

ON THE
CURE OF
STAMMERING.

HUNT

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A TREATISE
ON THE
CURE OF STAMMERING,
ETC. ETC.





THOMAS ERSKINE, BARRISTER

1753-1826

SCOTTISH LAWYER & POLITICIAN

A T R E A T I S E
ON THE
C U R E
OF
S T A M M E R I N G,
E T C. E T C.

WITH MEMOIR OF THE LATE THOMAS HUNT.

BY
JAMES HUNT, M.R.S.L., &c.

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M.DCCCLIV.



sition he provoked and the support he received; the enmity being overwhelmed and the encouragement expanded by his unparalleled success.

Of my own purpose, to devote my life to the task which his example set before me, I have spoken as little as possible; in the hope that time will corroborate my individual right to undertake the responsibility, and crown all my labours with results similar to those which have attended my earlier efforts. If I have uttered a word of censure that can be deemed harsh, I trust it will be excused on the ground of my being called upon to protect the reputation of a beloved and lamented parent, and my deep conviction of the importance of his teaching to mankind.

JAMES HUNT.

125, REGENT STREET, and
SWANAGE, DORSET,
March, 1854.

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STAMMERING.

UNDER the single term or denomination of "Stammering" has been included a considerable variety of impediments to the perfection of human speech; and defects in physical organisation, the misuse of perfect organs to a painful degree, bad habits, and the many slighter affections arising out of involuntary imitation, or the mere want of knowledge how most naturally, easily, and effectively to employ the beautiful machinery with which God has endowed us for the exercise of the most important of all our functions—the employment of the voice—have been confounded within the same category. For estimable as are the blessings of the ear, the eye, the touch, and other senses; it is speech which elevates man above the animal world, and enables him to give utterance to the divine intellect within him in tone and language worthy of his high condition in the scale of being. Viewing the subject in this comprehensive light, it appears, at first sight, truly astonishing, how little it has attracted and fixed general attention. But a few moments' philosophical reflection will elicit a sufficient cause for this phenomenon. If

our sight or hearing be impaired, which is ascertainable every hour of our lives by personal feeling or comparison with our neighbours, we at once seek the aid of the oculist, optician, or aurist. But the differences in speaking grow up with our growth, and are familiar to every individual; and however peculiar, disagreeable, or distressing, they have become, as it were, part and parcel of his nature, and unless the affliction is deplorably aggravated, he is content to go to his grave without attempting a remedy. If one lisps another squeaks; if one speaks thick another grunts; if one is guttural another is nasal, and so they keep each other in countenance; upon which we shall offer but one remark, *viz.*, that nineteen in twenty of them might, instead of this Babel confusion, be taught a natural style of elocution, pleasant to their hearers and comfortable to themselves. But the management of the organs of speech is not taught in any school or college in Great Britain: and all is left to chance, and chance decides it. A very few acute, studious, and highly cultivated individuals may strike out a course for themselves (genius even in their eases often only colouring and partially surmounting defects); but the many grow up with the herd, and never suspect what superior powers would be theirs if simply and properly developed.

Except in the extreme, when the imperfection absolutely prevents social intercourse and pursuits,

business, enjoyment, and progress, (and frequently not even then), do people think it worth while to make any effort to amend or remove their annoying and injurious oppression.

Under these circumstances and aware from experience, that not only may the minor inconveniences referred to be eradicated, but the greatest of those evils be remedied, I have ventured to offer the following statements and observations to the intelligence of the country. As a preliminary remark I may mention, that in the course of my father's practice he was often much perplexed with the question of printing and publishing testimonials of his success. Gratifying beyond measure as these have been from men distinguished in the highest stations and liberal professions, and especially from most eminent medical authorities, there was nevertheless a repugnance felt to adopt the medium which is so extensively abused in every branch of enterprise, and which is equally the resort of truth and honesty and of falsehood and fraud. But the apology, if any be necessary, is the great difficulty of making any discovery in a new line of science even partially known by other means, so as to acquire for it public hearing and entitle it to public consideration. And almost a similar embarrassment attends personal explanations. To be sincere and candid where results may be doubtful, and to avoid what may appear like undue confidence and boasting, frequently

create positions painful to the gentlemanly mind; for on such occasions it is desirable alike to avoid hurting the feelings of others and doing injustice to your own. †

The very slight notice of stammering in ancient biography or history might give rise to some curious speculation. The prominent instance of Demosthenes proves that even in the mellifluous language of Greece, imperfect organs caused imperfect articulation and delivery. The fancied means stated to have been resorted to for a cure, belong to the old legendary form of embellishment, by which so much of what had some foundations in truth, copiously mixed with inventive fiction, has descended down the stream of time. It would be long enough before a mouthful of pebbles and spouting to the roaring sea would restore erratic nature to natural order and power. Yet this *mediatrix naturæ* is the only method to overcome impediments of speech, and no other that has ever been tried could by possibility succeed. I repeat again and again, that the work must be done by nature—by nature being directed or redirected into a proper course, and by attention to the rules which accomplish this; and that every other process is an ineffectual outrage or perversion; since cutting off parts injures nature's provision, and teaching the substitution of one defect or peculiarity for another, as by cadences, or pauses, or nasal utterance, or holding the breath, &c., &c., are but fruitless or hurt-

ful shifts to alter the character of what is troublesome to the speaker and displeasing to the hearer.

But Demosthenes it may be presumed, did by certain means correct the imperfection under which he laboured, and became the most memorable orator in the world; and this illustrates another of my positions; *viz.* that wherever skill or instruction enables us to surmount a blemish, it does not merely place us on a level, *quoad* that particular case, but absolutely creates a beauty where the deformity existed.^c

Due pains taken, is always rewarded with this result. The enemy is not only vanquished, but the post occupied to advantage: the weakness has yielded to superior strength, and superior strength establishes the foundation of superior excellence. All things conform to this, and the fine arts, sciences, and literature are filled with examples of it.

I have incidentally mentioned the mellifluous language of Greece, and it would be an interesting inquiry to ascertain, as far as we could, the influence of different dialects upon the causation

* I may state one case, out of many, in point as an illustration:—A young gentleman, the son of a dignitary of the Church, labouring under a severe impediment of the nature alluded to, was one of the late Mr. Hunt's pupils, and speedily overcame the distressing habit; he not only accomplished that object, but acquired so perfect a command of his vocal organs that he carried off the prize as the best reader of his year, as scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge. Could there be a stronger inducement than this example, to Clergymen especially, and individuals called upon to address any public auditory, to make themselves masters of principles which would implant distinctness and force, where, far too often, the opposite drawbacks on their useful exertions are found to exist and mar them?

of stammering. There are not sufficient data, however, on which to frame a useful theory. It is presumable that a soft, flowing tongue may not exhibit such a per centage of stammerers as a harsh and guttural one; and even that mildness or severity of climate may considerably affect the subject. But here again recurs the principle for which I contend; conquer the evil and you will confirm a greater good. The ease to be acquired and the command over the same physical construction of the vocal system, so generally misapprehended, are so obviously accessible that one cannot help wondering at the disbelief in a ready remedy. Not to speak of the puzzling digamma of the Greek, or the strange click of the Hottentot (which learned scholars believe resembles it), it is instruction and practice which enables any individual to imitate these sounds, or pronounce words foreign to those to which he has been accustomed from his infancy. Thus no Englishman, on being asked to repeat them, could utter a hundred of the inflections in the Polish language; but any person of common talents can be taught in a short time to imitate them all. And so it is with stammering; the unused or abused organs refuse the office for which they are perfectly competent. A single sentence of experienced advice will often at once, as if by magic, and almost always with tolerable application, put an end to the organic confusion, and replace nature on her throne. I

could dilate much more on this branch of illustration, but as my anxiety is infinitely greater to show what can be done, than what has been done and said, I shall come to the practical points which I think scepticism itself will hardly attempt to contradict in the testimonials reprinted in this publication.

Therefore now to turn methodically and directly to the matter in hand. Of all the material blessings which man can enjoy on earth, it has been pithily stated, in five Latin words, that (*mens sana in corpore sano*), a sound mind in a sound body, is by far the greatest. The sound mind must be created and modified more or less by education, example, and circumstances; and it is a great blessing when, whatever its order may be, it is amenable to healthful rules and guidance. But the body, though not perhaps in reality more variously affected than the mind, is yet to human sense more visibly liable to many imperfect developments and deteriorating injuries. Such are their obvious conditions and relations; but it is only in pursuits such as my father's were, that their wonderfully close and intimate dependence on each other can be clearly understood: as how stammering may and often does produce either a certain degree of mental weakness or a serious interference with bodily health, and, *vice versa*, how affections of the mind and nerves operate in the production of stammering. It is this which

makes the judgment of the astute physician and accomplished medical practitioner so pre-eminently valuable. Life and death seem to depend, and very often do depend, upon their skill; and as all the power and wealth in this world is worth nothing without health, it is the more surprising that the solicitude for this blessing should ever be subordinate to any other object, and that sacrifices should be continually offered on the altars of ambition, avarice, or any other mortal passions, at the cost of that loss which must embitter the highest triumphs and end in an untimely and unlamented grave.

Having devoted myself to a peculiar branch of physiology, intimately connected with the restorative processes, I have felt myself assimilated to a system of much moral elevation and immense temporal utility. I consequently entertain very cordially the opinion I have expressed, and cherish a certain degree of veneration for the surgeon and the physician, who by a timely application of their knowledge, restore the disabled to vigour and the dying to health; and therefore it is that in the line I have so devoutly studied, I do receive intense gratification when I succeed in restoring the inapt to aptitude, and teaching those who have forsaken or abused the gifts of nature, to use them for their own advantage and the honour of their Creator in his own image.

I presume no further than my own province,

after witnessing the fruits of twenty-five years' experience in my father's practice, and I pretend to nothing more than the employment of instruction and reason, to remedy in the vast majority of cases all those painful impediments which constitute not only barriers to the common intercourse and enjoyments of life, but to individual progress in advancing in any class of mechanical employment, business, professional, or social pursuits. Readers who have only occasionally met with insulated examples of the inconvenience, trouble, and hindrances arising from stammering, can form no idea of the losses and even fatal consequences which spring from that source, and which the multitude of instances that I have witnessed or have come under my treatment lead me to count among the most serious ills that can afflict humanity.

The notion so long entertained that the disorder (for such it is) could not be cured, has also helped to aggravate the calamity; but more rational opinions now prevail, and like insanity, the application of judicious remedial means, untainted by charlatanism and unstained by cruelty, are found to be sufficient always to alleviate, and, in a great majority of cases, entirely to eradicate the suffering. As in the one, the due exercise of intellect can be restored to well-balanced order; so in the other case the organization of nature, perverted by extraneous causes, or infected by bad habits, can be restored to its proper functions, and stammerers

be taught to read and speak as correctly as if they had never failed in these essential qualifications; and what is still more remarkable, often with much greater ease and efficacy than they ever could do before,—in short they are improved in every respect. For in many persons who have never felt any impediment, the acquisition of a full and perfect use of the voice has never been explained to them. They know as little of the quality and extent of their powers of speech, as vocalists of their power of song before they have a lesson in singing; and thus it frequently happens, that the cure of stammering brings out latent capabilities, such as a fine chest voice, were there never has been aught but a feeble or discordant thoraxical enunciation. Lungs, throat, palate, tongue, lips, teeth, breath, all misemployed! No wonder we should find so many indifferent speakers and confirmed stammerers!

