be to form a combination such as has never yet been attempted by the profession. If that were once accomplished there would be no difficulty left. The union and club authorities would be obliged to accede to any reform demanded with anything approaching to unanimity by the profession. But there is the rub. We are not sufficiently organised to effect combinations. I fear, therefore, reforms are not likely, and that the present system of hard work and poor pay will probably flourish for many a long day, until, in fact, it has become so intolerable that there is a great dearth of candidates for the profession.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

E. PAGET THURSTAN, M.D.

Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, May, 1887.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Kindly allow me to make a few remarks upon the letter of Dr. Paget Thurstan in THE LANCET of April 23rd, 1887. He says, "Such is the state of things; what is the remedy?"

There is and will be no remedy unless medical men hold more together. Why do we not have a society similar to the Incorporated Law Society, and determine amongst ourselves not to take any appointment without a meeting of medical men likely to be invited to undertake any appointment, consider the amount of work to be done, fix their own salary, not allowing the steward or secretary to say we give our surgeons "so and so," and then, throwing the result into the hands of the members, to ballot for the surgeon, each one honestly refusing to make any attempt to win over voters? Can there not be some interference on the part of the Medical Council to limit and determine the difference between medical men and chemists as to their several provinces? Numbers of the people, both rich and poor, consult chemists, and never send for a doctor until the eleventh hour, to save any difficulty with regard to the death certificate. Until this is done I fear there will be no remedy for the general practitioner.

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,

May, 1887.

M.A. Cantab.

THE SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The decision of the Medical Council in reference to the Apothecaries' Society will give general satisfaction to medical practitioners throughout the country, and they cannot but feel very satisfied at the action of their representatives. The important discussion previously to the division will open the eyes of the medical world. Never was a speech made more damaging to the speaker, or more likely to poison the ignorant mind, than that of Sir W. Gull. One benefit, I trust, will arise from Mr. Brudenell Carter's able advocacy of the weak against the strong—namely, that now the Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Surgeons may hope to have his energy and ability directed towards obtaining for them their just rights and privileges from their own College. The Hall has now nothing to fear; and if in the future it sends out as good men as it has done in the past, the public and the profession will have no cause for complaint.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

May, 1887.

J. WICKHAM BARNES.

THE COMPULSORY DETENTION IN WORK-
HOUSES OF PATIENTS WITH VENEREAL
DISEASE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In reference to the above subject, you state in last week's issue that a correspondent calls your attention to the fact that, so far as workhouses are concerned, such powers already exist, and are to be found in Act 30 and 31 Vict., the Poor-law Amendment Act, c. 106, s. 22. Now, when I wrote you fourteen days ago, I was quite familiar with Section 22, and, certainly, one might very well argue that it gives the necessary power; but I find there is considerable uncertainty as to whether it really applies to cases of venereal disease. It is therefore desirable to have a definite and authoritative opinion on the matter, and, if that be adverse, then some other measure must be obtained. In support of what I say, I may mention that quite

recently a deputation of influential gentlemen from eleven unions or boards of guardians in the principal naval and military centres had an interview with Mr. Ritchie, President of the Local Government Board, with reference to the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts. In his reply, Mr. Ritchie referring to Section 22 of the above-mentioned Act stated: "Well, a question then arises as to what is the meaning of the words 'contagious diseases' in this Act. I have no doubt it might be argued, and argued with very great force, that the disease in question is a contagious disease under this Act; but I understand there is a very considerable element of doubt upon the point as to whether or not medical officers who are really responsible would be justified in certifying that a certain poor person is suffering from a contagious disease under the Act and ought to be detained." This really being the case, Mr. Ritchie proposed to submit the question to the law officers of the Crown, so that at present the matter is *sub judice*. Even when we obtain power to detain patients in Poor-law institutions, there still remains the large number of cases in lock hospitals and other hospitals with lock wards. Surely something should be done in order to deal more satisfactorily with these. I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

May 17th, 1887.

ARTHUR FLINTOFF MICKLE, M.B.

THE UTILITY OF DRUGS IN THE TREATMENT
OF DISEASE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am a general practitioner, and am glad to be able to add have been a successful one for the past thirty years. I desire to make a comment or two on the speech of Sir William Gull at the last meeting of the Medical Council, as reported in THE LANCET of the 14th inst. I am referring particularly to his expressed disbelief in the utility of drugs in the treatment of disease, and his belief in the all-sufficiency of guarding the patients from any "interference with the powers of nature," and keeping him in "a warm bed." Sir William Gull, referring to the share which he bore of the responsibility of conducting the treatment of the Prince of Wales' attack of typhoid fever, stated that during the whole illness his Royal Highness did not take four doses of medicine. Typhoid fever, all properly educated medical men know, requires, as a rule, little or no active treatment. But what if the Prince's illness had been rheumatic fever or malarial fever caught in India (supposing his Indian tour to have taken place): would Sir William still have withheld all treatment by drugs—salicylates in the one case, quinine in the other? I will do him the justice to say I do not believe he would. But is it a fact that the treatment of the Prince consisted entirely in guarding him from interference with the powers of nature, and in keeping him in a warm bed? Was not alcohol freely administered? I do not know; but this I do know, that Sir William regards a full dose of alcohol, two ounces or even four ounces of brandy if necessary at bed-time, as the best sedative for the nocturnal restlessness accompanied by delirium which occurs in typhoid; and I would ask what is alcohol administered in this way but a drug?

