Parliament, and that the Members of the town and county be requested to support its prayer."

The following is a copy of the petition:—

"To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled.

"The humble Petition of the undersigned, legally qualified medical practitioners of the Town and County of Cambridge, and the neighbourhood,

"Sheweth,

"That your petitioners are legally qualified medical practitioners. That they admit the necessity of some alteration in the laws relating to the medical profession; and tender their thanks to the Government for having brought the subject before the notice of Parliament. At the same time, they are of opinion, that the proposed 'Bill for the better regulation of medical practice throughout the United Kingdom,' though containing some beneficial clauses, requires alteration in several important points, which, if allowed to pass into a law, as at present proposed, cannot but prove injurious to the medical profession, and detrimental to the interests of the public.

"That your petitioners approve of the institution of a central Council, to regulate the affairs of the profession; but they strongly object to the constitution of the 'Council of Health and Medical Education,' as proposed in the said bill, inasmuch as the Government influence too greatly preponderates; and, whilst the physicians and surgeons are represented in the Council, no provision is made for the representation of the licentiates in medicine and surgery, who, under the present denomination of general practitioners, form, by far, the most numerous branch of the profession. Your petitioners deem it essential to the interests of general practitioners that they should be fairly represented in the Council of Health by members of the Apothecaries' Company, or that they should be incorporated together as an independent body; and that such Corporation should be adequately represented in the Council of Health."

"That your petitioners think the annual publication of a Register, under the authority of Government, of duly qualified members of the medical profession highly desirable; but that the removal of all restrictions upon unlicensed practitioners would be attended with serious injury to the public and to the profession. They are also of opinion that the Apothecaries' Act of 1815, although imperfect, has done much towards suppressing irregular practice, and that, for the further attainment of so desirable an object, some more summary and effectual means of restraint should be adopted.

"That your petitioners further submit that the graduates in medicine, at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, should not be subject to the necessity of undergoing an examination at the College of Physicians previously to being registered by the Council of Health.

"That your petitioners earnestly and respectfully appeal to your honourable House, in the conviction that their suggestions will receive your serious consideration; and with the hope that the said bill may not be allowed to pass into law without such modifications as may meet the prayer of your petitioners, and the approval of the profession generally.

"And your petitioners will ever pray."

TWO CASES OF PARACENTESIS THORACIS, PERFORMED IN THE LAST EXTREMITY OF ACUTE PLEURISY.

By M. TROUSSEAU.

CASE 1.—A young woman had been suffering for fourteen days under acute pleurisy. After every effort which art could suggest, she was threatened with suffocation. The face was pale and anxious; eyes staring and prominent; extensive movement and agitation of the nostrils; respiration extremely difficult; enormous dilatation of the left side of the chest; the heart pulsating under the cartilages of the right side of the sternum; pulse very frequent. M. Trousseau made a puncture in the skin, on the outer side of the mamma, between the seventh and eighth ribs. The skin was raised till the puncture corresponded to the inter-costal space immediately above, and then introducing in the small opening a large trocar, he thrust it in three *centimètres* in depth on the upper edge of the inferior (the seventh) rib. The piercing part of the instrument being withdrawn, the fluid spouted out rapidly. To prevent the entrance of air, the operator had laid over the top of the canula a piece of gold-beater's skin, which, easily raised by the jet of liquid, closely applied itself to the orifice during inspiration. Everything passed off as could be wished, and after having evacuated two pounds of fluid, he rapidly withdrew the canula, and let the skin fall, the opening in which was covered with a piece of silk. The patient was immediately relieved; she gradually became better, and the cure was complete in sixteen days after the operation.

CASE 2.—A woman, affected with puerperal fever, peritonitis, and pleurisy, was in the thirteenth day of her illness. The face was violet-coloured; extreme oppression; threatened asphyxia; pulse small and frequent. The patient appeared to be sinking. Notwithstanding the severity of the case and its complications, paracentesis thoracis was resolved upon, and performed in the following manner:—Incision and elevation of the skin; afterwards a puncture in the inter-costal space above; 1500 grammes of a purulent serum were evacuated; immediate relief was obtained. Two days afterwards the symptoms recurred; a fresh puncture was made, and two pounds of pus were evacuated. The precaution of placing the gold-beater's skin on the external orifice of the canula was omitted, and some bubbles of air entered the pleura; there was instantaneous relief, but followed by a fresh recurrence of the symptoms. Third puncture; fetid pus turning silver black; consecutive pneumo-thorax; death on the fourth day after the last operation.

Autopsy.—The lungs not perforated; the remaining effusion puriform and fetid.—*Journal de Médecine.*

The preceding cases are remarkable for the manner in which the operation was performed, and the precautions taken to prevent the access of air within the pleura. In the first case the precautions were effective, and the termination was successful; in the second they were only partially so, and the patient died.