

Messrs. T. Christy and Co., with a request to give them a fair trial. Finding them of use in one or two cases of chronic gleet, I wrote asking for a further supply, and thereupon this firm very generously placed at my disposal sufficient to treat 100 cases of gleet. I started to work empirically, treating all varieties of non-strictural gleet with it. I soon obtained sufficient knowledge to limit the use of the spring bougies to cases of mild urethritis and chronic gleet, and to employ only those bougies which were made of 5 per cent. of thallin. One or two serious objections to their original form were easily overcome. There was a danger of the entire bougie slipping into the urethra out of control, for the bougies were fitted with a little ring, which could be easily swallowed by the meatus. In one case a man thrust the bougie so energetically into the urethra that I had to hook it out for him. The recurrence of so serious an accident has been guarded against by employing a much larger ring. The second objection was the great pain sometimes caused by the bougie; this was also obviated by coating the outside with cocaine, or by using $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. instead of 5 per cent. of thallin. The results of this method have been very successful in my hands. Eighty cases of chronic gleet, one fourteen and a half years', some seven and a half years' and most of two years' duration were taken, and of these a large percentage were cured, the rapidity of the cure varying from three to five weeks.

A certain small proportion were made worse and some remained quite unaffected by the treatment. The reason for the former bad results would appear to be the existence of a granular patch or patches instead of a generally inflamed condition of the urethra. These cases were subsequently treated after examination with the incandescent lamp urethroscope by direct local application. Some of the cases remaining unaffected was proved to be due to the seat of the disease being deeper than the bougie had reached—being, in fact, in the prostatic-membranous sections of the canal.

The medicated bougie is the best I have ever met with; its pliancy permits of its ready adaptation to the curves of the urethra, and its firmness allows of its easy introduction. I have regarded the bougie as a most efficient, "solid," adhesive injection, and experience tends to prove what bacteriologists have demonstrated—viz., that thallin is fatal to the gonococcus. I have never used the spring bougie, nor can I advise its employment, in acute gonorrhoea. I have never seen any complications arise from their use, such as orchitis, cystitis, suburethral abscess, &c. This is perhaps due to the bougie being under more perfect control than an ordinary injection.

I remain, Sirs, yours truly,

Old Barlington-street, April 6th, 1888. E. HURRY FENWICK.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE PRACTITIONERS' EXAMINATION AT ST. ANDREWS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—About four years ago you were kind enough to afford space in your valuable journal for the discussion on certain proposed alterations in the method of admission to the practitioners' examination for the degree of M.D. in the University of St. Andrews. It had been felt for a long time that to require candidates to be forty years of age before they were allowed to present themselves for the examination was to postpone it until a time of life when its possession had become of comparatively little use, and that men who had managed to get along without the possession of the degree so long had often made up their minds to do without it altogether.

Up to the time of this movement, which resulted in a numerous signed petition being presented to the Senate of St. Andrews, no steps, as far as I am aware, had ever been taken towards removing the hardship experienced by London and provincial students who had passed their curriculum at a medical school not connected with a University in not being able to obtain a degree upon similar conditions to those of students at Newcastle or at the Scotch Universities. The only open degrees are those of the London University, which are of such a high standard as to be practically unattainable by any except the specially gifted. Since this time, however, the Royal Colleges have become alive to the importance of the subject, and have formulated a scheme of their own for obtaining power to grant the degree

of M.D.; then there is the movement for promoting the formation of a Teaching University for London; and, not to be behind the times, the Scotch Colleges are seeking similar powers to those desired by their London sisters. None of these schemes are, however, altogether satisfactory, and have little chance of becoming the law. The Scottish Universities Bill will be shortly brought before Parliament, and I have information (which, however, I am not at liberty to make public) which enables me to say that the University of St. Andrews will not oppose a scheme for enabling it to grant the degree of M.D. to registered men of ten years' standing, without reference to age or place of study, provided it be shown that sufficient interest is taken in the matter and a considerable number of men desire to take advantage of the concession. I shall be glad, therefore, if all who are in favour of this movement will send their names to me as soon as possible. The number of Englishmen going abroad for degrees certifies to the want of a University which will grant its degrees upon reasonable terms at home. It has been said by some objectors to our proposals that we are seeking to make the acquisition of a degree too cheap, and that if any scheme of this kind be brought into practice there will be no credit attached to the possession of such a title. To this we reply that we do not desire to lower the standard of medical education at all; on the contrary, we are willing to submit to any examination that may be prescribed;—but that we do object, and very strongly and very properly too, to the unfair advantages which degree-granting bodies possess over the licensing corporations; that we object to the system which gives two unequal titles to the students of the same curriculum, and after passing equally difficult examinations. If the Universities would allow men who have conformed to the requirements of the Medical Council and themselves to go in for their degrees, then we should hear nothing more of dissatisfaction; the best schools would get the largest number of students, who would take the University of their choice, as they do now their College or Hall; but until this is brought to pass dissatisfaction and injustice will exist, and the aggrieved ones will try to obtain redress.

