Plymouth Hospital (dated June 11th, 1892). Staff Surgeons: Henry A. W. Richardson to Plymouth Hospital (dated June 11th, 1892); H. W. D. Walsh to the *Hecla*, Robt. Benthams, to the *Neptune*, to join July 2nd, and Alex. L. Christie, M.B., to the *Serapis* (all dated June 15th, 1892). Surgeons; Joseph C. Wood to the *Alecto*, Hugh W. Macnamara and Hamilton E. L. Earle to the *Pembroke*, additional (all dated June 11th, 1892); Deputy-Inspector-General Thos. S. Burnett to Jamaica Hospital.—Surgeons and Agents: George B. Elliott to Brixham and Thomas Shonhan to Bonmahon (both dated May 14th, 1892); John F. Newland to Kingstown and Dalkey (dated May 26th, 1892).

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL STAFF CORPS.—The Norwich Company: Charles Hyde Champion Cousins, Gent., to be Surgeon-Lieutenant—*Infantry*: Aberdeen Brigade: Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel A. Fraser, M.D., 1st Volunteer Battalion, the Gordon Highlanders, to be Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel.

VOLUNTEER CORPS.—*Artillery*: The Tynemouth (Western Division, Royal Artillery): Surgeon-Captain J. F. Haswell, M.B., resigns his commission (dated June 11th, 1892).—*Royal Engineers* (Fortress and Railway Forces): 1st Durham: Surgeon-Lieutenant J. D. Leigh resigns his commission (dated June 11th, 1892).—1st Gloucestershire: George Herbert Ward-Humphreys, Gent., to be Surgeon-Lieutenant (dated June 11th, 1892).—*Rifles*: 3rd Volunteer Battalion, the Welsh Regiment: Surgeon-Captain J. L. Leckie to be Surgeon-Major (dated June 11th, 1892).

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

DISPUTED CASE OF SCARLET FEVER.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—As the magistrate criticised severely my conduct in this case, I shall be glad if you will allow me space to explain how it was I acted as I did.

On May 19th I was called to see Emily Williams by the mother, and I was informed by no one that there was anything peculiar about the case. I continued to attend her almost daily through a mild but well-marked attack of right-sided pleurisy, with pain, rapid breathing, and well-marked pleuritic rub. The child was never seriously ill, and was convalescent on the 28th, when my visits ceased. About the 25th a member of the Fulham Vestry called upon me and told me I was attending a case of scarlet fever. This I denied. He mentioned the number of the house at which I was attending, but still I told him he was mistaken; there must be two children ill in the house. However, he made it clear to me that my case was the one the medical officer of health had certified as scarlet fever. When I discovered this, knowing that this member of the vestry would soon be seeing the medical officer of health, I asked him if he would kindly make it clear to him that I attended the case in ignorance, and gave my diagnosis before I knew he had ever seen it, as I had no wish to quarrel with the medical officer of health. The case then came before the guardians, and my diagnosis was made public. As I have always worked amicably with the medical officer of health in his official capacity, and as I received no communication from him, I concluded he had decided to let the case drop. On Saturday, June 4th, I was told in the street that the medical officer of health had gone to the court for an order to arrest my patient. I arrived at the court too late to give evidence. In the evening Mr. Butler called upon me. I had never spoken to or had any communication with him on this or any other matter before.

I should like to take this opportunity for apologising to Dr. Cayley for all the worry the case has been to him. It was too late on Saturday to write, so I simply wired to him asking him to see a case with me; but before the case was brought in to him, Mr. Butler and I explained to him that the magistrate had issued an order for the arrest of the child, on the evidence of medical men who had seen the child on two or three occasions only.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

W. F. CLARKE, M.D., B.S. Lond.

P.S.—A bill has been circulated in the district, on which

my name appears. I had no knowledge of or share in the publication of the document before copies were delivered at my door, and I have taken steps to stop its circulation.

Fulham, June 14th, 1892.

