Knowing how awkward soldiers are at sea, I thought it probable that the man might have hurt himself whilst getting into his hammock, though he had no recollection of having done so. I therefore took him into hospital and put him into a swing cot, where he could not possibly receive any injury; but I was surprised a few days after to find the arm of the opposite side discolored in exactly the same way. I then considered this appearance might arise from a generally debilitated and impoverished state of the system, and as you say in your case, from blood dyscrasia, so I put him on a nutritious diet, fresh meat and potatoes, with port wine, and gave him at the same time iron in small doses. Under this treatment the man improved much, and the discolorations gradually disappeared, though they returned three or four times during the voyage, but never to the same extent as at first.

I have given you these particulars merely to shew that these appearances are not confined to the insane, and also because I thought you might feel interested in the case.

I am, dear Sir, faithfully yours.

W. B. TAIT.

The Editor of the Asylum Journal.

ETHERISATION EMPLOYED TO DETECT SIMULATED INSANITY. In one of those admirable Medico-Legal Reports which enrich the pages of the *Annales Psychologiques*, M. Morel concludes, "I declare on my conscience that Caroline Dugont is insane. But desiring to establish this conviction by every possible means of arriving at certainty, I have submitted her to *etherisation*. It was desirable to ascertain whether the abnormal indifference, and the automatism of her acts would disappear under a temporary change of physiological conditions. That which occurred was as follows: When etherised, not so as to produce coma, but to the stage of irritation, Caroline became very gay. She told us that she had been promised in marriage to M. Quissel [a delusion]. She did not deny her theft, but said that she had always been foolish, and knew not what she was about. Her imagination momentarily excited, carried her into her favorite sphere of matrimonial ideas; she laughed, was joyful, and the expression of stupidity usual to her physiognomy disappeared. But when this state of excitement, which seemed a moment of remittence, had once passed, the patient relapsed into her ordinary state of half-stupor." October, 1854.

SPIRIT RAPPINGS: PHYSIOLOGICAL EXPLANATION OF THE SOUNDS.—Dr. Schiff, of Frankfort, has devoted much patience and labor to the investigation of the source from whence arises the sounds, which the credulous imbeciles of this enlightened age attribute to the unquiet ghosts of their defunct grandmamas. His investigations have been rewarded by the discovery that they are produced at will through the medium of the tendon of the *peroneus longus* muscle. Our readers will remember that this tendon passes through a groove behind the external ankle bone. Dr. Schiff discovered that, by a little practice, this tendon can be slipped out of this groove, and slipped in again, producing the noise in question. M. Dechambre, writing in the *Gazette Hebdomadaire*, states that, in his presence, Dr. Schiff beat a measure in this manner to the tune of the *Marseillaise*. It is through the medium of their own malleoli that deceptive females have been hammering at the ear of public folly; —these Medeas who came from the country of Barnum's woolly horse with avaricious intent upon the golden fleece of the English donkey.

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. DIAMOND, OF THE SURREY COUNTY ASYLUM.—The services rendered by Dr. Diamond to photography, and especially in its application to archæology, and the frank and liberal manner in which he has communicated his improvements to others practising the art, have incited a numerous and influential body of photographers and archæologists to mark their sense of obligation by presenting him with a testimonial. Already, a handsome amount has been subscribed; Thos. Mackinlay, Esq., of Soho Square, being Honorary Treasurer to the Committee.

Appointment.

DR. WILLIAM NIVEN, Assistant Medical Officer of the Essex County Lunatic Asylum, has been a successful candidate in the recent Examinations for Medical Appointments in the East India Company's Service. The thoroughly scientific and practical knowledge of insanity, which Dr. Niven has acquired in the Essex Asylum, will be of the utmost value to that portion of the Indian public with which he will be brought into contact. His late appointment is now vacant.

Society for Improving the Condition of the Insane.—In our last number, p. 159, we confounded this Society with another private Society, known as the *Alleged Lunatics' Friend Society*. We are informed that this is an error, and that the two Societies are distinct, and for distinct purposes.

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*** This instrument combines economy with simplicity, elegance of form, and excellence of workmanship.

All Communications for the forthcoming Number should be addressed to the Editor, DR. BUCKNILL, *Devon County Lunatic Asylum, near Exeter, before the 15th day of March next.*

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