trespass on the columns of your journal with a few particulars of a case in point.

An assistant-surgeon in the army, an old friend of mine, with whom I corresponded during his tour of service of between two and three years on the west coast of Africa, is the gentleman whose career affords an example of Professor Tufnell's statement. The number of civil posts which he held is, I believe, without parallel in so short a period; the arduous and important duties of these he was rendered capable of discharging satisfactorily only by a good liberal education, strict integrity, and sound common sense. For these reasons, he was intrusted with such posts and powers by the governor of the colony. Having been appointed justice of the peace by commission within a few months of his arrival in the colony of the Gold Coast, Dr. A. Graves Power was, after fifteen months' experience of his qualifications, selected to fill the highest post in those parts, next to that of governor—namely, acting chief justice, while he was still an assistant-surgeon.

Within a period of thirty months, this gentleman held no less than ten civil and two military appointments.

My friend arrived at the Gold Coast in July, 1854, and in five months after was appointed justice of the peace and chief officer of customs for Quitta; then, at Cape Coast, (the seat of government,) acting assistant judicial assessor, one of the custodes of the treasury keys, physician to the natives, coroner, colonial surgeon, principal military medical officer, acting chief justice, member of legislative council, and member of executive council, (*pro tem.*) On the day of his leaving the Coast for Europe, he received from his excellency Henry Connor, the acting governor, a most flattering and complimentary letter, at the same time regretting his (my friend's) being compelled by illness to leave the colony.

Dr. Power arrived from Africa in October, 1856, and is at present doing duty at St. Mary's Barracks, Chatham. I regret to say that his health is not yet re-established sufficiently to allow of his taking duty in a tropical climate.

My object, Sir, in requesting your insertion of the above is to corroborate by an example the statement of Professor Tufnell, who holds out to the well educated and discreetly-behaved medical officer the chance of being "a governor, diplomatist, or judge."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Paddington, Dec. 1857.

M.B. LOND.

ON THE TREATMENT OF MENTAL DISEASES WITHOUT THE USE OF ALCOHOL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In THE LANCET of the 19th inst., appears a letter by a correspondent, signing himself "Verax," in favour of alcoholic stimulants in mental diseases. I would ask him what are the medicinal and NUTRITIOUS properties of alcoholic stimulants which he thinks requisite for the insane, such as beer, stout, wine, and brandy? I would ask him also, if he has paid particular and constant attention for the last twenty years to the effects of alcoholic stimulants, even moderately taken, on the organs of the human body, particularly the brain?

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Nottingham, Dec. 1857.

JOHN HIGGINBOTTOM, F.R.S.

THE BLOODLETTING CONTROVERSY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the hurried communication I sent you, which appeared in your journal of the 12th instant, on the Bloodletting question, I omitted stating my opinion as to the change of type of inflammatory diseases, now undergoing such discussion.

In the course of my experience I cannot say that I have observed any such alteration. The cases I related bore precisely the same symptoms and character they did five-and-thirty years ago, and in the treatment of which a free use of the lancet would then alone have been efficacious.

Now, though I discover little or no change in the type of these diseases, I fully acknowledge, from long experience, that in the treatment considerable modification of the old practice is absolutely necessary; and notwithstanding a careful perusal of Dr. Markham's somewhat protracted speculative observations, I am bound to say—from practice, not theory—that not only is bloodletting now seldom necessary, but frequently highly prejudicial, and this, as I have before remarked, without perceiving any marked alteration in the character of the disease.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Pembroke Dock, Dec. 1857.

W. THOMAS, F.R.C.S.

THE ROYAL INFIRMARY, EDINBURGH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Seeing a letter in your journal from a gentleman signing himself "M.D. Edin.," pointing out the present position of surgery in the University of Edinburgh, I beg to make a few remarks on it.

He says—"In every other medical school the teaching of surgery is held to be of importance; here, seemingly, it is not." Now, first, the writer of the above could never have been a student in the Edinburgh Infirmary, or, if so, must have been very negligent in his attendance on the surgical practice. I am well aware that Professor Miller, the lecturer on surgery in the University, has only two small wards, and it is not necessary that a lecturer on the principles of surgery should have any wards at all. It is the lecturer on clinical surgery who requires a sufficient number of beds to present to his class cases which are the subjects of his lectures; for which purpose Professor Syme, the lecturer on clinical surgery in the University, has about 100 allotted to him; and the lecturer on clinical surgery to the College of Surgeons has also a large number of beds for the same purpose. Having studied in Edinburgh, London, and Dublin, I can say, without fear of contradiction, that there is no institution in Great Britain where surgery is so well taught as in the Edinburgh Infirmary, and students come from all parts of the world to attend the practice of it, so highly is it looked upon; and it is to the Edinburgh school that London is indebted for some of its best surgeons.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Bristol, Dec. 1857.

