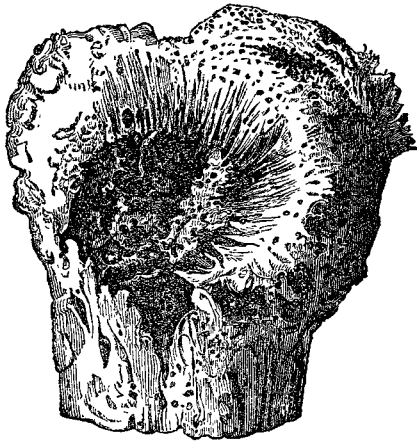


the perfect similarity, in so far as its upper surface was concerned, of the exfoliation which I removed, with that of the portion removed by Mr. White; and, on comparing the two cases, found that they were in every particular almost precisely the same as to the age and history of the patients, who were both boys of fourteen, except in regard to the length of time during which the disease had existed. Mr. White operated at the end of a few weeks, and I not until the lapse of as many months, so that while in both cases absorption had removed the head of the bone, Mr. White anticipated the exfoliation, which was completed while I performed the operation. In such cases, the periosteum, being detached from the dead bone, becomes the seat of ossific formation, which forms a shell ready to supply the place of the absent bone, if not perfectly, at all events sufficiently for every useful purpose, so that there could be few more grievous errors than performing amputation of the arm under circumstances of this kind. But the inflammatory condition may lead to a different derangement, which it is, if possible, of still more consequence to discriminate from disease of the joint involving the scapula.

Thirty years ago, having just commenced the practice of my profession in Edinburgh, I was requested to take charge of a respectable married woman, named Christian Laing, thirty-eight years of age, who had suffered for seven years from excessive pain, followed by suppuration and discharge of matter through various openings in the vicinity of the right shoulder. She had been dismissed as incurable from the Royal Infirmary, and had also been regarded by Mr. Liston as in a condition not admitting of any relief. As she was extremely exhausted and daily becoming weaker, I naturally felt anxious to do something for her relief, and having no doubt that caries of the shoulder-joint was the source of all the symptoms which required remedy, I resolved to undertake its excision, although there was then no precedent for such an operation in Scotland, and little encouragement to it afforded by the practice of England, where more than half a century had elapsed without any attempt of the kind, excepting the removal on one or two occasions of the shattered fragments resulting from gun-shot wounds. I made an incision from the acromion process directly downwards, and, finding the bone hollowed into a cavity, made a second incision upwards and backwards from the lower end of the first one, so as to form a flap, which, being detached from the bone, allowed me to protrude it, and saw off the head. The glenoid cavity, being perfectly sound, was not dis-



turbed. The patient made a good recovery, and during ten years which afterwards elapsed, until she died from another disease, enjoyed the perfect use of the arm for every domestic purpose, so that when her clothes were on it was impossible to distinguish it from the other.

In explaining cases of this kind I have hitherto been obliged to stop here, and frankly confess my inability to afford any satisfactory explanation of the remarkable peculiarities thus exhibited by the shoulder-joint in regard to its morbid conditions; but through the case at present under our consideration, I at length see a light which will probably guide us to a satisfactory conclusion. The well-ascertained effect of excessive contraction in causing exfoliation of the pelvic bones to which the muscles of the thigh are attached, together with the patient's history, can leave no doubt in the mind of any reasonable person that the diseased condition of the coracoid process proceeded from inordinate action of the biceps. But if the short head of this muscle was so strongly exerted as to occasion such mischief, its long one, which passes up the bicipital groove, enters the joint, and terminates in the glenoid ligament, must have been strained in a corresponding degree, so as

to render inflammation of the parts immediately in connexion with it neither improbable nor surprising; and in point of fact, when we examine the portion of bone removed, the groove which was occupied by the tendon of the biceps shows unequivocal marks of having suffered in an especial degree from the disease by its more than usual depth, intensity of redness, and vascularity, and exposure of the bone in part of its course. There is no other joint in the human body which has a tendon passing through it like that of the shoulder, and to this peculiarity of structure I think we may now fairly ascribe the peculiarities of pathological condition by which it is distinguished.

