

"Corrosive sublimate in the solid form. A solution of iodide of potassium turns it to a bright scarlet."—*Guy's Medical Jurisprudence*, p. 473.

"Hydriodate of potass causes in solutions of corrosive sublimate a beautiful pale scarlet precipitate, which rapidly deepens in tint. The precipitate is the biniodide of mercury. This is a test of great delicacy."—*Christison*, 4th edition, p. 376.

"Hydriodate of potash causes a beautiful pale scarlet precipitate, which rapidly deepens in tint."—*Beck's Medical Jurisprudence*, 6th edition, p. 441.

So much for the reviewer's knowledge of chemistry, or so much for his veracity.

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

London, Dec. 1848.

MEDICUS.

A BULLET SWALLOWED.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reply to the question contained in Mr. Litchfield's note, which I have only just observed in your journal, I beg to say, that I well recollect one of my brothers swallowing a large bullet, accidentally, about twenty years ago; and that, although it caused us considerable alarm at the time, it passed per anum, two days afterwards, without any bad symptom having appeared.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Seething-lane, Dec. 1848.

ROBERT TRACY WYLDE.

PROFESSIONAL ETIQUETTE IN SCOTLAND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a letter published in THE LANCET of the 11th Nov. current, dated Dollar, Clackmannanshire, and signed J. M. Strachan. As that letter manifestly refers to me, and is evidently intended to reflect upon my professional conduct and mode of behaviour on a certain occasion, I will feel greatly obliged if, through the medium of your useful journal, you will allow me the privilege of giving publicity to the following plain statement of the facts of the case alluded to.

About a month ago I was driving out to visit some patients about four miles from this, when I was overtaken on the road by Mr. C——, who stated that his wife was very ill, and requested me to visit her. I explained to him that as I intended to go some distance from home next morning, and would probably be away for a few days, it would be very inconvenient for me to attend her at that time, and therefore declined to visit her. Mr. C—— then informed me that Dr. Strachan had been attending her for some time past—that she was daily getting worse, and was supposed to be very dangerously ill; and he again begged that I would go and see her. I told him that Dr. Strachan and I were not upon friendly terms—that he was an individual with whom I did not now hold the slightest converse or acquaintanceship, and could not meet in consultation in any case whatever, and on that account I did not wish to visit any patient under his care; and besides, I said, Dr. Strachan would no doubt be offended were I to visit his wife. He replied that it was a matter of indifference to him whether Dr. Strachan was offended or not, he only considered that his wife was seriously ill, and had expressed a strong desire to see me, and he hoped I would not persist in refusing to visit her, for if his wife died (and he feared much she would) he would ever after regret that her wish had not been complied with. I represented to him that as I could not undertake the treatment of her case myself, and as I could hold no communication, either directly or indirectly, with Dr. Strachan, I could be of no use to her further than simply to give my opinion as to the probable issue of the disease. He said he would be content with that, and he thought his wife would be satisfied. On that express understanding I then agreed to visit her, and forthwith drove to his house. While I was at the bedside of Mrs. C——, Dr. Strachan entered the room, and heard all the conversation that passed betwixt the patient and myself. I examined her carefully, and then remarked, that although she was doubtless very ill, yet I saw no occasion for any serious alarm, and gave it as my opinion that she would ultimately recover; advised her to persevere in taking the medicines she was then using, to keep her mind easy, and I had little doubt she would soon get better. On leaving the house, Mr. C—— accompanied me to the door, and there asked me to give him my candid opinion regarding his wife. I repeated what I had already stated to Mrs. C——. He inquired if I could suggest any remedy that had not been tried. I replied that of course I could not know exactly what reme-

dies had been used, and I could give no particular directions regarding the treatment. The medicines I presumed she was then taking appeared to me appropriate enough in the meantime, but circumstances I said might occur which would render other medicines in addition to those necessary, and in that case I had no doubt Dr. Strachan would prescribe them. I then left.

If Dr. Strachan sent for me Mr. C—— did not say so, neither did he mention that Dr. Strachan was waiting at his house to meet me. If he had, I most certainly would have refused to go upon any consideration. In a letter I addressed to Dr. Strachan, upwards of twelve months ago, I gave him distinctly to understand, that for the many and valid reasons I then stated, I could never in future have any communication with him in any way whatever; and it does appear strange to me, indeed, that he could suppose after that I ever could meet him in consultation, or that he could expect I would return his salutation; and I must own I was not a little surprised when I saw him at Mr. C——'s house.

Having thus laid before the profession a plain and true statement of the facts of the case, I deem it unnecessary to make any further comment. I will leave it to my professional brethren to judge what degree of reprehension, if any, is due to my conduct.

In conclusion, permit me to express my regret that I should have been compelled to occupy any part of your valuable columns with any remarks on such a silly, trifling, and uninteresting subject.

I have only to add that Mrs. C—— recovered.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Dollar, Nov. 1848.

DAVID S. RITCHIE.

QUACKERY AT WALWORTH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Having seen, in your "Notices to Correspondents," that you had received a handbill, with the enquiry as to my having a diploma from any College of Surgeons, I beg to inform you that I am a M.R.C.S. Lond., and Licentiate of the Apothecaries' Company. I have no doubt but that some jealous surgeon near me has sent it to you.

When your correspondent has stated his name, I shall be ready to prove that I am perfectly justified in what I have done; that I am second to no one in London for respectability and high moral character; and that no one is more anxious than myself to elevate the dignity of the medical profession.

I am, Sir, a Constant Reader,

William's-place, Walworth-road.

WM. EMERSON, Surgeon, &c.

* * As Mr. Emerson has given the above answer to the enquiry which we made in our "Notices to Correspondents," Dec. 9th, we think it right to publish a copy of the printed handbill.

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