Some may suggest that if there is to be a change, let it be a radical one, and let the age limit be abolished altogether, and allow any qualified man to go in for the degree. There are several objections to this proposal, one of which is that it is very unlikely that the University itself would support it, and, again, that other Universities would probably object as well. Then, also, we must look to the reasons which have caused a limit to be fixed at all: the increased fee, and the restrictions as to the time and age at which the doctorate is conferred upon those who have not resided at St. Andrews, are in the nature of penalties for the omission, and also are no doubt intended to protect the interests of the University by causing students to flock there instead of elsewhere; and whilst we may well ask that these penalties shall not be so great as to be practically prohibitory, we can scarcely expect that they will be removed altogether.

I hope all those who have felt the injustice of the present system will unite to try to obtain this small measure of reform, and use their influence with their representatives in Parliament to bring it about. Sheets for obtaining signatures are ready, and I shall be glad to forward them to all applicants; and may I ask that both those who desire this change now for themselves, and also that those who are not yet of sufficient standing to take advantage of it, will sign the memorial. I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

Leigh, Lancashire, March 26th, 1888.

B. JONES.

CORONERS AND THE NEW COUNTY COUNCILS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Fully agreeing with your leading article as to the appointment of coroners by the new County Councils, I am writing to-day to the member for my borough, pointing out that it only needs the insertion of the words "county coroner or coroners" in the Local Government Bill now before the House of Commons (Clause 3, Section 11) to make clear what appears to be the intention of that clause—viz., that all officers whose salary is paid out of the county rate (except clerks of the peace and justices' clerks) should be appointed by the County Council. By Section 12 the new councils are authorised to pay the salary of any coroner whose salary is payable out of the county rate, and to divide the county into coroners' districts, and it would surely be insufferable

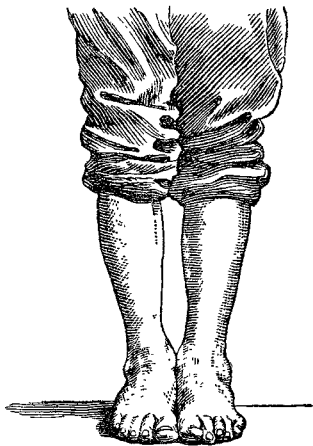
that they should be deemed unworthy to elect their own coroner. I trust all your readers will exert their influence with members of Parliament to get these words inserted in the Local Government Bill, and so defeat the Lord Chancellor's effort to transfer the appointment of coroners to himself.

I am, Sirs, faithfully yours,
Dulwich-grove, S.E., April 10th, 1888. H. NELSON HARDY.

TENOTOMY AND RAPID REDUCTION OF DEFORMITY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I think that now, when the subject of tenotomy and rapid reduction of deformity in cases of talipes varus and valgus is being discussed in THE LANCET, it may not be out of place to refer to an operation described by me in the same journal for Jan. 2nd, 1886—viz, the division of the bones, which are the tissues really at fault, by means of the chain saw. I continue to practise this operation with good and rapid results. I have performed it in several cases that had been unsuccessfully treated by division of tendons.



The advantage of division of the bones is that the tissues actually at fault are attacked, for we know that if all the soft structures are removed from the bones in these cases the bones remain in the position of deformity. I enclose a photograph of the result of an operation for extreme valgus. The patient, after I had done one foot, returned to have the same operation performed on the other.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
H. P. SYMONDS, F.R.C.S.E.,

Lichfield Lecturer in Surgery in the University of Oxford.
Oxford, March 14th, 1888.

