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OUR GREAT ONES OF THE PAST.

MEN OF THE BRITISH SCHOOL.—No. IV.

JOHN CHEYNE, M.D., F.R.S., M.R.I.A.

TAKING advantage of the liberty we claimed of selecting great men for our portraits independent of any chronological method, we pass from the days of the second Charles to those of the third George, and take as the subject of this memoir one in whom each part of the United Kingdom may claim a share. Born and educated in Scotland, he spent the best and most active portion of his life in Ireland, and passed his declining days and died in England. He belonged to the Medical Profession by descent on both the paternal and maternal side, and was born on the 3rd of February, 1777, in the town of Leith, where his father, John Cheyne, practised Medicine and Surgery. In an autobiographical sketch (a), (from which, as a source of indisputable authenticity, we shall, of course, draw largely in this memoir,) he describes his father as a man of great cheerfulness, benevolence, good sense, and singleness of mind, who would visit the poor as promptly as the rich, and give his half-crown to those who had no means of procuring food as freely as his prescription.

His father had succeeded his uncle, also John Cheyne, a kindred spirit, who had acquired the name of "the friend of the poor." Of Dr. Cheyne's great-grandfather little is known, except that he and his family were devoted to the Stuarts, to whose agents they had lent considerable sums of money, which were never repaid; and that his portrait, by Sir John Medina, still hangs in the hall of the College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, of which he was a member, as were also Dr. Cheyne's father and grandfather. The fact just mentioned is, however, evidence that he had attained to some distinction among his Professional brethren.

Dr. Cheyne's mother, whom he describes as an ambitious woman, of honourable principles, constantly stimulating her children to exertion, and intently occupied with their advancement in life, was the daughter of Mr. William Edmonstone, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, and of his wife, Cecilia Bayne, sister to William Bayne, who was mortally wounded in Lord Rodney's great battle, while in command of the "Alfred," seventy-four-gun ship, and was the senior of the three captains to whom a monument was erected in Westminster Abbey. This Cecilia Bayne was daughter of Alexander Bayne, Professor of Scots Law in the University of Edinburgh, whose life appears in the "Penny Cyclopædia," and who is noticed in D'Israeli's "Calamities of Authors."

After passing four years at the Grammar School of Leith, young Cheyne was, by the advice of one of his father's friends, sent to the High School of Edinburgh. Though only in his 10th year, he was at once placed under the care of the rector, or head master, for whose class he was in no respect prepared. In consequence of this ill-advised step he was very unhappy, being unable to keep up with many of his companions; and he tells us that he often feigned sickness, and submitted to take medicine, in order to be kept from school. The rector, though a very eminent teacher, was a vain man, and so passionate as to inspire his scholars with the utmost terror. He seems to have used corporal punishment with the utmost severity. The consequence was that young Cheyne felt the most unbounded impatience to escape from his rule; and so great was the impression of terror on his youthful

(a) Prefixed to "Essays on Partial Derangement of the Mind, in supposed Connection with Religion." By the late John Cheyne, M.D., etc. Dublin: William Curry and Co. 1844.



mind, that the form of the rector continued, he assures us, during his whole life to preside over a great portion of his uneasy dreams.

He was next placed under the care of a clergyman of the Episcopal Church of Scotland, a good scholar, but an idle and dissipated man. Both master and pupil had more relish for frivolous talk than for Homer or Virgil; and as the former did not exact careful preparation, the latter did not read much for him; so that, although he went to him daily for two years, he made but little addition to his knowledge of Greek or Latin.

So early as in his thirteenth year he began to attend his father's poor patients. He was sent to ascertain that they were supplied with medicines, to bleed them, dress their wounds, and report upon their condition. In this way he acquired an early acquaintance with diseases; and he attributed his subsequent success in treating them more to his knowledge of their expression, than to any other qualification that he possessed.

