

Scotland two pounds, and in Ireland two pounds, ample funds could be raised for keeping the Museum in all efficiency, according to the present rate of expenditure. I trust the Museum may never leave its present home, where it has been so well cared for, and has reflected so great a reputation on the body that has the charge of it.

In conclusion, I believe the day for "conjoint examining boards" has passed away. More than one attempt has been made to bring about such an arrangement, but they have always failed to bear any fruit; and to those who know all the conflicting interests to be considered, the cause of such failures is not far to seek. I feel I cannot any longer trespass on your space, or there is more that I should offer in explanation and support of my suggestions, and must leave to others more competent to fill up such omissions. I know that there will be those who may read this letter who will at once say it *cannot* be done; it touches too many vested interests. In thirty years of pretty active life I have heard like objections made to a great many schemes that I have lived to see perfected, and far beyond what the originators could have dreamed of. But I trust those who may read this letter will excuse my temerity in presuming to treat of such a subject; and believe, in doing so, I have had but one object in view—what I consider to be the interests of our profession.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Savile-row, Nov. 1st, 1870.

CHARLES HAWKINS.

### ROTHELN, OR GERMAN MEASLES.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—It was with great pleasure I read your report of Dr. Murchison's clinical lecture on Røtheln. I have lately had nine cases completely answering to Dr. Murchison's description, especially as to the character of the rash, duration of fever, &c., and embarrassment of diagnosis. In two or three only were the air-passages affected, but in five or six there was severe ulceration of the tonsils; and in one case, nearly fatal from exhaustion, there was discharge from ear and nose, and afterwards abscess in neck and ischio-rectal fossa. All recovered with supporting regimen, chlorine mixture, &c. Some of the children had already had measles, and some scarlatina, but I do not know that any had had both.

Allow me, Sir, to mention, with reference to an article in your issue of Oct. 29th, on the treatment of incontinence of urine with tincture of belladonna, that I am using it in a case of many years' duration, and success has been complete since the dose has reached ten minims three times a day. I give it with the steel.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

G. A. KENYON, M.B. Lond.

Gipsy-hill, Upper Norwood, Oct. 31st, 1870.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—I think Dr. Murchison has meted out less than justice to the profession in his clinical lecture on German Measles, which appeared in your last impression. At the conclusion of a most interesting description of the disease occurs this passage:—"The result is, that few practitioners are acquainted with the disease, and many have never heard of it; and it is generally treated as a variety of measles or scarlet fever, although every now and then a medical man of more than usual discernment describes it in the journals as a new or anomalous exanthem."

I contend that he is in error in this statement, and that the paragraph should read thus:—"The result is, that most practitioners are acquainted with the disease, and few have never heard of it; and it is generally treated according to the prominence of one or other set of symptoms, although every now and then a medical man of less than average information describes it as a new or anomalous form of exanthem."

I have recognised the disease in my own practice for six years. I also had it pointed out to me by the medical man with whom I first acted as assistant, eight years ago. My partner here has been aware of this special malady for years; and only last week a gentleman in a neighbouring county sent me a description of the same under the name of "spurious measles."

I am satisfied that the knowledge of this disease is as general in the profession as Dr. Murchison states it to be limited, and that it is unsafe to assume a want of knowledge from an absence of print. We should not admire as a man of more than usual discernment one who ventured to state as novel that he had discovered some points of difference between enteric and typhus fever.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Mere, Wilts, October 31st, 1870.

W. NORRIS MARSHALL.

### THE WORD "MICROZYMES."

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—In a paper "On the Intimate Pathology of Contagion," which was published about three months ago, I proposed the word "microzyme" as a convenient general term for the first organic forms which present themselves in organic nitrogenous liquids, when about to undergo "spontaneous" decomposition.

In consequence of the interest which at present attaches to the question of the origin of disease from germs, my word has become somewhat popular, but has been used in a sense entirely different from that in which I myself proposed it. It has been used to denote the particles of which, as I have endeavoured to show, there is reason to believe that contagious matter essentially consists. I should not think it worth while to object to this misapplication, were it not calculated to lead to great confusion.

Microzymes (in the exclusive sense in which I have used the word) are often found in contagious liquids. It is undoubtedly a question for serious discussion whether or not these organic forms are identical with contagious particles; but at present there is no reason for believing either that they are or that they are not so.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Queen Anne-street, Nov. 7th, 1870.

J. BURDON-SANDERSON.

### EXTIRPATION OF THE COCCYX.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—My apology for disputing Dr. Nott's claim to priority in the performance of this operation must be that the *New Orleans Medical Journal* is not easy of access, and that until to-day I was not aware of its existence. Under the circumstances narrated in his letter I am quite prepared to admit Dr. Nott's claim.

Coccydynia, like all other neuralgic affections, is not always cured by operation, as I have elsewhere shown; and I can quite understand that in the hands of Sir James Simpson, as in the experience of others, both the subcutaneous operation and that of excision may have proved of only temporary benefit.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Waterloo-street, Birmingham, Nov. 5th, 1870.

LAWSON TAIT.

### EDINBURGH.\*

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WITH returning winter comes once more the opening of the University and Medical School. At both, the inaugural addresses were delivered on Wednesday. The Principal, Sir Alexander Grant, delivered that to the University, and in it he embraced a variety of subjects, commencing first by panegyrics on the late Sir James Simpson and Mr. Syme, which were remarkable for this, that it would be difficult even for the opponents of either to find fault with the observations on their lives and characters. He alluded to the retirement of Professor Allman, and to the liberality of Sir Roderick Murchison in offering a substantial endowment for a chair of Geology. He next referred to the chair of Moral Philosophy and the lectures on Political Economy, which he regretted were still to be given by the Professor of Moral Philosophy. He congratulated the University on the offer made by the Merchant Company of Edinburgh to

\* This letter arrived too late for insertion in our last issue.