

## Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

## THE NEW PHARMACOPŒIA.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—Your first article on the British Pharmacopœia was so evidently written with the intention of giving honour where honour is due, that I think you will be glad to repair an unintentional omission.

Of all the contributors to the British Pharmacopœia no one contributed more largely than Dr. Apjohn. The Chemistry of the work was entrusted to Drs. Apjohn and MacLagan, and the mass of most valuable correspondence from Dr. Apjohn now before me, greatly exceeding that which was received from any other quarter, is evidence of the large amount of time and labour which he devoted to the work. He shrank from no amount of investigation or experiment that was required, and always ended his voluminous letter by expressing his willingness to do more.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

FREDERIC J. FARRE, M.D.,  
Chief Editor of the British Pharmacopœia.

Northumberland House, High-road, Lee, Jan. 27th, 1864.

\* \* We are happy to publish Dr. Farre's testimony to the value of the services rendered by Dr. Apjohn in the compilation of the British Pharmacopœia. We are well acquainted with the great ability of Dr. Apjohn and the interest which he took in this national publication. On looking again to the article in question, however, Dr. Farre will perceive that we did not make the omission to which he refers. We take this opportunity of correcting a misprint by which Dr. Farre was described in that article as the "old and indefatigable editor" instead of the "able and indefatigable editor" of the new Pharmacopœia. The latter was written in the MS., and it is the more accurate and complete expression of the fact.—ED. L.

## LIFE AND HEALTH ASSURANCE.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—I am glad to see that you are again advocating the necessity of health assurance for medical practitioners. That such is a desideratum which the profession should do their best to realize is beyond a doubt, and I am surprised the question has not been taken up by some of the large established life assurance offices, by whom such a system could most likely be worked more profitably than by an independent association. It might with them, indeed, be made productive of a twofold good, by combining life with health assurance, and thereby increasing the business of the office, as well as giving a stimulus to medical men to make provision for their families in case of death.

In a former letter which you kindly published in THE LANCET, I expressed my willingness to assist in the formation of an association for health assurance, and I shall still be glad to have the opportunity for doing so. In order, therefore, to make some more tangible advance in this direction, I shall be happy to give £10, provided nine others will join me with a similar sum, towards liquidating the preliminary expenses necessary to establish it. Such ten donors may form a provisional committee for organizing the society, or for making arrangements with existing life offices for carrying out the design. In either case any residue of the £100 thus raised may form a nucleus for a reserved fund, to be appropriated to casual or increased assistance on special cases in connexion with the scheme.

I shall be happy to receive the names of any gentlemen willing thus to co-operate in the good work, and sincerely trust I shall soon be able to forward you a list of the contributors.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

FRED. J. BURGE, M.R.C.S.E.,  
Medical Officer of Health Fulham District.

Hammersmith, January, 1864.

## ICTEROID AND URETHRAL DISCHARGE.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—I have been lately attending a man aged thirty, suffering from icterus, who complained to me of a profuse thick discharge from the penis, which was coincident with his illness. He had no scalding, and passed his urine freely, and without pain, which was of the usual dark-mahogany colour, and gave the variegated tints on the addition of nitric acid. This excessive discharge caused him great annoyance, and stained his linen yellow. On examination, I found it thick, and of a golden or saffron hue, exactly corresponding in colour to that of his conjunctivæ, and quite different from the purulent greenish discharge of gonorrhœa. He had had no sexual connexion for some time.

I looked upon this discharge as a consequence of the jaundice, and treated the disease successfully with iodide of potassium, taraxacum, and salines, with occasional doses of grey powder; and as he recovered, the urethral discharge diminished, and ultimately ceased.

The interesting reports of two cases of icterus recorded in THE LANCET of the 2nd instant, p. 7, recalled this to my mind; and as I do not find any mention in medical manuals of such a discharge accompanying jaundice, I should like to know if any of your many practical and observant readers have noticed the same. I should have attached less importance to this case, but upon mentioning it to my colleague, Mr. Rouse, he informed me that he had just had a case of jaundice in a child a few months old, and its mother called his attention to a yellowish discharge from the penis, which also ceased as the child recovered.

I have heard of a gouty urethral discharge troubling the victims of podagra, but never before of any icteroid discharge from the penis accompanying a severe attack of jaundice.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

FRED. ALDERSON, M.R.C.S.,  
Resident Medical Officer, West London Hospital.

January, 1864.

## SYMPTOMS OF POISONING FOLLOWING A DOSE OF DISULPHATE OF QUININE.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—I beg to forward the accompanying case, as I think it may prove interesting to many members of the profession:—

I was called in great haste one evening to a case of supposed poisoning. On arriving at the house, I found the man much better, but thought it safer to administer an emetic. On making inquiries, I found that he had prescribed for himself a mixture of sarsaparilla and quinine, which he had purchased from a druggist. The symptoms of poisoning came on after the first dose of this mixture: within a few minutes there was severe pain and burning in the stomach; the face swelled; the mouth felt drawn forwards; then the legs and body swelled, and became very red, with intolerable itching, followed by a rash of urticaria. I thought it possible that some poison had become accidentally mixed with his mixture, and so the case rested for a time. However, shortly afterwards the man had an attack of pneumonia, and during his convalescence quinine was prescribed. Upon taking the first dose (two-thirds of a grain, Howard's), all the symptoms above described came on, clearly proving that the quinine was the original cause of the mischief.

I think this case interesting from the singularity and violence of the symptoms produced by so small a dose, and also as showing how a druggist may be unjustly blamed from an idiosyncrasy of a patient.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Bradford, Jan. 1864.

E. H. ROE.

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—On looking over your number of the 2nd inst., I was glad to see the hope you express, with regard to Mr. Allison of Sydney, Sussex College, that his industry may be rewarded by a Fellowship. But to show how little substantial encouragement is given to scientific studies in the University of Cambridge, permit me to mention a fact, of which you may not be aware, that the gentleman who, three years ago, obtained the only first class in the new Science Degree Tripos (no first class having since been obtained in any examination till this last), has, up to this time, received no recognition from either his College or University of the honourable position he thus