

and his premature death in the discharge of his duties has given rise to a widespread feeling that there should be some tangible recognition of his services. Dr. Rake, though desirous of doing so, was unable to effect an insurance on his life, and his friends therefore feel that the most fitting memorial to him should take the form, in part, of substantial assistance to his widow and children.

Dr. Pye-Smith, of 48, Brook-street, W., has consented to act as treasurer to the fund; Dr. P. S. Abraham, 2, Henrietta-street, Cavendish-square; Dr. G. A. Buckmaster, St. George's Hospital; and Mr. Alfred Rake, will act as honorary secretaries, and an influential committee is being formed to carry out the objects in view. We shall be obliged, Sirs, if you will insert this appeal in the columns of THE LANCET, and allow us to express the hope that it will be generously responded to.

SAMUEL WILKS, JAMES PAGET,
THOMAS BRYANT, J. FAYRER,
F. W. PAVY, JONATHAN HUTCHINSON.

London, Nov. 20th, 1894.

"ST. JOHN AMBULANCE WORK."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Will you permit me, as an ambulance lecturer of three years' standing, to reply to the letter, in THE LANCET of the 10th inst., of Mr. F. J. Judge Baldwin? He states, and correctly states, that "under the County Council Act there is a clause which enables classes of ambulance work to be paid for by the County Council." The Essex County Council, and, I believe, all other County Councils, have through their technical instruction committees liberally used their power. I have given a comparatively large number of "first aid" lectures, and in no case have I ever been offered a lower fee than a guinea for each lecture. In fact, at the present moment I am giving a course of "first aid" lectures for which I am offered a fee of 25s. for each lecture, the additional 4s. being voluntarily given because I have to drive several miles to and from the Board school in which the lectures are being given. Mr. Baldwin says his object in writing to THE LANCET "is to ask secretaries and medical men generally to abstain from lecturing under the County Council unless they [secretaries and medical men] are paid the fee of a guinea per lecture." I have never heard of a medical man doing so for less than a guinea, and if the secretaries are lay lecturers the practical results are small indeed. The St. John Ambulance Association absolutely refuse to recognise lectures not given by medical men. When properly given no class of lectures is more popular or more appreciated. A large proportion of the pupils show their appreciation by obtaining the First Aid Certificate from the St. John Ambulance Association.

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,

J. GIDLEY-MOORE,
Hon. Surgeon to the St. John
Ambulance Brigade.

Ongar, Essex, Nov. 14th, 1894.

"MENTAL THERAPEUTICS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—On reading Dr. A. T. Schofield's paper on "Mental Therapeutics" I was reminded of several cases that have occurred in my practice which were certainly cured by mentally impressing upon the patients the certainty that the treatment I intended to adopt would cure them. Such statements were not the exact truth, but I argue I was justified in so acting for what I considered to be for the benefit of the patient. One case was that of an elderly woman about fifty-eight years of age, but who looked seventy at least. She had been under my care for some years for various complaints of a decidedly neurotic character. At last these neurotic symptoms became so dominant that her life was in actual danger. Every organ in her body she considered to be diseased; she had pains like "burning fire" everywhere, inability to take food, loss of power in the limbs, insomnia, and everything, even water, tasted of copper. Previously to this I had tried various methods of treatment by medicine, food, massage, &c., with occasional partial relief, but all these methods were now useless. I consequently adopted what has been justly designated "mental therapeutics." I informed her that death was certain to result, and I considered her only hope to

lie in a certain drug I desired to prescribe, but that it was so dangerous that I could only allow it to be administered by a trained and trustworthy nurse, and that it would have to be taken at stated hours to the very second. After the arrival of the nurse I ordered a mixture of pure distilled water only, and impressed upon her, in presence of the patient, the necessity that a tablespoonful of the mixture should be given at 7 A.M. and 12 A.M., 5 P.M. and 10 P.M., not a minute sooner or a minute later; also that a small quantity of liquid food should be given shortly after. At first the mixture and food, the patient stated, tasted like copper, but gradually this disappeared, as well as the other neurotic symptoms, and food began to be relished and sleep obtained. In the course of two or three weeks she was well and able to go about freely, and has not, to my knowledge, required medical treatment for the last two years. In another case I adopted just as casuistical a method of treatment. I was called to see a woman who lived in the "Bush," about forty miles from where I was then in practice. On arriving I found my patient to be a woman in an extreme state of emaciation and in imminent danger of death from incessant vomiting, which had continued for three weeks, during which period, I was informed, not even a teaspoonful of water had been retained on the stomach. After a thorough examination of the case I came to the conclusion that the vomiting was purely hysterical, and ordered her removal to the township where I resided, in order that she might be under my immediate care and have a nurse to attend to her. After her arrival I ordered her to bed and administered a hypodermic injection of four minims of liquor morphiae into her arm, filling the syringe ostentatiously before her, with the result that she slept for eight hours. On her awakening the vomiting recurred. I then secretly half emptied the phial and filled it with water, and afterwards openly filled the syringe before her and injected four minims, with the result that she slept for twelve hours and the vomiting had decreased considerably. I next day emptied the phial and filled it with water only, going through the same process, with the result that she slept for twenty-four hours and never vomited again, beginning gradually to take all kinds of food. In a fortnight she had recovered sufficiently to ride home on horseback.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

W. J. BARKAS, M.R.C.S. Eng.

Paddington, Sydney, N.S.W., Sept. 24th, 1894.

TABLET IN COMMEMORATION OF THE LATE DR. WOOLDRIDGE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It may interest some of your readers to know that a brass tablet has recently been placed in the chapel of Cranleigh School, where Dr. Wooldridge was educated. The inscription is as follows:—

IN . PIAM . MEMORIAM
LEONARDI . CAROLI . WOOLDRIDGE . M.D.
ALUMNI . CRANLEIENSIS . ILLUSTRISSIMI
QUI . IN CHRISTO . OBDORMIVIT
ANNO . AETATIS . XXXII
A.D. . VIII . ID . IUN . MDCCLXXXIX
AMICI . HANC . TABULAM . POSUERUNT.

ARTE . SALUTIFERA . MORTEM . QUI . DISTULIT . AEGRIS
IPSUM . NUNC . MORTIS . VIS . INOPINA . RAPIT
AT QUID FLERE OPUS EST? UBINAM VICTORIA LETI?
VIVIT . ADHUC . VITAM . DAT . SINE . FINE . DEUS.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Cranleigh, Surrey, Nov. 18th, 1894.

WM. WELCH.

"THE PAY SYSTEM AND THE GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL HOSPITAL."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have this morning received a circular letter, signed by the senior physician and senior surgeon of the Great Northern Central Hospital, in defence of the pay ward system. In this letter two conditions are mentioned as safeguards, the first of which is thus worded: That no patient shall be admitted without the consent in writing of his or her own medical attendant." Verily, this is putting the general practitioner between the hammer and the anvil with a vengeance; for if he give his consent he loses his patient, and if he withhold it he offends his patient, with the

¹ THE LANCET, Feb. 3rd, 1894.