to writing to their representatives in Parliament to oppose the repeal of the Act for accumulative penalties for non-compliance with vaccination. There is now no time to be lost. I much wish copies of your able article in THE LANCET of May 14th, 1892, could be sent to each Member of Parliament. They will, of course, be inundated with the false statements of the anti-vaccinationists. It is a great pity that there is not a league of vaccinationists to disseminate the truth.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Worcester, March 6th, 1893. WM. WOODWARD, M.D.

DENTAL ADVERTISING.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The agitation in reference to the suppression of dental advertising is, I think, hardly a judicious one, for the simple reason that it cannot possibly bear fruit. The General Medical Council must, of course, be fully aware that many were making a practice of advertising at the time that they were admitted to the Dental Register, and therefore have practically a vested interest in the manner in which they now pursue their profession. This body of men have given no undertaking to subscribe to the so-called etiquette of the profession, and under any circumstances it would have to be shown that advertising *per se* was harmful, apart from the mere sentimental objections to it. Dentists, too, unlike the medical profession, have an appeal to the Courts, and their interests are so large that it would be highly improbable they would be disturbed. It is certainly a hardship that the new "L.D.S." is not able to compete on an equal footing with the mere "registered" men; but the remedy would surely not be found by inflicting an injustice on the latter body. Altogether the movement seems to me to be impracticable, and the present anomalous state of things can only be rectified by the course of time. An effort to obtain a better distinction between the "qualified" dentist and the merely "registered" one would be more reasonable at the present moment, and more likely to yield better results.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
March 1st, 1893. A LOOKER ON.

LIGATURE OF THE ANTERIOR TIBIAL ARTERY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I read with much interest Mr. A. Pearce Gould's interesting case of ligature of the anterior tibial artery in THE LANCET of March 4th. My object in writing is to draw attention to the great success attending the practice advocated by Mr. Gould during the American Civil War. Both Confederate and Federal surgeons tied the anterior tibial artery in cases of compound fracture of the bones of the leg with success. Assistant-Surgeon R. O'Leary, P.A.C.S., reports in the November number of the *Confederate States Medical and Surgical Journal* for 1864 a successful case, and the Surgeon-General, U.S.A., gives a summary of forty-seven ligations of the anterior tibial artery; twenty-six patients survived the operation. In seven cases, with four recoveries, the posterior tibial artery was likewise tied. In fifteen cases in which amputation was performed secondary bleeding took place, necessitating ligature of the vessel on the face of the stump. Twelve cases were treated by ligation of the artery at the seat of the injury; of these six recovered and six died, or required amputation—a much smaller percentage than the usual from ligation of arteries, for of the 1155 ligations recorded in the U.S.A., 684 died—a result not to be wondered at when we think of the hardships their wounded troops suffered during the retreats from Fredericksburg, the Peninsula, Manassas, Chancellorsville, and many other great battles. The tendency of the hardships endured during transportation to produce secondary hæmorrhage is illustrated by Surgeon Brinton's case occurring during the flight from Fredericksburg.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,
GEORGE FOY, F.R.C.S.I.
Cavendish-row, Rutland-square East, Dublin, March 4th, 1893.

FAMINE AND TYPHUS FEVER IN BENCHASI.—

News has been received in Tripoli to the effect that famine and its common attendant, typhus fever, have been causing terrible mortality amongst the inhabitants of Benchasi, the Turkish African province of Berea.

NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Tyne Sanitary Authority.

THE medical officer for the Tyne port sanitary authority, Dr. H. E. Armstrong, has issued a most interesting report, especially as regards the cholera precautions necessary last autumn in consequence of the great inter-communication of the Tyne with foreign infected ports. As regards the work done it is only necessary to state that from Aug. 30th to Nov. 21st last a continuous inspection was necessary of 497 ships carrying 8059 passengers and hands, and, with few exceptions, these had come from cholera-infected ports. Dr. Armstrong speaks highly of the work of Dr. Clark, Mr. Webster, Drs. Steegman, Marshall and others, but says very little about his own work and risks, but it is well known and remembered (at least by his professional *confrères*) that he did not spare himself during this trying period, and indeed he remained up a whole night with a cholera patient and only left the poor fellow when he died. It is a pity that Dr. Armstrong's exertions have not been adequately appreciated by the Tyne sanitary authority.

The Knight Memorial Hospital, Blyth.

The annual meeting of this new institution (which is a great advantage to Blyth and its vicinity) has been held. Dr. Newstead says in his report that in all about 800 patients were treated. The financial condition of the hospital is satisfactory, but more subscriptions will be necessary to cope with the increasing population.

Small-pox in Northumberland and Durham.

Although there is nothing in the nature of an epidemic of small-pox in the north, one hears from day to day of cases here and there. It has reappeared at Sunderland, as also in Durham city and Weardale. In most cases it can be traced to tramps and wayfarers. If anything could be done to stop the migrations of these unsettled "gentry" I believe that the disease would before long be stamped out.

Sad Accident to a Durham Grammar School Master.

Many of the readers of THE LANCET who have been educated at the Durham Grammar School will be sorry to hear of the sad accident to Mr. F. A. Ker, M.A., tutor of modern languages for several years at that school. Mr. Ker, who was very fond of trapeze exercise, fell from the cross-bar when practising last Thursday, and he received such injury to his spine that he died in two days in the Durham County Infirmary.

Sunderland

A successful effort was made last week to benefit the infirmary and other charities by the press and dramatic charity carnival, resulting in the sum of £170. Next year it is proposed to enlarge the scope of the attractions by having, as at Newcastle, a musical *matinée* as well. A correspondent of the *Sunderland Echo* says that of the thirty-nine surgeons practising in Sunderland forty-two years ago there are only four now remaining.

Middlesbrough Asylum.

At a meeting of the Middlesbrough Asylum Committee the architect to the Lunacy Commissioners was instructed to prepare plans for a lunatic asylum to be erected on the Marton estate and to provide accommodation for 220 beds and at the same time for a possible increase of eighty patients.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, March 9th.

SCOTLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

Edinburgh Medico-Chirurgical Society.

AT the meeting of this Society last week Dr. John Duncan read a paper on the Surgical Treatment of Gall-stones, in which he gave his experience of operation in ten cases. Out of these there was only one death, and the patient who died was an old and much worn-out man. He regarded the operation as a suitable and a safe proceeding. The second paper was by Dr. Rutherford Morison of Newcastle on Some Mistakes and Accidents in the Technique of Abdominal Operations. The paper was a very practical one, illustrated by Dr. Morison's experience.