

communication unaccompanied by the visiting-card of the author. However, as the reproach has been made, I would wish now to throw off the modest veil of anonymity and reveal the fact that I am answerable for that letter, at the same time thanking Mr. Godlee for the compliment implied in the word "inspiration." I may also state that that letter was not "irresponsible," for before being sent to the editors it was read to and approved by the sub-committee of the Association of the Members of the Royal College of Surgeons appointed to make arrangements for the meeting on the 29th. It was then considered that a more concise note would stand a greater chance of insertion at such short notice, and such a one was accordingly directed to be sent, the sub-committee at the same time advising me to transmit to the papers my original draft, signing it "A Member," as I considered it scarcely decorous to append my own signature to a separate manifesto. I have now learnt that modesty may be mistaken for cowardice; it will be a lesson for my future guidance. I would only now thank you for the impartial hearing you have always given to both sides on this great question of reform.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Western Dispensary, Westminster. WM. ASHTON ELLIS.

### THE WEST KENSINGTON MEDICAL AID INSTITUTE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In last week's LANCET you published a report, sent by a correspondent, of a meeting of the West London Medico-Chirurgical Society, at which the West London Medical Aid Institute was discussed. I am sure, with your well-known principle *audi alteram partem*, you will permit me to call your attention to an essential point which your correspondent so carefully avoids, that it almost amounts to intentional misrepresentation. I was present at the meeting and heard the President read over the rules. I also heard him state that "a council meeting had been held, and it had been decided that the West London Medical Aid Institute did not come under any rule of the Society." Not content with this important omission of what took place, your correspondent misquotes the rule referring to the subject in a way that is altogether inexcusable. He makes it read thus—"No practitioner is eligible for membership who conducts a dispensary for the purposes of private profit." It should read—"No practitioner is eligible for membership who conducts a *private* dispensary for purposes of personal profit." The transposition of the word "*private*" makes all the difference. The West London Medical Aid Institute is in no sense a private dispensary; it is governed by a committee in which the lay element predominates.

I think, Sir, you will acknowledge that the facts were not fairly laid before your readers by your correspondent, and, in common fairness to those connected with the institute, I trust you will see your way to giving this correction equal prominence with last week's one-sided account.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Talgarth-road, AUGUSTUS W. ADDINSELL, M.B.  
West Kensington, Nov. 17th, 1885.

\* \* We have received a letter also from Mr. Philip Birch, alling attention to the alleged misquotation of the rule referred to.—ED. L.

### THE HEART DISEASE OF CHOREA AND RHEUMATISM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In a letter which appeared in THE LANCET of Nov. 14th, my friend and colleague, Dr. Sturges, complains that, in my lectures on Heart Disease in Children, recently published in your journal, I quoted from his early lectures on Chorea, without reference to his later and more matured work on the same subject. I think the complaint is a very fair and natural one, and I hasten to express my sincere regret for the oversight. He will, I am sure, believe me when I say that the omission did not arise from any want of appreciation of the great value of his more recent researches, or from any disposition to ignore them, but from simple inadvertence, under the pressure of preparing my lectures for delivery at very short notice.

I do not propose to enter into controversy, or to occupy

your space with an examination of the statistics which Dr. Sturges has put forward. They relate to the general question of the connexion between chorea and rheumatism—a question not entered into in my lectures, except so far as the one point of choreic heart-disease involves it. I have taken organic disease of the heart as the starting-point of my inquiry, and in pursuit of it approached the question of the connexion of such heart-disease with chorea from a new direction. The eighty-four cases of chorea which I gave were adduced for the purpose of illustrating the incidence of heart disease in so-called rheumatic and non-rheumatic chorea respectively. These statistics and others which I have given represent correctly the results of my detailed and careful personal investigation. I would ask that they may be judged on their own merits, and not by comparison with others, which, as I have endeavoured to point out in my lectures, rest, in many instances at least, on a narrower basis of clinical evidence and inquiry.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
November, 1885. W. B. CHEADLE.

### EDINBURGH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

#### PATHOLOGISTSHIPS AT THE ROYAL INFIRMARY.

It was recently decided by the managers of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary that the post of pathologist, which has been rendered vacant by Dr. Byrom Bramwell's appointment as assistant-physician, shall in future be held by two occupants. Drs. G. Sims Woodhead and Alexander Bruce have been appointed to the joint office, appointments that will appear highly satisfactory to all interested in the welfare of the Edinburgh Medical School. The managers have done wisely in recognising and providing for the necessity for a permanent increase in the staff of the pathological department, from the fact that the work of that department has largely increased of late years, and is likely to do so still further with the increased hospital accommodation now to be provided. In the future it is possible that there may be, from time to time, difficulties in arranging the exact method of conducting the department under a dual control, but these minutiae are of little importance compared with the outstanding fact that a very large amount of pathological material will be at command; and there is every reason to expect that this material will be very thoroughly elaborated in the hands of the accomplished pathologists who now, or may subsequently, fill the post, and that the gain to the teaching of pathology generally will be a great one.

#### HOSPITAL SUNDAY IN EDINBURGH.

The general annual collection in aid of the funds of the Royal Infirmary has been announced to take place at all the places of worship in Edinburgh on Sunday, the 22nd inst. In their printed appeal to the contributors, the managers direct special attention to the fact that during the last year a ward containing thirty beds has been opened for the reception of patients, and that in the course of a few weeks accommodation for twenty-four more patients will be provided. They also refer to the increased number of beds which the erection of the observation hospital will place at their command; and they trust that the public will so adequately support them that they will be enabled to meet the increasing demands which are constantly being made upon the resources of the institution. During the past year 7854 in-patients were treated at the infirmary, whilst 25000 have attended the out-patient departments, and have received all necessary dressings and appliances at the cost of the infirmary.

#### A LARGE ANATOMICAL SUBJECT.

A fine specimen of the bottle-nosed whale, between twenty and thirty feet in length, which was stranded on the east coast near Dunbar, has been acquired by Professor Turner, and is now undergoing dissection in the southern quadrangle at the University Medical Buildings. Its presence has excited a good deal of interest, and several demonstrations have been given of its anatomical configuration. When the dissection is completed, it is intended that the skeleton shall be added to the extensive collection of accurately articulated cetacean skeleta which Professor Turner has accumulated within the walls of the University Anatomical Museum.

Edinburgh, Nov. 16th.