if it were true I ought to be shut out from all good society, he asks me to confirm a statement of his; as if my testimony could be of any value, if his concerning me were true. The policy of our vestry as to my facts and comments has for some time past been to bring me into hostile contact with the medical officer of health, and by this diversion to shield the really guilty party. This will fail, for, as I do not in any way look upon the medical officer as the guilty party, I never even attempt to make him responsible. A passage or two of mine in proof: "I don't like public bodies tacitly permitting a deficient organization, and then sacrificing their officers if anything goes wrong." "On the whole, the salaries in the parish have been considerably raised; that of the medical officer of health alone has been stinted and lowered. Not that the work is less; in such a parish as this it will ever be far a-head of any one or two officers' capabilities." "If the governing bodies are in earnest, let them arrange to have all needful information promptly, and pay honestly—I do not mean exorbitantly—for it. To expect work without pay from those you employ is to own that you expect the work to be shirked, done shabbily, or altogether neglected."* When I resigned my office, which I did for the only reason that if I attempted to do my duty I was incessantly bullied and harassed, I was, with an expression of sympathy from the medical officers of health, elected an honorary member of their association. I have not forfeited their good opinion, for I am now one of their vice-presidents. In my answer to Dr. Hillier are these words: "If I should be elected upon the vestry, I shall undoubtedly serve for the express purpose of seeing to and backing up the officer of health." The fact is, Sir, that an enemy has sown tares among my wheat, and Dr. Bateson has unwittingly aided in their cultivation. The Doctor has had two separate offers to name time and place for a quiet meeting, that he and I might understand each other and work together; but I and our friend have heard of no appointment.

Your correspondent talks of the enormous amount of sanitary work done. He puts me in mind of the man who excused himself as to the broken commandments, because he had, as he said, kept the others. You should see, Sir, the sanitary work, which is generally done slowly and unwillingly, and, for the most part, by jobbing and unskilful men. It is soon again out of order or to pieces. In the face of the people who inhabit our poorer and diseased places, the seed-places of disease in fact, the work should be done soundly and well, and on behalf of the local authority there should be an ever-recurring friendly supervision, as well for guidance as for pressure. I do not believe that one-tenth of the work done is thorough, or that it would pass with a skilful honest tradesman, or a reasonably good clerk of the works. Thus, the work ordered by the local authorities is a trouble to the people and a frittering expense to the small landlord; and all because we have not the staff to look after it. Half a man—i. e., half the time of one man—to look after about 3000 houses in one of the lowest and most diseased districts in London! This alone shows that the "Vestryman" who presumed to write to you, knows nothing of the district he professes to represent. But I think, if he is really a vestryman, that he knows I neither desire nor need the office of medical officer of health: I have so often stated and published it. Permit me to say so once more, and for the last time, in your columns. Does it not suggest itself to this "Vestryman," that if I desired the office, the last thing I should do, as a sensible man, would be to offend, as I have done, an overwhelming majority of those who would have to appoint me. I would not take office under a vestry for any salary that might be offered. But this I will do: I will stand up in vestry regardless of the "buffoonery, contemptible personality, or indignant snub," spoken of in *The Times* by our Mr. Bransby, and will use the knowledge which long practice, long study, and an intimate, and let me add, a friendly knowledge of our poorest people have given me, until a new spirit comes over the St. George's and other vestries, or until the local government shall be controlled or modified by a central power, such as is spoken of by Mr. Mill.†

Your correspondent is equally ill informed in saying that I did not possess the full confidence of the vestry. I certainly had their confidence and their respect; but a few strong and rich men there were not prepared for the work which necessarily came out of my office. The official communication from the vestry to me in connexion with my resignation altogether contradicts your correspondent. The vestry clerk expresses and underlines his "personal regret at the severance of our official intercourse after a three years, to him, of very pleasant asso-

ciation;" and the resolution of the vestry, which he handed to me with this courteous introduction, says, "The vestry accepts the resignation with extreme regret, and feels that it cannot do otherwise than express its high opinion of talent and valuable services." I can show this, and much more to the same effect, if the "Vestryman" will call, or send to my surgery any day, with an hour or two of notice. Of course, Sir, I feel flattered at such testimony, and I believe that what was said was meant; but where can the wits of your correspondent be that he did not know all this before he rushed into print.