Before he reached his sixteenth year he had begun to attend Medical lectures in the University of Edinburgh; and in this premature commencement of his Professional studies, which he considered to have been the second false step in his education, there was nothing apparently incongruous, as he had attained full growth, and had the appearance of a young man of eighteen or nineteen. Dining at a boarding-house every day with several Medical students who were qualifying themselves for the Doctorate, he found that he was as well acquainted with Medical subjects as most of them, and, therefore, unhappily resolved to present himself for examination when they did. By attending a club, the members of which alternately examined each other in anatomy, physiology, the theory and practice of physic, etc., and with the assistance of Mr. Candlish, a celebrated grinder of that day, his superficial knowledge of Latin and of Medical science was made to answer the end in view; he passed his examination without difficulty, and obtained a Medical degree in June, 1795. It will soon be seen that Dr. Cheyne was not of the stamp of mind to remain long satisfied with the possession of the art of concealing ignorance imparted by the rote-system of instruction.

On the day after he obtained his degree, having previously passed an examination at Surgeons' Hall, he left Edinburgh for Woolwich, the head-quarters of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, in which corps he had received the appointment of Assistant-Surgeon. With it he served in various parts of England till the end of 1797, when he obtained the local rank of Surgeon, and accompanied a brigade of horse artillery, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel, afterwards Sir Edward Howorth, to Ireland. With part of that brigade, commanded by Lord Bloomfield, he was present at the actions with the rebels which took place at Ross, Vinegar Hill, etc., in 1798. While he was Assistant-Surgeon and Surgeon in the Artillery, from 1795 to 1799, his time was spent in shooting, playing billiards, reading such books as the circulating library supplied, and in complete dissipation of time. In fact, he learned nothing but ease and propriety of behaviour. At last he became dissatisfied with his prospects, anxious to distinguish himself in his Profession, and persuaded that, unless he made a strenuous effort, he must be content with a subordinate station, which his feelings would not have permitted him

tamely to occupy. He therefore left the Horse Artillery, and returned to Scotland in 1799, when he was appointed to the charge of the Ordnance Hospital in Leith.

We now come to a new era in Dr. Cheyne's life, when he was about to lay the foundation of the well-deserved eminence he afterwards attained to. On his return to Scotland he undertook to act as assistant to his father, whose practice, especially among the poor, was very extensive; and he at once adopted a system well calculated to lead to Professional success. From the cases which fell to his lot in the division of the business of the day, he selected the most interesting; these he journalized, and when he foresaw that a disease would end unfavourably, he took measures to ensure permission to examine the body. In these necroscopic investigations he was largely assisted by Mr. (afterwards Sir Charles) Bell, with whom he at that period formed a friendship, and who was occupied in the study of pathology. Mr. Bell "opened most of the bodies he obtained permission to dissect, taught him many things he might not otherwise have learned, and confirmed his taste for distinction." "As an example of diligence in study," adds Dr. Cheyne, "Mr. Bell could not be surpassed, and it was already manifest that he was a man of genius."

Dr. Cheyne now fixed upon a definite object, and his plans were soon formed. He resolved, whenever he should think himself fit for the undertaking, to attempt to establish himself as a Physician in a large city, and, in the meanwhile, to devote every leisure hour to the necessary preparation.

His attention was directed principally to the diseases of children, and these formed the subjects of the earliest efforts of his pen; and to acute and epidemic diseases, which he had the fullest opportunity of studying. When a well-marked case occurred, or when an epidemic arose, he obtained the best monograph he could on the subject, and attentively compared it with the opinions of the most experienced of his Professional brethren, whom he had frequent opportunities of meeting, and then he filled up his case-books. Thus, by means of observation, reading, and the experience of others, his mind was made up on the most important points of practice, and he acquired a facility of prescription, especially in acute diseases, which proved of great advantage to him, particularly in dispensary practice. With respect to chronic diseases, in addition to the assistance he derived from books and observation, he obtained a mass of consultations, many of them written with great care by the most eminent Physicians in Edinburgh during the middle and towards the end of the eighteenth century, which had been preserved by his grand-uncle, father, and grandfather.

In 1801, at the age of 24, Dr. Cheyne became an author; his first essay in this department was on "Cynanche trachealis, or Croup," a work which he subsequently enlarged; and in the same year he published a treatise on the "Bowel Complaints of Children, more immediately connected with the Biliary Secretion, and particularly of Atrophia ablactatorum, or Weaning Brash." These were brought out in royal octavo, in a style highly creditable both to the publishers and to the spirit of so young an author. They have also the advantage of being illustrated with beautifully executed coloured plates, from drawings by Mr., afterwards Sir Charles Bell.

