the knees, down the legs, about the elbows and axillæ. This condition gradually increased until the parts became covered by large patches of dark-brown and almost black incrustations, which were broken up into scales or small tubular or lozenge-shaped portions, divided by deep lines according to the natural creasings of the skin. Owing to these concretions, the surface was harsh and dry, and in many parts the surface had much the appearance of the sole of the fowl's foot. Dr. Ogle showed a water-colour drawing, executed by Dr. Westmacott, of the surface of the foot of one of the patients, and also a quantity of the dry concretions which fell off, under treatment, from the skin.

The treatment consisted in the warm bath daily, and the subsequent rubbing in of lard, along with the liquor galii aparine, followed by the use of an alkaline lotion in the place of the lard infriktion. In about five weeks the patients were discharged quite free from any traces of the affection.

The patients remained free from the disease for nearly four months, when they both again became affected in a like way as before, and one returned to St. George's Hospital. She was treated by Dr. Fuller, and again left the hospital free from any of the sebaceous accumulations, but with the skin red and glazed, and disposed to crack.

Dr. Ogle gave the chemical analysis of the sebaceous incrustations as determined for him by Dr. Harvey, and also made reference to the only recent case of a similar kind which he had met with—one by Dr. Biefel, quoted in the "Annalen d. Charité Krankenhaus." From this, and from the tendency which in the case of one of the girls before described the skin showed to assume an unhealthy state, Dr. Ogle thought that such a condition of the skin might lead to actual disease of its texture.

Reviews and Notices of Books.

Die erste Ausrottung eines Polypen in der Kehlkopfschöhle durch Zerschneiden ohne blutige Eröffnung der Luftwege, nebst einer kurzen Anleitung zur Laryngoskopie. Von Dr. V. BRUNS, Professor der Chirurgie, &c. Svo. pp. 76. Tübingen. 1862.

THE patient, the subject of the present memoir, is a brother of the author, aged forty-eight years. He had been troubled for a couple of years with hoarseness, and latterly was unable to talk continuously or read aloud. The affection commenced with a cold. The patient underwent a variety of treatment; but without deriving any benefit. On exploring the throat with the aid of the laryngoscope, it was ascertained that a polypus was seated in the larynx just below the left vocal cord. It was shaped like a club; its long diameter measured from twelve to fourteen millimètres, and its greatest thickness from six to seven millimètres. It presented a reddish-yellow hue, and had the consistence of ordinary nasal polypus. The author made several attempts to lay hold of it with a loop of iron-wire, but unsuccessfully. He then had forceps constructed, with small incisors at their extremity, by means of which he succeeded after some days in gradually snipping away the polypoid growth. He found it necessary at each sitting to fix the epiglottis with forceps made on purpose. The instruments employed are all accurately figured in plates annexed, as are also the instruments used for laryngoscopy. Several diagrams are appended to illustrate the anatomical relations of the polypus.

The above operations were performed in July, 1861; and in January, 1862, it is stated that the patient was enjoying excellent health, and the restoration of voice, as regarded purity and strength, was perfect.

The last twenty pages of the memoir are occupied with practical details on laryngoscopy.

In conclusion, we would briefly mention our having assisted Dr. Gibb at an operation for laryngeal polypus, where he promptly accomplished the complete removal of the outgrowth by means of an ingenious écraseur of his contrivance, which is certainly less complicated than the incisor-forceps of Dr. Bruns.

The Popular Science Review. A Quarterly Miscellany of Entertaining and Instructive Articles on Scientific Subjects. Edited by JAMES SAMUELSON. No. 7. April, 1863. London: Hardwicke.

THE present number equals in interest any of its predecessors. It is marked by the same variety of subjects, the same easy method of retailing sterling science, and the same useful amount of pictorial illustration, as have hitherto characterized this "popular" serial. The botanical articles include memoirs upon the British Fungi, the Furniture Woods of Commerce, and upon the History of a Beech-twig. The zoological and physiological department is concerned with Fresh-water Polyzoa, the African Lion, and the Human Skin. To these is added a paper by Mr. Mackie upon Fossil Birds. The essay upon the "African Lion in its Native Haunts" is a translation by the editor of a communication from no less a person than Jules Gerard, of lion-killing fame.

The Consumptive Poor of South London. By THEODORE E. LADD, M.D., &c. pp. 31. London: Pigott.

SINCE the author commenced practice in 1849, every case, he tells us, that has come under his notice has deepened the impression that his duty is closely connected with the subject of pulmonary disease, that his best efforts should be given to its study, and his labours constantly directed to lessen its effects. The present *brochure* is offered, we presume, as an earnest that the author is steadily pursuing the useful line of duty he has prescribed for himself.

A Dictionary of Chemistry. By HENRY WATTS, B.A. Longman.

THIS great work—great in a double sense, both in size and quality—continues to appear with praiseworthy regularity. Already four parts have been published, the last three being fully equal to the first part, of the execution of which we expressed ourselves in highly favourable terms.

A Manual of Chemical Analysis. Part I.: Qualitative. By HENRY M. NOAD, F.R.S. Reeve and Co.

THIS is a very clearly written, simple, and practical treatise on Qualitative Analysis, and one which will be found of much service to students and beginners, especially in connexion with the second part, on Quantitative Analysis, shortly to be published.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I, like your correspondent Mr. Durham (*vide* THE LANCET of the 11th inst., p. 53), beg to call your attention to a like shabby trick played me last week by the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society. I had a string of similar questions—falsely called "non-medical"—to answer; and I very much regret I did not serve the Society as Mr. Durham did.

I fully agree with your just and honourable remarks upon so "transparent a device," and hope it will act as a warning to Sir Samuel Bignold, his co-directors, and their secretary (Mr. R. P. Wood), not to persist in obtaining information under false pretences. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
St. Thomas's-street, July, 1863. S. J. BAYFIELD, M.R.C.S.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.—On Monday Mr. Sturmy, the vestry-clerk of St. Saviour's, Southwark, accompanied by Mr. Bianchi, the medical officer of the district, waited on the magistrate of the Southwark Police-court to request his authority for the immediate removal of the body of a man who had died of typhus fever, and which, from its advanced state of decomposition, affected the health of the neighbourhood. Mr. Burcham thought it was the duty of the relieving officer to remove it; if he refused, the only remedy was by indictment. He had no power to interfere. Ultimately it was agreed that the body should be removed by the vestry.