

linimentum saponis. Your correspondent has stated no very weighty reasons for preferring this combination; and, with your leave, I beg to direct his attention, and that of the profession, if it be still a desideratum to obtain such a form, to another vehicle, which is at least free from the disagreeable association which attaches to the internal employment of the liniment. sapon. Other and very obvious advantages, however, attend the combination which I now recommend, and which is simply that of the chloroform, with twice its bulk of sulphuric ether; the chloroform is thus rendered perfectly diffusible, and the mixture may be exhibited with the usual adjuvants of the draught. I encountered the same difficulty as that which presented itself to your correspondent in the first attempts at the employment of chloroform as an internal remedy, and was led to use the sulphuric ether by reflecting on the comparative density of the substances. A careful calculation might probably secure to us a mixture more exactly corresponding to the density of water; but the proportions above stated are, I think, quite suitable for practical purposes.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,
Bo'ness, N.B., Sept. 1849. DAVID BRODIE, M.D.

DIFFICULT PARTURITION AND CEPHALOTOMIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have read Dr. Davis's "Illustrations of Difficult Parturition," as reported in THE LANCET, with much interest, and have, on more than one occasion, derived valuable practical information therefrom. His treatment, however, of the difficult labour of Mrs. —, June 10th, as reported in your last week's number, is open to criticism; but from a simple desire to obtain information, I beg respectfully to ask, whether in such a case as that of Mrs. —, who appears to have been well formed, without any deformity, and who had previously given birth to a "child of average size," the operation of turning would not have proved effectual to her delivery, rather than that of cephalotomia, which entails so much danger to the mother, and, of necessity, the death of the child?

I am, Sir,
Nov. 7th, 1849. A COUNTRY PRACTITIONER.

THE PROJECTED NEW CHARTER FOR THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AND THE ELECTION OF FELLOWS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It appears, from THE LANCET of last week, that there is a probability of some change in the present charter of the Royal College of Surgeons. Will you allow me to offer a few suggestions as to a mode of electing fellows, which will, I think, be admitted by all parties to be fair and honourable; inasmuch as it is based upon the real practical merits of individuals, independently of all favouritism and private influence. The great sores in the mode of election of the original list of fellows were—the feeling that among the excluded were many gentlemen of equal standing and ability with those elected; that the former could only obtain the new distinction by paying a sum of money, and submitting to a severe examination, which, it was quite certain, many of the favoured ones could not have passed without fully as much preparation as the excluded; and lastly, that the gratuitous elevation of the few was in effect an unmerited degradation of the many.

The mode of redressing these grievances, apparently about to be proposed, in the event of an amended charter, is, that all members of the college, of a certain standing, are to become fellows; thus making age the test of excellence. This would at once effectually quench all honourable ambition among the younger members; for no man could strive in a contest wherein the prize of victory was to be awarded to the longest liver, and in which superior ability, energy, and perseverance were to go for nothing.

I would suggest, therefore, that in the amended charter it shall be enacted, that all members of the college of ten or twelve years' standing, shall be admitted fellows on giving satisfactory proof of having been engaged in the actual practice of surgery during the whole of the time since the date of their diplomas, and of having performed all the surgical operations that have come in their way; providing that these have included a fair proportion of the greater operations in surgery, as those for stone, strangulated hernia, aneurism, the treatment of the more important fractures and dislocations, the greater amputations, &c.

A list of all these to be drawn out, and fully certified by

several already elected fellows, or, failing them, by respectable members of the college, living in the same district with the candidate, or even by the patients themselves, who had been the subjects of the various operations. Of course, the same testimony as to character &c. which is required now, would be required then; and even the payment of a *small* fee for the stamp of the diploma &c. would be perfectly just. This plan would unite a certain amount of professional standing with proved practical capacity; no one could justly complain of being excluded from distinction. The list of fellows would run no risk of becoming too large, and would consist, as it ought to do, of real practical surgeons.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
GEORGE WILSON, M.R.C.S. & L.S.A.
North-street, Leeds, Nov. 5, 1849.

MARISCHAL COLLEGE, ABERDEEN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On looking over the notice of the curriculum of medical study at Marischal College, Aberdeen, which forms part of the summary of medical education given in the Students' Number of THE LANCET, I discover one or two errors, which, as they are of some importance, I should feel obliged by your correcting in the forthcoming Number of THE LANCET:—

1. Three years of university attendance are stated as being required, whereas only two are necessary.

2. The language employed on the subject of the examinations is confused, and seems to imply that graduates and practitioners are exempted from examination altogether, and not (as the statutes of the university bear) merely from the preliminary examination in Latin, medical terms, &c.

3. The same may be said of the concluding paragraph, from which it does not clearly appear that the payment of £11 for the diploma of M.D. (£10 government stamp, £2 for incidental expenses) consequent on the remission of the examiners' fees, holds only in the case of those who have attended the several medical classes in this university, all others being charged the same fees as are usual in other universities of Scotland.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE OGILVIE,

Sec. to the Medical Faculty of Marischal College
and University, Aberdeen.

Oct. 30, 1849.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The following gentlemen having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the college at the meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 2nd inst.:—

CROFT, THOMAS, Bracknell, Berkshire.
DIXON, HENRY, Stockton-upon-Tees.
FLOYER, CHARLES ANTHONY, Floore, Northamptonshire.
GASKELL, RICHARD ALLANSON, St. Helen's, Lancashire.
GOODRIDGE, JOHN TOMPSON, Paington, Devon.
HAMILTON, ROBERT, Ipswich.
HATFIELD, WILLIAM MARTIN, Chilham, Kent.
M'KELLAR, EDWARD, Madeira.
NOWELL, JOHN LASCELLES, Liverpool.
REYNOLDS, SAMUEL, Debach, Suffolk.
ROSSITER, JOHN GILBY TOWNSEND, Bristol.
TAYLOR, HENRY, Bury St. Edmund's, Suffolk.

At the same meeting of the Court, Mr. WILLIAM EVANS passed his examination for naval surgeon; this gentleman had previously been admitted a member of the College, his diploma bearing date July 3, 1846.

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

Thursday, Nov. 1st, 1849.

HEMMING, JOSEPH HUGHES, Kimbolton, Hunts.
LYNCH, JOHN COX, Norwood.
WRATISLAW, WILLIAM FERDINAND, Rugby.
WRIGHT, THOMAS PETTIT, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire.

PRESERVATION OF HEALTH THE CHIEF AIM OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.—No city perhaps ever possessed such an efficient body of medical men as are now practising in London. During this epidemic they have performed services which in any other field must have won the highest honours; combating the disease night and day in the most pestilential quarters, and that