

## SPINAL AFFECTIONS.

NOTE FROM MR. CRISP.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR:—Allow me to correct some errors in your report of the proceedings of the London Medical Society in the last Number of your Journal. I did not say that spinal affections were “shamefully neglected,” but that I thought they were not sufficiently attended to. The case is also incorrectly stated. The lady alluded to was first attacked with violent pain about the lower dorsal vertebræ, which lasted only a short period and was followed by tenderness on pressure; she had no pain or loss of sensation in the lower extremities, but complained of uneasiness about the spinal column, with inability to assume the erect position after being in the recumbent posture for some time.

I would not have troubled you with this communication had not the word “shamefully” been used, which appears to imply a general censure upon the members of the profession. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

E. CRISP.

Walworth, Feb. 11, 1839.

## NOTE FROM MR. DENHAM.

*To the Editor.*—SIR:—My letter which appeared in THE LANCET the week before last has had some effect in the proper quarter; for yesterday I received an anonymous epistle, bearing the Birmingham postmark, but which I have no doubt was written in London, but of course not by either brother or brother-in-law of the person to whom my letter referred, abusing me for having sent that communication to you. It is no small pleasure to me to find that the public exposure of the fraud has told so well. I shall not obey the advice proffered me, to leave the matter alone. The same post which conveys this letter to you will also convey a memorial to Lord John Russell, on the utter uselessness of our present chartered medical bodies to protect the public and the legal practitioner from the inroads of ignorant and unlicensed practitioners, and a communication to the Society of Apothecaries respecting the imposition which has been practised on them. I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

WM. HEMPEON DENHAM.

Wickham-market, Feb. 10, 1839.

FRENCH EDITION OF HUNTER'S WORKS.—(*From a Correspondent*).—We have the satisfaction of knowing, by a printed prospectus, that the national work of Mr. Palmer, comprising the life and writings of John Hunter, is about to be translated into French, and published at Paris. We also understand that the original work is being reprinted in America. All this is but a just tribute to the genius of our countryman.

## M. FLOURENS AND DR. MARSHALL HALL.

WE have seen a letter from M. Flourens addressed to Dr. Marshall Hall, from which we extract the following paragraph:—

“J'ai lu et relu votre Mémoire.” \* \* \*  
“Votre beau système des nerfs excitateurs, incidens et réfléchis, vous appartient bien, et comme grand fait, spécial et déterminé, et comme vue d'un grand et nouvel ensemble de phénomènes.”\*

We imagine that M. Flourens' own testimony will not be disputed in the question of priority recently agitated in this Journal, and that it is scarcely of less weight as to that of the real value and importance of Dr. Hall's discoveries.

\* I have read, and read again, your memoir. Your beautiful system of incident and reflex excitor nerves, is your own, both as a great fact discovered, and as a novel view of important phenomena.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE first letter of *Medicus Audax* was not received by us; had it come to hand, it would certainly have been noticed amongst the correspondence. We have made attempts to obtain the information alluded to, but without success. Our correspondent will readily conceive the difficulties which have been thrown in the way by parties whom we have so often exposed and chastised.

O.P.Q. The prohibition is founded, not on the Act, but on a regulation of the Company. The amount of a bill might be recovered under the circumstances mentioned.

The eulogium which the Guardians received at the St. Thomas's Union Dinner, for their “kind and considerate” conduct to the medical officers, was not very well deserved. The “handsome testimony” of a paltry toast ill assorts with the fact stated in the eulogium, that the services of the medical officers are “almost gratuitous.” Mr. Collins candidly informed the company that the Guardians “knew that the medical officers were *very inadequately paid*,” and that claims were made upon the “charity and philanthropy” of those officers in the arrangements made by the Guardians to secure medical attendance on the sick-poor. To this unwise and unjust system we have ever been opposed, and cannot give publicity to after-dinner proceedings which indicate a licking of the feet of the “inadequately” paying oppressors of our professional brethren.

The letter of *Mr. Heyward* next week.

ERRATA.—In Mr. Ansell's paper on Digestion, page 720, col. 2, line 32, for “J. Candrieu” read Flandrin; page 721, line 7 from bottom, for “seem also for nutrition,” read serve; page 719, line 14 from bottom, col. 2, read worthy of.