"RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND RHEUMATIC ARTHRITIS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In referring to Dr. King's letter on this subject in your issue of June 11th, which professes to deal directly with certain statements of mine occurring in a paper read at the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, permit me to examine some of his arguments. At the very outset he destroys the sense of the whole context of one portion of my remarks by a misquotation—namely, by the omission of the word "hereditary" in the passage "it [rheumatoid arthritis] is a constitutional disease of debility, invariably having a *hereditary* history of phthisis or gout or both." I spoke of rheumatoid arthritis "occurring in cases with a strong hereditary history of gout, phthisis or struma," using the word struma to indicate tuberculous affection of any organ or part except the lung. There are so many symptoms present, either acquired or hereditary, sufficient to account for the debility that to investigate and ultimately prove the presence of the bacillus in these would merely corroborate still further my opinions, whereas its absence, while perhaps being somewhat disappointing in cases apparently markedly tuberculous, would certainly not shake my opinion of a wasting and debilitating disease, if certain clinical proofs were not wanting. Dr. King further thinks that acute rheumatism should have greater prominence as a cause of rheumatoid arthritis. Why "comic" that in chronic rheumatic arthritis the young seldom suffer? Does Dr. King think a patient must be old before he can have a chronic complaint? Lastly, in his treatment of giving salicylates in rheumatoid cases, when suffering from increased pain and swelling, it would be interesting to know whether the rheumatic element was conspicuously absent.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

HUGH LANE,

Surgeon to the Royal Mineral Water Hospital, Bath; Hon.
July 4th, 1892. Med. Off. to the Royal United Hospital, Bath.

DEATH UNDER CHLOROFORM.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In THE LANCET of May 21st Dr. Colvin Smith records a death under chloroform which affords a striking example of the danger of pulse feeling in chloroform administration. The patient was breathing well, but, owing probably to the pharynx being full of blood, was rather cyanosed. Although cyanosed he was supposed to have fainted. Simply because the pulse could not be felt ether was injected, and "other steps were at once taken to stimulate the heart." It is clear from Dr. Colvin Smith's account of the case that the heart was refusing to convey any more chloroform to the brain at this time—i.e., while the cyanosis lasted. If the patient had only been left alone, and the safeguard action of the vagus had not been frustrated by the injection of ether, the stoppage of the heart would have saved his life.

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,

Hyderabad, June 14th, 1892.

EDWARD LAWRIE.

"THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN PARLIAMENT."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—*Aprpos* of the first leading article in THE LANCET of June 25th I enclose the following extract from Col. Lowry's address to the electors of Trinity College, Dublin:—"Next in point of number are the medical graduates. I have always felt that the medical profession has a special claim upon the representatives of the University; for, unlike the legal profession, very few of its members have seats in the House of Commons. It is within my own knowledge that the dispensary medical officers in Ireland have long had reason to complain of their position in regard to both their duties and their pensions. I shall, if elected, give my special attention to the interests of this large and important body." The lawyers want to make a convenience of the electors by making the University a stepping-stone to the bench. Every University doctor should support the advocates of his own profession, as I do, though I am afraid some of them support the lawyers.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

THOMAS MOORE SUNTER, M.D. T.C.D., M.D. Oxon.

Spring-grove, Isleworth, July 4th, 1892.

"STEELE v. SAVORY" FUND.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—We beg to forward herewith a third list of donations and subscriptions to the "Steele v. Savory" fund, and in doing so you will permit us to make known through THE LANCET that the Members of the College of the United Services, the Indian Medical Service in particular, have evinced throughout great interest in the justice of the claims put forward by the Association of Members. Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Calthrop, of Mian Mir, Punjab, Bengal Presidency, has issued an appeal and undertaken to receive subscriptions on behalf of the fund and the first instalment was received by the last mail. Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel North writes: "I gladly enclose my guinea, and if the sovereign had only cost Rs10, as it should with us, instead of Rs16, I would gladly have sent two, but I shall be happy to contribute further in the righteous cause of the members of the College, and pray communicate my best thanks to the plaintiffs who have been fighting our battle."

We remain, Sirs, faithfully yours,

JABEZ HOGG,

W. G. DICKINSON,

Joint
Hon. Secs.

July 6th, 1892.

THIRD LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Deputy-Surgeon-General McKellar (to make up his donation to £50) ..	34	5	0	Foster MacGeagh ..	1	1	0
Anonymous ..	5	0	0	T. Craddock Palmer ..	1	1	0
A. L. H. ..	3	3	0	E. H. Beaman ..	1	1	0
Chas. Eaton Baker ..	2	0	0	Arthur R. Hopper ..	1	1	0
Maurice E. Ling ..	1	17	6	T. P. Purvis ..	1	1	0
Dr. G. H. Batterbury (Hon. Loc. Sec.) ..	1	10	0	Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel Calthrop ..	1	1	0
Dr. Jacob Pickett ..	1	10	0	Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel Temple ..	1	1	0
Andrew Fuller ..	1	10	0	Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel J. North ..	1	1	0
Richard Emmett ..	1	10	0	Surgeon-Major Harwood ..	1	1	0
F. A. Gray ..	1	10	0	G. J. Muriel ..	1	1	0
G. W. Graham ..	1	10	0	William Marsden ..	1	0	0
Chas. Williams, F.R.C.S. ..	1	1	0	Dr. E. R. Tenison ..	1	0	0
Rev. R. J. Simpson ..	1	1	0	Thomas Aspinall ..	0	10	6
J. M. King ..	1	1	0	Dr. Clewen Griffith ..	0	10	6
T. J. Merriman ..	1	1	0	William Hawkins ..	0	10	0
Dr. Braithwaite Rogers ..	1	1	0	Dr. Bucknell ..	0	10	0
John Prince ..	1	1	0	Dr. Cox ..	0	10	0
Alfred Freer ..	1	1	0				

Donations may be forwarded to the treasurer or paid direct to Dr. Danford Thomas, Park Lodge, Paddington, crossed "Steele v. Savory" Fund, the National Bank, Bayswater, W.

MEDICAL DEFENCE UNION, LIMITED.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—As there appears to exist some misunderstanding as to the position and progress of the Medical Defence Union, Limited, will you allow us to give the following particulars, which will enable the profession to properly judge as to the stability of the Company, its capacity for doing the work of medical defence and for meeting the wants of its members:—

Number of Members.

1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892 to June.
442	834	1446	1828	2366

Amount of Guarantee Fund.

1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892 to June.
£538	£1249	£2173	£2826	£3489

The Executive Council of the Union is composed of an equal number of London and provincial members and the meetings are generally held alternately in London and Birmingham. Members of the Union are drawn from the metropolis in large numbers, as well as from all parts of the United Kingdom. One of the secretaries resides in London, one in the Midlands, and in this way cases of emergency can be dealt with with the utmost promptitude and despatch and personal advice given to members resident in London when required.

We are, Sirs, your obedient servants,

LESLIE PHILLIPS, M.D., } Hon. Secs. Medical
A. G. BATEMAN, M.B., } Defence Union.

July 4th, 1892.

GREAT YARMOUTH HOSPITAL.—The annual report for the past year shows that 332 in-patients and 3857 out-patients were treated during the twelve months. The year's income had more than covered the expenditure, leaving in hand a surplus of £220 19s. 11d. The invested funds amount to £16,120 6s. 7d.