up at once into the bladder, and the water drawn off. The instrument, as here represented, was made by Mr. Stevens, of Gower-street, North. I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM EVANS POPE.

University College, April 22, 1837.

CASES IN MIDWIFERY.

By J. BEDINGFIELD, *Esq.*, *Surgeon, Stowmarket.*

RUPTURE OF THE URINARY BLADDER.

Mrs. F., aged 36, a small woman, with a well-formed pelvis, was, on the 4th day of July, 1829, delivered of her seventh child, after an easy and natural labour of about two hours' duration. The placenta immediately followed the child, and everything wore a favourable aspect.

Twelve hours after delivery she was attacked with pain about the lower part of the abdomen, which extended to the thighs. The pain was accompanied with rigor; neither, however, was so severe as at first to excite particular attention. On the following morning I found her with a good deal of fever, a rapid pulse, a furred, dry tongue, and a tense and extremely tender abdomen. The patient had likewise made several ineffectual attempts to expel the contents of the bladder; her countenance assumed an exceedingly anxious expression; there was great restlessness, with frequent turning from side to side, and throwing about of the arms. The pain at the upper and inner part of the thighs was also very acute, and the cutis highly inflamed. A vein was opened in the arm, but the patient fainted before eight ounces of blood had escaped; the catheter was passed into the bladder, but not one drop of urine followed. All the usual means for the removal of peritonitis (such as leeches, fomentations, &c.) were resorted to, but without any alleviation of suffering, and the patient sank on the fourth day after delivery. The inflammation on the left thigh had almost subsided; that on the right had extended nearly to the knee; it was of an intense red colour, attended with a sensation of burning heat; the skin and cellular membrane were much thickened, and would, had the patient survived, have formed extensive sloughs.

Upon examination after death it was discovered that the fundus of the bladder had given way, and that the urine had escaped into the cavity of the abdomen. The body of the uterus was well contracted, and free from inflammation, except around the margin of two pustules (of about the size of pins' heads) which had formed upon its anterior surface. The right fallopian tube, with its fimbriated extremity, was in a state approaching to mortification; the left was highly inflamed. There was but little inflammation, either of the peritoneum or the intestines; but the anterior part of the bladder, together with the cellular membrane interposed between it, the symphisis pubis, and the lower part of the recti and pyramidales muscles, were completely gangrenous, breaking down under the finger, upon the application of the slightest force. The urine had also been effused into the cellular membrane, upon the inside of the thighs, accounting for the inflammation and burning pain which existed, during life, upon those parts. There are many cases upon record of rupture of the bladder from accident, overdistention, &c., but I do not remember to have met with an instance in which it seemed to arise, as it were, spontaneously, no circumstance having occurred, either previous to, during, or subsequent to, parturition, to account for the melancholy termination of this case.

Medical School, Stowmarket,
May 25th, 1837.

FIRST EMPLOYMENT OF THE LOBELIA INFLATA IN ENGLAND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—A sense of justice compels me to request the favour of your inserting the following observations in reply to a letter of Mr. Whitlaw, on the "Preparation and Properties of the Lobelia Inflata," published in THE LANCET of May 20, in which he evidently takes great credit to himself for having been the first, and, to the present day, the only observer of its poisonous effects on ruminating animals. How long the cows of America may have possessed a knowledge of the medical properties of the lobelia, it is not for me to determine. But I can confidently assert, that Mr. Whitlaw has no claims to the merit of introducing a knowledge of this plant to the medical profession, either in this country or in America; for until the latter end of the year 1832, Mr. W. never used the lobelia inflata as a medicine in this country. At that time the properties of the plant were becoming vaguely known to the profession as a powerful anti-spasmodic in asthma. Dr. Elliotson having previously used it, and pointed out its great superiority over every other remedy in speedily relieving attacks of spasmodic asthma, Mr. W. was induced to call upon that gentleman with a specimen of the lobelia prepared according to the mode described in his letter by the Shaking Quakers of New Lebanon, in the State of New York. Dr. Elliotson expressed his admiration of

the perfect state in which the plant was preserved, and immediately ordered a tincture to be made. But there being no formulæ for such a preparation I ventured on the following:—

℞ *Lobelia inflata*, 1 pound; *Rectified spirits of wine*, o iv; *Spirit of nitrous ether*, o iv; *Spirit of sulph. ether*, ℥ iv. Macerate for 14 days, perfectly excluded from the light.

