"You, I believe, are already in possession of most of the facts relative to the means by which Brodie obtained that appointment, and how cleverly we diddled poor Keate. There appeared in the odious journal a statement of my conduct in that affair, which, consistent with the elevated position in which I have, by a kind Providence, been placed, it would not have become me to contradict.

"But in order to enable you to carry on this negotiation, and which I earnestly wish that you do without delay, it is but honourable to apprise you of some additional important facts, that you may with your usual dexterity place the saddle on the right horse. Now the truth is, that I was obliged, however much against my conscience, to go hand-in-hand in all matters touching the Court of Windsor with Sir William Knighton, for Sir William was, virtually, as much the physician, surgeon, apothecary, and accoucheur, of George the Fourth, as he was 'Keeper of the Privy Purse,' or 'Comptroller of the Peace Establishment,'—as my dear friend the Marquis of Wellesley used to designate his 'Holy Callings.' Sir William it was who, by his *invisible* influence, forced Brodie's attendance on the late King; and our beloved monarch, who was as sharp and clever a gentleman as ever I saw, burst forth one day, and exclaimed, 'That d—d fellow Knighton brought me a Methodist parson, yesterday, instead of sending my own surgeon.' Poor dear Sir Everard Home had scarcely breathed his last, when, as you know, Keate called upon me, and I lost not a moment in calling upon Brodie. Knighton, most fortunately, was in town, living *incog.* with Dr. Locock, and he was bound to get this appointment, by hook or by crook, for Brodie, for reasons I may tell, but dare not write even to you, my kind friend—as you know, from experience, how nicely he managed your own *little matters* in getting you appointed to St. George's Hospital. Sir William having, along with King George the Fourth's personal surgeon, and two French cooks, been dismissed from the royal household of his present Majesty, and having got into *mauvais odeur*, he, with his usual magical tact, got Sir Wathen Waller, who happened at that very moment to be at Windsor, to state to his Majesty that the appointment of sergeant-surgeon was *promised* by his beloved brother, some time previous to his death, to Mr. Brodie! This hoax answered, and the appointment was accordingly given to that surgeon. Many hours had not elapsed before the royal eyes, which had been blinded by that old oculist Sir Wathen, were opened, and

the King, as you well know, expressed to Mr. Keate, in the most unequivocal terms, his regret in having thus hastily 'fooled away the office,' and said that he had been 'taken by surprise,' or it should certainly not have been so disposed of, to one who had no claims on his royal favour; and you must be quite aware that King William has never admitted Brodie, but has loaded 'honest Bobby Keate,' as he calls him, with marks of attention and kindness.

"I hope you consider that this simple narrative quite exculpates me in the whole of this affair, but that it was quite necessary for my own interests to support Brodie.

"I find that Mr. Brodie's interview with Lord Melbourne has done anything but good. His Lordship had, unfortunately, been warned of his object, which, along with the very unfavourable impression made by Guthrie, forces me now to begin to consider our case hopeless in *that* quarter. Lord M. observed to a friend of mine, 'that Mr. Brodie had an air of humility and simplicity in his manner, yet, being a half believer in phrenology, he thought that Mr. B. appeared to have the organs of "secretiveness" and "acquisitiveness" of their *full size*.'

"Let me conclude, dear Doctor Seymour, by entreating your most serious and early attention to this letter, and believe me your very faithful friend and well-wisher,

"Leicestershire, Oct. —, 1823.

"P. S.—Mr. Brodie writes me that Professor Mayo's 'rectum advertisement' has never appeared since my animadversions on its abominable character; and that Sir Astley, at the last meeting of the Council of the College, was very *jocose* on the subject. Addressing himself to Copeland and Howship, he said, 'I suppose your *fistula* gentlemen have cur Mayo.' I am glad there has been no more of his rectum puffs."

DR. O'BEIRNE'S VIEWS OF THE PROCESS OF DEFECACTION.—LETTER FROM MR. OLDKNOW.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You will oblige me by giving publicity to this letter, the subject of which is relative to the controversy between Mr. Salmon and Dr. O'Beirne, respecting the novel and very interesting opinions of the latter gentleman, contained in his valuable work on defecation.

