include a considerable number of men detained for the day. The death-rate, apart from suicide, accidents, and sudden deaths out of hospital, was 323 per 1000 of strength. During the twelve months taken for comparison there was an epidemic of scarlet fever, 284 men having been attacked with that disease, and 5 cases terminated fatally. There were at one time as many as 119 cases under treatment.

VOLUNTEERS AT NETLEY.

The Manchester companies of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, under the command of Surgeon-Captain W. Coates, left Netley on Saturday, the 19th. During the week they daily paraded for waggon, stretcher, and company drill, and had opportunities of training at the Royal Victoria Hospital and in the arrangement of camps. On Friday, the 18th, they were inspected by Surgeon-Major-General Broke-Smith, Principal Medical Officer, Netley.

The Commander-in-Chief has lately decided that the Professors of the Army Medical School who are on the Active List shall be considered Extra Regimental Officers under Paragraph 55 (i) of the Pay Warrant. Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Stevenson, Professor of Military Surgery, has therefore handed over charge of the Surgical Division of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, to the Assistant Professor, Surgeon-Captain H. Whitehead, F.R.C.S.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

"NOTIFICATION : A MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Will you allow me to clear up the imperfect report and to point the moral in the tale of notification to which you allude in *THE LANCET* of May 19th? On Feb. 1st I was called to see a case of typhoid fever, which I reported on Feb. 3rd to the medical officer of health at St. Ermin's-mansions, taking the address from the Beckenham Directory. The case died in relapse, and the certificate of death is said by the local board to be the first intimation received of the infectious disease. I hold that the failure of notification was due to the carelessness of the local board, which allows the local directory for 1894 to appear with the address of the medical officer of health as St. Ermin's-mansions when the London Directory shows that he left that address in 1892. Also that the board, although they knew in 1892 that I was in error as to their district and without their notification forms, neither communicated with me nor sent me a book of forms till just before these proceedings were commenced. After the sentence was passed I found the counterfoil of the case showing that I had complied with the Act, and this was produced by counsel in court at the next meeting of the magistrates. One point to which I would direct attention is this: should the onus of ascertaining the district lie upon the medical attendant? Close to the top of the Crystal Palace Park-road are four districts, and it would be a distinct improvement in the working of the Act to allow the medical attendant to report to his local medical officer of health and let the local authorities forward the report to its proper destination. I am advised that no chance of quashing the sentence exists unless I could prove the posting of the notification. Is this likely after three months? Does it not concern the inflictor quite as much as the victim of injustice to correct this defect in the law? The practical lessons of the decision are: 1. Care in retaining counterfoils and in noting upon them the date and mode of posting so as to be sworn to. The bench of magistrates have as superstitious a reverence for sworn statements as the old boards of guardians had for parchment. 2. Never go into court without legal advice. 3. Let us be more backward in promoting legislation affecting our profession till we know that the administration will be entrusted to judicious and competent hands. In defending myself in court, on the principle of sally, I attacked the local board in that, during a four years' existence of this Act, they had not prosecuted any local medical man, but took the opportunity offered by the supposed failure of a non-resident to earn a cheap reputation for activity. This was represented as an attack upon the medical practi-

tioners at Beckenham. It was not so, and nothing was further from my intention than to make any statement reflecting upon them. Their local board was a different matter, and the warmth of reception which my suggestion met with from its clerk made me think that I had hit the right solution of the motive in pressing conviction in my case.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

JOHN H. GALTON, M.D. Lond.

Sylvan-road, Norwood, S.E., May 21st, 1894.

MORBID GROWTHS AND SPOROZOA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I notice in the abstract of the Morton Lecture, published in *THE LANCET* of May 19th, Mr. S. G. Shattock emphasises the importance of certain cell-inclusions presenting a well-marked "peripheral granule layer" occurring in cancerous growths. I may be permitted to point out that I was the first in this country to publish¹ an account of such bodies, and to point out their signification.

Believe me, Sirs, yours truly,

J. JACKSON CLARKE.

St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, May 19th, 1894.