The principles on which Dr. Cheyne based his hopes of professional success are fully described in his Autobiography, and are well deserving of attention.

"I endeavoured," he says, "to become acquainted with the characters of those who moved in the highest ranks in the Profession, and to discover the causes of their success; and I ascertained that, although a man might acquire popularity by various means, he could not reckon upon preserving public favour unless he possessed the respect of his own Profession; that if he would effectually guard his own interests, he must in the first place attend to the interests of others; hence I was led carefully to study and liberally to construe that part of medical ethics which regulates the conduct of Physicians towards each other.

"The Surgeons of Edinburgh, during this period of my residence in Scotland, were thrown into a state of disagreeable excitement by an attack which Dr. Gregory made on their connexion with the Royal Infirmary. Dr. Gregory assailed the system of attendance in a series of pamphlets written with great spirit and humour, and succeeded in effecting its overthrow. The angry feeling which I saw at this time exhibited was such as to lead me to resolve on avoiding Professional

disputes, and suffering injury rather than attempting to right myself, unless my character were likely to be endangered by forbearance. I have since shut my eyes and ears against some very obvious attempts which have been made to prove that I had acted ignorantly, and have lived to see my opponents become steady and useful friends."

After passing nine years in the study of pathology and in the practice of medicine, Dr. Cheyne resolved upon leaving Scotland, and instituted inquiries in several parts of England without discovering any situation likely to suit him. He was more anxious for an opportunity of distinguishing himself than of securing a large income, and with that view offered his services to Dr. Rollo, Surgeon-General to the Artillery, who some years before wished to establish a school of clinical medicine at Woolwich for the instruction of the Medical Officers of the Artillery, then a numerous body. He proposed to give clinical instruction to the junior officers of the establishment, asking in return the rank, pay, and allowances of a Physician to the Forces. But his application came too late; disappointment and disease had quenched Dr. Rollo's zeal for the improvement of the department over which he had presided with great ability, and Dr. Cheyne never received an answer to his application.

In 1808 Dr. Cheyne published his third Essay on the Diseases of Children, the subject of the work being Hydrocephalus acutus; in the Preface he observed that he had now in separate essays considered all the diseases peculiar to the stage of life between weaning and puberty, with the exception of Chorea Sancti Viti. In the following year he brought out an enlargement of his original Essay on Croup, now under the title of "The Pathology of the Membrane of the Larynx and Bronchia," and in 1816 he produced a second Essay on Hydrocephalus; and in a second edition, published in 1819, he incorporated the substance of both essays, with such additional information as his extended experience enabled him to communicate.

Soon after the appearance of the first Essay on Hydrocephalus, he received a very particular account of the state of the Medical community in Dublin, which probably, he observes, made the deeper impression on him as it came from one who was not aware of his intention of removing from Scotland. He immediately prepared for a visit to that city, whither he went in the latter end of March, 1809, leaving Mrs. Cheyne in Antrim with her father, the Rev. Dr. Macartney, vicar of the parish.

Dr. Cheyne soon determined on remaining in Dublin, where he found the Profession very highly respected, chiefly owing, he remarks, to the eminent Physicians who had flourished there during the preceding fifty years:—Dr. Smith, remarkable for his munificence (b); Sir Nathaniel Barry, whom Mr. Grattan once characterized to Dr. Cheyne as the most accomplished gentleman he had ever known; Dr. Quin; Dr. Plunket, the witty, accomplished, and amiable brother of the late Lord Plunket, sometime Lord Chancellor of Ireland; Dr. Perceval, distinguished for scientific knowledge, but more so for his philanthropy; the memory also of M'Bride, Cleghorn, and Purcell was still cherished by many. To these latter might not Dr. Cheyne have added the names of Sir Patrick Dun, Dr. Stevens, Bartholomew Mosse, and Mr. Doyle, each of whom, Sir Patrick Dun by the foundation of the School of Physic, and the others by the endowment of great Hospitals, have been permanent benefactors of their Profession and of their fellow-men.

