Again, why does the heart cease its office, and the lungs yet continue to expand and contract—aye, to inhale oxygen, but nevertheless fail to stimulate “the lord of the bosom” to persist in his wonted beat? Simply, I imagine, because the cerebral or ministerial centre has, through the agency of the “leprous distilment” poured into the blood, been deprived of the necessary supplies of healthy nourishment—the means, in fact, of carrying on the government and life of the constitution. The lungs, aided by the tenacious muscles, acting as long as the final contribution of nervous fluid from the spinal cord endures, afford a parallel to a bank (of “limited liability”, of course), which, having disposed somehow or other of its capital, real and imaginary, deposits, and other means, yet carries on business, with the assurance of security, till the last paid up call of the shareholders is expended, although the direction, like the paralysed heart, feels that “it is all up”. The official lungs at length find their “occupation gone”, and give up because they have become overpowered by the carbonic acid gas, against which, in the general ruin, they have been left hopelessly to contend. The bankrupt body then succumbs to the decomposition awaiting it, with a rapidity in proportion to the intensity and celerity of the destroying agent, to the remaining amount of carbonic acid gas, and to the fluidity of the corrupt blood; as in cases of death from lightning, prussic acid, strychnia, etc.; or as in instances of typhus arising from the absorption of excrementitious matter, or the importation of a malarious poison, where often the decay of death begins before life ends. In Dr. Snow's case, it is much to be regretted that the condition of the brain, and also of the spleen, was not inquired into; but it occurs to me that the emphysematous state of the lungs, and the abnormal distension of the right ventricle (not detected during life), might be otherwise accounted for.

Last, but not least, comes the natural inquiry, How is threatened dissolution to be arrested where the anæsthetic, be it chloroform, amylene, or other product of that class, has turned traitor to our humane intentions? With deference, I submit, by injecting into the jugular vein distilled water impregnated with salt (the “savour” of the blood), and rousing the chords of the sleep-bound heart into harmonious play by the help of that tried and valuable adjunct, galvanism. Dr. Stevens, after despatching a rabbit by a blow upon its head, and afterwards breaking up its brain, so as to cut off entirely its connexion with the rest of the body, placed the animal upon a warm water plate, and kept up at his pleasure for many hours the heart's beat, by sprinkling upon the exposed organ salt and water: once he washed off the salt with distilled water, and its throb ceased; he renewed the saline stimulant, and it beat again: he then poisoned it with a weak solution of belladonna; it again lay motionless; again was it revived by the salt and water inspiration, and carried on its wonted contractions till the nervous supply was at an end. The experiments of Sir B. Brodie, Dr. Hope, and others, shew that the nervous centre is not essential to the heart's action, so long as a supply of nourishment is kept up.

Henceforth, then, I would recommend a Blundell's transfusion, or other properly appointed syringe; a galvanic battery; an aromatic spirit vapour-bath, to assist in the elimination of carbonic acid gas by the skin (in preference to the negative stimulus of a chill by the dashing of cold water); a flannel dress or blanket; flat metallic hot water bottles, with loops at the sides or ends for tapes; a solution of salt; ammonia in substance, also a saturated solution of it; bellows, a tracheal catheter, a scalpel, and a lancet,—as the attendants in waiting upon the administration of chloroform, amylene, and the like.

Before concluding this lengthy paper, I must beg to observe, that I should be running counter to my views and feelings, were I to omit stating that to my highly gifted and much esteemed friend, Dr. Wm. Stevens (of whom my late friend, the farseeing, scientific, and amiable Dr. Prout, spoke as being “fifty years in advance of the professional knowledge of the day”), is mainly due the credit of any good which may happily arise from the suggestion I have made for the consideration of my medical brethren; which I have been led to make in consequence of my having (in the year of 1832, during the prevalence of cholera at Great Yarmouth, where I was then practising) carried out his (Dr. Stevens's) plan by injecting salt and water into the veins of several patients who were in the last stage of choleraic collapse, by which they were recovered, after hope from all other means was gone. And I may further add, in justice to him against whom opposition, armed with all the rancour of narrow-minded jealousy and the malevolent shafts of prejudice, too commonly attendant on merit, was unsparingly exercised, that I have had ample proof of the truth of another remark

pronounced by Dr. Prout upon Dr. Stevens's paper on the Blood, read at the College of Physicians; namely, that his views contained “germs of discoveries of the last (English-like, I should say *first*) importance to mankind”.

