

between the intestine and bladder, or finally through the fault of the surgeon; in the latter case it, generally speaking, has been introduced by the patient himself, sometimes for the purpose of relieving a retention of urine, or pushing back a calculus; sometimes in a fit of momentary derangement; but most frequently in consequence of depraved and lascivious ideas. The effects produced by the foreign bodies in the bladder are extremely various. Sometimes they generate the highest degree of suffering and pain, which terminate rapidly in death; in other cases they seem to be scarcely felt by the organ, or the inconvenience which they occasion is purposely concealed by the sufferer.

In a therapeutical point of view the presence of these foreign bodies in the bladder is a matter of much interest. From the table to which we have already alluded it would appear that in 12 cases only, of the 166, they were discharged spontaneously either from the bladder or by an artificial passage. This is a curious circumstance, when we consider that in many cases the bodies themselves are small, and of a rounded form. In 64 cases the operation of lithotomy was performed; the difficulty of the operation depending much on the size and shape of the nucleus of the stone. In 26 cases the foreign bodies were extracted through the urethra, without the aid of a cutting instrument. The majority of such facts is recent and connected with lithotripsy. M. Civiale has already published six cases in which he has extracted with success two elastic bougies, a bean, a pea, a stem of a plant, and a piece of straw. In his present communication he details two more cases; in one of which he extracted a fragment of a waxen bougie; in another a portion of a barometer tube about three inches in length.—*French Gazette*, April, 1838.

#### MODE OF OBTAINING CREOSOTE.

THE following is an economical method of obtaining creosote, proposed by M. Cozzi. A quantity of tar is distilled in an alembic, and the products collected in a cylindrical vessel half filled with water. The products are acetic acid, eussion, paraffin, and creosote, which latter is recognised by its specific gravity. The impure creosote is isolated from the other products by means of a syphon, and on this being done sulphuric acid, weakened with one-half water, is added; the creosote now mounts to the surface of this fluid, which is warmed by an admixture of boiling dilute sulphuric acid, and the supernatant fluid is drawn off and placed in an open-mouthed bottle, one-third filled. This is exposed to the air for three days, and the product is again distilled, when a reddish fluid is obtained. The lat-

ter having been treated thrice in a similar manner furnished pure creosote, limpid as water, of 1.007 specific gravity, and boiling at 205° R.—*Jour. de Chem. Med.*, May, 1838.

#### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

SIR WILLIAM MOLESWORTH has recently presented a donation of thirty guineas to University College Hospital, accompanied by a letter, in which he expresses his sense of the "pleasure and instruction which he obtained in witnessing the experiments of Dr. Elliotson in Mesmerism," and his confidence "that the researches now being made by Dr. Elliotson will add considerably to our knowledge of the phenomena of Nature, extend the bounds of science, and afford explanation of numerous facts previously inexplicable."

#### THE LATE DR. HARRISON.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR:—I have been acquainted with the late Dr. Harrison ever since the year 1792, he having brought me up in the profession from that date; and, moreover, for the last seven years I have been his partner, and I must say, in contradiction to the phrase, "somewhat impaired, by its irritation, the faculties of his mind," used in your sketch of his life, which you did his family the honour of giving in your very valuable Journal, No. 768, that I never observed anything of the kind, as his writings I believe prove. Trusting you will cast off this imputation so undeserved by the worthy and much-lamented Doctor, who died at the great age of 82 years, you will much oblige his family, and your very obedient humble servant,

JOHN B. SERNY.

6, Golden-square, May 24, 1838.

**TUBERCLES.**—It has not yet been proved that the presence of tubercles in the lungs of children, even to a considerable degree, presents a contraindication to the performance of capital operations. M. Ruz has seen amputations of the leg and thigh in children, succeed very well, although persons well exercised in the practice of auscultation had discovered tubercles in the lungs.—*P. H. G.*

*Mr. G. Mitchell* is informed that Mr. Wakley was not at the Poor-Law Committee on Tuesday. An alarming illness in his family has prevented his attendance at the House of Commons since Monday last.