calculated on this basis. The pressure in any one capillary is, of course, infinitely small.

Dr. Campbell says he cannot think the organism would "self-inflict a wearing-out of the heart and arteries without any countervailing good" (when it has the means of self-adjustment of pressures). Well, we have come to think many things which at first are difficult, and this difficulty applies still more forcibly to Sir Richard Douglas Powell's vaso-motor hypothesis which may turn out, of course, to be the true one, though I "find it difficult to think so." All I will say at present is that, as a matter of clinical and anatomical experience the heart and arteries do "wear themselves out" after a period of compensatory dilatation-hypertrophy, and this is the chief matter I have urged so long against the French and German assertions that arterio-sclerosis (of the kind I now contemplate) is "a cardio-arterio-sclerosis"—"a cardio-arteriopathy," and the like—names positively misleading if the machine, as engineers say, is "self-strained." After such persistence in this clinical doctrine I am amply rewarded by the adhesion of Dr. Campbell, Sir William Broadbent, and, I think I may add, of Sir Richard Douglas Powell also. Where we may differ is now only as to the mechanism itself, and I repeat once more that my suggestion herein as to viscosity is a mere suggestion which does not amount to hypothesis, still less to "theory," as someone put it. In favour of my surmise I learnt from Dr. Bodington in his thesis for the M.D. degree of this University (Feb. 26th, 1903) that the injection of nucleo-proteid into the circulation causes a manifest thickening of the blood; in some of his experiments with these products the blood became so "viscid" that it was difficult to draw it from the vessels of the still living animal.

Dr. Campbell is evidently of opinion, as I was, that Dr. H. Oliphant Nicholson's letter contained many statements which, if true, are very important, but that they were stated without indications of proof. I wrote to Dr. Nicholson to put this criticism before him. He was so kind as to send me in answer a long and very interesting letter which if it did not contain, as it scarcely could, the proofs of his several propositions, yet proved most indisputably his competence to express an opinion and set forth a large amount of careful experiment upon which they were made.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT.

St. Radegund's, Cambridge, March 24th, 1903.

PS.—I cannot close without reference to the importance of the criticism by my friend Dr. E. H. Colbeck (in THE LANCET of March 21st, p. 793) of my interpretation of angina pectoris. His paper will have my careful consideration in my Cavendish Lecture next June.

THE VIRCHOW MEMORIAL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Allow me to inform through the medium of your columns all those who have kindly contributed to the Virchow Memorial that the list of subscriptions was closed, as intended, on Feb. 28th, and that the total after deduction of the small expenses for stationery amounts to £265 11s., contributed by 122 subscribers. A cheque for that amount has been sent, together with the list of the contributors, by the honorary treasurer, the Right Hon. the Lord Avebury, F.R.S., to the treasurer of the Berlin committee, Herrn Geheimen Kommerzienrath A. von Mendelssohn-Bartholdy. The chairman of the Berlin committee, Professor Dr. W. Waldeyer, has addressed to me a letter in which he expresses in the name of the Berlin committee his very sincere thanks to all those who in Great Britain and Ireland have contributed to the memorial. He winds up by saying that England had again shown that she knew how to honour genuine science and its representatives.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

FELIX SEMON,
Honorary Secretary.

Wimpole-street, W., March 23rd, 1903.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND COÖPERATION FOR TRAINED NURSES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I enclose a copy of the eleventh annual report of the above institution, containing the new constitution and rules which were unanimously passed at a special general meeting of members held in the Religious Institution Rooms, Glasgow, on Feb. 23rd. The coöperation was started in 1892, the necessary funds

being contributed by members of the public who were anxious to provide an association of fully trained nurses with Glasgow as a centre. The expectations of the founders have been more than fully realised and now the nurses on the staff number close upon 200. In view of the rapid development it became necessary to recast the original constitution and rules. This matter has occupied the careful attention of the executive committee during the past year. With the aid of their honorary solicitor, Mr. William Brodie, the committee drew up the revised constitution and rules which were submitted to the annual meeting of the coöperation in November of last year. The confirmation of the constitution was, however, delayed in order that all the nurses on the staff might have an opportunity of more fully considering its terms. Since the annual meeting a copy of the new constitution and rules has been sent to all the nurses on the staff, as well as brought before a meeting of representative nurses, at which all the details were explained by the honorary solicitor. The nurses have without exception accepted the new constitution and many have expressed themselves as greatly indebted to the executive committee for the trouble it has taken in connexion with the matter.

Having regard to some general criticism which has been passed on the constitution and rules as now adopted, I think it right to note the following: 1. The rights of nurses who are members of the coöperation have in no way been altered by the new constitution and it is not the case, as has been asserted, that the position of the nurses has been reduced to that of servants of the coöperation. They, as formerly, obtain employment through the coöperation and are paid by those to whom they render service—namely, the public. 2. Among various usual powers has been inserted one enabling the coöperation if need be to solicit and to collect subscriptions, but the inclusion of this power does not thereby, as has been asserted, reduce the coöperation to the position of a charitable institution. As above noted the coöperation was founded by contributions which have largely enabled the executive committee not only to finance the working of the association, but also to purchase the "home" in Sardinia-terrace, which has been considerably added to since its acquisition. The premises have been refurnished and refitted for the nurses' comfort and convenience and a "holiday home" at the seaside has also been established where the nurses can recruit. It is thus obvious that through the original capital subscribed by the public the coöperation has been relieved of house-rent and the working expenses which are contributed by way of commission by the nurses have accordingly been considerably reduced. The benefits derived are enjoyed solely by the nurses, who have expressed themselves as being very grateful to the ladies and gentlemen who by service on the executive committee have contributed so largely to their welfare and comfort. In conducting the affairs of a coöperation of which the nurse members are necessarily for the greater part of the year scattered all over the country, it is essential that the members of the executive committee (which is elected annually) should be armed with wide and extensive powers. All those who have been interesting themselves in the coöperation are gratified by its steady progress and increasing efficiency and it has now become an institution conferring not only substantial benefits on the trained nurses who form its staff but also on the sick who require their services.

The standard required for admission is exceptionally high, no nurse being admitted who has not three years' continuous and systematic training in a recognised general hospital where the education of nurses is attended to and a qualifying diploma granted after examination. No monthly nurses can now join who have not also general medical and surgical training the same as the other nurses. In this respect probably the coöperation is not excelled by any similar organisation of the kind.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

DAVID NEWMAN, M.D. Glasg.,
Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Glasgow, March 24th, 1903.

SUGGESTION, AUTO-SUGGESTION, AND CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The few scattered prosecutions of so-called Christian Scientists in this country for attempting and failing to treat disease and thus allowing the patients under