

class, he will find it most convenient to adopt Liston's method.*

In the foregoing cases, the bones were easily divided by strong cutting pliers; and if the operator possess the requisite strength, he can in almost every instance, dispense with all other instruments for that purpose—for the section can be performed with comparatively such rapidity, that the sufferings of the patient are thereby much diminished, and the operation completed in much less time than by any other plan. The surgeon should furnish himself with pliers of different sizes; for the malar bone and the nasal process of the superior maxillary, can be cut through more conveniently with a small bone forceps than with that sold as "Liston's forceps."

POSTSCRIPT.—*December 27th, 1850.*
—Whilst correcting the press, I have received from Dr. S. McDonald an answer to my letter of inquiry. He states that the subject of my first case died on the 23rd of last October, one year and four months after the opera-

* In claiming the discovery of the above method, and dating its origin so far back as 1829, Mr. Syme seems to forget that in the last edition of his *System of Surgery*, published in February, 1842, exactly one year prior to the appearance of his second paper in *Cornack's Monthly Journal*, he himself recommended *exclusively* the two incisions. These are his directions for the first stage of the operation:—"In performing excision of the superior maxillary bone, *two incisions* should be made through the cheek, and extending from the inner angle of the eye directly downwards to the lip, the other beginning over the junction of the maxillary and malar bones and terminating at the angle of the mouth." p. 487. If Mr. Syme really considered his plan so great an improvement as he appears to do, in the papers published twelve months after the above sentence was sent before the profession, he must have acquired his experience of its merits in the interval between Feb. 1842 and Feb. 1843.

tion. A morbid growth commenced to form on the same side of the face in the month of July and rapidly increased, and gave rise to profuse discharges of pus, also to slight arterial hæmorrhages.

Montreal, Dec 26, 1850.

ART. XLIII.—*Electro-Biology Successfully applied to Surgery.* By Wm. MARSDEN, M.D., Quebec.

Having recently had frequent opportunities of witnessing the mysterious, incomprehensible, and inexplicable influences—and almost magical powers—of Electro-Biology; and having learned the mode of its application, I have for some time past been engaged in practising such experiments as I thought would enable me to make a *useful* application of its mighty and wonderful influences. Finding that it gave me most unlimited controul over the physical as well as mental power of my subject, the enquiry that forced itself naturally upon my mind was, *cui bono?*—and the equally prompt and natural reply was, every good;—since, if we can make a person under its impression deaf, or blind, or dumb, or lame, or sad, or merry, or drunk, or sober, or cold, or hot, or wet, or dry, or sore, or whole, or sick, or well, or in fact any thing we please, we may apply it to the operations of surgery; and keeping this object in view, I resolved on the first favourable opportunity to test its usefulness.

I will not digress at present to relate any of the many singular feats that have been performed under its influence, and with which most of your readers on this side of the Atlantic must be familiar; although I find it has taken no root on the other side of the water yet, not having found favour in the eyes of the British public; but will confine my remarks to one single case.—