The various character and gradation in stammering has, as I have hinted, probably contributed much to the mistaken notions recommended for its cure. With one professor, monotonous measurement, as unpleasant as the original disorder, is attempted to be substituted. Another employs the nose for the mouth; the lessons of a third would be as appropriate for a singing master; and a fourth cuts away tonsils and uvulas, as if they had no business whatever with the anatomical economy and the emission of sound. Much public suspicion

and disgust has been very naturally engendered by such absurd and barbarous proceedings. None of the specifics have been established; some have been laughed at, and the last severely condemned. I should as soon think of slashing off a pupil's lips, drawing his teeth, or splitting his tongue, as of mutilating him in this injurious and atrocious manner. I have no cutting nor maiming in my system, which is simply rational and not surgical, although there are strong cases where it has been successfully called in by eminent surgeons and dentists to complete the cures they have so far effected by supplying deficient palates, or performing operations rendered absolutely necessary by defective organisation, before any attempt could be made to produce and regulate an articulate voice.

In ordinary cases of misapplication, rather than malformation or want, I have found my father's rules and method matured by long practice and careful comparison of numerous results, certain and adequate to the purpose of cure.

Their simplicity and generally immediate efficacy have elicited much admiration from men whose praise "is praise indeed;" but he did suffer, as I have suffered somewhat from the converse—for pupils and their friends and relations have exclaimed "it is so easy," that they fancy the remuneration of labourious devotedness to one object should be measured by the time and trouble of a few hours' instruction, to be afterwards confirmed by no long period of probationary

exercise and superintendence. In some cases it is true the change is like magic, but how is it accomplished? By the instructor having learnt the secret of detecting the cause or origin of the evil, and being able to communicate to the party the ready means by which it can be corrected and overcome. The ease and expedition which are its given merits, though unattended by the more striking effect of the expedient of the knife on the tonsils ought surely to enhance and not detract from the fair claim of the system to approbation and reward.

I urge this, however, from no selfish motives, from no feeling of (even partial) injustice. I cannot undertake to supply intellect, nor to cure where that is wanting; nor am I so visionary as to expect unmixed satisfaction for services rendered. But I put it forward, and would fain insist upon it with all the enthusiasm which has conducted this system through trials and anxieties not readily to be overestimated, for the sake of advocating a larger patronage and some comprehensive sphere as national desiderata and benefit! There has been so much of prejudice and wrong in this respect, that it is most desirable that a normal school should be founded and tuition be generalized throughout the country for the culture of elocution, and the cure of stammering.

During the practice of the system there have been pupils belonging to the church, to the law, to the medical profession, and the military profes-

sion, and to almost every walk of middle and humbler life. By being informed and making themselves masters of the system, the clergyman has been enabled to perform his sacred functions with propriety and effect; the lawyer to plead in open court instead of being confined to chamber practice; the doctor to consult with his brethren, and converse with his patients unembarrassed by impediments which would impair the usefulness of his talents in regard to both; the public speaker to deliver himself with emphasis; the cadet to pass his examinations, and the officer to be fit for the exercise of command; and, finally, the middle classes to transact such business as they are engaged in, and the still lower orders to be eligible for improvement in their circumstances and elevation in their condition. These however are but samples and exceptions to the multitude in similar stations and employments who never have sought amendment from similar imperfections, and go on in their several important occupations in church and state, the learned professions, army, navy, or other departments in such a way as to be almost nugatory if not even ridiculous.

There are and have been very able elocutionists under whose instruction great present advantages are acquired, and the management of the voice most effectually taught.

Parliament and the pulpit have been adorned by the pupils of such teachers; to their own high

gratification in having obtained the mastery, and to the good of legislation and religion. The only drawback that can be suggested to so beneficial a course is that it falls short of an entire and lasting remedy. The improvement is immediate and striking; but it has been made under auspices which do not aim at the further inculcation of sound principles to regulate the future and enable the party, by recurring to them, to prevent any relapse into disorder, so removed but not eradicated. In many public instances, however, we must see and acknowledge the individual acquisition, retention and employment of principles similar to those which I teach. The highest example in the land may loyally be alluded to. Her Majesty in the delivery of her speeches on the opening or closing the Sessions of Parliament, speaks in so clear and distinct a manner, that not a syllable is lost throughout the crowded expanse of the House of Lords. From how few of her hearers could the same important qualification be expected. Not from one in twenty: and yet the whole twenty might be informed how they could, more or less, get rid of the indistinctness and inaudibility so often noticed in our Parliamentary reports.

Pupils after hearing speeches from such peers as Lord Derby or the Bishop of Oxford, or the discourses of eloquent pulpit orators, have, when best grounded in the rules of Mr. Hunt's system,

frequently returned to him and expressed an opinion that the speakers had undergone the same discipline as themselves, because they fancied they detected in these speakers adherence to the principles they, themselves, had been taught.

One valuable result often proceeds from this idea. Very sensitive pupils are apt to doubt themselves, and fail in consequence of sheer timidity. But when they observe the successful adherence to the same system as that in which they have been instructed, the conviction is forced upon their minds that they need only follow the same course, and the same happiness will await and repay their application.

Other essential blessings flow from the same source. I have spoken of the action and reaction of the mental and physical constitutions, and in certain cases the phenomena are unexpected and surprising.

Thus the cure of stammering is found to operate wonderfully upon the health. I have known it arrest the progress of disease even so appalling as irresistible decline, and it has almost invariably the effect of quieting and invigorating the nervous system, with which, indeed, the disorder is very visibly and intimately connected.

Before proceeding further, I would desire to offer a few remarks on the too little considered but most important topic of Imitation. A large majority of the causes of stammering proceed from

no higher a cause. One stammerer in a family will inoculate all the rest; and so facile is the contagion, that I have frequently had pupils who had caught the infirmity by a single interview with some person that stammered.

Then let us take the converse: if imitation is so powerful to derange, may it not be made as powerful to re-adjust the disorder introduced? The answer is incontrovertible, undoubtedly Yes! And I do not dwell on this point to the length I am tempted; because I feel it would open a large question upon the very essence of Education, in the conduct of which, without going into details, I am free to confess that I think the elementary and prodigious influence of imitation is far less reckoned upon even in the best systems than it ought to be. For imitation is the very root of habits and the soul of childhood; and the present example of accurate or defective speech in those with whom you are in continual intercourse far exceeds in influence all the lessons that teachers can bestow.*

* Circumstances of this character occur thus:—A deservedly esteemed servant in every other respect who has the misfortune to stammer (and might be set right in a month) is retained as a favourite in a young household. The consequence is, that every child stammers; at first perhaps only a laugh to papa or mamma, the infant imitates nurse; but a fatal obstacle to the success in life of the poor children who have so heedlessly been infected with this impediment. One, as I have shown, cannot enter the church, another cannot pass for the army or navy, a third must try chamber practice instead of the grand ambition of the bar, and all (I do not apply it of course to any family, but as a general truth) because there has been in a young household a parent or leading domestic who indulged in the pleasure, or did not check the habit of stammering.

It may appear strange to allude to civilization as increasing the number of stammerers, but the fact can hardly be doubted.

Savages do not stammer; in them the human animal remains unchanged. In the civilized world, on the contrary, refinement has materially altered the physical man. Robustness yields to delicacy, and the very structure of organs undergoes metamorphosis. The ample jaw of the wild Indian, for instance, has room for the full dentition of the species; whilst the contracted jaw, the result of civilization in the features of more elevated beings is insufficient for the reception of the numerical providence of the teeth. Hence the almost universally needed assistance of experienced dentists, to limit the number and train what are left to their necessary functions. Other organs have undergone similar changes, and the issue has been to render attention to the education and management of the voice at least as expedient and important as it is to the preservation of the eyes or the cultivation and management of the teeth.

MEMOIR.

The late Thomas Hunt, whose system and extensive practice for the cure of stammering has, independently of what he himself demonstrated, had the beneficial effect of directing public attention to the remedy of a disorder previously held to be incurable, or simply suffered to pass as a natural infirmity not amenable to rational treatment, was born in Dorsetshire in 1802. His progenitors and family were connected with the Church of England, and he was educated at Winchester and Trinity College, Cambridge, with a view to a similar provision in holy orders.

But a very different turn was given to his studies by the affliction of a schoolfellow, and, without proceeding to a degree, he left college with the determination to devote himself to that pursuit which soon became the engrossing business of his life. Having satisfied himself by several successful cases, he made a provincial tour in order to confirm his opinions by greater experience; and fortified by the results of his tuition (for it never affected medicine, and might, if begun at an early period of life in the pupils—not the patients—be styled simply educational), he settled in the metro-

polis. This perfect simplicity was, at first, adverse to his progress, and even to the last, was not without an effect disadvantageous to the general recognition of the obvious principles on which he acted. It wounds the self-love of clever men to be told "if you had only thought of this palpable truism, you would have spared yourself all your difficulties and annoyances;" and the ignorant are astonished to find by a few hours' advice (founded on careful observation) that they are converted into species of miracles among their wondering brethren. The one class is vexed, the other confounded; and between the two, the teacher is treated like Columbus with the egg, or Katterfelto with a charm. One of the earliest proofs of his provincial success appears in the following:—

"From Sir John Forbes, M.D.—Chichester, April 12, 1828.—Mr. Hunt was kind enough to give a lesson in my presence to Thomas Miles (a patient in the Chichester Infirmary), a poor man who has been affected with stammering, in a very high degree, from his infancy. And from the unreserved exposition of his principles on that occasion, as well as from the remarkable improvement (amounting almost to a complete cure) produced by this single lesson, I am of opinion that Mr. Hunt's method will be successful in nearly every case of stammering not depending on any organic defect, provided the requisite degree of attention is paid by the pupil."

During twenty-four successive years Dr. Forbes (practising in London) continued to recommend other pupils to Mr. Hunt's care, with equally successful results.

Still Mr. Hunt experienced, to the full, all the difficulties which usually attend the establishment of a new theory. It had no extravagance to recommend it and startle the public into notice; but, simple and unobtrusive, it appealed to common sense and ordinary reason, and had therefore to win—not to strike its way. It had also the quack nostrums of the day to encounter, and metallic apparatus, India rubber substrata for the tongue, various surgical operations, combinations of physic with monotonous singing, drawling pronunciation, and other contrivances more or less absurd and inhuman, were vigorously opposed by those who had interest in them, to the obvious and intelligible doctrines now for the first time promulgated. The advocates for the knife upheld the fiercest pretensions in the first instance, and waged their sanguinary war the longest. The mere honour of the discovery of the remedy by mutilation, was keenly contested, and an eminent periodical commenting on the subject mentions:—“A certain Mr. Braid, who in his ‘Treatise on Talipes, Strabismus, Stammering,’ &c. asserts his title to be considered the real Simon Pure of this tragedy, or rather the Scrub of this comedy; for he says—“Deiffenbach and Yearsley have been represented as the first who devised

and practised effective operations for the cure of stuttering; but whatever merit is due to any one in that respect, I have an undoubted right to claim for myself, having operated for that complaint by division of the frænum linguæ and genioglossi muscles, and in other cases by the excision of the tonsils and amputation of the uvula, three months prior to any of them; Professor Deffenbach's first operation having been performed on the 7th of January last (1841); Yearsley's in December (1839); and mine (Mr. Braid's) in September (1839).''

