

to hope that these arrangements will meet the needs of post-graduates in London.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

L. A. BIDWELL, Dean.

West London Hospital, W., June 6th, 1898.

"TWICKENHAM AS A HEALTH RESORT."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The attention of the council has been drawn to the article which appeared in THE LANCET of May 21st under the above heading, and in justice to a district which has for so long a time maintained its good reputation as regards its sanitary condition and which is verified by an extremely low zymotic death-rate and also a very low general death-rate (average of 13 per 1000 for the past ten years) we desire on behalf of the council to say that the complaint of your correspondent was to a small extent justifiable, but the hole in which the house refuse was thrown was at least 12 ft. deep, and the refuse has been gradually covered with good earth to a depth of several feet. No houses could have been built over this site, it being at the bottom of the garden. The council firmly believe that no possible nuisance can arise in the future from the deposit of the refuse referred to. The statement that houses have already been built upon sites upon which house refuse has been deposited is absolutely untrue.

We can assure you and the public at large that the council are quite as anxious for the continued good health of the district as your correspondent.

We are, Sirs, your obedient servants,

MARTINDALE C. WARD, M.D., J.P., Chairman.

W. MARSTON CLARK, D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

H. JASON SAUNDERS, Clerk.

Twickenham Urban District Council, June 1st, 1898.

* * We are satisfied as to the substantial accuracy of the statement upon which our annotation was founded, and think that the Twickenham Urban District Council will do well to ensure their dust contractor's obedience to the orders of their medical officer. Otherwise, however anxious they may be for "the continued good health of the district" they will find Twickenham involved in serious sanitary troubles.—
ED. L.

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF EPILEPTICS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The rapid development of the colony established by the National Society for the Employment of Epileptics at Chalfont St. Peters has led to the existence of a widespread impression that the society is in a state of extreme prosperity, and this impression, though unfortunately erroneous, has been found most prejudicial to the movement. I am therefore desired by H.R.H. the Duke of York, the President of the society, to make known its claims to sympathy and support, its present position, and its immediate needs, which are very pressing and urgent.

Epileptics, though capable of work, are prevented by the nature of their disease from retaining employment under ordinary conditions. The object of the colony is to provide them with a home amidst healthy surroundings with suitable medical treatment, and above all with opportunities for the exercise of their industry. In a Report on the Care of Epileptics published by the Charity Organisation Society, in which the establishment of epileptic colonies is warmly advocated, it is estimated that there are in this country about 5000 persons in urgent need of such provisions as the Chalfont colony affords. But even when the additional homes now being built there are completed and opened the number of "colonists" actually provided for will be somewhat less than 200. It is evident, therefore, that the colony is, comparatively speaking, still in its infancy and that much help and effort will be needed before its ultimate growth will be attained. In the meantime, however, the necessity for increasing the accommodation has so weighed upon the minds of our principal supporters that they have from the first given their contributions specifically and inexorably for the building of new homes, every one of which has, however, necessarily involved considerable outlay over and above the cost of

building. The result is that the furnishing of homes and other capital expenditure have thrown so severe a strain upon the general funds of the society that these are now quite exhausted, and works essential to the safety of the colony cannot be carried out. One home recently completed is standing empty for lack of furniture; other homes now being built will shortly be in the same position. Water is still being procured and the sewage of the colony disposed of by primitive methods quite unsuited to the increasing population. A water and a sewage scheme have been prepared and will be executed as soon as funds are forthcoming. Another urgent requirement, in order to ensure economy of management, is an administrative building with central kitchens and other offices for the whole of the colony. For these purposes about £7000 are required. This sum represents an immediate need, the importance of which is great in proportion to the amount, for it is a necessary complement to the very noble work already accomplished.

Of all the more serious forms of natural affliction epilepsy is probably the most prevalent; in the country and in the towns it is equally rife, and it spares no class of the community. It would seem therefore that it should appeal to almost universal sympathy; yet hitherto the supporters of the National Society have been distinguished rather by their individual generosity than by their numerical importance. For its permanent stability it is much to be desired that the society should stand as it were upon a broader basis, and members of all classes are therefore, according to their respective means and opportunities, cordially invited to participate in and support this very humane and necessary work.

Contributions will be most gratefully received and acknowledged by the Secretary, Mr. G. Penn Gaskell, at the society's offices, 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C., or by the bankers, Messrs. Hoare & Co., 37, Fleet-street, E.C. Cheques and P.O.O. should be made payable to the hon. treasurer, Mr. H. N. Hamilton Hoare.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

E. MONTEFIORE MICHOLLS,

Chairman of the Executive Committee.

June 3rd, 1898.

INTRATRACHEAL INJECTIONS IN PHTHISIS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—With reference to the misgivings expressed incidentally on p. 84 of my article on "Bronchiectasis" in Clifford Allbutt's "System of Medicine," vol. v., as to the value of this form of treatment in phthisis, Mr. Colin Campbell writes to remind me that in his paper in vol. lxxviii. of the Transactions of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society on the Treatment of Respiratory Affections by means of Large Medicinal Injections through the Larynx he sets forth the advantages of distilled glycerine instead of oil as a vehicle and relates a series of uniformly favourable cases. Inasmuch as a wider knowledge of his improvement in the method would modify any adverse impression which might be conveyed by my article I venture to beg your kind insertion of this letter.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Curzon-street, W., June 3rd, 1898.

WM. EWART.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Through my inadvertence the words "10 per cent." appear on page 1536 of THE LANCET, June 4th, 1898, lines 7 and 40. In each case the words should be 1 per cent.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Wimpole-street, W., June 7th, 1898.

WILLIAM E. BURTON.

THE ALLEGED DEARTH OF QUALIFIED ASSISTANTS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It has been stated that any principal in a provincial town except Leeds can receive thirty or forty replies to advertisement from all sorts and conditions of men. Let me inform you that such is not the case in the Midlands. I have advertised for the last eight months and placed my