

TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS IN PREGNANT
WOMEN.

[LETTER FROM LANGSTON PARKER, ESQ.]

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Some difference of opinion exists amongst surgeons with regard to the effect of treatment upon pregnant women labouring under constitutional syphilis. Will you allow me to state, through the medium of THE LANCET, the conclusions I have been led to form, after a long and extensive experience, on this subject. If a woman has been diseased previous to her pregnancy, and at the time of conception has a well-marked constitutional syphilitic taint; or, if healthy at the time of conceiving, she contract primary sore, and become constitutionally diseased early in her pregnancy; there may be a hope of cure, during pregnancy, with a prospect of preserving the child, if an appropriate treatment be adopted. But, if the woman have been perfectly healthy previous to her conceiving, and the ovum be diseased by the semen of a tainted father, and the mother become subsequently affected through the medium of the fœtus in utero, there is little hope of cure till after delivery. It will be perceived that the etiology of the disease, as far as the mother is concerned, is essentially different in these two classes of cases. The safest treatment to be followed is a combination of mercurial frictions with the mercurial vapour bath.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Birmingham, Jan. 1858.

LANGSTON PARKER, F. R. C. S.