DISLOCATION OF THE HEAD OF THE FIBULA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The case of dislocation of the head of the fibula contributed by Mr. Ashley Leggatt in last week's number is very interesting. It is unquestionably a very rare form of luxation, and the details of the case show very distinctly how it is produced. I think, however, he is mistaken as to the share the action of the biceps had in its reduction. In a case which I saw a long time ago, and which will be found related in THE LANCET of March 30th, 1850, p. 385, the action of the biceps seemed to be the chief hindrance to the reduction, as, when that muscle was relaxed by flexing the leg upon the thigh, the pressure of the fingers, which previously to that being done was quite ineffectual, immediately caused the head of the fibula to slip back into its place.—Yours faithfully,

Glasgow, April 6th, 1888.

HUGH THOMSON, M.D.

PEMBROKESHIRE AND HAVERFORDWEST INFIRMARY.—

The report presented to the members and subscribers at the annual meeting, held a few days since, showed that the efficiency of the institution had been maintained. There were 61 in-door patients treated during the past year, and 1331 out-patients—an increase of 165 on the previous year. The receipts and disbursements, as compared with the previous year, were satisfactory—the former exhibiting on the whole a large addition, while in the latter, there was a decrease, notwithstanding the increased number of in-door patients.

THE QUEEN IN FLORENCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

April 9th.

In a distich that may yet become historical, a local rhymster has thus described the "social situation":—

"Non si fa passo la gente Fiorentina
Senza incontrare un Re o una Regina."¹

For the moment, indeed, Florence is the centre of high life, and comports herself with a self-possession and a dignity that have impressed her august visitors most favourably. So touched has Her Britannic Majesty been with the respect shown to her understood wishes for privacy, that she caused it to be known on a recent occasion that she would appear with her suite in public both in the Cascine (the Hyde-park of Florence) and in the main streets that run round the city. This kindly relaxation of her *incognito* was quite appreciated by the Florentines, and when the Queen with her retinue drove at an easy pace through the great pleasure resorts and business thoroughfares on the day appointed, Florence gave herself a holiday, and turned out in her thousands to show her sense of the cordial good-will she had inspired in her illustrious guest. Then, as indeed on nearly every day of Her Majesty's sojourn, the weather was delightfully vernal; and though we have had showers and a visitation in force of the *libeccio*, or south-west wind, the balance of fine days, out of the sum total, has really been considerable. That the *villeggiatura* on the Fissole slopes, and the frequent visits to the architectural, pictorial, and plastic *chefs d'œuvres* in which Florence abounds, have done her Majesty all the good that was anticipated is apparent to everyone who has the pleasure of seeing her; indeed, her activity, mental and physical, has been such as to test the "staying power" of more than one member of her suite. The lovely rural surroundings of the Villa Palmieri have also proved very attractive to the Queen, and, just as on the banks of the Lago Maggiore nine years ago, Her Majesty takes special pleasure in greeting the simple country-folk, and interesting herself in their ways and in their work. The other morning she found, in a field near the villa, two little girls picking violets, and after some kind conversation with them she presented each of them with a sovereign, whereupon the delighted pair lost no time in running home and telling their mothers that the "Regina d'Inghilterra" had "given them a gilt medal with her likeness on it"—a valuation of the gift which, we may presume, they were not long permitted to entertain.

The health of the city continues excellent, and the vigilance of the *nettezza pubblica* is being maintained with a steadiness which it is to be hoped will not be allowed to relapse altogether into the traditional negligence. Florence has now had some experience of what cleanliness means; and if she desires to preserve, or rather to enhance, her attractions for the "northern civilisation," she could not do better than keep up or improve upon the sanitary measures she has initiated in honour of the Queen of Great Britain.

LIVERPOOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE WEATHER AND THE WATER SUPPLY.

THE weather still remains very cold for this time of the year, and easterly winds prevail. But there is little rain, which, with our deficient water supply, compels the authorities to continue the short service of water, much to the inconvenience of all classes. Efforts are being made to obtain a temporary supply, and next year it is hoped that the Vyrnwy scheme will be complete.

LIFE ON A DOCK BARGE.

An inquest was recently held by the city coroner on the body of a boy aged ten years, who was the son of a widower and lived on board a barge for three weeks before his death without once going off it. The deceased and two sisters of his were taken ill on a Saturday, and by the advice of a

¹ "The Florentine folk cannot step abroad without encountering, King or a Queen."