content ourselves to remain as spectators, but to employ active measures when the time for them has arrived, and when it is evident that the danger and pain increase in proportion to the time we wait."—p. 140.

Mr. Bryant continues his Analysis and Review of the Surgical Cases occurring at the Hospital, and details such general conclusions as the clinical data at his command appear to warrant. In previous pages the Surgery of the Nervous, Respiratory, Circulatory, and Digestive Systems has received attention; in the present report, Diseases of the Urinary Organs form the subject of consideration. Mr. Birkett and Mr. Bryant each give a case of "Arrest of Development of the Humerus;" whilst Dr. Gull reports one of "Progressive Atrophy of the Muscles of the Hands," in which enlargement of the ventricle of the spinal cord in the cervical region with atrophy of the grey matter (hydromyelus) existed.

The description of a "Case of remarkable Enlargement of the Nerves" is given by Dr. Moxon. It is much to be regretted that none but negative information could be obtained regarding the functional phenomena of the woman's nervous system during life.

The Curator of the Museum gives an account of some new wax models lately added to the admirable collection at Guy's. One of these models illustrates a form of disease of which we ourselves have hitherto been quite ignorant, and concerning which the majority of our readers will not be much wiser. This is a "disease of the skin produced by post mortem examinations, or Verruca necrogenica."

"As a rule, the morbid change is a slow one, and commences without any evident breach of surface, the parts affected being not those liable to pustules, as the back of the hand or wrist, but the knuckles and joints of the fingers. If the disease should begin with a pustule, the latter bursts; but instead of healing, a thickening of the cuticle takes place around it; and as from time to time a little fresh suppuration occurs, so the thickening and induration increase. Generally, however, the change of which we speak occurs slowly on the knuckles and on the first joints of the fingers without any preliminary vesication. A warty thickening of the epithelium takes place, which in course of time becomes of a dark colour and fissured, until a kind of ichthyotic condition is produced."—p. 264.

Dr. Odling contributes two papers: one upon the Toxicology of Copper, and one upon the Nomenclature of Organic Compounds. Another chemical paper, "On the Water of Guy's Hospital Well," is the work of Mr. Dupré.

We may conclude our notice by drawing the attention of the reader to Dr. Pavy's endeavour to introduce almond food as a substitute for bread in diabetes. It is well known that patients refuse to continue the use of gluten and bran bread and biscuits for any length of time; and, moreover, traces of starch are obtainable from the bran, and the gluten is declared to be about as nice as india-rubber. Now Dr. Pavy tells us that there is not a trace of starch to be discovered in the almond, and it happens that the sugar and gum are easily separable from the other constituents through the agency of water, thereby leaving a material as unexceptionable for the diabetic patient as is animal food. With eggs, this may be made into a very edible form, according to the author; and Mr. Hill, of Bishopsgate-street, has undertaken its production in the shape of biscuit, rusk, and bread, within the range of price of the other substances which have been proposed as substitutes for ordinary bread.

Manual of Veterinary Science. By WILLIAM DICK, Veterinary Surgeon to the Queen for Scotland, &c. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. pp. 194. Edinburgh: A. & C. Black.

THE contents of Mr. Dick's Manual were originally prepared as the article upon Veterinary Science in the seventh edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica." They now appear in the improved form of a second edition of his well-known Manual. The first edition has been long out of print, and at one time it

was the intention of the author to produce a larger work than the original Manual; but not being able to carry out this intention, Mr. Dick has revised and enlarged the latter, which he again presents us with. Since the first edition was published, in 1841, veterinary medicine has made great progress. Of this no doubt Mr. Dick is quite master, but it is to be regretted that he does not always take advantage of it, as, for example, when he continues to talk of *gutta serena*, or *glass eye*. This disease has long been banished from human ophthalmology, and we thought equally so from comparative pathology. In Mr. Dick's treatise too much is attempted in a limited space, and of this, indeed, it appears to us that the author is conscious.

SYPHILIS IN THE UNITED SERVICES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the year 1860, as appears from the report of Dr. Graham Balfour, F.R.S., more than one-third of the admissions into hospital were on account of venereal diseases in the army at home; and according to a paragraph in *The Times* of October 10th, they exceeded one-half of the average strength of the army. This disease caused a loss in the course of the year to the army at home equal to 8·69 days of the service of every soldier.

In the navy it prevails to an enormous extent and in a most virulent form, as proved by the records of the Royal Hospitals at Haslar and Plymouth, and to which I have alluded in former letters.

I believe matters would have been much worse than they are, had it not been for the Lock Hospital established at Portsmouth some years ago, and partly supported by Government. I have been informed that a similar institution will soon be in operation at Plymouth. Let the municipal authorities co-operate with Government and the heads of the military and naval departments, and, aided by Sailors' Homes and Soldiers' Institutes, this great evil will be mitigated, and the health and efficiency of both services much improved. As Prof. Parkes, in his late admirable and eloquent lecture, said, "On Government, and on every officer who acts under it, is thus thrown a vast moral responsibility." I venture to affirm that this emphatically applies to the present subject.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Kiddminster, Oct. 1862. JOHN ROSE, M.D., Surgeon R.N.

THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION AT THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reference to a letter signed "Judex" in your number of last week, I beg to state that the College of Surgeons do recognise the Examinations in Arts held at this Hall.

It is true that the recognition does not appear (owing to some inadvertence) in their printed regulations, but on the omission being pointed out, the Council promptly and courteously notified to me, through the President, that—"The Council agreed to place the Hall Preliminary Examination on our list of recognised examinations. All students, therefore, who have passed your Preliminary Examination may register at our College."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Apothecaries' Hall, Oct. 1862. THOMAS ANSELL, M.D.,
Chairman of the Court of Examiners.

SMALL-POX IN SHEEP.—VACCINATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I was living in Cambridgeshire, in the year 1848, when small-pox broke out among the sheep in that county. Conversing with a friend as to the best mode of preventing the spread of this disease, I suggested vaccination, to which he readily agreed. A neighbouring medical friend and I vaccinated about 300 sheep, and the disease went through its stages regularly. I think only six or seven sheep proved insusceptible. I cannot say whether any more sheep might have become affected with variola had not vaccination been performed. All I can say is, that the vaccination was quite satisfactory, and "the plague was stayed."

I am, Sir, faithfully yours,
Kimbolton, St. Neots, Oct. 1862. C. SPRAGUE, M.R.C.S.