In spite of all obstacles, however, Mr. Hunt's system gradually rose in public estimation, and the evidence of its great success became too convincing to be withstood. Hundreds of pupils, with unhesitating and distinct voices, bore witness to its efficacy, and the testimony of eminent and honourable gentlemen in every branch of the medical profession, liberally corroborated the accuracy of the statements—confirming by science what was uttered by gratitude. The triumph of truth was very provoking, and very virulent attacks upon Mr. Hunt were the consequence. Thus assailed, though actuated by no sordid notions, but inspired with intense delight in alleviating the distress which came to him for succour, he perhaps attached even more than due importance to the accumulation of the testimonials which rewarded his labours from every quarter.

The *Times* of June 25, 1842, remarks:—

“It will be recollected that a lad named Pearson, one of the persons who witnessed the treasonable attempt upon the Queen’s life on the Sunday afternoon, was afflicted with so inveterate a habit of stammering as to be unable even to give an alarm. He has, we are informed, by means of a new process of cure, obtained the power of perfect articulation; the hesitation, which before rendered him scarcely intelligible, even when not excited, having entirely disappeared.”

The following letter from Sir Peter Laurie will explain the circumstance:—

“It gives me much pleasure,” writes Sir Peter, “to bear testimony to the skill of Mr. Hunt in curing stammering in two cases: the first was in the instance of George Pearson, who gave the information on the recent attempt by Francis on her Majesty’s life. Pearson was brought to my house to detail the circumstances, but his infirmity was of such a nature as to render him perfectly incapable of giving utterance to his meaning. Mr. Hunt kindly offered his services to Pearson, and in a fortnight I saw him again, when he spoke with the utmost readiness, and I believe the cure to be complete. The second instance is that of Mark Dessurne, a youth who was quite unable to speak—in fact, he was hardly removed from dumbness. I have seen him this morning, and he converses and reads with the most perfect fluency and ease to himself. I consider this case more remarkable

than that of Pearson's, his infirmity having rendered him so unwilling to attempt to speak, that his intonation is now imperfect, and resembles the tone of those children in the Deaf and Dumb Asylum.

“ I am extremely unwilling to give any thing like a testimonial, and this is almost the first instance in which I have done so, but I consider it a duty to make this known as far as I can. The success of Mr. Hunt is only equalled by the extreme simplicity of the means he uses, founded on sound, and, as I believe, unerring principles.”

The annexed is another testimony to the same effect, dated “ Mansion House, Nov. 7, 1844.— When holding the office of sheriff, Mr. Hunt, of Regent-street, made me acquainted with the principles of his system for the cure of stammering, and unreservedly showed me their successful application in the case of George Pearson, who witnessed the treasonable attempt on her Majesty's life, by Francis, and whose impediment of speech prevented him from giving an instant alarm; and my conviction is, that if Mr. Hunt's instructions are attended to with common diligence, they are perfectly adapted to confer permanent benefit on the numerous class of the community who suffer under this affliction. “ W. M. MAGNAY, Mayor.”

Of laud from the lauded he had far more than enough to satisfy any ambition; yet in the midst of so much quackery and pretension it was natural

that he should attach high value to the following letter from one of the greatest surgeons and most successful operators the profession ever saw; and one, too, who was scrupulously chary in affording his sanction or applause to aught, either professional or general, which his enlightened judgment did not conscientiously approve; and to the last, he showed his perfect confidence by recommending medical and other pupils to Mr. Hunt's tuition:—

“ 5, Clifford Street, March 1.—I have with much pleasure witnessed Mr. Hunt's process for the removal of stammering. It is founded on correct physiological principles, is simple, efficacious, and unattended by pain or inconvenience. Several young persons have, in my presence, been brought to him for the first time; some of them could not utter a sentence, however short, without hesitation and frightful contortion of the features. In less than half an hour, by following Mr. Hunt's instructions, they have been able to speak and to read continuously long passages without difficulty. Some of these individuals had previously been subjected to painful and unwarrantable incisions, and had been left with their palates horribly mutilated, hesitating in their speech, and stuttering as before.

“ ROBERT LISTON.”

Such a testimony from such a source requires no comment; but if comment or farther illustration were thought of, it would be irresistibly added

to Mr. Liston's truly benevolent and authoritative statement, by the concordant evidence of a no less eminent living surgeon.

Extracts from "Observations on Cleft Palate," by WILLIAM FERGUSON, Esq., F.R.S., Professor of Surgery to King's College, March, 1844.

"Case of Mr. D. P., ætat 17, has a congenital fissure in the palate, articulates very imperfectly. The sound of his voice is very unpleasant, and many of his words are unintelligible.

"Six months after the operation, Mr. P. had made no improvement in his speech, when he put himself under the tuition of Mr. Hunt, of Regent Street. In the course of a few weeks an extraordinary change was effected, and, ere long, the articulation was so different, that little more could be desired.

"1848. At page 11, Mr. F. states, 'Mr. D. P. ætat 17. The details of this case are given in vol. xxvii. of the *Medico-Chirurgical Transactions*. Since that publication, I have repeatedly seen this gentleman, in whom the benefit of the operation has been more strikingly evinced than in any other of my patients. This I attribute, in a great measure, to his zeal in the study of elocution.'"

THE LANCET'S ATTACK.

At length the tumour broke out in a manner, which the annexed republication of a controversy

which created a considerable sensation at the time, will sufficiently explain:—

Cure of Stammering by MR. HUNT, late of Trinity College, Cambridge.

THE LANCET AND MR. HUNT.

[From *The Lancet* of May 16, 1846. pp. 557, 558].

“Recently we inserted in the *Lancet* a paper on ‘the cause of stammering, and the means of cure,’ by Mr. Butterfield, a Cambridge master of arts. We then took occasion to observe ‘that the treatment and cure of stammering belong to the profession of medicine.’ Of this we suppose there can be no doubt: we imagine that it will be conceded at once to be a disease, and, as such, falling within the province of the healing art. Yet, if we look around, it is evident enough that the treatment of this malady is, in a very great measure, in unprofessional hands, and carried on too, as we shall shew, in a most offensive manner. We inserted Mr. Butterfield’s communication under protest, and, as might, perhaps, have been expected, we see he has since appeared in public with a new mode of treatment. His advertisements notify that ‘Butterfield’s Alphabetic Speculum, made by Weiss and Son, for the prevention and cure of stammering, may be had, with directions for use, price £1. 1s., on application to the inventor.’ Now, we maintain the principle of all this to be wrong and indefensible. If Mr. Butterfield wishes to treat disease, whether one malady or the entire range, let him educate himself as a medical man, and render himself professional; but it is not common honesty to come in like a wolf over the wall, and take guineas from men who have invested a large amount of time and capital in acquiring diplomas. Stammering, it may be true, is a disease in which no great mischief will, perhaps, be inflicted by non-professional treatment; but, nevertheless, it vitiates the public mind to accustom people to see any malady treated unprofessionally. To witness one disorder given up tacitly by the profession in this way, affords the public a kind of warranty for seeking empirical aid in other ailments where grievous mischief may be done. On the grounds, therefore, that it is unjust towards the profession, that it is in itself unprincipled, and that it is sure to prove indirectly injurious to the public health, we feel called upon to warn the profession against sanctioning the attempts of Mr. Butterfield, or any other person not professionally educated, to obtain practice in the treatment of stammering, or of any other malady whatsoever.

“ And we are the more bound to do this, because we see that medical men are actively engaged in obtaining practice for another unprofessional person, who professes to treat stammering. The word ‘treat,’ we may observe, is a misnomer in such cases. An educated man talks and writes of ‘treating’ disease; but to vaunt himself as ‘curing’ would be held to be in bad taste, and meet with no general rebuff from his brethren. But the professionally uneducated have no such qualms or fastidiousness; they seldom have anything to do with disease of any kind, except in the way of downright unmincing ‘cure.’ Nothing but perfect cure and unparalleled success is ever heard of in the practice of the empiric. Charles Lamb in the country churchyard, seeing the virtues set forth upon every tombstone, wondered ‘where all the bad people could have been buried.’ So we wonder where all the bad cases of the quacks can get to. Certes, there must be such things. The person we allude to, as so improperly patronized by certain professional men, is a Mr. Hunt. He was formerly, we have been informed, a Dorsetshire farmer, who now makes an eruption upon London every season, coming in about the time of Grisi or Cerito, and disappearing about the same time with them, after a tolerably abundant harvest; for his practice is said to be flourishing, and his fees to be large. Mr. Hunt, like Mr. Butterfield, is from Cambridge, though we never heard of his degree; not being ourselves of Trinity, we have no great respect for the man who has entered the college walls, and left them with no other title than ‘late of Trinity.’ It may mean anything or nothing.

“ We proceed to give some of this person’s testimonials. Those from individual members of the profession are bad enough; but what will our readers think of the following from a medical journalist, who ought to be one of the conservators of the profession:—

“ ‘ We recently saw a youth who had been operated upon without the slightest benefit, but who was subsequently cured of his stammering, in the course of two or three days, by Mr. Hunt, whom we have heard favourably spoken of on several occasions, and who, *we are glad to observe*, is patronised by several distinguished members of the profession.’—*Medico-Chirurgical Review*.

“ The following certificates from members of the profession are equally bad in tone and purport; the wonder is, how any medical men could be so lost to professional decency as to write them:—

“ ‘ CURE OF STAMMERING.—No. XI.

“ ‘ Infirmary, Bristol, Feb. 5, 1840.

“ ‘ I have attentively followed Mr. Hunt’s course of instruction to persons afflicted with hesitation of speech or stammering. His method is founded upon a profound study of the structure and functions of the organs of voice, and particularly of those of the tongue.

“ ‘ It affords me pleasure to express my conviction that his method (founded upon sound physiology) ensures to the student a quick and easy means of correcting this troublesome and annoying imperfection.

“ ‘ Mr. Hunt, Regent Street.

‘ HENRY RILEY, M.D.’

“ Here we have the unpleasant spectacle of a physician to one of the largest provincial hospitals, and lecturer on physiology at one of the largest provincial schools, writing himself down a pupil of an itinerant empiric.

“ ‘ CURE OF STAMMERING.—No. IX.

“ ‘ 11, Lower Brook-street, Grosvenor-sq., March 16, 1838.

