

We understand that her skeleton is now being prepared, and that Dr. Macartney proposes to place her heart in an urn beside that of Dr. O'Connor, who has disposed of his body in a similar manner.

This, we believe, is the first example of a woman having bequeathed her body for anatomical examination.

LETTER FROM DR. ELLIOTSON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your last number, I observe a letter from Mr. Jewel, in which he mentions my name very handsomely, but remarks that, in my recommendation of a remedy, originally proposed by him, “a little more courtesy might have been expected from a gentleman, &c., upon the introduction of the subject to the notice of his clinical class.”

Being altogether unconscious of any want of courtesy, I have referred to the report of my lecture, and found my words were, “It was originally recommended by a surgeon of the name of Jewel, and in consequence of his recommendation I have frequently employed it.”

I can discover no want of courtesy in this; and, at least, I can assure Mr. Jewel that I intended none. My clinical lectures are seldom premeditated; and frequently, as was the case in the present instance, I do not know what I am to speak of till I open the hospital books on the lecture table. Finding a woman admitted with leucorrhœa had left my wards cured, I spoke of her case; and, lest the pupils should think the remedy successfully employed had not been suggested to me by another practitioner, I informed them that, for my knowledge of its utility, I was indebted to a surgeon, and that his name was Jewel.

Nothing is more likely than that, in addressing pupils at an easy, fugitive, clinical lecture,—young gentlemen who have not yet had time to become acquainted with the names and histories of the numerous great authors in our profession, I might, when speaking of membranes, *incidentally* tell them, that the best work upon the subject was by a “French physician of the name of Bichat;” or, when speaking *incidentally* of the discovery of the circulation, that it was made by “a physician of the name of Harvey.”

Those of Mr. Jewel’s friends who best know me, will feel assured that I could have intended no discourtesy, more especially since, from my never having had the honour of seeing that gentleman, or of having the most indirect communication

with him, there could not have been the slightest provocation.

Although I *never* reply to mere attacks, I shall *always* be happy to do my best immediately to remove an *erroneous* impression of intentional incivility or unkindness from any one who complains of me.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

37, Conduit-street, Hanover-square,

August 18, 1832.

THE ANATOMY BILL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A clause in the new Anatomy Bill directs that “each body, after undergoing anatomical examination, be decently interred,” &c., “and that a certificate of the interment of such a body shall be transmitted to the inspector of the district within six weeks after the day on which such body was received.” Now let me observe, Mr. Editor, that if this act be honestly carried into effect (and an act of Parliament is of no use unless it be), the procurement of skeletons will be at once completely prevented, saying nothing about the impossibility of preserving bloodvessel preparations, which by-the-by are certainly not so necessary as skeletons, when there is plenty of dissection. Surely we were all asleep when we allowed this to become law, without objecting to it. There should, at all events, be some clear mode left open for procuring skeletons, which there does not at present seem to be now, and without it the profession, and even the welfare of mankind at large, will be in a desperate condition; for how necessary is it for both students and practitioners to have an abundant collection of bones of their own, not only for the purpose of making and keeping themselves familiar with osteology, but also with the nature and method of reducing fractures and dislocations! I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. D. DERMOTT.

Theatre of Anatomy and Surgery, Westminster
Dispensary, Gerrard Street, Aug. 20th.

*** Whatever may be the defects of the Anatomy Bill, it must be quite obvious to the readers of this Journal, that THE LANCET is in no degree accountable for them. We opposed the measure because we discovered its inadequacy for gaining the object in view. The supporters of the Bill were undoubtedly actuated by good motives, but their knowledge of the subject was, from the outset, too evidently, lamentably indifferent.—ED. L.