

placed under the influence of an elevated temperature. To obviate these consequences I tried various experiments with antiseptic lotions, but all the benefit I observed from their use was simply a partial removal of the factor, the putrefactive process still continued, and this was indicated by the increased bulk of the silk, and that state of imperfect cohesion of its particles, commonly designated rottenness.

I have, therefore, abandoned altogether the use of silken ligatures, and have substituted in its place strong hempen thread, the best kind being that which is *unbleached*, because the chlorine, used to whiten the thread, destroys its texture, and renders it rotten. Need I add, that my preference for hempen thread as ligatures arises from the fact, that there is less decomposition in it, as a vegetable substance, than there is in silk, although the hempen ligature has also its disadvantages. Lately, however, I have procured some New Zealand hempen thread in balls,* it is stronger than a silver wire of half the same thickness, and being stained with some vegetable dye, resists the decomposition better than any substance I have ever tried.

If you deem this information worthy of a place in the pages of *THE LANCET*, you will do me the favour to insert it. I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

J. L. LEVISON.

9, Colmore-row, Birmingham,
Oct. 4, 1841.

REJOINDER OF MR. BODINGTON TO "A LOOKER-ON."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—There is but little in the last communication of "A LOOKER-ON" in *THE LANCET* which requires remark from me, or which appertains much to the subject we have had in dispute.

Your readers will perceive that if some of the "licensed houses" are objectionable upon the ground of receiving too many inmates under one "management," that *that* objection acquires increased force when applied to the county asylums, where the numbers received are still larger, and that the testimony of Dr. Hitch is conclusive on the subject of maintaining the "private establishments;" for what, if "they are not to be permitted to exist," according to the imperial edict of "A LOOKER-ON," is to be done with that peculiar class and order of patients which, Dr. Hitch affirms, the county asylums are not fit to receive? The "LOOKER-ON" should adhere to his "propositions" and his "edict" promulgated in the style of a Chinese Mandarin, and carry these through if he has the power, and not turn and show his tail

* The thread may be obtained at any of the wholesale druggists.

under pretence of breaking a lance with one who will not fight; the proprietors of the private asylums will not shrink from inquiry, but that inquiry must not be a one-sided one, but apply to all establishments equally, that a fair verdict may be obtained. In another respect, I am prone to believe the "LOOKER-ON" to be in reality a "Chinaman," a high Mandarin, inasmuch as he boasts that he has "tripped up my heels, and that I am bruised;" just in the spirit of "Yihsan," "imperial nephew and commissioner," who, in his report of the defence of Canton against the "British navy," declared to his celestial master, "that he had broke two of their guns, and smashed two great masts of the barbarians' ships;" yet his "bowels were torn asunder" when he "beheld with his own eyes" the lamentable state he had brought matters to, and the triumph of his enemies: but I go from this "wrestling and bruising" story of "A LOOKER-ON" to a much more grave charge he makes against me, which is, that I am "doing his work for him." No, no; I never have and never will debase myself by aiding or abetting any one in the foul and despicable "work" of slandering my fellow-men, under cover of an anonymous signature; and I utterly deny the truth of the statement of the "LOOKER-ON," that I have in the smallest degree aided him in the "work" he has been doing.

For this reason it was, and from my detestation of all cowardly conduct of that kind, that I have affixed my name to these "letters," being aware that I should be compelled to make statements respecting the management of some county asylums, for which I ought openly to stand accountable, in my defence of the "private establishments."

The last paragraph of the letter of the "LOOKER-ON," wherein he so manfully eats his own words, needs no further comments.

One word as to his postscript. The "LOOKER-ON" says, "Mr. Hitch is very severe upon him, and seems to hold him in *great contempt*:" and yet immediately afterwards adds, he *hopes yet to award to him the "civic crown."*

"Fair Sir, you spat on me on Saturday last; you spurned me such a day; another time you call'd me — dog; and for these courtesies I'll lend you thus much monies."

With many thanks to you, Mr. Editor, for your liberality, I beg to subscribe myself, yours truly,

G. BODINGTON.

Monday, October 11, 1841.

THE HULL ASYLUM.—THE MORAL TREATMENT OF INSANITY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A prospectus of an establishment called "The Hull and East Riding Refuge," having accidentally fallen into my hands, I