

August, September, and October are warmer but very pleasant months. But whatever the month be, the nights are cool after the hottest day, and permit of sleep. Winter nights are cold enough to make one enjoy a fire, and a big one too. We are 5000 feet above the sea. Both this district and Kimberley abound with people who tell us that they came out for "their lungs," although to look at them you would seldom guess it. They tell pitiable tales of their sufferings at home, and the helpless state in which they arrived here. They tell us that they have been so many years in the country, and that they have quite recovered. I know bankers, merchants, diggers, policemen, and all sorts and conditions of men, now well in health and doing more or less well in their businesses, who came out consumptive. I have often thought of writing to you to try and point out the advantages this part of South Africa offers to consumptives. Up to the present time, however, the difficulty of getting here was great. It was expensive, tedious, and trying to a sick person. Now this is altered. After a passage in a magnificent mail boat to Capetown, the invalid can get into a Pullman car and travel 600 miles into a splendid station in Kimberley in thirty-six hours. A coach and four will bring him down to Barkly in three hours, along a good road, if he wishes. Very different thing to the days when poor Harry Leach wrote of travelling in these parts, in an old wine-case on wheels, called a post-cart. I think the shaking he got during his hasty travels in these parts did much to shorten his days. When I came up from Capetown to Kimberley in 1878 it took me twenty-one days in a mule waggon, and a very rough time it was, in a broiling sun, through the hot sand of the desert Karroo. Now the mail trains from Capetown and Port Elizabeth rush daily into Kimberley. In 1878 the people of Kimberley lived in tin and canvas houses or huts, horribly hot and uncomfortable. Vegetables, fruit, butter, &c., were luxuries we seldom came across. I have known the humble cabbages sell for 10s. 6d. a-piece on the market, other vegetables in proportion. The late Anthony Trollope, who visited Kimberley in 1878, shook the dust from his feet and departed a sadder if a wiser man. He gave a sad description of us in his next published work. Now all things are altered. A waterworks company pumps an unlimited supply of water from the Vaal River for the use of the Kimberley people; trees and gardens are springing up all round; unlimited fruit and vegetables are brought up daily by train; people have built large and commodious houses; the town is lit by electric light; we boast of a club that costs the members some £25,000—by far the best club in the colony. In short, Kimberley is not such a bad place to live in now, but it is not exactly a good place for an invalid with "lungs"; there is still too much dust from the mines to suit irritable respiratory organs. Barkly, on the other hand, is free from dust; it is within easy distance (twenty-five miles) of the railway station, and is blessed with a fine river, which affords a means of much recreation. Further, it is very healthy in a fever and zymotic disease point of view. My business therein is "nil." Children only trouble me when they come into the world, when they cut their teeth, and when they do little things they ought not to do and suffer the consequences, riding papa's untamed steed, and getting "bucked off" with broken bones for example, or teasing the patient, and getting a dig in the ribs for their pains, &c. In Kimberley, on the other hand, the sanitary arrangements used to be shocking, consequently there was much fever. There was no railway to the sea then. Many of the fever people came down here; now most of the patients go to the sea-coast to "pick up." I live in a by no means uncomfortable house: it is a Government building, built of stone. Cool in summer and warm in winter, with good large lofty rooms, it stands about fifty yards from the river and about a quarter of a mile out of the village of West Barkly. There are eight or ten acres of unoccupied ground all round the place. I keep a sort of cross between a hospital and a convalescent home in it, that is, I have to take in acute cases, accidents, &c., from among the white population of the district, while at the same time I take in as many convalescents as possible. Last year we took in sixty-nine during the year. The Government give a grant towards maintaining two free patients; the rest are paying patients, who pay 12s. 6d. per diem, exclusive of wines and extras. If the patient is not in a hopeless state when he arrives here, he could almost be guaranteed a cure by simple residence, without drugs or oil or confinement; simply by fresh dry air night and day. A patient should stay here at least twelve

