

have been informed that "gas-water" is frequently and successfully employed for the same purpose. If so, we may attribute the result to the sulphuretted hydrogen which it contains, combined with lime, or merely held in solution.

As it is admitted that to prevent is better than to cure, I trust that the knowledge of a cure for ring-worm will form no bar to the introduction, by the almoners, of such changes in the dress and diet of the boys of *Christ's Hospital*, as may be deemed necessary for its prevention by a competent medical committee. Although foreign to my subject, permit me here to express a hope, that any alteration in the dress of the boys, hereafter made, will not be limited to the cap, but include the whole uniform, and that a more becoming dress, one, consequently, of which neither gown nor petticoat can form a part, will be substituted. I foresee the senseless outcry that will be raised by the "lovers of the antique," whenever this innovation is seriously proposed. Of course all who advocate the measure will be accused of the "blackest ingratitude" towards the Royal founder. My defence will be comprised in the following question, to be put to these sensitive gentlemen individually, "Should you, Sir, if possessed of a large estate, bequeathed by your great-grandfather, deem it absolutely necessary to wear his triangular hat, scarlet coat, and silver buckles, in order to evince your gratitude for the original testator? If your answer be in the negative, you must no longer contend that the Governors of *Christ's Hospital* are bound, as long as the institution exists, to clothe boys in the costume of the earlier part of the sixteenth century, as with them the motives for gratitude are fewer, and the dress is less becoming, than in the case which I have supposed to be your own."

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A BLUE.

Scabies, *Anglice* "the itch," is said to be caused by the presence of a very minute insect, discoverable only by the aid of a powerful lens. May we not, therefore, assume, as probable, the existence of a similar cause for the production of a disease resembling the former in more respects than one? Both are cured by the application of an agent which is extremely destructive to animal life, viz. sulphuretted hydrogen.

R. H. CRISP, Surgeon.

Peterborough, March 2, 1835.

## EMPLOYMENT OF SULPHUR IN RHEUMATISM.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—Since the age of fourteen years, I have been occasionally subject to attacks of rheumatism, either acute or chronic, for which I have applied all the usual remedies with various success. In the autumn of last year, the muscles and bone of my right leg became affected, and then the left, to such a degree that I scarcely ever slept above two hours during the night, and the irritation was so constant, day and night, that I lost flesh very fast. I tried Plummer's pill, with compound decoction of sarsaparilla, and colchicum with magnesia, with little benefit, and the appetite being good, and the secretions healthy, I was unwilling to take any more medicine internally.

From a very general report that sulphur is advantageous in rheumatic affections (many of the poorer class of people carry a piece of "stone brimstone" in the pocket as a charm against that complaint), I was induced to test the merits of the remedy, and from the benefit which I have myself derived, and the relief I have afforded to others, I am inclined to think that sulphur is as much a specific for rheumatism as mercury is for syphilis. I had been suffering all day most acutely, and on going to bed I put some powdered sulphur in the palm of my hand, and rubbed it on my legs, drawing on my stocking to keep it applied. In five minutes I experienced great relief, went to sleep almost immediately, and suffered no more from that most tormenting malady. I do not venture to explain the *modus operandi*, but merely vouch for the fact. A strong easterly wind set in next day, but, notwithstanding I was exposed for some hours, I had no return of pain, and the limbs had regained that proper sensation of warmth of which they had been deprived.

During the continuance of the affection, a baker who had been engaged during the early part of the morning in his business, left his bakehouse to go to Gravesend in the steam-boat, and having been exposed all day to a blowing wind, came home, and was laid up next morning with a severe attack of acute rheumatism, affecting all the joints. I bled him, put him into a warm-bath, administered calomel and opium to slight salivation, afterwards compound decoction of sarsaparilla, and decoction of guaiacum, with colchicum; but still he was in too much pain to follow his

employment. I then desired him to take a teaspoonful of sulphur twice a day, and to rub dry sulphur on his skin. He was soon freed from his misery, nor has he had any return of pain, though six months have now elapsed.

I was talking a few days ago to a seafaring man, who assured me that he had cured himself of severe rheumatic pains by putting powdered sulphur in his boots, and that he had not suffered after, although the weather had been very wet and tempestuous in a long voyage.

A lady has assured me, that after excruciating sufferings during two years, having had the best advice she could procure, she cured herself by taking sulphur in gin. This lady's fingers were contracted, but she has perfectly recovered the use of them.

An old blacksmith of Farnborough has repeatedly told me that by sulphur boiled in water, and drunk fasting, he has cured people of rheumatism after the doctors had pronounced them incurable. I have seen many girls of the town, who, from their mode of life and the frequency of their taking mercurial medicines, are especially subject to rheumatic affections, who have been almost immediately relieved by sulphur. It is best, I have found, to administer it internally, as well as apply it externally, after bleeding and purging, in acute rheumatism; but in chronic, the mere external application will be frequently sufficient. I remain, sir, your very obedient servant,

GEORGE TUCKER.

18, Park-place, Kennington Cross,  
March 2, 1835.

P.S. I beg leave to thank a Correspondent in *THE LANCET* for his communication respecting the use of the *Liquor Ammon. Acet.* for warts on the penis, labia, and skin. The application is attended with no pain or irritation, and is most efficient, superseding every other remedy.

#### POSTERIOR

### DISLOCATION OF THE TIBIA,

#### AT THE KNEE-JOINT.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—As the subjoined extract from a letter which I have just received from my father may prove instructive or interesting to your readers, the case being an uncommon one, perhaps you will give it insertion in your periodical. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. S. SWEETING.

London University, March 2, 1835.

"The son of Mrs. M., about thirteen years of age, was in the stable amusing himself with rubbing down one of the horses. The left leg was a little extended, and the whole weight of the body was thrown on the right, in which position one of the horses suddenly kicked, and struck him just below the knee-joint, on the tuberosity of the tibia. He fell, and was immediately carried into the house by the carter, who was present. The disfigurement of the limb led to the supposition that the thigh had been fractured, whereon a messenger was dispatched for me. On arriving at the house I found the lad in bed, lying on his back, the knee bent, with the foot and ankle turned outwards. The condyles of the os femoris were prominent, the patella lying externally to the outer condyle. The knee-joint was exceedingly swollen; the swelling also extended along the thigh. Flexion of the limb gave him no pain, but on extending it he complained. The injured limb was from an inch to an inch and a half shorter than the other. The head of the tibia could be distinctly felt occupying the popliteal space. The tuberosity of the tibia had disappeared.

"I was convinced of the nature of the accident, and proceeded to reduce the dislocation, which, by the aid of two powerful persons, was effected, although its accomplishment required considerable force. The limb was laid on a double-inclined plane, at an angle of about fifty degrees. On the following morning I found that he had passed a very restless night, had thrown about the limb in all directions, and had displaced the parts which I had previously brought into apposition. I attempted again to reduce the dislocation by the aid of the persons employed on the preceding evening, but finding my efforts vain, I determined on having recourse to the pulleys. Mr. Southcombe came to my assistance, and was fully convinced of the completeness of the dislocation.

"A bandage of web was passed between the thighs and fastened to a rope at the upper end of the bed, for the purpose of fixing the pelvis, and a wetted towel was bound round the middle of the thigh, to enable an assistant the more firmly to grasp it in making a counter-extension. Another wetted cloth was passed round the ankle, and the web circular bandage was fastened over it, to the rings whereof the hook connected with the pulleys was fixed. After some trouble and continued extension of the limb by the pulleys, for about the space of ten minutes, we succeeded in reducing the dislocation. The whole procedure was exceedingly interesting, and not so very painful to the patient as might be imagined. The case