

That this must be so is evidenced, amongst several other such cases, by the report on the experiments at Salford. For instance, Dr. Klein reports as follows: "Received on July 29th four samples, sealed 'The Amines Syndicate,' labeled—(1) Effluent, filtered, 3 P.M., July 27th, 1891; (2) Effluent, unfiltered, 1.30 P.M., July 27th, 1891; (3) River Irwell, above intake, 11 A.M., July 27th, 1891; (4) Pendleton sewage, 11 A.M., July 27th, 1891. Of each of these samples made two plate cultivations, using for each plate of No. 1 one cubic centimetre, No. 2 one cubic centimetre, No. 3 ten cubic millimetres, No. 4 one-hundred-thousandth of a cubic centimetre."

After one week's incubation the following was found:—Sample 1 (filtered effluent) contained innumerable colonies; except a dozen or so of largish white colonies all the others (uncountable) were of one kind, small, grey, liquefying; compared with Sample 2 I am of opinion that the filter has added to the effluent an uncountable number of bacteria of one and the same species. Sample 2 (unfiltered effluent) contained ten colonies, amongst them two moulds, for one whole cubic centimetre; therefore, only eight bacteria being present, it may justly be said that the effluent was practically sterile. Sample 3 contained on average 80 to 100 thousand bacteria per 1 c.c. Sample 4 contained above 10,000,000 per 1 c.c. Mr. Leo Taylor made daily bacteriological and microscopical examinations, the overflow effluent in all cases being practically sterile, whilst the sewages were teeming with countless organisms.

It would take far too much of your space to multiply examples, but it has been proved that lime alone will not do this; therefore we are driven back to the conclusion that from the refuse of lower animals (herrings) a germicide of great potency is evolved by lime. This sheds light on Dr. Thorne's remarks. Many medical men have used this compound in surgery and medicine during the last five years, and it has been found eminently useful in gonorrhoea, in diphtheria, in offensive discharges of all kinds, in dysentery as an injection, and in diarrhoea arising from animal poisons. In contradistinction, it is inert in diarrhoea arising from unripe fruit or mechanically irritating ingesta, which goes to show that the astringent action of the lime water is not the active agent. It forms a perfectly antiseptic surgical dressing.

Fish feed upon all the impurities which drain from the land into the sea, and if there be truth in the theory that by introducing these specific contagia into the bodies of lower animals we may find developed therein an antitoxin (as they themselves are uninjured) we should naturally look for it in their bodies. That is so, and this extraordinary poison to bacteria is evolved from the nervous system and roes of herrings by the action of lime. This substance, so inimical to bacteria, is perfectly innocent to human beings, and may be drunk, even in the form of sewage effluent, with impunity, though I should not advise this latter proceeding. Two swine were inoculated by Professor Brown with swine fever; one was left alone and died, the other was fed on lime water and herring brine and survived. In the first forty-nine weeks of this year 6932 pigs died from swine fever, 54,405 were killed as diseased, and 1250 slaughtered as suspected. It is more than probable that a few pounds would have saved this costly stock. I might multiply examples indefinitely, but what I wish to arrive at is this—that the remedy be tried by subcutaneous injection, and its results compared with Behring's antitoxin. If it turns out a success numbers of lives may be saved, much irritating and unseemly disputation may be avoided, and the way cleared to a final and convincing analysis of this gas and its employment in a known chemical form. I do not myself doubt the result.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,
H. CAMPBELL POPE, M.D. Lond., F.R.C.S.
Goldhawk-road, W., Dec. 17th, 1894.

THE ABUSE OF PROVIDENT DISPENSARIES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Will you please insert in your next issue the following resolution, which was recently passed at a meeting of the medical practitioners of the West Salford Parliamentary division, held at the town hall, Pendleton? We venture to think that the action taken by the medical staff of the Pendleton Provident Dispensary in severing their connexion with the dispensary will meet with your support and the approval of the profession at large. The following

are some of the factors which have brought about the resignation of the medical staff. 1. This dispensary, in common with other provident dispensaries, has not fulfilled the purpose for which it was intended, the bulk of the members being well able to pay ordinary medical fees. 2. The absence of any wage limit or other standard by which the admissions can be regulated and the interests of the profession safeguarded. 3. Practically the whole management of the dispensary is in the hands of a lay committee, who only consider the financial success of the dispensary and who care nothing for the proper remuneration of the medical staff. 4. The remuneration bears no proportion to the labour and responsibility attached to the work. 5. Some of the branches of the Manchester and Salford Provident Dispensary have recently been guilty of a most objectionable form of professional advertising.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

PHILIP GELL GARRETT,

Hon. Sec. to the meeting held on the 27th ult.

Albany-square, Pendleton, Jan. 1st, 1895.

Resolution.

Resolution carried at a meeting of medical practitioners held at Pendleton town-hall on Dec. 27th, 1894. Proposed by Dr. Fraser, seconded by Mr. Wolstenholme: "That the Manchester and Salford Provident Dispensary system, as at present conducted, is inimical to the interests of the profession, derogatory to its dignity, and unworthy of the countenance and support of medical men. That this meeting of medical practitioners residing in the West Parliamentary division of the borough of Salford desires, therefore, to record its firm conviction that the members of the staff of the Pendleton Provident Dispensary, in unanimously sending in their resignations, have consulted the best interests of the profession and deserve the thanks of all who value its present and future welfare."

POSTAL FACILITIES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am surprised to find how few of the public are aware of two postal facilities which the neighbours of a district post office enjoy, and for the benefit of my professional brethren I will mention them: (1) the right to hand a telegram, prepaid by stamps or coin, to any telegraph messenger who may pass, and thus save the inconvenience of despatching a servant to the office; (2) the power to post on Sunday up to 6 P.M. with an extra halfpenny stamp letters for the country, which then reach their destination on Monday morning. As I am afraid a good deal of arrears of correspondence is worked off on Sunday this is really a gain.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Jan. 8th, 1895.

CAVENDISH SQUARE.

A MISSING GUIDE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—With reference to the promised appearance of the Transactions of the International Medical Congress in April next, let us hope some sanguine expectations may be realised. What I should like to know is the probable date of issue of an exceptionally beautiful guide to Rome which was to have been issued to members at the opening of the Congress in March last. I was present during the whole of the Congress and I failed to feast my vision on that attractive production. Of all the disappointments of that memorable meeting the non-appearance of the guide-book was the greatest blow of all to

Yours faithfully,

Jan. 5th, 1895.

BIBLIOPHILE.

MANCHESTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Magistrates and Prosecutions for Excessive Smoke Production.

ON Friday last a deputation representing the Manchester and Salford Sanitary Association and the Noxious Vapours' Abatement Association presented a memorial to the city justices at their annual meeting, suggesting that cases of prosecution for excessive smoke production should be heard by the stipendiary magistrate. It certainly seems an anomaly that the case of the accused should