months, longer if possible. It took me two years to quite get rid of my cough and every vestige of expectoration, but twelve months made me quite a different man. A male patient from twelve to fourteen years of age upwards would have the best chance of getting rapidly well here. I am sure riding and driving are of invaluable assistance in aiding the damaged lungs to recover. We get an English mail and papers every week, and can obtain any amount of books from the Kimberley Public Library. There is shooting for those who can shoot. There is good coursing after buck and hare. I get good fun coursing during the winter. With regard to children, if strong enough it could be arranged for them to go on with their education for a few hours every day. There is an English church and rector (wife and family) here; a civil commissioner and magistrate, and a number of officials. Ladies from England would probably find it rather dull, as there would not be the same facilities for occupying their spare time as there are for men. The ladies here are, however, pretty active at lawn tennis, and manage generally to amuse themselves without much complaint. Patients, as a rule, have not been sent far enough up country by doctors at home. Our old family doctor in England, hearing that I was still alive, some years ago sent four patients out in consumption. They all stayed within 200 miles of the coast, where the climate is given to much rain, and consequently the air is moist, hot, and enervating; they all died. If they had come to this almost rainless part of the world I believe they might all have got better. Saloon fare to Capetown, £35; railway fare to Kimberley, first-class, £6 6s. I am afraid I have bored you with this disjointed letter. I commenced it in November last, and came across it again to-day, Jan. 10th, 1886. I will only point out in a condensed form what is hardly yet known to physicians in London—viz.: 1. That consumptive patients can now travel up to the driest part of the Cape Colony in the most comfortable manner. 2. That, having arrived there, they can obtain fairly comfortable and well-appointed quarters to reside in.—Believe me, ever yours sincerely,

Dr. John Curnow, London.

W. R. HARRY, M.R.C.S.

THE TREATMENT OF PERTUSSIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—At the time of writing my letter about the treatment of whooping-cough, I was not aware that carbolic acid had ever been given internally for that complaint, although I was cognisant of the fact that it had been frequently used as a remedy by inhalation; but this method, although of some use, I had never considered capable of neutralising or destroying the exciting cause of the disease, which, in my opinion, does not originate and multiply in the respiratory tract, in spite of the symptoms being mainly manifested there, but at some point in the *primæ viæ*. That this is a fact is fully proved by the result of the treatment adopted. I can account for not having seen Mr. Harries' communication of July 13th, 1878, as at that time I was travelling in the Pacific Ocean (quite a misnomer, by the bye), and my opportunities of perusing THE LANCET, I regret to say, were few and far between. I would like to add that the more I see of the effects of different kinds of treatment in disease, the greater I am impressed with the importance of prescribing antiseptics, especially in the zymotic varieties; for instance, without laying any claim to originality, I always prescribe eucalyptus globulus in rôtheln, chlorine in scarlatina and diphtheria, and carbolic acid in typhoid, with the most satisfactory results. I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Bournemouth, Jan. 23rd, 1886.

F. W. CORY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the year 1883 I wrote an essay, as a competitor for the Fothergillian Gold Medal of the Medical Society of London, on the Pathology and Treatment of Whooping-cough, in which I gave the results of my investigations and study of this disease, which I had been pursuing for two years previously. They were, briefly, that it is a specific disease, affecting the blood, but having the bronchial mucous membrane as its chief seat, the specific organism developing there, and infecting the blood from thence. In this view I was supported by Mr. T. Dolan. In

the paper so prepared by me I held that the only rational treatment could be local antiseptics, and recommended the use of vaporised carbolic acid. I gave in illustration some picked cases, taken from a list of more than one hundred, which had been successfully treated by this means. I do not wish to claim any priority, but simply to state facts, as above.

Crawshawbooth, Manchester.

Yours, &c.,

J. L. KERR, M.B., C.M.

ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I enclose a copy of a circular and petition which we are issuing to the Members of the College. May we hope for its insertion in your journal? With many thanks for the valuable aid you have hitherto given us,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WM. ASHTON ELLIS, Hon. Sec.

Western Dispensary, Westminster, Feb. 5th, 1886.

The following is the petition referred to:—

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

The humble petition of the Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England sheweth: That whereas a petition has been prepared for presentation by the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, praying for a supplemental Charter, or alterations in the existing Charters previously granted to the said Royal College, your humble petitioners approach your Most Gracious Majesty respectfully to point out that by the present Charters the Members of the said College (who are in proportion to the Fellows as 14 to 1) have no status of any kind in connexion with the governing body.

Your petitioners most humbly submit that it would be both equitable and politic that the Members should have a voice in the conduct of a corporation of which they are, and always have been, numerically and financially the mainstay. At present the Council, elected by the twelve hundred Fellows only, deals absolutely with the interests, property, and moneys of the College, whilst sixteen thousand Members are wholly unrepresented.

Your petitioners do, therefore, most earnestly pray that before granting any Charter or supplemental Charter to the said Royal College, the present position of your petitioners may receive your Majesty's gracious consideration for such provisions as will create and secure for the Members (who so largely contribute to the prestige and welfare of the said College) the right of representation and other privileges which should belong to the members of a corporate body; further that an inquiry may be instituted into the constitution of the Council, the management of the College, the conduct of examinations, and the expenditure of the College funds.

