

friends were very anxious that an operation should be performed. Lumbar colotomy was proposed. The chloroform used in this case was Duncan and Flockhart's. Patient had been inhaling the chloroform for ten minutes, when his breathing suddenly became very shallow and pulse hardly perceptible. The administration of the anæsthetic was at once stopped and artificial respiration commenced, ether injected hypodermically, the head was lowered, legs lifted up and nitrite of amyl in capsules held before the nose. All, however, proved of no avail, though artificial respiration was kept up for half an hour. We have had very few deaths under anæsthetics in this infirmary. In a case previous to the above mentioned, which happened two years ago, the anæsthetic employed was ether and the operation was also for carcinoma of rectum. In neither case had the operation been commenced.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

H. R. BELLAMY, L.R.C.S. & L.R.C.P. Edin.
Senior House Surgeon to the Infirmary.

Stockport, Oct. 25th, 1892.

N.B.—The amount of chloroform used was only one drachm and a half.

EXPERIMENTS ON ANIMALS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—General practitioners will agree with Dr. Tyson in his appeal for facts in support of vivisection. What we need is something definite to put before our patients to justify the position taken by the medical profession on the subject. The public is in search of the truth, and when we know that amongst the public are such men as Lord Coleridge and the late Serjeant Ballantine trained in the analysis of evidence, it is the worst possible policy on our part to treat them as a pack of hysterical women. We must remember they have the whole literature of the subject before them, and that it is useless to say the painful experiments are few and the pain trifling. When the public see the rivalry between distinguished professors and the undisguised pleasure it gives one to show how that all the experiments conducted by a brother experimenter are futile, they look upon the talk about a deep love for humanity on the part of the scientist as cant. The scientist is human, like the rest of us; research is his work, and the discovery of a new law is more to him than the possible applicability of the law and the needs of the human race. The science of the physiology of the animal kingdom must, like that of astronomy or any other branch of knowledge, stand upon its own merits; and it is to be regretted that it has ever been thought necessary to call in the immediate applicability of its results and the practice of medicine to justify its pursuit. Let us be candid with the public, and we shall be on more secure ground. We cannot expect men like Browning, Manning, Ruskin and their successors to be put off with anything short of the truth.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Fulham, Oct. 25th, 1892. WM. F. CLARKE, M.D. Lond., B.S.

MANCHESTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Small-pox.

THE recently published returns show that small-pox cases still continue to crop up in and around Manchester, the principal foci of the disease being Warrington and certain of the smaller Yorkshire towns which are uncomfortably near Manchester. At their last meeting the clerk to the Chorlton guardians reported the occurrence of two cases of small-pox in that union, a circumstance which naturally produced considerable uneasiness at the board, for the union seems to have been exceptionally free from this disease for a lengthened period. The guardians, however, had previously taken steps to encourage vaccination and revaccination in their district, and as the cases reported were promptly removed to the small-pox hospital it is hoped that the further spread of the disease will be prevented. If we may judge from the printed reports to be submitted to the Council at their meeting to-day, there seems to be an unfortunate hitch in completing the hospital accommodation for small-pox at Monsall. It appears that the two temporary sheds which were erected some few weeks since for the segregation of any cases of cholera that might possibly find their way hither from the Continent are

to be utilised for the treatment of small-pox. The medical officer of health, however, will not sanction the use of these sheds for that purpose until they are surrounded by a high wall and provided with separate administrative buildings, so as to render the small-pox hospital absolutely independent of the fever wards and to secure its complete isolation from them.

The Chair of Surgery.

It is rumoured that Professor Hare is about to resign the chair of Surgery at Owens College, unhappily on the ground of ill-health. Mr. Hare has only held the professorship for about three years, but during that period he has devoted himself assiduously to the teaching of surgery, and he certainly has won the esteem and goodwill of the great body of the students who have been members of his class. His departure from Manchester will be much regretted by a wide and increasing circle of friends, both medical and lay, amongst whom his courteous bearing and unassuming conduct have made him a general favourite.

The Manchester Crematorium.

On Friday last a special meeting of the advocates and supporters of cremation was held in the grounds of the Manchester Crematorium, the Duke of Westminster being present as chairman. The attendance was considerable, and there is no doubt that public opinion in these parts is being gradually influenced in favour of cremation as a means of disposing of the dead. The speeches delivered at the meeting of last week were in good taste, and will probably do much to dissipate the not unnatural prejudice against cremation which still lingers in the minds of many of our most thoughtful and public-spirited citizens.

The Municipal Elections.

As the 9th of November draws nearer the usual preparations become apparent for the coming contest for vacant seats in our local parliament. Ours is the largest municipal council in the kingdom outside the metropolis, and consists, since the enlargement of the city by the Act of last year, of 104 members. As is usual at election times, there is a general protestation amongst the combatants that imperial politics are to have no weight in the selection of candidates for the several vacancies; and, equally as a matter of course, every candidate whose address has hitherto been published is well known to be the nominee of one political party or another. The so-called "labour candidates" who were sent into the Council some time since with a considerable flourish of trumpets do not seem to have turned out an unqualified success, and there are indications in some of the addresses recently issued that some other expedient is about to be tried for securing the due representation of the working classes on our municipal Council. Since the recent enlargement of the Council a considerably larger proportion of medical representatives has been returned than at any previous period on record. The Council now contains five members of the medical profession; and, as these gentlemen are in every case members of the sanitary committee, it is to be hoped that their influence on the operations of that committee will be in all respects salutary. A complete list of candidates for this year's vacancies has not as yet been published; but in a city where so very much still remains to be achieved before its sanitary condition can be regarded with anything approaching complacency it is much to be desired that the number of medical members of the city Council should be still further augmented. It must be kept constantly and prominently before our representatives in the Council that the death-rate of Manchester is still exceedingly high; and I hope that, whatever may be the result of the forthcoming elections as regards the balance of political parties in the Council, every member of that body will remember that the public is getting impatient at the continuation from year to year of the present needless sacrifice of human life.

Nottingham Medico-Chirurgical Society.

The inaugural meeting of the ensuing winter session was held on Friday, Oct. 21st, at 8.15 P.M., Mr. R. C. Chicken, F.R.C.S., President, in the chair. Dr. P. H. Pye-Smith, F.R.S., of Guy's Hospital, delivered an address on the Prognosis of Certain Diseases. The influences of age and sex on prognosis were considered in connexion with a large number of diseases. Chronic constitutional states often had an unfavourable influence on acute disease, this being marked in the case of chronic Bright's disease and diabetes. The importance of the gouty diathesis was, however, apt to be overrated. In conclusion the lecturer carefully examined