that organ tenaciously refused to part with any of its contents, the bladder was emptied of a copious quantity of high-coloured, strong-scented urine by the catheter. There was present a slight sickness, which I was disposed to attribute to the effects of the calomel. Five minims of dilute hydrocyanic acid were given, and repeated every hour, in a little camphor mixture, for four hours, manifestly with the effect of quieting the cough and removing the sickness. At the end of the four hours, however, the features became enlarged, the memory became confused, and the arterial system accelerated; in short, everything betokened the approach of a fresh attack.

In anticipation of this state of things, leeches had been procured, and without delay twenty-five were applied to the anterior and lower part of the neck, and mustard applied to the feet. The good results were soon apparent in the speedy check given to all the threatening symptoms. No feeling of faintness or inconvenience resulted from the use of the leeches, and I should feel disposed to rely very much upon them again, after a first general bleeding. Ten grains of powdered castor were directed to be taken every other hour, and the prussic acid to be taken at alternate periods. The latter was used for six hours, when it was deemed prudent to discontinue its use, and the castor was continued for twelve or fourteen hours, until the lochial discharge appeared, with a few interruptions only; after which a moderate use of castor-oil, with the careful exclusion of light and noise for two or three days, were the measures adopted. In three weeks the patient was able to leave her room, and in six weeks was comparatively well, and continues so.

Richmond Bridge, Dec. 1, 1841.

DISEASE OF STONE AND MARBLE-CUTTERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The circumstances connected with the sudden and lamented death of the late celebrated Sir Francis Chantrey, are such as tend to confirm me in an opinion I have long since formed and expressed, namely, that sculptors are professionally liable to the attacks of that insidious disease called in Scotland the "mason's trouble," and which arises from the particles of the dust, or *stour*, chipped off under the stone chisel and mallet, entering the fauces, and thence being conveyed through the larynx and pharynx into the lungs and stomach. On the occasion of the death of the late Princess Marie, Duchess of Wirtemberg, and daughter of Louis Philippe, I took occasion to point out that her disease, stated to be consumption, had been most probably a form of the

"mason's trouble," brought on by her unremitting devotion to the beautiful art of sculpture, in which she remarkably excelled, as so many *chef d'œuvres* from her chisel, which adorned her *atelier*, bore decided testimony.

Now, Sir, I am inclined to attribute the death of the late eminent sculptor, Sir Francis Chantrey, to a like cause. The symptoms detailed by his medical advisers at the inquest are just such as are found attending on this disease, namely, indigestion, accompanied by an acute pain at the pit of the stomach, which occasions the disease, on its first manifestation, to be mistaken for an ordinary attack of dyspepsia, and treated accordingly. The suddenness also of the death brought on by the preceding exertion of the attempted walk towards the palace, is also such as might be expected; as though long looked for, when death does come it is almost always rapid, or, as I would say, the disease terminates generally in *asphyxia*, supervening on some exertion too great for the bronchiæ, almost choked up by the long-continued accumulation of the particles of the dust. To this, therefore, I am inclined to attribute his death rather than to spasm of the heart, as recorded in the verdict of the inquest jury.

This subject I am induced to bring before the notice of your readers, through the medium of your widely-circulated Journal, not only on account of the highly-interesting connection it has with the fine arts, but even still more for the important light in which I feel it deserves to be viewed in its bearing upon medical jurisprudence, as serving to elucidate one of the causes of sudden death occurring among the professors of the sublime art of sculpture.

I would here observe that the disease called "mason's trouble" is much more common, and, consequently, better known in Scotland than in this part of the island, on account of the buildings in that country being generally of stone. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM VILLIERS SANKEY, M.A.,
Extraordinary Member of the Medical
Society of Edinburgh.

30, Harwood-street, Dec. 4, 1841.

TREATMENT OF INSANITY.

"Time has been when the brains were out the man would die."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have no desire to lessen the population by putting to death those whose opinions become superannuated, but I could wish them possessed of prudence sufficient