of decision by considerations purely morphological. Were the coccidial resemblance of these nuclear phenomena far more intimate than it actually is, the extreme a priori improbability of the object of my paper—namely, the supposition that such a conclusion would have to be surmounted before such could be regarded with the faintest show of probability as bond-fide parasitic organisms.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

Gloucester-place, W., Dec. 11th, 1883.

HERBERT SNOW.

**"RÖTHELN AND SCARLET FEVER."**

To the Editors of the Lancet.

Sirs,—Dr. Atkinson says that the weak points in my argument are (1) my assumed correctness of my diagnosis, and (2) my assumption that he put forward one symptom by itself. I cannot imagine how any argument would be sounder, the weaker it was. I am, in fact, sometimes quite prepared that such mild cases would have spread the disease just as much even if the hospital had been in a fit state for the reception of scarlet fever cases. I am, Sirs, yours truly,

W. L'HIBEURS BLENKARNE.

Surgeon to the Leicester Provident Dispensary.

Humberstone road, Leicester, Dec. 11th, 1883.

**SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF MEDICAL MEN.**

To the Editors of the Lancet.

Sirs,—I notice in the Lancet the advertisement annually put forth at this time of the year in the hope of inducing the younger members of our profession to make an absolutely safe provision for their widows and orphans. The Society is, to all intents and purposes, an insurance society, in which a premium of only two guineas per annum guarantees a provision for the widow and orphans of the payer should they be left in want. Of course, if a member leaves his family well provided for at his death his subscriptions go to support the widows and orphans of less fortunate members, but he has the satisfaction of knowing that, come what may, he has secured those who are dependent upon him from destitution. I am, Sirs, yours obediently,

Dec. 4th, 1883.

A. VICE-PRESIDENT.

**OBJECTIONABLE ADVERTISEMENTS.**

To the Editors of the Lancet.

Sirs,—The council of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the British Medical Association passed the following resolution at their meeting held on the 7th inst. : "The council of the Lancashire and Cheshire Branch of the British Medical Association, having had their attention called to the insertion of indecent advertisements respecting female irregularities in the prominent daily and weekly papers, beg to condemn such advertisements as indecent and apt to encourage the adoption by young and unmarried women of means for procuring abortion."—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Cardiff, Dec. 11th, 1883.

T. GARRETT HORDER.

Owing to the pressure upon our columns several communications dealing with the Medical Defence Union and the London and Counties Medical Protection Society have been unavoidably held over. —Ed. L.

**MANCHESTER.**

(From our own Correspondent.)

River Purification.

The long-enduring policy of the Irwell and Mersey Joint Conservancy Board is at length beginning to bear fruit, as one may judge from two or three incidents which have occurred in this district since the date of my last letter. Notwithstanding the incomprehensible conduct of the Bury magistrates with regard to the prosecution of the corporation of that much-erected borough by the aforesaid joint committee—conduct, by the way, which has met with universal condemnation by the friends of sanitation in these parts—there are signs that many of the chief polluters of the Irwell and its tributaries are determined to turn over a new leaf. Only last week the recently incorporated and thriving borough of Middleton was induced, with a credit by two of the senior inspectors of the Local Government Board, for the purpose of inquiring into the merits of a scheme which the corporation had submitted to the Board with the object of dealing efficiently with the sewage of the town. The inquiry, which was of the usual formal character, took place in the borough town hall. The case for the corporation was ably put before the inspectors by Mr. Yates, recorder for Salford, who was supported by Mr. Crawley, who has taken a special interest in the medical officer of health and others being also present. The Middleton authorities propose to deal with their sewage by precipitation and afterwards to pass the effluent through a filter before discharge into the river Irk. The greater part of the site on which the works are to be constructed is within the borough of Middleton, but a few acres of it lie in the township of Blackley, which is now part of the city