Messrs. BUSHBY and Co., 2, Staverton-row, Walworth-road.
 J. W. CANTON, 4, Newington-causeway.
 Messrs. MITCHELL and Co., 17, Blackman-street, Borough.
 W. BOURNE, 109, Blackman-street, Borough.
 G. IZOD, 180, High-street, Borough.
 Messrs. WHITE and FAIRCHILD, 63, High-street, Borough.
 J. GRAINGER, 64, Borough.
 R. JONES, 16, Borough.

The names of the two firms given in this report from whom coffee similarly adulterated was procured were—

G. MAIDMAN, 124, Lower Marsh, Lambeth.
 W. BOURNE, 109, Blackman-street, Borough.

The three firms of whom genuine coffee was obtained, as stated in the report of April 23rd, were—

Mr. W. SENTANCE, 52, Blackman-street, Borough.
 Messrs. HARRIS and Co., 91, High-street, Borough.
 Mr. D. PLANT, 76, High-street, Borough.

The following are the names of the firms, out of the thirty-four, of whom purchases were made for the *second* time, whose coffee on analysis was found to be genuine:—

Messrs. BUSHBY and Co., 2, Staverton-row, Walworth-road.
 W. SENTANCE, 52, Blackman-street, Borough.
 Messrs. HARRINGTON and LUCAS, 113, High-street, Borough.
 Messrs. HARRIS and Co., 91, High-street, Borough.
 D. PLANT, 76, High-street, Borough.
 Messrs. NEWSON and WILLIAMS, 50, High-street, Borough.
 J. GRAINGER, 64, Borough.
 Messrs. BROCKSOPP, SONS, and Co., 234, Borough.
 R. JONES, 16, Borough.

The additional firms of whom *genuine* coffee has been procured on the present occasion are—

J. W. DIXON, 1, Staverton-row, Walworth-road.
 Messrs. UNDERWOOD and Co., 147, High-street, Borough.
 Messrs. PHILLIPS and Co., King William-street, London-bridge.
 Messrs. RIDGWAY and Co., King William-street, London-bridge. (Second trial.)
 Messrs. FRESHWATER and Co., Poultry, Cheapside.
 Messrs. DAKIN and Co., 1, St. Paul's-churchyard.
 SIDNEY and WELLS, Ludgate-hill.

Again, then, it follows as the result of these further investigations, that the recent Treasury Order legalizing the adulteration of coffee with chicory does not afford that protection to the three classes concerned which they have a right to expect—the grower of coffee, the vendor, and, what is of most consequence, the consumer.

Since the publication of our report, the Government has officially and distinctly acknowledged that the Treasury Order recently issued has entirely failed in effecting the objects for which it was framed, and that under it gross and extensive frauds have already been practised upon the public. The Treasury has even done more than this; it has abandoned the Order under which these frauds have been committed, and has issued a new regulation.

In the House of Commons the other evening in reply to a question by Lord Claude Hamilton, Mr. Wilson is reported to have made the following remarks:—

"The noble lord had some time ago called the attention of the House to frauds which were committed upon a large scale by the words 'Chicory and Coffee Mixture' being placed upon packages intermingled with other printing; so that, though the letter of the law was complied with, its spirit was violated. He had had communications with the chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue upon the subject, and they had adopted another plan which he thought would be efficient for the purpose, and would effectually prevent anything like fraud in future. They had issued a circular requiring that every package of a mixture of chicory and coffee which was sold should have printed legibly on one side of the package, without any other printing, 'This is sold as a Mixture of Chicory and Coffee.' It was provided that no other printing of any description whatever, except the name of the vendor, shall be upon the package or canister containing the mixture."

Now it certainly appears to us that there is no very material difference between the words "Mixture of chicory and coffee" and "This is sold as a mixture of chicory and coffee;" and is it not evident that, if under the first form of words frauds have been both common and extensive, can it be conceived for a moment that the other set of words would, according to Mr. Wilson, "effectually prevent anything like fraud in

future?" We predict of the new form of words that they will have no such effect, and impositions on the public will still be practised almost as generally as heretofore. We have no doubt that when the proper time arrives we shall be able to adduce abundant evidence affirming the truth of this prediction.

The fundamental objection to the recent Treasury Order is that it is opposed to every principle of fair-dealing and morality, since it affords the highest possible sanction to fraud and adulteration. Now the alteration in the form of the words to be imprinted upon the package will not in any way diminish the force of this moral objection. The mixture, even with the new label affixed, will still be extensively palmed off for coffee. It will still be necessary, in order to derive the slight protection which the label might afford, that the purchaser, whoever he may be, the Irishman or Welshman, acquainted only with his native tongue, or the untaught child, should be able to decipher the words upon the wrapper. The mixture will still be sold made up of coffee and chicory in all proportions, from ounces of the one to pounds of the other, if the article do not even in some cases consist exclusively of chicory.

It might surely have been fairly expected that after the disclosures which have been made by this Commission now for upwards of two years, showing that the most extensive and disgraceful adulterations are practised upon almost every article of consumption, that the Government, in place of affording encouragement to adulteration, would earnestly have considered how it could best put a stop to practices so detrimental to the commercial character of the nation, and so fraught with danger to the public health.

