

Mr. King's statement of the peritoneum being necessarily pierced twice by the trocar before the bladder is reached is a mistake."

About three weeks ago a patient died under my care at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, from sloughing of the nates. He was transferred to me from a medical ward, to which he had been admitted for disease of the spine, and, as it turned out upon the *post-mortem* examination, with suppuration within the theca vertebralis. For the last thirty-six hours of his life he had retention of urine, and the catheter was passed for him, but when he died his bladder had not been relieved of its contents for twelve hours.

At the *post-mortem* examination, (besides many other appearances,) the bladder was seen to reach nearly up to the umbilicus, and the peritoneum was reflected *directly* across from the fundus of the bladder to the posterior surface of the abdominal muscles, leaving at least four inches above the pubes, where the muscular coat of the bladder was lying against the abdominal muscles.

The state was so obvious and well marked that I drew the attention of the students present to the position of parts, and pointed out that in such a case the bladder could be easily reached by a trocar, without any probability, or scarcely possibility, of wounding the peritoneal cavity.

A statement upon an anatomical point of this kind coming from an Assistant-Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's, and a Lecturer on Surgical Anatomy, ought to be well considered, and every opportunity taken of settling it by an appeal to facts, and if this is done I have little doubt but that the result will prove that Mr. Skey is mistaken in his opinion.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

AUGUSTIN PRICHARD,

Surgeon to the Bristol Royal Infirmary, and Lecturer on Anatomy and Surgery at the Bristol Medical School.

Red Lodge, Bristol, March 25, 1851.

[The above opinion of Mr. Skey's entirely escaped our notice, or we should certainly have taken the same view as that held by Mr. Prichard.—Ed. J.]

ON THE STYPTIC POWERS OF MATICO IN UTERINE HÆMORRHAGE.

To the Editor of the *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*.

SIR,—Having lately witnessed very satisfactory results from the application of matico in a case of hæmorrhage from the uterus, I think it my duty, through the medium of the *Journal*, to lay the case before my professional brethren. The age of the patient is 37 years, she has had ten children, the youngest being 16 months old; during the seventh month of her last pregnancy she felt darting pains in the lower part of the womb, which she had experienced, more or less, up to the present time. Since the birth of her last child, she has had no regular menstruation, but has been the subject of hæmorrhage from the womb at uncertain intervals; she has also lately perceived a slight enlargement of one of the inguinal glands.

On examination, the os uteri was found to be irregular, having an ulcerated surface, with hard edges, occupying one-third of its circumference. In spite of the recumbent posture, and the injection of a strong solution of nitrate of silver three times a day, several napkins continued to be soaked with blood during the night and day for ten or fourteen days, and the patient began to evince the usual symptoms of chronic hæmorrhage. I then made a paste of matico leaves, mixed with a little mucilage of acacia, and having rolled it into balls of a convenient size, three or four of them were introduced into the vagina, and kept in contact with the os uteri by a firm plug of lint, completely filling up the vagina. No pain or inconvenience from this application were experienced, and the bleeding ceased entirely, and it was not renewed after the plug and matico came away at the end of ten days. Although the os uteri continues much in the same state, and there is too much reason to fear that malignant disease exists, yet the effect of the application of matico in this case increases my confidence in its styptic power, and has made me determine on using it, in this same form of paste, in the troublesome hæmorrhage which occurs from carcinomatous and other unmanageable ulcerative surfaces; I shall also try it in leucorrhœa accompanied with tendency to prolapsus uteri, cases which often defy injections of decoction of pomegranate rind, and other astringent applications.

My attention was first directed to the styptic power of matico a few years ago, by Mr. Houre, a practitioner in this town, who had found a strong infusion of it surpass all other means, as an injection, in cases of bleeding from internal hæmorrhoids. My own subsequent experience of it in similar cases, has fully borne out his good opinion of it, and in one instance, viz., that of a lady whose health was failing from repeated loss of blood from the rectum, there has been no return of hæmorrhage since the use of an injection of infusion of matico, two drachms to a pint of water, and some considerable length of time has now elapsed.

I am, Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

FREDERICK FRANCIS GIRAUD.

Faversham, March 14, 1851.

Medical Intelligence.

PROSECUTION UNDER THE LUNACY ACT.

At the Kent assizes, held last week, at Maidstone, Dr. A. B. Maddock and Mr. Perfect, the proprietor and medical officer of the lunatic Asylum at Malling, pleaded guilty to an indictment preferred against them by the Commissioners of Lunacy for making false entries in their books, representing that no personal restraint had, during a certain period, been used towards any of their patients. Dr. Maddock also pleaded guilty to a second indictment. The defendants pleaded guilty, as they stated, to spare the exposure of the names of their patients. The case, however, was gone into, and the indictment fully sustained. Mr. Baron Parke said the question was not whether restraint was necessary, but it was imperative on the defendants to have placed the employment of that restraint on record. The Commissioners had most properly instituted this prosecution.

The present proceeding would operate as a warning. It was the duty of the defendants to have made the entries, and having failed to do so, they were subject to the consequences. But under all the circumstances, justice would be satisfied by the defendants paying the costs of the prosecution, which he understood would be £150, and he ordered Dr. Maddock to pay a fine of £50 on each of the indictments, and Mr. Perfect £50 on the indictment against him.

SIR CHARLES M. CLARKE.

A dinner is to be given to this distinguished physician on his birthday (May 28). The preparations of the Committee are already in an advanced state.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Resolutions of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, respecting certain further Alterations deemed necessary in the Charters and Bye-Laws of the College; and to which they request the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

"1. That in the opinion of this Council such parts of the Charter and Bye-Laws of the College as restrict the eligibility to the Council to Fellows residing and practising Surgery within five miles by highway or road from the General Post-Office in Saint Martin's-le-Grand, should be abrogated.

