gesty's favourable consideration of this their earnest petition will be as unbounded as its consequences will be beneficial.

"In the name, therefore, of those virtues and generous sympathies which peculiarly attach to the sex, the age, and the elevated station of your Majesty; for the sake of that common humanity which knows no distinction of rank or station; for the promotion of the physical and moral welfare, and the social and domestic happiness, of your faithful subjects, we earnestly pray—

"That your Majesty will be graciously pleased to direct that inquiry be made as to the practicability of forming within the Tower Hamlets a Royal Park, in which the comfort and healthful recreation of all classes of the inhabitants shall be adequately provided for, on a scale commensurate with that of the other metropolitan parks—worthy of bearing the name of your Majesty, and of becoming a monument to future generations of your Majesty's taste and patronage of public improvements, and still more of the anxious desire of your Majesty to contribute to the happiness of your loyal and devoted subjects."

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

PHAGEDÆNIC ULCERATION OF THE LEG— NECROSIS—AMPUTATION.

C. K., aged 21, was admitted November 30, 1839, under the care of Mr. Cooper. Four months ago she struck her leg against a pail. A small ulcer was the consequence. This has increased up to the present time. She has now an indolent ulcer about the middle of the leg, over the tibia, three inches long and two inches broad.

Dec. 2. At this time there were some very foul sloughy ulcers in the hospital, and particularly in the opposite ward, and to-day the ulcer on this patient's leg appears dark-coloured, brown, and sloughy. To have a carrot poultice applied to the ulcer; to take internally, quinine and muriate of morphia at bedtime.

5. The ulcer has extended, and has a very sloughy appearance; the edges are everted and inflamed, but there are no vesicles on them; appetite bad; tongue coated; pulse feeble; the edges of the ulcer were freely touched with nitric acid. To be supported with wine and beef tea.

7. The nitric acid has not arrested the sloughing which has extended beyond where the acid was applied. It was again freely applied to the ulcer; nitric acid lotion, with opium, was also applied to it. To have an opium powder at bedtime. On the 8th and 9th, the nitric acid was again applied to those parts of the ulcer at which the sloughing process did not appear to be arrested.

One grain of opium was given three times a-day.

10. The sloughing has ceased, and,
12. The sore appeared healthy. Two inches of the tibia are exposed; health and strength improved.

17. Ulcer quite healthy and granulating; bone exposed.

1840, Jan. 6. In much the same state as a month ago.

April 9. Has continued much the same, as at the last date, up to the present; no bone has come away, and a great part of the shaft of the tibia has become exposed; her health is bad, and she is gradually getting into a hectic state; pulse very quick; sleeplessness. It was thought inadvisable to remove the cicatrix, and amputation below the knee was proposed. The operation was performed to-day by making a long anterior flap and amputating close below the knee; the limb was first transfixed, and then the flap made. In the evening the stump was put up in the usual manner.

May 15. The wound is healed; a small piece of bone, about as big as a pin's-head, has come away. There is a small fistulous opening leading towards the tibia, which bone cannot be reached.

On examining the sequestrum it was found that the anterior part of the tibia was dead; there was then a layer of healthy bone, but the inner part of the posterior aspect of the bone near the medullary canal was also necrosed. The vessels of the granular surface were minutely injected, and showed small, flocculent granulations fitting into the small inequalities of the necrosed bone.

During the cure of the case a small piece of bone came away, but the wound was not very long in healing. Her general health was soon recruited, and on the 20th she was discharged, cured.

EXCESSIVE UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE. SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT OF TRANSFUSION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—The accompanying case is at your service for insertion in *THE LANCET*. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE MAY, Surgeon,
Royal Berks Hospital.

Reading, August 28, 1840.