(b) During the latter years of his life, it was Dr. Smith's custom to entertain at dinner on Christmas-day twenty-four widows, all of whom had seen better days. They were, in fact, ladies, who in the time of their prosperity had been his patients. They were received with all due formality and kind consideration. The dinner was the most sumptuous that money could procure, the wines were of the choicest, and on every three ladies a livery servant attended. At the head of the table sat the maiden sister of the Doctor, who himself took the foot. He had never married. When the wine and dessert were laid, the servants retired, a silver cover having first been placed before each widow—under this was a twenty-pound note, her yearly stipend. The understood etiquette was, that no allusion should be made to this munificent gift. Tea and coffee were served in the drawing-room, after which each lady returned home in a sedan-chair provided for her, attended by a servant.

Dr. Smith left the most minute directions for his funeral, and these contrast singularly with those given by Dr. Cheyne, to be hereafter quoted. He desired that he should be buried at Kilmacnogue, in the county of Wicklow, mentioned by name those who were to be invited to his funeral, and directed that on their return they should have a sumptuous dinner at Quin's Hotel in Bray, specifying with the utmost particularity the dishes, wines, etc., which were to be provided for the entertainment.

Dr. Cheyne soon discovered that the field was extensive, and the labourers liberally rewarded. The Physicians whom he found in the confidence of the public were mostly of the school of Cullen: they were possessed of good general information, but relied chiefly on the accuracy of their symptomatology; they had paid but little attention to morbid anatomy. Much of the pure Medical practice of Dublin was passing into the hands of the Surgeons, who, although less skilful in the treatment of acute diseases, were better acquainted with the nature and tendency of the organic lesions. In this state of things he discerned good grounds of hope: he was sufficiently well acquainted with acute diseases, and he felt indebted to Sir Charles Bell for having imparted to him a taste for pathology.

In the latter end of 1809 he took his position as a candidate for public favour in Dublin, where he had passed the summer, neither expecting, nor, he adds, indeed wishing for rapid advancement. What is easily acquired, he remarks, is little valued, and not unfrequently soon lost. He had a few friends, who, being much dissatisfied with his apparent apathy, and the obscurity in which he lived, wished him to go into company, and even to give entertainments to those who had it in their power to advance his interests; and so much was he urged to this course, that at last he reluctantly yielded to their importunities; but as his circumstances did not admit of his providing entertainments with comfort to himself, he refused to repeat the injudicious experiment. It is true that his friends could derive but little encouragement from his apparent progress; from the 9th of November, 1810, to the 4th of May, 1811, a period of nearly six months, he received only three guineas; but he felt that prejudices against him were giving way, and that he was beginning to be regarded with goodwill by some of the most respectable of his Professional brethren, who, in the latter end of 1811, procured for him the situation of Physician to the Meath Hospital.

This was for him a very important step; for although the old Meath Hospital was a small and gloomy building, yet his colleague, Dr. Egan, was much esteemed; and among the six Surgeons to the Hospital, there were at least three, (Mr., now Sir Philip Crampton, Mr. Richards, and the second Dease,) who stood high in their Profession; moreover, the officers of that Hospital are elected by the members of the Medical Board, who thus placed him on their own level. His situation, therefore, not only afforded him an opportunity of evincing attention and knowledge of disease, but it was the best attestation he could have obtained of competency to perform the duties of an Hospital Physician. What he felt he most required, was to be sufficiently accredited.

During the war the College of Surgeons had become an extensive nursery for the supply of Medical Officers to the navy and army; and about this time the directors of the School of Surgery thought it expedient to add to their other professorships one of the practice of physic. Dr. Cheyne's attendance upon the Meath Hospital procured his election to this office; his lectures at the College of Surgeons, which were very full on the subject of military medicine, were attended by nearly all the Surgeons and Assistant-Surgeons in the garrison, to whom they were free. These lectures, of which he delivered five courses, and his duties at the Meath Hospital, the seat of a crowded dispensary in which he daily prescribed for all the Medical patients, occupied whatever time could be spared from practice, now increasing as rapidly as his friends could wish. In 1812 his fees amounted to £472.