Supposing, as experience has proved, that the addition of the ether would materially increase its anti-spasmodic properties. The medicine in this form was sent to *St. Thomas's Hospital*, and there, under the judicious direction of Dr. Elliotson, prescribed with singular success, to whom, alone, in my opinion, the profession and the public are indebted for whatever portion of human suffering has been, or may be, diminished by its introduction as a medicine.

As to Mr. Whitlaw's pretensions to a knowledge of the preparation of the plant, I may just observe, that on our separation last November, he was, until then, unacquainted with the ingredients composing the tincture. The mode of preparing it was then, at his own request, written out for his future direction. Although the respectable house of Messrs. Bell and Co., Oxford-street, may not have had any of the tincture or herb from Mr. Whitlaw since his removal to Argyll-street, yet they are, and have been, ever since the introduction of the medicine, supplied with the tincture as prepared by me from the plant imported from America. I am, Sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

CHARLES WHITLAW, Surgeon.

14, Finsbury-place, South,
May 24th, 1837.

P. S. I observe that Dr. Sigmond, in a lecture reported in THE LANCET of May 13th, when speaking of the effects of tobacco in disordered respiration says, "At the time that the lobelia inflata was the subject of great panegyric, and that clinical lectures appeared in the periodicals extolling its virtues in asthma, there was not a particle of it in the market." Whether any of the above plant was in the drug-market at that time, I have no means of ascertaining, but when the medicine became a "subject of great panegyric," and when "clinical lectures appeared in the periodicals extolling its virtues," (vide LANCET, Jan. 26th, 1833,) Dr. Elliotson had been, for several months previous to all this, prescribing the tincture prepared by me, and at that time a large quantity was in our possession.

CLINIC AT GUY'S HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—In consequence of the very sensible and satisfactory explanation given in a former number of THE LANCET, why our "respected teacher," Mr. Morgan, had delivered only two instead of thirty clinical lectures during the whole of the winter session, viz., that Mr. Morgan thought it better to deliver them in the summer, when the majority of students were in the country; and as this explanation appeared to have been given either by Mr. M. himself or by one of his friends, some few (though, forsooth, a very few) of the students expected that promise to be fulfilled. Five weeks of the summer session have now elapsed, without any probability of such being the case; and you will, perhaps, be surprised to learn, that in *Guy's Hospital*, containing between five and six hundred beds, although there are never less than a hundred students up in the summer, it is not the custom for either physician or surgeon to deliver one clinical lecture upon any case, however rare. Should Mr. Morgan's promise be fulfilled,—nay, if he give only one lecture during the summer,—making three lectures in 12 months, I will not, in justice to Mr. M., fail to communicate the fact to you and the public, before the issuing of the next STUDENTS' NUMBER of THE LANCET. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A PUPIL OF GUY'S.

June 1, 1837.

MR. LYON'S REJOINDER TO MR. DASENT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—I am very unwilling to take up the pages of THE LANCET, by protracting a controversy which has originated, I fear, in the wilful opposition of certain parties to facts which they themselves have signed and recognized. If Mr. Dasent repents of his innocent imprudence in affixing his attestation to the successful treatment of Dr. Turnbull, he might surely give utterance to his sorrow in a more comfortable way than by knocking his head against facts. The personal abuse of myself I treat with the contempt which all similar unprofessional conduct deserves. It is not the way to foster improvements in medicine, or in any other department of human knowledge. In his first letter, Mr. Dasent says, "I refused to sign the report, in consequence of the inaccuracy of its conclusions;" and in his second, "the fact is, that my testimony refers merely to the simple history of the cases, exclusive of Dr. Turnbull's con-