need be adopted with these new agents of destruction. The framers of the British Pharmacopœia will do well to reconsider their decision, for undoubtedly a serious mistake has been committed. The dose they recommend—from one to two tablets—would in some cases be dangerously large, whilst in others it would prove quite inadequate.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Weymouth-street, W., Sept. 1885. WILLIAM MURRELL, M.D.

THE "HOMES" OF THE WINDSOR POOR AND THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As you unanswerably point out in your leading article of Sept. 5th, the Corporation of Windsor have never used the powers with which the Legislature so amply armed them, as long ago as 1868, for dealing with dwellings, either by demolition or otherwise, that were structurally so imperfect as to be unfit for human habitation. This, Sir, has been and is my contention; and I have been—more or less, indeed, since 1876—fighting a fight here on these lines, in which it is, locally so far, one man against many. To comprehend what is amiss, and the extent of the mischief, look at this dreadful picture, officially certified to be true, of "life in death" in Windsor. It cannot be too often proclaimed, nor too widely known, that, according to the ruling of the medical officer of health here, he "*does not feel justified in condemning*" ten houses, harbouring fifty souls, that have neither closet nor privy, because these privileged ones have the right to use other people's closets on the opposite side of the court; and, moreover, every room within these luxuriantly-appointed dwellings has "a fireplace and a sash window"! No closet, but "a fireplace and a sash window." Constructive compensation anyhow, but put up, on the whole, a little too much like the condition of the man who had no clothes but a pair of straps and a shirt-collar, to be altogether original. This invaluable right to stroll about thus delicately into other people's closets is disputed. Here, however, is where, in such nice matters of civilisation, civic oversight draws the line. What primitive homeliness is there not in this free reading of the humanities! Of what unconventional elements is not the purity of the firesides of Windsor's poor compounded! If you have only "a fireplace and a sash window," then, Sir, the right, just as it has come down to us from the ancient Briton, is yours to range at pleasure over other people's closets. In the bowers of Arcadia there could be nothing to beat this. Such are some of the liberties of the old men and children, the young men and maidens, of South-place, in the Royal borough. Conceive a medical officer of health discussing such a question, in such a spirit, seriously! The dwellers in these shades have to cross the street by night and day, in grievous peril alike of malaria and immodesty, to negotiate with their neighbours for all sanitary purposes and "rights" whatsoever; and the public conscience, notwithstanding, holds its peace. This, Sir, has gone on for years, and there are many quarters in the town, much nearer to the Castle walls, where the cholera, if it came among us, would make a habitation, but where the poor cannot find a home. The Special Commissioner of THE LANCET has made it plain to the authorities here that there is an obligation on them to lose no time, not an hour, in setting the houses of the poor in order. This is, indeed, only in corroboration of all that has been said, hitherto unhappily with none effect, by Charles Knight, a foremost and famous Windsor man, in 1859; by the *Builder* newspaper in 1871; and by myself almost continuously ever since 1876. The "homes" of the Windsor poor were a scandal to King William IV. more than fifty years ago, and vexed the soul of the late Prince Consort until the day of his death. The consort of the Queen from the first perceived how the poor of Windsor, notwithstanding their wealth of "fireplaces and sash windows," were being demoralised, and he beneficently sought to prevent it. In June, 1886, will be begun the jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria, which will certainly leave its mark on England and perhaps upon the world. Might not such a year of privilege be made to leave some very special mark on ancient, royal, and loyal Windsor? Our slums are our weakness, our shame, and our reproach. If in the year of jubilee we can set the houses of our poor in order, we shall do much for hygiene, but much

more for humanity; we shall rise up and build a modern Windsor; and thus we shall best do honour to her who will have reigned over us for fifty years, and to the memory of that Consort who in her heart will ever reign. It is, Sir, the testimony of all ages that the highest interests and the supremest happiness of the castle and the cottage, if they are to be abiding, must be one. That this is true we in Windsor, if we are wise, can now bear witness to the latest posterity.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

ARTHUR ROBINS, M.A.

Holy Trinity Rectory, Windsor, Sept, 7th, 1885.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I received the following letter from Dr. Casey, Medical Officer of Health for Windsor, in reply to my letter published in THE LANCET; and though I do not see how it can affect the subject matter of my letter, still, in justice to Dr. Casey's view of the circumstance, I shall be obliged by your inserting it in your next issue.

Yours faithfully,

Braemar, N.B., Sept. 14th, 1885.

