DIABETES MELLITUS.—CASE OF MR. S.—Y.

DR. BARRY AND DR. AYRE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—At the sitting of the 16th ult. of the Westminster Medical Society, Dr. Ayre introduced the details of this case, which he stated to have been perfectly cured by him by topical bleeding only. This, he said, proved not only the success of the treatment employed, but also the correctness of his conclusions, that diabetes consists in a local disease of the kidneys. As Mr. S. had come under my care in the beginning of January, with decided diabetic symptoms, had continued to follow my directions up to the day of the meeting, and, though much relieved, was not yet cured, I thought it my duty to quit the chair for the purpose of joining in the discussion, and to state to the Society what I knew on the subject, in order to prevent the adoption of hasty impressions.

When at the next meeting of the Society I explained, from documents furnished by Mr. S.—y himself, how Dr. Ayre had been misled, and showed that he was warranted in supposing that he had performed a cure of diabetes by cupping on the loins, I did so for the purpose of re-establishing peace and good will amongst all the parties concerned, and for the purpose of placing Dr. Ayre and myself on a proper footing with the Society, on the subject of this case. Finding, however, by Dr. Ayre's letter of the 29th ult. to you, that he will accept of nothing less than the whole merit of the cure, and that he still persists in making this supposed cure, the basis of a theory and a plan of treatment in this most important disease, I feel myself compelled, in my own defence, to request that you will be kind enough to publish the following letter, just received from Mr. S. You will be pleased to give only the initials of his name; the original letter may be referred to in my possession.

*Junior United Service Club, Dover Street,
London, 11th March, 1828.*

Dear Sir,—Having observed in THE LANCET, a publication of the treatment of my disease by Dr. Ayre, and as a full statement of my case may prove serviceable in future diseases of the kind, I beg leave to give you the following explanation, which you are fully at liberty to publish. I have written upon the subject to Dr. Ayre, whose kindness to me was extreme, during the time I was under his care.

Through the suggestion of some intimate friends and relatives, who did not consider my progress towards recovery sufficient, I

consulted you, and I feel excessively sorry that I should have been the cause of giving rise to a discussion between you and Dr. Ayre. I take the whole blame to myself, of leading Dr. Ayre to believe that my total recovery had taken place under his care. I did, in the first instance, receive considerable benefit from Dr. Ayre's advice, and motives of delicacy alone prevented me from informing him that I had taken your advice, and was living according to your directions while at Brighton.

The statement published by Dr. Ayre is perfectly correct, up to the 7th of January, except the *radical cure*. I was *not recovered* when I consulted you, but consider myself now as quite cured; and I attribute it to my having implicitly followed your direction of *an exclusively animal diet, the use of vapour baths, and the other measures which you prescribed.*

The discrepancy between the statement of my weight to Dr. Ayre, and that contained in my last letter to you, is accounted for by the effect of my journey to Brighton.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Very faithfully yours,

G. H. S.

To Dr. Barry, M.D.,

26, Welbeck Street.

In justice to Dr. Ayre, for whose talents and acquirements as a physician I entertain the highest respect, I beg leave to add, that Mr. S. was twice cupped on the loins, and once leeches on the ankles, whilst under my care, and that I believe him to have been benefited by these bleedings.

As I have no wish to occupy my own time, nor your columns, by entering into a theoretical discussion on the subject of diabetes, at present, I shall merely observe, that, whether with regard to this, or any other disease, that theory cannot be the best which precludes or dispenses with the use of tried and safe remedies.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D. BARRY.

26, Welbeck Street,
13 March, 1828.

ADVANTAGES OF THE WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I entirely differ in opinion with those, who deprecate all appeals to the press, in matters of dispute between pupils and their instructors. The tribunal of public opinion is the one best adapted to the unveiling of truth, and the exposure of falsehood. I therefore think, "*Discipulus Æsculapii*" has done well in THE LANCET of to-day, in stating his grievances to the pub-

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