, and in the frequent habit of making clinical observations upon such cases of interest as come under his treatment. It is also matter of notoriety that Mr. White on *every* occasion of his visiting the hospital, comments freely and familiarly upon all surgical cases deserving of notice, and thus, in the most pleasing manner, communicates such a fund of practical information as is not excelled, if equalled, by any hospital surgeon in London; in fact, when interesting cases have been abundant I have known Mr. White devote two or three hours to this important branch of surgical instruction.

Of Mr. Guthrie's arrangements about his lectures on the eye I know nothing certain, but it was generally understood that they were to be delivered at the College, to which all his pupils were to have access on the occasion.

As the publication of my name would answer no good purpose, I shall feel obliged by your suppressing it, though I enclose it to yourself as authenticating the communication.

STUDENS.

Westminster Hospital, Tuesday.