

and I was the more readily led to this conclusion from a perfect persuasion that such an accumulation of unfavourable circumstances must necessarily render the success of lithotomy still less doubtful.

I therefore consented to operate on Mr. Spencer, and employed a "perce-pierre" with only one hook on account of the irregularities of the bladder. After several applications of this instrument we had the satisfaction, not only to relieve the patient of all the stones which his bladder contained, but to see the urine become clear, and retained in larger quantities; the desire to make water was less frequently felt, and was accompanied with little or no pain; the internal membrane was even and firm, and did not bleed at the introduction of a sound; the hematuria ceased entirely, and, in a word, there was a cessation of all the bad symptoms which had before existed.

The stream of water, though considerably better, is not, even now, quite as it should be; this depends on the enlargement of the prostate gland.

Mr. Spencer's case is remarkable for the happy change effected in his urinary organs, which were in a deplorable state before the operation; and, on account of the numerous difficulties which attended the manoeuvres during the operation; for, before the instruments could be applied, it was necessary to open the hydrocele; during their application we were obliged to compress the hernia; the calculi concealed themselves in the lateral pouches which existed in the patient's bladder; it was, therefore, necessary to find them out and place them with a sound on a smooth surface, before I could attempt to grasp them with the instruments; the bladder being lined with a soft, fungous membrane, it was very difficult to seize the stones, and more especially the fragments, without coming into close contact with this membrane, in the folds of which the fragments were entangled; finally, since the urine was not expelled with sufficient force to bring out the particles of stone, it was necessary to relieve the bladder of them mechanically by means of a large sound. Lithotrity, however, surmounted all these obstacles, and has proved successful in restoring to a favourable state of health a patient on whom lithotomy could not have been practised without the greatest risk of its proving fatal.

Mr. Spencer is now in the enjoyment of good health, and his bladder continues in the same favourable condition, with the exception that now and then there is a gravelly formation of phosphate of lime, which is for the most part expelled, but if it be too large to pass through the urethra I immediately comminute it. This tendency to form gravel will very probably cease in a short time,

either, as I before remarked, from a change in the constitution of the patient, or else by means of suitable draughts and injections.

I operated on Mr. Spencer in presence of Messrs. White, Gillet, my pupil Mr. Biggs, &c.

## CASES OF, CALCULUS IN THE BLADDER,

IN WHICH LITHOTOMY WAS PERFORMED.

By GEORGE MORRIS, Esq., of Rochdale,  
M.R.C.S., London.

ON the 27th of September, 1830, I was consulted by Thomas Lowe, ætat. 76, collier, of Crankey-Shaw in this place, on account of suffering from stone in the bladder. He stated that he had been troubled with the complaint for many years. On inquiry, I ascertained he was labouring under violent irritation and pain in the bladder, which caused him to void his urine and feces involuntarily; these attacks generally lasted from five days to a week, and came on at intervals of about the same time. On examination *per rectum*, I found the left lobe of the prostate gland very much enlarged. Four years ago he was admitted an inpatient of the Manchester Infirmary, where he remained some time; he was sounded by the surgeons of that institution, who candidly told him (to use the old man's own words) that if was cut he would die; on account of which, they advised him to return home and bear his sufferings with patience. I cannot imagine for what reason they refused to operate, unless it was from his advanced age and enlarged state of the prostate; but I have no doubt the gland was perfectly healthy, and merely enlarged from the long-continued irritation kept up by the foreign body. On the 29th of September I sounded him in conjunction with my friend and late master Mr. A. Wood, surgeon, of Rochdale (whose kindness and liberality on all occasions I am proud to acknowledge), and Mr. E. Grundy, surgeon, of Bury. We were all perfectly convinced of the presence of the stone, and I proposed to operate on him the ensuing 5th of October. To this he readily consented, and he said he had rather die than continue to live in such misery. In consequence of a violent degree of irritation taking place on the day after he was sounded the operation was postponed, and I ordered him the following mixture:—℞ *Sodæ carb.*, ʒiij; *ext. hyoscyam.*, ʒi; *aq. menth.*, f. ʒj; *mist. et camph.* f. ʒii. M. Of which he took two large table-spoonsful every four hours for the first day, and afterwards three times a day; this treatment completely removed his urgent symptoms. It is worthy of remark, that during these violent pa-