In the latter year Dr. Cheyne published a volume of "Cases of Apoplexy and Lethargy, with observations upon the Comatose Diseases," a work which he dedicated to Dr. Hamilton of Edinburgh.

In October, 1815, he was appointed by the Lord Lieutenant one of the Physicians to the House of Industry, which lay at a distance of two miles from his house. He had there to visit daily upwards of seventy patients in acute diseases, most of them labouring under fever, of whom probably eight or ten demanded careful examination. As he had experienced and well trained sick-nurses, who allowed nothing to escape their observation, the rest of the patients required only a glance of the eye; so that the visit was always finished in little more than an hour. But Dr. Cheyne ever experienced great fatigue from the stretch of mind arising from going the round of an Hospital. Then the walk to and fro occupied more than an hour, and he invariably reached home much exhausted; he therefore felt it necessary to resign his professor-

ship at the College of Surgeons, as well as his charge of the Meath Hospital, that his private practice, which in 1816 yielded £1710, might not suffer by the extent of his official duties. In the beginning of 1818, Dr. Cheyne removed from the house in Ely Place now occupied by Dr. Jacob, where he had for some years resided, to that in Merrion Square, within one door of the north side of Leinster Lawn, in which he continued until the period of his leaving Dublin in 1831, when it passed into the hands of his friend, Dr. Croker.

When Dr. Cheyne received his appointment of Physician to the House of Industry, Dr. Edward Percival, who came to Dublin at the same time that he did, was one of the Physicians to that establishment. Dr. Percival and he immediately resolved upon endeavouring to form a Clinical School and a Museum of Morbid Anatomy at the House of Industry, both of which objects they expected, with the aid of the Surgeons, to accomplish without much difficulty. Within the precincts there was an extensive Fever Hospital, (the Hardwicke), the Whitworth Hospital for chronic diseases, spacious wards and separate cells for lunatics, a large asylum for destitute children, and an immense number of paupers with constitutions in every stage of disorganization. Their plan also included digested annual reports of the diseases which fell under their observation, and this ultimately led to the publication of the Dublin Hospital Reports. Dr. Edward Percival shortly after settled in Bath; consequently Dr. Cheyne was left alone. The fever which ravaged Ireland for upwards of two years became epidemic in Dublin in 1817, and the present Grange-gorman Penitentiary, as a branch of the House of Industry, was converted into a depôt for fever patients, of whom upwards of 700 were accommodated in that institution. Finally, in many of the wards dysentery afterwards broke out, and became the chief object of Dr. Cheyne's solicitude, during the latter part of his connexion with the House of Industry.

The Dublin Hospital Reports here alluded to are well known as containing many most valuable papers by eminent Physicians and Surgeons in Dublin and in the provincial parts of Ireland. But five volumes appeared, which were published in 1817, 1818, 1822, 1827, and 1830. To these Dr. Cheyne contributed ten papers, including two reports of the Hardwicke Fever Hospital, the second containing a brief account of the fever epidemic in Dublin in 1817, and a Report of the Whitworth Hospital, with an account of dysentery as it appeared in Dublin in the latter end of 1818, and in Limerick in 1821. The subjects of Dr. Cheyne's other communications were Melæna, to which he appended observations on the alternate excess of morbid action in the mucous and serous membranes. Jaundice, unaccompanied with any discoverable disease of the liver, or turgescence or obstruction of the biliary ducts; the virtues of James's Powder in the apoplectic diathesis; apoplexy, with fatty degeneration of the heart; the feigned diseases of soldiers; fatal erethism of the stomach; four instances of a very rare disease occurring in different members of the same family; and the use of small and frequently repeated bleedings in hæmoptysis, and incipient phthisis.

Dr. Cheyne's other contributions to periodical literature, consisting of a case of bronchial polypus, and of observations on the effect of purgative medicines, appeared in the fourth volume of the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*.