THE HOLY PLACES OF ARABIA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The paper on the above subject, in your issue of the 14th ult., by my friend, Dr. John Wortabet of Beyrout, contains much information, both curious and uncommon. By a printer's error the town of Jidda (Jedda) appears as Tidda throughout the article. Several travellers besides those mentioned by Dr. Wortabet have visited and described the Arabian coastlands—e.g., Irwin, Niebuhr, Seetzen, and Wellsted; and Didier in 1856 reported a journey inland to Taif; but Mecca and Medina remain to be among the least known of the world's cities. Dr. Wortabet quotes Burckhardt's narrative. This intrepid man suffered severely at Mecca from dysentery, and at Medina from fever, which nearly proved fatal, and his death from the former disease in 1817, two years after his return to Egypt, must probably be ascribed to the Arabian visit. A member of our own profession, Robert Richardson, M.D., L.R.C.P. Lond., himself a traveller of no mean rank, happened to be at Cairo, and attended poor Burckhardt in his last illness.¹ When lately in Egypt I sought out Burckhardt's tomb. "The Turks will take my body, I know it," he had said when dying, for as a Mussulman he had lived, and he lies in a Moslem grave. Above is sculptured the full white turban, and below, in Arabic, are the words: "Sheikh Ibrahim, the Moslem, the English Traveller." Dying at thirty-three years of age, when on the eve of entering on his intended life work in Central Africa, Burckhardt left so rich a store of records from the mere preparatory journeys he had taken as to place him in the very first rank of Eastern explorers. As regards the number of pilgrims who visit Mecca, Mr. Wilfrid Blunt computed the "Haj" of 1880 at 93,000. Mr. John Ray, in 1693, quotes an author who speaks of 200,000. The Christian pilgrimage to Jerusalem towards Easter-time is not wholly unlike the Mohammedan in its sanitary aspects, as I can testify; but the numbers are much smaller, and the mortality is far less.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Finsbury-square, June 2nd, 1892.

R. HINGSTON FOX.

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I note in your columns of to-day's issue, at p. 1330, that a report was approved and adopted by the Council containing a clause to the effect that it is impossible to grant even the mildest of the requests of the Association of Fellows—that for a common room—because the Council regard the Fellows as only a section of the Corporation. Surely this is an admission of what I have always contended, that the Membership gives the corporate existence, whilst the Fellowship is a mere academic distinction. Now comes the question: How is it that seats on the Council are confined "to the exclusive use of any section of the Corporation"? Permit me, in conclusion, to say that the action of the Committee of the Members' Association which I deprecate has nothing to do with the question of appeal. The abandonment of that policy was my own action, based on an opinion which I obtained, and which the Committee generously left me to pay for. My refusal to have anything more to do with them was partly explained by Mr. Ashton Ellis's reply, and is due partly to other matters which are slightly indicated by the nonsense written by Mr. W. G. Dickinson.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Birmingham, June 11th, 1892.

LAWSON TAIT.

ANÆSTHETICS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—After the discussions at the Gynæcological Society last week on anæsthetics, perhaps an account of the after-effects of nitrous oxide and ether on the patients operated on at the Chelsea Hospital for Women during this year may not be uninteresting. The results in 89 cases show no

¹ Richardson's Travels, vol. i., p. 161.

deaths attributable to anæsthetics. Apart from abdominal sections there have been 68 operations, averaging twenty-three minutes each, on patients averaging thirty-five years, gas and ether or ether alone being the anæsthetic used; 21 had no retching or vomiting, and the remaining 47 had each on an average not more than 3 attacks of vomiting, with a little retching. There have been 21 abdominal sections, averaging forty-five minutes each, patients' ages thirty-one years; of these, 18 have the exact number of times they vomited noted, being 41 or $2\frac{1}{2}$ times for each patient; the remaining 3 were described as "a little," "very slight," and "not violent at intervals for three hours"; 11 had no retching; and, dividing the remainder into slight and severe, only 2 were noted as having severe retching. About 20 had ether alone, all becoming insensible without coughing, struggling, feeling suffocated, or showing distressing symptoms, the majority being unconscious in three or four minutes. Clover's inhaler, with Hooper's anæsthetic ether, is used, and as little gas and ether given as possible, the relaxation being satisfactory, and the operation can be commenced in two minutes; but I find it better to let them get more slowly under, and take five minutes for abdominal sections. Bronchitis was not set up by ether *de novo*, and a few patients who had coughs before operation were not much worse afterwards. All complained much for twelve to twenty-four hours of the smell and taste of ether, but not often of headache.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

Belgrave-rd., S.W., June 13th, 1892.

