

## Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

## THE MEDICAL DECLARATION RESPECTING ALCOHOL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Dr. Moxon and some others take exception to the declaration respecting alcohol as not being logical, since it would seem to them to imply an attack by certain members of the profession upon others for rashness in the administration of stimulants and, at the same time, a condemnation of themselves. The memorial may perhaps bear the dissection which Dr. Moxon has practised upon it, but, taken as a whole, its meaning to me, when I signed it, was obvious. I took it most certainly as a confession on the part of our profession that we, as a body, had been too heedless in recommending stimulants to persons who are only too ready to accept our advice, but, of course, in signing it we did not all feel sinners alike. Some, no doubt, felt pangs of conscience, and promised themselves to be more careful for the future, whilst the less humble, although confessing for the whole body, really signed for their neighbours. I do not see anything illogical in this. The origin of the movement is simple. It is clearly owing to the fact that the subject of intemperance and all the immoralities and diseases arising therefrom has become one of the questions of the day. The Legislature has thought it worthy of consideration, and the daily journals bring it ever before our notice. Under these circumstances we, as a profession, seeing the evils of intemperance and knowing the influence we exert upon the community, make a kind of confession that we have been too remiss in forgetting our duties in matters so serious, and for the future we intend to be more careful with our advice. There will of course be persons who demur and deny that medical men could possibly, by inadvertence, be instrumental in promoting any kind of vice; but in the mean time a large majority of the profession is alive to its responsibilities, and issues the declaration, whose meaning to me is obvious, as I hope its fruits will also be.

I might state, as my own opinion, that if we are open to censure, our failing is rather on the negative side in not sufficiently endeavouring to correct the habits of those whose own propensities have brought their evil habit upon them.

I am, Sir, yours, &amp;c.,

Grosvenor-street, Jan. 6th, 1872.

SAMUEL WILKS.

## THE CHOLERA IN RUSSIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Perhaps you may deem the enclosed cholera data worth stereotyping in your columns. Together with the valuable and extensive reports of the epidemic already given in 1871 in your journal, these Russian data will contribute to the *zonal study of disease*—a branch of epidemiology which, though hitherto too much overlooked, may, it is reasonably thought, during the present prevailing cycle of great epidemics, yield rich and good returns.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Royal Institution, Jan. 8th, 1872.

WILLIAM D. MICHELL.

*Cholera in Northern Latitudes in 1871.*

*Archangel*, N. Lat. 64° 32' 1".—Showed itself in its epidemic form in the beginning of July, spreading widely and fatally through the province.

At *Onega*, Nov. 1st, 1871.—Reported to be at this date diminishing, after sweeping away whole households; but in some contiguous districts to this still prevailing.

*Siberia.*

*Tomsk Government*.—A letter from Achinsk, dated Oct. 19th–31st, 1871, states that it has extensively prevailed through the towns and villages of this district, being generally conveyed by transports of convicts by steamers on the Obi river. It is further reported that, whereas in former

years it only penetrated as far as the Government of Tobolsk, in this year (1871) it has extended as far east as the Government of Tomsk, Western Siberia.

*Yenesei Government* (adjoining Government of Tomsk).—In a letter from Yeniseisk (town), dated Nov. 8th–20th, 1871, it is said "that the cholera epidemic appeared in Western Siberia late in the season, and, owing to the cool state of the temperature, it did not carry off many of the people."

## DAMPNESS AT GLOUCESTER HOUSE, PICCADILLY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Several questions having been put to me upon the preceding subject, it may be stated, as a matter of fact, that I reported to the Nuisances Removal Committee of St. George's, Hanover-square, on September 21st, and again on October 19th, 1869, that land-springs were detected in the basement, and a pipe drain was substituted for a brick one, with a receiver for the springs. No further complaint has reached me officially since that period.

Your obedient servant,

C. J. B. ALDIS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health, St. George's, Hanover-square.  
Chester-square, Jan. 10th, 1872.

## "ISCHÆMIA PAPILLÆ."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the very kind notice of my book on "Medical Ophthalmoscopy," your reviewer objects to my using the term "ischæmia papillæ" as an equivalent for "Stauungs-papilla," on the ground of its previous application to another condition. I would say that I may have been the first to apply the term in one of my early papers, and I would add that Alfred Graefe's case was one of ischæmia retinæ; still I grant the force of the objection, and had felt it some time before the publication of my book. In a future edition I shall withdraw the term, and I now write in support of your reviewer's proposition that my English equivalent "choked disc" should be our accepted term for this condition.

I am, Sir, yours, &amp;c.,

Leeds, Jan. 9th, 1872.

T. CLIFFORD ALBUTT.

## MEDICAL EVIDENCE AT CORONERS' INQUESTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Mr. Edwin Bush and Dr. Wybrants attended the Sessions at Taunton on Monday, the 1st inst. All the charges were dismissed by the Court, without calling upon the coroner for any defence. I trust for the future that Mr. Bush will be a wiser and happier man.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE C. KNIGHT, Surgeon, &amp;c.

Rookham House, Frome, January 8th, 1872.

## LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE very great diminution in the mortality of this town during the winter months is a very gratifying change. In one week there have been 140 fewer deaths than in the corresponding week of last year. This is a vast improvement, particularly when it is remembered that there was no epidemic this time twelvemonths to account for the then high mortality. The large proportion of deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs continues very noticeable.

The appointment of a public analyst still trembles in the balance. It was agreed to by the Health Committee; it was negatived by the Town Council; and now it is again before the Health Committee. At their last meeting, Dr. Trench, who is strongly in favour of the appointment, made the startling statement that certain wells from which the town was supplied had been at various times shut up on account of the impurity of the water they supplied, and he