

of amputation with total abstinence from sawing was, in principle as well as in practice, inaugurated by the French surgeon. Indeed, the great Leeds surgeon did not originate even the sawing operation, for it was first performed by Turner, of Yarmouth, in 1787.

From the above it seems to me that Mr. Walsham is perfectly justified in using the term "Lisfranc's operation," to signify amputation of the foot by disarticulation of the metatarsal bones from the tarsus, and in describing "Hey's operation" as a removal of part of the foot by sawing through the metatarsal bones, for such he distinctly states was his practice, though he at least twice varied his ordinary routine, yet in both those cases he still cut through bone. The only point in which Mr. Walsham and myself have been inexact is in not naming the sawing operation after Turner instead of Hey.

Yours faithfully,

ALBAN DORAN.

Royal College of Surgeons, November 9th, 1876.

## HARVEY, BELL, AND MARSHALL HALL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The recent Italian movement to push Harvey from his pedestal of fame, in order to set up Cæsalpinus in his place, and the death of the relict of Sir Charles Bell, suggest to me that a reminiscence of my student-days in Paris may not be inopportune.

In 1842, attending the lectures of Baron Flourens on comparative physiology, &c., I received a thrill more patriotic than philosophical—for patriotism should have no place in science—on hearing the following emphatic testimony to the commanding position of England in the history of biology.

"There are," said the professor, "three great discoveries which have marked epochs in the history of physiology. These were all made by Englishmen—namely, the discovery of the circulation of the blood by Harvey, that of the functions of the spinal nerves by Charles Bell, and that of the reflex functions by Marshall Hall."

Here, then, is further testimony in support of that argument so well set forth by Mr. Sampson Gamgee in his admirable exposition of the claims of Harvey, in which he insists that the man to whom all posterity has assigned the merit of the discovery, from whom all have learned what they know about it, is presumed the true discoverer.

It may be interesting to add, that on my coming to settle in London I related what I had heard to Marshall Hall. Dr. Hall wrote to Flourens for confirmation, and showed me the Baron's answer. It was simply "Oui, mon ami, c'est bien cela ce que j'ai dit."

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Grosvenor-street, Nov. 1876.

ROBERT BARNES.

## THE MEDICAL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As the honorary secretaries of the Medical Teachers' Association, we have received from the executors of the late Dr. Sibson, who was treasurer of the Association, the sum of £18 14s. 1d., which was lodged in his hands. The Association has been practically defunct since the last Council meeting on Nov. 17th, 1871, when it was resolved—"That, as the Association had satisfactorily performed during the last four years the objects for which it was originally instituted, and as it did not appear that there were any points connected with medical education requiring the special attention of the Association, it would be expedient that the Association should for a time suspend its meetings." Owing to the death of the president, Mr. Campbell De Morgan, and the treasurer, Dr. Sibson, we are the only officials left; and we request that you will allow us to give notice, through your columns, to the members of the Medical Teachers' Association, that, failing any expression of opinion to the contrary, we shall on Jan. 1st, 1877, pay the sum in our hands to the treasurer of the Medical Benevolent Fund for the benefit of that charity.

We remain, Sir, yours obediently,

HENRY POWER,

CHRISTOPHER HEATH.

Nov. 28th, 1876.

## UPPINGHAM SCHOOL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I see, in your number of the 25th of November, an article on Uppingham School, which is likely to give rise to erroneous impressions. I shall feel much obliged if you will give equal publicity to the following statements:—

An outbreak of scarlet fever occurred in the school towards the end of October. There were seven cases altogether between the 21st and 28th of October. Besides these, two boys were separated as suspicious, but not confirmed cases; one previous to the outbreak, the other on 22nd November. So that, excepting the last suspicious case, there have been no cases since the 28th of October, more than four weeks ago.

The school is not entirely devoid of medical supervision. Since the beginning of the term, I have been residing at Borth, in the capacity of medical and sanitary officer of the school. My time is entirely devoted to the medical supervision of the school.

Believe me, dear Sir, your obedient servant,

CHRISTOPHER CHILDS, L.R.C.P.

Borth, R.F.O., Wales, Nov. 28th, 1876.

\* \* The fact of a suspicious case occurring subsequent to the other cases, scarcely more than a week ago (Nov. 22nd), confirms our remarks respecting the necessity of exercising extreme vigilance in the matter of medical supervision. "Suspicious cases" are the most dangerous, as likely to be overlooked. During periods when scarlet fever is prevalent, as at present, all the boys on their return to school should be examined daily for at least a fortnight, and subsequently there should be a medical inspection of the school twice in the week. Supervision short of this would have little effect in preventing the spread of the disease from an imported case to others in the school.—ED. L.

## MORTALITY OF HOSPITAL SMALL-POX CASES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your last issue you drew attention to the increased mortality of hospital small-pox cases in 1876 as compared with that of 1871–2. Without venturing any comment, will you allow me to submit the statistics of the Homerton Small-pox Hospital in reference to the present epidemic?

		Not vaccinated	...	...	...	...	121
Admitted	...	{	Vaccinated...	{	With good marks, 142		293
					,, imperfect ,, 151		
							<hr/>
Total							414
Died	...	{	Vaccinated...	...	...	13, or 4.4 per cent.	
						Unvaccinated	...
							<hr/>
Total							68
Combined average mortality							16.4 per cent.

No fewer than 22 cases of the hæmorrhagic type of the disease have already come under observation. If we could exclude these, our death-rate would at once fall to 11.1 per cent.

I remain, Sir, obediently yours,

WM. GAYTON, M.D.,

Homerton Small-pox Hospital, Nov. 28th, 1876. Med. Superintendent.

## TREATMENT OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—After reading the letter of Mr. Myers in THE LANCET of November 11th, in which he states that salicylic acid is sometimes adulterated with carbolic acid, I forwarded to Mr. Donkin, our county analyst, a sample of acid from the very bottle which had been used in the treatment of the first of my two recorded cases, and had been supplied to the Radcliffe Infirmary. Mr. Donkin, who has taken great pains with the analysis, finds an appreciable quantity of carbolic acid in the sample in question. It is therefore