in all these the labour was very protracted and lingering.

Four were cases of presentation of the placenta. In the first the woman was at the full term of uterine gestation; the child was turned, and delivered, but still-born; the woman had a quick recovery. In the second case the mother was in her eighth month of pregnancy: she had experienced a slight "shew" a week before, but it had soon ceased. In consequence of her carrying one of her children, a violent discharge of blood took place, which had ceased before my arrival. She was ordered to be kept quiet in bed, and to have cool sub-acid drinks. On the following day the hæmorrhage returned with increased violence, attended with slight uterine pains. The os uteri was found to be slightly dilated, with the placenta attached directly over it. Feeling persuaded that she would not survive another such strain upon her frame, I proceeded slowly and cautiously to deliver her, by turning the child, and supporting the mother during the time with wine and cordials. The child was still-born, but the mother had an uninterrupted good recovery. In the other cases delivery was also effected by turning, and the patients did well.

Five cases occurred of adhesion of the placenta, requiring the introduction of the hand for its removal.

In three cases the arm presented; in two of them the party had been some hours under the care of a midwife, who had in the first instance been "carefully" pulling the presenting part, under the full conviction that it was a foot. I had, therefore, in both cases to turn in a contracted uterus, an operation under such circumstances often extremely difficult, and only to be effected by patient perseverance.

Puerperal convulsions occurred in two cases, the first proved fatal, the second recovered. In both the convulsions came on during the excitement of parturition. Considering over-fullness of the vessels of the head to be the most frequent proximate cause of this complaint, I immediately abstracted blood, in quantity proportioned to the constitution of my patients, one being of full habit, the other the inmate of a workhouse. The convulsions happened when the head was low down in the pelvis; and just pressing on the perineum; the os uteri fully dilated. After the bleeding, delivery was effected with the forceps. Where convulsions occur during the first eight months of pregnancy, it is probable they are derived from an hysterical source, but when they take place during the progress of parturition they evidently depend on an over-loaded state of the vessels of the head. In the former case, local bleeding by means of leeches, or cupping, (which latter is, I think, preferable,) may occasionally be sufficient; but in the latter blood must be abstracted, and that in large quantities, and if necessary, repeated; in all cases, however, applying cold evaporating washes to the head, and renewing their application according to the rapidity with which the heat re-accumulates.

I kept a register of forty-three cases in which the ergot of rye was administered. In four no uterine action was produced; but a burning sensation was felt at the pit of the stomach, which soon disappeared, and in one instance, upon repeating the ergot, the same sensation was re-produced. It failed also in one case of retained placenta, and the only one in which I tried

it. Ten of the cases were first labours. In a case where the patient, in each of her previous labours, (five in number,) had suffered from considerable hæmorrhage, the ergot was very successful. The pains being languid, I gave her about two scruples of the powder in a cup of warm tea; this was followed in ten minutes by strong propelling pains, and the child was born in less than twenty minutes after the dose was taken. No hæmorrhage followed, and her recovery was unusually rapid. The ergot is considered to have an injurious effect upon the foetus. This I have not found to be the case, inasmuch as where the ergot had been given, and the child still-born, its death had evidently taken place some time before.

JOHN LEE, M.D.,

Market Bosworth, Leicestershire,
September 2, 1844.

EFFECTS OF THE WATER-TREATMENT.

By WILLIAM JONES, M.D., Lutterworth.

(Read at the Anniversary Meeting of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, August 8th, 1844.)

During the month of December, 1843, and about twelve days in January, 1844, I was in attendance on Lady B. As I was resident in the house, and dining, &c., with the family, I had an opportunity of daily seeing the effect of what is misnamed the water-cure on the Baronet. He one day invited me to see him in what is called the packing, which is being enveloped in a wet sheet, then covered with blankets and feather beds for two hours, inducing a violent perspiration. At the end of that time the patient is taken up and immersed in a bath, either cold or heated, to about 65° Fahrenheit. A sheet is then thrown over him, and rubbing applied for a minute or two, outside the sheet.

As the patient was 73 years of age, and had been my friend for many years, and was of a very gouty and inflammatory habit, I told him my fears as to the dangers he was running, but he felt no ill effects till after the middle of December, when finding the gout had returned, and was flying about him, he was induced to leave off those violent sweatings. He however sent for Sir Charles Scudamore, who advised him to go on, as he said at Graefenburg they continued the plan for two or three years. One morning I saw symptoms of erysipelas of the head. I apprised them of the danger in my opinion, but it was disregarded, as they pretended to cure everything by water.

