clinical characteristics; and that a more thorough investigation
would undoubtedly show a greater prevalence of con-
comitant infection. In this connexion I might point out that
at times the patients reported on by Dr. Sandwith all died from some definite and well-
known disease, and that the pathological changes recorded
by him or described by Scheube, who follows Tuczek, suffi-
ciently definite to convince the sceptic that a pathological entity
is being described. The quality of nutrition supplied to the
tissues by the blood stream in these cases of severe and pro-
longed worm infection is not likely to be productive of a high
standard of health or efficiency, and it is to me by no means
surprising that there should be decay of the more specialised
tissues as shown by altered reflexes and mental degenera-
tions. It is stated in Scheube's book that "Winternitz goes
so far as to deny the existence of pellagra as a specific disease
peculiar to a limited area. What is described as pellagra is
in his judgment only the conditions of disease induced by
want and misery." I am only at variance with this opinion in
the active disease, and think the picture of pellagra is a necessary factor in the production of the pellagrous condition.

I should like to make my position quite clear by stating
that in my opinion pellagra in Egypt is only a rash arising in
patients who have been the subjects of prolonged anaemia, and
that there is in most cases the actual worm infestation, and
occurs in the worst cases of these infections in association
with poverty and malnutrition. In support of this opinion I produce (1) the three fatal cases reported by Dr. Sandwith, in all of which some cause such as I have described
was at work; (2) the fact that the rash disappears after
a few days of hospital without active treatment; (3) that a
large number of so-called pellagrous patients carry the active
cause of their anaemia still with them in the shape of anky-
losis; (4) that the typical picture of pellagra is what one would expect in cases of pro-
longed and profound anaemia. Pellagra in Egypt may, I
think, be neglected except in so far as it indicates a severe
anaemia caused in most cases by a parasitic infection. It is
on these terms useful as a symptom, but has, I consider, no
claim to be ranked as a disease.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Khartoum.

THE REGISTRATION OF THE MEDICAL STUDENT AND THE REGULATIONS
OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

To the Editor of the Lancet.

Sir,—"What to do with our boys," is as pressing a
question now as over it was, and parents have the same
difficulties in guiding and guarding and finding openings for
their precious charges as their forefathers most probably did
in their own cases. Like many others just at this season of
the year I had occasion to scan and puzzle over the regula-
tions laid down by the General Medical Council for the regis-
tration of those lads who are seeking to enter the medical
profession. With a view of making my arguments clear I have made the following extracts as embodying the
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longed and profound anaemia. Pellagra in Egypt may, I
think, be neglected except in so far as it indicates a severe
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on these terms useful as a symptom, but has, I consider, no
claim to be ranked as a disease.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Khartoum.

Now I have looked out the first professional examination
for the Conjoint Board, for the London University, and for
Cambridge University. The component examinations are in
inorganic chemistry, physics, and biology. These are sub-
jects which can just as well be studied at institutions other
than medical schools as at them, and this has been recognised
by the General Medical Council, as it allows study of these
subjects at, amongst others, the Polytechnic Institute, West.
He remains at St. Paul's School. He should begin study at one of
the independent scientific college (day classes), and some others, but not at the great
public schools. A case in the form of a report by the General Medical Council
enforcing its regulations, I wrote to the Registrar to ask him to register my son as a medical student, having passed
his London matriculation, and asking him (in my innocence)
if St. Paul's School would be recognised as an institution in
which the lad could pursue the purely scientific profession
—viz., the Preliminary Sciences. His reply is—

Dear Sir,—In answer to your letter, I have to state that as the
Council does not approve of medical study until ordinary school ed-
ucation has ceased, it will not be possible for your son to be registered
when he remains at St. Paul's School. He should begin study at one of
the institutions on the enclosed list.

