

SPASMA GLOTTIDIS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

I had marked for reply, several passages in Dr. Wardell's last letter on "Spasma Glottidis," but the tone and temper of his remarks are such, that though still unconvinced by his reasons and authorities, I think 't best to close our correspondence, which has become too personal to be interesting to the bulk of your readers, particularly as it is evident, from Dr. Wardell's assertion—that the question between us is, "whether inflammation in the throat always is the cause of laryngismus,"—that he has misunderstood the whole tenor of my observations; and hence I am not at all surprised, that Drs. Williams and Walshe should have replied in the affirmative to the enquiry whether they had seen cases of non-inflammatory spasm of the glottis in the adult.

In taking my leave of Dr. Wardell, I would request him to re-peruse my last letter, and then to decide in *foro conscientiae*, how far he or I have "wittingly passed over certain facts and considerations that are hostile to our views."

I will take this opportunity of pointing out to Dr. Ranking, whose remarks, (quoted by Dr. Wardell,) were published in his "Abstract" before my last letter, that I therein expressly excluded hysterical cases, or such as I conceive he alludes to, by the expression "cases of reflected uterine irritation," in asserting my doubts of the existence of pure uncomplicated spasm of the glottis in the adult. Violent attacks of globus hystericus, severe fits of choking, and the troublesome effects of a relaxed uvula, are really instances of spasm of the glottis in the adult, and sometimes while they last, are attended with stridulous breathing, yet I doubt whether they are identical with this disease in the infant; and I repeat, that it was upon this ground that I objected to the cases of Dr. Wardell, Mr. Alford, and Mr. Gorringe, as presenting more of an inflammatory than of a purely spasmodic origin; hence, to quote my last letter, "without denying the possibility, I must repeat, that Dr. Wardell has not proved the existence of the disease in the adult such as we have it in children."

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
T. OGIER WARD, M.D., Oxon:

Kensington, November 17, 1848.

NOTICE OF DR. MAYD.

At Withersfield Rectory, Suffolk, on the 28th of September, aged 88, died John Winslow Mayd, M.D., for upwards of fifty years a resident at Epsom, during the greater part of which time he was a general practitioner. Latterly he took the degree of M.D., and for some years being incapacitated for practice 'by chronic rheumatism and failure of sight, he had been in complete retirement.

He was deservedly eminent in his town and neighbourhood for great medical penetration and experience; his natural good sense, and strong sagacity which, with excellent judgment in the diagnosis and treatment of disease, rendered his opinion and advice most acceptable to his patients. He was decidedly, and in every sense of the word, a successful practitioner.

He had good scholarship, and various knowledge;

the expression of his opinions and sentiments always candid, and sometimes caustic or facetious, rendered him a favourite with his contemporaries, and the recollection of these characteristics remains in the memory of surviving friends.

In the year 1812, Dr. Mayd, in conjunction with the late Dr. Hardwick, Mr. Wallace, of Carshalton, Mr. Stedman, of Guildford, Mr. Martin, of Reigate, and other friends, established the Surrey Benevolent Medical Society, of which he was the first President, and he rendered essential service in promoting the augmentation of the fund.

NOTICE OF DR. TWINING.

Died, on the 15th inst., aged 35, at 13, Bedford Place, Russell Square, William Twining, M.D. This young and promising physician is another to be added to the list of those who have fallen victims to their thirst for the acquisition of knowledge. Dr. Twining received his education at Rugby, under the celebrated Dr. Arnold, and such was his eagerness to attain distinction, that he overtasked his strength, and laid the foundation of that cerebral disease which has thus prematurely cut him off. From Rugby he went to Balliol School, Oxford, and it was his wish, on more than one occasion, to compete for honours, but his strength was unequal to the exertion. His medical studies at St. Bartholomew's, were pursued with equal ardour, and even when his feeble health rendered such application improper, he was constantly to be found engaged in the perusal of abstruse works in German and other languages.

Dr. Twining held the appointments of Physician to the Farringdon Dispensary, and the Public Dispensary, until compelled by ill health to resign them. He was, in 1841, one of the founders of the North London Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye, and the fervent manner in which he supported that charity, will ever be held in grateful remembrance. In him the unfortunate cretins of Switzerland have lost a firm and zealous friend: not only did he by his pen, advocate the cause of those unhappy outcasts, but he contributed most liberally to the admirable institution for their relief, conducted by Dr. Guggenbuhl, on the Abendberg, near Interlachen.* Active benevolence was, indeed, a prominent feature in his character: he was ever as ready to assist the poor with his purse as with his advice, and many have been the wretched objects who have been restored to comfort, as well as to health, through the unassuming philanthropy of Dr. Twining. Upright, honourable, and unflinching; amiable in disposition, and sincere in friendship; of learning, accurate, varied, and extensive, he had drawn around him a large circle of friends, by whom his loss will be long and deeply lamented, but by no one more than by him who pens this tribute to his memory.

* Dr. Twining's exertions on behalf of the cretins of Switzerland, and the idiots of our own land, have been attended with the happiest effects. There have already been three institutions established for the education of idiots,—namely, at Highgate, at Bath, and at Wells.