W. M. COLLINS, M.D.

[COPY.]

Windsor, Sept. 5th, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—You seem to be imperfectly informed of the circumstances of the case about which you have written to THE LANCET. The facts are these. Having received information (from yourself I think) that the man was walking about while still infectious, I wrote to the Mayor, and was a day or two after informed by him that he had promptly sent a police officer to threaten proceedings; but that he, the officer, was met by a statement from Surgeon-Major Melladew that the man could not be said to be then infectious.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

To Dr. W. M. Collins, Braemar, N.B.

EDWARD CASEY.

CHOLERA MALIGNA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In answer to criticisms to a previous letter of his, in which he gave an account of a case of English cholera cured in some six hours by certain remedies, and from which case he argued that these same remedies should be equally efficacious in cholera maligna, because the diseases only differ in degree, Dr. Illingworth writes in THE LANCET of the 5th inst., that "it needs no argument to prove that if the two diseases referred to differ only in point of severity, remedies which are successful in the one must prove of use in the other." Of course not; but it lies with Dr. Illingworth to show that the two diseases only differ in point of severity, for I think the medical profession in general and those who have had experience in dealing with the two diseases in particular—the disease known as English cholera, bilious diarrhoea, or choleraic diarrhoea is very common in India—are not of such opinion.

Then, Dr. Illingworth writes, "Again I assert that they only differ in degree. What evidence is there to the contrary?" Well, I could give a good deal of evidence from my own experience, but such would be more suitable to a paper than to a letter, and will confine myself to saying that the two diseases can nearly always be recognised from the earliest symptoms and in their successive stages. To a patient suffering from English cholera I say, "Do not be afraid; you will be all right again by evening," or morning, as the case may be; and to the cholera case cheery words too, but no prognosis. Again, I give opiates and stimulants in the severest of cases of English cholera with almost immediate benefit, but these remedies I have found useless in controlling the mildest of cholera cases. But apart from my own experience, there seems to me to be plenty of evidence to the contrary. The two diseases are recognised in our text-books, where the symptoms and treatment of each are given, which would hardly be the case unless the experience of the profession warranted such writing. To give actual proof in medicine is almost, if not quite, impossible; but I will venture, with all courtesy, to remind Dr. Illingworth of his own truism, that "simple assertion to the contrary is no proof."

Once more. Dr. Illingworth writes, that "it is difficult to see how they can be quite distinct from each other when

they have many clinical features in common." Diagnosing would cease to be a trial of skill if it were not for the similarity of symptoms in different diseases.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. F. SARGENT,

Surgeon-Major, Indian Medical Department.

Bedford, Sept. 7th, 1885.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I regret to find that I have made a mistake in my letter which appeared in your issue of July 11th. It should read "red iodide" and not "red oxide" of mercury. I was led to use the iodide in consequence of its reported action on ptomaines. I began by using large doses of calomel, but found the smaller ones quite as efficacious when used in combination with Indian hemp, and would always prefer to prescribe the medicine more frequently than to give, say, five-grain doses. According to the Report of the Royal College of Physicians calomel was found useless in the London epidemic of 1848, large and small doses alike. I used it with belladonna and hyoscyamus at first, but did not find any benefit until I used the extract of Indian hemp, which combination has not been used before, as far as I can ascertain, though both have separately. I had to use creasote or iodoform to check the vomiting in some instances, and in the case of children bromide of ammonium; but the purging was always checked by the calomel pill. I hope those who adopt this treatment will be as pleased with the result, for a marked improvement will be noticeable half an hour after the first dose.

I am, Sir, yours truly.

Central India, Aug. 15th, 1885.

TAURUS MAJOR.

