

Now turn to page 116, same volume, and there our Cælius stands, preceding Galen, in chronological order, and "contemporary" with Soranus.

If you will please to make reference to Le Clerc, however, you will find that this great authority does not set him down as belonging to the fifteenth century.* But he thought these two, Galen and Cælius Aurelianus, were contemporary. His "History of Medicine" does not extend, unhappily, beyond the second century.

I suppose that this passage may have found its way into this improper position by the sheet of paper on which it was written becoming loose, and getting misplaced, either in the hands of the author or of the printer; or the word "cinquième," a few lines further down in Le Clerc, same page, (456,) may have been, in the hurry, mistaken for quinzème.

Whatever may have been the cause, if this serious oversight has not been the subject of remark already, it should not still remain unnoticed.

S. H. B.

North-Audley-st., Nov. 1846.

OBSTACLES TO THE ACQUIREMENT OF ANATOMICAL KNOWLEDGE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It must be a matter of surprise that the public journals should not have pleaded the cause of the students at present in London, who are grievously disappointed at the failure of the means of prosecuting their anatomical studies, which they must consider as a breach of faith on the part of the teachers in the schools to which they have unfortunately entered. Not only are they deprived of the opportunities of becoming anatomists; but the time which is allotted to, and should be advantageously passed in, the dissecting room, is but too often idled away and employed in the worst possible manner.

Does this state of things at all depend upon the apathy and indifference of the colleges, which undertake to preside over the interests of the profession, and to superintend education? Their examining bodies cannot, in fairness, reject a student for ignorance in that which it is not in his power to acquire. You will perform a friendly act to the London medical student, desirous of qualifying himself in his profession, by pointing out to him where he is to seek redress and assistance. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Nov. 1846.

A READER OF THE LANCET.

NAVAL MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

APPOINTMENTS.—Surgeons: T. B. Elliott, surgeon and agent at sick quarters at Kilrush; T. B. Gett, surgeon and agent for sick quarters at Donaghadee.—Assistant-surgeons: P. Slevin (1841), late of *Raven*, to *Thetis*; T. J. Barnes (Act.), to *Rosamond*; F. W. R. Sadler, to *Royal Sovereign*; W. Hobbs, to *Poitiers*; J. Acton, to *Locust*; C. F. Williams (Act.), to *Siren*; J. C. Austen (Act.), to *Seagull*.

ARMY MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE LATE BREVET.—"Why have the old medical officers of the army been passed over in the late promotion, when those of the navy have been promoted? We make this inquiry on behalf of a most deserving and most neglected set of officers in her Majesty's Service,—officers of upwards of thirty-six years' standing in the army on full pay, most of whom have served in the four quarters of the globe, combating disease of the most malignant nature, and exposed to all the vicissitudes of a soldier's life. These officers have strong claims on their country; and if the following plan of promotion should be taken into consideration, it would greatly benefit those old officers and the public at large:—

"All staff-surgeons of above thirty-six years' service should be promoted to the rank and retiring-pay of deputy-inspector of hospitals; and all surgeons of thirty years' service should have the option of retiring on the half-pay of staff-surgeon. This would make a wonderful change in the medical department of the army, by bringing forward the junior branches of the profession, and allowing the old warrant medical officer a more comfortable retirement to support his declining years."—*Naval and Military Gazette*, Nov. 28th.

* Histoire de la Médecine, p. 455. 4to. Amst. 1723.

MEDICAL NEWS,

FACTS, NOTICES, AND REMARKS.

Dr. BIGELOW, of Boston, United States, has recently read a paper before one of the medical societies on a process for procuring insensibility to pain during surgical operations. Teeth in large numbers have been extracted, and even limbs amputated, without pain. Such a discovery, if it stand the test of examination, will be an invaluable boon. The means used is believed to be the inhalation of the vapour of sulphuric ether for two or three minutes, which, it is stated, produces insensibility for about an equal length of time. Dr. Bigelow is reported to have patented the process on the grounds that such an agent is capable of abuse—that its action is not thoroughly understood—and because it is looked forward to as of especial use in dentistry, many of whose processes are secured by patent. Supposing the discovery to be genuine, even these offer but poor excuses for its reservation by patent.

A MEDICAL HANDBILL.—"Mr. TRIGANCE, Surgeon, Accoucheur, &c., 7, Princes-place, Kennington-cross, (nearly opposite Chester-street).—Mr. Trigance, after serving in her Majesty's army in his professional capacity for upwards of thirty years, (twelve of which as principal surgeon of a regiment,) has retired from the service, and established himself as above, where he trusts his military, surgical, and medical experience, combined with assiduity and strict attention to such patients as may be committed to his care, will gain their confidence, and merit the support and patronage of the inhabitants of Lambeth, Kennington, and the public generally.—Paupers, on application to Mr. Trigance, will receive the requisite medical aid, and if necessary, visited at their own place free of expense.—Vaccination gratis to all classes indiscriminately.—Physicians' and surgeons' prescriptions, and family recipes, accurately dispensed at very moderate charges.—Medicines retailed."

MORTALITY IN THE METROPOLIS.—In the week ending December 12th, the registered number of deaths amounted to 1163, considerably above the average. Of these, the deaths from bronchitis were 106; from pneumonia, 114; from phthisis, 139; from disease of the heart, 63; tabes mesenterica, 16; disease of the liver, 12; childbirth, 10; old age, 65; violent deaths, 40. The number of births in the same week was 1252.

APOTHECARIES' HALL, LONDON.

Names of Gentlemen who passed their Examination, and received Certificates to practise, on Thursday, December 17th, 1846:—John Colston, Sheriff Hutton, Yorkshire; George Frederick Hughes Brown, East India Company's Service; Thomas Edward Pearce Martin, Hull; William Bennett, London.

CORRESPONDENTS.

WE have received all the important documents of Mr. Fosbrooke, and shall shortly endeavour to do ample justice to his labours.

G. G. M. may rest quite satisfied. He should, in the first instance, have consulted a respectable medical man. Our correspondent writes to confess, that being, originally, frightened by the advertisements of the obscene quacks, he applied to one of their fraternity, when he had his groundless fears exaggerated by the empiric, and was mulcted of £60 in three months for restorative balsams. He writes to say, that so much had his fears been worked upon, that the days spent since the perusal of the recent article in THE LANCET have been the happiest of his life. The detail of cases of this kind will be of invaluable service in our assault upon these nefarious villains, and most happy shall we be to receive them.

Dr. Boott's important communication respecting Dr. Bigelow's discovery of a mode of producing insensibility during surgical operations, by the inhalation of sulphuric ether, shall be published next week.

Another Medical Student.—We should hope the publication of the letter of last week may suffice to remedy the serious evils complained of in the Manchester Medical School.

A Non-professional.—The man in question is a gross quack, one of the worst of the Jew fraternity. Any respectable medical man might be consulted with confidence in such case. The treatment of such disorder is as well understood by the profession as that of hooping-cough or measles.

The residence of Mr. Coats, whose paper is in THE LANCET of last week, is at "Sirhowey," instead of "Six Hours," foundry.

Communications received from Mr. Fosbrooke; Studens Medicus; G. G. M.; Mr. George Wilson, (Leeds); Mr. George L. Cooper; Dr. Mayne; Mr. George Combe, (Edinburgh); Dr. Alfred Hall; Beta Erasmis; Mr. Ingham; Dr. Boott; Another Medical Student, (Manchester); Dr. Cuddy, (Bideford); Chirurgus; A Non-professional; Mr. T. Fry, (Birkenhead); Mr. J. Jones, (Montgomeryshire); Juvénis; N. Coats; Detector.