

it is only of use as it leads to further improvement in the languages.

But, indeed, if he wish to raise his profession above the level of that of an empiric, or a farrier, he should acquire a liberal education for its own sake, independent of its use in a mercenary view; for the sake of polishing his mind, and elevating his sentiments. With a liberal education and an extensive practice, he is in fact a physician, though called an apothecary; and though he should neither have purchased a diploma, nor have earned a regular degree, by spending his time, money, and health, at a university, he is a gentleman; and the peculiar utility of his employments, when judiciously and humanely conducted, entitle him to the company and conversation of all who deserve that distinction.

There never was an age in which they who intend to support the dignified character of graduated physicians, had better opportunities for improvement in physiology. Lectures, as well as books, in anatomy, chemistry, and every part of science and natural philosophy, never abounded more. Let the student devote himself to these with long and serious application, and depend more upon them, than on the caprice of fashion, or any singularity in his chariot and livery. A popular practitioner in a great capital, and, indeed, any where, is a very important member of society, considered merely in a political point of view. The lives, limbs, and spirits, of a very great part of the subjects of a kingdom, depend upon his skill and honesty. A man who undertakes this office, and recommends himself by address and artifice, without qualifying himself with every preparatory knowledge, and who abuses the confidence of those who fly to him as to a guardian angel, in the deepest distress, has very little claim to the title of an honest man; and deserves to be stigmatised and punished with the worst of villains, and the vilest of sharpers.

It has been observed, and regretted, that some individuals in the profession have exhibited such an attention to interest, as is incompatible with the common feelings of humanity. Such persons are their own enemies; for no gratifications of sordid avarice can equal the delicious sensations of him, who delights in exercising his skill in diffusing joy in the haunts of misery, and in relieving the sick, the maimed, the halt, the blind.

Let no one who may read these observations, say they have no time for these things; but let such remember, rather that,—

“Cæsar—media inter prælia semper
Stellarum cœlique plagis superisque vacabat.”
VALE.

PULMONARY CREPITOUS RATTLE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—IN THE LANCET, No. 326, you obliged me by the publication of some remarks upon the “pulmonary crepitous rattle.” I stated my opinion, that this rattle was produced by a preternaturally dry state of the lining membrane of the air cells. In THE LANCET, No. 329, I have read some remarks upon my opinion, in a letter signed “Medicus,” and I have, in consequence, to request a repetition of the favour you conferred upon me. I am, indeed, somewhat unwilling again to trespass on your pages, but, the subject being of importance, and my object to establish the truth, perhaps you will allow my observations to travel through the world in company with the valuable matter which your Journal contains.

The objections of “Medicus,” though few, are directed against the fundamental fact on which I found my opinion as to the cause of the crepitous rattle; and though his objections are, like the respiratory murmur in pneumonia, puerile, I conceive it to be incumbent upon me to expose their fallacy. “Medicus” observes,—“In support of his opinion, that the air-cells are preternaturally dry in the first stage of pneumonia, he brings no morbid anatomy.” It is true, that I do not, in this particular, found my opinion upon the state of the membrane in the dead body, nor do I believe that a more correct opinion can be formed by such means. It is highly probable, that a secretion would take place from the air-cells during the last moments of life, or even after the cessation of the general circulation, and that the pathologist might incautiously believe such was the condition during life. I am inclined, therefore, to think, that observation of similar structures during life, is a method of proceeding much more likely to lead us to a correct conclusion. In support of the observations I formerly made, relative to mucous membranes, I will mention the following fact:—In a case of slight chronic inflammation of the mucous membrane of the pharynx, I have had repeated opportunities of seeing that membrane in a state of dryness, approaching that of cuticle. In remarking upon the increase of secretion which occurs in coryza, “Medicus” has most strangely overlooked the circumstance of my observations, referring only to the first stage of that disease. By pointing out the morbid secretions, which occur during subsequent periods of that disease, “Medicus” believes he is showing the error of my opinion; his conclusion, in this particular circumstance, would have been equally logical and amusing, had he said, “cows have horns, therefore calves have.”

