were generally present in diabetes mellitus, such as the great debility and the sense of sinking, the dry skin, the clammy mouth, the thirst, the red tongue. Again, in this case, also, the skin was hot, which was sometimes the case in diabetes mellitus; the urine, however, in the last-named affection did not usually contain a deposit, as instanced in the present patient, and when it did the sediment was of a flocculent character. Frequently, in diabetes insipidus, the urea was in excess, the symptoms, as in this case, being nearly those of diabetes mellitus, the saccharine nature of the urine only being wanted. Cases of this kind, like saccharine diabetes, and those in which the urea was in excess, as, indeed, in most affections in which the urine was increased in quantity, were much benefitted by the use of opium, which, in this instance, was of great benefit; the man, though much better, was, however, not cured, but left earlier than he (Dr. E.) wished him to do.

MR. CROSSE'S RETROSPECTIVE ADDRESS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—In perusing your review of Mr. Crosse's retrospective address in *THE LANCET* of last week, I find the following paragraph:—"The contributions to the pathology of the fluids have been, Mr. Crosse remarks in his address, but very few; yet of those few he failed to avail himself, by adding to his list a notice of the memoir of M. Donné on the alkaline and acid properties of the saliva corresponding with certain conditions of the stomach." Now, Sir, if you will allow me to refer you to that address in the "*Transactions of the Medical and Surgical Association*," vol. v., p. 46, you will perceive that this subject has received all due attention from Mr. Crosse, and that, instead of being an omission on his part, the error is in your review. He there plainly states, with reference to the disordered living actions of parts, or pathophysiology, that, "belonging to it are the recent investigations into the condition of the saliva, by Dr. Donné, who finds this secretion alkaline when the functions of the stomach are properly performed, and acid as often as these are disordered; the chemical condition is easily ascertained by familiar tests." Hoping that a sense of candour, and a desire of doing justice to the author of the Address, will induce you to take an early opportunity of correcting your statement, I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

A NORWICH MEDICAL STUDENT.

Norwich, Aug. 28th, 1837.

LABOURS OF MEDICAL REGISTRARS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—As I am confident that during the ensuing session of parliament great and manifold changes will be made in the New Poor Law, will you allow me, through the medium of your very valuable Journal, to suggest that a great saving, both of time and trouble, to the medical officer, and of expense to the rate-payer, might be effected, by doing away with the present useless and vexatious manner of keeping the medical books. In the first place, we are furnished with two handsomely-bound blank books printed and ruled; and a bundle of blank weekly returns. One book is entitled the "*Medical Weekly Return*," in which I have to enter the name, residence, age, sex, occupation, name of disease, &c., of each patient. Then, once a week, I have to make a copy of each page, or week's account, on the accompanying blank form, mentioned above, and send it to the clerk's office, sometimes a distance of several miles. The other book is entitled, "*Register of Sickness and Mortality*," which, with a few additions, is a copy of the other. Now, Sir, what is the use of all this? It appears to me that if the last book only were kept, it would be quite sufficient for every purpose, and effect a saving of at least ten shillings a year in each division of an Union, and spare the medical officer the trouble of sending every week to the clerk's office, which, when at a distance, is the means of diminishing his already beggarly salary; and as our books are audited every three months, and then laid before the Guardians, there could be no underhand-work, especially, as in this neighbourhood, the so-much-per-case system has been abandoned. The money so saved throughout the kingdom would nearly pay the salary of one of the assistant commissioners. I have the honour to be, yours, &c.

S. H. PODE, Surgeon.

Plympton, Devon, Aug. 1837.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The letter of *Le Baron Dupotet de Senneroy* reached us too late for insertion this week; it shall appear in the next *LANCET*.

The communications of Dr. Venables, Dr. Burgess, Mr. Tomkins, Dr. Howison, Dr. Dickson, Mr. Lambton, Dr. W. C., Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Radley, Mr. Bree, Medicus, An Old Surgeon, Morgan, and Justitia, have been received, and we hope to find space for most of them in the ensuing week.

The first question of *A Medical Student* we cannot yet answer. The second may be answered in the negative.