sider it best that I should not only acknowledge this here, but in doing so point the lesson that the literary monument of the great clinician Fagge is being added to and rendered more valuable by the wise and decidedly expressed opinions of its present editor.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

JOHN A. MACDOUGALL.

Arin, North Berwick, July 1st, 1891.

“EUCALYPTUS OIL IN THE TREATMENT OF SCARLET FEVER.”

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The trial which I gave to eucalyptus oil in the treatment of scarlet fever, referred to by Mr. Curgenvin in your last issue, was made not with a view of illustrating any particular “method” of treatment, but solely to test the efficacy of the drug. Therapeutics is, I am convinced, never less fortunate than when reduced to a method. My results denoting the uselessness of this remedy when given internally, and as a direct application to the lesions of the disease, leave me sceptical as to the probability of having obtained better results if the oil had been in addition applied to the skin on the method recommended by Mr. Curgenvin. The field of good result anticipated when it was suggested to adapt advantages of antiseptics from the domain of surgery to the uses of medicine is still, unfortunately, barren; and whatever the value of eucalyptus oil as an antiseptic may be, as a curative agent in scarlet fever it possesses, so far as my experiences go, no value whatever.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

C. KNOX BOND.

City of Liverpool Fever Hospital (South), June 30th, 1891.

BONE ABSCESS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May I be permitted to comment on a small but not unimportant point in the article by Mr. W. H. Battle on bone abscess? He quotes Case 3 as an example of that rare disease—abscess of the shaft of the tibia. But I think he will probably agree that *in its origin* it did not belong to this class. Note the following points. The patient was twenty-two years of age, the disease began when he was sixteen; the swelling was at first over the “upper part” of the tibia, and even six years later was in the upper third. The tibia grows most rapidly at the upper epiphysis. So that a small juxta-epiphysal abscess would, in the natural sequence of events, be found separated by the subsequently added portion of the shaft from the epiphysal line. Some cases illustrating this have been published by me in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* of January last. I have found sequestra in the substance of the shafts of the femur and humerus, as well as of the tibia, which were seen at once by their shape to have been originally in connexion with the epiphysal line. It is difficult to exaggerate the part played by the juxta-epiphysal region in inflammatory bone disease other than specific periostitis.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Kashmir Mission Hospital. ARTHUR NEVE, F.R.C.S. Edin.

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Death from Lightning.

ON June 25th Liverpool was visited by one of the most severe thunderstorms which has been witnessed for more than twenty years. One very sad fatality occurred. While the storm was at its height there was in the river Mersey, about half-way between the Lancashire and Cheshire sides, a boat containing three men, part of a steam tug's crew. One of them was struck by the lightning and killed instantaneously. The electric fluid passed from the inside of the calf of his right leg up the thigh into his body, tearing his trousers to shreds. The two other men escaped, adding one more to the many marvellous illustrations of the uncertainty with which lightning acts.

A Juror Teaching a Legal Coroner the Law on Oaths.

At an inquest held recently at St. Helens by Mr.

Husband, solicitor and deputy coroner, a jurymen objected to take the oath on the ground that he had no religious belief. The coroner at first expressed an opinion that the juror could not affirm as he claimed, and a solicitor present supported the coroner. But a reference to the Act of Parliament showed that the juror was right and both lawyers wrong.

Two Remarkably Sudden Deaths.

A coalheaver, aged forty, who suffered from heart disease, returned home to find that his wife had unexpectedly died during his absence. He dropped down dead beside his wife's body.—A Liverpool captain, somewhat advanced in years, went into a Birkenhead beerhouse, sat down on a chair without speaking to anyone, immediately fell forwards upon the floor, and when picked up was found to be dead. Sudden deaths are somewhat frequent in very hot weather, and, in so large a community as that of Liverpool, occur with almost painful frequency. Most if not all are reported to the coroner, but inquests are only held in those cases in which circumstances render a public inquiry desirable. The irksome and somewhat frequent calls upon householders to serve as coroner's jurors have been the subject of some recent complaints before the county coroner. In cases of adjourned inquest occupying two or more days the city coroner excuses jurors from further calls for some time.

Influenza and the Liverpool Workhouse.

When the influenza was at its height a number of the officers of the Liverpool Workhouse were attacked with it as well as the pauper inmates. At the last meeting of the Workhouse Committee on June 25th it was stated that the influenza had entirely disappeared from the workhouse, not a single case being reported that morning.

The Liverpool Death-rate.

At the last meeting of the Health Committee on June 25th the medical officer of health reported that the number of deaths registered in Liverpool during the week ending June 20th was 291, an increase of 26 on the corrected average, and 33 more than in the corresponding week of last year, the total rate being equal to 29·3 per 1000 of the estimated population. Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act there were reported 20 cases of scarlatina, 7 removed to hospital; 2 of fever, 1 removed to hospital; 1 of diphtheria, and 6 of erysipelas, none of which were removed to the hospital. In addition to these the medical officer had notice from other sources of 38 cases of measles, 4 of which were removed to hospital. There were under treatment in hospital for the week ending June 20th: Typhus fever 1, typhoid fever 22, scarlatina 45, diphtheria 2, small-pox 2—a total of 72. There were 23 cases of measles in the hospital of the Liverpool Workhouse.

Liverpool, June 30th.

BIRMINGHAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Influenza and the Death-rate.

THE diminution of the high death-rate is a matter of congratulation, and must be attributed in a great measure to the improvement in the weather. Last week the death-rate was 23·5, the deaths from influenza numbering 18, and those from other diseases of the respiratory organs 49. In the weeks ending May 30th and June 6th it was as high as 38·1 and 38·2 respectively, with a proportionate number of influenza cases. The high mortality is much greater than any records of recent years, though many towns have been alike influenced by the dire epidemic which has prevailed for so long in our midst.

Reformatory and Industrial Schools Association.

The annual conference of this association was recently held in this city, and much interesting material was brought under notice. It is worthy of comment that forty years ago the system of dealing with juvenile offenders by sending them to reformatories or to industrial schools had its origin in Birmingham. It was shown that the wisdom of this plan has been justified in the fact that out of some 45,000 young persons discharged from reformatories during the thirty-five years, nearly 80 per cent. returned to honest paths of life. The industrial schools were reported by the secretary to show even better results. Of the 64,000 children passing through these schools, only some 3000 fell again into