of two cases of pancreatitis with jaundice which I had the opportunity of investigating in Sir Thomas Fraser's wards in the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. These cases were examined by me incidentally in the course of an extensive investigation into the clinical value of the pancreatic reaction in the urine (Cambridge). One of the cases was a patient with simple "catarrhal jaundice," the other was a case of malaria (malignant type) with jaundice. In each case a diagnosis of pancreatitis was made, from the association of (a) jaundice, (b) marked tenderness in the region of the head of the pancreas, and (c) a marked positive reaction in the urine by the pancreatic reaction. The results of my observations on these cases led me to conclude that the jaundice occasionally met with in malaria has its origin in pancreatic disease, and further that inflammation of the pancreas is an important factor in the development of simple "catarrhal jaundice." These views are in close accord with those expressed by Dr. Phillips, and in view of the clinical importance of the subject I have ventured to draw fresh attention to it.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Edinburgh, March 22nd, 1908.

CHALMERS WATSON.

THE STREAM HILL SANATORIUM SITE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your issue of March 14th a letter appeared from Mr. Langley Brasier-Creagh, regarding the suitability of the Stream Hill site for a sanatorium for the county of Cork. As engineer appointed by the opposing ratepayers in the district of Buttevant and Doneraile to thoroughly examine the site and give evidence at the late Local Government Board inquiry I beg to say that, in my opinion, the site is utterly unsuitable for a sanatorium. The place is covered with patches of rushes, surface soil peat mould, and sub-soil, most important of all, yellow marly clay, which is most retentive to moisture. I may add that I had a trial hole dug on the proposed site of the sanatorium building and found soil as described above, a sample of which I produced at the inquiry.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Killeagh, Co. Cork, March 21st, 1908.

EDWIN GREEN, C.E.

INFLUENZA IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND AN OPEN-AIR HALL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I should like to remind your readers that the experiment of an open-air hall for public gatherings is being already tried at Letchworth. An account of the building by the architect, illustrated by photographs, can be seen in the *Architectural Review* for March. We have encountered many difficulties, especially due to the exposed situation, and we have still various improvements to make. However, since the first week in January the hall has been in use, each week 50 or 60 people from Garden City sitting for an hour during an organ recital and an address in a hall which, though warmed by fires and hot-water pipes, is only protected from the open air on one side by tarpaulin and canvas curtains; these latter are removeable in fine weather. The building is also constructed, drained, and the floor fitted with corticene, so as to enable the place to be cleaned down regularly with a hose-pipe, thus avoiding any question of germs.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

A. J. LAWRENCE.

The Cloisters, Open-air School, Letchworth, Herts.

PORT WINE AND ITS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A recent decision by a police-court magistrate to the effect that "port" in order to be port must come from Oporto reminds one of the old puzzle (which should have been cited on behalf of the prosecution): "Gddlprtfrmptrfrthdxxfrddns," which, we used to be told, needed but the addition of a single vowel in order to make it intelligible. The vowel was, of course, "o," repeated often enough to form the sentence: "Good old port from Oporto for orthodox Oxford dons." It was invented in days when port and Oxford dons alike were orthodox.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

March 24th, 1908.

A. A.

BIRMINGHAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Walsall's New Sewage Scheme.

THE pressure brought to bear by the Local Government Board and the county council has compelled Walsall to face the question of a proper solution of its sewage problem. The desire of a town council to put off the adoption of a costly scheme is quite easy to understand in a period when taxes and rates are advancing in a way which is quite out of proportion to the returns from productive labour, but a proper sewage scheme has become a necessity and Walsall will have to face an increased rate of about 3d. in the £, for if the scheme be approved it will be necessary to ask the Local Government Board to sanction a loan of £62,734 to meet the costs, and the interest on that sum and other incidental expenses can only be met by an increased rate of 3d.

The Birmingham Industries Exhibition.

The object of the Birmingham Industries Exhibition which opens at the Bingley Hall to-day is to clear off the balance of the debt resulting from the purchasing, rebuilding, and equipping the Hospital Saturday Fund's convalescent home for women at Marble Hall, near Llandudno, to which some 1200 women and girls are sent every year. A sum of £4000 is necessary and at present there is every hope that the whole or the greater part will be secured, for the exhibition promises to be a great success. From its very constitution it will of necessity excite local interest and curiosity and an opportunity will be given to the visitors to hear excellent music, for the majority of the well-known bands of the country have been engaged to play in the hall during the weeks in which the exhibition will be open.

The Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Skin and Urinary Diseases.

During the year 1907 the number of in-patients treated in the above hospital was 184, or 19 more than in 1906, and the number of out-patients was 7317, showing an increase of 111 as compared with 1906. The total expenditure for the year was £2962 and it exceeded the income by a little more than £130. The committee states that unless the hospital can secure an increased annual income of £275 its work must be curtailed. In moving the adoption of the report the Lord Mayor remarked that he noticed that during the year 78 patients had been rejected in the out-patient department on the ground of their being able to pay for treatment, and he expressed the hope that very great consideration would be exercised before such rejections were made. With this hope the medical profession will be in cordial agreement, but it will also equally urge that every care should be taken that patients who can afford to pay shall not be treated gratuitously and that they shall not be taught to think that what sums they give as charitable aid to hospital funds are to be looked upon as club subscriptions entitling them to treatment.

March 23rd.

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Ladies' Sanitary Association and Infantile Mortality.

THE Liverpool Ladies' Sanitary Association is endeavouring to raise a fund of £1500 to cope with the great waste caused by the appalling death-rate among infants and young children in the city. A suitable house has been purchased by the generosity of two ladies and will be used as a hostel for the children's nurses trained by the association. It will contain a day nursery where these nurses can obtain practical instruction in the care of infants. The association, in addition to the work of the hostel and day nursery, intends to send mothers' visitors out into the city to give advice and personal help to expectant mothers before confinement and to render some further assistance after midwives, medical men, or district nurses have ceased to visit these cases. A suitable matron has been engaged for the hostel and day nursery and it is intended to employ a trained lady to superintend the mothers' visitors. These mothers' visitors will have practical help in their work by