paper; whilst the opposite parietes of the gut remaining within the abdomen, were thickened as much as a quarter of an inch. The canal of the bowel at this part, opposite the diverticulum, was so reduced in size, as scarcely to admit the introduction of a large bougie. The obturator artery arose from the epigastric, and ran first on the inner side of the neck of the sac, and then downward, lying anterior to it. The sac itself was adherent to the muscles.

DISEASES OF THE BLADDER.

M. Louis, in a late Number of the *Repertoire d'Anatomie*, (tom. iii. trim 3.), makes the following observations on the rarity of affections of the mucous membrane of the bladder, as compared with similar affections of the other viscera.

Whilst in the course of acute and chronic diseases, in the latter especially, most of the viscera undergo considerable changes of structure, the bladder remains almost always unaltered; a fact which appears the more worthy of attention, when we reflect on the functions of this viscus, and the great alterations to which the liquid which it contains is exposed. The urine is, indeed, more or less acrid and turbid in numberless complaints, none of which occur without the composition of the fluid being altered; from which one would infer, *a priori*, that inflammation of the mucous membrane which lines it, is frequent. Nevertheless, in five hundred subjects which died from all kinds of complaints, and whose bladders were examined with care, we only found in six cases its mucous membrane injected in a few points, without softening or thickening. In one case we saw it softened in its whole extent, although it preserved its natural colour and thickness. In another, we found the same changes, although in a very limited degree. In a woman who died from cancer of the uterus, the bladder was black, thick, and intimately connected with the submucous tissue, which had undergone the same lesion in a part of its extent. In a fourth case, a woman who died from fever, the bladder was slightly ulcerated. These four cases and two others, are the only instances of lesion of the mucous membrane of the bladder which we have observed, omitting two cases of perforation of this viscus, consecutive on cancers of the uterus, and in which the mucous membrane surrounding the destroyed part was not sensibly altered. We may observe, in addition to what has been already stated, that it is not unfrequent to see cases where calculi have probably existed in the bladder for a long time, and at the same time to find the mucous membrane unaltered, showing the degree of resistance which this structure opposes to the alteration of its tissues.

DR. HARRISON ON THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I WRITE to request a place in your ensuing Journal for the subjoined communication, sent some time since for insertion in the *Literary Gazette*, that the bane and antidote might appear together. Its reception was acknowledged so long ago as the 15th of last month. After two personal interviews with the editor subsequently, and a written application to him either to publish, or send back the letter, of which I had no copy; it was only returned the forenoon of Jan. 21st. The editor's motive for not publishing the letter, (he gives none for detaining it,) is conveyed in the following terms: "Nearly half of its argument is superseded by the simple fact of the prosecution having been commenced." To this reasoning I may reply, 1st, that its present unfitness (should the fact prove to be so) arises from the editor's own neglect. And, 2dly, that it will probably become apparent, in the course of a little time, that every material part of the letter remains still pertinent.

I am, Sir, yours, &c. &c.

EDW. HARRISON.

Holles Street, Jan. 24, 1828.

To the Editor of the LITERARY GAZETTE.

SIR,—HAVING read in the *Literary Gazette* an article which contains unjust imadversions upon my letters to the late Censors of the College of Physicians, I request a small space in your ensuing number to repel the accusations.

You observe, "In our last number, in consequence of their having suffered the legal Michaelmas terms to elapse without bringing matters to an issue, we were induced to express an opinion, that the College of Physicians had abandoned the prosecution of Dr. Harrison, and thus virtually opened the profession to gentlemen hitherto excluded by their charter from practising as physicians in London, and within seven miles around."