On the morning of the — of January, on seeing him immediately after coming out of the room where he had been sweated and bathed, I saw the whole countenance quite purple. I then informed the family that another such a shock would probably produce death at once. During the day, I observed he had pains in the limbs and a cough; the following morning I left London, and was sorry, though not surprised, in a few days afterwards to hear of his death, never having recovered the shock on the Friday, which terminated fatally on the following Monday week, which had produced violent cough with bloody sputa, and the last few days lethargic insensibility, as I was informed.

Some months previous to this case, I was consulted by a lady advanced in years, who I saw had been

under the water-treatment, having the petechial spots which I have seen in other cases. These spots are evidently caused by the profuse sweatings, which not only *thin* the blood, but by the excessive action of the heart during the sweating process, force the blood already thinned into vessels intended only to carry *lymph*. This of course, if too much for the absorbents to remove, will form a slough varying in extent according to circumstances, which is what *ignorant persons* call *the crisis*. That medical men regularly educated should be so ignorant of their profession must be a matter of surprise.

Whilst I was in town, I was called to see a lady of rank, who was under the *treatment* with the same eruption, and although I had known her some years before as a great beauty, the excessive sweatings had, by removing all the fat and fluids, left in the whole frame and face the haggard appearance of old age. I endeavoured to point out the great demand the stomach and digestive organs had to undergo, to supply the *wanton waste* of fluid by the skin, and it is not surprising that the patients are obliged to drink excessively of cold water to repair it. I lately heard that this lady was still pursuing the plan, although as thin as possible. The other lady has incurable disease of the colon and mesentery as the sequel of the water-treatment.

WM. JONES, M.D.

Lutterworth, July 10, 1841.

PROVINCIAL

Medical & Surgical Journal.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1844.

The letter from a member of the legal profession, which will be found in another column, appears to us, at this juncture, to be of considerable interest and importance. Without looking deeply into the causes of their success, it may safely be assumed that our legal friends have hitherto been able materially to influence, if not controul, the attempts made from time to time to encroach upon their privileges, and we rejoice therefore to notice indications of an inclination on their part to make common cause with ourselves in resisting the wholesale encouragement to quackery afforded by the proposed medical bill. The same acuteness which distinguishes the genuine lawyer in what immediately concerns his own profession, will lead him not only to descry the coming danger, but to call into action all his resources to obviate it; and there is no question that in contending against the recognition of a principle which, were it admitted, he must ultimately suffer from, he will do wisely to take up a vantage ground before he is himself attacked, and aid the medical profession in their efforts to resist it. At present the quackery which infests the legal profession is confined pretty much to its own members—the black sheep which disgrace its ranks,—and how much the upright and honourable among them suffer from the mal-practices of

these rotten members of the flock, not only in public estimation, but also in the withholding of that confidence which, as men learned in the interpretation of the law, they would otherwise enjoy, needs no argument to prove. But once let wide the evil throughout the length and breadth of the land, once let loose unrestrained the practice by the ignorant pretender of quackery in law, as it is now proposed to do with regard to quackery in medicine, and even the Abbot of Misrule himself might rejoice in the confusion which must inevitably arise.

Yet would not the introduction of this confusion into the practice of courts of judicature law and equity; in the tenure of property, and in every public and private right which the law is intended and professes to secure, be one whit more calamitous than that pestilent toleration of quackery granted under the Medical Bill, under which the health of individuals must sink, and the sanitary relations of the community suffer. The mischief resulting from legal quackery might possibly be more glaring, since every trial in the law courts would afford abundant evidence of it, while the workings of medical quackery, with the exception of an occasional exposure in the coroner's court, are recorded only on the monumental tablets of our cemeteries, or lie hidden from human recognition in the last home of mortality. On the other hand the evil which touches life is more grievous than that which involves property and civil rights, since neither of these can be possessed in the grave, nor prove a source of gratification and enjoyment without that first of all earthly blessings,—health both of body and mind—the *mens sana in corpore sano*.

Every species of quackery, however, is *unmixed* evil, the quackery legal and the quackery political, as well as the quackery medical, and we hail, with no common satisfaction the indications of an accession of so powerful and so enlightened an ally, in contending against this all-encroaching, all-pervading principle, as the legal profession must prove. Its members, moreover, will do well to be on the alert, and to be early in the field; for they may rest assured that in the pursuit of a spurious and so-called freedom, which threatens to inundate our institutions by the wide spread of its shallow waters, free-trade in medicine will be followed at no distant period by the kindred absurdity of free-trade in law.

THE BENEVOLENT FUND.—LETTER II.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND
SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

The subject of local funds must next engage my attention; and for many reasons I shall engraft my observations on those funds upon the regulations of the "Surrey Medical Benevolent Fund," but chiefly