

chester, Dublin, and Edinburgh, seats of learning and large medical schools, is impracticable in Derby. In conclusion, I may add that at a general meeting of the governors on July 7th, 1884, I proposed an amendment to include as eligible licentiates of the Dublin and Edinburgh Colleges so as to put them on a equal footing with those of the London Colleges, which was only lost by the narrow majority of seven votes, 28 voting for and 35 against.

The sequel has shown that I have been amply justified in my repeated attempts, for they have at last elicited an admission on behalf of the weekly board that there is dissatisfaction in the town over the medical rules which are acknowledged to be defective and capable of improvement, and are now referred to a special committee.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Mickleover, Derby, Feb. 4th, 1890. J. MURRAY LINDSAY.

REMOVAL OF INFECTIOUS CASES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The point raised by your correspondent in last week's issue, as to the removal of bodies dead from an infectious disease in a public cab or fly, again draws attention to a grave omission in the Public Health Acts. You suggest, in an editorial note, that an action might be tried under Section 127 of the Public Health Act (1875); but must not this question be held to have been practically settled for the present, until an amending Act is passed, by the statement of the President of the Local Government Board, in answer to a question in Parliament regarding a decision of the Leigh magistrates in a similar case, and where they held that the Act did not meet the circumstances? He said that "he had no doubt whatever that the decision of the magistrates was right, and that the word 'person' in the Act did not include a dead body, and that a dead body was not a thing *ejusdem generis* with bedding, clothing, or rags. Under these circumstances it was evident that there had been an omission in the Act."

In the proposed Glasgow Police Amendment Act (1890), a clause has been inserted to prevent the transportation of the body of anyone who has died of infectious disease in a public conveyance not being a conveyance reserved for such purposes, unless and until the medical officer has certified that every precaution necessary for the public safety has been adopted to his satisfaction. A penalty of £10 is attached.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

HARVEY LITTLEJOHN, M.B.

Public Health Office, Edinburgh, Feb. 10th, 1890.

"THE EPIDEMIC."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It might be interesting to some of your readers—inasmuch as this island is only in communication with Guernsey and Cherbourg—to know that the epidemic is amongst us. I have had six genuine cases since Jan. 14th, and I think that the garrison localised here is also suffering from it. As far as I could I have made sure that none of the passengers landed ever had the epidemic, either during their stay here or before coming. The first case was a Custom House officer, whose duty is to take note of all the parcels coming from England *via* Guernsey. I may also state that the mail boat is the only one which has been here for weeks, and that all the cases with the exception of those who had pulmonary complications are doing well.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Alderney, Jan. 28th, 1890.

B. BARNARD, M.B.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I can fully endorse the experience of Mr. Stephen Richmond in the use of eucalyptus as a preventive of influenza, as recommended by him in THE LANCET of Jan. 18th. I have from the beginning of the epidemic used eucalyptus disinfectant spray on the handkerchief as a perfume by day, and sprinkled on the bed-pillow for inhalation at night, and have found it most effectual in preventing influenza. In the cases of old people and invalids, I have directed the spray to be used in their rooms at intervals in the day, and sprinkled on their pillows at night, and I am convinced I have saved many from the disease, when their servants, who have not taken these precautions, have had it. I have not had the disease myself, although I have attended upwards of 200 cases.

I have experienced the effects of a large dose of the poison several times after visiting houses where there were many cases. I felt considerable nausea, like that of sea-sickness, and such dizziness that I could scarcely walk straight, together with great languor. All these symptoms passed away on inhaling the eucalyptus with strong inspirations, until its warmth could be felt in the chest. It will as effectually destroy the poisons of other infectious diseases and fevers, and I hope to bring the subject of the use of eucalyptus in infectious diseases before the Epidemiological Society on March 12th, when I shall prove its powerful effect on the scarlet-fever poison.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Bayswater, Feb. 1st, 1890.

J. BRENDON CURGENVEN.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In my letter of the 14th ult. I mentioned that I had apparently recovered from a possible attack of the prevailing epidemic after two days' treatment with large doses of quinine. I was unfortunately called out in the middle of the next night, and in the morning I was prostrated, and my temperature was 104°. I had to remain in bed two days, and again took large doses of quinine, and as much strong soup and champagne as my appetite allowed. On the third day I was better, but was compelled to continue my work, although my temperature was still high, over 101°; but curiously my pulse never exceeded 80 during the attack. For nearly a fortnight I was weak, and quite done up every evening, but by the help of the quinine (five grains three times a day), port wine, and champagne I kept "in harness," and am now in my usual good health.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Upper Clapton, N.E., Feb. 2nd, 1890.

MEDICUS.

ANTIFEBRIN NOT A SAFE REMEDY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am very glad Dr. Wilks supports me in condemning some of the new and dangerous remedies sometimes given in various febrile diseases, and hope you will allow it to be as widely known as possible that antifebrin and, I venture to think, more than one allied substance are not safe, and ought not to be prescribed. A high temperature, as far as I am able to judge, does less harm to the patient than some of the substances given to reduce it. The class of remedies in question occasions physiological changes which are indeed the very last to be desired in cases in which the tendency to death, particularly in certain forms of acute disease, is due to defective action of heart or lungs or both, and is, in fact, contraindicated.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

Grosvenor-street, Feb. 8th, 1890.

LIONEL S. BEALE.

THE HOSPITALS OF THE METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have given notice that at the next meeting of the Metropolitan Asylums Board I shall move that in future the principal appointments of medical superintendents of its hospitals shall be advertised when vacant. At present the practice is to promote officers who are already in its service to the principal posts. But a new departure will shortly be made, for some of the fever hospitals of the metropolis will no doubt very soon be open for the purposes of medical instruction. The scheme of the College of Physicians, which has already been agreed to by a special committee of the board, provides that the medical superintendents of the hospitals shall be the clinical instructors in this important part of medical education. Under these circumstances I am strongly of opinion that the appointments, when vacant, should be advertised.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

George-st., Hanover-sq., Feb. 10th, 1890.

EDWARD SEATON.

A LONDON HOSPITAL FOR INSANE PAUPERS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It has been reported that the County Council of London will have to make provision for 10,000 pauper lunatics. Already it has taken over the asylums at Colney Hatch, Banstead, Wandsworth, and Cane-hill, which