Mrs. H——g, aged 29, of spare and delicate habit, was in the fifth month of her fifth pregnancy. She had frequent hæmorrhage from the second month, which was disregarded; but becoming more profuse, and persisting after the period of quickening, she became alarmed, and sent

for me. A soft and bleeding substance was felt attached to and within the posterior labium of the os uteri, which I presumed to be placenta; she was pallid, excitable, and her strength much reduced. Secale was commenced in small doses of half a drachm of tincture every four hours; augmented to

Infusion of the secale, ℥jss;

Tincture of ditto, 3j. To be taken every four hours, and continued for four days.*

On the evening of August 18, uterine action commenced, and the foetus was expelled about two o'clock, A. M., August 19, with considerable hæmorrhage, the placenta being partially extruded. The use of cold, a sponge plug, with the free exhibition of stimulants, promptly arrested the hæmorrhage. The collapse, however, was extreme, the lips blanched, the skin and breath cold; radial pulse scarcely perceptible; breathing rapid and embarrassed, with frequent vomiting; but neither jactitation, delirium, nor syncope. In this state she continued until five o'clock, A. M., without rallying; the respiration was now gasping, and she was apparently sinking. I was convinced that unless saved by transfusion, death would speedily follow.

Dr. Cowan, and my partner Mr. Harrison, having arrived, and concurring in this opinion, and in the expediency of transfusion, I proceeded, with their able assistance. The directions of Dr. Blundell were implicitly followed.† Our patient began to rally after receiving 8 ounces, and continued to improve after each syringeful, until 24½ ounces had been injected, when a slight turbulent action of the carotids occurred, which subsided in a minute or two, not the slightest distress having been occasioned. The blood was obtained from the healthiest males we could procure, and four were required for the purpose.‡ The blood was injected cautiously, the process occupying rather more than two hours. The apparatus used was a 2-ounce syringe, with tubule, 4-ounce graduated measure, scalpel, probe, and lancet.

Since Dr. Blundell established transfusion to be a means of resuscitation in cases of extreme hæmorrhage, several successful cases have been published;§ but I do not find that so large a quantity of blood

was injected in either case as in the present.

The placenta was expelled without further hæmorrhage at three o'clock, P. M., 20th. She progressed favourably until the 25th, not suffering from phlebitis, uterine irritation, or from any appreciable symptom arising from the transfusion, but merely the ordinary nervous distress which generally follows severe hæmorrhage, and we indulged the hope of recovery. On this day, the 25th, hæmorrhage recurred; and, although soon checked, she lost a considerable quantity. This was followed by jactitation, delirium, and vomiting, and she died in the night of the 27th.

Inspection post-mortem refused.

I consider this case to be worthy of record, on two points:—

1st. Showing the power of secale to originate uterine action at the fifth month.*

All these cases had advanced nearly to or beyond the seventh month.

It is obvious that her constitution could not bear up against the constant draining; that her chance of safety depended on an early expulsion of the uterine contents; and that manual interference was specially forbidden by the state of the os uteri.

2nd. The effects of transfusion.

It is difficult adequately to convey to the reader the effects produced; the apparently sinking and hopeless condition of our patient before transfusion; her gradual resuscitation; and the entire absence of distress or apparent inconvenience, either immediately or during the continuance of her life. She was not conscious during the operation, and did not afterwards know that it had been performed, imagining that she had only been bled in the arm. I regret that (occurring in private) it could not be more numerously witnessed, as the most sceptical, I think, must have been convinced.

I should have rejoiced could I have published her eventual recovery. The long-continued draining before abortion was effected, induced a most fearful state of system; yet the effects of transfusion were so unequivocal and satisfactory until the hæmorrhage recurred, that there seemed to be no reasonable doubt of recovery. I venture to submit, therefore, that the fatal issue of this case does not detract from the value of transfusion; but that, under judicious use, it must be regarded as a most invaluable means of resuscitation in cases of extreme hæmorrhage.

* The tincture of secale was prepared with secale, lbss; proof spirit, lbj. The infusion with 3ss secale to ℥jss of water.

† See Blundell's "Researches," "Lectures," &c.

‡ The husband of the patient being a master bricklayer, a choice of men was procured at an early hour of the morning.

§ See cases in LANCET, &c. &c.

* Cases by Dr. Ramsbotham, "Medical Gazette," June 28, 1834. Dr. Paterson, do. Sept. 8, 1838. Ditto, do. June 1, 1839. Mr. Hearne, do. Jan. 26, 1839.