most powerful hæmostatics, such as the perchloride of iron, are of any avail. It is in the nature of such cases to proceed to septicæmia—a circumstance entirely overlooked when the iron is blamed with this unfortunate result, with which it appears to me to have nothing to do.

As far as I can judge, from intercourse with my professional brethren, confidence in the use of perchloride of iron, as a hæmostatic, is steadily on the increase, and the dread of ill consequences fast disappearing; and I shall be very glad if the case now related will in any way help to settle an important point in obstetric practice.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Liverpool, Sept. 4th, 1877.

GEO. SHEARER, M.D.

DR. BURDON-SANDERSON'S CHANGED VIEW REGARDING THE ULTIMATE NATURE OF CONTAGION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—We have this week received a copy of the last Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council (1876), and observe that Dr. Burdon-Sanderson has now come to the conclusion, regarding the active principle in virulent septic liquids, that “it can scarcely be supposed that the agent is a living organism” (page 14). Will you permit us to give in your columns the last paragraph of our summary of a series of experiments of an allied character, published in the Tenth Annual Report of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India (1874)?—“Therefore, until it be proved that living substances can withstand immersion in a fluid at a temperature of 212° F. of some minutes' duration, we have no hesitation in stating that the morbid phenomena which we have observed to follow the introduction into the animal economy of strained solutions of choleraic and normal alvine discharges, and of other decomposing animal substances, are not the result of infection with a material the poisonous properties of which are dependent on its possessing vitality.”

This conclusion was based on observations made on 170 dogs. Dr. Sanderson's is based on observations on 25. We understand that the Reports detailing these experiments were forwarded as issued to Dr. Burdon-Sanderson, but they appear to have escaped his notice. It is, however, satisfactory to find that so eminent an exponent of doctrines regarding the causation of disease has now arrived at similar conclusions, and that he has, on the present occasion, submitted views for the guidance of the public health officers at home so much in accordance with those previously arrived at by the sister department in India.

We quite agree “that it would have been better for pathological science if such conclusions had not been so much overlooked, for the facts on which they are based are quite irreconcilable with the often too carelessly received assumption that the process of septic infection is dependent on the development of a living contagium” (page 13); though, in common with all who have studied Dr. Burdon-Sanderson's writings during the last ten years, we are astonished to find him the preacher of such doctrine.

We are, Sir, yours obediently,

D. D. CUNNINGHAM,
T. R. LEWIS.

Calcutta, July 25th, 1877.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON AND MEDICAL WOMEN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I observe in your leading article in THE LANCET of July 14th, that you comment upon the positions which Sir William Gull and Sir James Paget have assumed in the discussion which has lately taken place in regard to the admission of women to degrees in medicine in the University of London. I may be pardoned, I hope, in stating my opinion of Sir James Paget's policy. If he has yielded to the despotism of a majority, why does he not lodge a protest and insist upon its being recorded? I do not agree with you in your condemnation of Sir William Gull's suggestion, that women should be examined on all subjects. As they should be taught in all subjects so should they be

examined in the same. Why not? It is as monstrous as it is foolish to suppose that these women in their future routine practice will not have to treat diseases begotten of immorality in their own sex. If women choose, of their own and their responsible advisers' deliberate action, to practise our profession, why should they not be equally prepared to grapple with the “arcana” as with the other ailments to which our flesh is heir? Sir Jas. Paget and those who agree with him will inaugurate a vicious policy, if they launch into the professional world those who have not by the test of public examination been declared and guaranteed to possess a sufficient knowledge in all branches of medical and surgical practice. May not women assist as much hereafter in stamping out a disease, which, as Providence has so dispensated, may descend to the third and fourth generation? May they not have greater influence for good among their own sex than we have? It is to be hoped that the Senate will not listen to any mischievous half-measure policy, and it will be a source of sincere gratification to many practitioners in this country to learn that the innovation of women doctors will convey the full impression that, in scattered populations, they may be qualified to practise their profession as becomes every general practitioner. I had hoped to see the crusade against specialism stern, uncompromising, and exclusive. Make one exception and you will have many.

I may be pardoned for raising my voice against a half-measure policy which, I trust, will be properly settled long before I see this short note in print. I enclose my card.