“ ‘ I have the greatest pleasure in testifying, that having called upon Mr. Hunt, late of Trinity College, Cambridge, respecting the son of a friend of mine (a London banker), who stammered, Mr. Hunt referred me to a highly connected Member of Parliament (with whose family mine happen to have been many years acquainted) who stuttered deplorably 11 years ago. He became a pupil of Mr. Hunt, and was quite cured, as he himself assured me, in eight days. Mr. Hunt next named a Herefordshire gentleman, who has been well known to me twenty-five years; his son was cured of stammering (as he informed me by letter) in 1831, he being then twelve years old, and had been afflicted with this defect of speech from his infancy. Thirdly, I saw Mr. Hunt give a lesson to a young gentleman, whose attempts to speak were distressing to witness. In half an hour he spoke with as much ease and freedom as any youth of his age would do in whom no impediment ever existed. Mr. Hunt confidently expects to cure this little boy in eight lessons of an hour each. Lastly, as a medical man, I can certify that Mr. Hunt's system is founded on an anatomical knowledge of the vocal organs. The young gentleman alluded to I have again seen, and he was cured in eight lessons.

“ ‘ JAMES EYRE, M.D.’

“ We could pen an article on this extraordinary letter. We hope our readers have a better estimate of Sir James's high and extensive connexions than of his good grammar. Singular, by the way, very singular, that the Knight should have known the ‘ London banker ’ *and* the ‘ highly connected Member of Parliament,’ *and* the ‘ Herefordshire gentleman.’ Singular, too, that the last youth should have been cured in exactly the eight lessons, as per prognosis!

“ In such testimonials as these, there are always two parties involved in the puff. We hardly know which is the greatest puffer and charlatan, the writer of the puff, or the party who procures it to be written. We should like to have time to calculate minutely, first, how much a man writing such a testimonial thinks of benefiting those who suffer from the particular disease to be ‘ cured;’ and then how much he thinks of the

éclat of being paraded as an authority,—of being commended for a pointed epigrammatic sentence or two, and of gaining that portion of reputation (a large part, unfortunately) which depends upon mere publicity and notoriety. We should like to consider this problem at length; but we have no doubt many of our readers will do so, and arrive at the right conclusion. And such a lax state of ethical feeling has been suffered to grow up in the profession, that we have no doubt many well-disposed members will at first be inclined to say—'Surely there can be no harm in supporting Mr. Hunt if he really can do any good in the treatment of stammering.' This must be answered by other questions. Is quackery, in the gross, a robbery of the profession, a public crime, and inimical to public safety; and is Mr. Hunt's practice a part of this detestable system? We would answer that it is, and upon this ground we would desire to destroy it. But we will further state our reasons for such a condemnation. Mr. Hunt is a non-medical person, engaged in the treatment of medical cases, rivalling, in fact, more regularly-educated medical men. Mr. Hunt also professes to cure stammering by the use of secret means, and this secret he communicates to no one save on a promise of secrecy. Here, then, are the two most unmistakable elements of quackery, and yet this thing is tolerated—nay, patronised—by professional men. Members of the profession are so forgetful of the dignity of their calling as to give the promise of secrecy, at which a properly-constituted mind should revolt at once, and to pen eulogiums of the secret remedy at the self-same time. This empiric—for he can justly receive no other title—parades, among other names, those of Sir J. Clark and Mr. Liston, and he professes to have once made King's College the scene of his quack exhibitions, under the sanction of many of its medical professors. To parade a whole hospital staff is nothing for his ambitious spirit. Among other things it is common to see this person pronouncing high censure upon Deffenbach and other eminent surgeons, for resorting to operative means. Operatives may be wrong, but are medical men, by their testimonials, to elevate this empiric into a judge of surgery?

"Some of the advertising quacks have particular habits. It is astonishing to observe the constant affection they manifest for a particular paper or journal, when the editor, from some accidental cause, notices them favourably. Mr. Hunt is fortunate in this respect; he has almost the run of a very talented and most respectable literary journal. The manager of the journal in question would start at being placed in the same category with those editors, proprietors, and publishers of papers, who advertise that 'Manly Health,' the 'Silent Friend,' and the restoring balsam may be had "at our office." The difference, however, is only in degree. Quackery is one and indivisible; whether in or out of the profession: in its more modest or its more disgusting aspects.

“ A knowledge of the nervous system, of muscular action, and of the organs of voice and speech, are now so well understood, that stammering is no great mystery ; and the principle of treatment is so well known that the idea of keeping it a secret is absurd. It is, indeed, a piece of the purest charlatany : and as such should be scouted by the entire profession. After such men as Sir Charles Bell, Marshall Hall, Müller, and Arnor, have given their best attention to the pathology of stammering, and its means of relief, shall we sink to the Hunts—the mere vocal posture-masters—for its treatment? It cannot be said that, being a specialty, there are no qualified persons to send patients to. Among others in actual practice, it is well known that Mr. Bishop has attended particularly to this subject ; and the recent volume of the *Transactions* of the London Medical Society contains an excellent practical paper on the subject, from the pen of that gentleman. We mention this to take away an excuse for recommending Mr. Hunt, which some have urged ; and so thoroughly impressed are we with the justice of our views, that we will give publicity to any particulars respecting improper professional recommendations of Mr. Hunt or any other unqualified person for the cure of patients suffering from stammering and defective speech. The matter in itself is trifling, but a great principle is involved.”

The annexed quotations will show how Mr. Hunt met this not unaccountable attack. The *Literary Gazette* of May 30 contains the following :—

STAMMERING.

“ [We have received the following letter and enclosure from Mr. Hunt ; and as we have for some years taken and expressed an interest in his method for the removal of impediments in speech, we have no hesitation in giving them a place in the *Literary Gazette*. The confirmation of our earliest opinion of the value of this system, by many cases of very different kinds which we have since witnessed, makes us more than willing to do this duty ; and we trust our friends and readers will believe, that if we were not strongly convinced that we were thereby rendering a benefit to humanity, nothing would induce us to place in our page

what, we think, in common justice ought to have appeared in the page of a contemporary."

To the Editor of the Literary Gazette.

"Dear Sir,—The *Lancet* having assailed me with no small quantum of acrimony, I felt called upon to offer such explanation and defence as I could to the Editor of that journal. He, however, not only did not insert my letter, but even rejected a common advertisement which I had paid for at his office, in order, at least, to meet the misrepresentations by a tangible contradiction in the same vehicle. Under these circumstances I have ventured to appeal to your public assistance, and the more unreservedly because your *Gazette* is made to do penance with me in the article alluded to. You, for many years, spoke of my practice with earnestness as wonderfully successful, and no advertisement of mine was ever sent to you. I did not even know of your connexion with the press when I explained my principles to you; and yet it is insinuated, because I am now more aware of the expediency of meeting all sorts of false reports by statements of facts, and, among other sources, through the *Literary Gazette*, that I owe your advocacy to that miserab'le sordid cause. But this, except "to explain," is neither worthy of notice from you nor me."

"My letter to the *Lancet* is explicit enough to meet all its objections. But a general question arises. Am I or any one in my position unduly interfering with a profession, by assuming the ability to correct or amend particular defects? Are there to be no trans-professional men,—all proscribed, from the drill-serjeant and the singing-master to the teacher of elocution and the management of the organs of speech? Why should Mr. Richard Jones that admirable comedian, be held to be empirical, in consequence of his being able to teach, from long experience, how to modulate

and throw out the voice with the best effect to any distances, from the lamps to the upper gallery, or from the pulpit or the floors of Parliament to the farthest parts of church or house? Or why should I be abused if I go beyond this, and take up a branch of science which has nothing to do with surgery or medicine; and practically devote myself to remedy hurry of speech, indistinct articulation, and other imperfections which (as I have observed) are not diseases, and therefore not within the most jealous assertion of professional prerogative. The eminent medical gentlemen who have borne witness to the efficacy of my system do not speak of it or me as prescription or prescribing, or apply to us medical praise. They speak of my giving 'lessons;' of my being a 'corrector of impediments of speech' (Dr. Barlow); of my 'correcting this troublesome and annoying imperfection by my course of instruction' (Dr. Riley); of my being a 'master of elocution,' &c. (Prof. Ferguson); and not as the curer of diseased organisation, such as demands the skill of the physician or the knife of the surgeon."

"In my letter to the *Lancet*, I have remarked on the Coroner's recent discovery of a very *old hypothesis*: and it may not be less interesting, in the history of such mares' nests, to mention that his client's grand scheme is simply the resurrection of Mr. Jullien's plan given to the world a 'long time ago.'—I am, &c. T. HUNT."

To the Editor of the Lancet.

Regent Street, May 20, 1846.

"Sir,—Having in your last number thought fit to make some strong remarks on me and my method for removal of stammering, I trust to your sense of justice for a similar place in the *Lancet* to reply to these allegations. At p. 553, you insert a brief report of the proceedings of the Medical Society of London, in which the merits of the 'acoustic prin-

ciples' recommended and employed by Mr. Bishop for the same object, are discussed; the chief features in which are, that one or two of the medical authorities present considered the show-ease brought before them to have been to a certain extent successful, whilst others doubted the hypothesis; and Mr. Bishop told them that 'the treatment of these cases had been too long neglected by the profession; and the result was, that empirics or philologists occupied the ground more properly belonging to medical men.'

"But what I have to protest against is, your own leading paper, at p. 557;* where you seem to think it expedient, for the sake of making room for your favourite and his system, to demolish me and mine, a prior and successful occupier of the neglected field, and of course an empiric or a philologist, which implies, in your vocabulary, a person incompetent to improve the organs of voice, or remedy impediments of speech. In order to accomplish this, you set out with an assertion, which is the root and foundation of your entire argument, and yet, in my opinion, is altogether a gross and absurd mistake. You declare stammering 'to be a DISEASE,' and consequently its treatment and cure to belong (*exclusively*) 'to the profession of medicine.' Now, sir, I deny that stammering is a *disease*. It is an imperfection occasioned by organic, physical, or accidental causes—the want of some proper regulation or use, and not a disease, though the fruitful source of many diseases; some of which, by reaction, may be confounded with the original cause. Such, for example, as palpitation of the heart, derangement of the nervous system, pulmonary affections, all inducing constitutional debility, both physical

* The article referred to was published as an advertisement in the *Literary Gazette* to preclude any idea of misrepresentation, and is added to this republication for the same reason.—*J. H.*

and mental, and frequently ending in premature death. These are the effects of stammering; but therefore to call a misapplication of the tongue, the jaws, the throat, or the breath a disease, appears to me to be a ridiculous error; and with its dissipation all your inductions evaporate into thin air.

