

for by me, and I leave my colleague to cover his retreat after his own fashion.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Aberdeen, April 29th, 1867.

DAVID KEER, M.D., &c.

P.S.—Since writing on the 29th of April I have received a letter from Mr. Grant, our late house-surgeon, in every particular confirming the statement of Mr. Strahan, both in regard to the introduction of the pin and its uselessness.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—On reading a letter on this *questio vexata* in your impression of last week, by Dr. Fiddes, of this town, I was much struck by his minute description of an operation which he says he performed, but which appears to me a physical impossibility.

To arrest secondary hæmorrhage in an amputated stump, he pinned the femoral artery, thus :—"The forefinger of my left hand I put upon the artery and compressed it; and with my right hand I plunged in the point of the pin, about an inch from the iliac side of the artery. The head of the pin was then depressed, and the point brought through the skin close to the iliac side of the artery. I then raised the head of the pin and pushed the point of it into the stump between the artery and vein, and brought it out again on the pubic side of the vein."

Now, apart from the physiological question whether the amount of blood in the femoral artery can be arrested by pinning, every one at all conversant with the anatomy of the parts must know that the artery and vein are so closely united by their areolar investment, that, even after opening the crural sheath, it requires delicate dissection to separate them. Still, were a person to plunge a pin in a perpendicular direction between them, he might by a lucky hit manage to do so without wounding either artery or vein. But, unless provided with a pin possessing the remarkable property of Baron Munchausen's gun—that of shooting round a corner—I am at a loss to conceive how any surgeon, however expert, could avoid transfixing the femoral vein. He has first to take up an inch of integument with a straight pin, then with this encumbrance to raise up the head so as to introduce it between the artery and vein, pinning down the former, and pinning up the latter.

The writer of this letter further tells us that, "By-and-by the stump began to swell from venous congestion, for the vein was unavoidably slightly compressed at the same time. This swelling of the stump I have no doubt pressed out the blood from the artery, on the distal side of the acupressure, and the blood from between the flaps."

In any other document I should have considered such a sentence a mere confusion of ideas; as it is plain that the swelling of the stump would rather have the opposite tendency—that of retaining the blood instead of squeezing it out. But taken in connexion with this remarkable operation I presume it must refer to some new doctrine in surgical pathology of which I am as yet entirely ignorant.

On both the above points I am convinced many members of the profession, as well as myself, would be interested to hear the author's explanation.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Aberdeen, April 16th, 1867.

JAMES COUTTS, M.D.

## AUSTRALIAN BOILED BEEF.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As the notice of Australian Boiled Beef published by you on the 4th May contains two positive misstatements, I trust to your sense of justice to insert the following reply. Your report states: "The result of the examination of these samples shows clearly that the contents of the canisters do not represent the whole of the nutritive matter of six pounds of good fresh meat. It is probable that in the process adopted for preserving the meat some of the meat-juice has been taken away," &c. Now the facts are that six pounds of good fresh beef are put into each tin, and nothing whatever is taken out. As to the flavour and comparative cheapness of the meat, the written opinions of a large number of former purchasers, whose orders I am glad to say are in excess of the present supply, are directly at variance with those expressed by THE LANCET Commission.—Yours obediently,

THE MANAGER OF THE AUSTRALIAN MEAT COMPANY.

Houndsditch, May 11th, 1867.

\*\* The first of the two statements which are complained of in our report was founded upon a comparison of the amount

of meat-extract obtained from the preserved meat, as compared with that yielded by an equal quantity of fresh meat. The second statement was made in explanation of the first. In the absence of any other explanation, the assumption that part of the meat-juice had been extracted in the process, was justified by the well-known practice adopted in this country in preserving meat in sealed canisters.

## TETRACHLORIDE OF CARBON AS AN ANÆSTHETIC.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I hope next week to send you a report of cases confirmatory of your notice in your last number on Tetrachloride of Carbon. In the meanwhile I beg to refer to Dr. Sansom's paper published in the "Transactions of the Obstetrical Society," vol. viii., p. 49, in which he says: "Sir James Simpson, in a paper in the *Medical Times and Gazette* for Dec. 16th, 1865, brought forward many facts of interest concerning this addition to our *Materia Medica*; but I believe that I was myself the first to bring it into notice as an anæsthetic, in my book on Chloroform."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

PROTHEROE SMITH.

Park-street, Grosvenor-square, W., May 16th, 1867.

## THE SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL.

WE have good reason for stating that should the Admiralty offer the Queen Mary's block of Greenwich Hospital to the Seamen's Hospital Society it will certainly be refused. No official communication on the subject has as yet been received by the Society; but a special report, made at the desire of the Committee, by their Consulting Surgeon, and presented on the 7th inst., pronounced decidedly in favour of Queen Anne's quarter, and condemned that known as Queen Mary's, because of the difference of site, and the supposed impossibility of finding anything like proper ward accommodation in it for more than one hundred patients, owing to the peculiar construction of the building. The Admiralty is informed, on the other hand, as we have already pointed out, that large and spacious wards can be made in the Queen Mary's quarter, capable of accommodating three hundred patients, with ample cubic space for each. The *Dreadnought* authorities lay but little stress on the advantages offered by the superior cooking, bathing, and washing arrangements in Queen Mary's quarter. The main difference is a matter for settlement by the architect.

## MARLBOROUGH-STREET.

TUESDAY, MAY 15TH.

THE Hon. Alfred Thesiger, instructed by Messrs. Wilde and Co., solicitors to the Royal College of Surgeons, applied to Mr. Tyrwhitt for a summons against Mr. Robert Jacob Jordan, the keeper of an anatomical museum in George-street, Hanover-square, for holding himself out to the world as a surgeon, his name having been removed from the roll of members. Mr. Thesiger stated that in 1859 Mr. Jordan was elected a member of the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1863, it having been brought to the knowledge of the managing body that he was the keeper of a disgusting anatomical museum, and also that he was publishing an indecent book, a correspondence ensued, the result of which was that by order of the College the name of Mr. Jordan was struck off the list of members. The College subsequently demanded back the diploma granted to Mr. Jordan, but he refused to return it, and matters rested for a time; but this year, in consequence of numerous complaints, the College had determined to take some effectual steps in the matter, and had instructed him to apply for a summons under the 21st and 22nd Victoria, cap. 90, sec. 40. One of the pamphlets circulated by Mr. Jordan was handed to Mr. Tyrwhitt. The pamphlet was inscribed "Nervous Exhaustion," and on the title-page Mr. Jordan was described as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England. In another of his books the diploma, which has been recalled by the College of Surgeons, was set forth. Mr. Tyrwhitt granted the summons.

THE latest accounts from St. Thomas represent that island and the ships in the harbour as free from any epidemic disease.