practitioner; that it induces the relatives of the sick, knowing what will follow upon notification, to hesitate to call in timely medical assistance, and to conceal the existence of infectious disease, and thus to do an injury to the patient in the first instance, and in the second to contribute to the unsuspected extension of infection throughout the community. That the medical profession in Bolton therefore emphatically condemn compulsory notification by the medical practitioner as being contrary to the public advantage."

I am, Sirs, yours &c.,

Bolton, Sept. 24th, 1887. NORMAN MCLIESH, M.A., M.B.

HUGHES v. LANGMORE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May I ask to be allowed space in your columns to thank briefly, but heartily, those members of the profession—over a hundred in number, and many of them strangers to me—who have so kindly relieved me of about two-thirds of the heavy expense to which I became liable in consequence of the action brought against me by a patient whom I had been compelled, and as the verdict of the jury showed, not without reason, to certify as insane. Although one would rather not throw away £80 or £90 in defending an action of this kind, still that is within the amount (£100) which I was told from the first the case would cost me, and the loss of which I had come to look upon as inevitable. The actual cost (£250) was, I must confess, an exceedingly unpleasant addition to the trouble and worry I had already undergone, and I am very grateful to the friends and fellow practitioners by whose kind assistance it has been so largely reduced.

I am, Sirs, yours gratefully,

J. WREFORD LANGMORE.

Oxford-terrace, Hyde-park, Sept. 26th, 1887.

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL OFFICERS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Will you allow us, through the medium of your journal, to call the attention of Volunteer medical officers to the circular letter and form of membership which were recently forwarded to them, and to ask them to fill the membership form up and forward it to us without delay. The appeal of the Council has been remarkably successful, and we are happy to say the success of the movement is now fully assured, but the Council are very anxious to secure the co-operation of as many Volunteer medical officers as possible, and they feel that possibly their letter may have been mislaid in the case of some who were absent from home. The Council have it in contemplation to invite the President, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, to preside at the first meeting of the Volunteer medical officers mess, and we are expressly requested to invite any Volunteer surgeon to apply to the office for any information he may require, and in every way to avail himself of the privilege now offered by the Association.

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

JAMES CANTLIE,

ALFRED LINGARD,

} Hon. Secs.

26, King William-street, Strand, W.C., Sept. 26th, 1887.

THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HYGIENE.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

It is impossible to avoid the impression on reaching Vienna that the Congress is in some danger of being paralysed by its own extraordinary success. Never before has such a gathering been so well supported. No less than 2400 persons have paid their subscription of the ten florins each and enrolled themselves as members of the Congress. Nor is it mere abstract support; the majority are present in person, and it has been no easy matter to house so vast a throng. This difficulty is now overcome. Some of the delegates have been compelled to content themselves with very humble quarters, but this trifling inconvenience has to be endured on such occasions. What is more serious is the

management of the Congress itself. In this respect it is to be feared a mistake has been committed. Though reports have been printed, introducing no less than twenty-two subjects for discussion, the Congress will be divided into only three sections. Nor is this all. The Sections will not meet on Monday, and Thursday will be given up entirely to an excursion to the mountains, which are the source of the Vienna water supply. There are, therefore, only four days given to more than 2200 people to discuss twenty-two subjects. Evidently many a delegate will have to return home with his speech unspoken.

Before the opening of the Congress—that is to say, on Sunday evening—the festivities which this town is organising on a lavish scale already commenced. Several hundred delegates assembled in the best rooms of the Horticultural Society, situated in the Park ring, which is the boulevard of Vienna. A sumptuous supper was provided, including some Danubian fish, which was highly appreciated. There were no speeches, as the evening was intended as an opportunity for renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. Already rumours are floating about as to the place to be selected for the next Congress. The Russian delegates are authorised to invite the Congress to St. Petersburg; but this is considered a long and expensive journey, to say nothing of the prospect of Siberia if some of the delegates speak too freely. The Society of the British Medical Officers of Health and the British Sanitary Institute have agreed to invite the Congress to London. Assuredly this is only right, and England should before now have taken the initiative. Unfortunately, the British Government affords no assistance whatever. The pettiest countries of Europe, as well as all the great Powers, have their official delegates present at this Congress; but the few Englishmen who are here come on their own account, at their own expense, or as the representatives of societies that are the outcome of private endeavour and receive no support from the State. Certainly this is felt keenly by our continental colleagues; and many express wonder that England, which has done so much for the health of its own people, should in no wise have contributed to spread the knowledge of sanitary science in other countries. The fact that England is at last moving and will invite the Congress to meet in London will be taken as an awakening, and is sure to meet with much approval. But there is a third and still more likely proposal—that is, to hold the Congress in Paris during the great exhibition of 1889. Everyone will then desire to be in Paris; and frequenters of these congresses will remember the great success of the second International Congress of Hygiene which met in Paris precisely under similar circumstances—that is, during the Universal Exhibition of 1878. It is doubtful also if the English would, in the main, care in any way to mar the great rejoicings which are organised to celebrate the centenary of the advent of freedom in France.

At 10 o'clock on Monday morning the beautiful hall of the Friends of Music was already thronged by delegates in the body of the building, and by a fashionable and elegant crowd of ladies and gentlemen in the gallery. On the platform the brilliant uniforms of Austrian officers, and the rich decorations and ribbons that decorated the breasts of the foreign official delegates made up an impressive picture. With military punctuality the Crown Prince Rudolph marched up to the platform amid the "hochs" of the assembly, and the proceedings immediately commenced.

Dr. Ernest Ludwig, Professor of Chemistry at the Vienna University, advanced to the side of the platform, and, bowing to the Prince, explained that from all parts of the civilised world men of science had gathered in Vienna. The Governments of nearly all the great Powers and the municipalities of many celebrated towns had their official representative standing close around the Prince. Never before had such a large and distinguished number of delegates met together to advocate the cause of sanitary science. This was a proof that the importance of hygiene was more widely recognised. Such progress was natural, for thus science would dispel most of the social evils from which we suffer. It was a promising feature of our modern civilisation to see so many nations working harmoniously together in the advancement of their common interests. Then, after describing the general scope of the meeting, Professor Ludwig declared that all was ready, and that they were only waiting for the Crown Prince to open the Congress.

The Imperial Prince at once rose and said: "Gentlemen