“Having thus disposed of your first paragraph, I will say little of the verbal hair-splitting which commences the second. Curing or removing are terms perfectly accurate, where an evil has been cured or removed; and whether used professionally or unprofessionally, are clearly intelligible to the common sense of mankind; conveying the same idea without possibility of mistake. And next comes your personal attack upon me—“the person improperly patronised by certain professional men—a Mr. Hunt—formerly a Dorsetshire farmer, who now makes an irruption into London every season, coming in and going out with Grisi and Cerito—making a tolerably abundant harvest; for his practice is said to be flourishing, and his fees to be large.’ These are heavy charges. The offence of being patronised by certain professional men must be confessed to be heinous in the eyes of rivalry and competition. You pick up two or three physicians to be made examples of for this dereliction. But you forget that in your own report of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of the 10th of December, 1844, you afforded similar countenance to me by quoting the statement of so distinguished an individual as Professor Ferguson of King’s College; and in former numbers of the *Lancet* the inconsistency is still greater, for it not only inserted my letters against surgical operations, but approved of my system on account of its efficiency. To crown the contradiction, I now copy an extract of a letter from the sub-editor of the *Lancet* (who was himself acquainted with the principles

of my system), in February, 1843:—‘ My dear sir, I have rarely seen a more severe case of stammering than that of the bearer, Henry Bowring. I have no question of your ability of effecting a perfect cure in his case, for I have already had an opportunity of proving your success in cases equally bad,’ &c. &c. Mr. Liston, and others of the highest reputation, have borne equally honourable testimony to what they have witnessed of the almost undeviating success of my system. It may seem strange, but I really value this patronage, and their continued recommendations of pupils to me, as the best proof of my deserts and triumphs over many difficulties with which you reproach them and me, as proofs of indiscretion on their part and failure on mine. With you a professional man must not speak the truth of an unprofessional man, on pain of your professional displeasure; and an unprofessional man is not to make known the gratifying and convincing meed he has received of their approbation without being accused of empiricism and quackery! To the Dorsetshire farming, also, I plead guilty, not ‘formerly,’ but at this good hour. It has always been my boast, and never kept out of sight; for I proclaimed that it was a Dorsetshire farmer, not two miles from my residence, who discovered *that* vaccination which Jenner so splendidly brought into use.* Nor am I disposed to contradict my contemporaneous advent to London with Crisp and Cerito, nor that we all reap tolerably abundant harvests,

* Elsewhere and previously, Mr. Hunt, in repelling an attack, had said—“ But, sir, it is not the first time that important discoveries have been made beyond these walls, nor detestable practices carried on by presumptuous and ignorant persons, who had nothing but diplomas to cover their folly and effrontery. It was a Dorsetshire farmer, not two miles from my residence, who discovered that vaccination which Jenner so splendidly brought into use; and with an English University education, I am yet to be convinced that I must be incompetent to remove stammering merely because I have not passed the College!”

commensurate with our several abilities to please or benefit our fellow-creatures. Of the Cerito attractions, I have nothing to say; but if Crisi display one of the finest voices wherewith to delight the world, and I instruct many pupils to acquire a natural, instead of a painful and obstructed mastery over that organ, I really cannot be persuaded that it is creditable to impeach our fair earnings, and abuse us by calling names.

“ You proceed to cite some of the auspices quoted in my favour, and to disparage them. The testimonials ‘from individual members are bad enough; but what (you ask) will readers think of the following from a medical journalist, who ought to be one of the conservators of the profession?’ [not of truth or justice, but ‘the profession.’] My answer to your inquiry would be, were I a reader cognisant of the fact, that when so able a physician as the late Dr. J. Johnson, in the *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, pledged himself and that respected publication to the fact that he had ‘*recently seen a youth who had been operated on without the slightest benefit, but who was subsequently cured of his stammering in the course of two or three days by Mr. Hunt,*’ that it was about as satisfactory a proof as could be given of the integrity of the witness, and the great value of Mr. Hunt’s method. Let me add to its force, that one of Dr. J.’s own family received lessons from me; and therefore that his being glad to hear favourable reports from other quarters, and observe the patronage bestowed on Mr. H. ‘by several distinguished members of the profession,’ was simply an acknowledgment of fact, and a confidence, the result of which was an important service rendered to one dear to him. The other censurable instances of medical testimony are not worthy of discussion. If Dr. Riley, of Bristol, one of the most extensively experienced physicians in the kingdom,

has seen reason to describe my system as 'founded upon sound physiology,' or Sir J. Eyre vouches for the same, I can see no necessity for vindicating the judgment of individuals so competent to pronounce it. The invidious attempt to depreciate the last-named gentlemen, for happening to know a certain London banker, a highly connected M.P. and a Herefordshire gentlemen, is put to shame by the simple fact, that when I submitted my host of testimonials to him, he, as a matter of course, referred for corroboration to some of those with whom he was previously acquainted.

"I am subsequently accused of using secret means, and exacting promises of secrecy. It is true that I have required my pupils not to divulge the method—a precaution its simplicity and the ineffectual attempts to pirate and practise it suggested, for the sake of self-preservation; but in the rigid sense of the words, secret means there never were any, and never was secret less guarded. Hundreds of the relatives of pupils, medical gentlemen, and intelligent individuals of all classes, have been constantly invited to witness my process; and to speak of 'a disreputable secrecy' is a misrepresentation of the case. How can that be a secret remedy to those who have seen it carried into effect, and bear witness to nothing more than they have seen—the whole process and its success? This is a great confusion of ideas. That I have always been the declared adversary of Deiffenbach and his followers in England, who attempted to cure stammering by surgical operations, is another of the charges to which I plead guilty; and I allow myself to be the empiric who has, in a multitude of instances, restored the blessing of articulate speech to persons upon whom the mutilating process had been previously performed without effect. As for daring to pronounce an opinion upon such 'surgical' cases, I really imagine that I or any other rational being

can tell after an operation whether the patient continues to stammer or not

“ But, sir, allow me to add, that the assault upon me is little else than a puff for another—the be all and the end all of your effort. The matter, you truly say, is slight, but the principle involved is great; and yet you venture to arraign my nineteen years of experience, merely on the ground of my not being a surgeon, in order to advance the interest of a new comer into the field, who has advanced a theory questioned by able medical contemporaries even in your own report. I put it to your candour if this be right; or from you I would appeal to one of the coroners for Middlesex, who, in a recent inquiry before him, brought forward, as ‘a new cure for stammering, only lately known to a few of the faculty in London,’ the method published by Mc Cormac eighteen years ago, and long since well known to be fallacious. In the midst of such clashing opinions, I respectfully submit that you should allow me my fair chance among those who profess to remove stammering and regulate imperfections of speech; that you will admit my long practice to go for something in my favour; and that you will not pervert the highest testimonials of success, from the highest authorities, into arguments of condemnation upon, sir, your obedient servant, THOMAS HUNT.”

“ * * * We have little occasion to add any thing to this correspondence. We have seen among Mr. Hunt's pupils a good many members of the medical profession, who have availed themselves of his tuition in the light in which he offers it, and not as seeking medical aid from one who professes nothing beyond what is here set down, and to have, by long experience, acquired greater skill in removing such impediments, and correcting imperfections and bad habits of speech.

Having witnessed the success of these, and numerous other cases, we have no other motive than to make the truth known wherever we have the means.—*Ed. L. G.*”

Bearing on the same subject, the subjoined comments appear to be worthy of preservation. The *John Bull* of May 23 observes:—

“ STAMMERING.

“ About two years ago we brought under the notice of our readers the remarkably successful treatment of this disease (so to call it), by Mr. Hunt, whose process is at once so simple and efficacious as to have obtained the zealous recommendation of many of our highest medical practitioners. Some of Mr. Hunt’s testimonials, from Mr. Liston, Dr. Eyre, Dr. Riley, and others, we then gave or referred to, as well as others from private individuals (the late Earl of Lonsdale, Colonel Livingston, the Rev. E. Wood, &c.), who spoke, not of what they had heard, but of what they had witnessed either in their own persons, or that of their friends, as to the extraordinary system of cure practised by this gentleman. Since that period we have heard occasionally, and with much satisfaction, of Mr. Hunt’s increasing practice, but we had no notion that it had become so extensive as it has, until we saw the *Lancet* of last Saturday. There we beheld the better part of four columns devoted to the abuse of Mr. Hunt; and we were at once satisfied that he had taken a position which entitled him to the distinction of being assailed by this publication. And not Mr. Hunt only. All the eminent members of the profession who have borne honourable testimony to his singularly skilful treatment of stammering, come in for their share. The *Lancet* does not attempt, for it cannot, to deny Mr. Hunt’s cures; but then, it is shameful to think that Mr. Hunt should be allowed to cure anybody,

seeing that he is not a member either of the College of Physicians or the College of Surgeons. If he had pretended to cure stammering, and failed, the *Lancet* would have left him to enjoy his reputation: but having professed his ability to cure, and succeeded, that was abominable. Nor is it merely his success in the abstract which has obtained for him this coarse attack in the *Lancet*. Mr. Hunt's method of cure is so simple, so free from all affected mystery, so inartificial, that his pupils—for we can hardly call them patients—may be said almost to cure themselves, when he has once explained it to them. Now this is certainly very *unprofessional*.

“We have been induced to take this notice of the article in the *Lancet* for two reasons; first, from a wish to vindicate an estimable individual who is rendering signal services to his fellow-creatures; and, secondly, to baffle, as far as we may be able, a malignant attempt to deprive the latter of those services by unjustifiable insinuations as to their reality. The motives of the writer of the article are so transparent, so unmistakeable, that were it our own case, we declare, in all seriousness, we would print and circulate it along with whatever testimonials we might, from time to time, think proper to publish.”*

* I add another of the very many of the independent notices of the public press which appeared at the time from a *Popular Record*.—“The Uses of Professional Dignity.—A teacher of elocution, named Hunt, having lately been denounced by the *Lancet* as a quack, for teaching (without a medical diploma) certain principles for managing the voice, by which stammering may be mitigated or cured, and to the success of which he has the testimony of Dr. Forbes, the late Dr. Barlow of Bath, and others, has written a letter to that journal, reminding the editor that in instructing a person how to speak he no more interferes with the province of the medical profession than would a drill serjeant in teaching a person how to walk. ‘You set out,’ he says, ‘with an assertion which is the root and foundation of your entire argument, and yet, in my opinion, is altogether a gross and absurd mistake. You declare stammering to be a disease, and consequently its treatment and cure to belong exclusively to the profession of medicine.’

The subjoined testimonials are from one of the most distinguished chemists and druggists of our time, and one of our most scientific and successful dentists, the worthy successor of the late lamented Mr Nasmyth who held Mr. Hunt's system in high estimation.

“143, New Bond Street, May 22, 1850.

“Dear Sir,—It affords me very great pleasure to be able to bear my testimony to the efficacy of your system for the cure of stammering, as witnessed in the case of the young lady whom I recommended to your tuition during the spring.

“I had the pleasure of seeing the parents of the young lady last week, and they expressed themselves greatly indebted to you. They also

Now, I deny that stammering is a disease; it is an imperfection occasioned by organic, physical, or accidental causes, the want of some proper regulation or use, and not a disease.' The *Lancet* finds it difficult to disprove this, and therefore backs out of the argument which it had itself begun, and takes refuge in its dignity;—the very point at issue being, that in connection with elocution, the teaching and practice of which is open to all, no one man has any dignity to stand upon more than another. 'We hope (it says) that the profession are grateful for the modest and lucid definition. We do not quote it to bandy words with its promulgator, or for the purpose of disputing with an unprofessional person respecting what does or does not constitute disease.' Henceforth, therefore, medical men are to be regarded as exempt from the obligation which attaches to all the rest of mankind, of giving reasons for what they say. If Mr. Smith, the apothecary, being short of practice, owing to the prevailing 'want of faith in phisic,' should look with an eye of envy on the prosperous business of the Italian singing master who visits the young ladies next door, he has only to assert that the defects of ear and voice which render so much instruction necessary, arise from 'disease' and come within the province of the medical man, and his statement is to be taken for granted. If the obdurate father should refuse to call him in, the *Lancet* will back up the dignity of the practitioner by denouncing the singer as a 'scamp,' or a 'quack,' and the respectable old gentleman as a 'dupe.'”

stated that the impediment in the speech which their daughter had laboured under had not only been remedied but that the cure was permanent; and whenever she committed a lapse through want of care and attention, she readily corrected herself, and stated that it was owing entirely to a momentary neglect of the rules which you so strongly impressed upon her mind.

