

mary or unusual in a boy with a broken leg being sent to hospital. It is probably of minutely occurrence over the world. But it must be very mortifying to the Dr. alluded to, to find his name dragged so very prominently and so very unnecessarily before the public. No medical man's name should be blazoned abroad in the columns of a daily paper unless in connection with cases of world wide interest. That Dr. Black set a leg, Dr. White cut off a toe, or that Dr. Green performed a brilliant abdominal operation are announcements, when made in an unprofessional journal, which, besmirch the fair professional names of Drs. Black, White and Green. Such publications may possibly bring ephemeral practice to the medical man puffed, in the shape of weak-minded people, without powers of discrimination, and who swallow all they read as gospel truth. But success with this portion of the public has a corresponding ill effect among the ranks of the profession, an effect which sooner or later becomes manifested by the loss of confidence in, and contempt of, the advertised one: this, too, surely followed by a similar manifestation on the part of the public at large, who discover that those men who are most honoured by their professional brethren are those most deserving of professional confidence. To advertise a medical man in a London paper would be to ruin his professional reputation and place him in the category of quacks. The Winnipeg papers some time since refrained, at the request of the local profession, from giving the name of any medical man in connection with any circumstances of interest which they published, and it is much to be regretted that they have not continued to keep to such a desirable regulation, a rule observed by all papers of any standing throughout the world, as it is not the desire of the press of the present day to give their powerful aid in unduly raising any profession man over his fellows. Let him win his position by honest merit, and they are then not slow to recognize and accredit it to him. But when a daily paper, under the heading of vital statistics, publishes the number of midwifery cases each medical man attends,

as part of these statistics, not avoiding to record the number of death certificates sent in by each doctor, it points strongly to the conclusion that these notices appear at suggestion and solicitation of interested parties. The public should, however, not fail to remember that they are puffs, and in the case of the statistics that the practice of midwifery in all large cities and towns is usually carried on by medical men who exclusively devote themselves to this branch of the profession, and beyond it, as ordinary physicians and surgeons, have no standing. The general knowledge of this fact might possibly not be as pleasing to the promoter of this very extraordinary statement as the publication referred to no doubt was.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from Dr. R. B. Fergusson.

The following case may not alone be of interest and act as a warning to homœopathic practitioners, but also to orthodox medical men. We are all aware how frequently, actuated by a similar feeling which makes the drowning man catch at a straw, that patients whom we have reluctantly been compelled to pronounce incurable and to whom we have had, under pressure of circumstances, conscientiously to state that the only relief we are able to give will be in mitigation of suffering, without any prospect of affecting a cure; and, after giving such an opinion, our patient has, acting possibly under the advice of a well intentioned friend (?), sent for another medical man, perhaps a homœopathic practitioner who, in vain conceit, ignores the opinion already given, pronounces the diagnosis erroneous and undertakes to cure the patient out of hand. A case in point occurred in my practice a short time since. I was called upon to see the senior member of a family whom I had attended for some years. After some time and careful weighing of symptoms, I came to the conclusion that my patient was suffering from cancer, already pressing on the colon, and partially occluding the gut. His advanced age—he having passed the three score years and ten—together with