

ize, and can dismiss with a few lines Prof. Gross' truly valuable work ; one of the most scientific treatises of the day, certainly establishes for itself a reputation of a very questionable character. We have only to look "on this picture, then on that," and the meanest intellect may draw the inference, that the latter work was immeasurably above Dr. Horace Nelson's acutest powers of analysis.

In conclusion, permit me to apologise for the space which I have occupied, which only the importance of the subject could justify, and to express the hope that the *Northern Lancet*, which evidently lives in a glass house, will throw no more stones.

Montreal, Jan. 14, 1856.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the foregoing was written, I have received the following letter from Dr. Brigham, of Philipsburg, which satisfactorily settles the number of operations of lithotomy performed by Dr. Robert Nelson:—

PHILIPSBURG, January 23, 1856.

MY DEAR HALL,—In reply to your question I have to observe that I knew personally Dr. Robert Nelson while he resided at St. Albans, Vt., in the year 1838, and that in my presence he informed Dr. Charles Hall, then a practitioner of that town, and now deceased, with whom I studied, that he had performed the operation for lithotomy thirty-nine times, of which thirty-four cases were successful.

Yours very truly,

J. S. BRIGHAM, M.D.

XXVII.—*On the application of Statistics to Questions of Medical Science.*
By W. MABSDEN, M.D., Governor of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, C.E., Fellow Med. Soc. Lond., Fel. Na. Bot. Soc. Lond., &c., &c., &c.

The *Edinburgh Medical Journal*, for November last, contains a clever article, entitled, "Notes on the application of Statistics to Questions in Medical Science, particularly as to the External Causes of Diseases." It is followed by a paper of no less value, in the December number, "On the communicability of Cholera, by Dejections," which supports the former article. They are both from the distinguished pen of W. P. Alison, M.D., Edin., D.C.L., Oxon, Emeritus Professor of the Practice of Medicine, Edinburgh. Both articles merit the attentive perusal, and most serious consideration, not only of the medical profession, but of the legislator also, on whom rests the *onus* of carrying out the suggestions