

healthy, was observed, he was, within twelve months, an inmate of a private lunatic asylum, where he remained for several years, and the many medical men who saw him during that period could make nothing of his case. At last one day, during the visit to the asylum of a now deceased London physician, to whom the resident medical officer was relating the case of the "dumb gentleman," the "dumb" man spoke. The whole affair can be explained in a few lines. It appears that this gentleman had a home which was the reverse of happy, and a wife whose tongue was long and unruly. He had put up with it for several years; but eventually, and when smarting under an unusually large amount of nagging and abuse, he suddenly resolved to maintain a rigid silence for five years. The five years were up on the very morning the London physician visited the asylum. I may add that not only did I know that physician personally, but I heard him tell the story more than once.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Feb. 6th, 1893.

BERNARD O'CONNOR.

"SENSITIVENESS OF THE PERITONEUM."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Dr. W. J. Sinclair comes very late into the discussion and his contribution to it seems to be intended much less as pertinent to the issue than as a display of what he believes he has discovered as an inconsistency on my own part. Even if he were correct it would only prove that I am fallible as others are, but it would prove nothing one way or the other about the sensitiveness of the peritoneum. Speaking on the question of experiments on animals Dr. Sinclair says: "He (Mr. Tait) draws largely upon two papers contributed to the Transactions of the British Gynaecological Society by Mr. Bland Sutton and Dr. Arthur W. Johnstone of Kentucky, and he refers to them in terms of extravagant praise. But will it be believed by your readers who may be unfamiliar with this class of subject that the essay so characterised by Mr. Lawson Tait depended for some of its brilliant qualities upon the researches of Johnstone on the wombs of animals?" All this is perfectly true, for Johnstone did his work under my own eye, the only peculiarity about it being that his observations on the wombs of animals were all made upon specimens obtained from the butcher's shop. So again, concerning Mr. Bland Sutton's observations, I cannot discover that any experiment in the vivisection sense was ever used by Mr. Sutton for any of his conclusions. He certainly has never had a licence for any experiments, and has placed none such on record. I think you will therefore agree with me that such criticism as Dr. Sinclair's is purely senseless.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

The Crescent, Birmingham, Feb. 20th, 1893.

LAWSON TAIT.

DENTAL ADVERTISING.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—A movement having been set on foot by dentists to prevent the disgraceful advertising which one so often sees in the newspapers, and even on the walls by the lower class of dentists, I think the medical profession should assist the dentists in calling upon the Medical Council to use their undoubted powers to prevent it. A large number of dentists now not only have a dental qualification but also hold a medical one, and these feel acutely the stigma of being in any way associated with the advertising section on the Dental Register. I hope the time is not far distant when the Medical Council will act in accordance with the petition which Mr. Bland published in THE LANCET of Feb. 11th—i.e., remove the names of the advertising dentists from the Dental Register.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

WILLIAM E. TRESIDDER, M.B. Lond.

Nottingham, Feb. 21st, 1893.

ASCARIDES AND EPILEPSY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS.—Thinking that comparative medicine may possibly throw some light on the subject of Dr. Alston's article on "Ascarides Lumbricoides" in your issue of the 11th, I beg to draw attention to the fact that epilepsy associated with the presence of ascarides in the intestine is very common in individuals of the canine, feline and porcine species. More frequently observed in the young, adults are by no means

exempt. The loss of consciousness is sudden and complete, the convulsive movements well marked and the result often fatal. Diarrhoea is often present, but not invariably. Recovery usually follows expulsion of the worms. In some cases of epilepsy the worms found are few; in some numerous. In a puppy six weeks old I have found 144 large, fully developed ascarides marginatae; in others of the same litter from six to ten, the whole of the brood having succumbed to epilepsy. Dogs are particularly prone to swallow large, hard, indigestible bodies and to suffer from impacted faeces, but epilepsy, independently of worms, in them is of very rare occurrence. In post-mortem examination of large numbers of dogs suspected (by the uninitiated) of rabies it is very common to meet with the ascaris marginata, and to elicit the information that the dog "died" or "was killed" in a fit. Pigs, and particularly the young, are very subject to epilepsy in association with ascaris suilla in the intestines. The horse is very frequently the host of ascaris megaloccephala, but very rarely the subject of epilepsy, though in two instances in my experience their presence has been associated with loss of consciousness and convulsions; in one of these 480 large ascarides were found in the stomach.

I simply offer these clinical facts for record if deemed worthy as bearing on the question.

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,

Royal Veterinary College,
London, N.W.

JOHN PENBERTHER, F.R.C.V.S.,
Professor of Surgery, &c.

TIBBITS v. ALABASTER AND OTHERS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The conduct of the proprietors of the *Electrical Review* in the above-named case deserves the gratitude of the public and the profession. It is, however, safe to say that the public will not recognise their obligation or offer any return for the sacrifices made on their behalf. The successful defence of a lawsuit occupying the Court three days always involves large expenses beyond the taxed costs recovered. If a fund can be started to assist to reimburse the proprietors of the *Electrical Review* I shall be glad to contribute five guineas.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Wimpole-street, Feb. 18th, 1893.

HENRY SEWILL.

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The late Mr. Marsh, Surgeon and J.P.

At a special meeting of the city magistrates, held on the 17th inst., the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "That the bench of magistrates, in special meeting assembled, desire to place on record their deep sense of the loss which they have sustained by the death of their colleague, Mr. N. K. Marsh, who, though but recently made a magistrate, had during the period since his appointment dealt with the duties allotted to him in an able, conscientious and painstaking manner, and the justices desired to express their sympathy with his family in their sad bereavement."

The Port Sanitary Authority.

No time is being lost by the local sanitary authority in endeavouring to make efficient arrangements for the proper sanitary inspection of all vessels entering the port and for the prompt detection and isolation of any cases of cholera should it be imported here. Advertisements were issued last week for an assistant medical officer, to perform port sanitary duties under the medical officer of health, and for two inspectors. For the former there were fifty-nine applications, and out of these four have been selected—Dr. Francis W. Clark of Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dr. E. P. Manby, South Dispensary; Dr. S. G. Moore; and Dr. P. C. Walker, of the Parkhill Hospital, these last three being all local candidates. There were eighty-one applications for the two inspectorships and six applicants have been selected. At the meeting of the Health Committee on Thursday, Dr. Moore was appointed to the first office.

Small-pox and Vaccination.

At the last meeting of the Select Vestry, which regulates the affairs of the Liverpool parish, a very satisfactory report was made by the Vestry Clerk as to the efficient manner in which the vaccination of infants under three months was carried out, there being only a very small proportion of