MONOMANIA, SIX YEARS AFTER
AN INJURY.*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR:—In the 15th Number of the current Volume of THE LANCET, you have inserted a valuable letter from Dr. Mantell, elicited by the recent discussion on suicide at the Westminster Medical Society. His remarks are very judicious, and show that his capacity for research is not confined to the "wonders of geology." The following case will, in some measure, corroborate his statements, although, happily (the patient being still alive), it is deficient in the important point of post-mortem examination.

T. B., ætat 53, a married man, of industrious, moral, and temperate habits, has enjoyed good health all his life, and been very prosperous in business. Six years ago he received a severe blow on the vertex of the head, from the fall of the beam of a house, which stunned him, but from the effects of which he gradually recovered without the aid of medicine, leaving only occasional severe pains of the head, with a sensation of external compression. He continued his business (that of a builder) up to 1838, when his spirits began to fail him, attended with a disinclination to society, &c. In fact, his complaint soon became a species of melancholia. After a short period he was subject to paroxysms of indescribable terror, with suspicions of the good feeling of persons towards him, but not all weak in his intellects, or insane on other points. I need not mention the routine of treatment, for setting the case down as monomania, or as the "manie sans delire" of Pinel, it was simply sedative and watchful. He continued thus for some weeks, when his terror increased to such an extent as to excite the most ardent desire for death by his own hand. Being a religious man, he was shocked at this feeling, and, *at his own request*, I placed him in Dr. Finch's Asylum at Fisherton, where he remained until the suicidal mania had departed; but the paroxysms of distrust still annoy him, to some extent, more especially at nights, and it is most likely that he will again require restraint. I forward this case for two reasons:—

1stly, As illustrative of a (probable) lesion of the brain, preceding an attack of suicidal monomania six years, and temporarily curable by confinement; and,

2ndly, As affording the curious fact of a man desiring protection from the uncontrollable impulse of committing self-destruction. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. LUSH.

East Knoyle, Feb. 12th, 1840.

CASE OF CESAREAN OPERATION.

IN our last Number we related a case of Cesarean operation recently performed at Paris, by M. Paul Dubois. We carried the history of this interesting case to the 5th of February; since then we are enabled to add the following particulars:—

On the 5th the patient complained of general uneasiness, and at five o'clock, P.M., some stiffness was observed in the movements of the lower jaw. At six o'clock the masseter muscles were affected with violent contractions, and the woman was unable to drink. From this period the symptoms of tetanus were clearly established; the cause was in vain sought; the wound of the abdomen was completely healed, except at the inferior angle which had become painful for the last few days, and to which poultices had been applied for a slight excoriation produced by the discharge of pus; eight leeches were immediately placed behind the ears; the patient was put into a warm-bath, and an opiate lavement administered. She passed a quiet night, but the trismus continued.

6. Increased symptoms of tetanus; spasmodic contraction of the muscles of the neck; sixteen leeches were applied behind the ears; and as the patient was unable to swallow, large doses of opium were administered by the rectum. The patient soon fell into a state of narcotism, which continued during the night.

7. The stupor has been succeeded by violent agitation; the use of opium was suspended, and a grain of extract of belladonna given in lavement every half hour; a large vesicated surface was established on the neck by means of liquid ammonia, and dressed with half a grain of the acetate of morphia. After an hour a grain of the acetate was applied, and another grain after the third hour.

8. But little change in the patient's condition, although she seems to be more quiet; towards evening the intellectual faculties were, for the first time, disturbed, and she continued to wander during the night.

9. Intellect clear, but the tetanus persists with equal intensity; the neck is now bent on the left shoulder; fits of suffocation come on occasionally, but the extremities are still free. During the day the difficulty of deglutition increased, and the patient sank at 9 o'clock, P.M.

Post-mortem Appearances.

The abdominal wound was completely cicatrised at the upper two-thirds; the inferior third had been kept open on purpose; the indicator of one hand, when passed into this part of the wound, penetrated between the walls of the uterus to the os tincæ, and was felt by the other index finger, passed