REMARKABLE CASE OF PROTRACTED LACTATION.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

Mrs. P., aged 39 years October 28th, 1846, never had a sick day since her marriage December 9th, 1826, except the usual sickness consequent on parturition. During this period she has given birth to eight children, all of whom are now living and in perfect health. The order of their births is as follows:—Sept. 5th, 1827, female; Sept. 5th, 1829, do.; March, 28th, 1832, do.; April 1st, 1834, do.; November 11th, 1837, do.; April 3d, 1841, male; April 17th, 1844, do.; November 3d, 1846, female. Mrs. P.'s only brother and sister lived to adult age, and both died of *tubercular phthisis*. Both parents also died of the same disease. She was married young, and at the time considered a remarkably slender girl, being subject to cough upon the slightest exposure. She has been constantly nursing for a period of nearly twenty years—never weaning one child till the birth of another compelled her to, for the convenience of the infant. More than once, when *in labor*, I have seen her child of the last birth at the breast.

From a solitary case of this kind, I would not draw a single inference; but should some of your numerous correspondents, from the abundance of their experience, contribute for the Journal similar cases with a like favorable result, might we not infer, contrary to the generally-received opinions of medical men, that *protracted lactation*, especially during pregnancy, possesses a prophylactic power, even when there exists a well-marked hereditary predisposition to pulmonary disease?

I. P. SMITH.

Gloucester, Feb. 5th, 1847.

FORMATION OF A SOCIETY FOR DENTAL REFORM.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—In view of the present low standard of education and *principle*, required for the practice of dentistry, in the city of Boston and vicinity, should there not be some steps taken by those members of the profession, whose natural and acquired ability renders them proof against the devices resorted to by the many parasitic impostors whose signs glare in our most frequented streets to dazzle a public more ready to receive and promulgate marvellous doctrines, than those fraught with reason and common sense, to raise the standard of requirements upon an equality with the responsibilities incurred in the practice of a profession so intimately connected with the medical? Holding, as it does, an intimate influence over the health and comfort of its patrons, should they not esteem it their duty to devise such measures as may tend to the advancement of the art, and the suppression of all dishonorable efforts made to promote private interest at the expense of public welfare, and the cultivation of union and friendly feeling among the legitimate members of the profession? And as an association with the above purpose in view seems to offer the only true course for the attainment of results