alone carried on, there is no necessity for revaccination. My opportunities for arriving at any conclusion on this most important subject will, I think, be allowed to be extensive and special, when I state that, during the last twenty years of my Indian service, I have been continuously engaged in vaccination in one sanitary circle, with a population of ten millions and an average of 500 to the square mile—with my vaccine work standing the test of small-pox as an annual visitor—with no attempt at isolation even in sporadic cases; on the contrary, with the promiscuous collection of cases of the disease in every stage of the eruption, with children, as yet free from it, at the shrine of the goddess of small-pox, "Sutla." Here, in the midst of all this small-pox contagion and infection, I have never protected (if I may use the term) my work by revaccinating a single native youth or adult, or permitted one of my two hundred subordinates to do it. If, therefore, revaccination is necessary in this country owing to the prevalence of small-pox among the vaccinated, I can point to towns, cities, and districts where small-pox is practically unknown, except in a few isolated unvaccinated cases, and ask, Why this difference? I will not, however, take up more of your space at present. All I ask from the numerous professional and unprofessional readers of your journal is a hearing and an opportunity of showing that Jenner's great discovery has gained by the lapse of time; and that in India it has by its own merit overcome every possible difficulty, and is gratefully accepted in the place of inoculation by a nation who have practised that prophylactic from time immemorial. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

R. PRINGLE, M.D.,

Late Sanitary Department, H.M.'s Bengal Army.
Blackheath, S.E., May 19th, 1885.

THE NEW LUNACY BILL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Without venturing an opinion on any of the points touched upon by the Lord Chancellor's new Bill, I would beg to direct your attention to a matter not therein referred to, and which, I think, calls as loudly as any other for reform. I refer to the power at present vested in the magistracy of sending a pauper lunatic to any other asylum in England than that in his own county should there not be room for him in the home establishment. Under this law hundreds of unfortunates are annually conveyed to far distant parts of the country. Their friends are poor, and have neither the time nor the money necessary for their visitation. So pauper lunatics are left in their affliction to mourn their unhappy lot; to live, and probably to die, in the midst of strangers, and to suffer in their declining years that feeling of desertion and utter loneliness which was until now supposed to be reserved for the criminal. The Commissioners in Lunacy expressed their disapproval of the system some years back, saying that it was the cause of very great hardship to the patients so transferred. Could not a clause be inserted in the Bill at present being considered making it compulsory that pauper lunatics should be kept and treated within the counties in which they are chargeable as paupers?—this to come into force at the expiration of a reasonable time, to allow of extra accommodation being provided when required. It is surprising that this matter has not yet been mentioned in connexion with the new Bill, seeing that it entails more misery and hardship upon the transported lunatic (and his friends) than almost any other provision of the existing lunacy laws.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

May 24th, 1885.

S. A. K. STRAHAN, M.D.

"PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF COCAINE AS AN ANÆSTHETIC."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In last week's issue you publish a letter from Mr. Wm. Copeland, M.R.C.S., of Staindrop, near Darlington, headed as above. In this letter Mr. Copeland states his belief that "he is the first member of the profession who has undergone a serious operation under the influence of the new anæsthetic." Whilst I sincerely congratulate Mr. Copeland upon the success of his case and Dr. Bell Taylor in having such an able advocate, I would point out that, in this neighbourhood at all events, Mr. Copeland is not the

first member of the profession who has been operated upon for senile cataract under the influence of cocaine.

In February last I operated upon Dr. Welford, an eminent and much respected member of our profession in Sunderland. Dr. Welford, who perhaps at some future time may be induced to give his experience of the new drug, suffered no pain, and is now in the enjoyment of perfect eyesight.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

CHRISTOPHER S. JEAFFRESON.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, May 26th, 1885.

DEAR DR. JEAFFRESON,—I have just been told THE LANCET of last week publishes a case (Mr. Copeland, of Staindrop) as the *first* operation on a medical man in the north for removal of cataract under the influence of cocaine. Now, if this was done subsequent to Feb. 15th, 1885, it is *not* the first, for on that day you operated on my eye under cocaine, and successfully removed, without the slightest pain whatever, a cataract, "its success manifest in my writing this letter." With many thanks for your great kindness and skilful manipulation,

Believe me, dear Doctor, yours sincerely,

GEORGE WELFORD.

Cotherstone, Darlington, May 25th, 1885.

IRELAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

HONOURS FOR THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

THE rumours that several members of the profession in Dublin would receive distinctions from the Government appear to have been without foundation. The visit of the Prince of Wales to this country was a most successful one, and all classes vied with each other to make his stay agreeable. That they succeeded is conceded on all hands, and naturally it was expected by the profession here that the visit would have been marked by distinctions being conferred on some leading members of the medical profession. The honours, however, appear to have been doled out with no liberal hand. Dr. Wycherly, it is true, has been knighted; but this distinction was conferred solely on account of his holding the office of High Sheriff for the city of Cork. It may be argued that these matters rest with the Prime Minister, and not with the Prince of Wales. This may be correct; but, on the other hand, there can be no doubt that the slightest wish of His Royal Highness in these matters would at once have been attended to. At all events, the medical profession here must feel itself slighted at the indifferent manner in which it has been treated by the authorities.

HOUSING OF THE POOR COMMISSION.

On Saturday last the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the housing of the working classes in Dublin commenced its duties under the presidency of Sir C. Dilke, M.P. The witnesses examined included the officers of the Local Government Board, the chairman of the Public Health Committee, Dr. Cameron, medical officer of health, and others. The proceedings, being private, cannot be published at present; but complaints have been made that the examination of four witnesses was conducted simultaneously, and that sufficient time was not devoted to the hearing of evidence by such an important Commission. It has also been alleged that although important evidence was tendered on the first day, it was declined on the ground of being "too late." Another sitting was held on Tuesday, but if carried out in the same manner, little good can be expected from its labours.

CORK SOUTH INFIRMARY.

The trustees of this infirmary have advertised for two surgeons and a physician, to be appointed on June 12th next, in accordance with a rule of the institution, which states that all officers of the staff appointed after 1876 shall cease to hold office at the end of five years, but shall be eligible for re-election. The objections to such an arrangement are many and manifest, and consequently the medical practitioners in Cork have recently held a meeting to take into consideration the question of these vacancies. The meeting appears to have been undivided in its opinions, as the resolutions were unanimously adopted. These resolutions