additional benefit brought about through reflex nervous action.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Oct. 16th, 1898.

SIDNEY VINES.

"ULCERATING GRANULOMA OF THE PUDENDA."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am glad that Lieutenant-Colonel J. Maitland has drawn attention in THE LANCET of Oct. 15th to the close resemblance existing between the disease described by him as "chronic venereal sores" (*Indian Medical Gazette*, May, 1898) and the condition reported on by me as "ulcerating granuloma of the pudenda" (*British Journal of Dermatology*, April, 1887) and described by Messrs. Conyers and Daniels in the *British Guiana Medical Annual* (1896) as "the lupoid form of the so-called 'groin ulceration' of this colony." This disease seems to have similar features both in the East and West Indies. It is noteworthy, however, that Lieutenant-Colonel Maitland insists on the existence of a primary sore in his cases. With Lieutenant-Colonel Maitland's material histological and bacteriological examinations could be readily conducted (if necessary in this country) and might do much to elucidate the etiology of this curious malady.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Harley-street, W., Oct. 18th, 1898.

JAMES GALLOWAY.

"THE 'SATURDAY REVIEW' AND MEDICAL STUDENTS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—*Appropos* of the reference in THE LANCET of Oct. 15th to the *Saturday Review* article regarding medical students as a class I can only say that the writer thereof must be as much lacking in knowledge of his "subjects" as in courtesy to a class of young men who, I venture to assert, are "second to none" in both behaviour and the ease with which they are managed if treated properly. I have had ten years' experience and can safely say that I have never met with aught but courtesy and consideration, though the students here are numbered in hundreds. Animal spirits will always be in existence where youth and health are, and who would stifle them when no harm results? The whole secret of the bad name attached to the medical student is to be found in the fact that every young man who finds himself at Marlborough-street after a riotous night, when asked what he is, says "a medical student," though he may never have seen the inside of a hospital.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

FREDERIC H. MADDEN,

Secretary, St. Mary's Hospital Medical School,
Paddington, W.

Oct. 17th, 1898.

DR. SAUNDBY'S ADDRESS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In a very interesting and instructive address delivered to the students of the University College, Cardiff, Dr. Robert Saundby, in speaking of the prospects of the medical profession, made use of the following language: "Time will bring the roses to all of you but not to all fame or wealth. But if I cannot promise that you will all become medical baronets or even medical knights I can assure you that there is no profession in which success more certainly attends attention to business or which so good an income can be so readily secured. The clamour for better pay and greater privileges depends in part upon inability to recognise the true position which we hold in society. That position depends mainly upon the public belief that we are a disinterested profession and that belief rests upon the vast amount of public work we do for nothing. But if we follow the advice of some of our friends and seek to put the marked price upon all our services must we not reckon upon a change on the part of the public which may not be to our advantage?" From the point of view of a gentleman who holds such lofty positions as Dr. Saundby does the opinions expressed in the foregoing sentences are no doubt right and proper. But from the point of view of an ordinary general practitioner the sentiments expressed sound simply ridiculous. It is not to be denied that with the competition of specialists, hospitals, quacks, nurses, and midwives an ordinary medical man (even with a

strict attention to business) has the greatest possible difficulty in obtaining a bare livelihood. The profession has been exploited far too long by the public and naturally enough the public has taken advantage of the circumstance. It is very grand no doubt for a professor of medicine to talk in this way, but really, Sirs, the time has gone by for the promulgation of such views. Men enter the medical profession to make a decent living in an honourable way, and if after many years of hard toil they do not succeed in making a competency it will be small comfort to be told by learned professors that the failure has been due to the fact that they are bound to consider themselves a disinterested profession, and that it was their duty to do a vast amount of work for the public free, gratis, and for nothing!

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Oct. 13th, 1898.

A GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

BIRMINGHAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Water-Supply.

SOME anxiety is felt by the authorities about the water-supply of the town, and warning has been issued with regard to the prevention of waste. The increase in the population of the water district during the last four years has amounted to 15,000 a year, an aggregate of 60,000. The long-continued drought has considerably affected the storage supply and has led to careful calculations as to the result, which is considered as serious. The population receiving the supply is estimated at 715,000 and the average consumption during the last year was 23·17 gallons per head per day. The actual amount distributed is about 19½ million gallons per day, or 27 gallons per head. The great storage reservoir at Shustoke has a capacity of 400,000,000 gallons derived from the river Bourne, which is appreciably affected by the prolonged dry weather of the past few months. About 6½ million gallons are daily taken from deep wells which so far have responded admirably to the demand made on them. Still, the level of the great reservoir has been lowering to the extent of 2 in. a day, a fact which is significant of precaution. Some four years have yet to elapse before the Welsh water-supply becomes an accomplished reality, and until then unless strict economy is practised and the natural rainfall is increased the prospect is by no means devoid of anxiety.

Hospital Sunday.

The collection on Oct. 30th for the present year is to go to the General Hospital. A strong appeal has been issued by the committee of the periodical collections and attention is invited earnestly to the following facts. 1. The General Hospital was opened as far back as the year 1779, and is therefore the oldest charity in the city. During this period it has treated 2,000,000 cases. 2. In the last three years 172,148 patients have been relieved, and of these 13,120 were in-patients. 3. During the same period upwards of 122,000 patients were treated as accidents or urgencies without ticket or payment of any kind, and therefore the hospital may to a very great extent be regarded as a free hospital. 4. These figures show a very large increase on all previous years and in themselves present a cogent argument in favour of a much larger measure of support. 5. The annual income from subscriptions, investments, &c., is about £10,000, while the annual expenditure is £22,000 leaving £12,000 a year to be raised by donations, grants, congregational collections, &c. 6. Since the last appeal for the General Hospital was made the old building has been superseded by a new one at a cost of over £210,000, equipped and furnished with every modern improvement and convenience. The additional number of beds in the new building will, if fully occupied, entail an increased annual cost of over £5000.

The Dental Hospital.

In an address given to the dental students on Sept. 24th Mr. Neale pointed out the remarkable growth of the hospital. In 1880 they extracted at the hospital without anæsthetics 3142 teeth; there was no record of the number extracted with anæsthetics, but there were 493 fillings. There were in all 4170 operations. In 1887 the number of extractions had grown to 10,275. Coming to 1895 they extracted 4450 teeth without anæsthetics and 7133 with anæsthetics; they had,