[The patient recovered quickly, without any interruption, so that before the end of three weeks there was hardly any discharge from the wound, and she had in a great measure regained her general health. When she was dismissed, the arms were of equal length, there was no perceptible deformity of the shoulder, and the joint could be moved at will in all directions. Mr. Syme was therefore led to remark, that the mode of operating in this case, which had been suggested by its peculiar circumstances, seemed preferable to any of the others previously employed from views of expediency. It was certainly easier in the performance than any of the methods which he had tried, and did not at all interfere with the integrity of the deltoid, so as to lessen the motive power of the shoulder-joint.]

The head of the bone, when examined after maceration, was found to present some very remarkable appearances, corroborative of the opinion which had been expressed as to the origin of the disease. A considerable part of the convex surface had been excavated by absorption into a hollow that contained some detached exfoliations, without any sign of caries either there or in the remaining portion of articulating surface, which was simply divested of its cartilage; but between the tuberosities the bicipital groove was hollowed into an oval aperture, exposing to view the pieces of dead bone already mentioned, and affording unmistakable evidence of a carious condition by the peculiar rough and spicular aspect of its surface.]

## Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

### THE TURKISH CONTINGENT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Observing in some of the late numbers of your valuable periodical, in answer to "Correspondents," that you have given my name and former address when last in London, during the period I was acting for Dr. Macpherson, the Inspector-General of this force, and thinking your notice may possibly mislead parties, I beg to inform you that I left England for Turkey in July last. The gentlemen who at present nominate medical officers for this force at home, are Professor Sharpey, University College, and Professor Miller, of Edinburgh.

It is with the greatest possible pleasure I am able to state that the medical gentlemen who have been appointed to the Turkish Contingent, with scarcely an exception, have been most indefatigable and attentive to their various duties; although civilians, some of many years' standing in private practice, the duties which of late they have had to perform for the first time as regimental surgeons, with the other duties pertaining to military medical officers, have been most efficiently performed, to the entire satisfaction of the military authorities and the Inspector-General of the force; and, what is acknowledged by all parties, the medical officers of this force have been one of the principal means of attaching the Turkish soldier to our rule, and removing the religious prejudices which they at first had to Christians as their commanding officers, and which bad feeling interested parties tried to keep alive. I need scarcely say this was a great point to gain; the soldiers of the force now express, in no measured terms, their thankfulness and good feeling towards their medical men, more especially those of them who have at any time been under treatment at any of the hospitals. This, I think you will acknowledge, is no small credit to our profession, and, in addition to alleviating disease, is at the same time doing incalculable benefit to the State in many ways.

The general health of the force since first given over to us has on the whole been satisfactory. Some cases of scurvy have appeared of late amongst the men, but prompt and immediate

measures were taken by Dr. Macpherson to stop the increase of the disease, by having every case, immediately it was detected, brought under medical treatment, with an abundant supply of fresh meat and vegetables for the whole force. This, with the other prophylactic measures usually adopted, speedily checked the disease, and it is now rapidly disappearing.

I have the honour to be, Sir, yours, &c.,

JAMES VAUGHAN,

Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, T. C.

Yenikale, Straits of Kertch, Crimea, Feb. 22, 1856.

P.S. I ought to mention that the majority of the medical men can converse fluently with their patients in Turkish, which is a great point gained, and so very necessary for the officers of this force.

## POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In my last letter, the following words, "*salaries of the*," were omitted in the quotation from the statement of Mr. Bouverie, which should read as follows:—

"That with regard to the medical districts, and *salaries of the medical officers*, these were matters not immediately under the control of the Poor-law Board, these being settled in the first instance by the guardians." This correction is important, as it proves the utter inutility of petitioning the Poor-law Board on the subject. I am further strengthened in this opinion by the resolutions to petition Parliament passed at meetings held last week in London by the Associated Poor-law Medical Officers of the City of London; and at Cambridge by the medical officers of several Unions of that town and neighbourhood.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

Royal-terrace, Weymouth, March, 1856.

RICHARD GRIFFIN.

## THE MEDICAL REFORM BILL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am desired to request you to insert the following resolutions in your next number.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

E. J. SHEARMAN, M.D.

Rotherham, March 12th, 1856.

At a meeting of the Medical Society of Rotherham—present, Dr. Shearman, President, Dr. Robinson, Dr. Hardwicke, Mr. E. Robinson, Mr. Stone, Mr. Darwin, Mr. C. Mellor—it was resolved,

"That the medical practitioners of Rotherham, observing the absence of any clause in the proposed Medical Act for preventing illegal practice by parties not *claiming or admitting* to be registered, do memorialize the Committee of the House of Commons to insert the clause in the present Apothecaries' Act, or one equally stringent for that purpose, before the Act is passed.

