should be used when the mucous membrane (1) is merely raised, a white aphthous elevation being the result; (2) when it is simply abraded; and (3) when it is deeply ulcerated.

As to the transmission of certain peculiarities of sores—as, for instance size, appearance, duration, &c.—the author thinks that no relation exists between the original symptom and the manifestation therewith transmitted. Very mild secondaries may give rise to most dangerous ulcerations, whilst a phagedenic sore does not necessarily produce one of the same nature. Herein we fully agree with the author.

The last article in this highly interesting thesis relates to the mode of lessening the ravages of the disease. The result of the discussion in which the author enters is, that females leading an irregular life should be examined two or three times a week, instead of once.

This excellent monograph is full of important facts and sound reasoning, and testifies to a most intimate knowledge of the disease itself and the questions bearing upon its pathology. All the problems are not solved as yet; but M. Fournier's researches on Contagion are extremely valuable, and have been already extensively used by different authors.

Smith's Visiting List, for 1862.

THIS is the sixteenth annual issue of this most compact and useful publication, and fully maintains the character which the former editions have justly acquired.

BLEEDING VERSUS BRANDY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On the 11th inst. I had the privilege of being present at the discussion of the Hunterian Medical Society of London, when Mr. Solly introduced the subject of "Bleeding;" and I can truly say that no discussion has ever more deeply interested me or given me more pleasure and satisfaction, because of the vast importance of the subject, and of the necessity which at this time exists for restoring attention thereto,—and of the calmness, moderation, and judgment observed by the speakers.

In the present perverted state of opinion relating to bleeding, this justly eminent and sober-thinking surgeon and pathologist did well in selecting this topic, considering how almost universally this active, safe, and useful remedy has been set aside—so much so that in some circles it is almost unknown,—and how much and how injudiciously brandy and wine have been substituted.

Mr. Solly "set the ball rolling" by a few judicious, plain, and practical observations, and then gave several valuable cases illustrative of the great advantage which he had seen as the result of spontaneous epistaxis, and other bleedings effected by Nature for her own relief, as well as from bleedings beneficially employed by himself and others, which had produced the most palpable benefits that could not be controverted. Then came the truly valuable remarks of that extensively engaged, that eminent and sage pathologist, Dr. Billing, which were followed by those of Mr. Curling, Dr. Bennett, Dr. Little, Mr. John Adams, and others—all men of first class eminence, of known good judgment, and whose opinions deserve the highest respect. These all agreed that whilst brandy was a most valuable item in the *Materia Medica*, and could not be dispensed with as a remedy on truly legitimate occasions, yet the lancet and leeches were remedial means equally valuable, and could not be set aside except with very serious detriment in many cases suffering under severe congestions, or in the first stages of acute inflammation;—sentiments perfectly correct, and strongly borne out by my own experience, gained in a large public practice in the parish of Lambeth, in which I have never done without the lancet, although I have often not used it for six months together; and when I have bled, it has been done under the guidance of the wise axiom included in the motto "*Medio tutissimus ibis*;" and in cases where active and disorganizing inflammation had begun, "*Prompte non temere*." It was the first occasion on which I had been present at the meetings of the Hunterian Society, and it was my intention, after having listened to the sentiments of those gentlemen,

to have given the result of my own practice in bleeding in puerperal peri-tonitis; but the hour of closing the discussion had arrived when Mr. Solly was called to reply, and my opportunity passed by; but now, as I expect you will be requested to publish an epitome of the discussion, I hope you will find a place for these remarks.

In the course of nearly forty years I have recorded more than 4500 cases of midwifery that have occurred in the district of the parish to which I was attached as medical officer, amongst which I have been called to treat 27 cases of puerperal peri-tonitis, all of the most formidable character, 23 of which perfectly recovered, and 4 died. Those which died were all connected with peculiar and aggravated circumstances, or had suffered very severe lesions in labour. Every one of these 27 cases, except one of those which died, were bled from twelve to sixteen ounces, most of them once only, and others to a smaller extent a second time, but all within two hours after the shivering fit, which invariably ushered in the disease. The after-treatment consisted in giving opium to almost a narcotizing effect, and in applying extensive potent irritation over the whole abdominal surface.

These results prove that even a disease which is almost universally fatal when ordinarily treated is yet under the control of the lancet, when used early enough after the first onset of its formidable symptoms, and that bleeding ought not to be so completely ignored as it is in modern practice, for which no substitute can be found.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.,

Clapham-road, Dec. 1861.

J. T. MITCHELL, F.R.C.S.

THE TRANSMISSION OF SYPHILIS BY VACCINATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Allow me to thank you for your recommendation to the treatise by M. Rollet, for the evidence of the possibility of the transmission of syphilis by vaccination. At the same time I would state, that when I received your journal, on the day of its publication, I was engaged in the study of that section of the "*Recherches Cliniques et Expérimentales sur la Syphilis*," by M. Rollet, which treats of the question. I have also carefully read the papers, by M. Viennois, on the same subject, in the *Archives Générales de Médecine*, 1860; and am bound to admit that those works have supplied the proofs I asked, in support of your own statement, that the transmission of syphilis had occurred in some rare instances.

The few examples, authenticated by these writers, differ in the most essential points from the narrative published in the *Gaz. dell' Asso. Med.* They give exact details as to the source of the poison in each case; whereas the history of the charged tube mentioned in the Italian story is left altogether in the dark. On this, the very starting point of the whole series of events, we are left to conjecture whether the syphilitic virus found its way into the tube by accident or from intention.

After the perusal of the above-mentioned works, I have not much difficulty in explaining why such grave accidents should happen. When I find the inoculation of healthy individuals with the matter of chancre practised without compunction! and vaccine lymph inserted without any regard to the constitution whence it is derived, and totally irrespective of the date or condition of the vesicles! then I think I see a reason why such melancholy occurrences are not familiar to ourselves.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Upper Holloway, Dec. 24th, 1861.

W. B. KESTEVEN, F.R.C.S.

PHRENOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF GARIBALDI.—The Italian hero was born at Nice, and is now fifty two years old; he is a little more than five feet high. His head is very large, and in keeping with the bulk of the body. He measures round the shoulders forty-one inches, but in a straight line sixteen inches. The circumference of the head below is twenty-one inches, and twenty inches above. From one meatus auditorius to the other, running over the vertex, thirteen inches. From the root of the hair to the chin, eight inches; across the face, six inches. The intellectual qualities are more marked than the affective; amongst the latter, which are composed of instincts and feelings, the feelings predominate. Amongst the intellectual qualities, which are divided into perceptive and reflective, the latter have the supremacy. His temperament is the *nervo-sanguine*; hence he is the possessor of genius and activity.—*Gaz. Med. Ital. and Gaz. Méd. de Paris.*