

that the possible advantage is very much more than counter-balanced by the probable injury that may result from this plan."

From this opinion I must totally dissent, not upon any theoretical view, but from the actual result of experience. Whilst holding office at King's College Hospital, I had repeated opportunities of seeing the excellent effects of the application of leeches to the circumference of inflamed and painful ulcers—a mode of treatment adopted by Mr. Fergusson; and I was so struck with the benefits derived from this plan, that it became a regular part of my treatment in those cases where I could employ it. I have never seen it fail, nor have I ever seen ulceration of the leech-bites ensue; on the contrary, great and permanent relief has been given to the patients.

This treatment is particularly adapted to those large and inflamed ulcerations which are seen occasionally on the limbs of persons who live well, such as cooks, butlers, and lazy porters; also to cases of menstrual ulcers, which are sometimes very painful, and refractory to remedies. I must beg to apologize to Mr. Critchett, whose lectures I am sure every surgeon will read with pleasure, and whose position ought, perhaps, to preclude me from thus expressing an opinion at variance with his own; but I feel it my duty to defend a practice which I learned from my own honoured and distinguished teacher, and which I know to be good.

I have heard Mr. Fergusson say that he has been in the habit of employing leeches to the circumference of inflamed ulcers, and even to their surface, for many years, with great benefit, and he informed me that he cannot call to mind a single instance in which the bites were attacked by ulceration or sloughing. This assertion, coming from so high an authority, will surely add weight to the opinion I have expressed with reference to this point, and perhaps may induce Mr. Critchett to speak less disparagingly of this mode of treatment.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY SMITH,

Caroline-street, Bedford-square, October, 1848.

Formerly House Surgeon to King's College Hospital.

P.S.—Whilst I have my pen in hand, I may as well refer to a letter in the last LANCET, (Oct. 28,) from a "Country Practitioner," respecting the late operations of excision of the head of the femur. Although my own case is not especially mentioned, doubtless many surgeons are anxious to know the result of the operation. My patient has had signal relief for several months, and there has been, until within the last few weeks, every probability of ultimate well doing. But, unfortunately, a new disease has recently sprung up in the same patient, in the shape of granular kidney, and I have no doubt that, ere long, he will sink under this unlooked-for complication. Your readers may be assured that so soon as the final result is known, I shall publish full particulars of the operation, and subsequent history; and I trust that others who have performed it will do the same, whether their cases have been successful or otherwise.

#### ON ROSEOLA PUNCTATA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to send you the following additional information on the rare case of cutaneous eruption, appropriately termed roseola punctata, by Mr. Erasmus Wilson, and by him so minutely and accurately described in THE LANCET a fortnight ago. This man had been suffering for some time with his first and severe attack of gonorrhœa, and had taken a good deal of copaiba, in large doses, which checked the discharge a few days before the eruption appeared. I was requested to see him, and was told that I should most likely find it a mere rash from the effects of copaiba. However, when I saw it, I was completely perplexed to define the nature of the eruption, although I had seen some thousand cases of cutaneous affections at the iron works; it appeared to me a complete case of *trita juncta in uno*—viz., measles, scarlet fever, and small pox—with the symptoms of each. As I was not the medical attendant to the establishment, I saw no more of the patient until he left the small-pox hospital; he had then his head covered over with a handkerchief, having a large abscess on the side of his face; and he informed me that the cuticle had come off the whole of his body. Those gentlemen who devote their time particularly to institutions for the treatment of cutaneous diseases, will perhaps be able to enlighten us as to the cause of this peculiar and singular eruption.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Brewer-street, Nov. 1848.

JOHN DAVID, M.D.

#### CHLOROFORM IN CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In to-day's LANCET you have inserted Dr. Hill's letter to the Times on chloroform in cholera. The subject is highly important at this critical period, and the public owe Dr. Hill a deep debt of gratitude for his communication. He has, however, unconsciously fallen into error, in supposing that Mr. Ferguson was the first to suggest chloroform in cholera.

So far back as December 16th, 1847, I published a letter in the *Dumfries and Galloway Herald*, (in reply to a paragraph in that paper,) wherein, after giving a successful case, I distinctly pointed out that chloroform was likely to be of the most essential service in cholera, and certainly Dr. Hill's cases corroborate in the strongest terms what I then stated.

The use of chloroform in cholera is in its infancy, but I have not the slightest doubt that, when properly applied, it will be found a most efficacious and invaluable remedy, and this is a mere repetition of the opinion I formerly expressed when studying it in a therapeutical point of view.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES MOFFAT, M.D. Edin.

Royal Edinburgh Asylum, Nov. 4, 1848.

#### TRACHEOTOMY AND HYDROPHOBIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have just seen THE LANCET for September 16th, 1848, in which a note appears from Mr. James Turner, who claims the merit of having first suggested tracheotomy as a remedy for hydrophobia. In justice to Mr. Herbert Mayo, who I believe is not at present in England, I think it right to state, that I heard him recommend the remedy in his lectures about eighteen years ago. Dr. M. Hall has also admitted, in his lectures, published in your journal some years since, that Mr. Mayo was the first person who proposed the remedy.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A PUPIL OF MR. MAYO IN 1830.

Truro, November, 1848.

#### PROJECTED MONUMENT TO HARVEY, AT FOLKSTONE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A committee has recently been formed here, whose object is to raise funds for the erection of a monument to the commemoration of Harvey in his native town. It is considered that an application to the medical profession, through your columns, will have the effect of making the subject generally known amongst its members, and of stimulating each and all to exert their influence with their friends and patients towards the fulfilment of this undertaking. The committee therefore request the favour of your kind assistance and co-operation, feeling convinced that it is only by such means that success can be expected to result.

The Earl of Radnor has kindly granted the most eligible site of ground on his Folkstone estate; and the subscriptions for this town at present amount to about £25.

The committee is composed of the mayor, the magistrates, and the medical men of the town; and the manager of the National Provincial Bank, Folkstone, is the treasurer.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

MICHAEL MINTER, Hon. Sec.

Folkstone, Oct. 29, 1848.

#### DR. RANKING AND HIS PAY-IN-ADVANCE CIRCULARS.

UNDER the above notification a letter signed "J. J." was inserted in p. 508 of the last number of THE LANCET. With reference to that note, Dr. RANKING has forwarded to us the following somewhat angry communication. The complaint of "J. J." certainly was not couched in polite, or even in very civil terms, but Dr. Ranking must be aware that there are persons who at this time are smarting somewhat severely under the pay-in-advance system. We think Dr. Ranking is unnecessarily angry; but if he attempts to issue his work in what is deemed by the bookselling trade an irregular manner, and if he thus courts their hostility, he must not complain if he occasionally receives a few severe blows. In making an uncivil return, they only consider they are giving a Roland for an Oliver. Only a short time since, advertise-