Yours faithfully,

Simla, India, Aug. 8th, 1877.

SURGEON-MAJOR.

P.S. You will observe that I have not entered into the question of the propriety of admitting women into the ranks of our profession. This would now be useless and unproductive of any good.

ROUMANIAN WAR VICTIMS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In answer to a letter which you were good enough to publish for me some time ago when in England, small sums of money were sent me by different sympathising friends. Lord Aberdour was my largest contributor, two shillings in postage-stamps from a “Poor Servant” being the smallest, but not least appreciated, gift. Now that there are 25,000 Roumanian soldiers on the other side of the Danube, we shall soon need all our hospitals, all our resources, and these latter, in a monetary point of view, will, I fear, be speedily exhausted. The press has spoken of the completeness of the Roumanian Red Cross ambulance. An energetic lady has succeeded in establishing two hospitals on the banks of the Danube. Everyone has given in money or in kind. The Jewish community has been very generous. We have had lotteries, concerts, &c., to establish these charities, but the grave question presents itself, how are they to be supported? The Roumanian nobility are not wealthy; there is no export now by sea or river; colonial produce has much increased in price owing to the cost of land transport; there is an absolute dearth of money. At the suggestion of our good Princess, his Eminence the Metropolitan has sanctioned the training of nuns, from some of the convents, as nurses; we have a sufficient number of capable young native doctors, and all are doing what they can.

I had lately the pleasure of going over a cottage hospital formed by our gracious Princess, and furnished from her private purse. Perfect in all its simple details, and close to the summer palace, it will have the personal superintendence of her Highness. It forms the first of what will, I hope, be a series of “the Princess Elizabeth cottage hospitals and asylums.” A similar building to the one erected by the Princess has been given by a Jewish gentleman. The money which was confided to me when in England is now being employed to furnish this building, and so the second cottage hospital will be complete. Money may be sent to me direct, or to the National and Provincial Bank of England, 53, Baker-street; or to R. H. Milson, Esq., 88, Finchley-road, N.W. It will be placed at once into the hands of her Highness, and it is requested that it may be

stated whether the gift be for the ambulance, the Danube hospitals, or the Princess Elizabeth's cottage hospitals. In these latter I dare hope that the sick and suffering of every nation and of every creed will alike meet with sympathy and succour. The local press is making an appeal on behalf of the sufferers from the bombardment of Giurgevo. Women, children, and old people are homeless and breadless, their cottages heaps of ruins, and they sleep in the vines. Some have reached here in a heart-rendering condition, and are relieved by private charity.

Apologising for trespassing so much on your valuable space, I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

60, Strada, Coltzi, Bucharest,
Sept. 10th, 1877.

E. B. MAWER.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Lately, I was requested by the staff of the Epsom and Ewell Cottage Hospital to visit one of the patients in that institution at Epsom. I did so. A few days subsequently I received a note from the committee containing a cheque for five guineas as an acknowledgment of my service, but expressing regret at the smallness of the amount offered, their funds being low.

The above was a simple act of justice, but amounts to generosity when contrasted with the niggardly conduct of the managers of medical charities, both large and small. Many of these, not satisfied with the time and labour willingly expended by the staff upon the patients, exact a further direct outlay of both time and money for repeated journeys to and from the hospital. This is unjust.

Yours, &c.,

Queen Anne-street, W., Sept. 14th, 1877.

C. F. MAUNDER.

GLASGOW.

(From our own Correspondent.)

A FEW months ago some hospital irregularities were made the subject of considerable comment by one of our daily papers, owned and edited by Dr. Charles Cameron, M.P. It was at one time thought that attention having been directed to the subject no further notice would have been taken of it by the Crown authorities, to whom the matter had been referred, and considerable surprise was created by the apprehension last week of the medical superintendent, the resident assistant, matron, and nurse of the hospital in question. It would be injudicious to enter into further details at present, as all facts connected with the case will soon be laid bare, shorn of the sensationalism necessary to foster and attract the curiosity of the general public. Meanwhile a subscription has been begun, and we understand has been liberally responded to among the profession in Glasgow, towards defraying the necessary outlay incumbent on obtaining a proper defence of the resident assistant, who is chiefly inculpated. It is to be noted, as indicating the tone of professional opinion, that the name of the senior M.P. does not head this list, and it may be legitimately assumed that he will not be asked to subscribe. None of our other papers took any notice of the affair until the steps taken by the Procurator Fiscal compelled them to break a very meritorious silence.

