

complained of pains on the right side of the abdomen in the region of the ovary. In this situation she perceived a tumour, which was small at first, but in six weeks became as large as the head of a child. The pain extended along the back and the right thigh, and soon became so severe as to deprive her entirely of sleep. There was constipation, fever, thirst, and subsequently jaundice, with slight infiltration of the skin.

M. de Ritzen was called in, at about six weeks after the commencement of the pains. The woman believed herself to be pregnant, in consequence of the cessation of menstruation and from other signs.

The tumour was at this time exceedingly large; slight pressure increased the pain, but greater pressure caused it to cease. The right side of her person was more oedematous than the left; the right pupil was more contracted and smaller than the left, and the whole of the right side affected with a general sensation of uneasiness. The liver was normal, pulse quick, skin hot and dry, thirst considerable, tongue covered with a yellowish coating, appetite bad.

On examining the uterus through the vagina, the orifice was found towards the left side, the lower lip being enlarged. Through the cul-de-sac of the vagina on the right side he felt a tumour immediately above the uterus, of which he could easily feel the movement, when pressure was made in the right groin. On examining the tumour through the rectum, it was found to be a little larger in this situation. For three months no discharge had taken place through the vagina. Her bowels were at first opened every four days by means of clysters and saline purgatives; but at the end of twelve days there was complete constipation, and the transverse colon might be felt distended through the abdominal parietes.

By these signs it was presumed to be a case of tubal pregnancy, and auscultation rendered this diagnosis still more positive, discovering a bellows sound at the same instant with the pulsation of the arteries. The tumour now seemed likely to burst; a narcotic emollient poultice was therefore applied, and a seton made a little to one side. With the intention of promoting premature delivery, a dose of salts was prescribed, and subsequently pills composed of ergot of rye and extract of aloes. In twenty-four hours the pains in the tumour ceased, and on the third day the patient was able to sleep. The pills had at first produced vomiting, and subsequently contractions in the tumour and in the uterus; the patient expelling through the vagina some blood of a deep colour, and in twelve hours her bowels were moved. After this, large clots of blood were discharged, which were found to be composed of flocculent tissue like decayed membrane, and afterwards part of the

chorion was found, but nothing which indicated the presence of an embryo.

On the fourth day the tumour had considerably diminished, but did not disappear altogether till after about a year and a half. During nine months she was subject to frequent discharges of blood. The bellows sound began to diminish immediately after the treatment, and disappeared completely in three weeks. The ergot of rye and aloes were administered for three days, and the Epsom salts during eight days: the seton was retained for several months. The woman is now well, and has not again become pregnant.

## UVULA-SNIPPING FOR STAMMERING.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Seeing by the last number of your Journal that Mr. Yearsley *still persists* in the success of *his* operation for stammering, I beg to inclose you the result of two cases in this town, operated upon by Mr. Y.

Mr. B., an inspector of police, *suffered* the *excision* of his tonsils and uvula by Mr. Yearsley some two or three months since, he having been subject to stammering for many years, attended with most disagreeable contortions of his features (protrusion of the tongue, &c.) in the act of speaking. Mr. Yearsley *at once* operated on him, and *kindly* "let him off" for the moderate fee of 2l. 2s., owing to his father being a surgeon in the navy. He returned to Chelmsford in a few days; and I confess my expectations were raised to the highest pitch for the result, it being such a confirmed case, and one (if cured) likely to enlist a great many advocates in this quarter in favour of the operation; but what has been the result? He has not received the *slightest benefit*, but, on the contrary, thinks himself *worse* since the operation, and grieves very much that he ever submitted to what he calls a "*butchering experiment!*"

The second case is that of Mr. L., a relieving officer, a native of this place. He was also operated on by Mr. Yearsley, and certainly felt much benefit during the time that inflammatory action was going on (*which was most severe*), consequent on the operation; but now that all that has subsided, his improvement has been very little indeed, I myself being in the habit of conversing with him daily. And now, sir, as I am on the subject of stammering, I beg to mention a case operated on in this town, by Mr. Gibson, surgeon, at which I was present.