“ I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

“ JOHN SAVORY.”

“ 13A, George Street, Hanover Square,

“ June 23, 1847.

“ Sir,—I can have no hesitation in expressing a very decided opinion of the efficiency of your practice in the the treatment of defective articulation. In cases of congenital cleft palate more especially, your course of elocutionary discipline has been of essential service in training the organs to the use of the very perfect instrument which we now have for this hitherto irremediable defect. I shall still continue to recommend all cases of this or other defect of the palate to your care, for the full development of the advantages of the apparatus. And I feel confident from some experience, that, where your instructions are diligently followed, a degree of perfection is attained, which leaves little to be desired.

“ I am, Sir, very truly yours,

“ EDWIN SAUNDERS.”

Equal approbation from eminent physicians, parents, guardians and other parties, were quoted by Mr. Hunt in preceding publications although from which I only make the following selections.

To the efficacy of his practice in fitting youths for professional examinations before they could enter upon their destined pursuits in life, the annexed from a dignitary of the church and one of the most accomplished professors of the liberal arts that any country could boast of, would be more than adequate proof, though another case of the same description is added.

“Palace, Ripon, June 18, 1849.

“Dear Sir,—I am sure you will have been pleased to hear of my son’s success in passing his examination at Woolwich, and that his impediment was not at all noticed. I am sure he is much indebted to you for the instructions you have given him.

“Will you be so good as to let me know what I am in your debt for his board whilst he was with you?

I am, dear Sir,

Your faithful and obedient servant,

“C. T. RIPON.”

“Hampstead, May 31, 1849.

“My dear Sir,—I have great pleasure in acknowledging my obligations to you, in the effectual cure of my son’s impediment of speech; which, but for your skill and kind assiduity, would have been

fatal to his professional career. And I shall always remain, my dear Sir,

“Your obliged and humble servant,

“C. R. COCKERELL.”

“Woolwich Common, Nov. 19, 1847.

“Dear Sir,—The examination at the Academy is now over, and I have the satisfaction of believing that your pupil Mr. Kennedy, did not stammer at all, though subjected to a *viva voce* examination under four or five different masters. This is very gratifying; and, should he be fortunate enough to find his name on the list of successful candidates, he will doubtless reflect that, but for your valuable assistance, such a result would have been physically impossible.

“I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

“W. BRIDGMAN.”

The following is from Capt. Kennedy, the father of the pupil alluded to by Dr. Bridgman:—

“Lincoln, June 13, 1848.

“My dear Sir,—It gives me great pleasure to say that your complete success in the treatment and cure of my son, for a defect in his speech, has given me the most entire satisfaction, and I shall, at all times, be glad to bear testimony to the same.

“I am, my dear Sir, very truly yours,

“FRAS. KENNEDY.”

Such conclusive documents almost annihilated the advocates for cutting away necessary organs of voice under the ban of being impediments, and the exasperation was increased by the mutilation of proofs of the perfect success of the opposite practice.

A satisfactory cure of another kind is vouched by the following, and ought to interest all sterling Freemasons.

“Royal Freemasons’ School for Female
Children, Westminster Road, South-
wark, June 20, 1850.

“Dear Sir,—I am exceedingly pleased to inform you that the pupil you so kindly and gratuitously took under your care on her leaving this establishment four years ago, continues perfectly cured of what I considered to be the most inveterate case of stammering I had ever known. I hardly know whether to be most grateful for your kindness or your great skill.

“I am, dear Sir, your obedient Servant,
“FRANCIS CREW, Sec.”

The importance of the application of the system for the cure of stammering as regards military and other appointments, is strikingly exemplified by the following extract

From the United Service Gazette, December, 7, 1850.

“PERFECT CURE OF STAMMERING.—The following very gratifying result of Mr. Hunt’s admirable system for

the cure of stammering has just occurred. It is of the utmost importance to the officers of both services, and we have much pleasure in giving the following documents referring to the case:—

“ Office of Ordnance, 27th May, 1850.—Sir,—I am directed by the Master-General to acquaint you that at the late examination your son was found qualified for admission to the Royal Academy at Woolwich, as far as his progress in the requisite branches of study was concerned; but that the Medical Board, who examined him, have reported that he is at present ineligible for a cadetship in that institution, in consequence of stammering and hesitation in his speech.

“ As, however, there appears a probability of your son's recovery, by improved methods of treatment, the Master-General will bring him forward again at the end of six months, when he will be admitted, should the defect be alleviated so far as to render him fit for the service.

“ I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
 “ Captain Walsh, R.A. “ C. PAGET.”

“ Upon the receipt of the above note, Mr. Walsh was placed under the care of Mr. Hunt, and the following letter will show with what success:—“ Datchet, near Slough, Nov. 30, 1850.—My dear Sir,—I hasten to inform you, knowing the great interest that you take in your pupil, that I this morning received the official letter from his Lordship, the Master-General, informing me that the Medical Board, who have examined my son, have reported that he is now fit to be admitted as a Gentleman Cadet at the Royal Military Academy, and he is ordered to join on Wednesday, the 29th of January next.

“ Mrs. Walsh and myself beg leave to return you our most sincere thanks for all you have done for him, as it is entirely to your instruction and invaluable assistance that

he is able to join that noble institution, the defect in his speech being perfectly cured, and I shall at all times be glad to bear testimony to the same. My son is in high spirits at his success, and I hope he will never come to Town without calling to see you.

“ Believe me, yours very faithfully,

“ T. Hunt, Esq.

“ LEWIS WALSH.”

The following personal assurances are of a miscellaneous nature, but all affording proof of the same fact, *viz.*, that the treatment of stammering is capable of the happy restoration of almost every variety of the afflicted, in every class of society, to the useful ends and purpose of life. The upraising of the very lowly to respectable positions was always an intense gratification to Mr. Hunt, and the reader may conceive something of his exultation if he had seen a fine young gardener of good connections condemned to be a common labourer by painful stammering, able within a few weeks to undertake the responsible situation of foreman in a great nursery and glibly name every plant in the house and grounds; or an innkeeper's son doomed to drudgeries of the cellar by the same cause, lifted at once into an employment of comparative importance, and made a useful member of the concern instead of a banished slave.

Multitudes of such cases have occurred, and those I now quote are but specimens. Persons who have not been connected with stammerers can form no

idea of the misery and drawbacks in every walk of life to which they are subjected. It is of little consequence what the situation may be; the effect is alike whether it be the peer of the realm or the peasant, all alike feel its baneful effect preventing social intercourse and enjoyment; and even to the children its operation is most injurious preventing their education, as the following letter will prove:—

“ 12, Argyll Street, June 17, 1847.

“Dear Sir,—The perfect relief you have afforded to my only child renders it most satisfactory to me to describe his case as an example to others who may labour under the same misfortune. Four years ago, when at the age of six years, he was so afflicted by an impediment in his speech as to be incapable of being taught to pronounce his letters, and thus his education was utterly prevented. After receiving your lessons, and acquiring confidence from the kindness of your treatment, he completely conquered his defect, and is now pursuing his studies and developing his mental faculties in a manner to delight all those who felt an interest in his welfare.

“ I remain, dear Sir, yours, &c.

“ JOSEPH BEBB.”

It frequently happens that the stammering is too long neglected in the vain hope that the children may grow out of it; such a hope, however, is rarely realized, and the defect thus suffered

to confirm itself too long, renders the cure much more difficult. The annexed will be sufficient to prove the permanency as well as the efficacy of the cure in young children:—

“Whitchurch, Salop, May 17, 1850.

“My dear Sir,—I have much satisfaction in telling you that the cure you effected for my son in February 1849, so terribly afflicted as he was with stammering, is as permanent as it was effectual. He reads, repeats, and talks as well as any boy of his age, now nearly twelve. I shall always consider it a duty I owe to recommend you to all persons similarly situated.

“Yours faithfully,

“W. PARRY JONES.”

In concluding these extracts I am entirely sensible of the services rendered this system, and I trust I may add the cause of humanity, by the following from among many favourable opinions with which Mr. Hunt's progress was honoured by enlightened journals, justly entitled to have great weight with the country.

From the *Times*, August 1, 1848.

“CURE OF STAMMERING.—Some remarkable cures have recently been made in cases of stammering and defective articulation by Mr. Hunt of Regent Street, who is known to the public for the energy with which he has devoted himself to remove the defects of utterance. Several of

these cures have been effected where all remedy appeared hopeless."

From the *Examiner* of March 2, 1850.

"A prospectus is before us, issued by Mr. Hunt, on the subject of impediments of speech, and the possibility of their easy and certain removal without any kind of surgical intervention, which we think of sufficient interest to bring under notice in this place. Struck by the announcement, and by a remark of the late Mr. Liston, among the testimonials quoted, we have sought and obtained an opportunity of witnessing the process adopted by Mr. Hunt. We have no hesitation in expressing a most favourable opinion of Mr. Hunt's process. Based upon clear and intelligible principles, it has the merit of singular simplicity. Mr. Hunt explains to his pupils the anatomical construction of the organs by which the voice is produced, points out the different causes of stammering, and teaches how an easy utterance may be obtained by removal of the cause that obstructs it in the particular case. There is nothing difficult to understand, or that the least intelligent may not readily seize, and instantly act upon. When we can discover what has induced a habit contrary to nature, we are surprised to see how easily nature resumes what she might seem so completely to have lost. Whether or not she may be able to keep it depends on other considerations. In the case we had the pleasure to see tried, a young man,* whose unavailing attempts to read a line of verse had been quite frightful to witness was enabled by something less than an hour's instruction to read the whole of Gray's 'Elegy' with tolerable ease. Nor had we the least doubt that perseverance in the instructions given would eventually make

* Reference given to this pupil.

the cure complete. But that this perseverance would be necessary, even to the point of incessant and uninterrupted practice for a very considerable time, we thought not less clear. Habit must be conquered by habit. With this proviso of hearty and laborious co-operation on the sufferer's own side, we believe that a very ingenious and intelligent gentleman has really discovered an efficacious cure for a most distressing defect, and we are happy to take this opportunity of saying so."

From the *Literary Gazette*, February 24, 1849.

"The cure of stammering by Mr. Hunt has so often commanded our especial consideration, that we are gratified to find the success of his simple and efficacious system (almost without a failure, as we have witnessed for a number of years) is in the course of being marked by a public testimonial from a grateful band of the pupils he has taught to relieve themselves from these painful embarrassments, and enabled to take very different positions in life from those which such impediments imposed."

It may be stated that the following remarks from *Chambers's Edinburgh Journal*, of April 10, 1847, are made by a writer, whose literary labours, addressed to the information of the people, have been universally felt to be most anxiously devoted for their welfare; and that Mr. Robert Chambers had himself on several occasions, personally ascertained the nature of the system, to the efficacy of which he bears this testimony.

