for Prisoners of War, at Portsmouth, so long ago as the autumn of 1811, and which has ever since deeply impressed me with the difficulty and importance of deciding correctly what artery is injured, and what trunk should be tied, in wounds of the neck, attended by dangerous hæmorrhage.

A French soldier, who was wounded, I believe, at Albuera, by a musket-bullet, in the neck, was several weeks after received into the Pegasus Hospital-ship, under the care of Dr. W. B. Smith. The ball was lodged, but could not be touched with the probe. Arterial hæmorrhage of a very threatening kind took place soon after his admission, and Dr. Smith immediately secured the common carotid. The bleeding was not arrested, and the poor soldier soon sunk, in spite of every effort to save him.

On making a post-mortem examination the following day, a leaden bullet, somewhat flattened and elongated, was found in contact with two of the cervical vertebræ, the transverse processes of which were fractured, and the vertebral artery, whether injured or not at the time the wound was received, had ultimately given way, and it was but too evident that the fatal hæmorrhage had proceeded from that vessel.

Neither before nor since the date of this case, until this day, when I received *THE LANCET*, had I ever met with a single observation on, or the slightest allusion to, such an injury, or the probability of such an injury, by surgical writers, although I have no doubt similar cases must occasionally be met with, and they cannot possibly be benefited by tying either the external or the common carotid.

The skull and cervical vertebræ of the unfortunate soldier were carefully preserved, with the bullet placed *in situ*, and Dr. Smith, on being superseded, in 1813, took the preparation away with him. He was soon afterwards, however, appointed to the Royal Hospital at Haslar, where he died in 1816, and it is not unlikely, I think, that the very preparation of which I speak is at this time in the museum of that great establishment.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ARCHIBALD BLACKLOCK,
Late Surgeon R.N.

Dumfries, July 27, 1850.

TURPENTINE IN THE TREATMENT OF IRITIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In perusing Mr. Mackmurdo's very interesting lecture on Iritis, in *THE LANCET* of July 20th, I find he evidently labours under a mistake, when speaking of the treatment of that disease with turpentine, as practised and recommended by the *late* Mr. Carmichael, of Dublin, and also when he further states that it was used at the Ophthalmic Hospital, in consequence of what Mr. Carmichael had written and said upon the subject. Now the *late* Mr. Richard Carmichael, though in the early part of his life he both advocated and published upon the non-mercurial plan of treating syphilis *generally*, was not the person who made turpentine his "hobby" in iritis. The merit (if any) is due to Mr. Hugh Carmichael, of Dublin, who, I believe, is not as yet entitled to the term *late*.

I may here likewise remark, that though Mr. R. Carmichael in his earlier years attempted the cure of syphilis without mercury, I have good reasons to know that there was no person in the *later* years of his life who knew better the value of mercury in the treatment of every form of that disease, and employed it more extensively in his private practice; and it is certainly to be regretted that he did not, before his untimely death, publish another edition of his work on Syphilis, and honestly acknowledge his altered views. We must, however, not forget the motto of "De mortuis," &c.

As to the turpentine treatment of iritis, I believe I have the merit (if it be such) of being the first person who openly entered my protest against its vaunted efficacy in this form of syphilis; and though at the time I wrote—1839—(vide *Dublin Medical Press*, vol. i. 1839,) but a very young practitioner, and that an attempt was made by Mr. H. Carmichael, in a rather angry rejoinder, to cast ridicule upon my paper, because it was the production of an inexperienced party, I have nevertheless lived long enough to confirm me still more strongly in my views of its perfect uselessness in syphilis, and to know that I was not singular in the statement I then made; and the result has been, that there is not to be found, I believe, in Ireland—nor, I trust, anywhere else—a medical man who would risk either his own character, or the eyesight of his patient, by trusting solely to this medicine.

I am glad to find so high an authority as Mr. Mackmurdo condemning its use, and advocating the only remedy that can safely be relied upon.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

M. J. MACCORMACK, M.B.T.C.D., M.R.C.S.L.
Lechlade, Farrington, July, 1850.

A NATION'S GRATITUDE FOR SERVICES TO MANKIND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The truth of your statement, as to the ingratitude of the country and government to the great discoverers in the science of medicine, no person can deny, but an error in your leading article of the 27th ult. I beg leave respectfully to correct; indeed, as the grand-nephew of Jenner, I think it my duty to do so. The passage to which I allude is—"Whilst Blenheim is dedicated to the descendants of a Marlborough, the solitary representative of a Jenner, we believe, if alive, is at this moment in poverty." Jenner died wealthy, having married a lady of family and fortune, and having also obtained a government grant, but only by and after the almost superhuman efforts of the Berkeley family. His son, Colonel Jenner, was left, and deservedly enjoys, an ample fortune. My father, Jenner's nephew, and Hunter's only surviving pupil, though not rich, possesses sufficient means to supply all his primitive wants, and I am not in poverty. So much the respectability of the family demands. But, Sir, the name of Jenner to me has been completely useless. I have had occasion to apply, before now, for an appointment, to obtain which I had hoped that my name would have been a little assistance, but some man with more impudence, and with the interest of some third-rate member of parliament, had always, somehow, the power to make me, with high certificates of character and ability, and my name, forgotten.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. JENNER, M.D., M.R.C.S., & L.S.A.

