the north of Madras petitioned the Government on account of a very bad type of malarial fever which was decimating their dwellings. They said that fever was unknown until about two years ago, when a family suffering from malaria came from Cuddapah—a most malarious place—and since then fever had been rife. Several of the villagers have come to my hospital for treatment, and in all crescents were found in their blood.

Professor Bignami would contend that these people had been inoculated by mosquitoes, but I think that most medical officers in India would maintain that the drinking water had been contaminated in some way. Dr. Manson's theory is a very plausible one, and, judging from the analogy of filaria, it ought to be the correct explanation. I much prefer to believe in the mosquito infecting the water-supply than in its inoculating individuals.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

A. J. STURMER, Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel.

Madras, Jan. 7th, 1897.

A CONFERENCE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Surely the time has come when some united action should be taken by the whole body of general practitioners of the United Kingdom with a view of checking the present downward tendencies of our profession, and with this object in contemplation I would suggest that this year should mark a fresh epoch in the corporate life of the medical profession, not only in reference to ourselves, but to the public. In short, we might with advantage follow the example of other bodies of men (trades unions and others) in combining together in order to protect our own interests, and I take it that in order to accomplish this such a conference as I propose should be convened in London at some suitable time and place. And the same might be held under the presidency of our three newly-elected representatives on the General Medical Council. There should be no difficulty in obtaining delegates to attend such conference, and I think none of us will deny there is any lack of subjects now ripe for discussion, &c. Should this suggestion meet with approval, I shall be glad to hear from any brother practitioner willing to assist in this forward movement, stating at the same time in writing the particular subjects which in his opinion, and having regard to his own particular district, should form the basis of discussion by such conference.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

T. HOWARD BROCKLEHURST, M.R.C.S. Eng., &c.

Weymouth, Jan. 25th, 1897.

* * We do not think that the profession would gain much from such a conference if instituted. As an expression of wide dissatisfaction it would be behind the times, for no one denies that the medical profession has many and various grievances; but as a method of relieving them a conference would lead to but little. Who is to decide which are local, petty, and personal grievances, and which are the questions that seriously affect the profession?—ED. L.

"ARMY EXAMINATIONS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Your correspondent "Physician"¹ is apparently anxious to support the crammers, and yet his letter contains ample confirmation of everything that was stated in the annotation which he qualifies as "open to much criticism." To begin with, he says, "The fact is that in our large public schools the special education required interferes greatly with the general school studies." Precisely so; that is exactly what the correspondents whose letters you alluded to, complain of. But surely "Physician" would not have us believe that the system of education obtaining in our public schools is a bad one. That Waterloo was won in the playing fields of Eton and Harrow is a saying which may or may not have been uttered by Wellington, but in my humble opinion there is a great deal of truth in it. I firmly maintain, in common with most Englishmen, that our public schools are the best in the world and that in no other educational establishments can young fellows be turned out so well fitted in every respect for positions of

responsibility in the army or any other walk of life. An examination that favours the withdrawal of boys from school before the usual time must be radically wrong, and therefore the sooner the present portal of entrance to Her Majesty's service is made less crooked the better it will be for all concerned. Your correspondent next tells us that "the duller, and lazier, and ill-prepared ones [schoolboys] are taken in hand by special instructors, whom it is a gross injustice to stigmatise as 'crammers.'" Surely he must now see that this is in direct accordance with the spirit of your remarks. Thirdly, "Physician" asserts that crammers are men who "by force of character and experience, by careful study of each individual, and with the assistance of a staff of highly-trained assistants, succeed by genuine solid work in many instances where schoolmasters have failed." Does he mean to imply that the head masters of our great schools are deficient in all these respects? If so, I can only wonder at his adoption of such a singular line of argument. Incidentally "Physician" observes that Lord Wolseley and Lord Roberts would have been eliminated if physique had been a leading feature, but there also I am quite unable to agree with him. Both of these distinguished officers are men of exceptionally good physique, on a small scale it may be, but essentially sound and capable of enduring the trials and vicissitudes of a soldier's life. It would be easy to still further dissect your correspondent's letter, but the foregoing will suffice. Truly in this case the crammers have a right to pray for deliverance from their friends!

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Jan. 16th, 1897.

UNCRAMMED.

"POST-PARTUM HÆMORRHAGE AND ITS TREATMENT."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In reply to Mr. Stanmore Bishop's comments on my query as to the use of Davy's lever, may I be allowed to say I think it would be impossible to make effectual manual compression of the aorta in very stout women, even disregarding the obstacle presented by the state of the uterus? Absence of an instrument does not preclude the use of the hand.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Jan. 23th, 1897.

RINALDO.

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Liverpool Northern Hospital.

THE annual meeting of the subscribers to this hospital was held on the 20th inst. at the town hall, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. The committee in their report stated that during 1896 there had been 1573 in-patients and 5630 out-patients. The ordinary expenditure had been £6519, against £6643 in 1895. The adverse balance of £4019 at the end of 1895 had been wiped out by a transfer from the special fund of £4000 raised in response to the committee's appeal. Independently of contributions to that fund the receipts for 1896 had been £5715 15s. 7d. The adverse balance of last year incurred in working the ambulance had been generously paid off by Mr. Walter Holland. Thanks were expressed to Mr. L. S. Cohen, who had presented the new horse ambulance carriage, a description of which appeared in THE LANCET. The report added that the convalescent fund continued to be of great assistance in hastening the recovery of patients; that the nursing institution in Paisley-street had proved of increasing value to the hospital and to the general public; and that the committee gratefully acknowledged the donation of £1430 from the Hospital Sunday and Saturday Funds. In concluding they thanked the public for their response to the appeal for funds for the furnishing and maintenance of the New David Lewis Hospital; £31,400 had been contributed for this purpose, and it was hoped that the remaining £8600 would be obtained as soon as possible. A pleasing feature of the report was the statement that the David Lewis trustees had increased their contribution towards re-building the hospital from £60,000 to £80,000.

Birkenhead Borough Hospital.

The committee's annual report stated that the improved

¹ THE LANCET, Jan. 16th, 1897. p. 209.