

## LAWN-TENNIS ELBOW.

SIR,—In the JOURNAL for September 15th there appeared a communication from Mr. Morris, in which he attributes the above affection to a sprain of the pronator radii teres and adjacent fascia. In my humble opinion, this explanation will scarcely account for all the symptoms of which complaint is usually made. I am inclined to believe that the pain and weakness felt in the arm are brought about by injuries inflicted on the nerves, arising from their being pressed upon, or pinched, by the adjacent muscles during their sudden and jerky action. Dr. Major, in relating his own personal experience, complained of "the annular ligament around the head of the radius, and the triceps muscle" having been affected. Now the position of the musculo-spiral nerve, as it winds round the humerus, between the two heads of the triceps, renders it extremely liable to be compressed in more ways than one. In the case of the posterior interosseous nerve (one of the main branches of the musculo-spiral), it passes through the substance of the supinator brevis muscle, where it would be all the more liable to become pinched by any unusual action of the muscular fibres.

With regard to the pronator radii teres, this muscle may frequently become sprained as Mr. Morris has pointed out; yet, even in this case, we must not leave out of consideration the important fact that the median nerve passes down the arm between the two heads of the muscle. I should not have ventured to have contributed to the discussion of this subject, had I not been sincerely anxious to arrive at the truth.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,  
Sheffield, Beds, September 18th, 1883. C. E. WINCKWORTH.

## "THE FAIRY TALES OF SCIENCE."

(INSCRIBED TO THE "RED LIONS" OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.)

Strange are all the tales of olden ages,  
All the wondrous lays of fairy lore.  
Shrined in legends on the well-thumbed pages,  
Dear to childhood's heart for evermore.  
Though the elves have left the leaves and roses,  
Fled perchance to unknown lands afar,  
Still more strange each tale the Century knows is—  
Records of the land and sea and star.  
Puck could girdle earth in forty minutes—  
So said Shakespeare's elf with boastful mind;  
Electricity can start and win its  
Wondrous race, and leave the fay behind.  
Send a maiden telephonic greeting,  
Where the Mississippi's waves are curl'd,  
You shall hear how true her heart is beating,  
Under all the seas of half the world.  
Yonder child with Fever's hand is stricken,  
Science comes to ease the labouring breath,  
Shows how germs are born and how they quicken;  
Air and water may be charged with death.  
See the microscope new scenes preparing,  
In the Wonderland its bright lens gives,  
And the physiologist declaring,  
"That great paradox, "Life dies, death lives."  
How mankind, in ages prehistoric,  
Lived on lake, in cave, or by the sea,  
Science tells, and how, with meteoric  
Speed, his flinty arrowheads would flee.  
Mastodons would walk the woods primeval,  
Pterodactyls mighty wings would raise,  
When the ichthyosaurus lived coeval  
With the Mammoth monsters of old days.  
See the pale astronomer unsleeping,  
Galileo's spirit in his soul,  
Watches, as some comet's train comes sweeping;  
Where the immemorial planets roll.  
Star on star shines on beyond all naming,  
Haply Principalities and Powers;  
All the mighty Universe proclaiming—  
There are certes other worlds than ours,  
List, then, to the Fairy Tales of Science,  
Solemn and stupendous and sublime;  
Nature's voice speaks out in proud defiance  
To the puny sceptics of our time.  
Age to age speaks on, each generation—  
Finds new wonders coming at its call.  
While wise men, be sure, of every nation,  
Recognise the First Great Cause of all!—Punch.

## THE AMMONIACAL DECOMPOSITION OF URINE.

SIR,—In his address before the Section in Biology of the British Association, Professor Ray Lankester is reported to have said that microscopical research has shown that the ammoniacal decomposition of urine in inflammation of the bladder is entirely due to the activity of a bacterium, which is at once killed by weak solutions of quinine. I shall be glad if anyone will inform me of the proper strength for the solution, as, in a case in which I tried it, the result was utter failure.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,  
W. K.

Mr. J. W. LAX.—In Chemistry: Miller's *Elements of Chemistry*, vol. ii; or Thorpe's *Inorganic Chemistry*, vols. i and ii; or Roscoe and Schorlemmer's *Treatise on Chemistry*, vols. i and ii; or Fownes's *Manual of Chemistry*. In Botany: Hensley's *Elementary Course of Botany*; Pranth and Vines' *Text-book of Botany*; Thorne's *Botany*; Bentley's or Balfour's *Botany*.

## THE ORIGIN OF CHOLERA.

SIR,—I have no work to refer to, but, if I remember rightly, butyric acid, when taken internally, produces symptoms like cholera; and the acid is formed when dead animal-matter is left for some time in water. If this be right, then, as the Ganges and the Nile have presented the conditions favourable for the formation of the acid, may not some of the cholera near both rivers be accounted for? A great outbreak of cholera occurred in Shanghai in 1863, after the Taiping rebellion, and when the rivers contained numerous dead bodies.—I am, etc.,  
Bombay, September 3rd, 1883. T. M.

## A CORRECTION.

SIR,—Please notify the following corrections in my letter on the death-rate of anaesthesia in last week's JOURNAL: for "both together 1 in 13,038," read "1 in 5,186;" instead of "1 in 968" for the death-rate at University College, read "1 in 866;" for "To sum up, the average mortality will be 1 in 1,448," read "1 in 1,540."—Yours, etc.,  
W. ROGER WILLIAMS.  
1, Bentinck Street, Cavendish Square, W., September 29th, 1883.

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