such an expression of opinion from so renowned a clinical teacher should certainly be most widely known and frequently reiterated. In the next place, I must explain that it would have been quite beyond the scope of my paper on fatty degeneration of the heart from intra-abdominal pressure to have referred to the strenuous efforts made by Dr. Bantock—and, I would add, by Mr. Lawson Tait also—to enforce the necessity of early operation in cases of ovarian diseases. But, judging from the pathological results in cases where operative measures have been long deferred, I am compelled to believe that to their precept and practice in this matter must be largely ascribed the ever-increasing success which has been gained in the domain of abdominal surgery.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Upper Wimpole-street, June 16th, 1888. BEDFORD FENWICK.

MALINGERING.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The curious case of malingering in THE LANCET of June 2nd reminds me of another which occurred in my practice, and may be of interest to many of your readers.

A girl aged sixteen, apparently in good health, was shown to me by the mistresses of a boarding school. She had been suffering for some days from a swollen and discoloured hand. The weather having been cold, they at first attributed the swelling to chilblains, but now they were thoroughly frightened, and thought mortification had set in. I found the hand much swollen, the skin and nails of a purple hue, the back of the hand cedematous, and pitting on pressure. So serious did the case appear that an eminent physician, who was seeing another case in the house, saw her with me, and advised a deep incision in search of matter. This was not done, but, remembering a conversation I once had about a similar case with the late Sir Wm. Fergusson, I directed them to have the young lady watched day and night, and report the result. A hole was made in her bedroom door, and the mistresses undertook to watch all night. About the small hours she was seen to rise from her bed and proceed to a chest of drawers. From a corner of a drawer she produced a long coil of soft satin ribbon. This she wound round and round the upper arm very tightly, and then returned to bed. After some hours she unwound the ribbon, replaced it in its corner, and slipped into bed. In reply to their anxious solicitation for advice, I recommended change of air, and accordingly the black sheep was sent away home, far away from the fold which she had endeavoured to pollute by her unseemly tricks. Some weeks later I had a letter from her father, describing this extraordinary case. I wrote him a private letter, giving him the particulars noted above.

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,

Richmond, Surrey, June 12th, 1888.

WM. ANDERSON.

ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—We enclose herewith the reply received by us to the letter addressed by our committee to the Lord President of the Council. We may add that Lord Randolph Churchill has consented to receive a small number of our committee to-morrow (Thursday) morning in order to hear their views as to the position of the Members of the Royal College of Surgeons.—We are, Sirs, your obedient servants,

WARWICK C. STEELE, } Hon.
WM. ASHTON ELLIS, } Secs.

June 20th, 1888.

Council Office, Whitehall, June 16th, 1888.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 12th inst. on the subject of the petition of certain Members of the Royal College of Surgeons with reference to the constitution of that College (lodged at this office on May 3rd, 1887), I am directed by the Lord President of the Council to inform you that it is not usual to send a written reply to petitions on the subject of a question which is before the Privy Council. The petitions or statements in such cases are fully considered before any decision is arrived at, and the result is that Her Majesty is advised either to grant, to refuse, or to modify the proposed Charter.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, C. L. PERL.

THE General Committee of the Society for the Prevention of Hydrophobia, in consequence of the refusal of the Government to introduce a Bill for the Suppression of Rabies in Dogs, have resolved to at once seek to promote its own Bill with that object in the House of Lords.

NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

NEWCASTLE.

THE report of the Tyne Port Sanitary Authority shows that during the months of April and May the number of vessels inspected had been as follows:—British steamers 1154, British sailing vessels 469, foreign steamers 292, foreign sailing vessels 131, making a total of 2046. Fifty-eight cases of sickness had come under notice and had been investigated; one vessel having small-pox had been fumigated and the patient removed to hospital by the medical officer, Mr. H. E. Armstrong. There had been an increase of emigrants arriving in the Tyne en route to America. The annual meeting of the Cathedral Nurse and Loan Society has been held. This Society has increased so much in the recognition of the public and of the medical profession and the poor that the nurses have been unceasingly employed to the utmost of their time and energies. The majority of the cases have been of a severe character requiring much nursing skill, and calling for visits of the nurses of a prolonged and anxious nature, and the nursing throughout the year has been of a specially important character. The number of cases visited have been 1340, visits paid 14,615; 1416 dinners have been issued from the invalid kitchen, and many thousand separate articles of food. A small cottage hospital has also been established for convalescents by the Society. It is situated at Shotley Bridge, in the county of Durham, which at present provides seven beds for adults and children. The committee regret that the income of the Society for the past year has not met its expenditure by over £100. The Newcastle guardians on Tuesday last resolved by a very large majority to allow the late surgeon to the workhouse, Mr. N. Hardcastle, a pension of £80 per annum. Had it been much larger, Mr. Hardcastle would have well deserved it after his faithful service of thirty-three years.

THE WEATHER AND HEALTH IN THE NORTH.

The death-rate last week in Newcastle was the lowest ever recorded, about 13 per 1000. Some concern is felt about the appearance of small-pox in Hull owing to its frequent communication with Newcastle; but I believe Newcastle, as a city, was never so well prepared as at the present to cope with any infectious disease. The weather for the past week has been changeable, but on the whole cool for the time of year; it is remarked, however, that we rarely get settled or warm weather here before the 21st of June. But we believe that this is made up to us by very fine autumnal seasons, with a freedom from moisture and fogs. At Harrogate there was fine weather up to Wednesday last, when a thunderstorm passed over, accompanied with much rain; since then it has been cool but fair. At Ilkley the prospects of fine weather are more favourable, while at Saltburn it has been very changeable. At the watering places on the Northumbrian coast, warm, genial weather has been experienced during the week; cooler towards evening, with fair prospects of continued good weather. At Whitby the weather has been bright and warm during the greater part of the week, though the wind blew steadily from the east during the greater part of Wednesday.

THE EPIDEMIC OF PNEUMONIA AT MIDDLESBROUGH.

A local paper states that 275 deaths have taken place in Middlesbrough since last November from pneumonia. Dr. Malcolmson, the medical officer of health, who has asked for the inquiry now pending, stated at the meeting of the Town Council that he had attended sixty paupers with about one blanket to every five, and yet he had only five deaths. He also complained of the want of proper hospital accommodation for these cases, and stated that during the past month, of a mortality of 217 deaths, 103 were caused by pneumonia, bronchitis, and consumption. It is not known yet upon what class of people this enormous mortality has fallen, but most probably it will have been upon the working classes. The industries of the town cause much over-heating of the workers. Then, again, the situation of the place and its exposure to cold winds will probably be shown to have been the principal factors in producing the epidemic; but upon this point and others we must wait for definite information from the inquiry of Dr. Ballard, who is now on the spot. So far, with the