"There is no mystery whatever in Mr. Hunt's plan. It is merely replac'ing nature upon her pivot, from which accident or bad habit had thrown her. What the instructor

does, is but a small part of the cure. The greater part is the work of the pupil, fully obeying the rules and persevering in them, till a new habit has been acquired. The exhibition is a most interesting one, creating that peculiar, satisfactory feeling, which we experience when the triumph of nature over error is asserted."

From the Catalogue of *The Exhibition of the Royal Academy of Arts for 1849.*

"No. 1336. Marble Bust of Thomas Hunt, Esq., author of the system for the cure of stammering. Subscribed for, and presented to him, by his pupils, in testimony of his services during a period of twenty-two years.

"JOSEPH DURHAM."

This gratifying tribute, an excellent likeness, and affectionately prized by his family and friends, was modelled by Mr. Durham, the sculptor of Jenny Lind, and presented to Mr. Hunt by a number of his grateful pupils as a lasting memorial of the services he had rendered them.

Ardently pursuing his gratifying task to the last, Mr. Hunt, at the close of the London sojourn in 1851, left town in perfect health for his farm in Dorsetshire, the cultivation of which was pursued with almost equal zeal, affording active exercise to his mental, and restorative vigour to his physical powers. Here he occupied a considerable tract of land, and was not only sanguine in agricultural experiments and improvements on his own possessions, but took a prominent part in aiding the welfare of local interests and promoting every

scheme for the increase of their prosperity. His charities, parochial and vicinial public exertions, subscriptions to local improvements and beneficial undertakings, and general habit of hospitable and friendly neighbourhood, caused him to be held in high esteem by rich and poor,* and it is not too much to say that few men of his station in life, were ever more gratefully respected while living or ever more sincerely lamented when dead. Benevolence and usefulness, combined with indefatigable energy, were his characteristics; and in every relation, it may truly be said of him, that he fulfilled the poet's description of an honest man—the noblest work of God!

Alas! his removal from the scene of his benevolence and usefulness, was premature and sudden. The autumnal harvest of the seed he had sown, some if it obtained when new theories were numerously supported, was not for him to reap; the exquisite fruit of many trees he had introduced to the soil were not for his hands to gather. In the midst of health and happiness and joyous expectations, the strong man was struck down; as is recorded in the subjoined obituary:—

* To the poor he was disinterestedly kind in promoting their welfare, and to the odious system of truck, carried on with success under the name of barter, he was a decided enemy, and spared no trouble in assisting to stop such a practice as carried on by the stone-merchants of the place and neighbourhood. It is curious to remark the ignorance that exists in this place in the nineteenth century, the employers doing all in their power to perpetuate it. Alas! how long will things remain thus?

“Obituary of Eminent Persons deceased,” in the *Illustrated London News*, August 23rd, 1851.

“THOMAS HUNT.—After one week of severe illness, died at Godlingstone, near Swanage,* on Monday last, the 18th inst., Thomas Hunt, Esq., so long and so justly held in high esteem for his skill in the cure of stammering. During some twenty-five years of Mr. Hunt’s practice, a great number have been benefitted by his care, and very many have to be grateful to him for rescuing them, not only from the mortification and distress of a painful disorder (for such it is), but for rendering them eligible to undertake higher stations in trade, the army and navy, all the liberal professions, and even in the Legislature. His system was simply to teach the sufferers, by the plainest common-sense directions, the means of restoring nature to its functions, which were perverted and counteracted by evil habits, or the curious infection of involuntary imitation. Mr. Hunt held, and truly held, that not one case in fifty was the consequence of deficient or mal-organisation; and he sternly and perseveringly eschewed the knife. In many cases the effect of a single lesson was so remarkable as to appear like magic, converting the convulsive stammerer from distressing

* Swanage, in Dorsetshire, is delightfully situated on the south coast, about sixteen miles from the Isle of Wight, and ten from the Wareham Station on the London and South Western Railway. Mr. Hunt always felt a great attraction for this place, as he was convinced of its superiority over many of our watering places. The general scenery is very beautiful, being considered by many to be like that of the Isle of Wight. The principal attractions are, however, its beautiful bay and sands (which are equalled by few, and surpassed by none), as well as the peculiar bracing quality of the air, particularly adapted to restore invalids to convalescence; by whom it is therefore much visited during the season. It possesses every convenience of the largest and most fashionable watering place, although it is one of the most retired, and much admired and frequented on that account. The neighbourhood affords a fine field both for the archeologist and geologist; and the romantic ruins of Corfe Castle are within five miles.

unintelligibility into freedom of voice, distinctness of utterance, and correctness of pronounciation. The pupils and the witnesses of such an hour's or two hours' change were alike astonished by the obvious process, which only required a degree of moderate attention to confirm for ever.

“Mr. Hunt was of a good Dorsetshire family, many of whom were connected with the Church. He was educated at Cambridge, but circumstances led to his choice of farming instead of taking degrees. His devotedness to his one great pursuit did not prevent him from cultivating, as a distinguished agriculturist, a large farm in Dorsetshire, where he was as much respected in that sphere as he was generally esteemed for his peculiar talent in what may be termed professional life. A widow and family of eight children are left to lament his loss.”

An extract from the Speech of the Earl of Carlisle, at the General Anniversary Meeting of the Royal Society of Literature, 1852, also records the same melancholy event.

“The Society, said his Lordship, the president, has lost during the year Mr. Thomas Hunt, who educated at Cambridge, and intended for the Church, found himself compelled to devote the energies of his whole life, if not to a very aspiring, at least to a most considerate aim of benevolence—the relief of the distress occasioned by stammering. I learn from authority of high professional eminence, as well as from the attachment of his personal friends, that his mode of treatment was attended with the most distinguished success, and that to the poor especially he was signally liberal and kind as an instructor.”

Mr. Hunt's death appeared to be the signal for the revival of competition in the walk he had occupied so much to the exclusion of the advocates

for surgical operations and pretenders of inferior station. The notorious and the obscure rushed forward again, and books and pamphlets with names attached to them, and advertisements sanctioned by the anonymous authorities of A. B. C. or X. Y. Z. appealed to the public, with every assertion and assurance of infallibility.

The public was speedily besieged by a corps of resolute curers of stammering, every one alike asserting the infallibility of his nostrum, though differing as the poles asunder; and it must be owned that if there were so many ways of remedying this defect, it would be perfectly inexcusable in any rational being to suffer the pains and penalties accruing from impediments of speech. But if there be wisdom in a multiplicity of judges, there is distraction in a multiplicity of counsellors, each advocating pretensions of which it is equally difficult to discover the practical grounds or the probable consequences. Several mere teachers of languages and elocution fancied themselves, at once, able to cope with the manifold, and sometimes intricate causes, mental and physical, which combine to produce imperfections of utterance. But others really not so well qualified as these by education or habits of tuition, were still more confident and presuming. A worthy painter and glazier, who modestly preserved the anonyme, advertized stoutly the capability of the last letter of the Greek alphabet to teach everybody, how-

ever afflicted, to speak English as plainly and naturally as pigs squeak. A crack in the voice and a crack in the glass were the same to him (*omega* !); and, for all the world, there was nothing like putty ! To him a compeer might be found in the individual in whose house, above the shop, my father lodged for many years. This person, whose trade in very fine laces and very pretty baby-clothes is, I believe, unexceptionable, gave out that he had assisted my father with his pupils, and even been entrusted with the charge of them in his absence ; which, if he can prove by credible testimony, I shall be willing to concede to him that he is competent not only to carry on my father's practice, but as he ventures to say he has done, improve upon his system. To the best of my knowledge, I believe from information of those most intimate with my father, that this Mr. Urling never had other connexion with him than as a landlord receiving his rent, and being occasionally admitted, as many others were, to witness his method of instruction and observe the success which attended it. Abstractly speaking, and without personal reference, I may notice the gross absurdity of uneducated men, whose whole lives have been absorbed in business pursuits and profits, setting up claims to any professional exercise, of the very nature of which they must be profoundly ignorant. Skill in the curative treatment of disorders of the human frame is not caught, like the disorders themselves,

by incidental contact or brief observation. It can only be the result of accurate study, long training, and actual experience, such as neither glazier nor laceman can be imagined to possess. With regard to Mr. Urling, I shall only add that I consider his boast of having improved upon my father's system as a proof that he was not well enough acquainted with it to follow it, and a cover for the blundering imitation which all his antecedents would incline people of common sense to anticipate. At all events I enter my protest against his professing to have been a sort of colleague to Mr. Hunt (a relation which Mr. Hunt would have abhorred), and his ability to continue anything like his practice, founded as it was upon an ardent and anxious devotedness to the investigation of every variety of stammering, from whatever cause proceeding, and the earnest (I may say enthusiastic) inculcation of instructions suitable to each particular case. In fact, *ex uno disce omnes*, I have myself had the good fortune to succeed with one pupil of a noble family, whose father, a peer of the realm, writes to me of the failure of Mr. Urling, previously tried, as "he had but a superficial knowledge" of the case. In short, to fit a child with a lace cap, and to cure it of stammering, are quite different accomplishments, and seem to require different preliminaries.

My quotations, in the earlier portion of these remarks respecting the *Lancet*, show how severely

Mr. Bishop, one of the assailants of my father, was handled, when he carried competition into detraction, and endeavoured to balance self-puffery with denunciations of imputed "unprofessional" quackery. Pursuing his professional practices, he has latterly returned more publicly to his web of sophistry, and printed a volume elaborately crammed with matters gathered from preceding writers on articulate sounds and philology, and cognate topics, but which have nothing to do with the "causes and cure of impediments of speech." A book, at any rate, looks more respectable than abuse in corrupt and venal periodicalism; and for a surgeon, regularly bred, affords a more fitting medium to denounce empirics who dare to intermeddle with what he declares to be the sole domain of surgery, with its forceps and knife. The show of erudition and research here is enormous; but it is impossible to say what kind of opinion readers and intending pupils can be enabled to form from the riot of dorsums, velums, larynxes, pharynxes, labio-nasals, synchronious vibrations, septums, nariums, Eustachian tubes, uvulas, tonsils, glottises, epiglottises, arytenoid muscles, hyoideses, &c., &c., which runs through every page of this learned collection of scraps on anatomy and physiology. I ought perhaps to apologise for playing the critic on such a performance; but it appears to me to be a mass of compilation calculated to confuse whilst intended to dazzle, and

that six pages of letter-press honestly addressed to the subject, *viz.*, the proximate causes of stammering, and a system of cure intelligible to the general reader, would be preferable, far more useful, and a safer guide, than fifty such productions, about it and about it and never direct to the mark. Mr. Bishop, however, stands upon his own grounds, and if they are tenable the inference must be that there are two distinct and opposite modes for the cure of impediments of speech, *i. e.*, the medicinal and surgical, or the simply directive and practical, the teaching by jargonized phraseology, which not one pupil in a hundred can understand, or by the employment of common language which no pupil can misunderstand or be at a loss to apply.

In the latter respect it has been my sole ambition to imitate the example of my venerated father, about whom was no charlatantry in the affectation of recondite unmeaningness, but a straightforward purpose explained in the clearest manner, and wrought out with a persevering application of the single principle on which his instructions were based—a principle quite comprehensible to every capacity.

