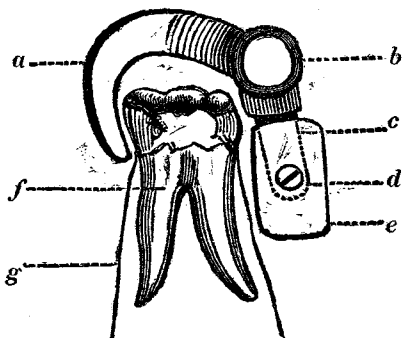


KEY FOR EXTRACTING THE TEETH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—Having made improvements on the the key-instrument for extracting teeth, I wish to place before your readers an explanation of its construction and advantages. It consists of an oblong bolster, lever, shaft, handle, and claws. The shaft and handle resemble those of the other keys.



This plate represents the end of the instrument when adjusted for extraction. *a*, the claw; *b*, the head of the claw-screw; *c*, dotted lines showing the direction of the lever within the bolster; *d*, the head of the plate, or bolster-screw; *e*, the bolster, with its smooth surface towards the tooth; *f*, the tooth; *g*, the alveolar process.

The smooth surface of the bolster is to be applied naked to the gum; the claw is then to be turned over, and placed on the opposite side of the neck of the tooth, using the same motion of the hand and wrist as is employed with the other keys for extraction.

The advantages are, that it occupies less room in the mouth than the other keys, being used without a pledget or pad of any description; and the gums are not injured by its action. Owing to the firm and steady pressure of the surface of the bolster against the gum, and the length and ascending motion of the lever, the tooth is lifted perpendicularly from its socket. It is generally applicable to all descriptions of teeth.

The qualities that I have attributed to it, are drawn from the results of many hundred experiments performed on various teeth. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

R. O. MILLETT.

Hayle, Cornwall, Nov. 23, 1837.

CRANIAL BLOOD-SWELLINGS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—In your Number for Nov. 25, there are some remarks of interest upon cranial swellings, by Mr. Wagstaffe; I cannot,

however, agree with that gentleman in believing they occur without being "the result of violence or parturition." Some years ago the subject considerably interested my friend Mr. Callaway and myself, and in three cases we distinctly traced each to have been the result of accidental blows after birth. The swellings which appear to occur spontaneously soon after the birth of a child, I have been disposed to think, arise from the rupture of some vessel whilst the bones are overlapping each other during the process of parturition. The treatment recommended by Mr. Wagstaffe I consider very desirable, and I certainly should look upon opening these tumours as injudicious; at the same time, if the removal of the blood is not urged by proper measures, the bone does undergo a change from pressure, and may be productive of mischief; a specimen illustrative of this fact I possess, and shall be happy to show it Mr. W., or any gentleman interested in the subject. I remain yours, &c.

W. T. ILIFF.

Newington, Dec. 20, 1837.

LITHOTRITY.

REPLY OF MR. JEAFFRESON TO MR. DENHAM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—In reply to the criticism of Mr. Wm. Hempson Denham, on my unsuccessful cases of lithotripsy, I beg to state, that when Mr. Costello dismissed his patient, Smith, from town, he gave him the most judicious and scientific directions to prevent relapse; and it is only from Mr. Denham's extensive experience that we learn that future lithic deposit can be certainly prevented. The only reason why lithotripsy was resorted to in this case was, that the patient would not submit to lithotomy.

Had Mr. Denham seen or examined Mr. Costello's urethral forceps, he would have had no difficulty in perceiving that the blades of that instrument might become so embedded in the substance of a fragment of a calculus, composed principally of phosphate of lime, as to prevent their expansion, and render futile any effort to disengage them.

To convince Mr. Denham that he might be mistaken in his prognostic of a fatal result in a case of lithotomy, accompanied by muco-purulent discharge from the bladder, I will mention that, many years since, Mr. King, of Saxmundham, lithotomised a patient who had so much of this discharge as to induce one of the surgeons of the Norwich Hospital to refuse to perform the operation, yet this person perfectly recovered. In these sad cases the decision must be left to the patient, whether he will submit to the only means which can give him a chance