We prophesied in the last Report that the recent Treasury Order, legalizing the adulteration of coffee, could never stand; we predict the same of this new regulation, for it is equally opposed to right principles, and it will equally fail in its practical operation.

THE ANALYTICAL SANITARY COMMISSION.

COFFEE AND ITS ADULTERATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have witnessed not a few unblushing attempts to support a bad cause, but that resorted to by the member for Westbury on Tuesday night last, when replying to Mr. Gregson on the subject of the adulteration of coffee by chicory, certainly astonished me. He is represented to have said, that it was quite a mistake to suppose such adulteration checked the consumption of coffee; on the contrary, he affirmed it was increased thereby; and he then proceeds to quote the official returns of the delivery of coffee for home consumption for the first two months of the present year. Contrasting them with the same periods in 1852 and 1851, and unquestionably he shows a large increase in the later period; it will scarcely be credited, however, that these very figures prove directly the reverse of his argument, as in the two first months of the present year, at least till the 25th February, Mr. Disraeli's minute was in force prohibiting the adulteration; on the latter date Mr. Gladstone made his ill-advised concession to the clamor of those grocers who had thriven on former illicit gains, under Sir Charles Wood's minute, and thus reopened the door to fraud. Had Mr. Wilson really wished to make a fair comparison of the consumption of coffee under the three Treasury minutes, there could have been no difficulty in doing so, but this would not have suited his purpose, so I must do it for him, premising that I take the London deliveries, which are, however, a fair average for the rest of the kingdom.

I find, then, that our London deliveries for home consumption for the fifteen weeks preceding Mr. Disraeli's minute of 3rd August last, when Sir Charles Wood's Treasury minute was in force, averaged per week, 410,871 lbs. That during the time Mr. Disraeli's minute was in force, from 31st October, 1852, to 26th February, seventeen weeks, they averaged 536,589 lbs. And for the last nine weeks, under Mr. Gladstone's minute, they have retrograded to 447,463 lbs.

These figures speak for themselves.

You will of course notice the great discrepancy between the results of the Excise examination of coffee samples, as given by Mr. Wilson, and that arrived at by your own Commissioner.

Yours, obediently,

London, May 13, 1853.

C. N. F. D.

JALAP AND ITS ADULTERATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—We have noticed with satisfaction the efforts THE LANCET is making to protect the public in this article of medicine, but should hardly have adverted to the controversy lately going on

between some of the druggists and the Editor, as to the genuineness of powdered Jalap, had it not been for the last paragraph in your article of the 7th, wherein you say, "We shall be glad to find, as our disclosures proceed, that the 'drug grinders' come well out of the trial."

Having been engaged in that business for twenty years, and been first induced to embark in it from the wish of a large portion of the wholesale druggists, that there should be more persons of character and respectability in the trade whose preparation of powders and other pharmaceutical articles could be always depended upon, and having from the first set our faces most decidedly against this "making-up" system, which almost universally prevailed at the time of our commencement, and which our firmness has happily been the chief means of nearly abolishing, we can but rejoice in the detection and exposure of adulteration and fraud wherever they prevail—more especially in an article of such vital importance as medicine.

We are quite aware how much rests with the drug grinder, and to what an extent the character of the wholesale druggist is in his hands, but this consideration should induce the latter to send his articles to be pulverized by parties of known character and integrity, and not, for a trifling difference in price—as is too often the case—employ persons of whose honesty he has strong suspicions.

The remedy in this, as in all such cases, lies with the public; and the wholesale dealers and dispensers of medicine, stimulated by the disclosures that your scientific investigations have brought to light, will be more careful of the articles they sell, and of the parties through whose hands they suffer them to pass.

We remain, respectfully,

STAFFORD & GEORGE ALLEN.

Drug Mills, Cowper-street, Finsbury, May 12, 1853.

P.S.—Your animadversions on the drug grinders as a body make us ask the insertion of this letter as an act of justice to ourselves.

Medical Societies.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1853.—DR. COPLAND, PRESIDENT.

FURTHER RESEARCHES ON THE PATHOLOGY OF PHLEGMASIA DOLENS. By ROBERT LEE, M.D., F.R.S., &c.