Yours faithfully,
R. B. Allen, Registrar.
the result of having eaten cucumber salad for lunch. Up to that afternoon he had felt well and had attended his place of business daily without fail, being in the opinion of his friends a marvel of health, as he boasted never to have had a day's sickness in his life. At 8 p.m. the visit he made complained of a day's sickness and some epigastric distress. His pulse was 72, full, of normal tension; temperature 37° C., respiration 20 per minute. Examination revealed nothing to indicate serious trouble, but as he was somewhat constipated, more to fill a frequent stool, he ordered a purgative. A solution of acetic acid was ordered to be followed after evacuation by a teaspoonful of paregoric, and the remark, made jestingly, that perhaps to-morrow he might show signs of an appendicitis, and so be à la mode. Later in the evening, on inquiring by telephone, information was received that purgation had produced no change, but would be pleased to have a professional visit next morning.

August 22nd, 7 A.M.: There was found epigastric pain on pressing the mesocolon. The peritoneal cavity was found to contain an encysted mass of intestines matted together. The appendix, and the pouch lightly packed with the same. After the operation is worthy of attention. Given judiciously it aided in repair, and did not in the least prevent the elimination of toxins through the liver, as shown by the icterus. 5. The post-mortem evidence of intestinal partial paralysis, given by the stool of the morning of the 27th, shows the care nature takes of an injured or inflamed bowel, by holding back the passage of even food. (See experiments after bismuth meals.)

During the operation the patient's wife was taken in labour with her first child, and at 5 A.M. (23rd) gave birth to a fine healthy child, who could appreciate the slight muscular capture. The appendix was tied off in three portions, and the pouch lightly packed with the same. After arranging a snug abdominal bandage the patient was put to bed. Temperature 37'5° C., pulse 120. The after-history so far as the convalescence is concerned has soared any importance, yet the following verbatim note taken by the surgeon himself (as we have no "trained" nurses) may be of interest.

To return to the husband. He was given at once 5 centigrammes of ext. opii, and not allowed food nor drink for 24 hours, only being permitted to rinse his mouth with ice-cold water and to take a comfortable night, with neither pain nor vomiting, but without sleep.

August 23rd, 9 A.M.: There was found epigastric pain on pressing the mesocolon. The peritoneal cavity was found to contain an encysted mass of intestines matted together. The appendix, and the pouch lightly packed with the same. After arranging a snug abdominal bandage the patient was put to bed. Temperature 37'5° C., pulse 120. The after-history so far as the convalescence is concerned has soared any importance, yet the following verbatim note taken by the surgeon himself (as we have no "trained" nurses) may be of interest.

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thousand administrations without a serious accident, why should he? He believes that more depends on the man than on the method, and when peculiarities are not used up, he has more faith in his assistant as a surgeon than as an anaesthetist, he gives the chloroform himself and lets the aide have the narcotic. He believes that more depends on the man than on the notification of consumption.

ON THE NOTIFICATION OF CONSUMPTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reply to "Forensicus" in your issue of Sept. 10th, I should like to state that the questions I put to him were not mere little puzzles to puzzle, but to show that the compulsory notification of consumption was not only impracticable but impossible, apart from the difficulties that would require to be contended with if it was impartially enforced on all classes of the community. "Forensicus" seems to think this for himself, for he pleads for compulsory notification "according to circumstances."

It is possible in the near future that we shall see the advocates of compulsory notification attempting to justify themselves by a resort to statistics, but these statistics must be looked upon with suspicion. It may be attempted to show that in towns where compulsory notification has been adopted the disease has decreased in consequence. Although that may appear from statistics to be the case, it will not be the true measure, for it is due resulting from the desire of the consumptive to avoid the stigma and ostracism which have been found to follow public notification. Between scarlet fever and consumption there is—reasons for which it is unnecessary here to state—virtually no analogy, and therefore to cite scarlet fever in support of his contention is not relative to the issue, beyond stating that the compulsory notification and isolation of that disease have not been exaggerated. Even without such a measure the consumptive needs compassion, for he is a sensitive and introspective person. He can be led, but not forced. Finally, let "Forensicus" as a layman understand that the incidence or death-rate from consumption in its broadest sense in any country is largely due to the country's sanitary state and the material welfare of its people.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Guatemala, C.A., Sept. 8th, 1910.

