

and the same means will be again resorted to, should any have the hardihood to make a like attempt. They have no wish to ride rough-shod over their medical brethren, but they will prevent—what is not unfrequently attempted—their medical brethren taking from them that which is their due.

They earnestly desire that as many as are able will pass through the same portal as themselves, and then will they be gladly received as associates by the graduates of the London University.—I remain, Sir, yours most respectfully,
Nov. 27, 1848. A LONDON UNIVERSITY GRADUATE.

FURTHER NOTE ON THE OPERATION OF TRACHEOTOMY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have to propose, in this note, that the *tenaculum*, tracheotome, or instrument for the operation of laryngotomy or tracheotomy, be of the proper size for *children*. In operating on *adults*, it will only be necessary to repeat the application of the instrument, above or below the place of the first opening. In this manner, that opening may be augmented and made of any magnitude that may be desired, and it will have the advantage of being *oval*, or nearly so.

The surgeon will thus have to possess himself of *one* instrument only.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
London, November 19, 1848. MARSHALL HALL.

THE CHOLERA IN PECKHAM HOUSE ASYLUM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall reply but briefly to the letter of your Correspondent "T. A.," dictated as it is by the most bitter animosity, conveying the most groundless insinuations, and, in a word, written with feelings for which few will envy him. He commences by a wilful misrepresentation of facts, in stating that my letter to the *Times* newspaper was inserted "under the puffing heading of Chloroform a New Remedy for Cholera," whereas by referring to the journal in question, (of October 30,) it will be found headed simply "The Cholera." The publication, again, of the letter through that channel, was suggested and strongly urged by the commissioners in lunacy, as being the readiest mode of bringing under the notice of the profession the success we had met with in the use of chloroform in the treatment of a disease of such awful fatality.

The total number of patients in the asylum is 500, of whom sixty are private, and 440 are pauper. The drainage of the asylum has always been considered good and efficient, and, moreover, kept properly clear, and the cesspools have been regularly cleaned out when required. In order, however, to render it still more efficient, the proprietor has of late, at a considerable outlay, had the whole of the establishment thoroughly re-done, by means of the glazed stone-ware drain-pipes, which lead into a newly-made sewer running under the public road, at a much lower level than the old one into which they formerly led, and by which means all offensive matters can be effectually washed away from the premises in the course of a few minutes. There is a large farm-yard on the premises, at some distance, however, from any inhabited part of the establishment, where both horses and cows, as well as pigs and poultry, are kept, but no communication whatever has been made to us by the board of guardians relative to its being at all considered in the light of a nuisance.

The dietary of the patients is good and wholesome in quality and ample in quantity, and such as is approved of by the commissioners in lunacy.

As to the probable cause of the breaking out of the cholera in the asylum, it is doubtless to be attributed to the circumstance of the drains and cesspools having been opened shortly before, and the inmates exposed in some degree to the emanations arising from them, in connexion with the peculiar state of the atmosphere, which renders the disease epidemic, the former acting as a predisposing cause. Its great prevalence also, in so far as my experience goes, is likewise to be attributed to its having been communicated, in several instances at least, by direct contagion. As to the mortality, again, being "greater" than over every other place in the metropolis, it has been, on the contrary, "considerably less" than either in the metropolis generally, or in any other part of the kingdom, as will be seen from the tabular statement of our cases as promised to appear in your number of December 2nd. And as to the cases treated by chloroform a still smaller rate of mortality will be observed.

I may add that our operations for draining were commenced long before the appearance of cholera in this country, and

would have been completed some time ere the epidemic had travelled this length, had they not been delayed by the long continuance of wet weather.

Finally, as I am by no means ambitious of figuring in the columns of any periodical, I shall decline all further correspondence on this subject.—I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
JAMES HILL,
Peckham House Asylum, Nov. 1848. Medical Superintendent.

P.S.—I have now given a candid reply to the queries of your anonymous correspondent "T. A.," which probably few will consider him entitled to, in consequence of his not having the courage to adopt his own signature.

EXAMINATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As "a General Practitioner" who writes in last week's LANCET has chosen to compare the examinations of different boards, and to condemn those of the London University as not practical, and in no way superior to that at Blackfriars', I must request that you will insert the pass and honour examination papers for this month, that he may have the opportunity of correcting his opinion on the subject. I think he will find the questions as practical as possible, and that the great difference between these examinations and others consists in the much wider range of subjects which they embrace. I must say that I think one who has passed this, in addition to the two ordinary examinations, is as competent to form an opinion as to their respective merits as "a General Practitioner." This gentleman labours under a mistake if he supposes that M.B.'s of London have not also the diplomas of the hall and college. These they must of necessity obtain, as the London degree gives its possessor no licence or privilege whatever. If I am not mistaken, I can discover in your correspondent's observations a secret strong desire to obtain the degree of the very university whose examinations he despises and condemns. Now, if it is a degree merely for which he is so anxious, I would, with a former correspondent, advise him to get it at some Scotch university, and then present himself at the College of Physicians, where he would be received with open arms. In this way he might obtain all that is attainable in the way of titles without the necessity of "placing himself again on the students' benches"—without a long, deep, and extensive course of reading and observation, and, of course, without that useful information which alone renders any degree really valuable to its possessor and to the public. If the wild scheme of incorporation should ever meet with success, I presume the M.B.'s would be arranged in two classes—viz., those by examination and those without; and if registered in this way, the whole matter would be devoid both of objections and utility.—I enclose my card, and remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

A LONDON GRADUATE AND GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

Nov. 27, 1848.

* * We regret that we cannot at this time find space to publish the "pass and honour examination papers" of the University of London; but our correspondent must be fully aware that the value of the examination does not depend so much upon the questions as upon the replies to them. It is only an act of justice, however, to the university, to the examiners, and to those who have passed the examinations, to observe that the written answers to the questions are regularly filed, and are open for inspection. Many of the graduates, we understand, have in their examinations given evidence of extraordinary learning and ability.—ED. L.

ON A SEVERE CASE OF DYSPEPSIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to suggest the trial of diluted sulphuric acid to the country surgeon who has been so long a sufferer from dyspepsia, and whose letter I have read in to-day's LANCET.

It calls to my mind at once a case that was under my care about two years since, similar in many circumstances, of eleven years standing, but not in so aggravated a form.

The third or half of a tumbler of water was given with sufficient acid to make it agreeable to the palate, three times a day, with almost immediate benefit; and continued several weeks, (I should think about three or four,) when my patient expressed himself quite well, and most grateful. He has continued well ever since.