

though deeper than, that occasionally used in the production of local anæsthesia by cold), and filling this with a semi-fluid mixture of ice and salt, in such proportion as will reduce the temperature much below that of dissolving ice, but not so low as to produce congelation. The taxis may be employed at intervals with or without chloroform; and if a wide cup be used, sufficient pressure might be occasionally made with the finger to expel the flatus in the strangulated noose of intestine, and excite a withdrawing action in the gut within the abdomen, without suspending the action of the frigorific. Before abandoning the measure, the cold may be increased so as to produce congelation; and (just as chloroform acts in both capacities) if it then fails in effecting reduction, it will answer as a local anæsthetic when the knife is at last resorted to. It will then also act as a preventive of the inflammation that might otherwise follow the operation, and as a promoter of the healing of the wound.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
York-street, Portman-square, Nov. 1860. JAMES ARNOTT, M.D.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—By consulting Mr. South's "Household Surgery" for 1851, p. 234, Mr. Jessop will find that his supposed new method was then adopted with success by the French surgeons.

I remain, Sir, yours truly,

Cheltenham, Nov. 1860. M.D.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Had Mr. Jessop consulted Mr. Lawrence's work on "Ruptures," he would have found, at p. 85 of the fourth edition, the following:—

"A strong man, placed in a convenient position near the edge of the bed, supports the lower extremities on his shoulders, so that the patient's head and chest only rest on the bed. Attempts at reduction in this posture are said to have succeeded, after everything else had failed, and have, therefore, been highly recommended by some surgeons."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
NEWTON B. C. LEE, M.R.C.S.E.

Talbot-terrace, Westbourne-park, Nov. 1860.

BREVITY WITHOUT OBSCURITY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your publication of the 17th ultimo, is inserted a paragraph, the writer of which has discovered that, "according to the Registrar-General's Twenty-first Annual Report, *disease of the uterus &c.* was the cause of death in no less than fifty-three males in England during the year 1858," and with a pleasant humour—I dare not say sparkling wit—he proceeds to recommend the establishment of "a special hospital for these obscure affections in the male sex." Let me assure him that his own subscription to the proposed hospital will not be called for, and that he may, both safely and judiciously, invest the amount in a pair of Dollond's patent spectacles—a help to read of which he is painfully in want. When he has put them on, I shall take him back from the 136th page of the said Report to the 140th, and there show him that the general heading, "Organs of Generation," is printed in large type, and is inclusive of the "Uterus, &c.," which has moved his mirth in the detailed list of diseases. Let no man blindly overlook, or rashly despise an *et cetera*; for in every age that symbol has been the usual leaf of literature, and, indeed, of all discourse both spoken and written. The Registrar-General most properly observes the Ciceronian maxim, "Verborum turpitudinem, et rerum obscuritas vitanda," and it will become all clever writers of paragraphs, equally male and female, to follow so good an example.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

November, 1860.

ALPHA.

VACCINATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your impression of the 10th instant, I observe a letter on this subject from Dr. Charles Hogg. If the following case tend to throw any light on the effect of the vaccine virus, I should feel obliged by its insertion:—

Some time since I vaccinated a healthy baby, whose arm at the end of the week (eighth day) exhibited *no trace* of inflammatory action; but, on the fifteenth day, showed a perfect pustule, from which I obtained a good pock in a second child, at the usual period.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Lowestoft, Nov. 1860.

JAMES RAY, M.R.C.S.

SANITARY REFORM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The very fair and full account which you have done me the honour to give of my Bradford papers, contains a remark which may lead to misapprehension of my meaning on a point of some importance.

We do not propose that the provincial sanitary superintendents, or officers of health, should be debarred from *hospital* practice as well as from *private* practice. On the contrary, we freely admit the advantages of *public* medical employment to such officers. And in a paper read before a previous meeting of the Social Science Association, I distinctly stated that connexion with an hospital or medical school would be a special recommendation to any candidate for sanitary office. The reasons for combining *public* curative duties with preventive or medico-legal functions, are well shown in the Instructional Minute of the late General Board of Health, Dec. 20th, 1855. The reasons for separating those functions from *private* practice have been urged by none more forcibly than by the principal officers of health in provincial towns, with whom I corresponded in 1854, and whose replies are given in my *Essays on State Medicine*, pp. 310, 311.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Cheltenham, Nov. 1860. H. W. RUMSEY.

