

of Fagan was reported *faithfully* by the gentleman who has for several years reported cases from University College Hospital in this Journal. Our reporter did *not* hear the remark attributed to Mr. Liston, nor could he be supposed to divine the extent of Mr. Cooper's recollection of the case.—Ed. L.]

### THE LOST BOUGIE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Having been this day informed by my colleague, Mr. Samuel Cooper, that he had taken the greatest pains to communicate to the "heads of the profession" that he conceived he had been seriously injured by my insertion of an article in THE LANCET, of the 20th inst., headed "Mr. S. Cooper's Mode of Catheterising," and that he would continue to make a similar statement in future, which would materially prejudice me in the opinions of my professional brethren, I take the earliest opportunity of stating (as I did to Mr. S. Cooper personally), through the medium of your Journal, that I have had no connection whatsoever with the article in question. I trust that the judgment of the profession may be suspended, if after this contradiction Mr. S. Cooper should still persist in circulating such a calumny, to refute which complete documents are in my possession, should it be at all necessary to bring them forward.

I cannot conjecture what Mr. Samuel Cooper's motives can be in thus propagating a statement which he has no means of confirming, and for which there is not the slightest foundation in truth. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

ROBT. LISTON.

12, Old Burlington-street,  
April 29, 1839.

### NOTE ON RESPIRATION AND ASPHYXIA.

THE excitors of inspiration are the trifacial, the pneumogastric, and the spinal nerves. None of these can be affected *in utero*; for the excitant of the first and third is the cool atmosphere which is excluded until the foetus is born; and the excitant of the second is the *evolved* carbonic acid, which is *not* evolved until atmospheric air has been introduced into the air-tubes and air-cells.

There is much to admire in all this, which passes unnoticed by the superficial observer. The pneumogastric would exist in vain if inspiration were not first excited by another excitor, placed on the surface of the animal body. Evolved carbonic acid, the future excitant of respiration, is not evolved unless the atmospheric air be *first* brought into contact, as it were, with the venous blood, a fine membrane only being interposed.—(Dr.

Stevens, "Phil. Trans." for 1835.) But *first* by the contact of the *cool* atmosphere with the trifacial and spinal nerves, and ever after by the agency of atmospheric air, but especially of its oxygen, in contact with venous blood, and the consequent evolution of carbonic acid, the *future* excitant of inspiration, respiration is *begun* and *continued*.

The foetus *in utero* makes no effort to breathe, because *neither* the trifacial nor the pneumogastric is excited. The hybernant animal breathes little for the same or similar reasons. But dash cold water on the surface, or excite the evolution of carbonic acid, by augmenting the circulation by muscular effort, and respiration will be immediately and proportionately excited.

During asphyxia, whether from the exclusion of atmospheric air, or from the presence of carbonic acid, the acts of respiration become violent, anormal, and convulsive, —*convulsive* gaspings, with efforts of *expiration*, and, finally, *general* convulsions frequently closing the scene. Asphyxia is, in a word, nearly allied to epilepsy.

M. H.

### APOTHECARIES' HALL.

List of gentlemen who have received certificates:—

Thursday, March 28.—Jeremiah Gledhill, Eddercliffe, Yorkshire; William Forsyth Henderson, London; Robert Hills, Maidstone; George Stevenson, Manchester; John Taylor, Bayswater.

Thursday, April 4.—Isaac Ball, Westminster; William Haslewood, Darlington, Durham; George Panton, Wareham, Dorset; Edward Rogers Perks, Coombe; Josiah Winterbottom, Bolton, Lancashire.

Thursday, April 11.—Thomas Edward Amyot; Edward Harold, Holt, Norfolk; Frederick Charles Jones; Thomas Sale, Manchester; Henry Shorland, Bristol; John McCay.

Thursday, April 18.—John Henry Billing, Spondon, near Derby; Robert Wilson; John Halitley Carter; Frederick Haward, Halesworth; Wm. Ward, Sheerness; Frederick Wm. Keast; Robert Brandon, Bristol; William Coates; Henry Lionel Cowan, Jamaica, West Indies; Thomas Coe, Bury St. Edmunds; Henry Appleton; John Campbell, Looe, Cornwall; Nicholas John Biss, Guernsey; Wm. Tyler Smith, Somersetshire; Garrett Bond, Acle, Norfolk.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Mr. F. Cripps, Dr. Knox, Mr. Raines, Mr. Verral, Mr. Kirby, Dr. Clanny, Mr. C. H. R. Harrison, Mr. C. Evans, and A General Practitioner.

We shall not forget the points alluded to by A. C. T.