THE author commenced his paper by observing that it was not till the publication of the memoirs of M. Bouilland, M. Velpeau, and the late Dr. Davis, that the true nature of this disease was known. Up to this period various hypotheses had been advanced respecting the cause of the swelling in the lower extremities of puerperal women—mere speculations unsupported by facts; but the cases and directions of the authors just enumerated demonstrated that the true nature of the disease consisted in an inflammation of the trunks and principal branches of the veins of the lower extremities. In papers by the author, published in the fifteenth volume of the *Transactions*, the actual condition of the iliac and femoral veins was ascertained, and he had been led to infer that inflammation of these veins gave rise to all the phenomena in puerperal women of phlegmasia dolens, and that it commenced in the uterine branches of the hypogastric veins, and subsequently extended from them into the iliac and femoral trunks of the affected side. Other cases had been recorded in the *Transactions*, of crural phlebitis following ulceration of the mucous membrane of the intestines. Experiments performed by Pirigott in 1839, and by Reumert in 1840, on dogs, showed that the action of chemical and mechanical irritants was limited to the vein on which the experiment was made, and the extension of the inflammation in the veins was not common; and Stanius, who had collated and tested all the facts bearing on the subject, doubted whether inflammation of venous trunks admitted of being excited by constitutional causes, independently of local irritation. A series of experiments on the veins of the lower animals similar to those just mentioned had recently been made, and a paper on phlegmasia dolens had been read to the Society during the present session, not founded on actual observation of the disease as it occurs in the human subject, but upon experiments on the veins of the lower animals in which phlegmasia dolens had never been observed. The object of the present communication was to submit to the Society the observations which the author had made during the last twenty-four years in inflammation of the crural veins. The paper contained the record of forty-three cases of phlegmasia dolens. The first nine cases were accompanied by post-mortem descriptions, and preparations illustrating the disease; and the author was led, from

the whole of the facts thus adduced, to the conclusions he had formerly expressed, "that inflammation of the iliac and femoral veins gave rise to all the phenomena of phlegmasia dolens, and that the inflammation commenced in the uterine branches of the hypogastric veins, and from them extended to the iliac and femoral trunks of the affected side." The next series comprised the history of twenty cases, which the author thought furnished additional evidence in favour of this conclusion, though, in consequence of the recovery of the greater number of the patients, an opportunity was not afforded of determining by dissection the actual condition of the crural veins. Nine cases followed, which demonstrated that phlegmasia dolens might occur wholly unconnected with pregnancy and parturition, and that in such cases the inflammation likewise commenced in the uterine branches of the hypogastric veins, and followed a course similar to what occurred in puerperal cases. In some of these the inflammation of the uterine veins was produced by cancerous disease of the os and cervix uteri; in others there was no organic diseases of any kind previously existing. The concluding cases were five, in which crural phlebitis had followed inflammation of the saphena veins, and of the deep veins of the lower extremities from fracture of the tibia and fibula, and the pressure of encysted tumours on the thoracic viscera. The author thought that these cases and dissections, as well as those of the distinguished authors whom he had quoted, proved in the most conclusive manner that inflammation of the iliac and femoral veins was the proximate cause of phlegmasia dolens, and that in puerperal women this inflammation commenced in the uterine branches of the hypogastric veins. It had likewise been demonstrated by morbid anatomy that phlegmasia dolens was a disease which might take place in women who had never been pregnant, and even in the male sex, and that, under all circumstances the proximate cause was the same.

Dr. MAYO inquired if, in the cases of phlegmasia dolens recorded by Dr. Lee, any peculiarity antecedent to the inflammation of the veins had been noticed?

Mr. STREETER asked if Dr. Lee had statistical information to give respecting the comparative frequency of the disease?

Dr. JOHN CLARKE inquired if phlegmasia dolens, in the common acceptance of the term, and independent of other disorders, was always the result of inflammation of the veins. He thought the disease generally was very mild, and, in the experience of writers on the subject, not a fatal one.

Dr. MACKENZIE said, that in the discussion of such questions as that which is now before the Society, it appeared to be important to distinguish between the facts which are alleged and the conclusions which are drawn from them. Now in the present case the facts alleged are that certain lesions of the crural veins are developed in the progress of phlegmasia dolens. The conclusions are that such lesions constitute the essence or proximate cause of the disease. He (Dr. Mackenzie) assented fully and entirely to the first of these propositions, whilst he dissented as fully and entirely from the latter; and as he was unwilling to enter upon the discussion of this question in a controversial spirit, he would make no reference whatever to the investigation which he had lately submitted to the Society on the subject of this disease, but would confine himself to a statement of such facts as were known to the profession, which appeared to him to be opposed to the theory of the disease which had been affirmed by Dr. Lee. The disease known as phlegmasia dolens was a very complex malady. It was one which was characterized not only by a morbid condition of the veins, but by a morbid condition of the sensory, the motor, the lymphatic, and the secretory organs of the affected extremity also; and accordingly in all well-marked cases of the disease there was exquisite sensibility of the limb, especially in the track of particular nerves, loss of motor power, amounting sometimes to perfect immobility of the extremity, inflammation and obstruction of the lymphatic vessels and glands, and a general hot, tense, and elastic swelling of the limb, not simply arising from œdema, but possessing rather the character of active exudation than of passive effusion. Now could all these lesions depend upon or be deduced from mere inflammation and obstruction of the principal vein of the extremity? Were they ordinarily observed in cases of simple uncomplicated phlebitis? Or if not, was there anything in the anatomical or physiological characters of the veins to justify our deducing *à priori* from it? And if we replied to these questions, as he submitted that we must, in the negative, he should ask whether those who adopt this theory have undertaken any particular investigation for the purpose of determining this point? Or in other words, have they reproduced the lesion of the veins in a simple, uncomplicated form, and observed such consequences to follow. Now to these questions we must also reply in the negative, and it must be added that the whole matter rested purely on assumption. It had been assumed that because the crural veins were found obviously diseased in fatal cases of phlegmasia dolens