

colour of the lungs, in my opinion, could not have been produced by any other means than respiration. The lungs also floated in fragments. The wound in the throat was about two inches in depth, and three inches in length, and had divided the œsophagus, and trachea, and spinal marrow—in fact, the head was nearly cut off. I could form no opinion from the wound, whether it had been inflicted before or after death. There was the ordinary quantity of blood in the lungs. There was very little in the heart. Respiration has been often known to take place before the child has been completely born; the contraction in the ductus arteriosus takes place shortly after complete respiration.

Mr. Justice Earle told the jury, that before they returned a verdict of guilty, they must be satisfied the child was completely born, that it had an existence distinct and independent from the mother, and that it was murdered by her. If there was any doubt on the matter, there was still another offence of which she might be convicted, and of which there would probably be little doubt, the misdemeanor of concealing the birth. It was possible the child might have respired without being completely born into the world, and although this might medically be a live child, it was not a legal one. Legally the child must be complete. In the course of his address, his Lordship paid a compliment to Mr. West, whom he characterised as “a man of considerable skill and science, and a cautious witness.”

The jury acquitted the prisoner of murder, but convicted her of concealing the birth. His Lordship thought the verdict a proper one, and passed upon the prisoner a sentence of two years' hard labour.

As the above case has been noticed in leading article of the *Times* newspaper, and has caused a good deal of correspondence on the law of infanticide as it now stands, it is sent for publication in the *Provincial Journal*, hoping it may excite a discussion amongst medical men.

### TRAVELLING IMPOSTOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

I have been struck by your paragraph in relation to an impostor now levying contributions in the eastern counties. He is an old hand. You state that he has a great defect in his speech, and, from his description, I have no doubt I am not wrong in saying that he has been travelling the country for several years.

In 1836 he called on me in London, and, stammering very much, enquired if I wanted an assistant, regretted his defective speech, and then asked charity. In 1840 he was travelling the southern counties, and again used the same means of begging. I was staying with a friend in Kent, in the year 1842, when, from his consulting room, I heard the same voice, the same words, as on the two previous occasions. I then taxed him with vagrancy, and received, as you may suppose, a full share of abuse.

You have done your brethren much service by exposing this notorious impostor.

Your constant reader,

J. T.

Bath, March 26, 1845.

### THE PHYSICIANS OF ENGLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

In a letter which I addressed to you, and which was published in No. 12, (March 19th,) it was argued that it was not the purpose of Sir James Graham's bill to incorporate the existing class of provincial physicians with the College. My object in urging this obvious fact was to counteract a false impression which prevailed, there being a very general belief that the provincial physicians would become associated with a College of Physicians of England under a new charter. Sir James Graham has, in his reply to Mr. Hardy, removed the illusion.

The number of physicians in the provinces is very considerable: there are nearly four hundred who are members of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, a number equal almost to that of the members, &c., of the College of Physicians. The provincial physicians hold the principal public offices in the kingdom; they form a body not devoid of literature or science, nor barren in the production of discoveries and works. Probably if this body were to associate itself under the designation of a faculty of physicians, and state their claims to Sir James Graham, and present for his approval the draught of a charter to incorporate them, and give them privileges, he would be as willing to listen to their claims as he has proved himself attentive to those of other parties in the profession. Something must be done without delay, or the Royal College of Physicians of England will, after all, only be the London College.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A PHYSICIAN.

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Gentlemen admitted Members on Friday, April 11, 1845:—J. Gardner; R. R. Jefferiss; C. Muscroft; W. McHugh; J. C. Wordsworth; W. H. Thornton; T. B. Horne; T. A. H. Dodd; R. R. Noble; R. S. Cross.

Admitted on Monday, April 14, 1845:—T. Atchison; J. Palmer; J. Richardson; J. T. Griffith; T. Blake; J. T. C. Ross; A. Priest; T. G. Stockwell; J. Vase; W. G. Dalgarns.

### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications have been received from Dr. Bell Fletcher; Mr. D. O. Edwards; P. H. W.; Mr. T. Dorrington; Mr. E. Curme; Dr. Charlton; Dr. Favell; and Mr. Newnham.

The letter signed “York” shall be inserted if the author of it will send his name. There is no reason why any one should be ashamed of the sentiments which it expresses.

Will S. A. R. favour us with the continuation of his paper?

It is requested that all letters and communications be sent to Dr. Streeten, Foregate Street, Worcester. Parcels, and books for review, may be addressed to the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal, care of Mr. Churchill, Princes Street, Soho.