

region of fanaticism, and faced soberly if any check is to be given to the demoralizing vice of drinking. Whence is this statement to emanate? Clearly from the College of Physicians. The question is perfectly cognate with that of the homes of the working classes, on which the College so happily made a representation to the Government, the value of which as a stimulus to legislation was gratefully acknowledged by the Home Secretary. The College of Physicians represents all branches of medicine. But it represents them too timidly. It will die of dignity and reticence if it cannot identify itself with some of the urgent problems of society and legislation. The President has seen his way to preside over a conference of medical men in Shoreditch on the subject of drinking. All honour to him. Let us hope that his successor will soon see his way clear to calling the Fellows of the College together in Pall Mall to give out a statement on this question.—*London Lancet*.

DORSAL DISLOCATION OF THE HEAD OF THE FEMUR, WITH EVERSION OF THE LIMB (*The Lancet*, February 5, 1876).—Mr. Annandale reports the case of a sailor, æt. 29, who six months before coming under observation received an injury of the hip from a bale of goods falling upon him. When examined, the injured limb was found to be shortened three-quarters of an inch and *everted* to its full extent. The whole limb was fixed in this everted condition. The great trochanter was displaced upwards and backwards, and the head of the bone could be felt over the situation of the sciatic notch. In addition to these symptoms, Mr. Syme's characteristic sign of sciatic dislocation was present,—namely, that the injured limb could not be straightened without an arching of the spine. If the spine was straightened the thigh became flexed, and if the thigh was straightened the spine became arched. No crepitation could be detected. Having from all these symptoms diagnosed a sciatic or dorsal dislocation, the patient was put under chloroform, and the manipulative method of reduction practised. The bone was readily reduced by flexing and adducting the limb and then making it take a sweep outwards, but it also readily slipped out

of the acetabulum again when the limb was moved; and in order to prevent its displacement a long thigh-splint was applied and retained for a month. At the end of this time the patient was allowed to rise from bed and use crutches, and two weeks afterwards he was dismissed, being able to bear considerable weight on the limb. When the limb was examined before his dismissal it was found to be natural in length and position, and it admitted of free flexion, extension, adduction, and abduction at the hip. The only symptom complained of was some weakness of the whole limb; but this was gradually passing off.

The occurrence of eversion of the limb in cases of dorsal dislocation of the head of the femur is quite exceptional.—*Philadelphia Med. Times*.

HOMŒOPATHIC CREDULITY.—Gouty and rheumatic readers may take warning of the dangers of lithia from a story in one of the journals, reproduced from an American source. It is the case of Dr. Denham, who "was compelled for a time to relinquish practice in consequence of severe cardiac rheumatism," but who has been so effectually cured as to be chosen as president of a convention to be held in Philadelphia this summer. He consulted Dr. Hering, who at the third interview told him that if "Lith. carb." was not the remedy, he did not know what was. Thereupon Dr. Denham "returned to his home, and not being able to find the desired potency of the *lithium* he procured the third trituration, and attempted himself to triturate to a higher degree. The medicine having been placed in a mortar with the requisite sugar of milk, he began the trituration. It was not long, however, before the exhalations from the triturating drug began to manifest themselves, and the patient succumbed to their influence, lying for some time in a semi-unconscious state. The recovery from this latter seeming complication was slow, but resulted in most complete recovery from his cardiac disease, without further medical aid, thus illustrating the wonderful efficacy of the truly homœopathic remedy, and the care requisite in its selection." If such fearful effects follow the "exhalation" from triturated infinitesimals of lithium, what will happen to the imbibers of Blake's lithia-water.—*The Doctor*.