in a spirit of illiberality I believe peculiar to itself, has altered the by-law, so as to render none but surgeons eligible—yes, none but surgeons—to teach the “Theory and Practice of Physic!!!” Yes, Sir, such is positively the case, and the *new* by-law is so worded, that it amounts to the exclusion of all surgeons, save those of the Dublin College! There is a piece of barefaced corporate monopoly for you! Aye, and that too in an age of reform and liberality of feeling! Why make a law to exclude physicians, if surgeons be equally capable of teaching the “Theory and Practice of Physic?” Surely, inasmuch as the electors are all surgeons, they would not, without some *very cogent* reason, elect the physician in preference to the surgeon. From what has been done by the College, it is obvious that nothing but a conscientious belief in their own incompetency, or a barefaced love of monopoly, could induce its members to erect so disgraceful a barrier against fair, open, and honourable competition. Let it pass. Such conduct cannot serve *any* public body, much less a “liberal profession.” The question which now presents itself is—“Who will be the successful candidate?” The professorship in question never brought more than a hundred a year, and many seasons not even half that sum. What surgeon of standing or character, possessing one particle of manly pride, would demean himself by becoming a candidate for so paltry a situation, more especially when its principal inducement—“honourable competition,” has been lowered to give him a chance of the chair? Such, Sir, is the fact, and I have been informed that the principal actors in this disreputable affair are already going about offering bribes for a candidate *supposed* to be capable of filling the chair of dignity.

In my next I will give you a full and faithful account of the candidates (should there be any), together with such professional news as shall appear to me interesting to the Irish reader of THE LANCET.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

OBSERVATOR.

Dublin, July 1832.

COLDBATH-FIELDS PRISON.

FURTHER COMMUNICATION FROM SIR DAVID BARRY ON THE REPORTED CASES OF CHOLERA.

JUNE 27, 1832, visited the Coldbath-fields prison this day, at two o'clock, accompanied by Dr. O'Shaughnessy. Learned from the Governor in his office, that the

population of the prison at this moment is about eleven hundred of both sexes, including twenty-one children, that the daily discharges and admissions are about thirty-five on the average; the whole composed of malefactors, vagrants, and paupers; that the daily allowance of food to an adult is (since the introduction of cholera) 1½lbs. of bread, 1 pint of gruel, 1 pint of oxhead soup, 6 ounces of boiled meat, four times a week, free of bone, and weighed after having been boiled. No soup on meat days.

That the deaths during the spring, summer, and autumn months last year, were only two; during the whole of last year, fifteen. That since the 3rd June, there had been twelve deaths, all from cholera. That the present state of cholera cases in the prison is as reported to him, the Governor,

Men..... 55 cases,

Women.... 15 ditto.

That he had not lately seen them; he could be of no service, and was recommended not to go into the cholera wards.*

Walked with the Governor, Dr. Stevens, and Dr. O'Shaughnessy, round the gardens and other open spaces within the walls, and recommended the prisoner's rooms to be thinned by encamping a part of the inmates in the gardens.

Dr. Stevens, with his two assistants, then conducted Dr. O'Shaughnessy and myself round his cholera wards, in which there might have been thirty or forty patients, but not one in the collapsed stage, though thirteen cholera cases are stated to have been admitted this morning.

There certainly was not a single case which from any symptoms witnessed by me I could point out as a case of cholera. I afterwards made the same observation to Dr. Stevens in the presence of the Governor and Dr. O'Shaughnessy. I repeatedly begged Dr. Stevens to show a recent case, a case of confirmed cholera—a case of collapse. He replied it was unlucky I had come that day,† that there was no case of collapse then in the house, and remarked that by his treatment, he prevents their ever coming to the collapsed stage. Yet twelve have died since the 3rd, two of whom died the day before yesterday; and he (Dr. Stevens) allows that several became collapsed after having been admitted into the hospital of the prison, consequently while under the saline treatment.

One boy admitted this morning, in bed, has had neither vomiting nor purging, and presents a steady pulse.

* The Governor accompanied me round the sick wards on the 28th, but not on the 27th June.

