WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF CIRCUMCISION?

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A very interesting question suggests itself in reference to this subject. Has the operation of circumcision any effect in diminishing the habit or practice of onanism amongst the male children and the young lads of the Jewish community? Practising in a neighbourhood where this community abounds, I do not remember ever having had either a confessed or even a suspected case of this description amongst our Hebrew brethren. I wish I could say the same respecting juvenile Christians. The much less liability the male Jews must have to "a deposit of sebaceous secretion under the prepuce and around the corona glandis" removes, of course, one cause of this evil. What is Mr. Johnson's experience on this point? What is the experience on this point of those medical gentlemen who practise to a great extent amongst the Hebrew class of society?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ROBERT FOWLER, M.D. Edin.

Bishopsgate-street Without, April, 1860.

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