and the necks more swollen than is usually seen after death. Bruising was general but not extensive in area, being more marked on the face and lower limbs, slight abrasions being seen in a few cases. There was a total absence of fractures and wounds as disclosed by external examination. In one case in which a post-mortem examination was made there was a trace of blood in the left ear but no fracture of the skull was found. In nine cases the tongue was not protruded, in six but slightly, and in one case well protruded. In 12 of the cases there was well-marked oedema over the front of the chest and in two of these it extended over the abdomen and thighs. The two post-mortem examinations presented practically the same features. Two of the more markedly congested cases were selected with a view to getting more definite results. The following are the brief particulars:—

Head.—Coverings, meninges, surface and substance of brain congested but healthy.

Chest.—No fractured ribs. Lungs congested and air passages clear. Heart, right side contained a small quantity of dark fluid blood.

Abdomen.—Liver and kidneys, slight congestion. Intestines, pale. Spleen, not congested but pale.

It is to be noted that there were no hæmorrhages in either case on the lungs or heart as is often found in cases of death by suffocation.—We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. HALL, M.D.,

Jan. 25th, 1908.

H. F. HORNE, M.B., B.C.

THE NEED OF FEMALE MEDICAL MISSIONARIES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You have from time to time been good enough to make special missionary needs known through your columns. Will you now give publicity to the urgent need for more women doctors in the foreign field? Pioneer work waits to be begun in at least two districts of India; an overworked doctor in China needs a colleague; and now the grievous news of the death in January of Dr. Marie Hayes at Delhi makes the reinforcement of the staff of that mission a matter of urgent necessity. In a letter dated four weeks ago she said herself, "We desperately need another doctor." In two years from now there will, as we hope, be doctors qualified who are now going through the medical schools with this end in view. But these needs are immediate. We appeal earnestly for two medical women already qualified and able to undertake responsible work who would offer at once for this work, especially for Delhi. For particulars apply to the C.W.W. Candidates secretary, S.P.G. House, 19, Delahay-street, Westminster, S.W.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Jan. 20th, 1908.

H. H. MONTGOMERY (Bishop).

SUNSHINE IN 1907.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—May I be allowed to state that the records of the Meteorological Office for 1907 show that the island of Guernsey enjoyed the maximum of sunshine of any place in the British Isles—viz., 1859·7 hours. This, however, is considerably below its average for the last 14 years, which is 1916·2 hours.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

HY. DRAPER BISHOP,

Medical Officer of Health, States of Guernsey.

Health Office, Guernsey, Jan. 25th, 1908.

THE DESTINY OF CASE-BOOKS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Referring to your leader on the disposal of case-books I send you the following facts for which I can vouch. You are at liberty to make what use you like of them but please suppress names as one of the ladies is still living. A medical relative of mine died some 20 years ago, leaving as his nearest relatives a group of ladies and a nephew not a medical man. He had resided long in his house which was situated in a populous neighbourhood and was likely to be a good investment for a suitable successor. The ladies managed the transfer of the practice and of the lease of the house. Soon after a gentleman called on me and asked if I was the late physician's executor, and went on to state how annoyed he had been to see that gentleman's case-books giving full reports of cases, including those of the complainant's wife,

for sale on a bookseller's counter. So strongly do I feel on the subject that I have destroyed all my case-books except the one I am using.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Jan. 21st, 1908.

M.R.C.S.

THE ORGANISATION OF THE PROFESSION.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.)

ATTITUDE OF THE HONORARY STAFFS OF THE LIVERPOOL HOSPITALS IN REGARD TO PAYING AND INSURED PATIENTS.

Liverpool, Dec. 8th, 1907.

IN so far as the organisation of the medical profession is concerned Liverpool cannot in any way be considered a model town. Perhaps for want of proper leadership certain it is that there has been very little cohesion among the members of the profession. The fear also of doing anything that might in the remotest degree be likened to trade unionism greatly exercises the minds of some of the older and more prominent members of the profession. Nevertheless, there is to-day a very strong feeling of unrest and this has led at least to some attempts at organisation. Of late it is the honorary staffs of the hospitals who have been bestirring themselves and are actually seeking to form a union. It is not quite easy at first sight to determine whether this movement will make for the union or disunion of the profession at large. Some of the observations made in answer to my inquiries were not altogether encouraging. For instance, one of the most active leaders in this new movement argued that there were two classes of medical men, members of the hospital staffs and the general practitioners. Now each class accuses the other of being mainly responsible for the prevalence of hospital abuse. The general practitioner says that the competition of the hospitals robs him of his chance of earning a decent livelihood. On the other hand, I was assured that at the Liverpool Children's Hospital, when an inquiry was made into the matter, it was found that the general practitioner was the principal culprit. Then at the Southern Hospital a special superintendent had been appointed to investigate whether there was abuse. It was found that medical practitioners were themselves often responsible for abuse. When they were tired of a patient they would send him to the hospital. A case was described to me of a drunken and very dirty woman who was sent to the hospital with pneumonia and died in two days. She was fully able to pay. Then another case was that of a man who had nothing really the matter but was probably a club patient and generally a nuisance. Though there is undoubtedly something to be said on both sides there can be nevertheless no doubt that the general practitioner in Liverpool, as in most other towns, has suffered considerable loss through the facility with which patients who could pay fees have obtained gratuitous treatment at hospitals. Obviously the true remedy rests in uniting the members of the hospital staffs with the general practitioners in one single society where all would meet on equal terms and discuss their grievances in a friendly manner.

The nearest approach to such an organisation is the Liverpool division of the British Medical Association and the local secretary thinks that there is more cohesion among the members of the profession at Liverpool since the adoption of the association's new constitution. Nevertheless, it does not seem to me that the position is very promising because, if I am correctly informed, though the division has 67 members only about twelve or so attend the meetings. This is but a small number for so large a town as Liverpool. But what seems more significant is the fact that when a considerable number of the honorary staffs of the hospitals felt that they had grievances and it was necessary to take action, they formed a new society instead of bringing the matter before the local division of the British Medical Association. Then, again, the lay committees managing the principal hospitals have also joined together and are attempting to constitute themselves into a joint body so as to take common action. It is said that their principal purpose is to check abuse and to employ a uniform method to prevent persons who can pay fees obtaining medical relief. In this respect they are evidently greatly impressed by the Manchester example. When at Manchester inquiries