

forth their very frequent adoption in the treatment of cancerous tumours, as well as a grateful acknowledgment of the ingenuity of their inventor."

The following notice as to Cholera is given in the Weekly return of the Board of Health upon the Health of the Metropolis:—"It is important for Metropolitan Officers of Health to be aware that cases of Asiatic Cholera have already occurred in the neighbourhood of London. In one group of houses in the suburban district of West Ham, twenty-two cases of this disease have occurred since the beginning of October; and of these seven have resulted in death. The duration of some of the fatal cases has been remarkably short, in two instances as short as four and six and a half hours respectively. The sanitary condition of the district is utterly bad. It is intersected with sewage-ditches, from which part of the population derives its water-supply. The soil is sodden with the drainage of surrounding districts, as well as with its own refuse. The pump-waters are necessarily foul; and there is great reason to believe that the above-mentioned twenty-two cases of disease, as well as another which terminated fatally at Pelton-place, Bromley, were occasioned by the use of impure pump-water at the seat of the outbreak."

The admirable report of Dr. Taylor upon the human remains and clothing found on Waterloo-bridge published in a preceding page, so entirely exhausts the Medico-legal questions called forth by the case, that we need only refer to the report and accompanying engraving to put our readers in full possession of all that can be known on the subject until fresh evidence be obtained. It is very satisfactory to find that our denial of any Medical student tricks having anything to do with the matter is quite borne out by Dr. Taylor. It is much too serious a business for a hoax, and it is probable that the murderers have rejoiced in the gullibility of the public, and the facility for the concealment of a foul murder which such a suggestion throws open. A similar rumour as to Medical Students was circulated when the first part of the remains of Greenacre's victim was found, and was only quieted when the others were discovered. In the Waterloo-bridge case it is probable that the remaining parts of the body have been already disposed of, and are now lying deep in the mud of the Thames between London and Sea-reach.

Another Cancer-curer is in the field. Some time ago an advertisement appeared in the *Times*, inviting the co-operation of a Surgeon in a good professional position. Here is the reply:—

27, ——— street.

"SIR,—In reply to your letter in answer to the advertisement requiring the co-operation of a Medical man, etc., it is desirable to state before appointing an interview, that 'Medicus' is a lady of good birth, position and education—possessing an independent property, etc., who has discovered a cure for cancer; which for the benefit of suffering humanity she is anxious to afford the benefit to the public at large; and by which she expects to realize a considerable fortune. She has already tried it with entire success, but cannot conveniently execute her plans without the co-operation of a gentleman (Surgeon) of character, with a superior practice at the West-end; to whom every satisfactory particulars and reference would be given. Should the proposition be entertained, the lady will require certain pecuniary advances, as a return for the benefit, which must inevitably arise from the proposed connexion; but the repayment of which will be secured through the arrangement itself, and in case of deficiency from that source, from her own private property. With these preliminary explanations, the lady will be happy to make an appointment for an interview, on receiving a communication addressed to her, as 'Medicus.'"

REVIEWS.

Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Physic; delivered at King's College, London. By THOMAS WATSON, M.D. F.R.C.P., etc. Fourth Edition, revised and enlarged. London: 1857. 8vo. 2 vols. Pp. 984.

THE third edition of these Lectures has been for some time out of print. The fourth now appears, so carefully revised as to add considerably to the value of a book already acknowledged, wherever the English language is read, to be beyond all comparison the best systematic work on the Principles and Practice of Physic in the whole range of Medical literature. Every lecture contains proofs of the extreme anxiety of the author to keep pace with the advancing knowledge of the day, and to bring the results of the labours, not only of physicians, but of chemists and histologists, before his readers, wherever they can be turned to useful account. And this is done with such a cordial appreciation of the merit due to the industrious observer, such a generous desire to encourage younger and rising men, and such a candid acknowledgment of his own obligations to them, that one scarcely knows whether to admire most the pure, simple, forcible English—the vast amount of useful practical information condensed into the Lectures—or the manly, kind-hearted, unassuming character of the lecturer shining through his work. One extract may serve to prove all this. We take it, almost at random, from the lecture on Continued Fever:—

"For a long time I held, in common, I believe, with most English physicians, that no definite line of genuine distinction could be drawn between the various forms of continued fever met with in this country. I was indeed aware—it was impossible to be long engaged in hospital practice without becoming aware—that different epidemics presented very striking features of diversity, and even of contrast—so as to suggest the frequent suspicion that the maladies composing them might be specifically distinct. Still, taking into account their strong general resemblance—finding that these like, yet varying forms, were often, more or less, intermixed—noticing also that other distempers fluctuated in type, that within the last twenty years all acute disorders had assumed, in this town at least, an altered and more asthenic character, I conceived, and I taught, that the differences to which I have adverted in the aspect and phenomena of continued fever, depended more upon what is called the epidemic constitution,—that is to say, more upon an acquired disposition of the human body produced by some obscure general influence, and therefore affecting the entire London community,—than upon any essential difference in the nature of the disease itself, or in the virus from which (as I believed) it sprang.

"But I think so no longer. The Dr. Jenner of our time, with patience and sagacity worthy of the great name he bears, has traced out plain lines of division between two or three forms of continued fever, and especially between two forms, which had been chiefly confounded together, and which we now call respectively *typhus* and *typhoid* fever. In the affinity of these names is still implied the similarity of the two disorders; but Dr. Jenner has shown, by evidence which quite satisfies my mind, that they differ notably and constantly in their symptoms and course, in their duration, in their comparative fatality, in the superficial markings which respectively belong to them, and which warrant our classing them among the exanthemata, in the internal organic changes with which they are severally attended, and (what is the most important, the most conclusive, and the most difficult point to determine of all) in their exciting causes. For some reasons it may be regretted that names so much alike should have been given to diseases which are really distinct; yet even this may be not without its advantage, if it keep the attention of the observer on the alert to discriminate between the two kindred disorders. For my own part, I could have wished that typhoid fever had been named, as Dr. William Budd names it, *intestinal* fever."—P. 795. (a)

We quote this passage with additional pleasure as Dr. Jenner's lectures on fever appeared first in our columns.

(a) It is a bare act of justice to record, that so early as the spring of 1840 a paper was read before the Parisian Medical Society, by Dr. Alexander P. Stewart, in which the main distinctions between typhus and typhoid fever were clearly set forth. And in 1842, Dr. Bartlett's excellent book on Fever testified to the same distinctions, as he had noticed them in the United States.