CASE OF SYNCOPE (?) UNDER CHLOROFORM.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—This case occurred in the operating theatre of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, in the practice of Dr. H. C. Cameron, with whose kind permission I publish it. The patient was a female twenty-four years of age, and the operation was to open a cold abscess over the sternum. The anæsthetist administered chloroform freely for exactly three minutes and a half and gave none for the next minute, when he again administered a small quantity, and this he repeated a few times afterwards. The breathing was not stertorous when the inhalation was left off at first, but became so half a minute afterwards. Just as the operation was being finished, and about six minutes from the beginning of the inhalation, I observed the patient take some deep, almost heaving inspirations for about half a minute. The breathing then became slow and shallow, and on now taking the patient by the wrist it was found that the pulse was very slow, irregular, and scarcely perceptible. On applying the stethoscope over the heart the beats were excessively slow and barely audible. The lips were pale and bloodless, and the face and ears of a dusky hue. The foot of the table was elevated, and the colour of the lips and the action of the heart improved within a minute, and the patient was soon quite well. Before and after the state of the circulation above described she was very sick. The symptoms in this case seem to have been as grave as those recorded in many cases in which artificial respiration was resorted to. The points deserving attention are the following. The anæsthesia was never of the deepest, and the heaving respiration and subsequent phenomena occurred after the chloroform was finally stopped. The state of the respiration was the very same as I have observed in cats and dogs when taken out of a jar of chloroform; the deep and rapid breathing in the latter sometimes renders the vesicular murmur so loud that it may almost be described as "churning." This state of breathing is followed in dogs, as it was in this patient, by slow and shallow inspirations due to the state of apnoea induced by the previous excess of the respiratory function. Excessive respiration has been observed by others to be a precursor of danger under chloroform, for Dr. Turnbull of Philadelphia has observed that "when the breathing becomes very rapid danger is nigh," and heaving respiration has frequently been recorded in cases of fatal syncope. With regard to the circulation, the cardiac action was closely analogous to what I have described in cats when taken out of a chloroform atmosphere, and may also be compared with that remarkable retardation of the heart described by the Glasgow Committee as occurring in a dog two minutes after the chloroform was stopped, and coincidentally with which there ensued a sudden fall of pressure to zero.

¹ Medical Press and Circular, Sept. 27th, 1893.

Dr. Snow observed that the pulse sometimes became very slow as the effects of the chloroform were passing off; and at a recent discussion at Sheffield Dr. Martin remarked that he had occasionally noted a slow and irregular pulse under chloroform, and that he regarded it as dangerous. Indeed, it has been recorded in connexion with fatal syncope in some cases. Now, I regard the evidence as being conclusive that the train of events above recorded is the result of the vapour reaction, and is not due to the action of absorbed chloroform in the blood. From considerations of space I would venture only one further remark. It has now been shown that the heart may fail to carry on the circulation because it is liable to fall into an irregular action, in which there occur powerful fibrillar contractions, but incoördinated and ineffective. The reasons for supposing that this is the case in chloroform syncope seem to me very cogent; and if so—and if, further, this condition is preceded by excess of the respiratory function—then the propriety of artificial respiration in its treatment becomes an open question. With all deference I submit that the suspicions I had been led to entertain with regard to it twenty years ago have only gained strength as time went on; and I am disposed to think the chloroformist would do better to lower the head and wait for a few minutes rather than have recourse to it.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

ROBERT KIRK, M.D. Edin.,

May 12th, 1894. Dispensary Physician, Glasgow Western Infirmary.

METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am in receipt of your favour of the 12th inst. I am very anxious to make Hospital Sunday a success this year and have written a special circular to be sent to all my London congregations.—I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Brynawr, May 15th, 1894.

H. ADLER.

The following is the circular letter which has been issued by the Chief Rabbi to all his London congregations:—

"22, Finsbury-square,

"London, May 23rd, 1894.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I beg to inform you that this year's 'Hospital Sunday' has been fixed for June 10th. As this date coincides with the first day of שבועות, I deem it advisable that we should on this occasion, for the first time in the history of the Fund, plead the needs of the hospitals on the same day as the rest of our fellow citizens.

