be promptly promised and in the form of annual subscriptions. A guinea or two a year from a few of us during the rest of Mrs. Guthrie's life is all that is wanted to enable her to end her days free from the terrible strain of pecuniary anxiety.

I am, Sirs, faithfully yours,
Harley-street, W., Feb. 19th, 1895. STANLEY BOYD.

"MEDICAL WITNESS AND JUDGE."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In an annotation under the above heading in THE LANCET of Feb. 16th the expression "there was no evidence that penetration had occurred" was a "correct phrase" and "logical inference" from the facts of the case—i.e., penetration may or may not have occurred, but if it had there was no proof or evidence of it. A purulent discharge is no proof of penetration, nor is semen, pus, and epithelial scales on the shirt of a prisoner. The prisoner was examined a few days after the alleged assault by the gaol surgeon and found to have no discharge. I was a scientific witness and had to deal with other conditions observed by myself, and not "presumptive evidence," that being a matter for the judge and jury. I based my opinion upon my examination and not upon the evidence of the prosecutrix.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Southsea, Feb. 16th, 1895. LYSANDER MAYBURY.

"THE CONSUMPTION SCARE."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Referring to the leading article under the above heading in THE LANCET of the 2nd inst. I venture to ask your indulgence in order to point out one or two matters in connexion with this subject which are not commonly recognised, and which should rouse the public care and interest to preventive action.

We all have brought before us day by day the serious consequence of the marriage of phthisical persons; it may be the disease is not hereditary, but the predisposition is acknowledged to be hereditary, and I have seen whole families swept away miserably. I have seen others live, perhaps, more miserably; for instance, where both parents are phthisical and unable to gain a decent livelihood. I have seen a family growing up afflicted in all sorts of ways, with brain disease, mesenteric disease, and still increasing in numbers. I remember cases where whole families of eight or nine have died, chiefly from meningitis, and I feel sure that many of the parents would not marry if they knew clearly their responsibility and there were homes to which invalids could go. It is known that cows which are tuberculous exist in sheds, and there is no law by which they can be seized, although we are told by the best authorities that the milk of such cows is a chief cause of tuberculous disease in children. We can forbid the sale of the milk if we can catch people selling it, but we cannot touch the cow; then clearly power is wanted to destroy the cow and compensate the owner. Authorities tell us that 10 per cent. of cattle slaughtered are tuberculous, and we know that diseased carcasses of all sorts are sent off to towns, and there seems no protection against this if the viscera and ribs are kept back and sold in the country, where the inspector of nuisances is not often capable of detecting disease, nor is he likely to supervise properly 200 or 300 slaughter-houses scattered through his district—probably the police might be trained to do this. Rows of old, dark, dilapidated, damp, dirty houses with little air space continue to exist in spite of the attempts to abolish them when we know that sunlight and pure air, with strict cleanliness of floors, walls, and furniture, are necessary for protecting children from the attacks of this destructive disease.

Dr. Cornet points out that beds, especially at lodging-houses and hotels, are probably a source of danger, and this opinion has long been held in Malaga and other resorts of the phthisical, yet we all see day by day lodging-houses where lodgers follow one another for 3d. per night's accommodation, but the sanitary authority has no power to order the disinfection of the beds from time to time, while the practical remedy seems to be that the authorities should have some power to order spring mattresses to be covered with blankets and straw pillows, and the blankets to be boiled at defined intervals. As a rule, there is no proper steam disinfecting apparatus for beds in small places, though many decent people would like

their beds purified, after disease particularly. I know of no homes, excepting the cottage homes which Dr. Trudeau has established near the Adirondack Mountains, where a young man or young woman warned of tuberculous disease or tendency can go, and not one where they may live quietly and partly gain their independence by a pleasant easy occupation such as fruit, flower, rose, or vegetable growing under glass, or where, as in the highlands of the Cape, Australia, Peru, or California, they may in the bright, dry atmosphere of the mountain or near the sea hope to recover their health by occupation in the pure air. Monasteries and abbeys have been, and are, established for more or less useful purposes perhaps, but I am aware of no home, no wealth, no intelligent energy devoted to so noble an object as restoring health to the sick phthisical, and partial independence to those in delicate health inherited from phthisical parents who ought not to marry and desire to engage in some useful healthy occupation. It seems as though we preferred to pay for crippled lives of children and slow deaths in preference to taking any trouble to prevent such things, or otherwise the subject is not understood by the public, and some scare seems wanted to rouse the public conscience to such dangers as exist.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant.

M.O.H.

"THE REMUNERATION OF THE RESIDENT OFFICERS IN ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—With regard to the letter on this subject which appeared in THE LANCET of Feb. 9th, there is, I think, no doubt that payment of a fee or having to board oneself during a resident appointment may be to a few a positive hardship, coming as it does at the end of a long and expensive curriculum, when many feel the necessity of at least earning enough to help themselves; but at the same time "Fair Pay" is hardly in keeping with his title when he calls the system a sweating one and states that the resident gives time and health up for no return. The very fact of having held an appointment at a hospital belonging to a medical school is invaluable in after life. It brings a man into constant personal contact with some of the leading members of the profession; it gives him confidence in himself; it is the best stepping-stone to other appointments; and, in short, is the very best start a man can make after getting qualified. Surely, then, these are some returns for the time given, returns no doubt largely depending on the personal factor in the case, but in most cases incomparable to the small amount that may actually at the time be lost out of pocket. St. Bartholomew's is not the only hospital where a fee is charged. At Middlesex the fee is £10 10s. for a six months' appointment, but there the resident is boarded and lodged free of further charge, and I believe there are also other hospitals where a small fee is charged.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Feb. 18th, 1895. LATE HOUSE PHYSICIAN.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It is because I am an old resident at other hospitals as well as at St. Bartholomew's, and because I know the difficulty in obtaining reforms from hospital committees, especially when it is a question of finance, that I broached the above subject in your columns. I admit with your correspondent, "An Old House Surgeon of St. Bartholomew's," that the experience gained as a resident there is invaluable, and that one has a "general good time"; but I do not think men join hospitals as junior officers for the latter purpose, nor should I think it worth while to pay £50 for it. The main point is that other hospitals not so well off can support their residents, then why not St. Bartholomew's. Personally I blush for my *alma mater* when I compare it with other institutions in this matter, and I feel sure that the present system must prevent some of its students who cannot afford a "good time" from applying for the various posts which would otherwise be open to them. I have not actually come across such a case, but I have not the least doubt that they exist. Your correspondent knows as well as I do that while men are resident in the hospital they have not the opportunity of broaching such a subject as this, nor would they be listened to if they did. Except as an old student of the hospital it does not concern me now; but it did very much once, and I venture to think that should this correspondence