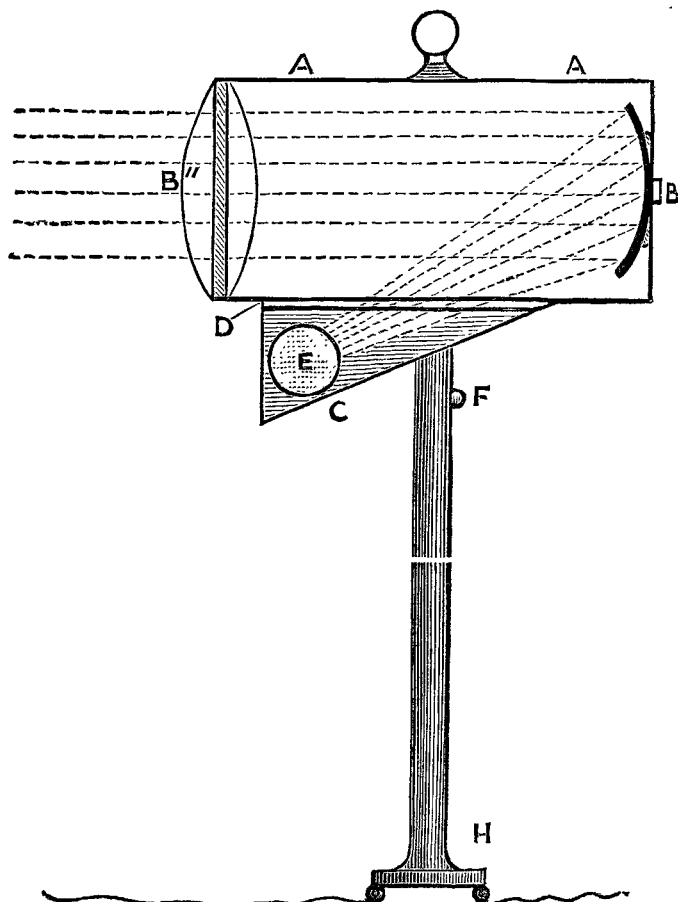
Finally, your petitioners very humbly pray that in the event of no petition for a supplementary Charter or otherwise being presented by the Council of your Royal College, your Majesty may be graciously pleased, in your wisdom, equity, and discretion, to sanction and provide for certain alterations being made in the present existing Charter so that it may contain such provisions as are hereinafter mentioned:—1. That all Members of a certain number of years' standing, to be determined by your Gracious Majesty, may, after having been registered, conjointly with Fellows, exercise the privilege of electing the Council. 2. That a certain proportion of the Council may consist of Members. 3. That the period of office of members of the Council be considerably shortened. 4. That Members and Fellows be permitted to vote by voting papers. 5. That no fees of any kind be paid to any College fund by Fellows or Members on their election to office. 6. That the Council prepare a yearly report, together with an account of income and expenditure of the College funds duly audited by a public accountant, which after its submission for approval to the Fellows and Members (annually summoned for this purpose by the President of the College) shall, on adoption, be required to be published in the medical journals. 7. That enlarged power may be given to the Council to suspend or revoke the licence of any Fellow or Member on proof of discreditable conduct, whether professional or otherwise.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

APPLICATION OF THE ELECTRIC LIGHT TO THE OPHTHALMOSCOPE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I was much interested in reading a description of Dr. Davidson's application of the electric light to the ophthalmoscope, because I had absolutely in preparation for your columns the description of an instrument which Mr. Robson, an optician of this city, is constructing for me with the same object, and which he has had in his hands for some time. As I think my instrument has some advantages over Dr. Davidson's, I send you a drawing of it, together with a description. It consists of a short tube, blackened in the interior, of telescopic construction, so that it may be elongated and contracted within certain



limits (A A). At one end (B) is a mirror of short focus, movable in its vertical diameter by a small screw. The aperture (B'') at the other extremity of the tube may be closed by tinted glasses or a bull's-eye lens. In a small triangular chamber below the tube is situated the small incandescent lamp (E), the brilliancy of the illumination from which can be moderated by inserting tinted glasses through a slit at D. The mode of action of the instrument is made obvious by the diagram. The wires pass up the handle, and electric contact is made by the button (R) when the instrument is in use. Ophthalmoscopic examinations may be made with this instrument in the daytime, by the direct method, without darkening the room. The lamp can be used for all ordinary purposes by screwing on a stand at H, and inserting a condensing lens at B''. The drawing shows the instrument a little larger than its actual size.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CHRISTOPHER S. JEAFFRESON.

Saville-row, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Feb. 9th, 1886.

NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

NEWCASTLE LYING-IN HOSPITAL.

THE annual meeting of this useful institution was recently held, Dr. Gibson presiding. The medical officer's report showed a considerable increase in the number of patients admitted over the previous year. Including out-patients, 268 cases had been admitted, and no death had occurred.