John Hicks, a railroad labourer, a confirmed stammerer from childhood, presented himself about nine weeks since, and wished to try his chance of a cure at the expense of losing his uvula. He being a fair case, as

we thought, for *deuvulising*, having the uvula very much elongated, and filled with serous infiltration, Mr. G. applied the curved scissors, and brought away the uvula, and, to our great delight and astonishment, John Hicks spoke most fluently and *most incessantly* in a few seconds afterwards, making us for the *time-being* most sanguine admirers of Mr. Yearsley's stammering propensities; but our delight was soon turned into disappointment, for John Hicks called a few days afterwards to leave a *lasting impression* on our minds of *as bad a case of stammering* as I ever heard. Thus much, sir, for the success of Mr. Y's. *operations* in this town; and hoping you will give insertion to this for the benefit of Messrs. Yearsley and Poett, I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

W. B. M. EGAN, Surgeon.  
Chelmsford, July 19, 1841.

### OPERATIONS FOR STAMMERING.

MR. YEARSLEY has forwarded to our Publisher an advertisement for insertion on the cover of THE LANCET, having reference to the remarks which have appeared in this Journal upon his progress and proceedings as an operator in a popular line of business. We desire to take no advantage whatever of Mr. Yearsley, which is not based upon *facts*, and we stand on this question quite as much before the tribunal of the public for judgment as does Mr. Yearsley himself. With a disposition to do all possible justice to that gentleman, we voluntarily copy into this place the advertisement on the wrapper to which we refer, in order that the comment of its author, and the statements of his critics, may be always found in the same volume:—

“TO THE READERS OF THE LANCET.

“Can I be expected to continue a controversy with the whole herd of stammering schoolmasters and THE EDITOR OF THE LANCET into the bargain? The odds are too great; neither is the field a fair one, as may be seen by referring to “Notices to Correspondents” of the last three or four weeks. I therefore “bide my time,” when I trust I shall prove I have neither unnecessarily maimed my patients, misrepresented facts, nor deluded myself. For the present I must content myself with affirming, that I have cured many cases of stammering by surgical means alone, and shall continue to do so when it be associated with disorganisation of the throat.

“JAMES YEARSLEY.

“21, Sackville-street, July 20, 1841.”

### NAVAL ASSISTANT-SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—I rely on your sense of justice to insert a few words in reply to your anonymous correspondent, “A Naval Surgeon of the Old School,” who accuses me, in THE LANCET of last week, of an attempt to disseminate discontent amongst the naval assistant-surgeons, “who,” he says, “have not experience for their guide.” I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

J. TWEEDDALE.

87, St. Martin's-lane, July 8, 1841.

Your correspondent of the old school commences by stating, that from my standing in the service I could only have been a member of the ward-room mess in times of piping peace; in this he is misinformed: and I beg to state that I entered the service in April, 1807, and continued serving the most active period of the war, until its conclusion in June, 1815. Having fortunately passed the greater part of my time, while assistant-surgeon, as a member of a ward-room mess, the contrast I drew between the situation of the army and naval assistants was consequently derived from my own experience, and not from the opinion of my seniors, as no grievance of the kind was ever felt in my own case. In pointing out the disadvantages under which naval assistants still labour—their not being allowed to mess in the ward-room; and this exclusion preventing them from giving their children the benefit of the very best education at the Royal Naval Schools of Richmond and Camberwell, at a small nominal charge, and which has been denied to them because they do not come under the denomination of officers of ward-room rank. In order to prove the correctness of my statements in opposition to that contained in THE LANCET of last week, I shall simply send you an extract from the evidence of the inspector-general, given in 1839, before the naval and military commissioners, respecting the situation of assistant-surgeon.

“There has never, as far as has come to my knowledge, been any serious complaint made respecting the full-pay, though the changes and increase which some years ago took place in that of the medical officers of the army, have certainly of late caused dissatisfaction. Even this would not have been received as so great a hardship, if the order in council had not prevented the assistant-surgeon promoted from receiving any benefit from more than three years out of his actual service, though that time had been passed on the coast of Africa (where so many have lately fallen victims), in the West Indies, or any other tropical country. If he had not the good fortune to be promoted, did he receive any more half-pay