"I therefore recommend that a circular letter be sent before that date to every seatholder of your synagogue, soliciting his donation to the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund, and enclosing a form to be filled up by him with his name and the amount of his contribution. Your minister will, I am sure, in his sermon advocate with fervour the cause of the medical charities, and stimulate his congregants to support them in a spirit of benevolence worthy of the law of love and mercy revealed on that sacred festival. And I hope that the community will respond to that appeal with their usual alacrity.

"May I ask that your secretary will promptly collect the amounts subscribed and forward them to me, *not later than a fortnight after Hospital Sunday*, for transmission to the Lord Mayor, the Treasurer of the Fund.

"Wishing you a happy festival,

"I remain, my dear Sir,

"Yours very faithfully,

"H. ADLER.

"The Order of Service on the occasion of making collections for hospitals is printed on page 311 of the Authorised Daily Prayer Book."

"THE ANTISEPTIC DOCTRINE OF MIDWIFERY."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In connexion with the practical application of the above-named doctrine there is a point to which sufficient attention is not given, and that is the material of which the vaginal pipe of the irrigating apparatus is made. Nothing can possibly be more unsuitable than the ordinary gum-elastic vaginal pipe, as it is impossible to be sure that it is perfectly clean while its perforated ending may conceal unspeakable putridity. Would it not be advisable to draw the attention of the makers of such irrigating apparatus to this objectionable feature, with a view to the substitution of

a glass vaginal tube, the cleanliness of which can be tested by ocular inspection as well as ensured by its immersion in some strong antiseptic fluid?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Watton, Norfolk, May 14th, 1894. H. MALLINS, M.B. Dubl.

THE USE OF THE TOES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Professor Sir G. M. Humphry, in THE LANCET of May 19th, states that "they (the toes) are laid up in leather and not used." May I ask of him a question already asked of Mr. Clement Lucas¹ in reply to a similar statement, How is it, then, that the muscles of the sole and of the leg, which act on the toes, do not atrophy for want of use? I have long insisted that, even in ordinary walking in ordinary boots, the toes, and all of them, are used and serve a very useful purpose.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Gloucester, May 22nd, 1894.

T. S. ELLIS.

"LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1894: ARE DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS QUALIFIED TO BE ELECTED MEMBERS OF A PARISH?"

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—As I do not remember seeing any comment or opinion on the letter from a correspondent in THE LANCET of March 24th concerning the eligibility of medical officers of parishes to serve as parish councillors, I forward you a copy of a letter received by me from the Local Government Board.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

C. STANLEY KIRTON.

The Oriel House, Leigh, Essex, May 15th, 1894.

"Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W., May 10th, 1894.

"Sir,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to advert to your letter of the 24th ultimo, and to state that your office of district medical officer to the board of guardians will not, in the opinion of this Board, disqualify you for election as a parish councillor.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"S. B. PROVIS, Assistant Secretary.

"C. S. Kirton, Esq., The Oriel House, Leigh, Essex."

THE MEDICAL DEFENCE UNION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In reference to your report of the recent meeting of the Medical Defence Union and Dr. Phillips' explanation that he did not inform Dr. Kerr (as I understood from that gentleman's letter and conversation) that litigation was finished, will you permit me to add that, upon Dr. Kerr stating to the meeting that he did not remember who it was, but thought it was not Dr. Phillips, who so misinformed him, I of course withdrew my statement on the point?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Cavendish-square, W., May 22nd, 1894.

VICTOR HORSLEY.

"ACTION AGAINST A LIVERPOOL DENTIST."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Your report of the action against a Liverpool dentist, with your comments thereon, appearing in your issue of May 12th, came under my notice only on May 20th. The last sentence in the article reads: "For a medical man to permit an unqualified person to give chloroform for him is to promote 'covering' of the most dangerous description." This is a very grave charge to bring against me, more especially when there is not a particle of truth in it, as I proceed to show. My relations with the defendant, or rather with his assistant, have been of two kinds. I have attended him and his family for several years and I have occasionally administered chloroform or ether when requested to do so. Beyond this I have no interest, pecuniary or other, in the defendant or in his business. I did not teach Mr. Harrison

¹ THE LANCET, March 19th, 1892.