Professor George H. B. McLeod's appointment as surgeon to the Queen in Scotland has given universal satisfaction to the profession here. It was understood that his former opponent for the Surgery chair was also emulous of obtaining Royal favour, and for a time considerable doubt was entertained as to which of the two would be successful. His disappointment may be tempered by the fact that our city and century show on this and on other occasions that "there is something in a name," if its owner is worthy of subsequent promotion.

It is to be hoped that the Government will soon fill up the vacant chair of Anatomy at the University. The vacancy has not excited half the professional interest occasioned by the retirement of the Professor of Physiology last summer.

Indeed, it would seem as if the Medical Faculty in the Senatus were unaware of Professor Allen Thomson's resignation, for they still loyally head their weekly contribution to your advertising columns with his distinguished name. This vacancy is a peculiar one in university annals, as it is generally understood that Glasgow has only sent forth one candidate for the appointment, and Edinburgh has not even entered the field.

In a recent trial at the Circuit Court, with regard to the effect of putrid pork on man's constitution, some discrepancy of medical opinion was elicited, and the situation reached a climax when the judge, with the assent of the advocate-deputy, quashed the case without appealing to the jury, and threw himself with charming candour into the arms of the Edinburgh expert. Our local men complain, and not unjustly, that they were ill-used.

The annual Faculty elections take place in the beginning of next month. It is assumed that the new president will, as in former years, be appointed unanimously, although at one time there was a whisper of a contested election. The other vacancies in the examining body may occasion a little breeze, but even this is doubtful.

Dr. Foulis's case, to which you alluded last week, is progressing satisfactorily. The details of the operation and subsequent treatment will be looked forward to with interest, as it is understood that it is the first time in this country that excision of the larynx has been performed.

Glasgow, September 17th, 1877.

VICHY.

(By our Roaming Correspondent.)

As a continuation of the series of letters written last autumn, in which some five or six baths and health resorts were brought in review before the readers of THE LANCET, I purpose to try to bring as graphically as may be under the eye of the reader that famous French bathing-place the name of which heads this letter.

He who knows Vichy only by referring to the map of France might be led to think, from the small type accorded to the name of the town, that it is a place of very inconsiderable size. This is not the case. It is a large flourishing place; and the appearance of the railway station, with its enormous waiting-room and its long line of carriages and hotel-omnibuses, is sufficient to dispel at once any preconceived notions as to inferiority of size which the traveller may have entertained. Vichy is at the extreme south of the department of Allier, and stands on the right bank of the river, a tributary of the Loire, which gives its name to the department. It is surrounded by hills of moderate elevation, except towards the south, where it is bounded by the river Allier and the rich alluvial plains beyond it. The soil is dry and porous. It is to a great extent protected from cold winds by the hills, and, being nearly six degrees of latitude south of London, it would be considered by the English as a warm climate, although the French, whose territory is washed by the Mediterranean, speak of it as temperate. The difference in climate is well shown by a glance at the market, where melons are sold more as vegetables than as fruits, and ruddy peaches piled in big baskets gladden the eyes of *gourmets*. The town is very well built, and was immensely improved under the imperial rule of Napoleon III. The most important work, perhaps, was the reclamation of the shore of the Allier, and the embankment of the river on the side of the town. By this work, what was once an uninteresting and unhealthy waste of stone and sand, generally dry, and only covered by the river in times of flood, has become a splendid park, with pleasant walks, gay flower-beds, and a great variety of trees, which afford a grateful shelter to those who seek their recreation here. Besides this river-side park, which is nearly three-quarters of a mile in length and about a hundred yards in width, there is another park in the centre of the town, which is well laid out and planted, and which is bordered on either side by ranges of hotels, and at either end by the "Etablissement des bains" and the Casino. The hotels are all that can be desired—well built, spacious, clean, and provided with most modern sanitary requirements; and the