

another on the forehead, two on the left shoulder, with many cicatrices, the marks of former sores, and his forehead much disfigured. But he was also suffering from double pneumonia, coughing up quantities of rust-coloured and viscid mucus; the bases of both lungs solid, and crepitations over the other parts of the chest where the air entered; great dyspnoea. The smell of the patient was so offensive that he had to be removed to a separate room, and it required some effort to approach him for examination. The course adopted was to remove, if possible, the stench, for which purpose we used the solution of chloride of lead, formed by mixing solutions of nitrate of lead with common salt (by far the best and cheapest deodoriser, and long in use in our wards). His mouth was washed with a solution of Condry's ozone water constantly. He took one drachm of binoxide of hydrogen in two ounces of water three times daily, and inhaled from the oxygen bag twice daily. I employed no other remedy, but ordered wine and brandy, and anything he could be induced to eat. This was on the 29th of November. My next visit was on the 2nd of December, when I hardly expected to find him alive, but I found him sitting up in bed, and very cheerful. The lungs had recovered themselves. He took his food with a good appetite. No smell whatever about him, and the ulcers had all assumed a healthy character. He continued these remedies, and no other, till he left the hospital on the 27th of December, the scabs only being removed by poultices, and the sores then dressed with simple dressing.

I hope soon to have other cases to report. They may not be so successful, but as these two have been so very satisfactory I think my professional brethren may wish to have the opportunity of trying these remedies in similar cases, where hitherto we have experienced so much difficulty and disappointment in their management.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

R. H. GOOLDEN, M.D. Oxon., F.R.C.P.

Sussex-gardens, Hyde-Park, Feb. 1866.

## A NEW UTERINE DILATOR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your number of the 3rd inst. is a description of a uterine dilator for the internal os. The part of that instrument which is new is identical with that constructed by me for Dr. Marion Sims, at his suggestion, for dilating the *internal os*, and was exhibited at the last annual *conversazione* of the Harveian Society.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Oxford-street, March, 1866.

J. F. PRATT.

## EDINBURGH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE sanitary state of the city continues to occupy much attention, not only among the civic authorities, but also the inhabitants generally. As soon as the present Lord Provost Chambers took office he submitted to the Town Council a scheme for the improvement of the city, which he calculates will very materially reduce the death-rate of certain parts of the Old Town. In the Report on the Sanitary State of Edinburgh, by Dr. Littlejohn, to which your correspondent has more than once alluded, a similar scheme was suggested; but his Lordship has taken up the idea and amplified it. He now proposes, not only to carry out the improvements in the parts of the town suggested by the officer of health, but to make alterations in various other parts of the Old Town. Dr. Littlejohn's suggestion is, that "by simply piercing the closes with an airy street you let in light, ventilation, and the scavenger,"—three admissions very much needed, especially in that part of the Old Town which lies between the High-street and Cowgate. Here it was the medical officer of health suggested that a street should be made, to intersect a district containing a population of no less than 646 persons to the acre. The benefit to the whole community arising from the opening-up of these "cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd" neighbourhoods is manifest; but your correspondent cannot believe that it is the only thing needed to reduce the death-rate to the extent stated by the Lord Provost. There are other matters to be considered besides the improvement of the dwellings of the class of people who live in these closes. There is the necessity for better

food, elevation in the habits of the people, and that they come to know that intemperance engenders physical as well as moral degradation. There is also a very peculiar distaste amongst many of the inhabitants of that part of the city to the use of water; and, singularly enough, so consistent are they that whilst not using it for themselves, they do not waste it on their children. Of course it is alleged that if better house-accommodation be provided, better habits will be formed—a view which your correspondent would wish to believe, but, from observation of the lowest classes here, is not prepared to give his unconditional assent to as yet. A more serious difficulty than one of mere theory has, however, to be got over: it is the old one of how the cost of these improvements is to be paid. At present, and it appears likely for several years to come, the owners of property in the New Town are, and will be, assessed one shilling in the pound of rental for the drainage of the north part of the city. They urged, when this tax was imposed, that as the benefit which would arise would not be confined to the portion drained, but would extend to the whole of the citizens, the rate ought to be imposed over all the city. This was objected to, and the rate was confined to those parts draining into the water of Leith sewer. For the new sanitary scheme it is proposed to raise the necessary funds by a tax over all the city; and of course those who objected to the one rate being localised will equally object to the other being made general. The necessity for improvement, however, is too manifest; and it will be greatly to be regretted if factious opposition be made to all of the plans at present under consideration for the sanitary improvement of Edinburgh.

In a former letter reference was made to the necessity for a new medical hospital being built in place of the old Infirmary. The managers have lately been hearing evidence as to the best site for the new building. Some of our sanitary improvers, who apparently think that all old things are wrong, are desirous of removing the Infirmary to a more eligible situation; but it seems likely, from the evidence of the professional men connected with that institution, that the new hospital will be built on the site of the old. The position is not unhealthy, it is very convenient for the physicians and surgeons, and, being close to our medical schools, has many advantages for the students. Another reason against its removal to a distance from its present position is that either the surgical and medical hospitals must be separated, or that the new building must contain a new surgical as well as a new medical house. In either case a large and uncalled-for expense would be entailed. Were the houses forming the street between the Infirmary and the University bought up by the managers, and a handsome building facing South Bridge-street erected, a very great improvement would be effected in the appearance of this part of the city, if not in the healthiness of the Infirmary site.

At the *conversazione* of the Royal College of Surgeons on Friday evening, the 23rd of February, a lecture was delivered by Dr. G. W. Balfour "On the Nature of Disease as explanatory of the Success attending various Modes of Treatment." A great part of the lecture, however, has already appeared in your columns (in November).

At this season the annual meetings of our various medical charities are held, and two of these are worthy of the consideration of your readers. That held first was the yearly meeting of the friends and directors of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children. This is a very useful institution. It is doing much good amongst the sick poor, and it must be gratifying to the medical officers of that institution to find their labours appreciated. In the report it is stated that the numbers treated in the hospital have been during the last year 497; in the dispensary department 4348 cases were treated, and 712 were visited at their homes; the general total being 5557 during the year. The usefulness of such an institution does not end in the mere treatment of the individual case, but it must surely in time exercise some perceptible influence in checking infant mortality, not by curing disease alone, but by preventing it; for it is scarcely to be supposed that the instruction given to mothers in the management of their children can be entirely without good effect in teaching them to attend to the little illnesses of children, to be more careful in dieting them, and to pay more regard to systematic cleanliness; and from the check which such an institution gives to carelessness, it is to be expected that infant mortality will be lessened by it very materially. The funds of this hospital are not what they ought to be, and an attempt is being made to pay off a debt of £900 still remaining on the building. An effort is being made to establish a Children's Hospital in Glasgow, but it is opposed by the directors of the Royal In-