ANDREW FAUSSET.

RECTAL INJECTIONS OF SALT SOLUTION FOR HÆMORRHAGES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Dr. Spencer's account in your last week's issue of cases treated by intravenous injections of salt solution in cases of grave hæmorrhage has induced me to again bring before the profession what I believe to be a very good substitute for it in an emergency—viz., simple injection per rectum. I published in THE LANCET of 1888 an account of a patient who was apparently dying from post-partum hæmorrhage, but whom I firmly believed owed her life to the rectal injections, the immediate effects of which were striking. Since the publication of that letter I have heard of a number of cases treated similarly. One of the obstetric assistants at University College Hospital told me he had saved two patients, and was much struck with its efficiency. In another case of excision of the jaw, where the patient was in a state of collapse, the treatment was very effectual, as also in a case of collapse from hæmatemesis. Personally, I have seen it repeatedly used in cases of large losses of blood at University College Hospital, where, instead of injecting only from four to six ounces of saline solution, from twelve to fourteen ounces of warm water were thrown into the rectum. Its value in such operations as amputation at the hip or excision of the upper jaw is unquestionable, but I have never seen any reference made to it either in the text-books or periodicals. Its value, however, is more particularly to the medical man attending midwifery cases, as how few practitioners carry the necessary apparatus for venous transfusion, and how difficult it is when the patient is throwing herself about (and perhaps losing blood all the time), and one is single-handed, to perform what is really a delicate operation, whereas by carrying the "salt" made up in powders ready for dissolving one can control the uterus while the nurse prepares the solution, and inject it without relaxing our attention to the *fons et origo* of the mischief. Whether simple water is as readily taken up by the emptied vessels of the rectum as saline solution I have no means of determining, but at all events the stimulating effects of the salts on the heart are by no means to be neglected. The smaller injections seem to me to be preferable, inasmuch as no risk is run of exciting the bowel to expel its contents, and the injection can be repeated every fifteen minutes until such time as the patient can retain liquids given by the mouth, when both means can be continued as long as necessary. Every practitioner and nurse being provided with a syringe, this plan has at least one good point—it can do no harm, and I am firmly convinced that in the majority of cases it will be markedly beneficial.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

RAINSFORD F. GILL, M.D. Lond.

Adelaide-road, S. Hampstead, June 14th, 1892.

"STEELE V. SAVORY" FUND.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—We beg to forward herewith a second list of subscriptions to the "Steele v Savory" Fund, which includes several amounts previously omitted.

We desire to explain in answer to inquiries that the subscriptions now being acknowledged are those only which have been sent to the Treasurer of the Special Committee appointed in February last after the termination of the action. A "Guarantee Fund" was established on the commencement of the proceedings three years ago, towards which about £250 was received (some further contributions to this fund promised, but not then paid, have since been sent to the Special Committee and included in their first list). This amount was all expended during the progress of the action, but is allowed for in the bill of costs now delivered, from which it will be deducted. It will be seen that there is still a balance of about £1000 required, which would be easily obtained if every member who has hitherto taken an interest in College reform were to send a few shillings. We should like to take this opportunity of reminding our numerous local secretaries of the letter which we recently sent them, and we trust that they are acting upon it. We shall also be glad if those members of our association who have not yet paid their arrears of subscriptions will do so forthwith. We hope that these gentlemen will not put us to unnecessary trouble by delaying their remittances.

We remain, Sirs, faithfully yours,

JABEZ HOGG,

W. G. DICKINSON, } Joint Hon. Secs.

June 14th, 1892.

SECOND LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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	Smaller sums .. 2 15 0
	Errata in First List:—
	For "T. S. Genson," read T. S. Gimson .. 1 10 0
	For "Edwin H. Roe," read Surg.-Major Roe .. 2 2 0

BRITISH MEDICAL TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The twenty-sixth consecutive comparison between the Temperance and General sections of the United King-