

of civilisation. The vast majority of the Empire consists of millions of wholly uneducated peasants, without joy, or interest, or hope, or laughter in their lives. It is amongst these that the birth-rate increases; and in direct ratio with increased education and all that it brings in its train the birth-rate falls, and this law obtains not only in Russia but in all countries; it obtained in ancient Rome and possibly in Greece, and I venture to think it always will go on. For after all what is civilisation? Is it not really the development of luxury, education, ambition, comfort, and material well-being? And are these compatible with an increasing birth-rate?

I have been collecting some interesting statistics of the number of children born to women who attend the outpatient department (with the weekly wages earned to support the family), and it is a matter of common knowledge how entirely disproportionate they are to the number of children born to women of the wealthier parts of London; and so in France, it is only in the poorer districts where wages are low and the educational standard is low that the birth-rate increases or does not fall. With regard to the ethics of the question, from the Bishop's point of view there can be no doubt. Rome forbids the prevention of conception and surely the English Church should not be content with a lower standard.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully.

Curzon-street, W., Oct. 30th, 1905. AUGUSTUS W. ADDINSELL.

TO MEDICAL FREEMASONS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May I once again through the medium of THE LANCET thank the numerous medical Freemasons who sent their votes to me for the medical candidates at the recent elections of the Masonic charities. The candidates were all successful as under.

Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.—11th, Mary Trevor Webster, daughter of the late Trevor Webster of Bewdley, Worcestershire—4130 votes. 23rd, Mary Irene Morris, daughter of the late Albert Morris, L.R.C.P. Edin., M.R.C.S. Eng., of Southend-on-Sea—3435 votes.

Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.—27th, Cyril Ernest Hockley, son of the late Edward Robert Hockley, surgeon-dentist, of Northfleet, Kent—4463 votes.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully.

HAROLD S. SINGTON,
Secretary, St. Luke's Medical Lodge of
Instruction.

44, St. Mary's Mansions, W., Oct. 20th, 1905.

"DR. BELL'S" CIRCULARS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—With reference to previous correspondence regarding circulars of an objectionable character emanating from "Dr. Bell," 175, Wardour-street, London, W., I have to acquaint you that the persons responsible for carrying on this business—viz., Alfred Wray, medical electrician, manager; Henry Townsend, otherwise C. Field, shopman; Henry Mostyn, clerk; and Frank Orchard, porter—were arrested on Oct. 12th and charged with sending a postal packet containing an indecent print or book on July 29th, 1905, contrary to the Post Office Protection Act, 1884, section 4 (b). The prisoners appeared on remand at Marlborough-street police court on Oct. 27th, when they all elected to plead guilty and asked for the case to be dealt with summarily under the above-quoted Act. The learned magistrate accepted the plea and imposed upon Wray, who was acknowledged to be the principal, the full penalty—a fine of £10, with £5 costs. Townsend was fined £5 and £1 costs. Mostyn and Orchard were each bound over in their own recognisances in the sum of £10 to be of good behaviour for 12 months.—I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

F. S. BULLOCK,
Chief Constable, for Assistant Commissioner.
Criminal Investigation Department, New Scotland Yard,
London; S.W., Oct. 30th, 1905.

ELECTRIC ENEMATA IN COLITIS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In the very able article by Dr. W. Hale White in THE LANCET of Oct. 28th I think he has omitted to mention one form of treatment that is well worth a trial in obstinate cases of colitis; I refer to electric enemata. I have only had an opportunity of employing this treatment in one case but there the result was so extremely satisfactory that I think it is worth drawing attention to this remedy.

The patient, a woman, aged 63 years, who led a busy, active life and is not at all neurotic, was sent to me for static treatment by Mr. W. Arbuthnot Lane on account of the colitis. She was first taken ill in May, 1902, and from that time till she came to me in April, 1905, she had had every variety of treatment, both at home and at Plombières, by medicines, by bowel, by diet, but the motions continued loose, offensive, and always accompanied by mucus—sometimes in the form of complete membranes and sometimes only as shreds, and sometimes accompanied by hæmorrhage. She lost a great deal of weight and, though about 5 feet 4 inches in height, in February, 1904, she weighed but 4 stones 9 pounds. It continued between this and 5 stones till January, 1905. She began milk diet on Feb. 2nd, 1905, under the instructions of Mr. Lane, and on April 3rd, when she began static treatment, her weight was 5 stones 9 pounds. From that time till now she has gained steadily, and her weight to-day is 7 stones 10 pounds. The treatment lasted from April 3rd till May 6th, but beginning on April 29th, as the motions were still unsatisfactory and frequent, I gave her ten electric enemata of a solution of AgNO₃ of a strength of 0.1 per cent. After a preliminary lavage of the bowel one and a half pints of the silver nitrate solution were injected through a rectal tube in which was a copper wire that could be connected to the + pole of a battery. Large clay electrodes were placed on the back and abdomen and connected with the - pole. A current of from 15 to 20 milliamperes was passed for 15 minutes. The result of this treatment was that the motions became natural in consistency and frequency, that the mucus disappeared and the flatus diminished, and this condition has remained till a cold about a week ago brought back some mucus in, and irregularity of, the motions, but this has been put right by three electrical enemata.

I cannot help thinking that this case is worth recording owing to the very marked good which the patient derived from electricity after other treatment had failed, and it seems to me that the introduction of silver into the very protoplasm of the cells of the colonic mucous membrane by means of ionisation cannot but have a beneficial result. Injections of AgNO₃ have long been used for colitis, but I think it is a fair inference that the salt is converted into a chloride or sulphides as soon as it reaches the bowel and, as such, is not absorbed. On the other hand, Dr. Whitaker reports a case in the *Archives of the Roentgen Ray* in which the skin under the negative electrode became stained brown by the silver, proving absolutely that it must have penetrated the mucous membrane. In my case no staining occurred but the treatment was only followed for ten days. There are other salts besides AgNO₃ which might be beneficial in these cases of colitis if we could only insure their being absorbed and this we can do by the method I have indicated which is simple and painless. When one sees the misery that sufferers from chronic colitis experience I think any method that offers a possibility of relief, if not always of cure, would be more than welcomed by our patients as well as by ourselves.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Bina-gardens, S.W., Oct. 31st, 1905.

J. CURTIS WEBB.

CENTENARIANS.—Miss Marianne Hensley of 4, Bloomfield-place, Bath, attained the 100th anniversary of her birthday on Oct. 15th. She was born in Bath and was the elder sister of the late Dr. Henry Hensley of that city who died in 1891.—Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, the landlady of the "Bumper Castle" Inn, on the main road from York to Helmsley, who is the oldest licensed victualler in England, celebrated the 101st anniversary of her birthday on Oct. 27th. She was a native of Easingwold, where she was born on Oct. 27th, 1804. For a year short of three-quarters of a century she has been engaged in the licensed trade. Just 59 years ago Mrs. Johnson and her husband entered upon the tenancy of the "Bumper Castle." Mrs. Johnson, whose husband died 28 years ago, has had ten children, four of whom are living. The youngest, who is 62 years of age, assists her in the conduct of the business. One of the reporters of the *Yorkshire Post*, from which we have taken the above account, had an interview with the old lady at the "Bumper Castle" on Oct. 26th. She was then sitting beside the fire in the kitchen of the inn, for she feels cold acutely, but in other respects she seemed remarkably well. Though her hearing was rather deficient her eyesight was wonderfully good, and she conversed with him intelligently enough.