Upper James-street, Golden-square, Aug. 4, 1850.

CHOREA TREATED AS HIP-DISEASE, AND PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE IN LONDON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A young lady, aged nine years, was observed by her parents, about five weeks ago, to limp in her walk, and upon being questioned, expressed her inability to avoid it, and complained of pain in her hip. Her friends feeling very much alarmed, immediately sent for their surgeon, Mr. George Lewis Cooper, fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Surgeon to the Bloomsbury Dispensary, who immediately pronounced that the child had a hip disease, that she must at once lie upon an inclined plane, and apply leeches to the hip, and foment it three times a day, and at the same time take a powder of mercury and chalk and rhubarb with carbonate of soda every evening, and that she was by no means to put her foot to the ground, but was to be carried up and down stairs to bed, &c., &c. She was kept rigidly under this treatment for one week, (with the exception that from an insufficient direction either from the surgeon or the seat of pain, the leeches were applied just above the crest of the sternum instead of the hip-joint, so that it may be inferred the joint did not derive much benefit from them.) It so happened that at this time I was in London, and the little girl being my niece, I was requested by her father to call and see her. This I consented to only upon condition that a note should be sent to Mr. Cooper, informing him of the circumstance, and requesting him to meet me in consultation at the time he had himself appointed for his next visit—namely, the following day, at one o'clock. This was accordingly done. I went to the little patient's residence at the appointed hour, and Mr. Cooper not having arrived, I waited half an hour. I then let the child sit up on the sofa, that she might recover the giddiness incident to having lain so long in the horizontal position, and continued waiting till two o'clock, and as he did not attend, I then felt fully justified in putting the child through such an examination as I thought requisite. Just as I had concluded, at a quarter past two o'clock—one hour and a quarter after the appointed time,—Mr. Cooper arrived. He expressed great surprise at seeing the child sitting up, which he characterized as highly improper, and insisted that the child must observe the treatment he had directed. I then proposed to him that we should be alone for a time, to talk over the case. I told him that I could not detect any disease of the hip, after the most rigid examination—that I was sure the symptoms were referable to chorea, and that as there was no pain in the hip or knee, if the leg was moved in any direction, or even in jumping from the dining-table to the floor, I thought it a pity to continue the use of fomentations to the hip, or that the child should take small doses of mercury daily if he apprehended scrofula. On the contrary, I recommended that she should take some form of iron or quinine, and daily exercise in the open air, reclining only a part

of the day, and that the case should be closely watched. Her mother then re-entered the room, and as she discovered that we did not coincide in opinion as to the treatment to be adopted, expressed her determination to consult the highest surgical authority in London. Upon this, Mr. Cooper put himself into a passion, and said that he would not give up his opinion to Sir B—, or any one else, and that I had no business (those were his words) to examine the case till he arrived, even if he had not come till the following day, and that he did not come to meet me in consultation as a medical man, but as a relative of the family, and that as the family were dissatisfied with his opinion, he would decline further attending the case. The result may be summed up in a few words: the child was taken to an eminent surgeon in Savile-row, who observed that the child had chorea, but did not detect disease of the hip. He prescribed citrate of iron, and an occasional purgative: the child was taken to see him again at the end of a fortnight, and had become quite well.

I feel called upon to lay the above case before the profession, to give Mr. Cooper an opportunity of explaining, both his treatment of the case, and his conduct to me. I had never seen him before; then why so uncourteously say, "He did not come to meet me in consultation as a medical man?" Was it that being a member of the College of Surgeons of 1834, he would not meet a member of the same College of 1838, because in 1843 he had been constituted an honorary fellow! I can conceive no other reason, unless it be that I had presumed to differ in opinion from him—and, further, may I ask, after waiting in vain a full hour for Mr. Cooper, was I not justified in examining the case without him?

Sherborne, July, 1850. WM. HIGHMORE, M.D. & M.R.C.S., &c.

THE EXAMINATION FOR THE M.D. DEGREE AT KING'S COLLEGE UNIVERSITY, ABERDEEN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me, through the medium of your columns, to advise your correspondent C.N., and L.A.C. of 1850, before he attacks his seniors and superiors in the profession, to study well the foundation upon which he bases his arguments, for his memory or understanding must be wretchedly below par, by his remarks, and I must send him back to re-peruse my letter, like a school-boy when not perfect in his task; for my letter preceding the list of questions for the degree of M.D., stated explicitly that the queries given were *but a few* of the principal submitted to me; and they were given with a view to show the form under which the candidate was placed at the ordeal, for I feared by publishing the whole, I should be intruding too much upon your pages; at the same time I must observe that my time is so fully occupied in my practice as to prevent my very readily doing so. I will refer C. N. to the regulations for the degree of M.D. at King's College, Aberdeen, as it would be great waste of time on my part to write them for his very lucid understanding; he will then, I should hope, see what are the essentials required from a candidate for the degree. It is sufficient for me to say that, before I could present myself, I must have passed either the College of Surgeons or Apothecaries' Hall, both of which, as he must be aware, I had accomplished. How C. N. can have the assurance to assert that "any man who already possesses the Hall qualification has only to present himself for the Aberdeen diploma, and his success is scarcely a matter of speculation," I cannot conjecture. He must be indeed miserably ignorant to suppose for one moment that a man working for the Hall qualification only, (which it appears he only possesses, and perhaps intends to act, as many others do, by dubbing themselves with the title of surgeon, without the College of Surgeons' diploma to back them, and be then like the jackdaw with a peacock's feather in his tail, thus wearing unearned laurels to beguile the ignorant,) can have acquired sufficient knowledge of surgery &c. to enable him to pass the surgical part of the examination for the M.D. degree. He alludes to the attainments in the Latin language. Is he not aware that the examiners at Aberdeen had proof of my having been examined in Latin medical classics, and approved, as the presentation to them of the Apothecaries' certificate proved? For his edification, I will inform him that, just twelve months back, an M.D. of King's College, Aberdeen, presented himself for the Hall licence, and passed without having to undergo his Latin examination at all, he being informed that his degree from Aberdeen was sufficient proof of his classical acquirements. Your correspondent having attained the very high distinction of L.A.C., I should imagine now thinks himself quite a "puss-in-boots," and I have no doubt, after passing his examination at the Hall, he felt his magnitude so enormous, that he required one cab to convey himself, and another his certificate, to his home. At the

commencement of his letter, he informs us that he is a "member of the profession;" he might as well have styled himself a "baby-demi-member" having not even within the shadow of a view that noble motto, "Quæ prosunt omnibus artes," for then could he not justly appreciate the quotation—"Oh! Nestor, oh! Nestor, the pride of Greece, mount, mount upon thy chariot, and let Machaon mount with thee, for one who knows how to cure wounds and heal sores is worth a thousand other heroes."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"A SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE," M.R.C.S.Eng., & L.S.A.
July, 1850.

EXPERIMENT ON THE EYE WITH BELLADONNA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Should you think the following experiment worthy of a corner in your excellent journal, you will greatly oblige,

Your obedient servant,
STUDENS, H. K. D.

Dr. Christison, in his work on Poisons, speaking of the effects of the external application of belladonna upon the pupil, says—"In small doses, whatever be the kind of surface to which it is applied,—such as the skin round the eye, or the surface of a wound, or the inner membrane of the stomach,—it causes dilatation of the pupil. This effect may be excited without any constitutional derangement. When the extract is rubbed on the skin round the eye, vision is not impaired; but when it is taken internally, so as to affect the pupils, the sight is commonly much obscured."

I smeared a small quantity of the extract around the right eye, for the purpose of observing its effect upon the pupil: as dilatation did not take place so soon as I expected, I rubbed it in rather more freely, and at the end of about ten minutes, the pupil being then slightly acted upon, I washed it off, thinking this would be an end of the matter. But I was much deceived, for in about half an hour I found my sight somewhat obscured, and in an hour reading became so painful that I was obliged to give it up; and I found, that on closing the left eye I was quite unable to distinguish a letter of ordinary newspaper print, all the words appearing to run into one another. The pupil was excessively dilated, the iris appearing merely as a narrow rim. My throat, too, felt "scratchy," with a slight sensation of nausea, but this went off in about two hours.

At the end of twenty-four hours from the time of application, the right pupil was but little diminished in size, but the left was also somewhat affected; reading for more than a few minutes caused headache, and on closing the left eye printing appeared (as on the previous day) a mass of confusion. In sixty-four hours I could manage to read with the right eye, but it produced uneasiness if continued. After this time vision continued to improve, but it was not till the seventh day that the pupil was reduced to its normal dimensions.

THE VIS NERVOSA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The observation of Mr. Levison with respect to the different effect produced on the human frame by the shock from an ordinary electrical machine, and that from powerful magnets, is both curious and valuable. By my note of the 22nd of June, I did not intend to insist that the vis nervosa must be the electric fluid in the shape in which it is ordinarily met with, but merely that it was the real motor power; and I thought that Dr. Marshall Hall, from the passage I cited, was of a different opinion; but, looking at Mr. Levison's communication, it is probable I was incorrect in coming to that conclusion.

That the electric fluid does undergo various modifications is, I apprehend, indisputable. That the magnetic fluid, for instance, is a modified form of electricity seems to be generally admitted; and that metals are not merely conductors, but are matters combined with electricity, will, I think, upon mature investigation of the experiments of the late Dr. Priestley, and from the electrical phenomena they exhibit, not be contested. Again, I say, that when the experiments by which Lavoisier professed to establish that water was formed of hydrogen and oxygen, come to be thoroughly examined and comprehended, it will be found that hydrogen is another form or modification, or rather a combination of the electric fluid and water, and consequently that the latter is, as it was always considered, an element, and not a compound of gaseous matters.

If it shall be confirmed that electricity is the motor power, and which seems more than probable from Mr. Crosse's experiments on insect resuscitation, and from Dr. Bence Jones's remark