a very hearty supper of oysters; admitted August 24th in a state of collapse. She took 580 grs. calomel, and nearly one pound of strong mercurial ointment was well rubbed in. Violent ptyalism was produced in 28 hours after admission. She miscarried on the 26th, was bled on the 27th, and now waits in the hospital to regain strength. Some gentleman had, previous to her admission, employed stimulants with very injurious effects.

PHOSPHORUS IN MALIGNANT CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention has just been directed to a paper in your last Number, recommending the use of phosphorus in the advanced stages of cholera. The author is mistaken in supposing it has never been employed before, as will be seen by referring to the "Monographie du Cholera Morbus" of M. Gendrin, who also differs widely from your correspondent in his conclusions relative to the results of such a mode of treatment.

"Phosphorus (says M. Gendrin) was administered with success in Poland in two desperate cases. I have administered it to three patients in this city (Paris) in the advanced blue stage of the disease, and in the following manner:—

Syrup of Gum,
Distilled Water; of each one ounce;
Phosphorated Oil, aromatised, twenty drops;
Gum Arabic, ten grains. Mix, and let a teaspoonful be given every ten minutes.

The thirst, always so intense in cholera, the epigastric anxiety, the cramps, and even the vomitings, were augmented, and I felt persuaded that I had hastened the death of these patients, although they were previously rather in the asphyxia than in the blue period."—pp. 246, 247.

Calculating from a formula* in a note at the bottom of the page, the twenty

drops of phosphorated oil employed by M. Gendrin might contain nearly one grain and a quarter of phosphorus.

It seems to me very probable, that in the formula employed by your correspondent, the action of the phosphorus must have been modified; perhaps it passed through the body unchanged, otherwise I cannot conceive how such large doses could have been employed with impunity. If, after the statement of M. Gendrin, it should be thought expedient to institute any further experiments concerning the action of phosphorus in cholera, his formula seems to me preferable, because the remedial agent is presented in a state of more minute division, and therefore likely to be more prompt as well as more certain in its action.

I remain yours, &c.

J. MANN.

173, Aldersgate Street,
Aug. 29, 1833.

FRENCH OPINIONS OF ENGLISH SURGEONS.—The ex-minister of the ex-Charles X., D'HAUSSEZ, in his late notes on Great Britain, makes the following remark on the state of English Surgery:—"It is said that surgery has attained a high degree of perfection in England, and in support of this assertion, the names of two very rich surgeons are cited. It would be impossible to deny to these individuals the possession of rare talents, if we estimated the latter by the immense fortunes they have acquired." The circumstances noticed by Mr. WARDROP in his introductory lecture, have not, it would seem, escaped the sarcasm of a foreigner who is not even a member of the medical profession. "Mr. WARDROP observes (*vide LANCET*, July 6th), "In this metropolis the *capacity* of a man is too often measured by the *value* of his private practice. If you inquire what any individual is doing here, and how he is succeeding, the answer you will receive will be a statement of the supposed amount of his professional income. But if a similar question be asked of an eminent man abroad, you will receive a very different answer; you will be told of some advancement he has been making in scientific pursuits. By nothing is the scientific foreigner more struck when he visits this metropolis, than the evidence of a *trading* spirit amongst the members of the medical profession."

* This phosphorated oil is prepared in the following manner, after a formula given by MM. Sedillot.—"Journal de M. Magendie," 6me edit., p. 287.

Take of

Phosphorus, one ounce;
Oil of Olives, one pound.

The phosphorus should be previously cut in small pieces. Close the bottle, and after a fortnight decant the oil, aromatize with oil of bergamot, and keep it in a dark place. (*Op. cit.*, pp. 247.)