but not treated." There was no stricture of the pylorus and therefore it was not treated. Knowing Mr. Mayo Robson's desire to publish accurate tables I shall be glad if you will publish this correction. I may add that I have recently seen the patient, who has increased four stones in weight and is now working as a domestic servant.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

WILLIAM HORROCKS, F.R.C.S. Eng.

Bradford, April 1st, 1900.

"LEAD POISONING IN THE POTTERY DISTRICTS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Dr. C. M. Allan writes under the above heading in THE LANCET of March 31st, p. 966, to express his disapproval of my paper read at Trentham recently. He complains that the bulk of the paper was taken up by what anyone acquainted with the rudiments of electricity could learn for himself by reading a good work on medical electricity. May I add another sentence, also in the conditional mood? If the medical men of the district would learn what Dr. Allan says they could, and if they would also act upon it, they would be spared the mortification of seeing their cases of lead poisoning sent to other parts of the kingdom, at the expense of private charity, to obtain treatment which they cannot find at home.

I am, Sirs, faithfully yours,

Wimpole-street, W.

H. LEWIS JONES.

NOTES FROM INDIA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

The Increase in the Plague Epidemic.—Its Development in the Cities of Bombay and Calcutta.

BENGAL is now experiencing the ravages of plague. Of the total deaths from plague in India last week 2383 occurred in the Presidency of Bengal and only 1363 were recorded for the Presidency of Bombay. There were 1581 deaths in the Patna district and 601 deaths in Calcutta. For the whole of India 3957 deaths were returned. Correcting the figures given for the two cities of Bombay and Calcutta I may say that there are daily occurring 200 deaths from plague in the city of Bombay and 100 deaths in Calcutta. The death-rate in the city of Bombay is still enormously high—viz., 170 per 1000 per annum—while in Calcutta it is at present only half that amount. A feature in the returns of the latter city is that the plague deaths recorded account for the excess on the average mortality. Not so in Bombay, where the system adopted is such that the official returns only show about a third of the deaths really due to plague.

The small-pox outbreak still continues high in the city of Bombay, and there is rather more small-pox than usual in Calcutta.

The numbers under "famine relief" continue to increase and many of the plague officials have been transferred for these duties. I understand that many of the sisters and several of the medical men will not be retained for further plague duty. The change of policy adopted by the Government of India and the local Governments has rendered their services useless. The "do-little" policy which has characterised the Bengal Government seems to have been taken up, or rather gradually slid into, by the other authorities. The people fall sick and die in their homes. They prefer it, and after all there is little evidence to show that it is a worse system than active interference. Disinfection of houses after deaths is not so much objected to, but compulsion to go into hospital or to evacuate their houses meets with every possible form of concealment. The practice of inoculation continues to be carried on actively in the city of Bombay and a few minor places. It is at a standstill in Calcutta.

March 15th.

THE BATTLE OF THE CLUBS.

COWES.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.)

THE conditions of medical contract work at Cowes are anything but satisfactory, and there has been a good deal of friction notably between the Foresters and their former principal medical officer. This gentleman in 1886 bought a practice at Cowes, which included some 1200 Foresters who paid 4s. a year for adults, and 3s. for juveniles of from six years to 18 years of age. Such contract work makes the purchase of a practice a very risky affair. The new-comer may lose some of the private patients; but, if the practice depends in the main on clubs, the loss may be, not of a few, but of several hundred patients. Nor is such loss gradual and perhaps compensated by an increase of practice in other directions. It is sweeping and sudden. In 1888 Mr. Bernard Hoffmeister joined his father at Cowes and was naturally anxious to build up a practice. This coincided with a growing desire on the part of the Foresters to employ another medical officer. As they had many members this was quite natural and legitimate; but the determination which was come to in 1891 to establish a separate medical aid society was very much opposed to the general interests of the profession. The new society was to consist of the wives, the children, the relatives, and the friends of the Foresters, and they would not be called upon to pay for any other form of insurance except medical aid. The medical officer of the Foresters objected strongly to this scheme. He pointed out that there was already too much contract work and that it was not beneficial either to the patient or to the medical officer unless it was strictly limited to the poorest sections of the population, and that even for this class there was a dispensary supported partly by charitable donations and partly by subscriptions collected on the provident system. Cowes has only a population of 10,620 inhabitants, and nearly 1000 are members of this dispensary. In 1888 the actual figures were 987 members. With the 1200 Foresters on the books in that year and the many other clubs which existed, it will be seen that very little scope remained for private practice, and now it was proposed to include the wives and relatives of the Foresters. Their medical officer refused to accede to the scheme, and the Foresters advertised for another medical officer, and received in response 14 applications. The result was that the Foresters brought a gentleman into the town and also appointed the two brothers, Dr. William Hoffmeister and Mr. Bernard Hoffmeister, as medical officers. They were to attend on the Foresters and on the members of the Medical Aid Society. The rules of this society (the Court Foresters' Medical Society) stated that the object of the society was the relief of the wives, the children, the widows, and the orphans of Foresters. All moneys received—subscriptions, entrance fees, fines—were to be employed only for the objects of the society. The medical officers were to be provided with the list of members quarterly, and members who needed to be attended in their own homes were to send notice to that effect before nine in the morning of the day on which they wished to be visited. The medical officers were to be selected by the Foresters and were to provide, not only medicine, but leeches, dressings, bandages, splints, and whatever else might be required for the proper treatment of the patients. There was, however, a considerate stipulation that the patients should return the splints when they were no longer required. In exchange for these extensive—and expensive—services adult members were to pay 4s. per annum, juvenile members from 12 years to 18 years 3s. per annum, and children from one year old to 12 years old 2s. per annum. Adults were to pay also 4d. annually as a management fee. One child was charged 4d. annually but two or more children only paid 6d. annually to cover the cost of management. The entrance fee for adults was 1s. and for members under 18 years of age 6d. The Medical Aid Society had not been long in existence when Mr. Bernard Hoffmeister died and his brother, Mr. John Hoffmeister, was appointed in his stead. Some resistance, however, had been made to this extension of club practice. The medical officers of the Foresters had succeeded in retaining the old Foresters—that is, the adult males—and in persuading one of the oldest practitioners in the town not to

HOSPITAL SUNDAY IN BRISTOL.—At the meeting of the committee of the Bristol Hospital Sunday Fund held recently it was stated that the total collections received amounted to £1362. There were 200 collections in churches and chapels, being 49 in excess of last year.