cases of suicidal wound, and generally where the conditions for local repair are favourable, there are obvious advantages to be gained by the immediate suture of the tracheal wound.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Harley-street, W., Jan. 30th, 1888. WILLIAM MAC CORNAC.

HOMŒOPATHY DISCARDED BY ITS OWN PRACTITIONERS IN LONDON AND THE UNITED STATES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I observe that you have on several occasions lately spoken of Dr. J. Kidd as the "leading homœopathic practitioner in London." After the formal renunciation of his connexion with homœopathic institutions made by Dr. Kidd himself in your own paper in May, 1881, it seems scarcely right to say that he occupies any leading position as regards homœopathy. As I am pretty well acquainted with homœopathic concerns, I can assure you that Dr. Kidd, though he may have a very large practice, is not considered an authority, far less a leader, in homœopathy.

As for Dr. Potter, I think his own account of himself in your impression of to-day must convince anyone that he is no authority whatever on homœopathy in America. Of course, having ratted over to the other side, he is bound to try to disparage as much as possible the side he has left. His "Index of Comparative Therapeutics" is useful as showing what a large number of remedies have been taken by allopathic writers from homœopathic sources. If some of the practitioners of homœopathy occasionally borrow a remedy from the old school, which I dare say may be the case, they are never ashamed of doing so, and make no concealment of the fact, which conduct might with advantage be imitated by your school when they borrow from us.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

Montagu-square, Jan. 28th, 1888.

R. E. DUDGEON.

* * Dr. Dudgeon does not seriously impair our argument from the case of Dr. Kidd, who is the leading refuge of homœopathic practitioners, nor the authority of Dr. Potter as to the state of homœopathic practice in the States.—ED. L.

HÆMORRHAGE AS A SYMPTOM ATTENDING MYXEDEMA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have noticed with interest the observations of Dr. Shelswell and others on the above-named subject. I have had for some time under my care a lady who has been slowly developing more and more clearly all the symptoms of this disease, not the least marked indications being the dull, apathetic state of the mind. About a month since I was summoned to her in great haste, as she had alarmed her friends by a rather sharp attack of hæmoptysis. With quiet and simple astringents the attack passed away; but the observations which have appeared in THE LANCET on the subject appear to me to be well founded, and this slight confirmatory evidence may be of help in establishing one fact in this intractable disease, and may be of interest to your readers.

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,

R. LAYCOCK ROUTH, L.R.C.P. Edin., &c.

Banbury, Jan. 26th, 1888.

LIVERPOOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

A NEW CITY MORTUARY.

It is expected that a new mortuary will shortly be commenced, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board undertaking the erection, the cost of which will be £600, the Board and the City Council equally sharing the expense. The new mortuary will replace the present very inadequate dead-house, a structure wholly unfit for the reception of dead bodies, and still more so for the making of post-mortem examinations. These latter are often of a very important character, involving medico-legal points and forming the subjects of

subsequent criminal trials. When the new mortuary is completed, the Dock Board and City Council will receive, as they certainly will have merited, the thanks of all those medical practitioners whose health and comfort will derive such material benefit from the change.

THE HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN.

The annual meeting of the Hospital for Women, which was looked forward to with much interest, was held on Jan. 27th, under the presidency of the Mayor, and was a great success. The Mayor and Mayoress had paid a visit to the hospital previously to the meeting, and were much pleased with its excellent order and the care and comfort bestowed upon the patients. The Lord Bishop of the diocese (Right Rev. Dr. Ryle) moved the adoption of the report, which was a very favourable one, and spoke highly of the hospital as a training school for future practitioners in an important department of medicine and surgery. Sir William Forwood, in seconding the motion, paid a well-merited compliment to the Ladies Committee, and urged the importance of increased pecuniary help to enable all the available beds to be utilised.

THE NORTHERN HOSPITAL.

At the annual meeting of the trustees and supporters of the Northern Hospital it was resolved that the election of honorary medical officers shall in future be vested in an electoral committee, consisting of the General Committee, the honorary medical officers, and a hundred additional members to be selected from the trustees. This, it is expected, will save future candidates from much expense and trouble and the trustees from much annoyance, without any disadvantage to the candidates themselves. An interesting account was also given of the work done by the horse ambulance, both during the past year and since it was first established in connexion with this hospital.

MILK ADULTERATION.

The persistency with which milk vendors continue to adulterate milk with water was shown in a case recently brought before the magistrates, the defendant having already been repeatedly fined. He was now fined £10 and costs.

Jan. 31st.

NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

NEWCASTLE THROAT AND EAR HOSPITAL.

THE annual meeting of the Newcastle Throat and Ear Hospital has been held, and the report shows that over 2000 patients had been treated during 1887. The financial state of the hospital was also satisfactory, a sum of £239 13s. 2d. having been received during the year from the voluntary contributions of the patients. The vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. John Foggin (whose loss the committee regretted) had been filled up by the appointment of Dr. Wm. Robertson, who had been already attached to the staff, while Dr. Robertson's duty is taken by Mr. Arthur Hepworth, who has been recently elected surgeon to the hospital. The hospital is quite free from debt, but is sadly in need of extension. A bazaar held in November last was successful in adding about 100 guineas to the building fund.

NEWCASTLE ROYAL INFIRMARY.

A nominal vacancy has taken place in the infirmary for an assistant surgeon, caused by Mr. G. E. Williamson's expiration of office, he having been elected for a period of seven years. After Mr. Williamson's faithful and diligent attention at the infirmary, I should say he is almost certain to be re-elected, and scarcely likely to be opposed. Writing of the infirmary, I believe that its forthcoming report will show in a satisfactory way the effects of the late reforms in its constitution. When I told you in these notes that it was contemplated to make it a free hospital, it was officially contradicted; but "coming events" having "cast their shadows before them," the information I gave was substantially correct. The infirmary is now to a great extent free, but it will be soon virtually free to all patients. The proposal to make it a free hospital has met with the general approval of the governors, who had previously supported it. Scarcely any have withdrawn, while