"That the thanks of the meeting be given to the President."

## ON THE TREATMENT OF SCARLATINA ANGINOSA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I quite agree with your correspondent on the treatment of scarlatina anginosa; and, if used in an early stage of the disease, I have always found the injection of warm water into the nares to be sufficient to cleanse away all unhealthy secretions collected there, without resorting to any severer proceedings to effect that desirable end.

Mr. Hanks, in his letter (see THE LANCET, March 1), has mistaken the object I had in view, and attributed to me intentions both piratical and unjust. My only reason for advocating that particular plan of treatment in the above-mentioned disease was purely for the benefit of suffering humanity, having proved its efficacy in so many cases.

It would have been better, before making such uncourteous remarks upon a neighbouring practitioner's communication, had your correspondent paused to consider whether he was acting judiciously in publishing his opinions on, and treatment of, *medical cases*, in the widely-circulated pages of THE LANCET, before he was placed in a position to do so by a well-known Society now existing in Blackfriars.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Nassau-place, 1856.

F. C. CORY, M.D. &c.

## THE NEW VACCINATION ACT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I find in the new Vaccination Act that every four months the registrar will hand in a list of the children not vaccinated to the board of guardians, who will then, it is presumed, take steps to enforce the vaccination, &c. Permit me to suggest that every such list should be submitted by the registrar to the public vaccinator of his district one fortnight before he hands the list to the guardians, in order that he may have the opportunity of performing the operation in such cases as had been accidentally overlooked, or where, from sickness, absence, or ignorance, the necessary certificates could not be procured by the parents.

The act might also empower the public vaccinator to visit *any* child whose parents, declining to accept the public vaccinator, had neglected to produce a sufficient certificate from his private medical man, and to offer to vaccinate such child at the public expense. This may appear a harsh proposal, but unless the production of a certificate be enforced, the registration of vaccination will not be complete. This may appear, also, to sanction interference with the patients of other men, but I am convinced that it would produce the desired result by acting on the natural jealousy of the profession. At present, but few certificates are sent to the registrar from any others than the public vaccinators, and the true protective qualities of the vaccine lymph cannot be fully ascertained.

Moreover, by first acquainting the public vaccinator with the state of the list, the guardians would often be saved unnecessary trouble.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Hilton, March, 1856.

J. WEARNE.

## SIR GILBERT BLANE'S MEDAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am sure you will kindly allow me space to rectify a mistake, published in a recent number of your excellent journal, which if unnoticed may detract from the honour of the Blane Medallists. In THE LANCET of the 23rd ult. (p. 219), under the head of "Medical Prizes," the Blane Medal is described as being given for the "*best reports of cases*," whereas it is distinctly stated in the Admiralty Memorandum, printed in the authorised list of the Royal Navy, that this medal was founded by the late Sir Gilbert Blane, Bart., "*for the encouragement of naval medical science*," and to be conferred, on the decision of the Medical Director-General of H. M. Navy and the Presidents of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons in London, upon such medical officers "*as shall produce the most approved journals of their practice*." In the Admiralty letter which usually notifies or accompanies the medal, it is said to be conferred on "*medical officers who may have particularly distinguished themselves in the exercise of their profession*;" besides which, if any other proof were needed of its importance as a medical honour, the fact of the present Medical Director-General, Sir John Liddell, K.C.B., having been one of the recipients, as also that nearly all the others have become inspectors or deputy inspectors of hospitals, or are otherwise in good professional positions, will be a sufficient test of its estimation as a distinctive reward, and evidences that it is not a mere students' medal for well-reported cases, but the result of an honorary contest, in which several hundreds of medical men, who have been from ten to thirty years in their profession, are engaged.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant and old subscriber,

London, March 17th, 1856.

BALTIC.

## PLURAL BIRTHS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I enclose and forward for insertion the report of a case of triplets which I attended in December last, but have been prevented from sending it to you before:—

On the morning of the 14th of December, 1855, I was summoned to the Union-house to attend S. M—, aged nineteen, a single woman, who I found on arriving there to be in labour; the membranes had broken, and a head presented. The child was now soon born; and, after waiting a little time, I made another examination, when I detected another bag of membranes, and a second head presentation. On rupturing this bag, a second child was speedily born. On exploring the abdomen with my hand, I could readily detect another fetus in utero. Consequently I again made an examination per vaginam,