

the tumour occasioned little inconvenience at present, it would extend, and ultimately degenerate, and would then require a much more severe operation, and great deformity would be the consequence. With regard to the cause, he said that it was most likely produced by smoking a short pipe. Mr. LISTON then observed, that the instruments required for an operation like the present were very simple, being a bistoury, pins, and sutures. There were many different kinds of forceps for holding the lip while cutting it, which he would show at another opportunity; but he advised them always to use their *fingers*, if possible, in preference to instruments, many of which were invented only for those whose fingers were useless. He (Mr. LISTON) had endeavoured all his life to simplify modern *treatment, apparatus, and operations*.

Previous to the operation, Professor COOPER entered the theatre, and informed the pupils that the University had already, as they were aware, received a verbal recognition of the Hospital, from the Council of the College of Surgeons; but that he now held in his hand the written one. (*Applause*.)

Mr. LISTON then proceeded to deliver his clinical lecture, which we have reported at page 582.

CASE OF DIABETES MELLITUS AT THE
NOTTINGHAM INFIRMARY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the notice to correspondents in your last week's Number, there is a statement from Dr. J. M. Davidson, our "senior" physician, accusing me of having published a case of diabetes mellitus in THE LANCET, which had been under his care in the General Hospital, without his "sanction;" the inference from which, I suppose, is, that I have made an improper use of his case-book. This, I beg distinctly to state, is untrue, and Dr. J. M. Davidson knows it to be so.

"Sanction" appears to be rather a stilted term even for a "senior" physician to apply to a junior; but let that pass. Dr. J. M. D. also complains that the history of his treatment of the case alluded to is not correct:—the answer to this is, that it was copied *verbatim* from Dr. J. M. D.'s case-book by one of the apprentices to the Hospital. I should be inclined to suppose, that in the grave "senior's" estimation its perfect accuracy is its greatest fault.

There is no one who will be happier than myself to see published the more extended history of the case, which Dr. J. M. D. has promised to give, and I can assure him, that he has my full "sanction" to make any use he pleases of my notes, taken during the six months the poor man was under my management, and previous to his having obtained the advantages to be derived from the skill and experience of the "senior" physician. I remain, your very obedient servant,

R. HUTCHINSON.

Nottingham, Jan. 13th, 1835.

* * As we publish this letter without abridgment, we think it right to extract from the letter of Dr. Davidson a few additional sentences, that Dr. D. may not consider himself unfairly treated. He remarked, "My colleague, who communicated the case to you, employed one of the apprentices of the hospital to transcribe the rough notes contained in my hospital case-book, without having obtained my sanction or asked my permission! There are, moreover, some egregious blunders in the transcription of these very imperfect notes. For instance, on one occasion, I am represented as having directed Mist. Crot. (Cretæ) 0j; Tinct Opii f. ʒij; Acidi Hydrocyanici f. 3j, *to be taken three times a day!* The only interesting feature in the case is the milky appearance of the serum of the blood abstracted, together with the chemical results obtained by my friend Mr. Grisenthwaite, which are but imperfectly described by my colleague. I scarcely need remind your readers, that this appearance has been before observed in diabetes, as well as in other diseases bearing no other resemblance to it."—With regard to blunders in the transcription, we shall be glad to correct any which appear, but at present can only refer to the statement in the foregoing letter of Dr. Hutchinson, observing, that the printed "notes" of the case are a literal copy (with a readily detectable clerical error or two) of the manuscript forwarded to us. Respecting the absence of all "sanction," for its publication, we must say, that while we are not surprised at the employment of the word, we greatly regret that the clasp of hospital case-books are not yet considered free to be unhastened by any professional man who is qualified to peruse and comprehend the information which they conceal.—ED. L.