Correspondence.

“Audi alteram partem.”

LAYMEN AND ELECTRICAL TREATMENT.

To the Editors of The Lancet.

Sirs,—There are at least two sides to the question raised by “Fair Play” in The Lancet of July 23rd. Amongst those who lead many members of the profession to send their patients to laymen for treatment by electricity the following would, I think, occupy an important place. First, the expense. There are very few patients who care to pay a guinea, or even half a guinea, per session for an electric treatment, say, for a week’s duration, or to pay from three to ten guineas for a skiagram. Secondly, a medical man who thinks electrical treatment may be useful or at least worth trying in a particular case perhaps after he has exhausted other plans of treatment would often shrink from having his diagnosis and ideas of treatment overhauled by another practitioner. It is surely absurd to contend that there can be anything harmful to a patient in getting a skilled layman to skiagraph him for diagnostic purposes, although no doubt special medical men who practise entirely in electro-therapeutics might employ nurses or other skilled assistants who could work under their supervision at a much smaller fee than they themselves are obliged to charge.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Winsoo-street, W., July 26th, 1904.

E. Stanley Smith.

To the Editors of The Lancet.

Sirs,—Apropos of the remarks made by “Fair Play” it is my firm belief that many men taking up electro-therapeutics will when fully qualified reduce their fees to such a point that they will do this work unless they are supported by their registered friends and can at the same time compete on an equal footing with the lay institutes in the matter of advertising. The reason that such operators do not, as a rule, stand aside from medical men is the belief that if unregistered they will be assured of the support of their registered friends and can at the same time compete on an equal footing with the lay institutes in the matter of advertising, although this belief is difficult for any skilled electrician who has an elementary knowledge of anatomy to apply galvanism or even high-frequency or static currents in a case, say, of sciatica, or to use the slowly interrupted faradic current in one of atony of the abdominal muscles. I certainly think we should be careful to avoid sending our patients to the class of people who pose as “healers” or who prefer to act apart from those who do not ask for payment, and I certainly think we should be careful to avoid sending our patients to the class of people who pose as “healers” or who prefer to act apart from those who do not ask for payment.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

W. Valentine Knaggs.

To the Editors of The Lancet.

Sirs,—While thanking you for your very kind congratulations on the successful settlement of my actions against the parish council of Dunfermline I desire, with your permission, to put on record my high appreciation of the able and resolute manner in which the Medical Defence Union of London and its solicitors (Mr. Hempson, London, and his Edinburgh agents, Messrs. Cooper, Orr, and Bruce, E.S.B.) have conducted this case to so satisfactory and successful a termination. It is, I believe, the first case of its kind in Scotland since the passing of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, which established parish councils in place of the parochial boards and I trust that it may tend to hasten much-needed legislation which will amend the aforesaid Act by giving to the parochial medical officers of Scotland a right of appeal against capricious or unjust dismissal by their parish councils, and placing the Scottish Poor-law medical officers on a similar footing with their professional brethren in England and in Ireland. I also desire to express my thanks to Mr. W. L. Muir, the energetic secretary of the Scottish Poor-law Medical Officers’ Association, who writes to me as follows: “You must be congratulated on the result and of the Medical Defence Union (London), of which you most fortunately are a member, are entitled to the thanks of the whole Scottish Poor-law medical staff.”

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

James F. D. Macara, M.B., C.M. Glasgow.

Dunfermline, 19th July, 1904.

LIVERPOOL.

The University of Liverpool: the King’s Visit to Liverpool.

To the Editors of The Lancet.

On the occasion of the visit of the King and Queen to Liverpool on Thursday, July 19th, Dr. J. C. Stewart, the new Chancellor of the University of Liverpool, was presented to His Majesty by the Earl of Derby and read a loyal address from the University, in which the gratitude of the governing body was expressed at the royal charter which had been granted in reply to the King, in the manner in which sincere gratification to him to have been able to grant the charter to the University. Though the period which had elapsed since the granting of the charter had been short in the absence of Lord Liverpool and the Regents, the authorities were deserving of the highest eulogy and while ultimately, he did not doubt, be rewarded by results worthy of so great a city.

Death from Anthrax by Inhalation.

A labourer at the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board’s wool warehouse in Great Howard-street, aged 62 years, returned home on July 12th and his wife noticed a small pimple on the left side of his lower lip which she considered to be a blind boil. On the following day the man induced a barber who was shaving him to cut the point of the pimple. Later in the day the barber gave him some ointment to apply to it. On the 21st the sufferer’s face was swollen, but he went to his work nevertheless and experienced no pain. In the afternoon of the same day the keeper of the wool warehouse, though not suspecting the affliction, induced the sufferer to go to the David Lewis Northern Hospital where it was found that he was suffering from anthrax. The face and the neck continued to swell and he died on the 34th. An inquest was held by the city coroner and a verdict of “Death from anthrax” was recorded. Dr. White, one of the house surgeons at the hospital, deposed that the surgeons recognised that the deceased was suffering from anthrax when he was admitted, and he was better. The fatal disease was confirmed by post-mortem examination, and it was found that he was suffering from anthrax. The face and the neck continued to swell and he died on the 34th. An inquest was held by the city coroner and a verdict of “Death from anthrax” was recorded. Dr. White, one of the house surgeons at the hospital, deposed that the surgeons recognised that the deceased was suffering from anthrax when he was admitted, and he was better. The fatal disease was confirmed by post-mortem examination, and it was found that he was suffering from anthrax. The face and the neck continued to swell and he died on the 34th. An inquest was held by the city coroner and a verdict of “Death from anthrax” was recorded. Dr. White, one of the house surgeons at the hospital, deposed that the surgeons recognised that the deceased was suffering from anthrax when he was admitted, and he was better. The fatal disease was confirmed by post-mortem examination, and it was found that he was suffering from anthrax. The face and the neck continued to swell and he died on the 34th. An inquest was held by the city coroner and a verdict of “Death from anthrax” was recorded. Dr. White, one of the house surgeons at the hospital, deposed that the surgeons recognised that the deceased was suffering from anthrax when he was admitted, and he was better. The fatal disease was confirmed by post-mortem examination, and it was found that he was suffering from anthrax.