In one of the April numbers (this year)

of the *Medical and Surgical Journal*, Mr. Salmon has inserted some critical remarks on the publication of Dr. O'Beirne; and amongst other things, he denies the *non-existence of stricture* at any point lower down than the *upper extremity of the rectum*, and offers to prove this by morbid specimens in his own collection. In a subsequent number of the same journal (August 24th), Dr. O'Beirne has replied to Mr. Salmon, showing the fallacy of the latter gentleman's arguments, and appointing as umpires between them Mr. Guthrie and Mr. Bransby Cooper, saying, "If either of these gentlemen informs me that you possess preparations showing *distinct, thickened, and shelf-like projections*, from any part of the interior of the rectum, lower down than its upper extremity, I hereby bind myself to at once publicly recant my error."

Now this, Mr. Editor, involves a question of great practical importance, and if Dr. O'Beirne's statement be true, it is, confessedly, quite contrary to the generally received opinions; may I, therefore, request to know, why the umpires chosen on this occasion have not given their decision, and may I be allowed to express a hope they will yet do so, as their reputations are deservedly well calculated to settle the point in dispute, which cannot fail of being interesting to the whole of the profession? I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY OLDKNOW.

Nottingham, Nov. 4th, 1833.

LONDON HOSPITAL.

POISONING BY LAUDANUM.—RECOVERY. —ANTISPORIFIC QUALITIES OF GREEN TEA.

J. K., a middle-aged man, was admitted into Harrison's Ward on Saturday evening, September 14th, labouring under the effects of laudanum, which he had taken with a view to self-destruction. Upon inquiry it was ascertained that the patient was a *medical man*, living in the neighbourhood of the Commercial Road, in very reduced circumstances, the father of ten children; that he had formerly been surgeon to the dispensary at Kinsale, a town about twelve miles distant from Cork, and had been compelled to bid farewell to his native country from an accumulation of adverse circumstances, over which it appeared he had no control.

On his admission his case presented the following symptoms:—Considerable torpor, from which he could be aroused

only with great difficulty, having taken the poison (rather more than an ounce) an hour previous to his being brought to the hospital. His breathing was laborious, the pupils were very much contracted, and not obedient in the slightest degree to the stimulus of light; pulse 126, small, and irregular in force; slight perspiration on the forehead.

The stomach-pump was immediately employed, when three pints of warm water were injected, and quickly withdrawn. After the lapse of a few minutes, the operation was repeated. As no very decided improvement followed the use of the stomach pump, after waiting some time, he was ordered a strong infusion of green tea, of which he took about three fourths of a pint, and by the assistance of two powerful men placed on each side of him, was made to walk slowly backwards and forwards in the lobby. This was by far the most troublesome part of the treatment. The patient would walk pretty well for a few paces, and then his legs would yield beneath him, his chin at the same time falling upon his chest, and the patient presenting the appearance of a corpse. Half an hour having elapsed without improvement, the pupils of the eyes being, if possible, more contracted, (now not larger than the head of a *very small pin*); the jugular vein was opened, but as only three ounces of blood could be abstracted, the operation was performed on a vein of the arm, from which sixteen ounces were readily obtained. Before eight ounces had flowed, a most distinct alteration in the state of the pupils had taken place; they were more dilated, and now sensible to the stimulus of light. These symptoms became more apparent as the quantity of blood drawn increased. The infusion of tea was administered at intervals, until the stomach would bear no more. He vomited a good deal, after which, from having been in a frightful state of stupor, he became quite querulous, and among the first expressions greeted his attendants with the following,—"Nemo mortalium omnibus horis sapit." About half past twelve o'clock, sensibility being restored, he was allowed to go to bed. An ounce of castor oil was given, which was instantly rejected; afterwards 5 grs. of *calomel* with 1 minim of *croton oil* in the form of pill.

Sept. 15. Slept badly about two hours during the early part of the night; disposed to converse; complains of slight uneasiness about the head and throat; pulse tranquil. He expressed his gratitude for the care taken of him in language which plainly told that he had once moved