A SUBSCRIBER.

THE OPERATION FOR THE CURE OF PROLAPSUS AND PROCIDENTIA UTERI.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reference to a long communication by Dr. Vernon, on Prolapsus Uteri, I beg, in the first place, to observe, that I shall not dwell on the spirit or good sense of that gentleman's letter, either as regards myself or the reporter of your journal; but if Dr. Vernon had simply desired truthfulness, he would have referred to the report in your "Mirror" of Nov. 22nd, 1856, p. 567, where one of the two cases which he quotes is actually reported as unsuccessful; and, again, in another weekly journal, the other case is fully and truthfully reported.

In common justice to myself, I must refer the profession to my many and candid reports of all my operations, under various heads, in your own and other journals, and request of them not to judge me as harshly as Dr. Vernon has done, because I answered off-hand some general questions put to me at a time of sickness, and as can and will be proved by other testimony, without the slightest intention of deceiving the profession. It may be as well to wait till the general summary has appeared to the reports now in progress.

I must, however, positively refuse to answer any more letters from Dr. Vernon, for two reasons: first, because he writes with great personal animosity; secondly, because I do not think it right that a resident officer in an hospital should attack his late superior by using notes of his cases in the way just done.

Trusting, in fairness, you will find space for this short note in this week's LANCET.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Connaught-square, Dec. 1857.

I. BAKER BROWN, F.R.C.S.

DIPHtherITE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The above disease, of an exceedingly virulent type, has, within the last two months, been raging in a very unhealthy part of my district—the village of Nop Mayo, a place in which the mortality during the cholera epidemic of 1848 was far in excess, in proportion to the inhabitants, of any other place. The symptoms are those reported by previous correspondents,—viz., low fever, swelling of the maxillary glands, sudden and extensive formation of sloughs in the pharynx and fauces, hæmorrhage from the throat and nose, with a most fetid discharge from the latter. I have lost six cases out of thirteen. In one, all traces of the diphthêrite had subsided, and the little patient (aged sixteen) was gaining strength, and able to get out of doors, when, seven days after, he was taken ill with croup, and died in six hours. In another case the throat symptoms were in abeyance three weeks, and the patient, becoming anarsarcous, sunk from exhaustion. The worst

case I have had, recovered—a boy, aged twelve years, of strumous constitution, with lateral curvature of the spine, and always on my list; there was frequent hæmorrhage from the nose and throat, accompanied with foetid discharge, and throwing off large sloughs every other day.

It appears to me that the older the patient, and the earlier seen, the greater is the chance of recovery. It is impossible, in young subjects, to use those remedies apparently benefiting such conditions of parts; but when solutions can be applied to the throat, and constant taking-in of a nourishing and stimulating diet insured, by so much are the chances of success increased.

I give port wine, beef tea, &c., from the commencement; my local applications have been solutions of nitrate of silver, and in some cases equal parts of muriatic acid and water internally, commencing with a purgative, and a mixture composed of nitric acid and nitric ether.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
Yealmpton, Devon, Dec. 1857. JOSHUA E. ADKINS, M.R.C.S.

[NOTE FROM MR. WOODWARD.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In relation to the treatment of diphthêrite, or putrid sore-throat, I have seen little if any mention made in your valuable journal of the chlorate of potash. In several cases, indeed all which have come under my notice, I have given a calomel and jalap purge at the commencement, applied a small blister on each side of the throat, and at once exhibited chlorate of potash, ten grains, every fourth hour, and all have invariably recovered; that, too, when there has been extensive ulceration of the tonsils, false membrane on the tongue, foetid breath, and great constitutional disturbance.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
Worcestershire, Dec. 1857. WM. WOODWARD.

THE

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

SIR,—May I ask the favour of your publishing the enclosed copies of letters relating to the Royal Medical Benevolent College?

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
Upper Holloway, Dec. 17th, 1857. W. B. KESTEVEN, F.R.C.S.

“Hastings, Nov. 30th, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the Report, &c., relating to the Royal Medical Benevolent College, and am bound to add that the statements and arguments contained in it appear to me at present to be reasonable in themselves, as well as temperately expressed. In order, however, that I may be enabled to form an opinion on the matters now in dispute, I have written to the secretary for any printed papers which may represent the views taken by the Council.

Believe me to be, my dear Sir, yours very faithfully,
W. B. Kesteven, Esq.” W. A. GREENHILL, M.D.

