

TRIAL BLEEDINGS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—As a pupil of Dr. Marshall Hall, I must beg to call Mr. Ancell and your readers attention to an error in that gentleman's lecture, in your last Number. Dr. Hall has no where proposed the "trial bleedings," mentioned by Mr. Ancell. I should not have noticed this subject had not the original plan of Dr. Hall been of the first practical importance. I trust Mr. Ancell will be induced, by this note, to read Dr. Hall's work, and give a true account of the subject in his next lecture. He will find that Dr. Hall's proposition is limited to cases in which it is previously determined to be proper. At page 218 of the first volume of THE LANCET, for 1837, 1838, it is stated:—This proposition applies to every case in which it is required to bleed the patient fully; and "this is the plan which I recommend you to adopt. Determine the first question, that the case requires the full detraction of blood, by the history, symptoms, the diagnosis," &c. How different is all this from Mr. Ancell's statement. "Cases now and then occur, in which it is difficult to determine whether bleeding is indicated, or the contrary." In such cases Dr. Marshall Hall recommends, &c.

I will not close this note without recommending, to the consideration of the junior amongst your readers, Dr. Hall's most important rule for blood-letting. It is one, in the application of which I have found the greatest satisfaction; it is one which has sometimes emboldened me to go on with a remedy at once powerful and safe: and it is one which has, in other cases, arrested me in a course of what would have been dangerous depletion. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

NEMO.

MR. GRAY AND THE REV. MR. BURNES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—In consequence of the Rev. J. Burnes, of Enon chapel, having waited upon me in reference to the letter which was inserted in the LANCET, I consider it my duty to apprise the public, that he is not the person who is connected with the Lung Hospital of Dr. Sherriffs, and therefore my observations can have no reference to him. I was led into this error by Mr. C., a surgeon, who occasionally preaches for Mr. Burnes, who gratuitously called on, and gave the information to me respecting Mr. Burnes. I am, Sir, yours,

Dec. 20th, 1839.

JOHN GRAY.

A NEW READING OF AN OLD SAYING.

MR LYNN exhibited to the students and Sir Anthony, some needles which he had made for the purpose of trying Velpeau's

method of obliterating varicose veins, and expressed his opinion that they were not strong enough for the purpose. "You have only to pass them through a mould candle," said Sir "Tony," "and they will be made pliable to operate with." "Teach your grandmother to suck eggs," contemptuously cried Mr. Lynn. "Teach your grandmother to do what?" said the senior surgeon, "Why man, you have made a mistake in that venerable saying, it is 'Teach your grandmother to cook eggs.'" Sir Anthony looked round for the approving smiles of the students, at his wonderful erudition.

MR. MAYO.—This gentleman having called our attention to a note which was appended to the paper of Mr. ACTON in the last Number of THE LANCET, we have to inform Mr. MAYO, that it was written by the sub-editor, and did not happen to be submitted to the inspection of Mr. WAKLEY before publication. On referring to the sub-editor on the subject, and making known to him the complaint of Mr. MAYO, his reply is, that he "holds himself to be responsible for the import of the remarks which the note contains."—ED. L.

The state of Mr. WALFORD's health has compelled that gentleman to retire from the Aldersgate-street School, which establishment Dr. WALLER has again joined as lecturer on midwifery.

CORRESPONDENTS.

Numerous correspondents have forwarded to us criticisms on the treatment of the case related by Mr. Simpson, but in each instance the contribution is anonymous. We will insert the first that is authenticated with a name and address for publication.

A Stranger in London. There is not in the metropolis such a library as is demanded.

MR. E. L.—We do not doubt the pecuniary distress of the applicant. Habitual beggars are always in difficulties.

The letters from Middlesex Hospital Students next week.

The communications of Mr. Lambton, Mr. Gurney, Mr. Hy. Bond, Dr. Furniss, Medicus Monensis, A Student at Guy's, Mr. John Terence, Mr. Graves, and Mr. Matthewson, have been received.

Monos has been received; so has the letter from Bristol, but the communication could not be inserted this week. The engraving with Mr. Duke's has unavoidably been delayed.

The reply to *An Old Apprentice* cannot be given. He has every material for forming his judgment already before him in the pages of this Journal. Who can pronounce this year what will be the events of the next?