

open, immediately adjoining; the rooms, moreover, were very small, and the partition thin. Thus placed, I was obliged to hear the following dialogue:—Author. 'Well, Mr. —, how are you getting on? Ah! that will do. Now you must put in the ganglia. Let me see; you must put in a ganglion there.' A short time elapsed, when the artist said, 'But I don't see any ganglia.' 'Never mind,' replied the author; 'they are there, but you cannot see them; you must put a ganglion here—a little larger—there, that will do. Now, you must put another here—very well, that will do.' And so on. And when the author had gone, the surface of the heart was represented studded over with numerous ganglia and gangliform enlargements. To my remonstrance of 'How could you do this?' the artist replied, 'What can I do? I am obliged to do as I am directed.'

You being the "artist" here referred to, and it being generally believed that I am the "author" therein noticed, you will oblige me much by stating whether the previous report of a conversation said to have taken place at your house be correct, or only imaginary.

I am, my dear Sir, very faithfully yours,

ROBERT LEE.

To Edgar West, Esq., 6, Trure-street, Haverstock-hill.

P.S.—Your recent absence from London, and my not being able till now to obtain your correct address, explains why you have not heard from me sooner in reference to the present inquiry.

R. L.

Trure-street, October 13th, 1856.

MY DEAR DR.,—You wish to know who I think are meant by the "Dr." and "artist," named in what is called an "anecdote" published in THE LANCET by Dr. Beck. Undoubtedly you and myself are the two unfortunates. I remember the circumstances perfectly, but must give a very different version of it, and one not at all to the credit of Dr. Beck. Now, if I understand the word "anecdote," it means a truthful account of some past event; but I am sorry to say for Dr. Beck's sake as a gentleman, that what he calls "anecdote" is a shameful tissue of falsehood throughout. In the first place, he was not at my house by accident, as he wishes to make it appear, when you arrived, but came purposely to examine your dissection, and not, as he states, on his own business, and was actually sitting at the table in the front room, with your preparation before him, when your carriage drove to the door. He jumped up, and ran into the back room to hide, where, by his own confession, (which I am much surprised that he should have the temerity to publish,) he became that honourable character, an *Eavesdropper*. Actions are much better remembered than words, after a lapse of so many years; but I am certain (notwithstanding Dr. Beck's very fertile memory of every word which he says passed between the "Dr." and "artist," and which he owns he was treasuring up with his ear glued to the key-hole of the folding-doors) that his statement of the conversation, which then took place, is quite as TRUE as the rest of his so-called "anecdote."

I am only surprised that a man of Dr. Beck's station in life should not, before he published such a made-up tale, have been more careful of his own character, which, after this *correct statement of facts*, must appear to every unprejudiced mind far more tarnished than the one he wishes to injure.

I am, dear Dr., your obedient servant,

To Dr. Lee.

EDGAR WEST.

* * As this controversy has entirely exceeded the bounds of legitimate discussion, we must, in the most positive manner, decline to continue it. Dr. Snow Beck will, we think, ever deeply regret having published the statement which has elicited the letter of Mr. Edgar West.—ED. L.

DR. BROOKES' CASE OF INGUINAL ANEURISM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I have neither time nor inclination to answer the letter of Mr. Fred. H. Morris, in your last number.

My external iliac case was seen by at least twenty surgeons, and the operation witnessed by nearly a like number. I was also kindly assisted by Dr. Eves, a well-known hospital surgeon of thirty years' standing. Not one of these gentlemen doubted the nature of the case or the ligature of the artery.

If I may give a word of advice to your correspondent, it is, to at once attend a course of lectures on operative surgery, and

read Mr. Hodgson's excellent work on the Arteries, before he again attempts to write on a subject he evidently knows little about.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Cheltenham, October, 1856.

WM. PHILPOT BROOKES.

P.S.—I enclose the ligature for your inspection.

THE CITY GAS-WORKS.

"The legitimate object of Medicine is the preservation of health, the restoration of health, the prolongation of life, and the alleviation of suffering when death cannot be averted."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the hope that through your influential Journal this communication, relating to the City Gas-works nuisance, may reach the proper quarter, I address you. It is surprising that a mode of disposing of the sources of the foul emanations so simple and so perfect as the following, has not occurred to the gas-manufacturers:—Let a well be sunk, 100 feet deep and 6 feet diameter, on the premises; into this well let the dry lime used in purifying the gas be thrown, and upon it a portion of vegetable charcoal. Beside the first well, let a second be commenced, a portion of the earth of which, sufficient to cover the mass at the bottom of the first well, being thrown upon it; so that the sinking of the second well and the filling-up of the first might go on *pari passu*. In this way, by burying the sources of the nuisance deeply in the earth, no noxious gases could escape to pollute the surrounding atmosphere.

October, 1856.

J. PIDDUCK.

THE DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM AT ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

THE patient, John Gibbing, aged thirty-six, sailor, a stout, middle-sized man, was to be operated on for necrosis of the phalanges of one of his fingers. He was very anxious to have the operation performed under chloroform, which was, there being no obvious contra-indication, administered. One drachm of chloroform was poured upon a sponge folded up in lint, and this was held over his mouth and nose, so as to allow of free inhalation of the atmosphere together with the vapour. After about twenty inspirations he began to spit into the lint, and retch. The chloroform was removed, and he was shortly—perhaps scarcely a minute—after seized with convulsions, necessitating his being held by three or four men. This having lasted some thirty seconds, his face became blanched, and he gasped for breath. He was placed in a horizontal position, the tongue held forward by forceps, and artificial respiration commenced; air could be heard entering the lung at each inspiration. Under this treatment, together with the application of ammonia to the nostrils, he rallied for a few seconds, so as to be able to breathe naturally. Again he ceased to breathe. Artificial respiration was recommenced; the galvanic current was passed from the nape of the neck to the region of the heart; oxygen was injected into the chest; but in vain. His heart acted no more, and he was dead. The remedial measures mentioned were continued for nearly half an hour after he had given any signs of life.

Post-mortem Appearance.—Fatty degeneration of the heart in an early stage. Fatty liver. Slight anæmia of the brain. No valvular disease of the heart.

The death occurred on the 14th instant. On the Saturday previous he went to the hospital as an out-patient, and had his finger incised, to relieve the great tension of the part, and a considerable quantity of blood was lost. He had suffered from delirium tremens three times, the last time being three weeks before applying to the hospital. He had been in the habit of drinking a pint and a half of rum daily for nine years, according to the account of parties who had known him for a length of time.

SIR HENRY HOLLAND IN AMERICA.—It is stated in a late Canadian paper that Sir Henry Holland has arrived in the Canadas, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the climate is in every way favourable to encourage a visit from her Majesty next summer to that portion of the British dominions. It has long been rumoured that the Queen is desirous of taking a trip across the Atlantic to visit her Canadian subjects. Sir Henry Holland's journey to that country we do not think has anything to do with it.