

tooth-ach, supervene. Further conviction of the influence exercised by pressure, results from the fact, that in this case the chasms that the two teeth left after extraction were almost filled up by the other teeth shifting their position.—I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY WILLIAM HOOPER, M.R.C.V.S.  
Billericay, Essex, Aug. 1846.

### ASPHYXIA IDIOPATHICA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In THE LANCET for July 25th, there is an excellent report upon a case of sudden death by Mr. Robins, in which that gentleman appears to have been at some pains in searching for recorded instances of similar seizures. As the subject is one of great interest and importance, I venture, with your permission, to refer Mr. Robins to an additional series of nineteen cases of sudden death, which he will find reported, with remarks by Dr. Francis, in the number of the Guy's Hospital Reports for April, 1845.—Your obedient servant,  
August, 1846.

LECTOR.

### LETTER FROM DR. MARSHALL HALL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—There is an expression at page 82, of the last number of THE LANCET, which might lead to an erroneous conclusion, and which I am therefore most anxious to correct. It relates to Professor Sharpey.

No one has been more prompt and generous in doing justice to my efforts in the cause of physiological science than Professor Sharpey, both in his public lectures and in private conversations. Indeed, I have always ranked that gentleman with Baron Flourens and Professor Müller for his noble candour and generosity, amidst a crowd actuated by a very different spirit. Very early, Professor Sharpey expressed himself, at University College, in the following terms:—

"Many of these facts have been witnessed, and reasoned upon, by previous observers; but to Dr. Marshall Hall belongs the credit of having fully shown their connexion with each other, of having first successfully generalized them, and of having given to this part of physiology the form of a consistent doctrine; and to him belong exclusively the merit of applying a knowledge of these phenomena to pathology. And here, no less than in physiology, the application of the doctrine is of the highest interest and importance; indeed, as regards pathology,—except the introduction of the stethoscope, which after all is perhaps not a fair subject of comparison,—I can think of no single improvement which has taken place since I began the study of medicine, equal to this, or so likely to prove fruitful in important results."

I will take this opportunity of thanking you, Sir, for the ample justice done me in the very able review in the same number of your journal. When the profession understand the subject, as the writer of that review understands it, there will be nothing left for detractors to say or do, whether in the way of "complete anticipation" paragraphs, or in any other way.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

August, 1846.

MARSHALL HALL.

P.S.—As my readers may not understand what I mean by the concluding paragraph, I beg to add, that in one of his notices, Dr. Forbes, as editor of the *British and Foreign Medical Review*, inserted a paragraph with the following heading: "*Complete Anticipation of Dr. Marshall Hall, by Prochaska.*" I know not in what allowable term I can express my indignation, after the lapse of so many years, at this most malignant calumny. In the first place, it is totally unfounded in truth; in the second, Dr. Forbes might have known this by a comparison of a few intellectual moments of Prochaska's work and my own; in the third, such a comparison was due to his own character (I should think) as well as to my own; fourthly, he must have received the paragraph from some ignorant and very malignant person, and should, therefore, have taken double pains to make that comparison.

Lastly, Dr. Forbes has submitted, during a long series of years, to be viewed by a brother in the profession (nay by many) as a false calumniator, without coming forward with either justification (a thing impossible), or confession (a thing which should have been spontaneous and immediate), when the calumny was properly exposed.

What state is our profession in, when such things are tolerated?

### NOTE FROM DR. WEBSTER, OF DULWICH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

Dulwich, August, 1846.

SIR,—In your leading article on the labours or discoveries of my excellent friend, Dr. Marshall Hall, in the last week's LANCET, page 162, you appeal to the testimony of another highly esteemed friend of mine, by asking, "What says Professor Sharpey, who is certainly not prejudiced in their favour?" Having had the pleasure of a long intimacy with these eminent men, I could readily answer your question, so as to show that at an early period of Dr. Hall's researches, Dr. Sharpey placed a very high value upon them, and was at all times a most *unprejudiced* witness in their favour. Perhaps, however, I cannot put these points in a clearer light than by giving you an extract from a note of my own to Dr. Hall, written some years since, containing the opinion of Dr. Sharpey, uttered in all sincerity, and which will at once do justice to both these distinguished physiologists.

Extract of Note from Dr. Webster to Dr. Marshall Hall.

Dulwich, 19th June, 1846.

MY DEAR FRIEND,— . . . . . Dr. Sharpey dined here, with Dr. Maunsell and Mr. Farr, last week, when, on my alluding to what he (Dr. Sharpey) had said in his lectures concerning your labours, he said he considered it his duty to express himself as he had done—1st, because he thought you had been ill used; and, 2ndly, because the importance of the subject demanded it. On some discussion taking place respecting your doctrines, Dr. Sharpey mentioned the case of a paralytic limb, which was insensible to the touch, and could not be moved by any effort of the will, but yet could be moved extensively on certain nerves, before unknown, being stimulated. He added, "You cannot go into a hospital or witness an interesting case, without the words 'reflex function,' or 'excito-motor power,' being used. They were become common household words. There was a beautiful system of actions and effects, and pathological facts and curative indications, which till very lately were either unknown or disconnected and misunderstood. These were now made plain, so as to be understood by every one who chose to understand and be taught; all, or very nearly all this, we owe to Dr. Marshall Hall, but his researches and discoveries are not always acknowledged as they ought to be. I consider that Dr. Hall possesses a mind of the first order, a most acute intellect, and is one of the most ingenious men and closest observers of the present times." These are the words of Dr. Sharpey, as near as I can remember them, and doubly gratifying to me as the words of a friend spoken of a friend.

As the above extract requires no comment, I shall not add another word, but remain, your obedient faithful servant,

GEO. WEBSTER.

### QUALIFICATIONS OF NAVAL SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Allow me to correct an error which appears in a foot note to a letter, by "One Concerned," in THE LANCET of August 1st, wherein the writer states that 17l. is demanded upon passing the second examination for the navy, and 5l. 5s. the first. I passed, in 1827, Navy Board and College. Having retired from the service in the following year, I then thought it advisable (to avoid quibbles) to go in for my diploma, which I obtained; but they positively refused to deduct the five guineas, and for which Mr. Belfour gave me no reason.—Sir, your obedient servant,

T. H. B. CROSSE,

Late Senior Surgeon of Artillery, B. L.

Whilst abroad, I lost my diploma, and wrote to Mr. Belfour, requesting a certificate; but this was refused, unless 5l. was forwarded.

Park Terrace, Highbury, August, 1846.

### PUTRID FOOD FOR THE POOR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Though not a medical man, I nevertheless take in THE LANCET, and feeling confident that any remark about diseases and the prevention of them has more attention paid to it in yours than in any other periodical, I do not hesitate to send you the following suggestion regarding the cholera. Let a clerk of the market (or whatever title may be thought more appropriate) be appointed in every parish, to inspect and reject