Upon the death of Dr. Harvey, the Physician-General to the Army in Ireland, Dr. Cheyne applied without success for his situation. There were several applicants whose claims the Lord-Lieutenant found it not easy to adjust; and, therefore, he escaped from the difficulty by appointing Dr. Perceval (c), who had not applied for the vacant office, but who, adds Dr. Cheyne, in point of character and standing, had a better title to the situation than any of those who were candidates for it. Dr. Perceval accepted the office, on condition that the Lord-Lieutenant would permit him to appoint an assistant in the duty of attending the General Military Hospital. Dr. Cheyne was applied to by Dr. Perceval to render him this assistance;

(c) Not the Dr. Percival spoken of above, but Dr. Robert Perceval, for many years Professor of Chemistry in Trinity College, and an eminent Physician in Dublin, to whom Dr. Cheyne has alluded as distinguished, not only for scientific knowledge, but for philanthropy. We have heard, from very good authority, that it was a rule of Dr. Perceval's to bestow in charity all the money that he received in fees on Sundays; and it is well known that, during a season of distress, he expended for a considerable time £100 per week in relieving the poor in the vicinity of his country residence at Donnybrook.

and, in order to comply with the request, he thought it necessary to resign his situation in the House of Industry. It is probable he would have had to do so before long, as his practice was rapidly increasing, and the time required by his Hospital duties was more than he could spare.

Dr. Perceval soon afterwards resigned his office, upon which Dr. Cheyne was appointed to succeed him by Earl Talbot, then Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland; his patent bore the date of October 7, 1820. The situation of Physician-General, which was abolished in the end of 1833, was conceived, when he obtained it, to confer on the possessor the highest Medical rank in Ireland; and, as his practice yielded £5000, which was about its annual average during the next ten years, Dr. Cheyne felt that he had fully attained the objects of his ambition.

His constitution, naturally weak, was always injured by fatigue of body or anxiety of mind; and hence, before long, he was obliged to circumscribe his practice, by refusing to go to a distance from Dublin, or to undertake attendances in the country. It is probable that, had his health permitted, he would have added £1500 a-year to his income.

[To be continued.]

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE.

OPENING BUBOES BY CAUSTIC POTASS.

[To the Editor of the Medical Times and Gazette.]

SIR,—In your issue of September 6, 1856, a query is put by Mr. Metcalfe Johnson, of Lancaster, on the practice of opening buboes by caustic potass, and I give you my remarks *in extenso* on this subject, as made in my annual report to the Medical Board, dated Poonah, March, 1854:—

"I have arrived at the conclusion, as far as the station of Poonah is concerned, that the best plan is, when suppuration has actually commenced, to bring the disease to a crisis, open, as far as matter can be detected by manipulation, by caustic potass. Thirty-six to forty-eight hours suffice for the slough to come away, when the subsequent treatment is that of a simple ulcer, healing as such by the application (on lint) of an opiate wash, or weak solution of sulphate of copper; a generous and varied diet, suitable to the wish of the patient; half or full bottle of beer, and, when considerable suppuration is going on, wine at night, in shape of negus; morphia, &c.

2nd. "I never allow a bubo to be opened by knife, as sinuses so frequently result, and the constant opening and re-opening, causing drain to the system and disgust to the patient, render him restless, irritable, and cachectic; and by reason of these I would, from the numerous sorry instances witnessed under the knife, strongly recommend the almost exclusive use of the potass, not only as being more satisfactory in its result to the surgeon, but that the constitution of the soldier is less undermined, and his services more speedily given to his corps."

Should the above meet with favour in your eyes you can notice these remarks, made two and a half years ago, though I believe no notice has been taken of them by the Bombay Medical Board. I have treated very many cases of single and double bubo, and in a very few instances only have I been troubled by fistulas occurring, and these probably from careless application of the caustic. I am, etc.

J. TURNER, M.R.C.S.,

In Medical charge, Head-quarters, Horse Brigade of Artillery.

Bombay Presidency, Poonah, Nov. 15.

P.S. I tried in three cases the effect of a seton, from base to base, but failed most signally.

DR. RAMSBOTHAM AND DR. CHURCHILL.

[To the Editor of the Medical Times and Gazette.]

