

Of the investigation would be considerably reduced; the officiousness of unfeeling constables would be entirely set aside; and, in fine, the confidence of the public would be completely secured, and its safety fully provided for.

I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
H. LETHEBY, M. B.

Guildhall, April 29th, 1856.

Medical Officer of Health to the City of London.

## Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

### PROFESSOR GOODSIR ON TUITION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In a report by your Edinburgh correspondent, in your last number, of a meeting lately held by the junior members of my class, for the purpose of presenting testimonials to Messrs. Turner, Edwards, and Paull, who had conducted them, during the session, through a course of tutorial instruction in anatomy, I am made to say "that self-tuition could not do everything; and this system (the tutorial) naturally prepared the mind for the study of anatomy. In other departments his colleagues, he doubted not, would do the same; and then the Scottish university system would be admirable indeed."

What I did say was to this effect: "The tutorial system, applied to the study of anatomy, is not to be considered as a process of 'cramming,' nor as a substitute for the self-tuition of the dissecting-room; but as a system of training only to be employed in the commencement of the study, so as to compel that continuous methodical application necessary to overcome those dry and, in themselves, somewhat uninteresting details of configuration, relation, and nomenclature, absolutely necessary for a systematic knowledge of the subject. Comparatively few students have determination enough to follow out a course of this kind for themselves. Under judicious trainers, however, in classes sufficiently small, with the objects themselves before them or in their hands, and by attending to the elementary facts only of the subject, junior students of anatomy, unprepared in general by suitable previous study for the prosecution of this peculiar subject, are gradually, steadily, and insensibly rendered familiar with the peculiar but necessary technicalities of anatomical fact and nomenclature. They are thus enabled to derive more advantage from the equally important general principles laid down in lectures, and to embody their actual dissecting-room experience in a more systematic form. The tutorial system is more particularly applicable to certain departments of university study, and I have the approval of my colleagues of the medical faculty in my application of it to the subject which I teach. The most efficient system of university instruction would probably be one which, while it involved judicious selection of the subjects taught, would appropriate to each subject a professorial, tutorial, or mixed method of instruction, according to the nature of the subject as a department of knowledge, or the object to be attained by it as an element in the process of education."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN GOODSIR,

Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh.

April, 1856.

### MR. GRIFFIN AND THE VACCINATION ACT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—When men engage in public matters they must expect their conduct to be freely canvassed. I therefore do not complain of the Editorial remarks you made last week, relative to my advice to the union surgeons, in regard to the Vaccination Bill now before Parliament. But as I am one of those pachydermatous animals, that cannot easily be made to feel he has been whipped, you will not be surprised at my returning to the charge, and quoting from a letter I have received from a union surgeon in Wales: "The Vaccination Act is an additional burthen. At 2s. 6d. per case, if successful only, I travel forty-five miles of road, mountainous and rugged, to visit the stations, in all weathers. Should there be a case, I have to double the distance, by inspection; or should there be no case, or unsuccessful, which is not unfrequent, I get nothing, of course, for the forty-five or ninety miles."

The foregoing, I hope you will think, proves I gave good advice to the union surgeons, in recommending them to petition

for mileage in addition to an increased fee. If it be desirable that a Bill for compulsory vaccination should become the law of the land,—and no one in his senses can doubt it,—then it is only fair that the nation at large should pay for it, and not that the union surgeons, who constitute but a small section of the community, should be expected to carry out its main principles for a mere nominal consideration. It is despicable payments, like these, that have caused the union surgeons to be in the pitiable condition they now are, and which have lowered them in the estimation of the public. Notwithstanding your reproof, I blush not to confess that I drew up a petition to the House of Commons, and wrote privately to the President of the Board of Health, and had an interview with one of the members of this borough, praying that the Bill might be amended. By so doing I feel that I not only consulted the welfare of the union surgeons, but also that of the whole profession, as the fixed union prices have tended to lower the private fees considerably. By increasing the scale of payment, a speedy annihilation of a most loathsome disease would be secured, and the public generally become gainers, as it would then be the interest of surgeons to seek the unvaccinated; now it is the reverse, as isolated cases, in country districts especially, entail so much toil and yield no profit.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Royal Terrace, Weymouth, April, 1856.

RICHARD GRIFFIN.

P.S.—In reply to Mr. Carter's inquiry of last week respecting the Weymouth and Dorchester Unions, I beg to inform him that a meeting took place at my house, Dec. 21st, when some of the officers attended and unanimously declared in favour of the movement.

### ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF RENNET IN DIABETES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your correspondent "G. E. D.," of St. Andrew's, in reply to your observation of the previous week, has written to you concerning my connexion with the above subject, and mentions a memoir by a friend of his, published in 1853. I do not wish to lessen any honour due to others, and, warned by recent example, neither will I enter into any personal controversy in your pages, which cannot be interesting to the profession or the public, who chiefly desire to know the value of this, that, or other remedy in a disease usually considered to be fatal. But I may be permitted to remark that when, in 1852, I first proposed the treatment in consultation with Edward Moore, Esq., M.R.C.S., &c., of Hales-Owen, Worcestershire, it was not as a chance discovery, nor as an empirical specific, for diabetes; but upon the general principles of rational medicine, such as I had already enunciated in an opening clinical lecture, published in 1849, and in the following words: "You will perceive that in this estimate of the importance of medicine I make no narrow calculation, but give it a very great scope; for, indeed, our philosophy is of universal application. It is, emphatically, the science of man in his relation to the external world. It is under her guidance that he is born, and lives, and enjoys himself, and suffers, and dies. Whether he eat, think, act, or sleep, he is never out of the domain of Physic. It is she that marks his wondrous structure and functions, and notes how these are influenced by celestial and telluric agencies. She observes and demonstrates the exact correspondence between his physical constitution, and the air and soil from which his framework is elaborated. More especially, she watches those lesions of correspondence which are liable to occur between that framework and the external elements, when either the necessary matters are withheld, or unwonted and hurtful ones are accidentally admitted; in which case she has to exert her healing mission, by ransacking Nature for what is *wanting*, or by expelling the foreign matter by something else less hurtful, or neutralizing its qualities and destroying its essence." At the same time and place, as on other occasions, I illustrated the supply of the *wants* alluded to by speaking of ox-gall, iron, phosphate of lime, cod-oil, and other direct substitutes for the natural constituents of the body. And, in fact, my first employment of the remedy under discussion was not as rennet in the ordinary sense, but, in accordance with the above principle, the plain natural gastric-juice, obtained from the recently-killed sucking calf; while the scraped membranes were made into pills by the patient himself; and we attended at the same time to the whole condition of his system. The manufactured commercial rennet is, doubtless, a great improvement upon this "rough and ready" mode of exhibition; though that which is now medicinally made as *Liquor Pepticus Preparatus*