sense, if any Member of the College wishes to vote for the Council, or to become eligible to sit therein, why does he not qualify in the proper manner? I had this wish, being then a general practitioner in a rural district; and so, as soon as I had completed the required 12 years of Membership, I presented myself for the Fellowship examination and got what I wanted. If any Member really desires the privileges of a Fellow the only unsurmountable impediment to obtaining them is idleness or ignorance.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
R. BRUDENELL CARTER.

Clapham Common, S.W., Nov. 17th, 1913.

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—There are many very objectionable features about the new Draft Regulations for Medical Benefit, but the Draft Agreement contains one clause so intensely objectionable that the whole profession ought to rise as one man and demand either its instant deletion or radical alteration. The clause referred to, 2 (11), reads as follows:—

The practitioner shall not accept any fee or other remuneration in respect of treatment which he is required to give under this agreement, except as provided in this agreement.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
T. CUMING ASKIN, M.D. Dub.
Alderton, Woodbridge, Suffolk, Nov. 18th, 1913.

VAGITUS UTERINUS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I was much interested in reading your annotation on the above subject in THE LANCET of Nov. 8th. It recalled to my mind an undoubted case that occurred in my own practice some years ago. There could be no possible doubt about it as it was heard as distinctly by the nurse as by me. The cry was quite loud. The case was a breech occurring in a primipara. The labour was allowed to pursue a natural course without interference until sufficient of the breech was delivered to allow me to grasp it with both hands to make traction on it so as to hurry the head through the pelvis. It was during this manœuvre that the cry occurred. I did not have any of my hand in the vagina then except my two forefingers, as they secured purchase round the iliac crests of the child; in that way perhaps air was allowed to enter. The child was born alive, and I did not think it necessary to rush matters at the expense of the integrity of the mother's tissues. Even the perineum was not injured.

The causes that seemed to me to operate for its production, allowing for the necessity of air, were the pressure of the head on the cord and the stimulation of cold air on the child's breech. I thought perhaps this case would interest other readers of THE LANCET.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Kettering, Nov. 12th, 1913.

D. D. LEE.

LONDON NERVE CLINIC (SCHOOL OF PSYCHOTHERAPY).

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Can you grant me a few lines of your valuable space to make it known that the "London Nerve Clinic" (School of Psychotherapy) is in no way connected with any organisation, institute, or clinic, staffed either by medical or lay workers, in

which psychotherapeutic methods are carried out? Although offering treatment on psychological lines to patients of small means, as well as to the very poor, this clinic is entirely independent of outside financial support.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

71, Baker-street, W., Nov. 15th, 1913.

EDWIN ASH,
Director.

THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

THE NEW DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR MEDICAL BENEFIT AND MR. DANCKWERTS'S OPINION.

THE Draft Regulations to be cited when they come into force as the National Health Insurance (Medical Benefit) Regulations (England), 1913, provide, as was stated in THE LANCET of Nov. 15th, p. 1433, means for avoiding in future the difficulty produced hitherto by the accumulation of funds in respect of insured persons who have not selected their medical attendant, and who have not been (and who often cannot be) allocated to medical men on the panel at a particular time in a particular quarter. These funds are to be distributed where there is a capitation system "to such of the practitioners on the panel and in such proportions as are agreed between the Committee and the Panel Committee, or in default of agreement as the Commissioners may determine." Where there is payment by attendance each practitioner is to be credited with the amount found to be due to him for work done, and is to receive "an amount bearing the same proportion to the sum credited to him as the amount in the Practitioners Fund (after deducting any sums payable out of that fund to the Central Medical Benefit Fund or set apart for mileage) bears to the aggregate amounts credited to all the practitioners." The regulation, of which the more essential parts only have been given above, provides for future occasions—that is to say, for funds arising in respect of unallotted persons after the new regulations come into force on Jan. 12th, 1914, and apparently is not intended to affect in any way funds already accumulated. This regulation may be regarded as a result of the decisive opinion expressed by Mr. Danckwerts, K.C., when consulted by the London Insurance Committee, but as not affording a solution for the difficulty to which he drew attention. It will be remembered that the opinion referred to was obtained by the London Insurance Committee, and that Mr. Danckwerts was advising that body only as to the circumstances in which it then found itself placed. He was not advising the Insurance Commissioners, nor did he express any opinion as to their powers to find a solution for the difficulty which he pointed out as existing under the Act of 1911 and under the regulations then in force. He went no further, in short, than to say in his answer to a question asking for general advice on the situation: "The committee should not touch this fund as long as matters stand as they are now." The difficulty of allotting all the persons in a given district of any considerable size, in respect of whom premiums are being received, to a medical man on the panel, so that there are at no time any potential patients unallotted, amounts practically to impossibility, but it is pretty evident that it escaped notice when the Insurance Act, 1911, was passed. Therefore no mention is made of it in the Act, and authority to frame regulations with regard to it is