As to the workhouse, that, I believe, Sir, was entirely your own affair—part of a plan begun before, and continued after, your visit to St. George's. While I was guardian I certainly did suggest two or three matters—e. g., baths, a more sheltered infirmary, and larger fireplaces for the children at Mitcham; and I observed a great willingness on the part of our guardians to carry out the suggestions. Once I recollect we adjourned, late in the evening, from the weekly meeting, to visit the "den of horrors," and that was one reason why we readily agreed to build new wards at considerable expense. One or two of the worst members of the vestry still leaven the board of guardians; with this exception they are all, I believe, feeling-hearted men. The same enemy no doubt expects in this to sow discord between me and the guardians (some of my best friends and fellow-workers are there), as he has succeeded in doing between me and the medical officer of health.

Your correspondent is at liberty to make as many general charges and insinuations as he likes, but if he is a true man he should see without delay to the long list of cases set forth in my "London Vestries" and in the *Builder* of Sept. 16th. If these are not enough, I can supply him with many more, and, amongst the rest, the addresses of 116 cases sent this year to the Fever Hospital from this parish, some three and four from a house. If my cases and the *Builder's* are false, I am sure your correspondent will be pleased to denounce them and me; but if they are true, I ask him, what then is his duty?—and I expect an answer, or the resignation of the office he so neglects or mistakes.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Newington-causeway, Sept. 25th, 1865. WILLIAM RENDLE.

MULTIPLE FATTY TUMOURS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—From the report of a case of Multiple Fatty Tumours by C. C. Richards, M.D., published in THE LANCET of the 17th of June last, p. 630, it appears that such instances are of unusual occurrence, and deserve publication for the information of the profession. I beg, therefore, to communicate a short account of a case of similar nature which occurred in my practice in the Government Charitable Dispensary of Rawul-Pindee in the Punjab.

Mungah, a native of Poonah, in the territory of the Maharajah of Cashmere. He is a Mahomedan agriculturer, nearly forty years of age, and appears in good health, with the exception of the tumour, which is situated on the right gluteal region. His body is studded with berry-like elevations. There are several larger than berries, such as one on the left eyebrow, another on the left upper arm, and a third on the chest, &c.; in fact, he has a tumour diathesis.

The gluteal tumour was first noticed by him about twelve months ago, at which time it was about the size of a hen's egg, was unaccompanied with pain, and arose without his being able to assign any cause, gradually increasing to its present size, which rather exceeds the dimensions of a middling-sized pumpkin. The surface of the tumour has sloughed throughout its whole extent, probably from pressure of growth and friction of the surface. The sloughs were loose on the surface, and emitted a fetid odour. The tumour was irregular on its surface, not pendulous, but seemed imbedded in the soft parts of the gluteal region. In consistence it was hard and nodulated. The base was narrow in proportion to the bulge of the tumour, and was apparently attached to the integuments and cellular tissue covering the gluteal muscles. The skin all round was not healthy. No veins of any size were perceptible. No pain was felt on pressure. From its encroaching on the sacral spine it was thought to have some deep connexions; but that opinion was groundless, as no sign of paralysis was present.

On the 12th of March I removed the tumour by carefully dissecting it out from all its attachments, which did not ap-

* London Vestries, pp. 21, 17, 22.

† Representative Government, p. 118, Popular Edition.

pear to dip deeper than the gluteal muscles. The tumour weighed seven pounds, and was fatty. It appeared to originate from a nucleus which on section was hard and gristly. No vessels required tying, but the bleeding was suppressed by cold and pressure. The wound contracted and filled up without any untoward symptom. The patient was discharged on the 26th of April, when the wound was nearly healed.

He returned to the Dispensary nearly three months after, on account of a tumour growing again from the same situation, which burst open the cicatrix, and grew to the size of an orange without being covered by the skin. The skin all round its base was diseased. His general health being good, I excised the tumour on the 26th of July, and examined the wound to ascertain that the extirpation was complete. Bleeding at this time was more profuse than at first. The patient is under treatment, and doing well.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. WRITTON JOY BOSE,
Rawul-Pindee Government Dispensary, Sub-Assist.-Surgeon.
July 29th, 1865.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Dr. Russell Reynolds writes to impugn the accuracy of a statement in the Students' Number of THE LANCET respecting University College and Hospital, which statement I believe to be correct. It was that "the principal medical officers must be professors in their respective colleges;" and Dr. Reynolds replies that only one of the physicians and one of the surgeons *lecture* in the College. This is perfectly true; but the fact still remains that the principal medical officers *are* professors in University College. I turn to Dr. Reynolds's name in the Medical Directory (corrected by himself), and I find that he is Special Professor of Clinical Medicine in University College and physician to University College Hospital; Dr. Hare also is stated by himself to be Professor of Clinical Medicine in University College and physician to the hospital; Mr. Quain, too, is Professor of Clinical Surgery in University College and surgeon to the hospital. In fact, it is impossible for a man to be a "professor" save in an incorporated college, as Dr. Reynolds ought to know. I say nothing of Mr. Marshall and Mr. Thompson, because their appointments are peculiar, since they have charge of out-patients as well as in-patients, and their names do not appear under the head of "Surgical Clinical Lectures," which are announced to be delivered "especially by Mr. Quain and Mr. Erichsen."