I desire to inform you, that the college have not merely permitted a single term to elapse; they have suffered many terms, and even years, to pass away, since my determination to try the disputed points was first made known to the Fellows, through their late colleague, Dr. Baillie. I, for the third time, repeated the same offer, upwards of seven months ago, to another Fellow of the college, Dr. Chambers, who had refused to meet me in consultation, because I was not a licentiate of the college. You were, therefore, fully warranted under

the circumstances, in drawing your inference, "that the College of Physicians had abandoned the prosecution of Dr. Harrison, and thus virtually opened the profession to gentlemen, hitherto excluded by their charter from practising as physicians in London,* and seven miles around." You go on to say, "we are, however, desired, by an esteemed friend, an eminent member of the college, to contradict this statement, and of course qualify our inference from it. He writes to us in these words:—"The College would betray the trust reposed upon them by the legislature, and would commit a civil fraud on the Licentiates, from whom they have taken fees for admission, were they to forbear exercising the power given them by their charter, confirmed by parliament, in suing Dr. Harrison for the penalties to which he has rendered himself liable, by acting as a physician without a license, so soon as they shall have obtained what their legal advisers consider sufficient evidence of his practice, so as to satisfy a jury."

On the first part of the foregoing paragraph, I have no remarks to offer. The matter rests entirely between the Fellows and the Licentiates. My solicitude is to remove all undue obstacles to settling in London, from the graduates of my own order, who have always constituted a very great majority of British physicians. They have received so much encouragement, in the provinces of England and Wales, that you very seldom meet with a Fellow or Licentiate in the country. Many of this class have lately established themselves in the capital, where, in defiance of the College, they have already succeeded to no ordinary confidence and distinction. It is quite evident, that unless the Fellows assume courage enough to prosecute me for the penalties to which they lay claim, and are successful, they cannot hope to restrain the practice of any other physician who may brave their authority, and decline to be connected with their body. In that case, their boasted pretensions are at an end, and their new College reduced to an useless mausoleum.

It may not be generally known, that so long ago as November, 1767, Lord Mans-

field delivered his judicial opinion, respecting the College in these memorable words: "I have a great respect for this learned body; and if they should think proper to hearken to my advice, I would wish them to consider whether this may not be a proper opportunity for them to review their statutes. And I would recommend it to them, to take the best advice in doing it; and to attend to the design and intention of the crown and parliament in their institution. I see a source of great dispute and litigation in them, as they now stand. There has not, as it should seem, been due consideration had of the charter, or legal advice taken in forming them." As the college have hitherto disregarded the friendly advice and admonition of this accomplished judge, the time is arrived when they should be forced to comply with the interests of the profession, and the public.

"Our correspondent further assures us, that, notwithstanding the profession of Dr. Harrison, in a letter from him to the late censors, dated the 4th of August, and subsequently published in several newspapers, and other periodical works, "that he had furnished his solicitors, Messrs. Tennant, Harrison and Tennant, with instructions to give every facility to a legal investigation of (what he terms) the *assumed privileges* of the college;" an admission of his having practised for one month (with the view of bringing the question to an immediate issue) has been refused by these gentlemen, when applied to for that purpose." The preceding quotation of your "esteemed friend, an eminent member of the college," is correct, as far as it goes; but in suppressing the conclusion, he has contrived to misrepresent the whole passage. He should have added, to finish the sentence, and render the sense complete, that "they (the solicitors) were also directed neither to compromise my rights, nor those of my professional brethren." The reader will perceive in this statement how much an "esteemed friend, and an eminent member of the college," will condescend to mystify and pervert when his passions are engaged, or his interest is in danger.

In order to understand this part of the Fellow's communication, and his misrepresentation of my letter, it will only be necessary to premise, that the powers, under which the College profess to act, are of two kinds, viz. arbitrary by-laws of their own creation, and powers issuing out of the charter of Henry VIII.