It does not appear whether galvanism was employed, or whether the means for employing it were at hand, in either Mr. Paget's or Dr. Snow's case.

The vapour-bath is valuable in driving off sebaceous incrustations and mucoid accumulation; and it has been suggested to me by a very scientific and distinguished chemist, of whose friendship I have long enjoyed the advantage, that a vaporised ammoniacal solution would, by attracting the carbonic acid gas, assist in its elimination, by alternately absorbing and diffusing or giving it off to the surrounding atmosphere.

I have been led to offer the foregoing remarks, with the special object of drawing the attention of able heads than mine to a subject which is creating much apprehension in the minds of the public in general, in order to prevent a fast growing discomfort from ripening into a mischievous panic.

ABORTION WITHOUT HÆMORRHAGE : CASE OF PROTRACTED RETENTION OF BLIGHTED OVUM.

By R. U. WEST, M.D., Alford, Lincolnshire.

Mrs. C. M., of S., aged 40, called me in on May 6th, 1851. She stated that she considered herself to be about thirty-two weeks gone in the family way. Nine weeks previously, she had a sudden loss of a great quantity of “dirty-looking water”; after which, she was well again. There had been no pain and no hæmorrhage. The day before I saw her, she had begun to feel pains, which continued. There was no hæmorrhage. On instituting a vaginal examination, I found a three months (or from three to four months) fetus in the vagina. I removed it: it was a putrid mass, doubled up and compressed into a sort of oval ball, about the size of a hen's egg; it was hanging by the funis, which was very thin, and six or eight inches long. The os uteri was firmly closed, so that I made no attempt to remove the placenta. I called again two days after, and found the os uteri beginning to open; but it was still not open enough to permit the extraction of the placenta. There was no hæmorrhage, not the slightest. The placenta came away spontaneously on May 13th, there having been no hæmorrhage throughout. The woman menstruated about eleven days after the placenta came away.

In this case, most probably, the fetus died in the thirteenth or fourteenth week of gestation. Nine or ten weeks after this event, the liquor amnii, tinged with putrescence, escaped. The fetus was still retained, notwithstanding its own death and the escape of the liquor amnii, for nine weeks longer, and the placenta yet another week, and all this without any hæmorrhage whatever.

The perusal of the case published by Dr. Roulston in the JOURNAL for May 9th, has prompted me to forward for publication the above extract from my note-book.

SPONTANEOUS SEPARATION OF THE LEG BY GANGRENE IN A MAN AGED EIGHTY- NINE YEARS: RECOVERY.

By THOMAS L. PRIDHAM, Esq., J.P., Bideford, Devon.

SOME weeks since, I was requested to see George Slewman, aged 89 years. I found him, considering his advanced age, looking in good health and spirits, and his intellect unimpaired. He had been a bed-lie for the last seven years. On inquiry, I heard the following extraordinary history of his case.

About a year and a half since, he complained of a pain in his heel; his wife, thinking it was rheumatism, put him on a worsted stocking. About three weeks from that time, his leg appearing to be uneasy and swollen, the stocking was removed, when a bladder was discovered extending continuously from about four inches below the knee to the end of the toes. The bladder was punctured with a needle, when a quantity of clear fluid escaped. A few days afterwards, the skin became of a brownish colour, and at the end of a week perfectly black, a distinct line of demarcation was formed. Within a few weeks, the skin became as hard as horn, and the leg had the appear-