“Hastings, Dec. 4th, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR,—I wrote to the secretary of the Royal Medical Benevolent College to say that the two papers he had sent me were not satisfactory to my mind, and to ask if the Council intended to comply with either of your requisitions or to answer your pamphlet. The reply which I have received is equally unsatisfactory, and therefore it is my present intention to transfer to your Committee the guinea I should have given next year to the College. If, also, you think it well to state the result of my correspondence with the secretary, you are at liberty to do so.

Yours very faithfully,
W. B. Kesteven, Esq.” W. A. GREENHILL, M.D.

DENTISTRY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to a short paragraph in THE LANCET of Saturday, the 12th inst., headed “A Fact for Dentists.”

During my practice I have occasionally been shown cases that were said to be those of a *third* dentition; but have found them upon examination to be easily explained as to what the facts were. In one case in particular I found a very crowded t of teeth, produced by the teeth being very large, while the

jaws were exceedingly small, producing what was thought to be a third set, which only arose from some of the teeth standing actually *three* deep. We are all aware of the peculiarity of supernumerary teeth; yet these cannot be called a third set, being as it were a freak of Nature, using up a superabundance of material.

I have seen cases called a third production, which was nothing more than a decaying of the crowns of the teeth in early life, leaving the roots comparatively healthy in the head. Many years elapse without any perceptible change, and when old age comes on, Nature seems to make an effort to get rid of what has now become a foreign body. The sockets are absorbed, the roots are gradually protruded, and from constant use have become rounded, and present an appearance not unlike that of new teeth.

I do not pretend to say this *is* the case in the “woman King’s mouth,” yet I am rather inclined to suspect it is so.

I would venture, Mr. Editor, through the valuable pages of THE LANCET, to request some medical man residing in the neighbourhood of this person, who would for the satisfaction of the dentist, “if for no other,” examine this case carefully, and report upon it; for if it be a *bonâ fide* case of a third dentition, he would confer a great boon on the profession at large by so doing; and what would be still more satisfactory, if there was a dentist at hand, let him take an impression of the month, and, for the benefit of all, send it to the museum of the “College of Dentists of England,” with his observations on this peculiar and interesting case.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Edinburgh, Dec. 1857. W. A. ROBERTS.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen, having undergone the necessary examinations for the Diploma, were admitted members of the College at the meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 18th inst.:—

CULLEN, ROBT. FLEMING, H.M.S. *St. Vincent*, Portsmouth.
FLEISCHMANN, ALFRED, Leeds.
HARRIES, GEORGE JAMES, Bath.
HELE, N. FENWICK, Shaldon, Teignmouth.
LEIGH, JOHN, Holywell, North Wales.
LYNES, WM., Wednesbury, Staffordshire.
MOXON, JOHN, Huddersfield.
O’LOUGHLIN, JOSEPH EDWARD, Army.
SANDERSON, ARTHUR, Liverpool.
SMITH, J. THOMAS, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.
WILLIAMS, CHARLES, Royal Ophthalmic Hospital, Westminster.

At the same meeting of the Court, Mr. THOMAS ALEXANDER ROE passed his examination as assistant-surgeon in the Royal Navy.

The following gentlemen were admitted members on the 21st inst.:—

CHEVERS, CHARLES EDWARD, Jamaica.
CURTLER, HENRY, Droitwich, Worcestershire.
HARVEY, C. HAMILTON, Clarendon-road, Notting-hill.
HUGHES, RICHARD, Euston-square.
LONGMORE, CHARLES, Army.
NORTON, SELBY, West Malling, Kent.
O’DONOVAN, T. PETER, Southend.
PANGNET, FRANÇOIS VOLCY, Mauritius.
ROGERS, OWEN OSSIAN, Stonehouse, Plymouth.
WATTS, WILLIAM HENRY, Army.
WHITAKER, HENRY, Belfast.
WHITE, C. WILLIAM, H.E.I.Co.’s Service, Madras.

NEW FELLOWS.—The following members of the College, having undergone the necessary examinations, were admitted to the Fellowship at the last meeting of the Council:—

AUSTEN, J. COLMER, Ramsgate; April 21, 1845.
CUTLIFFE, H. CHARLES, Dulwich; May 5, 1854.
HARRIS, WILLIAM, Waterford; March 10, 1854.
LAWSON, GEORGE, Park-street, Grosvenor-square; Aug. 9, 1852.

LICENTIATES IN MIDWIFERY.—The following members of the College, having undergone the necessary examinations, were admitted Licentiates in Midwifery at the meeting of the Board of Examiners on the 16th inst.:—

BEER, JAMES JOHN, Holborn, diploma of membership dated March 27th, 1857.
DOIG, CHARLES DAVID, Aldgate, August 8th, 1856.