1st. These by-laws are obviously, in my opinion, not only illegal, but in direct opposition to the letter and spirit of the charter. They are likewise highly injurious to medical science. Carefully excluded from

* Dr. Harrison wrote, Jan. 2d, 1828, to inform the editor of the Literary Gazette, that, since writing the above, the college had commenced their action. The writ was served on his solicitors the twenty-second of last month. He adds, the profession and the public may now anticipate a thorough investigation, and final decision, of questions highly important to medical science, and humanity.

mortal view, they are of a character the most revolting, and are blindly submitted to by candidates, under circumstances so humiliating, that I will never voluntarily apply for the licence. I am moreover confident, should a decision upon them be ever obtained, it will be not merely unfavourable, but disgraceful to the Fellows.

Let them only show a disposition to submit their by-laws to legal examination, and every assistance will be afforded, on our part, to bring the question to a satisfactory decision without delay, and at little expense. This was the extent of the facilities to which I alluded. I by no means engaged to make whatever admissions the college might desire.

2dly. The offer to afford every facility to a legal investigation of "assumed privileges," was of course entirely confined to the college by-laws. A power to sue unadmitted physicians for exercising their profession is distinctly given in the charter, and, consequently, its employment would be legitimate, and not assumed, "*if the College of Henry VIII. were still in existence, and in power.*" Though the plaintiff's application to my solicitors for assistance to enable him to commence proceedings against their client, was, I think, not only extraordinary but highly improper, *until he had tried every other expedient to no purpose*, we should have complied with the request, had we not entertained a fear, that the admission would be interpreted, by the independent physicians, into a surrender of interests, which I have engaged to protect. I may further remark, that as it now appears the College are not in a condition to institute proceedings against me without my own assistance, the object for which I contend is wholly attained. The Fellows cannot be said to possess the power of superintending the medical profession, and are, therefore, reduced to what a former learned president of their body, Sir George Baker, was wont to call them "a brutum fulmen." Notwithstanding the preceding observations, on being relieved from my apprehensions about the rights of the independent physicians, the College, *having shown their own inability to institute proceedings*, will find me ready, whilst I deny their authority, to entertain any reasonable proposition, which is calculated to bring their assumed and all other claims fully and fairly under legal examination. The event of this contest will show whether the want of evidence is a real obstacle, or merely a pretext to conceal the want of title.

I again repeat, that in these proceedings I am neither influenced by feelings of animosity towards the College, nor any of its members. I am actuated entirely by a wish to remove the inveterate prejudices,

and hostility, which have so long disunited the faculty and diminished their usefulness.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

EDW. HARRISON.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

RUPTURE OF THE URETHRA, CONSEQUENT UPON INJURY, FOLLOWED BY EXTRAUSATION OF URINE AND EXTENSIVE SLOUGHING.

(*Abridged from Mr. KEY's Case Book.*)

A BOY, fourteen years of age, was admitted into Accident Ward, on the 19th of November, under the care of Mr. Key, on account of severe injury to the perineum. The accident had occurred a few hours previously, from his having fallen astride a chair, with considerable force; severe pain was experienced at the time, and shortly after, desire, but inability, to void his urine; and, in the course of half an hour, the scrotum, with the perineum, became swollen and tender.

When admitted, the scrotum was much distended generally, and at its back part was a large spot of ecchymosis; there was also some effusion into the prepuce. The scrotum was freely scarified, fomentations were directed, a metallic catheter was introduced and retained in the bladder.

20. Expresses himself much relieved; the constitutional disturbance slight. A large quantity of fluid, in which the smell of urine is faintly perceptible, has oozed from the scarifications; the scrotum is highly inflamed and tender upon pressure, but otherwise free from pain. Ordered aperient medicine.

22. Until yesterday afternoon every thing was favourable, he then became very feverish and uneasy. This morning the pulse is quick and weak. That portion of the scrotum described as ecchymosed on admission is now of a livid colour, and the scarifications have a sloughy appearance. *The lower part of the abdomen is of a yellowish green hue.* Ordered one grain and a half of quinine, with two of camphor, every six hours and a poultice of stale beer grounds to the scrotum.

23. Sickness, hiccup, and restlessness the surface of the body is cold; the pulse upwards of 130, small and weak; the tongue coated with a brown fur. *The catheter can*