Sir,—No one has a higher sense of the duties, privileges and services of medical journalists than I have, but it appears to me that there are some matters which may be more satisfactorily settled by private and personal explanation than by public controversy. Had Dr. Ramsbotham communicated personally with me, touching the grievance complained of in his letter to you, instead of making a personal attack upon me in your Journal, I think he would have found it more satisfactory to himself; and you will allow me to add, that in my judgment,

such a course would have been, not only more simple and straightforward, but more in accordance with the courtesy usually observed among gentlemen. However, as he has chosen to lay the matter before the profession, I must ask you to afford me space for a reply.

As far as I understand him, Dr. Ramsbotham's complaint against me is, that I have stolen twenty plates from his work, "without acknowledgment;" at the same time that he confesses that he himself stole fourteen, equally "without acknowledgment," so that I am, by six plates, a greater rogue than himself! That's the inevitable conclusion, state it as you will. The excuse of "inadvertence," &c., must equally be applied to both of us, or to neither. So, "they who live in glass houses should not throw stones."

But in order that your readers may understand the question, I must enter into some details. In the autumn of 1840, that is to say, sixteen years ago, I was asked by Messrs. Renshaw of London, and Fannin of Dublin, to write a treatise on Midwifery, illustrated by such plates as I might select. In the first instance, therefore, I looked over all the plates to which I had access, and finding in most cases one author copy the engravings of another, without special acknowledgment, I frankly confess that I made the best selection I could, from works on anatomy as well as midwifery, and never imagining that any one would doubt that they were so obtained, or suppose for a moment that they purported to be original, I did not specify from whence they were derived. To this rule, however, there was one exception. Before giving plates of modern instruments I asked permission of the inventors, if I knew who they were. The plates thus selected were sent to the engraver in 1840, before Dr. Ramsbotham's work appeared in "its entire shape," and before my work was written. If, therefore, I selected any from his work it must have been when it was publishing in numbers; but as I never possessed it in that shape, I must have borrowed it. Now, here I feel great difficulty in speaking with any thing like accuracy. It is sixteen years ago, I have no notes on the subject, and the copy of the work which I must have used, if I copied any, was not my own; under these circumstances you will hardly be surprised when I say, that I do not remember whether I took any, or if I did, which they were. It is quite possible, I admit, that I did; and in doing so I was only following Dr. Ramsbotham's example.

But of one thing I am quite sure, namely, that I was not aware that any of the plates were original. I had not the book then, and so could not have read it; nay, though I have both editions now, I was ignorant of the fact until I read Dr. Ramsbotham's letter; for the volume, as you know, is a large, not to say heavy, book to read through, though a valuable one to consult. I fearlessly ask you to believe my assurance on this subject; and I think I may appeal to my works for proof of my anxiety to refer to every authority from whom I have derived any information. Moreover, late as it is now, if I have "inadvertently" copied original plates from Dr. Ramsbotham, I frankly offer him an apology, and an assurance that an acknowledgment thereof shall appear in the next edition.

The plates of the ossa innominata, sacrum, and coccyx, to the best of my belief, were copied from Moreau's first plate, as every one will conclude who consults the work. Perhaps Dr. Ramsbotham's were also.

With regard to the plates of the "forceps, vectis, craniotomy, and other instruments," including the "long forceps," which Dr. Ramsbotham accuses me of pirating from his work, all I can say is, that they were drawn, under my own eye, from instruments which I bought in Edinburgh, when a pupil of the late Dr. Hamilton in 1832, and they were sold as the instruments he recommended. They may, doubtless, be the same as Dr. Ramsbotham's; perhaps, indeed, Dr. Hamilton copied them from him!

I never knew that the decapitating-hook was Dr. Ramsbotham, senior's. I copied it from Dr. Davis's work, believing it to be his own, and having asked his permission to use his plates.

But Dr. Ramsbotham has yet another grievance. Not content with stealing his plates, I stole his engraver also! "This was the unkindest cut of all!" But fortunately for my credit, I did not know who his engraver was, in the first place, and secondly, I had nothing to do with the selection. I was requested to have the drawings made here, and they were all executed by the late Mr. Neilan, and then transmitted to Mr. Renshaw, who chose his own artist, and who I hope