the subcutaneous injections of morphia was not coincident with the removal of the poison by vomiting, but that its toxic effects were actually kept in abeyance.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

W. T. BUTLER,

Holland-road, W., March, 1882. Surgeon Madras Army (retired).

"ANÆSTHETICS."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the discussion as to whether chloroform or ether is the safest anæsthetic, the merits of the former in obstetric practice have either been altogether ignored, or else touched upon very lightly by your different correspondents. I think we must admit that it is clearly proved that ether is safer than chloroform in general practice, and I, for one, shall no longer employ the latter; but in obstetric practice I shall stick to an old and tried friend until I am convinced that it is no longer safe to do so. Unless I am greatly mistaken, no death from chloroform in puerperal cases has ever been recorded in this country. Anyhow, I have never heard or read of any; and after twenty years' practice, during which I have given chloroform to any woman in her confinement who has asked for it, no matter how delicate, and have generally single-handed maintained a state of insensibility to pain for two or three hours at a time, and always with the happiest results, I am naturally inclined to consider this anæsthetic in such cases quite safe and free from danger. I may add that I always administer it on a hollow sponge in measures of one drachm at a time, and I have never seen any unpleasant after-effects follow. I believe my experience is that of hundreds of other practitioners.

I shall be glad to elicit an expression of the opinion of others on this part of the chloroform controversy, and at the same time to inquire the reason for this wonderful immunity from fatal results which follow the use of chloroform in other cases. This immunity is the more remarkable when it is borne in mind that chloroform is more largely used in this branch of practice than in any other. I shall feel greatly obliged if those of your readers who may notice this subject will record their experience of any other anæsthetic than chloroform in obstetric practice.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

CHARLES GRABHAM, M.B. Lond.

Pontefract, March 20th, 1882.

MODIFIED LISTERISM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—May I be allowed, through the medium of your columns, to recommend to surgeons in general practice (with whom complete "Listerism" is generally impracticable) a convenient antiseptic dressing for operation wounds &c.?

Next the wound I place a fold of lint soaked in carbolised oil (one in twenty); over that a layer of Calvert's carbolised tow, varying in width and thickness according to circumstances; and the whole is secured *in situ* with an ordinary bandage. A wash for the operator's hands and instruments, &c., is instantly made by dropping a few crystals of permanganate of potash into a basin of water.

The convenience of the above method is obvious; its efficacy I have recently tested in an operation for strangulated femoral hernia with satisfactory results, both as regards the healing of the wound and a complete absence of surgical fever or its allies; for, although the patient's surroundings were most unfavourable, the highest recorded temperature was 99.4°. In two excisions of lipomata, involving lengthy incisions, I have had equally good results, local and general.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES TURTON, M.R.C.S.

Heckmondwike, Yorks, March 14th, 1882.

EDINBURGH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE vacant Assistant-Physicianship, which has been more keenly contested than any recent medical appointment in Edinburgh, was filled up on Monday. Dr. Byrom Bramwell was proposed by the Lord Provost and seconded by Pro-

fessor Rutherford; Dr. James was proposed by Dr. Haldane (President of the Royal College of Physicians) and seconded by Sir James Falsshaw. On the vote being taken, nine were in favour of Dr. Bramwell and nine for Dr. James. The Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of Dr. James. Two members of the Board were unavoidably absent, both of whom were in favour of Dr. Bramwell. A proxy was tendered by Dr. Gillespie from one of the absent members, but it is doubtful whether it can be accepted. The question was referred to the law committee.

The annual students' concert was held on Friday last, and was a complete success, the music hall being full and the music good.

During the past two months a severe form of tonsillitis has been epidemic in Edinburgh. Measles and whooping-cough are also prevalent.

The session ends on Friday, the 31st, but the classes are already small, many students having gone down.

IRELAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

ON last Friday, March 24th, death removed an eminent Dublin obstetric physician—Sir Edward Burrowes Sinclair, King's Professor of Midwifery in the Trinity College Medical School. Deceased was only fifty-seven years of age, and, besides the appointment he held in the University of Dublin, was physician to Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital and Maternity, and secretary to the vaccine department in Sackville-street, under the Local Government Board. He was a graduate in Arts and Medicine of the University of Dublin, a Fellow of the College of Physicians, an ex-vice-president of the College, and ex-assistant-physician to the Rotundo Hospital. Sir E. B. Sinclair also acted as an assistant-surgeon in the Army Medical Department, and during this period the subject of army midwives exercised his attention, and by his energy and influence he ultimately organised a training school for this class, in connexion with Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital. He instructed several hundred nurses during the last few years, and for his services in this respect received the honour of knighthood. He was one of the authors of a work on "Practical Midwifery," which comprised an account of 13,748 deliveries occurring in the Rotundo Lying-in Hospital during a period of seven years; and contributed some able papers on obstetric subjects to periodical literature, including one on "Induction of Premature Labour by the Water Douche."

The Twenty-third Report of the Board of Superintendence of the Dublin Hospitals for the year ended March 31st, 1881, but only published in 1882, would be of more value if less time were required for its production. Nine hospitals receive aid from Parliament, three being general hospitals, one fever, one ophthalmic, one lock, two lying-in, and the hospital for incurables, which receives a portion of the "concordatum fund." During the year 11,493 patients were treated in the wards of these hospitals, with a mortality of 639. The Board, in previous reports, called the attention of the hospital authorities to the inconveniences which attend the admission of patients labouring under delirium tremens, when no special or adequate means exist for their accommodation, and regretted that no satisfactory arrangements appear to have been made to meet the evil. On two previous occasions attention was directed to the unfortunate arrangement by which the post-mortem room of the Richmond Hospital is placed under the seats in the operating theatre. The suggestions made by the Board of Superintendence have not been adopted by the governors, and they again express their opinion that no dead bodies should be allowed to remain in the apartment referred to, and that a proper post-mortem room should be provided in a separate building. There is ample space in the post-mortem room of the Hardwicke Hospital for all such cases, and there is therefore the less excuse for the continuance of this bad arrangement.

Dr. Cameron, analyst of the county Down, has had his salary increased from £40 per annum to £80, in consequence of the increased duties devolving upon him. Dr. Cameron has endeavoured to carry out the provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act in Ireland in as inexpensive a way as possible to the local authorities; and in order to do this he has accepted very small salaries, which in the case of