

or chemical which can exercise any depressing effect on the vital powers, or which might possibly extinguish a vital flame, already near expiring. I may say, that I have learnt to feel in this treatment a confidence which I never felt in any other plan, and I have tried many.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
EDWIN CHABOT, M.R.C.S.

Addington-place, Camberwell, Aug. 1859.

## ON OXYGEN AS A THERAPEUTIC AGENT.

(LETTER FROM DR. BIRCH.)

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your impression of August 6th, I observe a brief notice of my paper, read at the annual meeting of the British Medical Association at Liverpool. As it is calculated in some measure to convey an erroneous impression regarding the purport of the paper, a few words of comment may be fairly requested.

1. The designation of the paper was not "On the Inhalation of Oxygen," but "On Oxygen as a Therapeutic Agent." Your reporter must surely have quoted from memory.

2. From the notice most readers would infer that the recent experiments of Dr. E. Smith formed the scientific *point d'appui* of my position, or, at least, that I referred to his labours as direct evidence in favour of an increased per-centage of oxygen in disease. Now, had your reporter taken a clear *coup d'œil* of that portion of the paper, and placed the preceding and subsequent remarks in juxta-position, he could hardly have thus misapprehended me. The fact would have been patent that *my very brief reference* to Dr. Smith's interesting experiments was simply for the purpose of showing the existence of many fallacies in former experiments, as well as the many difficulties in the way of *conclusive* evidence derived from purely chemico-physiological investigations.

3. The writer of the notice ends by delivering himself of the following *ipse dixit*:—"It is difficult to understand its value, (the paper, I presume?) when it has been so conclusively proved that the inhalation of an unusual per-centage of oxygen does not increase the vital actions." Possibly I may be somewhat obtuse; but I really cannot find any such *conclusive proofs*, and many others in the profession whom I know (some highly distinguished) must be equally wanting in acumen.

On behalf of myself and many other constant readers of THE LANCET, I may be permitted to ask a favour of the writer—viz., to produce in your pages, at his earliest convenience, a brief *résumé* of what he considers the *conclusive* evidence.

I should have avoided troubling you with a request to insert these few lines, had an interest not been created on this *voxata questio* in the professional mind. A little ventilation and discussion in your columns would, doubtless, afford pleasure and profit to many, as well as instruction to myself.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Kensington Gore, Aug. 1859.

S. B. BIRCH, M.D.

## ON THE TRUE NATURE OF PARASITIC DISEASES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Allow me to remove a slight misconception on the part of Dr. Lowe in his notice of my paper. He questions my assertion that "the *true* parasitic disease is that of the hairs." Now, of course, it cannot be denied that *other* structures are involved—eruptive disease complicates, and is present—but not *necessarily*. Eruption is evoked by a host of irritants besides parasites; whereas nothing but fungoid growth produces the affection of the hairs (which is the parasitic disease *par excellence*). Take away the disease of the hairs, and nothing *diagnostic* of the ravages of a parasite remains; *per contra*, remove the *eruptive*, and the essential *parasitic* disease is left; *therefore* the disease of the hairs is the only one the growth of the fungus *necessarily* engenders. Such is the point I endeavoured to illustrate. My statement that the effect of the parasitic disease is of no moment compared with the concomitant eruption, refers solely to the chronic skin diseases; the hairs are few, and their loss unimportant; whereas the eruption is a disfigurement and source of annoyance (in this sense I mean of "no moment"). Otherwise I regard equally with Dr. Lowe the growth of the fungus amongst living tissues as of vast importance, and its intrinsic power marvellous.

These few words will suffice to show that Dr. Lowe and my-

self are at issue in regard to a few immaterial points only, and I am but too glad to find myself in harmony with so good an observer.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

WM. TILBURY FOX, M.D. Lond.

Gloucester-gardens, Aug. 1859.

## THE EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND THE ADMISSION OF LICENTIATES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In "fighting the battle of the *plebs*," which you correctly affirm to be the design of the Edinburgh College of Physicians, that College has not only to assert its views against a hostile minority (of which I make no complaint), but it has to contend against the *mania* of one or two of its Fellows for misrepresenting its proceedings. That Dr. Laycock, whose efforts in this way have been most recently before the public, should decline to withdraw a statement at variance with fact, and deeply injurious to his College, is a sufficient reason for having nothing more to say to him. His long special pleading is only an aggravation of his original offence, and must be left, as it may with perfect safety, in the hands of such of your readers as have perused the "Explanatory Minute."

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

A FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

Edinburgh, Aug. 1859.

OF EDINBURGH.

## Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on

Thursday, August 11th, 1859.

BUCKNILL, EBENEZER, Bedford.

FREEMAN, WILLIAM, Maldon, Essex.

GREEN, JOHN, Cawood.

HOLT, WILLIAM, Horbury, near Wakefield.

SMITH, GORDON SIDNEY RICHARD WELLS.

WEBB, HENRY JAMES, Cheadle, Staffordshire.

WHITE, ROBERT HENRY, Leeds.

WINTER, WILLIAM THOMAS, Bristol.

The following gentlemen also, on the same day, passed their first examination:—

BEDDARD, JAMES, Dudley, Worcestershire.

BELL, JOHN WILLIAM, Hull School of Medicine.

EGLES, GABRIEL MANNING, Barcombe, Lewes.

LEE, FREDERICK FAWSON, Salisbury.

ORTON, RICHARD, Manor House, Baston, Notts.

PHELPS, FREDERICK PHILIP, Reading.

WARNER, JOHN, Finsbury-square.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.—At a Court of Committees, held on Thursday, the 11th instant, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge was unanimously chosen a Governor of Guy's Hospital. The President and Treasurer afterwards waited upon his Royal Highness at the Horse Guards, when the Duke was pleased to accept the office of a governor.

WAR-OFFICE, AUGUST 16TH.—Hospital Staff:—To be Honorary Physicians to her Majesty: Sir John MacAndrew, K.C.B., M.D., half-pay Inspector-General of Hospitals; Andrew Ferguson, M.D., half-pay Inspector-General of Hospitals; William Linton, M.D., C.B., Inspector-General of Hospitals; John Forrest, M.D., C.B., Inspector-General of Hospitals; Jas. Brown Gibson, M.D., C.B., Inspector-General of Hospitals; Thomas Galbraith Logan, M.D., Inspector-General of Hospitals.—To be Honorary Surgeons to her Majesty: Thomas Alexander, C.B., Director-General of the Army Medical Department; Alexander Melvin, half-pay Inspector-General of Hospitals; John Robt. Taylor, C.B., Inspector-General of Hospitals; Edward Bradford, half-pay Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals; Thomas Mostyn, half-pay Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals; John Ashton Bostock, M.D., Surgeon-Major, Scots Fusilier Guards.

Surgeon Henry Fowle Smith, M.D., from the 19th Foot, to be Surgeon, vice Hassard, appointed to the 19th Foot; Surgeon James Carroll Dempster, M.D., from the Rifle Brigade, to be Surgeon, vice Fraser, appointed to the Rifle Brigade.

APPOINTMENT.—Mr. Furneaux Jordan, Professor of Anatomy at Queen's College, has been appointed Assistant-Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.