"A SPECIAL FORM OF NUMBNESS OF THE EXTREMITIES."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The affection described by Dr. Saundby in THE LANCET of the 5th inst. under the above title is, I believe, not so uncommon as, from the little mention hitherto made of it, it might be supposed to be. A good many cases have come under my observation, and in these the patients were all women. Only in one case did the malady exist at the climacteric period, and even then it was not synchronous with it, the numbness of the extremities having been complained of for some years. In a case now under my observation the patient, thirty-six years of age, has suffered from this complaint for some time. She is anæmic, and has not been able to give any of her eight children the breast. Notwithstanding the anæmia, she is active, and usually enjoys a fair amount of health. Her appetite is good and she only occasionally suffers from gastric disorder. When she is so affected, however, the complaint under consideration is, as might be expected, intensified. The symptoms manifest themselves both by day and night, but are most marked during the night, when she is constantly being awakened by her hands and feet "going to sleep." I have ascertained beyond a doubt that the numbness is not due to pressure. In all the cases that I have seen there has been anæmia, with a weak but not irritable heart, with a tendency also to cedema of the lower extremities. I have always looked upon the anæmia as the chief, if not the only, cause of the complaint, the weakness of the circulation determining the localisation of the abnormal sensations in the extremities. The gastric symptoms, when present, may increase the anæmia and add to the weakness of the heart, but do not appear to me to be the cause of the numbness. This, I believe, to be the anæmia; and the correctness of this view is borne out by the frequency with which symptoms similar to these occur after hæmorrhages. Dr. Saundby, after suffering from pharyngeal and gastric catarrh, was no doubt anæmic, from the impairment of nutrition which necessarily resulted from the nature of his complaint.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Birmingham, Sept. 6th, 1885.

WILLIAM T. NOTLEY, M.D.

On the 16th inst. a Local Government Board inquiry was held at Orsett, Essex, relative to an application for sanction to borrow £1200 for the purpose of purchasing a site and erecting upon it a hospital for infectious diseases. The inspector stated that he would report favourably upon the proposal.

MANCHESTER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

OWENS COLLEGE.

ON the evening of Saturday, the 5th inst., a large gathering of medical men from the town and neighbourhood assembled, at the invitation of Mr. W. Whitehead, President of the Medical Society, to witness some experiments by "the world's greatest mesmerist," "Professor" Kennedy, an American, who is at present giving his entertainment at one of the circuses here. The general impression received by the audience thus assembled must have been one of considerable disappointment, not to say disgust. The "show" was gone through by the help of five young fellows said to have been found susceptible to the "Professor's" powers since his arrival in England, and who, from their appearance, must have been picked up from some of the back streets, and one intelligent, respectable young man, brought for the purpose from America. They were made to eat candles, drink copaiba and other nauseous things, and to imagine they had the toothache, or were sitting on hot chairs, &c. They had evidently been drilled—in fact, too well, as their actions and expressions were much the same, presenting scarcely the semblance of variety, the exception being the trained one from America. This latter subject, under the influence of the "Professor," became rigid, and suspended his body between two chairs, resting on his head and heels only; but this, as is well known, any acrobat can do, and even schoolboys. Whilst in this rigid condition the "Professor" claimed the power of making him raise one limb, or part of his body, by waving his hand over it; and this took place so long as he kept in his own groove, but when this was varied by attempting it in a slightly different manner, it failed even in his highly susceptible medium. At the conclusion, fourteen gentlemen from the audience were experimented upon, and only one of them appeared to become slightly affected, so that he could with difficulty pronounce his own name. That there is something in the phenomena commonly termed "mesmerism," which has not yet received a thorough explanation, is undoubted, but that such exhibitions as the above will ever help to solve them is beyond the bounds of credence.

THE NEW MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The aphorism "Competition is the soul of business" has received an illustration in the action taken by the Medical Society, in view of the opposition of the new Medical Society, the formation of which recently received notice in these columns. The new Society meets in the centre of the town, and, following suit, the Medical Society now yields to the demands of those members who have long asked for a more central room in town, and announce that they have arranged with the Literary and Philosophical Society for the use of their library, where papers and journals will be available, telephonic connexion established with the college, and a messenger kept who will fetch books &c. for the members from the library there. Some of the meetings of the ensuing winter will also be held at the central room. The exterior of the building extensions at the college are now almost completed, and presents an imposing façade to the Oxford-road.

SANITARY PRECAUTIONS.

At the last meeting of the Northern Association of Medical Officers of Health it was decided to co-operate with the Manchester and Salford Association with a view to more combined action in regard to such measures as it may be deemed advisable to take in view of the possibility of cholera finding its way amongst us this year. The latter Association has also prepared a handbill for general distribution pointing out what precautions all should take to avoid the conditions in which cholera and diarrhoea find their most congenial home. Another piece of useful work it has in hand is co-operation with the Worshipful Company of Plumbers in the movement inaugurated by that body to promote greater efficiency in plumbing and drainage work in dwelling-houses, and it is hoped that the Manchester Technical School will also co-operate in this matter.

FISH DINNERS IN WORKHOUSES.

The guardians of the Prestwick Union have been trying the experiment of giving fish dinners to the male inmates of