

tained." Prudent man; the right sort of speculation that, "some cases cured by homœopathic treatment to form the conclusion of the work: price to subscribers, 3s.; to non-subscribers, 5s." Moderate, indeed!

He might, moreover, have contrived to have added, that "the disciples of Hahnemann are doing God service," and to have shown to the profession how homœopathy will be able to banish surgery; for this, if Dr. Epps is to be believed, will assuredly be done. Spirit of Sir Astley, keep your present abode, you have escaped in time: neither honours nor rich rewards will be reaped by your department in future. Liston may, therefore, go north again; Green may sojourn altogether at Barnet; Key, Keate, Brodie, and the Coopers, *et id genus omne*, may sorrowfully chant their occupations gone, for homœopathy and Dr. Epps will take their places.

But to be serious. Homœopathy may be either proved or disproved by experiment; not, perhaps, satisfactorily on the limited scale on which private individuals would be able to attempt it, but on the authority of our public medical bodies, and in the extended sphere possessed by our hospital physicians.

The experiments of Andral and Baly at the Hôtel Dieu, instituted on the recommendation of the French minister, Guizot, to the Academy of Medicine, were condemned in unqualified terms by Dr. Epps as unsatisfactory and unfair, and were placed by him in juxta-position with the experiments performed by Mr. Wakley on magnetism in Bedford-square, which Dr. Epps also stated were unfairly performed: from which I infer that the doctor is a believer in the deceptions of mesmerism. It would have been more satisfactory, however, to myself as one of his hearers, if, instead of mere assertion which he so much deprecates, he had diverged a little from his path, and pointed out in what respect and to what extent the experiments in Bedford-square were unfairly performed. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM HEMPSON DENHAM.

June 27, 1841.

TOOTH INSTRUMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Under the head "Tooth Instruments," in THE LANCET, of May 29, are some observations by Mr. Stevens, on the different directions of the dislodging force of the key instrument, resulting from the different positions of the fulcrum. Mr. Stevens has described the instrument as exerting its dislodging force in the segment of a circle, the centre of which is the fulcrum. Now that would be its direction, if the claw were fixed immovably on the shaft of the instrument, in which case it would form a radius,

turning on the centre of motion, in the fulcrum; but as the claw is attached to the shaft by a hinge, it follows that when the shaft is made to revolve on the fulcrum, the claw must follow the shaft in a direct line from its point to its hinge; which may be easily seen by applying the instrument to a piece of wax, moulded into the form of a tooth and gum, when the point of the claw will move in the direction described.

From which it appears, that the direction of the force is even more horizontal than Mr. Stevens has described it, and which is one of the disadvantages of the key-instrument, causing frequently fracture of the alveolus. It would occupy too much space to describe the proper mode of applying the instrument, as that must vary according to the tooth to be extracted; but it may be laid down as a rule, that the point of the claw should never be higher than its hinge. Now the very form of instrument condemned by Mr. Stevens, is that which allows of the most favourable direction of force, as from the distance between the fulcrum and the hinge, when the former is placed on the gum, the latter will be higher than in the other instrument, and therefore will produce a better direction of force. It is true that the long fulcrum diminishes the power of the instrument; but it is still formidable enough, and I would recommend, if the tooth do not yield to a moderate force with either instrument, that the operation be finished with the elevator or forceps. It will be seen, also, as the direction of the pressure or resistance of the fulcrum is always from the fulcrum to the point of the claw, that the short fulcrum will be more liable to crush a hollow crown, from the direction of the resistance being nearly opposed to that of the force.

I can bear testimony to Mr. Stevens's statement, that much suffering is the consequence of the want of knowledge of the true power of the key-instrument; and I trust that any attempt to aid in its correct description will be favourably received by him. I am, Sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,

GEORGE DRUMMOND.

Croydon, June 14, 1841.

TOOTH INSTRUMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Mr. Lintott's arguments on the key tooth-instrument, which appeared in THE LANCET last week, in answer to my letter of the week before, are not at all satisfactory to my understanding; I, therefore, beg your permission to make a few more practical observations upon the subject, for I feel confident with your correspondent, Mr. Houlton, "that most of the failures with