roxrms his pulse was never more than 75 in a minute, and his digestion was almost completely suspended; for after taking food, the stomach became distended with flatus, and only by ejecting the contents was he able to obtain relief. On the 9th of October I performed the lateral operation in the presence of Mr. A. Wood, Messrs. Rayner and Grundy, Surgeons, of Bury, and Mr. Bott, surgeon, of Ringley. The instruments used were, the straight staff, large-sized scalpel, and common stone forceps. The stone weighed 7 drachms; the surface was very rough, and of a dark-brown colour. On the 16th the wound was so far healed, that he voided his urine per urethram, on which day I allowed him to leave his bed. On the 22d I discontinued my attendance, he having perfectly recovered without any untoward symptoms; he has since remained quite well, with the exception of slight palsy of the superior extremities, with which he has been troubled for many years. From the difficulty I experienced in making the point of the scalpel slide in the groove of the staff, I had a knife made very similar to the one invented by the late Mr. Thomas Blizard, with this exception, that the extremity of the blade was merely rounded off, instead of being probe-pointed; this instrument I used on the 3rd of January, in the case of A. Tempest, of Rochdale, a boy ten years of age; from the facility with which it slid in the groove of the staff, I should strongly recommend a trial of it to surgeons in the habit of operating for stone. In twenty-three hours subsequent to the operation, the urine passed per urethram; on the 6th he left his bed; on the 17th, a fortnight after the operation, he had completely recovered. The stone in this case weighed 5½ lbs, and was similar in appearance to the former. Neither of these stones has been submitted to analysis, consequently I cannot speak as to the chemical composition. This I deem a matter of little moment. On this occasion my friends Messrs. A. Wood, Rayner, Grundy, and Mr. T. Wood, surgeon, of Halifax, kindly assisted me. My object in publishing the former of these cases, is to show that neither advanced age nor enlarged state of the prostate is a real objection to the performance of the operation, provided the constitution be otherwise healthy.

Rochdale, Jan. 22, 1831.

LEPROSY.—Dr. R. J. Thornton has forwarded to us an account of a case of leprosy, from which it appears “the vital air was successful in effecting a cure, after the patient had been dismissed as incurable from some dozen or two of hospitals. The patient was alleged at one time “skinned” to the amount of many pounds daily.

## THE LANCET.

*London, Saturday, February 12, 1831.*

THE subject of medical jurisprudence, within the last eight or ten years, has, in a variety of forms, been almost constantly engaging the attention of the profession. It was introduced as a new branch of science; arguments to prove its “vast and dignified utility” have been displayed upon the pages of numberless volumes, from the ponderous quarto down to the unpretending duodecimo, and a knowledge of it has been regarded by many as the *acme* of professional attainment. It was to convert the medical practitioner into a new character, and to place him before society as one of the most exalted of human beings; and to make him the monitor of the judge, the instructor of the jury, and a demonstrator to the counsel. But to what does all this bombastic phraseology amount? Fudge; mere fudge! “Medical jurisprudence,” as it is termed, is not in itself a science, neither has it added to the stores of our knowledge one single fact; nor, considered in the abstract, does it require the possession, on the part of the medical practitioner, of one particle of information of which it would be unnecessary for him to be possessed, were there no such institution in existence as that which is denominated “forensic medicine.” State medicine demands, in certain cases of death, in cases of suspected violence to females, accidents, and injuries arising from personal conflicts, that a practitioner should communicate in clear, distinct, and intelligible language, before a coroner and jury, or before a judge of assize and his jury, his knowledge of those circumstances of which he may be cognisant, connected with the case;—that he should be well acquainted with the anatomy, physiology, and pathology, of those parts of the body to which his attention may have been more particularly directed by the real or imaginary in: