GONORRHOEAL MASTITIS.

SIR,—The case described by Drs. Oxley and Dundas in the JOURNAL (November 13th, p. 744) is interesting from many points of view, but I am of opinion from the description given that it was not a case of "primary gonorrhoeal mastitis."

Where there is a systemic gonococcal infection, one occasionally, though rarely, finds abscesses containing gonococci forming. Such cases have been described by Sahli, Meyer, Kerassotis, Campbell, and others. I personally have seen one such case. They originate by metastasis from a gonorrhoeal infection; the *locus* of the abscess seems to be determined by a trauma. In your correspondents' case the engorgement of the genitalia due to the pregnant state would account for the metastasis, and the injury to the breast explains the localization of the abscess.

The denial of the husband ever having had gonorrhoea does not exclude the possibility that signs, apart from symptoms, of old-standing infection were present, and further experience in venereal practice teaches one not to place too much reliance upon statements made by women when suffering from venereal disease.

In conclusion, I would contend that the condition described by Drs. Oxley and Dundas was a mammary abscess secondary to gonorrhoea.—I am, etc.,

Manchester, Nov. 16th.

M. W. BROWDY.

NOMENCLATURE OF DISEASES.

SIR,—I have the honour to ask the attention of your readers to some proposals for unifying the terms used in the nomenclature of disease which the delegates of Peru had the honour to present at the recent International Conference held in Paris to revise the classification of the causes of death. This memorandum indicates that practical medicine might derive advantages similar to those which have long been obtained in chemistry by attaching definite significance to particular terminations.

The proposals made for the purpose are simple and logical. The termination "itis" should in all cases be applied to inflammatory diseases, and the termination "algia" to painful conditions. All diseases caused by a well determined bacillary agent should have the termination "osis"—for example, tuberculosis, typhosis, syphilosis, leprosis, etc., a group which would be added to as knowledge advances. Similarly the termination "iasis" should be restricted to diseases caused by parasites, as is already the case with many diseases, such as trichiniasis, trypanosomiasis, elephantiasis, etc.; this should be extended to paludiasis, acariasis, etc.

It is not proposed to ask for the disuse of terms like small-pox, cancer, and diabetes, which belong to the language, but it is suggested that if, for scientific purposes, and particularly for purposes of international comparison, an official nomenclature is constructed, it can with great advantage incorporate such simple rules as those which are suggested.

The conference adopted the terminology suggested as alternatives to the terms at present in use.—I am, etc.,

Paris, Nov. 21st.

J. GUILLERMO ARBULÚ.

* * Dr. Arbulú encloses a copy of a memorandum, printed in French, which gives further examples of the proposed terminology.

THE SUPPLY OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS.

SIR,—In the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of November 20th you have printed the interesting remarks of Sir Robert Jones in regard to orthopaedics and the working of a department in a general hospital. In Sir Robert's closing remarks he says: "At present, alas! there are not enough orthopaedic surgeons to meet hospital demands." At the present moment there are several surgeons with experience of orthopaedics anxious to obtain posts, one, if not two, after twelve months' search, contemplating emigration rather than continue a fruitless search. As Sir Robert rightly says, a hospital appointment is essential to the practice of orthopaedic surgery.

May I give my own case, which is not unique? Public school, university, F.R.C.S., four and a half years R.A.M.C., major i/c of a surgical division, and surgical specialist to a special surgical military hospital, unable to resume pre-war work.

I am at present in touch with two other medical men in much the same condition and only asking for opportunity to start work, willing to make a beginning in a junior post provided there is scope. Are posts for orthopaedic surgeons available?—I am, etc.,

November 21st.

FIFTEEN YEARS' SPECIAL WORK.

Obituary.

THOMAS WHITESIDE HIME, B.A., M.D. DUBL.,

L.R.C.S. EDIN.,

Formerly M.O.H. Bradford.

THE announcement of the death on November 9th, at Sheffield, at the age of 78, of Dr. Thomas Whiteside Hime will recall to those engaged in the public health service in the last quarter of the nineteenth century a vigorous personality, a versatile intellect, and a fearless preacher of what he believed to be the truth. He graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1868, and for a time took an interest in gynaecology, lecturing at the old Sheffield Medical School on midwifery and the diseases of women and children. In 1878 he was elected, for a term of five years, medical officer of health for Sheffield, and he entered upon his duties with characteristic zeal and thoroughness. In 1883 he succeeded Dr. Harris Butterfield as medical officer of health for Bradford, at that time a town with a population of about 200,000 persons and with much work ready to the hand of such an enthusiastic reformer as Hime. For example, the conservancy system was not only permitted but encouraged, and a form of privy was in use "capable of containing a cartload of filth, which was emptied as a rule not oftener than once in three months, and in many cases still less frequently." Hime was elected, under the pernicious system then in vogue, for five years, and during that period he worked hard to improve the condition of the town. As may be imagined, his reports and his recommendations were not altogether palatable to a reactionary local authority, and he suffered the fate of many pioneers who are ahead of their time. At the expiration of his five years of office he was not actually dismissed from office, but he was not re-elected. He had no appeal; the central authority could or would do nothing. This scurvy treatment of a chief official at the hands of the Bradford Corporation was resented very much by many of the inhabitants and by all the medical practitioners in the town, and he was presented with a purse of money "as a mark of their approval of the manner in which he had discharged his duties." The committee which promoted this testimonial had for its chairman the late Sir Henry Mitchell, and for its treasurer the late Sir William Byles, who expressed the hope, still unfulfilled, that the occasion might be the commencement of a successful movement to obtain for all medical officers of health the right of appeal to the Local Government Board in order that they might be able to perform their duties with due security and independence. Hime was by no means crushed by this rebuff. He established for a time an institution for the production of calf lymph, and carried out important researches, more especially in connexion with rabies and anthrax. In 1892 he was in Hamburg in connexion with the outbreak of cholera.

His prescience is well exemplified by the following extract from his first report to the Bradford Corporation in 1884:

It is very much to be desired that benevolent persons would endeavour to improve the state of knowledge of poor women as to the feeding and managing of infants. This could be done by means of cottage lectures, the distributing of instructive leaflets, etc., and would be a most beneficent work.

In the same report he advised the isolation of consumptives, the destruction of tuberculous expectoration, and the sterilization of infected handkerchiefs and other articles. As a writer Hime is best known through his "Handy Guide to the Sanitary Laws" which is a monument of painstaking research into the realms of case law. He contributed the articles on offensive trades to Stevenson and Murphy's *Hygiene*, and on anthrax to Fowler's *Dictionary of Medicine*. Like so many of his countrymen he was an accomplished linguist and translated many foreign works, including Pettenkofer's *Cholera*. Also like many Irishmen he was generous almost to a fault, and