

stomach," is false. She stated to me as the cause of her fits (and certainly with much probability) that she had eaten some barm-dumplings, which "lay very heavy upon her stomach," nor did she ever complain of the slightest pain or tendency on pressure being applied over the abdomen.

I now proceed to the questions propounded by this reporter for elucidation:—What caused the inflammation, and why were no remedies used to subdue it? The inflammation, or rather the suspicion of inflammation, arose in the ignorance of Philanthropist, and means were not used to combat it, because it had no other existence. In conclusion, for the benefit of Philanthropist in particular, and of the governors of our Infirmary in general, I will refer to authors from whom some remarks on this important subject may be extracted. In Boyer's *Traité d'Anatomie*, we find the following salutary caution:—"Le grand nombre de vaisseaux qui se distribuent dans cette tunique (la veloutée) lui donne souvent une couleur pourpré obscur; c'est à quoi il faut faire la plus grande attention lorsqu'on est chargé de faire l'examen des corps de personnes que l'on soupçonne mortes de poison."

In the "Medico-Chirurgical Transactions," vol. iv, we find recorded twenty successive *post-obit* examinations of patients dying in the London Hospital between the 1st of April, 1813, and the 27th of May in the same year, in which the mucous membranes of the stomachs were found in all states of vascularity, from the rosy tint (given by Bichat and Cloquet as the most natural appearance) to shades of scarlet and even crimson, without such a state being at all indicated by symptoms during life; in this valuable paper, written by Dr. Yelloly, the result of that gentleman's observations is stated as follows:—"In the villous coat of the stomach, appearances of vascular fulness, whether florid or dark-coloured, in distinct vessels, or in extravasation of various sizes, are not to be regarded as unequivocal marks of disease; they occur in every variety of degree and character, under every circumstance of previous indisposition, and in situations where the most healthy aspect of the organ might be fairly expected. It would be useless to multiply authorities. I refer to the book last quoted for full information on the point under consideration, and merely hint that the "crimson stomach" is not "put under the sod" as Philanthropist asserts, but still remains a monument of his ignorance, better worthy of being concealed by silence, than of standing emblazoned on the pages of your extensively circulated Journal.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

T. R. JONES.

Derby, Oct. 5, 1830.

MR. WALFORD AND THE PUPILS OF THE
LONDON HOSPITAL.

"There's never any of these demure boys come to any proof: for thin drink, and making many fish meals, doth so cool their blood, that they fall into a kind of male green-sickness; and then, when they marry, they get wenches: they are generally fools and cowards."—SHAKESPEARE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I was advised to forbear acknowledging the favour of the Whitechapel manifesto, on the grounds of the insignificance of the declarants, and the helplessness of their idol. "What must the priests be where the god is a monkey?" was the traveller's reply to a question after the tythe legion of a Pagan people. I should certainly adopt the advice, were it not for some peculiarities in a letter from the innocents of Whitechapel.

In the letter which provoked the wrath of the "harmless little men," I made honourable mention of Sir W. Blizard; him did I blaspheme, as well as vituperate Mr. Headington: why, therefore, did they not defend the knight as well as the squire? I can solve the problem. Of the *eight-and-thirty*, who have so handsomely done Mr. Headington's business, and set him up with a character, a few will present themselves for examination during the presidency of the object of their lick-spittle adulation; and, should some trembling idiot break down, does he not hope that the remembrance of his servility will stand him in good stead? Of course he does.

I perfectly agree with the *thirty-and-eight*, that no man has a right to defame the character of another, because he differs in opinion; and I ask these discerning youths, if there is no difference between the record of a fact and a defamatory falsehood? They feel a pride in being under such a master; of course they do, and doubtless the master is proud of such pupils; the pleasure is reciprocal, and the pupils are worthy of their preceptor. They say they flatter themselves that Mr. Headington's differing in opinion from me is the sole cause of my hostility to him. In this they do *flatter* themselves, and that is all. I pronounced Mr. Headington's degradation, not because his opinions were opposed to mine, but that his principles are. Mr. Headington has long been a member of a body whose acts have ever been opposed to the best interests of the profession and humanity; whose laws are the dictates of a sordid love of gain; and whose gains are the fruits of the most unprincipled rapacity.