VACCINATION IN INDIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the spring of 1850, during a brief residence in Calcutta, small-pox raged with unmitigated fury, slaying with remorseless hand its victims, European and native. In one instance, that of an amiable English physician, Dr. R—, who resided with me in the same house in Fauld-square, the loathsome disease ran its course in a few days, the genitals and upper portion of the lower extremities being decomposed for several hours before death. This state of things naturally induced me to inquire how far the practice of vaccination was observed, which I found was most imperfectly pursued even amongst the European population, and totally neglected by the natives, who, whether from general ignorance and superstition, or from their traditionary veneration for the cow, resisted, in Calcutta and the surrounding villages, all attempts on the part of the English medical man to enforce the operation. Inoculation, however, was common amongst the natives, thus serving to propagate the variolous fever.

After conversing on the subject with an intelligent baboo, he obtained from the hakeem, or native doctor, the following recondite prescription, which your readers will at once perceive does not confine itself to the treatment, which is elaborate enough, but indulges in a nosological arrangement of the species of variola, which transcends anything to be found in Cullen or Bateman:—

"There are seven sister sorts of small-pox—gootea, dowdea, hain, rhodo, chaumia, banunea, and busmuth. The last six are of a mild description; the first is remarkably severe. When a child is attacked, the father and mother must put a halter round their necks, and tie their hands and feet with ropes. The child must be placed in the middle of the floor; the floor must not be swept, but cleaned out with a cloth. Neither father nor mother nor child may eat flesh, oil or glue, or any fatty substance; they must have only 'uhâl bāt' or 'uowd bāt.' If the child is cross, the father and mother must salaam to it with a cloth round their necks. At night, the child being in the middle of the floor, the father and mother must sleep on each side, at such a distance as not to touch it; and they must not touch each other or the child without bathing. No stranger may touch the child. In the morning they must rise and bathe separately; then they must throw water under a neem tree, and sprinkle the whole way from the tree to where the child is lying. After this, they must come to gootea to leave the child; then they must bathe the child with milk, gently rubbing its face and arms, and paying particular attention to put a little milk into its eyes; they must also be careful not on any account to leave the child alone. When the child has recovered, and been able to bathe in water, a Brahmin must make a poojah for it; and a pig ought to be killed in the parents' house as a substitute for the child whose life has been spared."

Absurd as is this nonsensical farrago, every practical man must, in the course of his experience, even in enlightened England, have met with numerous instances—and amongst the educated classes too—where the most absurd ideas and prejudices have existed with respect to Jenner's immortal discovery,

vague notions of its defectiveness, as well as of its liability to induce disease, floating in the weak minds of obstinate and self-opiniated parents. Reasoning and facts are thrown away upon such persons, and nothing but rigidly enforcing the operation in every house by a duly-qualified staff of competent practitioners, adequately paid, will ever drive the hideous monster from these shores.

I remain, Sir, very faithfully yours,
London, Nov. 1860. J. J. MACGREGOR, M.D.

THE STATE OF THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—If, although the Indian local armies are marked for annexation to the Line, there be any hospital students who, allured by descriptions of what these services were, and the guarantee of their rights and privileges, think of competing at the India Office in January, let them look over a file of an Indian newspaper. Advertisements for candidates are apt to show only the rosy side of the picture: a competency from the date of landing; the prospect of lucrative civil employment; princely retiring allowances from the medical funds. A local publication, however, especially in a minor presidency, is more apt to show the other side: the shifting for two or three years from one into another kind of travelling order—rail and transit and river, palki and tent and rail; the share of one's pay that goes to the Peninsular and Oriental Navigation Company; promotion indefinitely postponed; the way in which the Royal Warrant has been extended to India. The Secretary for India, when questioned on the subject of the Warrant, had the coolness to answer that the Line and local services in India were "on a footing of perfect equality." When the litigants received each a shell of the celebrated oyster, they were doubtless "on a footing of perfect equality." The shell granted to the Line in 1858 was emptied of the improved rates of pay by "a corresponding deduction from allowances." The shell granted to the local services in 1860 was emptied by simply omitting every clause in which pay or pension was mentioned.

If the Line officers are to hold the best appointments hitherto monopolized by the local, they must look sharp, ere they be all abolished. A deputy inspectorship (southern division) has been lately lost to Bombay, another (centre division) to Madras, and one or two more are expected to follow. The stations in Burmah are now nearly comfortable enough to be handed over to the major presidency. If they be handed over, the natural consequence will be a large reduction of the present Madras army, and possibly of its establishment of full surgeons by one for every regiment broken up. At present, the full are to the assistant surgeons as two to five. The new police battalions are, in the southern presidency, so far organized as to promise a further and earlier reduction. To appoint surgeons to these battalions would be a violation of the economical principles on which they are levied. Their medical wants are supplied, as yet, from the civil dispensaries, making civil employment more valuable than ever as a field for practice.