It has been observed by some writer, but I do not remember whom, that a sound, precisely similar to the crepitous rattle, may be produced by rubbing a lock of hair between the fingers, close to the ear. Who would seek to explain the production of the sound heard in pneumonia, which cannot be distinguished from this, by the passage of bubbles of air through an aqueous fluid? Who would tax his credulity so far as to force himself to believe, that similar sounds are produced by such dissimilar causes? I repeat, that I believe the pulmonary crepitous rattle is produced by the friction of air against the preternaturally dry surface of the air-cells, and by the friction of opposite surfaces of the air-cells against each other, occurring during respiration.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN WHITE, M.R.C.S.

St. Neot's, Dec. 19th.

EFFICACY OF CUBEBS IN GONORRHOEA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your Number for Nov. 28, in a critique on Dr. Titley's work on Diseases of the Male Genitals, when speaking of gonorrhoeal affections, you express your opinion of the inutility of cubebs in that disease.

Knowing you have ever evinced a readiness to give place to the results of any medicinal remedy, permit me to say, that having used the cubebs with invariable success in more than three hundred cases, I feel myself bound to enter a protest against the sweeping anathema of yourself and the learned Doctor, although at the risk of incurring the charge of presumption, and to endeavour to restore that valuable remedy to the rank it justly merits. I am perfectly satisfied that the frequent failure of the cubebs proceeds from its not being exhibited in a proper state, or from the doses given being too small. The aperient I use, if one be necessary, is the Rochelle salts in \mathfrak{zss} . doses, and I strictly prohibits the use of Epsom salts, which patient will frequently take in large quantities, unless particularly cautioned not to do so. I give the cubebs combined in the following manner:—

R *P. cubebæ*, $\mathfrak{z}ij$.;
P. G. acaciæ, $\mathfrak{z}j$.;
P. potass nitras, gr. vj . M. ft.
 pulv. capt. 4tis horis ex infus.
 sem. lini.

And I have not had occasion to use an injection in a single case, nor have I found the cubebs, so combined, productive of any of the injurious effects of which the Doctor accuses them; but if the cubebs be given in \mathfrak{zss} . or $\mathfrak{z}j$. doses, *uncombined* with the

nitre, &c., 'then the enlarged testicle, irritable bladder, and paralysis, will most probably ensue. I have never had occasion to give more than $\mathfrak{z}ij$. for a dose, in the most obstinate cases, followed up every four hours, but it is particularly necessary the interval should not be longer.

In conclusion may I remark that the cubeb should not be kept powdered, but *unbruised* until wanted, in a stone jar in a cold dry place, nor should the cubeb be wrapped in paper, or its utility will ever remain questionable; that its efficacy depends on its essential oil is generally believed, but my own practice does not warrant an inference of that nature, as I have found the oil nearly valueless, although I believe it to be genuine; nor is the powder, deprived of the oil, of any service; which leads me to conclude that there resides in the cubeb a principle unknown, which is lost in distillation, and by atmospheric exposure in a bruised state. Should any of your readers have opportunity and inclination to give it a fair trial according to my plan, and will state the results through the medium of your invaluable Journal, they will confer a favour on your most obedient servant,
 E. MOORE.

Dudley, Staffordshire, Dec. 5, 1829.

WESTERN HOSPITAL.

REPLY OF MR. BRODIE TO MR. SLEIGH.

[The following letter was received last week, but in consequence of the length of Dr. Ayre's on the same subject, we could not find room for it.—ED. L.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Royal Western Hospital,
 Jan. 4, 1830.

SIR,—I hope you will allow me a small space in your next Journal to refute the calumnious aspersions thrown on my character by Mr. Sleigh, in his letter which appeared in THE LANCET of the second instant, purporting to be a reply to my former communication; but which is, in fact, a tissue of calumny, and unfounded assertion; but first, allow me state, that neither Dr. Ayre nor Mr. Truman knew one word in my letter until it appeared in THE LANCET.

In Mr. Sleigh's professed reply he does not even endeavour to exculpate himself from the charges of deceiving me by writing a wilful falsehood, or of shameful neglect in delivering his lectures; both of these statements being uncontradicted; he merely says "he had every reason to expect the College would have long since recognised the hos-