† I had come, by appointment, with the Dr. himself, made on the 25th at the College of Physicians.—D. B.

Two persons looked pale, sallow, and with sunken eyes, as if they had suffered some severe evacuations, but the pulse in both is good. Seltzer water is given as common drink.

Recommended grated openings to be constructed in the walls of the small yards and rooms on a level with the floors. The air in these places being more or less stagnant to a height of eight feet at least.

Dr. Stevens, during our visit to the prison, and afterwards on the way to the Regent's Park, repeatedly asserted, that two-thirds of the patients which he showed us, *would* have fallen into collapse, and *would* have most certainly died if subjected to the ordinary plans of treatment by calomel, opium, stimulants, &c. In short, that the present usual mode of treating this disease is absolutely poisonous. When asked if he had ever seen even one case of blue collapsed cholera saved, that had been treated by the twenty-grain doses of culinary salt, and by nothing else, he candidly admitted that he never had, for that he recommended, in addition to the salt, large mustard poultices, hot saline and opiate enemata, and hot salt and water baths, friction, &c.

The substance of the above notes was written in the prison, or immediately after returning from it, and in their present state were read by Dr. O'Shaughnessy, previously to the publication of Stevens' work on the blood.

D. BARRY, M.D.

I have read the above notes, which I saw several days since, and have to state, that they are accurate in every respect.

(Signed) W. B. O'SHAUGHNESSY, M.D.
16th July, 1832.

TWO CASES OF
STONE IN THE BLADDER,
SUCCESSFULLY TREATED ACCORDING TO THE
NEW METHOD
BY PERCUSSION.

By BARON HEURTELOUP, D. M. P.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have the honour of forwarding to you for publication in your valuable journal two new cases, which afford fresh proofs of the advantages possessed by the newly-invented instrument (*the percuteur courbe à marteau*) not only for relieving calculous patients, but for doing so with rapidity. One of the patients, before I operated upon him with the *percuteur*, was subjected, without success, to the application of the *perce-pierre*, as several other patients have

been, whose cases are already given in THE LANCET. You must, I am sure, be well aware, that such cases are too precious and rich in scientific conclusions for me to omit directing attention to them. I have for a very long time observed the defects and inefficiency of the *perce-pierre*, and have attempted to prove, that to seize a stone in the bladder in order to reduce it to powder, by making *little holes* in it with an instrument, held only by the unsteady hand of an assistant, was a method as dangerous as it was incompetent. Having devised various means with a view to improve the operation, is it not natural and right that I should exemplify the utility and advantages of these means, by proving that they have enabled me to relieve patients who had been unsuccessfully operated upon by other methods? In giving these proofs, it is merely necessary to state, that the instrument resorted to failed, and quite useless to specify by whom it was employed. This is what induces me to pass over in silence the name of the surgeon to whom Mr. Jones (the patient who forms the subject of one of the following cases) first addressed himself, as I refrained from mentioning the names of the other surgeons who operated, without success, on other patients whose cases have been given. I adopt this plan in order to avoid controversies, which are in no way serviceable to science. All that I wish known to the profession is, that by the employment of the *percuteur*, patients have obtained rapid and effectual relief, where the *perce-pierre* has proved unsuccessful. And this all will allow, that I may and ought to publish, although I am grieved to think that in doing so I may interfere with certain pretensions. Those who oppose and condemn my labours, and repudiate my ideas on *lithotripsy*, have one effectual means of maintaining their opinions, and giving them weight, which is to *succeed* with the system they advocate, and which they think requires no improvement in relieving all the patients who come under their hands. Were that the case, I should consider myself surpassed in fair fight; and I can further assure them, that I never would employ in my defence, arms which all upright and honourable men condemn, but should direct all my efforts to recover myself by seeking for the means of self-improvement. I am, SIR,

Your obedient servant,

BARON HEURTELOUP, M.D.
1, Vere-street, Cavendish-square.
July, 1832.

CASE I.

About thirteen years ago, Mr. B***, 59 years of age, under sheriff at Ipswich, a man of good constitution, observed from