"2. That in the opinion of this Council such parts of the Charters and Bye-Laws of the College as restrict the eligibility to the Council to Fellows not having during the five preceding years practised Midwifery or Pharmacy, and require a Certificate thereof by three Fellows, should be abrogated; and that instead thereof a Certificate by three Fellows, and a Declaration by himself, that the person nominated to be ballotted for as a Member of the Council does not practise as an Apothecary, be required.

"3. That it is the opinion of this Council that the Medical Qualifications of those about to engage in the practice of Surgery, or in General Practice, should be tested by the Royal College of Physicians.

"4. That the Council of this College are prepared to form and superintend a Board of Examiners in Midwifery, or to co-operate with the Royal College of Physicians in the institution of Examinations for testing the qualifications of Practitioners in Midwifery.

“(By order)

“EDMUND BELFOUR, *Secretary.*”

19th and 24th March, 1851.

Gentlemen admitted members on Friday, March 21, 1851:—Edward Robert Bickersteth, Liverpool; James Strange Biggs, Devizes, Wiltshire; George Earle, Beverley, Yorkshire; Thos. Fuller, Brighton, Sussex; William Henry Gatty, Market-Scarborough, Leicestershire; Charles William Goodall, Normanton-on-the-Houls, Nottinghamshire; Constantine Holman, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex; Moses Morgan, Banbury, Oxfordshire; Charles Mairne, Lambeth; George Wm. Pettinger, Sutton-upon-Trent, Nottinghamshire; Wm. Andrews Rogers, Stanmore, Middlesex.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

Gentlemen admitted members on Thursday, March 13, 1851.—John Wright Baker, Derby; Martin B. Lamb, Forfar County; Johnson Martin, Lancashire; Thomas Plunkett, Edinburgh; David Pestell Thomas, Ravenstone, Leicestershire.

Gentlemen admitted members on Thursday, March 20, 1851:—Andrew Bolton, Durham; Samuel Gamble, Newmarket; Henry Wigglesworth, Newbury.

OBITUARY.

February 10, at Lucea, Jamaica, Edward Binns, Esq., M.D., author of “The Anatomy of Sleep,” &c.

February 16, at Glasgow, Robert Stewart, M.D.

March 8, at Green Royde, near Halifax, James Inglis, M.D., aged 37.

March 17, at Weston-super-Mare, J. A. Jacob, M.D.

March 18, at Portsmouth, Dr. James Allan, Deputy-Medical Inspector of Hospitals and Fleets, surgeon to Haslar Hospital, aged 58.

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

Practical Observations on the Treatment of Stricture of the Urethra and Fistula in Perineo, illustrated with cases and drawings of these affections. By John Lizars, late Professor of Surgery in the Royal College of Surgeons, and Senior Operating Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Edinburgh: W. H. Ligers, and S. Highley, London. 1851. pp. 91.

Essays and Notes on the Physiology and Diseases of Women, and on Practical Midwifery. By John Robertson, formerly Senior-surgeon in Ordinary to the Manchester and Salford Lying-in Hospital. London: J. Churchill. Manchester: Sims and Dinham. 1851. pp. 530.

On the Causes, Symptoms, and Treatment of Spermatorrhoea. By M. Lallemand. Translated and Edited by H. J. McDougall, Fellow of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, &c. Second edition. London: J. Churchill. 1851.

Dr. Hooper's Physicians' Vade-Mecum. New edition, considerably enlarged and improved, with an Outline of General Pathology and Therapeutics. By W. Augustus Guy, M.B., Cantab., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, Professor of Forensic Medicine, King's College, London, Physician to King's College Hospital. 1851. pp. 576.

Cases in Midwifery, by the late John Green Crosse, M.D., F.R.S., arranged with an introduction and remarks. By Edward Copeman, M.D., F.R.C.S., Consulting Accoucheur to the Norwich Lying-in Charity, and Physician to the Norwich Magdalen. London: J. Churchill. Norwich: Stevenson and Matchett. 1851. pp. 228.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Dr. Burne, Dr. Tilt, Dr. Radford, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Humphry. We have received a letter from the reporter of the *Lancet*, requesting our insertion of the annexed note, which was omitted in our report of the debate on Dr. West's paper, extracted from that journal. We have much pleasure in complying with his request.

* We can assure Dr. West that no one would regret more than we should any error in a report in this journal. But surely Dr. West might have seen or explained that the “mistake” to which he alluded consisted simply in the substitution of the word *think* for *hear*—hardly, however, a mistake, taking the context into consideration. However, the expression of such a regret could be nothing but honourable to Dr. West. Dr. Lee sufficiently vindicated the correctness of the report, so far as the use of expressions which Dr. West decried were not employed, and we challenge Dr. West to show a single sentence, a single expression, to which any ungenerous intensity was “added.” We are not responsible for the opinions of a speaker, as Dr. West must know. With respect to “additions” to Dr. Lee's speech, the consist merely of an occasional word or few words, to elucidate more clearly facts which Dr. Lee mentioned somewhat hurriedly in his rather energetic address. The additions Dr. Lee made did not interfere with the truthfulness of our report, but added to its value, no “alterations,” as Dr. West stated, were made. In the present report we are indebted to Dr. Murphy for references to the cases mentioned by him in his speech.

Reporter of THE LANCET.

It is requested that all letters and communications connected with the *Editorial department* be sent to J. H. Walsh, Esq., Foregate Street, Worcester. Parcels and books for review may be addressed to the care of Mr. Churchill, Princes Street, Soho.