unfortunately lost a hand, as by it a large amount of needle-work can be done. The instrument represents three fingers, as will be seen by the illustration; the uppermost one is kept down by a spring sufficiently strong to hold the fabric between the two lower fingers, and at the end of the uppermost finger is a lever, to which is attached a band passing round the upper arm, and by slightly extending the elbow-joint the spring is depressed, and the fabric readily shifted as though the hand were not lost.

The artificial legs exhibited in the French department are very differently constructed to those in the British section. The Parisians usually form the whole framework of the limb in steel, and mould the sockets for the stump and the exterior shaping in leather. Some advantage is gained by the use of a leather socket, as it can be made to lace, and so expanded or diminished to suit the variations which often take place in the size and form of the stump. It is not, however, nearly so durable or so light in weight as the beautiful close-grained willow wood used by the London makers, either for the sockets or the shaping, and we certainly give a decided preference to the English materials. In M. Charrière's case there is a good stop-joint leg for contracted knee stump, the bolt falling and fastening the joint straight on the patient rising from his seat. Surgeons having patients whose stumps have become contracted by the long use of the common kneeling pin-leg or from other causes, will do well to examine this limb, comparing it with the one with knee-action in Mr. Grossmith's case to which we have before alluded.

For calf amputations MM. Charrière, Béchard, Mathieu, and Lebellegue, all exhibit limbs similarly constructed in steel and leather, and of excellent workmanship, the only portion formed in wood being the foot, the joints of which are covered with a shaped silver plate, to form the instep. We have not observed any new modifications in these, except in the throwing back the centres of the steel knee-joints to a considerable distance behind the line of bearing in the thigh socket (particularly in the one shown by M. Mathieu), for the purpose, we presume, of obtaining a firmer support to the thigh.

Of the artificial arms and hands exhibited in the French department, the apparatus made for M. Roger, the popular tenor of the Opera Comique, appears to be the only novelty, MM. Charrière, Mathieu, and Béchard each showing a specimen, and all asserting their proprietary rights in the matters of originality and construction. M. Mathieu shows a letter written by the great tenor himself, but he does not say whether written by the artificial hand. We think the merits of the apparatus are scarcely worth the contention. A joint in the centre of the forearm, fitted with complicated springs and mechanism, enables the wearer to turn the hand and point the finger, the action being obtained by means of gut strings passing across the body to the opposite shoulder. There is no practical benefit gained by its use; it is worthy of inspection only from its ingenuity and the interest M. Roger's name gives to it.

From Italy, Christiana, and the Netherlands some collections of artificial limbs have been sent to the Exhibition of most pristine conception and execution. We trust that, for the comfort of the maimed inhabitants of those countries, the exhibitors of these specimens have visited the Exhibition and obtained a few ideas for their future guidance in construction and manufacture. We should think that one of the artificial legs exhibited in the case of Messrs. Schweink Brothers, of Arnheim, in the Netherlands, would weigh more than half a dozen of those we have described of English make. We regret, however, that M. Nyrop, of Copenhagen, has not exhibited a better display of these appliances; for, judging by the admirable lithographic designs in a work which he has forwarded to us, he is capable of making some really good and ingenious limbs, which we should like to have seen—not in the flesh, but in the wood.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE NEW BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I find that preparations are now being made according to the formulæ of the new British Pharmacopœia, and supplied, by some who have the means of acquiring the necessary information. I have had one preparation ordered of the "Pharm.

Britt.;" the name of the establishment where it could be obtained being stated, I sent and obtained it on payment of a monopolist charge.

I can scarcely imagine that in an undertaking of such national importance as the compilation of a new Pharmacopœia, the personal interest of one or a few can have any prior claim to what concerns the whole body of chemists, even though they have been permitted to have a voice in the matter. Surely such proceedings are not sanctioned by the College of Physicians.

Can you kindly inform me who is the proper person to apply to for any of the formulæ, if they are permitted to be used before the publication of the work, and in case they should continue to be prescribed?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Edgware-road, Oct. 27th, 1862.

CHARLES M. BLADES.

THERAPEUTICS OF CONSUMPTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In Dr. Cotton's paper on the above subject, reported in THE LANCET of last week, he states that of all the remedies tried in patients suffering from phthisis pulmonalis, he found the tincture of sesquichloride of iron the most efficacious. For the last eight years I have been in the habit of prescribing for my patients suffering from phthisis pulmonalis a combination of the tincture of sesquichloride of iron, chlorate of potash, and tincture of opium—a dose three times a day; and cod-liver oil twice a day, in a little rum. This treatment has been unusually successful, more especially as I have had in some instances to contend with close rooms and inferior diet for the patients. I believe that the sesquichloride of iron gives a tone and braces up the relaxed tissues. It also greatly diminishes the nightly perspirations. The chlorate of potash seems to give oxygen to the blood, relieving the diseased lungs from increased exertion; and the tincture of opium allays the irritability of the mucous membranes. The cod-liver oil with the foregoing medicine is able to be taken for a longer time, and seems to me to be productive of much benefit.

I think the observation of Dr. Cotton, "that phthisis, like all other diseases, varies much in its several characters, and requires modifications of treatment to suit each particular case," will be confirmed by all medical practitioners who have had much practical experience in the treatment of this sad disease. I hope, however, that the time is not far distant when the labours of practical men, like Dr. Cotton, will be rewarded by finding out a plan of treatment which, if followed, will cure phthisis, and ease many an aching heart.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Lorraine-place, Upper Holloway, Oct. 1862.

B. MALLAM.

INFANTICIDE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have, by order of the committee, to transmit to you a copy of a petition to Parliament, in relation to the crime of infanticide, and to solicit your kind attention thereto.

Any further information required I shall be happy to afford.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS WALL, Sec.

Association for the Preservation of Infant Life,
Office, 188, Strand, Oct. 29th, 1862.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland
in Parliament assembled.

The petition of the undersigned most respectfully sheweth,—

That your petitioners view with much anxiety the prevalence and vast increase of the destruction of infant life.

That your petitioners believe the present state of the law regarding bastardy is most unsatisfactory, and requires amendment.

That the provisions of the statute 7 and 8 Vict. chap. 101, which throw the whole burden upon the mother, and prohibit inquiry by parochial authorities, are the means of inflicting great hardship upon the female, and have led to the increase of infanticide.

Your petitioners therefore pray your Honourable House to take steps for the repeal of the said Act 7 and 8 Vict. chap. 101, and for a full inquiry into the laws as regards illegitimacy, so as to place them on a more equitable basis as regards both parents; and your petitioners further pray for a strict inves-