J. H. ARTON.

DIFFICULT LABOUR: A CORRECTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am much obliged to Dr. Herman for his very courteous correction of the mistake I made in reviewing the last edition of his "Difficult Labour." I am in entire agreement with his view that to attempt to stop haemorrhage from the uterus by applying the "drug" to the vagina is absurd. My mistake is the more inexplicable since I read the passage over twice before remarking on it.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Sept. 25th, 1910.

THE WRITER OF THE REVIEW.

"FALLING OF THE WOMB."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Since sending you the MS. of my article on Premenstrual Asthenia I have obtained notes of two cases which I had previously failed to trace. Will you please publish them as an addendum to my paper and oblige,

Yours faithfully,

Leeds, Sept. 22nd, 1910.

JOHN B. HILLIER.

Case 32.—VIII., para. aged 50; person of good physique. Between scarlet fever and consumption there is—for reasons which it is unnecessary here to state—virtually no analogy, and therefore to cite scarlet fever to support his contention is not relative to the issue, beyond stating that the compulsory notification and isolation of that disease have not been exaggerated. Even without such a measure the consumptive needs compassion, for he is a sensitive and introspective person. He can be led, but not forced. Finally, let "Forensicus" as a layman understand that the incidence or death-rate from consumption in its broadest sense in any country is largely due to the country's sanitary state and the material welfare of its people. It is possible in the near future that we shall see the advocates of compulsory notification attempting to justify themselves by a resort to statistics, but these statistics must be looked upon with suspicion. It may be attempted to show that in towns where compulsory notification has been adopted the disease has decreased in consequence. Although that may appear from statistics to be the case, it will not be the true measure, for it is due to the desire of the consumptive to avoid the stigma and ostracism which have been found to follow public notification. Between scarlet fever and consumption there is—reasons for which it is unnecessary here to state—virtually no analogy, and therefore to cite scarlet fever in support of his contention is not relative to the issue, beyond stating that the compulsory notification and isolation of that disease have not been exaggerated. Even without such a measure the consumptive needs compassion, for he is a sensitive and introspective person. He can be led, but not forced. Finally, let "Forensicus" as a layman understand that the incidence or death-rate from consumption in its broadest sense in any country is largely due to the country's sanitary state and the material welfare of its people.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Guatemala, C.A., Sept. 8th, 1910.

J. H. ARTON.

THE ACTION OF 15 TO 50 CUBIC CENTIMETRES OF CONCENTRATED ALCOHOL ON THE MEMORY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—So many recent publications on the evils of alcohol are conspicuous for their logorrhea, bolstered up by second-hand assertions, that I am induced to propose a brief addendum to a concise work as R. Vogt's in the June number of Nordisk Magazin for Borgvoldskabene, 1910, in which the writer gives his personal experience of the influence of alcohol on the memory. His experiments lasted for over six months, and average abstraction was taken to avoid fallacies. He chose himself as a subject, being healthy, middle-aged, a total abstainer for the ten preceding years, and without any idiosyncrasy for alcohol. To test (a) the mind's power of assimilation and (b) the mind's power of reproduction 25 lines of a translation of the Odyssey were selected every time for their uniformity of length and the absence of strain. The time taken to learn these lines by heart was noted, as well as the time taken to repeat the same a certain number of times by heart, the rate at which these repetitions could be made being taken as an index to the thoroughness with which the lines had been learnt. The day after the lines had been learnt most were forgotten, but they were quickly relearnt, the mind's power of reproduction playing a greater part than its power of assimilation. The time therefore taken to relearn the 25 lines was taken as an index to the mind's reproductive power. The trials were all carried out in the morning, a quarter of an hour after breakfast, before the day's work had begun. Stimulants, such as tea and coffee, were taken in moderation. The alcohol was taken from 10 to 15 minutes before the trial began and was diluted with fruit juice, which was also drunk on the mornings when no alcohol was taken. The published tables show that 25 cubic centimetres of concentrated alcohol at first considerably prolonged the time taken to learn 25 lines, but that after a month and a half this effect became less marked. Later, when the alcohol was given on an empty stomach even...