

ployed than in writing to *The Times* to exult over the disgrace and punishment of men whose faults are greatly the result of the defects of the system that the Commissioners in Lunacy administer, and that they make no effort to change. The rib-breaking attendant is the natural growth and product of the modern monster asylum."

This is a serious charge, and one that may mislead the public. For myself I have to say that, during more than thirty years, I have, in everything that I have said or done on this subject, protested against all such monster asylums, and have urged 300 as the utmost number that ought to be admitted into any building or range of buildings. The records of this office will show that the Commissioners have never ceased to use such limited powers as Parliament has entrusted to them to prevent the formation and increase of these enormous establishments.

As you have mentioned me by name, you will, perhaps, be so good as to put this reply in as prominent a place as the leading article which contains the charge.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Office of Commissioners in Lunacy,  
Whitehall-place, March 14th, 1870.

SHAFTESBURY.

\*\*\* We never supposed that Lord Shaftesbury, or any other sane man at all conversant with the questions at issue, was in favour of monster asylums, which are simply the result of a combination of parsimony with ignorance. We complain that his Lordship, having certain official duties ready to his hand, has failed to do them with his might. As President of the Lunacy Commission, and a peer of Parliament, it was for him, not feebly to protest in official documents, or to be content with the use of "limited powers," but to make his voice heard in the councils of the nation, and to demand powers co-extensive with his responsibilities. The faint censure of the Lunacy Commission has been the support of asylum abuses, at a time when adequate denunciation would have rendered these abuses impossible.—ED. L.

## SEQUEL OF A CASE OF SUCCESSFUL OVARIOTOMY,

PERFORMED IN THE FOURTH MONTH OF PREGNANCY,  
AFTER RUPTURE OF THE CYST AND PERITONITIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In THE LANCET of 18th September, 1869, is recorded a successful case of ovariectomy, performed by Mr. Spencer Wells, in the fourth month of pregnancy.

The patient went to Ramsgate on the twenty-eighth day after the operation, in good health, and whilst there was attacked, in the month of September, with diarrhoea, accompanied by an unusual amount of rather persistent abdominal pain. She was not fully relieved of this until the third week of October, and after recovery became the subject of catarrh, in the early part of November. At the end of November, the external saphena of the right leg near the knee became inflamed. Both saphenæ of the right lower extremity, being on the side from which the ovary had been removed, were varicose, and the phlebitis extended gradually upwards to the junction of the saphena and femoral veins, and downwards to the foot, until all the branches were more or less affected. The veins were not all inflamed at once, but in succession. There was a series of attacks, lasting altogether about ten weeks, and affecting portion after portion; as one part got well, or nearly so, another becoming inflamed.

About one o'clock in the morning of 18th February, her full time having come, she was seized with labour pains, and in a little more than four hours I delivered her of an average-sized male child. She had a more than usual amount of after-pains, followed by slight febrile disturbance, during the first week after delivery, and cough. But the discharges were free, there was very little abdominal tenderness, she had fair pulse, took nourishment well, kept up her good looks, and was cheerful. Since then she had gone on nicely. The phlebitic limb recovered its form and size. There was slight hardness in the course of the tor-

tuous internal saphena for about the length of six inches, and a little extra slightly-coloured discharge from the vagina, when I saw her last, on the 7th March.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

March 14th, 1870.

H. BATEMAN.

## ACUTE ORCHITIS: ITS CURE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With every respect for my friend Mr. Henry Smith, I take the liberty to record my opinion that if he were unfortunately the subject of acute orchitis, I do not believe he would allow his testis to be cut, even although the operation were to be performed by his august senior, Sir William Fergusson, Bart. Mr. Smith may rest assured that the generality of people have a great objection to having their testicles cut. I know I would not allow the operation to be performed upon myself, more especially as there is a much simpler method of curing this painful malady.

For nearly thirty years, whilst I was acting surgeon to the West Kent Hospital, I cured many scores of cases of acute orchitis by the following simple remedies—viz., the administration of one drachm of the tincture of hyoscyamus four times a day, and a smart purgative (half an ounce of salts) every morning. Under this treatment the patients were able to follow their ordinary employment, and the cure was usually effected in a week, ten days, or a fortnight.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

FREDK. FRY, F.R.C.S.,

Consulting Surgeon to the West Kent Hospital,  
Maidstone.

Maidstone, March, 1870.

## THE CHLORAL HYDRATE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Following the suggestion of Dr. J. Swift Walker, contained in your number of Saturday last, I may state I have a patient suffering from cancer of the uterus, and that she has found more relief from pain, and obtained more sleep, since she has taken the hydrate of chloral, than she did from any other remedy. She has taken three-drachm doses of the syrup prepared by Messrs. Ferris and Co., of Bristol (see THE LANCET, Feb. 19th, 1870), and does not complain of any unpleasant taste.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

CAMBRIDGE C. COCKS, M.D.

Ross, Herefordshire, March 14th, 1870.

## BIRMINGHAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MR. OLIVER PEMBERTON and Mr. Vincent Jackson have recently shown two capital cases of excision of the knee-joint and the os calcis respectively. Mr. Pemberton's patient, a young man aged nineteen, was admitted into the General Hospital with chronic disease of the knee-joint with dislocation. The patella was removed, and the articular surfaces to an inch and a half. The anterior splint applied just after the operation was not displaced for five weeks, when the wound was healed. A week later the patient was up, and walking, with bony union. The patient gets his living in a work-yard at this time. Mr. Vincent Jackson operated on his patient, a young woman aged nineteen, in the South Staffordshire Hospital at Wolverhampton on the 26th September last. He removed the whole os calcis, for central caries, by Holmes's method. The patient left the hospital on the 26th of January, and she appeared before our Pathological and Clinical section lately. The cicatrix is sound, the movements of the ankle are perfect in every direction, and the limp in walking is not very perceptible.

Four cases of lithotomy at the Queen's Hospital during the past month deserve brief mention. Mr. West removed a large phosphatic stone from a boy ten years of age. The wound was quite healed on the twenty-first day. Mr. Furneaux Jordan had two cases. He removed a moderate-sized