

MEDICAL REFORM ESSAYS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—After a patient perusal of the various essays forwarded to the Medical Reform Association, the Committee of Examination* have decided that there are not any three deserving of the prizes, although many deserve considerable praise, from the talent and research displayed in them.

It is my duty therefore to inform the essayists that they can obtain their essays by sending a note, with the motto, when any more specific communication that it may be necessary to make, will be made.

I am further directed to communicate the fact that the 1007. will still remain in the hands of the Treasurer, Joseph Hume, Esq., M.P., and that the Association will be happy to receive any essays on the question originally propounded, which must be delivered in, on or before the end of December, 1836. Further particulars I shall take the liberty of requesting the insertion of in the pages of your journal in the course of a fortnight or three weeks. I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN EPPS, M.D.,

Hon. Sec. to the Med. Reform Assoc.

89, Great Russell-street,

Nov. 17, 1835.

CLINICAL LECTURES IN LONDON.—*To the Editor.*—Sir,—It is stated in your Number for November 7, that 12 years ago there was not a clinical lecture given in London. As regards the *Hospitals*, to which the statement *appears* to refer, this may be correct; but as the fact is not stated with such limitation, I beg to observe that Clinical Surgical Lectures were given regularly at the Finsbury Dispensary by myself in the October of 1821, subsequently to my election in the preceding April, and these were (I believe) the first clinical lectures delivered in London. Leaving it to you to make any use of this note you may think proper, I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE MACILWAIN.

Argyll-place, Nov. 17, 1835.

IODINE IN DIABETES MELLITUS.—*To the Editor.*—Sir,—The perusal in your excellent journal, of a paper on the discovery of sugar in the blood of a diabetic patient, has induced me to forward to you a notice of a case which I have treated successfully with iodine. The patient, a young

man, of about twenty years of age, had laboured under diabetes mellitus for upwards of two years, and had taken successively the mineral acid, tinct. ferri mur., et potassæ sulphas, but without effect. In the month of May last I commenced exhibiting *iodine*, in the different forms of the ioduret of iron, and of potassa, and, lastly, in the form of tincture. Shortly after the commencement of this treatment a good deal of expectoration took place, and mucus was thrown up regularly every morning. By degrees the urgency of the case subsided, and now, although the weather has become cold, very little tendency to diabetes remains. I hope that others may try the effects of this drug in this generally uncontrollable complaint, and watch its action and result. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. A. D.

Goswell-street-road, Nov. 17, 1835.

** Our correspondent should have added his name.

DISTRIBUTION OF SUBJECTS.—*To the Editor.*—Sir,—I shall feel obliged if some explanation is given in the next Number of your valuable periodical, of the cause of the present very unequal distribution of subjects for dissection; one of the west-end schools having as many, or more than they can dissect, whilst in the Borough we can get very few indeed, bearing no comparison to the demand, and proving a very serious inconvenience to the students in general.

I am, Sir, your constant reader,

A WEBB-STREET PUPIL.

Nov. 16, 1835.

** We much doubt if the “distribution” is unequal. Does our correspondent know the proportions on authentic information?

To the Editor.—Sir,—I throw myself on your justice, in transmitting the following reply to an article in a late Number of THE LANCET, Aug. 29, on the subject of “Dr. Wright’s Pearl Ointment for Cutaneous Diseases,” of which I am (by purchase) the proprietor. The writer of the article, without qualifying doubt, asserts that the active principles of this ointment are arsenic and bichloride of mercury,—yet it does not contain an atom of either of those substances! It is not surely too much, therefore, to expect that his pathological deductions are equally fallacious; and that the symptoms, which he describes as having succeeded to the use of the ointment, had no reference, in the connection of cause and effect, with the application. The writer of course is too honourable a man to ascribe effects to this ointment which he does not conscien-

* The names of the “Committee of Examination” ought to be made public, if they are not already known to the competitors.—ED. L.

tiously believe to have resulted from its use, or which he knows were produced by other treatment; he is evidently a man "who bears his faculties so meekly," that he is wont rather to extenuate faults than "set down aught in malice." * * * I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

ZACCHEUS HUNTER.

Webber Row, Blackfriars, Oct. 24, 1835.

* * No attack having been made by our correspondent, "A Licentiate," on the character of the late Dr. Wright of Stafford, we have omitted the concluding portion of Mr. Hunter's letter, thinking that it was both uncalled for and unnecessary.—ED. L.

NORTH-LONDON HOSPITAL.

LITHOTOMY.—Mr. LISTON performed this operation on the 28th of October, on a youth aged twelve, who had suffered under the disease for some time. The operation was performed in the usual manner, but the surgeon found it necessary to divide the right side of the prostate, in consequence of the inordinate size of the stone; he remarked that he preferred taking such a step to lacerating the parts. The stone was of about the size of a pullet's egg. The operator observed that it was not often that stones of such a size were removed from subjects so young, but he had in some instances met with them much larger, even in patients under six years of age. In the present case the operator used a small adult forceps, remarking, after the operation, that it was always necessary to proportion the forceps to the size of the stone to be removed. The operation was completed within two minutes. The child has since been doing well.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Elements of Bedside Medicine and General Pathology, or General Disease-Discourse, with a Sketch of the Origin, Progress, and Prospects of Clinical Medicine and Surgery, &c., with a Confession of mixed Medical Faith, &c. By J. S. Thorburn, M. D. London: Longman and Highley, 1836, 8vo, pp. 437.

An Experimental Guide to Chemistry. By Edward Davy, M. R. C. S., 1836, 12mo. pp. 98.

St. Thomas's Hospital Reports. By John F. South, Assistant-surgeon. No. I. Nov. 1835.

An Inquiry, physiological and pathological, into the Proximate Cause of Cholera. By Protheroe Smith, M.R.C.S., and Senior Surgeon to the Farringdon Dispensary. London. Bailliere. 1835.

CORRESPONDENTS.

A Non-professional Reader will find just such a clear and simple account of the stomach as he wishes to see, in the Third Number of a little Monthly Magazine published in London, called "The Christian Physician and Anthropological Magazine."

Our arrangements do not allow us to devote the space which would be requisite for the insertion entire of the communication of *Bristolensis*. If the writer has no objection to allow such a careful and discriminate curtailment of his paper as will separate the vein of thought and argument from the superfluities of expression which surround it, we will find room for his views.

ERRATUM.—The initial *V.* in the name of *Mr. Daniels*, attached to the letter at page 271, should have been *N.*

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

(Extract from a Meteorological Journal kept at High Wycombe.

Lat. 51° 37' 44" North, Long. 31° 45" West.)

Days.	Thermometer.		Barometer.		Rain. Ins. Dcls.	Wind.	Weather.
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.			
Nov. 9	36.75	32.	29.96	29.81	—	E.	Dull and heavy.
10	36.	32.	30.11	30.06	—	E.	Fine through the day.
11	40.	33.50	.11	.06	—	N.W.	Fine through the day.
12	40.50	31.75	.03	29.91	0.06875	N.W.	Morn fine; rain evening & night.
13	39.	31.25	.11	30.07	—	N.	Fine through the day.
14	38.50	33.75	29.94	29.86	0.00625	N.W.	Dull, with slight rain.
15	42.	33.75	.86	.84	—	N.W.	Partially fine, with heavy mist.

Nov. 17, 1835,

W. JACKSON.