Should any of your readers think this suggestion worth attention, and make trial of it, I should feel much obliged by their communicating to me the results, either through the medium of your widely-circulated Journal, or addressed to me privately. I am of opinion, from what I witnessed in the case of the thyroid gland, that these hints may be turned to account. Of course it would be right to make the patient acquainted with the probable hazard there would be; but knowing the disease to be incurable, there are females who would rather try a hazardous proceeding, with the chance of a cure, than be left to their fate, as I have on another occasion illustrated.

It is needless to observe, that the patient should be of sound constitution in all other respects, and that her age and condition generally should be favourable. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CONGREVE SELWYN, M.D.

34, Clarence-square, Pittville, Cheltenham.
Nov. 27, 1837.

OSSIFICATION OF THE PLACENTA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Should you deem the following case to be sufficiently unique to deserve recording, it is at your service. Yours truly,
JOACHIM GILBERT.

Beaminster, Dec. 3, 1837.

I was requested to attend Mrs. B—— in her first accouchment; the labour, which was a natural one, terminated at the expiration of eight hours, and in about ten minutes followed the secundines, and on inspecting it I observed the whole body of the placenta studded with ossific matter (part of which I have preserved, and submitted to the inspection of my professional brethren of the town.) There was nothing peculiar as regards the separation of it from the uterus, the placenta being detached by the natural efforts of that organ.

I should state that my patient enjoyed a good state of health during gestation; and up to the present time, being two months since her confinement, has been perfectly well.

DR. FLOOD'S DISCOVERY

OF THE

ANATOMY OF THE CRURA CEREBRI.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—In Mr. Mayo's "Physiology," published this year, I met, a few days since, with the following passage:—

"I was not acquainted (meaning when he published his former edition), with a

very important anatomical fact, which Mr. Solly has recently discovered, and read in a paper before the *Royal Society*, viz.: that the anterior fibres of the corpus testiforme stretch obliquely forwards, so as to be distinctly continuous with that part of the chord from which the motor fasciculi of the spinal nerves take their origin."—p. 220.

In my "Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System," published in 1828, at the house of Callow and Wilson, London, this anatomical fact is as distinctly stated as words can express it, as will appear from the following extract:—

"Each crus cerebri will be found to consist of an anterior external portion, continued from the pyramidal body, and a posterior internal portion, continuous with the olivary and part of the restiform body."—p. 109.

I did not think at the time that this fact had not been observed by others, but if there be any "discovery" or originality in the matter, I hope that Mr. Mayo will do me the justice to admit, in his next edition, or in some other as public form, that I have a prior claim to Mr. Solly. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

VALENTINE FLOOD, M.D., M.R.I.A.,
Lecturer on Anatomy and Surgery,
in the Richmond Hospital School
of Medicine, Dublin.

19, Blessington-street, Dublin,
Dec. 4, 1837.

VISITORS AT THE HOSPITALS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Permit me, through the medium of your humane periodical, to offer a suggestion to the public, which will appear bold, from its novelty, but which, being intrinsically entitled to fair consideration, I trust will suffer no detriment from the anonymous character of the communication.

In your last week's Number you made some remarks on the great importance and desirableness of humanity in the proceedings of hospital surgeons; and I recollect some equally satisfactory observations in a former article, on the disposition of "nurses," and the utility of an occasional observation of their conduct by disinterested individuals.

Many of your readers have seen or read of the benevolent societies, or *Confraternities*, of Italy, which assuage an immense aggregate of human misery: One part of the functions of some of them is to visit the afflicted in hospitals. Now, Sir, would you or your medical brethren, object to associations of non-medical individuals, in England, for a similar object? Not, let it be fully understood, for any such purpose as *espionage*,—not to interfere with medical treatment, or to thrust any particular religious views on the patients,—but to inquire