SEVEN CASES OF
STONE IN THE BLADDER,
 SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY
BARON HEURTELOUP.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have the pleasure of transmitting for publication in your influential journal, sketches of eight additional cases of stone in the bladder, cured by the system of percussion. Four years have elapsed since Baron Heurteloup first arrived in this country for the purpose of introducing the lithotritic art as it was then practised. Your readers will recollect that his reception by the surgeons of this metropolis was much less cordial than polite. The zealous and energetic temper of my friend, however, was not to be daunted by the faint praises of some or the sneers of others. His activity in diffusing information respecting the novel method was only equalled by his dexterity of manipulation, and in a few months he made no little impression on the ranks of the sceptics. A series of successful operations proved the superior efficacy of his instruments over those of all his contemporaries, and up to the summer of 1831, he had fairly entitled himself to be considered the most skilful of lithotritists. At this period his adaptation of the principle of percussion to the fracture of calculi, quite altered the character of the art, both by extending its agency to more difficult cases, and by simplifying the construction of the instruments employed. The triumphs over inveterate disease which Heurteloup's percussor has achieved, are perhaps unequalled in the annals of surgery, and while they place him far beyond rivalry, entitle him to the gratitude of his species. Whilst I call to mind the difficulties he had to encounter from the jealousy of one class, the prejudices of another, and the indifference of all to the success of a foreigner, a stranger to our language and manners, I feel peculiar satisfaction in publishing the successful result of Baron Heurteloup's exertions,—a daily increasing estimation amongst the members of our profession, and a proportionate extension of practice. I have now before me outlines of twenty cases, successfully treated with the percussor, and which I shall early transmit for your perusal. The operation by percussion was invented and brought to its present perfection in *England*, and therefore well entitles its author to those literary and professional distinctions with

which he is about to be invested. The Baron is at this moment at Paris, and has taken with him an English patient, by operating on whom he intends to demonstrate the efficiency of the percussor before the commission of the Institute of France, and he will thus have the satisfaction of introducing to the Parisian faculty their own rickety bantling, improved by the air of England into a healthy adult.

It is pleasing to contemplate the great simplicity of this instrument, which, with a little alteration, promises to be manageable in the hands of the general surgeon. I will not trust myself to express an opinion respecting the recent attempt to deprive him of the merit of this invention, by one who first abused the percussor as inefficient and dangerous, and then magnanimously copied it; but I shall conclude by acknowledging the vitally important aid, which this science has derived, from being allowed a fair arena of discussion in the pages of your bold, uncompromising, and impartial journal. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

D. O. EDWARDS,

5, Marlborough-Place, Walworth,
 13th June, 1833.

CASE. I.—A LARGE STONE IN AN OLD SUBJECT.

Mr. B*** had been complaining some time of symptoms that led Mr. Brodie and myself, who were attending him, to suspect that there was stone in the bladder. He was accordingly sounded about the 14th or 15th of February last, when a stone was immediately discovered, and the alternative of being cut, or of submitting to the lithotriptic operation, was laid before him. He chose the latter, and an appointment being made, he called at Baron Heurteloup's house, on the 19th February, where I met him. The Baron then introduced a sound, and having ascertained the presence of a stone, without delay set about the operation of breaking it, which was done without any apparent difficulty or suffering to the patient, the operation not lasting three minutes. Mr. B*** then returned in his carriage to his house in Grosvenor-Place. During the night a considerable number of fragments of the calculus, which was lithic acid, were passed. Towards morning a large fragment lodged in the urethra, prevented the passage of the urine, and caused an accumulation in the bladder; this was removed, but it was followed by an incomplete paralysis of the bladder, which was, however, of short duration. After this, it required five other operations before