The *thirty-eight* weep over my hostility to Sir William Blizard, and content them-

selves with piously wishing that every man may possess, at ninety-two, the "mind and intellect" of that atrabilious examiner. The wish is a good one, but, considering the wisdom of the *eight-and-thirty*, I marvel much the they did not wish every member of that profession the knight's "soundness of mind and intellect" during the whole of their natural lives. The "soundness of mind and intellect" of the *thirty-and-eight*, even Sir William need not envy. Is a wish for the mental prostration of their fellow creatures all the sympathy they can bestow on the sorrows of Sir William? Is a wish that every man of ninety-two may be so weak as Sir William, all the pity they can bestow on a poor old man? I am ashamed of them. Even Sir William, were he young enough, would blush for his apologists. They affirm that they would not be ashamed to advocate a medical coroner; perhaps not, for as they are not ashamed of themselves, it is very clear they could not be ashamed of anything. Why do they not say, that like their master they would be *afraid* to support one?

They are not happy in their tail piece. Were it not better to adopt an alteration, and, instead of tacking it to Sir William, apply it to themselves? For instance,—

"If such the morn, how dull the eve must be."

I am, Sir, your faithful servant,

W. AUGUSTUS WALFORD.

October 9th, 1830.

LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETY.

October, 1830.

TREATMENT OF ERYSIPELAS.—SUPPRESSION OF UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.

THIS Society resumed its sittings on the last Monday in September, but so quietly, that we were not, at the time, aware they had again commenced. On attending this evening, Oct. 11th, the discussion proved to be a continuation of that with which the meeting on the previous evening had closed, when a case of erysipelas of the face was read, in which puncturing, with the exhibition of opium and ammonia, had produced a favourable result. Some of the gentlemen then present had given their testimony in favour of, and some against, the practice of making punctures; and according to their several views of the exciting cause of erysipelas, a variety of treatment was recommended. Many of the members now detailed other treatment which their experience had determined to be successful, and this, as commonly happens, was very various. Opium was recommended and condemned; the

acetate of lead, as a lotion, was approved and depreciated; quinine and sherry were extolled and censured; and after many other plans had been declared both successful and injurious, as circumstances seemed to warrant, tartarised antimony, and antimony alternated with the liquor potassæ, were finally referred to as very advantageous and rational modes of subduing the disorder.

A letter was afterwards read from Mr. Samuel Miles, of Runcorn, in Cheshire, on the subject of a new belt for the suppression of uterine hæmorrhage; the letter was addressed to Dr. Merriman, by whom it was laid before the Society, together with the apparatus to which it referred. Mr. Miles stated, that he was a pupil of Dr. Merriman in 1817, and communicated his design to the Doctor as a mark of his regard. The letter briefly stated, that it had been the writer's lot to see so many fatal cases of uterine hæmorrhage, that he had turned his attention to the best mode of arresting it. External and equal pressure appearing to be the most rational, though but ill effected by the employment of books, towels, pillows, and the hands, he had designed the present instrument, which he begged to distinguish as "Miles's uterine tourniquet." It consisted of a belt nine or ten inches broad, to be fastened round the hips with straps and buckles, permitting pressure to be made on the abdomen by means of a circular plate, also nine or ten inches in diameter, covered with leather, over the centre of which were a brass frame and screw, permitting the pressure to be increased or diminished at pleasure. The apparatus might be regarded as a common tourniquet on an extended scale.

Dr. MERRIMAN, on being asked for his opinion of its efficacy, stated, that he had only had the opportunity of placing it on his own body, which, however, had enabled him to ascertain, that it was capable of exerting great pressure, but whether sufficient to restrain uterine hæmorrhage or not, he could not tell; certainly, unless the uterus were empty, pressure either by that or any other means could be of no use. There was, he thought, one essential objection to the instrument; if the hæmorrhage began before the bandage was resorted to, the attempt to place it on the patient would very probably do more harm than the good which could afterwards result from its use. It would not be easy to put it on and buckle the straps without raising the woman, a very dangerous proceeding at the best. The only case in which it could be useful would be where it could be known beforehand that the patient was liable to profuse hæmorrhage in child-bed. To any female of that kind it would be serviceable.

It was objected by Mr. KINGDON, that the compressing pad did not descend suffi-