In this course I am proud to state that I have so far proceeded successfully. I have essayed my powers in following exactly in the footsteps which have ever been before my eyes, rivetting my attention and directing my mind. Several years' acquaintance with medical practice has only con-

firmed me in the wisdom and efficiency of my father's system, and convinced me that it is much more difficult to cure stammering after surgical operations have been tried in vain, than before. Though I repeat there are cases of imperfect palate and other defects and disorders of the bronchial organs which especially require the advice and aid of the skilful surgeon, into whose arduous department of science and practice neither he nor I ever thought of intrusion. From the ablest surgeons in England that system has consequently received the meed of applause and the continual recommendation of their *patients* as *pupils* is the strongest proof that could be offered of the difference and yet mutual relations between the two processes—the one for the salutary restoration, and the other for the proper application of the complicated vocal apparatus, which Providence has so wonderfully contrived, and human carelessness so frequently perverted.

As it is the slightest portion of the design of this publication to make known my pretensions to be considered the only duly instructed and legitimate successor to my late father, I shall say very little of my own career in the provinces, and the success which has hitherto happily crowned my exertions. To all who desire information on the subject, I can give reference to numerous pupils who have benefitted by my administration of the Hmt System; and I shall add here just a few tes-

imonials such as my father received, as evidence that I am not unworthy of the benevolent task he has bequeathed to me.

From the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Hinchinbrook.

“ Hinchinbrook, Huntingdon,

“ January 11th, 1854.

“ Dear Sir,—It is with great pleasure that I hereby acknowledge the cure of my stammering, after having formerly applied to a respectable man who professed to cure by your system, without any permanent relief. The beauty of your system consists in its extreme simplicity, which proves at the same time its truth and efficacy, and renders the application easy, if followed up with a little exertion and attention by the stammerer.

“ I am happy to add, with my thanks for your kindness, that it will give me great pleasure to recommend you to any one who needs the removal of that bad habit, which causes so much nervousness and anxiety.

“ Believe me, yours faithfully,

“ HINCHINBROOK.

“ To James Hunt, Esq., 125, Regent Street.”

Extract of a Letter from Mrs. Simmons, of No. 3, Prospect Buildings, Wells Road, Bath, to Mr. James Hunt, dated Sept. 4, 1853.

“ When I saw my son, I was the most astonished at the great ease and fluency he had acquired, and that too in so short a time, as from the

age of four or five years he had stammered to a most painful degree. Your mode of treatment has had a most wonderful effect in removing this great hindrance to his future success in life. I shall always feel a great pleasure in answering any enquiries respecting your skill, or kindness of treatment, and pray make whatever use of my name you think proper."

" 104, Edgware Road, Paddington,

" January 2, 1854.

" Dear Sir,—I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the success of your system for the cure of stammering, as evidenced in the case of my nephew, who had from his infancy suffered from an impediment in his speech of as sad a character as can well be conceived, the impediment affecting his whole muscular system. Having been under your instruction the brief period of a fortnight he returned home, much to the surprise of his friends, perfectly cured, speaking so freely in fact that no person would have imagined he had ever been so afflicted as was the case previous to being placed under your care; and I am happy to say further, that he still speaks as freely as the day on which he left you, nearly six months since. The cure in his case may truly be considered most extraordinary, and sure I am that he must ever feel grateful for the trouble you have taken with him.

“ I am pleased to hear of your continual success ; indeed, after the cure effected in the case of my nephew, I shall be greatly surprised if you fail in the least in any you may undertake, and I think you may safely guarantee to cure any case of stammering at however early an age the habit may have been contracted, or whatever length of time it may have existed.

“ I may add that I shall be happy to answer any enquiries that may be made by persons desirous of being cured of any impediments in the speech, and

“ Remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,

“ DAVID SYDENHAM.

“ James Hunt, Esq., 125, Regent Street, and
Swanage, Dorset.”

A concise description of a few stammerers restored to the blessing of unimpeded utterance, will afford a striking illustration of the beneficial results derived from such cures in different classes of society.

A young clergyman whose style in reading prayers and preaching was so unfortunate as to cause the secession of many of his congregation, became an eloquent divine, and not only recovered but added to the number of his hearers.

A barrister condemned by stuttering to special pleading out of court, after three lessons tried his

powers in a debating society, and in three months joined the circuit.

The nephew of an eminent nurseryman who was convulsed in attempting to speak, and could do nothing above spade labour, was very speedily cured, and astonished his friends by appearing as a fine young man escorting visitors over hot-houses and green-houses, and naming and describing every plant in the most fluent manner.

A cadet was rejected on account of the impediment of speech which rendered him unfit for the service. He remained with Mr. Hunt some six weeks, returned to his examination and passed with *eclat*.

The son of a respectable publican was doomed to the dark office of cellarman in consequence of the disorder under which he laboured. In a month he was rendered the most active and intelligent superintendent in the bar.

Many poor lads, in the condition of utter drudges and even pauperism, were recommended to respectable service by having their obstructive impediments removed.

A good servant in other respects, but unable to deliver a message and consequently held in the lowest station, was cured and in a short period promoted to the trust of butler in a wealthy household.

A very whimsical incident occurred with the father of a young family, who was so miserably

afflicted as to be all but unintelligible in his speech. On his return home, completely restored to perfectly distinct utterance, several of his children were so astonished at the change that they failed for a while to recognise him, or obey the parental orders given in so different a voice and manner.

In citing the foregoing as a few of the beneficial results arising from the cure of stammering to individuals of every class and station in life, I desire to add a few words respecting the intellectual distress to which stammerers are subjected; and, from the candid statements of many of my pupils who have been restored to the blessing of correct speech, to state my conviction that the mental depressions and sufferings of stammerers are not generally known, even by their dearest and most intimate friends. No person can imagine the power that mental emotion has over physical function until they have either themselves experienced it, or have had an opportunity of witnessing and examining it closely in others. Some of my pupils have informed me that they assumed before their friends a degree of tranquillity and cheerfulness at the time their hearts were bursting with anguish, on account of their miserable infirmity; others dreaded to mix in the society natural to their youth, or necessary for their social intercourse with those of the same rank and connection in life, and some have been so

deeply affected that they have sunk into melancholy, and existed in a state of apathy to all human pleasures and enjoyments. The unhappy results of the affliction do not stop here, but prevent the party from availing himself of whatever advantages he may possess by means of birth, education, talent, or fortune. Besides these and many other obstacles to progress in life, a defective utterance seriously injures the health. It is rarely we meet with an old person that stammers; but this is not owing to years having effected a cure, but because the efforts made, and the organs which are abused in attempting to speak often, sooner or later, excite some organic disease, which once induced, invariably consigns the sufferer to an early tomb, and hence the false name given to stammering by calling it a disease, and thus confounding the reaction with the original cause.

I have before mentioned the close and intimate connection of stammering with the nervous system; but it will be found on careful observation that the nervousness is usually, more or less, confined to the organs of the voice. Indeed, I have had under my care gentlemen most spirited in field sports of all descriptions, and in the Army and Navy, and who never felt the slightest degree of nervousness on any point whatsoever, except on that of speech. For example, if they were obliged to call on a friend, their nervousness commenced immediately the servant appeared at the door,

and it was a difficulty for them to enquire if their friend was at home, or to mention even their own name correctly; and if they had to repeat their question, the nervousness invariably increased, and a greater obstacle to utterance was the result. This illustrates the wonderful and close intimacy between the mind and the voice; and in reality, the power of imagination is so great that with certain persons and in certain scenes the affliction is always aggravated, and on the contrary, when in the society of pleasant friends or in some secluded spot, there is almost a return of fluency of speech. Why is this? It is from want of knowledge and confidence how properly to employ the organs of speech; which desirable object is accomplished by explaining to the pupil the anatomical construction of the vocal organs, pointing out to them the cause or causes which affect their utterance. There is nothing difficult to understand or practise, and the actual difference of Mr. Hunt's from any other system was aptly described in the grateful language of a pupil as "beautifully simple, perfectly natural, and admirably efficacious." Its greatest merit, however, consists in the pupils leaving their instructor with a fluent enunciation, and perfectly free from the least peculiarity of expression; nor is there the slightest fear of relapse, without the most unpardonable neglect of the principles inculcated. It is also my practice to furnish the pupil with instructions suitable to the case that

he may at any time refer to and praetise with the greatest ease when once he has obtained a mastery of articulate speech. One striking fact which I have not before mentioned, is the comparative infrequency of females who stammer. It is generally estimated that the number of females amounts to little more than five per cent. Very unsatisfactory reasons have been suggested to explain this; for instance, Mr. E. Lee advocates the hypothesis that women have a finer organisation of the parts concerned in speech, a quicker apprehension, and a readier judgment than men; and that hence their articulation excels in ease, fluency, and volubility. He gives the subjoined very complimentary effusion from Rousseau as an explanation why stammering should be rare, and other nervous affections numerous, among females. "Girls have the organs of speech more supple and flexible than boys, they speak sooner and easier, and women speak more agreeably than men. They are accused of speaking more; such ought to be the ease, and I would willingly convert this reproach into praise. The eyes and mouth have in them the same movability. Always occupied in pleasing; observing with the most persevering attention everything that passes around them; always expert to profit by their advantages, and reduced by the state of our society and manners to shine only by singing, dancing, but especially by conversation, they give themselves up to these exercises with ardour, and excel in them more than

men. The whole nervous system is also more developed in them; the impressions they receive are more powerful and multiplied, and hence they have a greater number of sensations and internal feelings to make known: anxious to penetrate the secrets of men, and to ascertain the state of their hearts, speech is for them the most useful instrument and the most indispensable to their happiness."

In conclusion, I would offer a few words respecting any good that can be taught by books which profess to lay down a method for the cure of all cases of stammering from whatever cause or causes derived; and which from my practice I have invariably found having the effect of depressing and perplexing the pupil, and thus tending to increase the idea of stammering being incurable. The disgraceful practices of empirics and pretenders have also assisted to promote such a false opinion, and the good that really intelligent and acknowledged teachers accomplish, is often undone by mere charlatans and imaginary curers of stammering.

The constant and immediate superintendence of an experienced instructor of a system "founded on physiological principles," is the only means by which this distressing defect can be overcome. The time occupied varies greatly; in some the short space of ten days or a fortnight, is found sufficient to effect an entire eradication of all defect.

In other cases a much longer time is required for permanent cure, and the severity and peculiar circumstances of cases are much dependent on the time occupied; and I do not hesitate to add that in young children, the longer they have been under my personal superintendence, the more permanent and effectual has been the remedy.

Much, however, depends on the exertions of the pupil, and the degree with which he applies himself to the instructions given, which although neither difficult nor numerous, yet require a certain degree of exertion and vigilance. In younger persons, however, before stammering becomes a confirmed habit, the instructions may simply be styled educational.

Some ready-made curers of the disorder always (*profess to*) cure stammering in twelve lessons, and offer them for sale to the public, with occasional reductions according as the supply of stammerers exists in the market. I cannot too strongly reprehend the conduct of such individuals, and expose them to public censure for such discreditable quackery. What would be thought of a physician who presented twelve pills, neither more nor less, for the cure of any disease; but it is enough for me to point at these deceptive impositions and leave the obvious conclusion to be drawn by an intelligent public.

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