The latter part of Dr. Reynolds's letter is quite beside the question; for of course at University College, as at every other medical school, lecturers are appointed who have no hospital connexion; though his illustrations are not very happy ones, as the three first-named gentlemen have been made assistant-physicians since they were made professors.

In conclusion, I suppose Dr. Reynolds does not deny that in both University and King's the professorships of Medicine, Midwifery, and Surgery (and at the latter Anatomy and Physiology also) are combined with principal appointments at the respective hospitals.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Sept. 1865.

F.R.C.S.

ON SYPHILIZATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Professor Boeck, of Christiania, in his article on Syphilization published in your journal of the 19th of August, states: "It is well known, I believe, to the readers of THE LANCET, that M. Auzias Turenne is the author of this method, and that he found by making inoculations upon the lower animals that they gradually acquired immunity from the effect of the syphilitic virus, or became no longer inoculable."

From what I have read on the subject, I considered it to be a settled fact in physiology that the lower animals were not susceptible to the syphilitic poison, and that inoculation had been tried without having any effect in producing the disease in them. Mr. C. H. Moore, surgeon to the Middlesex Hospital, is evidently of the same opinion as myself, as in an article, "On the Antecedent Conditions of Cancer," read at the meeting of the British Medical Association held at Lea-

mington, he states: "In looking round upon other known diseases as probable sources whence cancer may spring, we cannot but regard tubercle and syphilis as having a suspicious alliance to it from their manifest similarity in several pathological and clinical points." But suspicion is disarmed in the case of syphilis by the observation of cancer where syphilis does not occur—namely, amongst the lower animals. Perhaps Professor Boeck will kindly state if he has ever tried to inoculate any of the lower animals with the syphilitic poison, and with what effect.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Bungay, Sept. 23rd, 1865.

JAMES GARDNER.

MALFORMATION OF THE HANDS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following sketch of the hands of a child, differing remarkably from the normal type, may be interesting to your readers.

This very peculiar conformation has been transmitted by the male parent for three generations, the mother and grandmother of the child having well-formed hands.

The transmission of peculiarities of structure is a subject at present of considerable interest. This is a remarkable example of the permanency of an unusual conformation, and will be a useful instance for those engaged in the inquiry.

The fingers are webbed to the tips, the little finger having an extra nail.

The thumb is formed of three sets of phalanges in the right hand, in the left of two sets, webbed together; the right thumb being furnished with three nails, the left with two.

Each member forms a prehensile paw.

The child's father and grandfather had similar hands. The child is very active and intelligent. The little toe of the right foot is webbed to the next toe. Some (not all) of the brothers and sisters of the little boy have similar hands.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

JOHN HARKER, L.R.C.P.E. (exam.), &c.

King-street, Lancaster, Sept. 1865.

THE LIGATURE AND THE CLAMP IN THE TREATMENT OF HÆMORRHOIDS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Whilst the present controversy is going on in your journal with respect to the relative value of the clamp and ligature in the removal of hæmorrhoids, the following case may be worth recording in favour of Mr. H. Smith's clamp, the instrument I used in the operation.

Mrs. H—, the wife of a dairy farmer, was attended by me during her first confinement in the beginning of January, 1864. I found that she was suffering very much from piles, and she seemed very anxious to have something done for them. I suggested their removal in a few months' time, when she had got over her confinement. Accordingly I removed them on the 12th of July by the aid of Smith's clamp and the strong nitric acid. There were two of them, each about the size of a gooseberry. She went on well, and on the 15th her bowels were relieved, and there was then slight hæmorrhage. On the following day she was up and going about her usual work. She has not had any return of the complaint, and has expressed herself in grateful terms for the relief from the pain she used to suffer.

I remain, Sir, yours very faithfully,

Swindon, Sept. 7th, 1865.

A. L. GRIFFITH, M.D. &c.