Fully agreeing with your correspondent, "Impromptu," that a surgeon ought to have other and higher aspirations than "to draw the sword and wear the sash," I would suggest a limitation to his remark that a medical officer "knows about military matters, although he associates with soldiers daily, less than a rifle volunteer of one month's standing." He knows less of shouldering arms and forming squares; but I have known a mess enlightened by the doctor as to Marlborough's campaigns; a party, mainly military, and including an artillery officer, indebted to a civilian for a description of Armstrong's (a civilian's) gun; a mess party who discovered, on comparing notes, that a medical non-combatant and a pure civilian were the only men present who had "heard a shot fired." Such instances may not be usual, but I suspect that, in the junior ranks at least, they are not rare.

Whether has an army in quarters or an army in the field the larger proportion of medical officers?

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

October, 1860.

MEDICUS INDICUS.

TESTIMONIAL TO A PHYSICIAN.—On the 23rd ult., a very handsome and valuable time-piece was presented to Dr. Philip H. Williams, of Worcester, with a purse containing 125 sovereigns, as an acknowledgment by the subscribers to the Dispensary in that city of his services rendered to the institution during the period of twelve years.

MEDICAL TRIALS.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH, WESTMINSTER, NOV. 21.

(Sittings in Banco, before Lord Chief Justice COCKBURN and Justices WIGHTMAN, HILL, and BLACKBURN.)

STEELE (APPELLANT) v. HAMILTON (RESPONDENT).

THIS was a case stated by the stipendiary magistrate of Liverpool for the opinion of this Court, and it raised the question whether the facts set forth in the case were sufficient in law to warrant the conviction of the respondent, whom the magistrate had declined to convict, of an offence against the 40th section of the new Medical Act.

It appeared that the appellant, Arthur Brown Steele, hon. secretary to the Liverpool Medical Registration Society, had caused the respondent, John Hamilton, to be summoned before the magistrate upon an information which charged that he, on the 21st of February, 1860, wilfully and falsely pretended to be a surgeon, general practitioner, or apothecary, and used the name of surgeon, general practitioner, or apothecary, or some name, title, addition, or description, implying that he was registered under the Medical Act, or that he was recognised by law as a surgeon, practitioner in medicine, or apothecary, whereby he had become liable to a penalty of £20. When the respondent appeared before the magistrate it was proved that he had signed the following certificate:—

"MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

"I hereby certify that I attended William Hayes, late of 110, Mill-street, that died the 21st day of February; cause of death, enteritis; and that I have no reason to attribute his death to poison, violence, or criminal neglect.

"JOHN HAMILTON,

"Profession, Botanic Surgeon.

"Residence, 94, Mill-street.

"Day of February 22nd, 1860."

It was also proved that over the door of the house where the respondent carried on his business was painted in large legible letters, "J. Hamilton, Surgeon," and in very small characters underneath, "Boston, U.S.;" and upon a glass panel of the door itself was painted "J. Hamilton, Anti-Registered Surgeon." The words "anti-registered" were considerably smaller than the words "J. Hamilton, surgeon," and so as to be illegible, except upon close inspection. The magistrate dismissed the information, but, being required by the appellant to state a case, he submitted the following question to this Court,—namely, "Whether the evidence was sufficient in law to warrant a conviction under the 40th section of the Medical Act. If the Court are of opinion that the evidence was sufficient in law, then the magistrate prays the Court to make such order or conviction as the Court shall think fit."

Mr. L. TEMPLE, who appeared for the appellant, feared the case must be governed by the decision in the Court of Common Pleas, "Pedgrift v. Chevallier" (29, L. J., M. C., 225), unless it could be shown that the respondent was not in practice before the 1st of August, 1815. Nothing was stated on that subject in the case; but as the respondent, he believed, was only about forty years of age, he applied that the case might be sent back to be amended.

Mr. COOK EVANS (with whom was Mr. Seymour), for the respondent, said the case had already been before the magistrates, both of whom had refused to convict, and he hoped the case would not be sent back. He should contend that the case was concluded by the decision in the Common Pleas, where it had been held that for a person merely to call himself a surgeon, without being duly registered, was no offence against the 40th section.

Mr. TEMPLE contended that the respondent had falsely pretended to be a surgeon by signing a medical certificate for burial. The 37th section of the Medical Act enacted that no certificate required by any Act of Parliament should be valid unless the person signing the same be registered under the Act.

Mr. EVANS said that the 37th section referred to cases where the certificate of a surgeon was required—for instance, in the case of an insane person whom it might be proposed to send to a lunatic asylum. But the certificate as to the cause of death might be given by any person who was present at the death.

Mr. Justice HILL referred to the 25th section of the Registration Act (6th and 7th William IV., cap. 86), and said that it was so.

Mr. Justice BLACKBURN thought that part of the case was disposed of.

Mr. TEMPLE proceeded to call attention to the case, in which it was found that the words "anti-registered" were written in