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

May, 1887.

A GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

REPEATED ASPIRATIONS OF THE BLADDER.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The case of repeated aspiration of the bladder recorded by Mr. Collier in last week's LANCET is like one published in *l'Union Médicale*, Feb. 26th, 1876. The patient was a man seventy years old, who had retention from enlarged prostate. The bladder was aspirated with a Potain's aspirator sixteen times in nine days, and then at last an instrument was passed. He did well, and no harm came of the repeated punctures. "Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him!"

Your obedient servant,

Wimpole-street, W., May 17th, 1887.

STEPHEN PAGET.

Two entertainments by amateurs are to be given at the Novelty Theatre on the 3rd and 4th prox., under the patronage of the Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the Royal Family, for the benefit of the Great Northern Central Hospital.

LEEDS INFIRMARY POST-GRADUATE CLASS.

(From a Correspondent.)

THE concluding lecture of a most successful course was delivered on Friday last by Dr. Barrs, on Albuminuria, after which Dr. Griffiths, the house-physician, gave a very interesting demonstration in urine tests. The value of this course to the hard-working country practitioner, and, indeed, to others whose time for reading is limited, and whose opportunities are necessarily restricted, will be at once seen by the subjects taken, which were as follows:—Coma and its Causes, by Dr. Clifford Allbutt; Common Deformities, by Mr. T. Pridgin Teale; Some of the Common Diseases of the Stomach and Liver, by Dr. Eddison; Intestinal Obstruction, by Mr. Jessop; Pulmonary Therapeutics, by Dr. Churton; Glaucoma, by Mr. Nunneley; Common Diseases of the Uterus, by Dr. Braithwaite; Gunshot Wounds, by Mr. E. Atkinson; Causes of Retention of Urine, by Mr. McGill; Common Diseases of the Larynx and Pharynx, by Dr. Jacob; Diseases of the Anus and Rectum, by Mr. A. Mayo Robson; Common Ear Diseases, by Mr. Hewitson; Injuries of the Head, by Mr. Brown; Syphilis, by Mr. Ward; and Albuminuria, by Dr. Barrs. After each lecture, demonstrations in the wards and in the post-mortem room have been a most valuable, practical, and useful part of the course. Immediately after the lecture a meeting of the members was held, presided over by Dr. Scott of Ilkley, for the purpose of discussing the desirability of a second course, the subjects to be treated upon, the remuneration of the lecturers, the desirability and practicability of admitting qualified men to clinical studies and operative surgery by payment of fee rather than by sufferance (this was introduced by one member, but voted out of order by the chairman), and other matters relating to the success of a future course. The meeting unanimously resolved that another course should be commenced, and that Drs. Barrs and Roberts, the honorary secretaries, who had so satisfactorily framed the last course, should work out and arrange the practical details of the future one, which is to commence on the second Friday in October next, when Mr. Wheelhouse is expected to give the introductory lecture. Although the late class was a comparatively large one (forty-one), there was a general belief expressed that many more gentlemen in the town and surrounding towns and district would take advantage of the next course. It was stated at the meeting that since the formation of the class it had lost two of its members: one by the sudden and lamented death of Dr. Murray of Burley-in-Wharfedale; the other by removal to London of Dr. J. Fletcher Little, late of Ben Rhydding, who, by his characteristic indefatigability, was largely instrumental in the formation of the class.

Before the meeting closed a vote of condolence with the widow of the late Dr. Murray was feelingly proposed, and a resolution passed that the class fee (£2 2s.) should be returned to his widow as a mark of respect to his memory. Very cordial and grateful votes of thanks were unanimously and enthusiastically accorded to the staff, specially including Dr. Griffiths, the house-physician, and to the honorary secretaries for their valuable services.

MANCHESTER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

HYDROPHOBIA.

THERE is some ground for fearing that rabies is on the increase in Manchester and surrounding districts. A fortnight ago two boys, who had been bitten by a supposed mad dog at Sale, were sent to Paris for treatment by M. Pasteur. It is satisfactory to note that yesterday, at the county police-court, steps were taken for putting in force the provisions of the Dogs Act throughout this division of the county.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

It was a short time ago stated here that the Sanitary Association was directing its attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the building bye-laws of the Corporation. A conjoint deputation from the Association and from the Architects' Society recently waited upon the mayor, urging

their amendment in accordance with modern requirements, and there is ground for hope that this matter will now soon receive the attention of the City Council.

NEW SEWERAGE SCHEME.

The River Committee of the Corporation has just presented their report upon the new sewerage scheme for diverting the sewage from the river. It provides for a large and extended system of new sewers, by means of which the sewage will be taken some few miles below the city, and there treated with chemicals to precipitate the greater part of the solid matters, the effluent being still further purified by filtration through soil before it is allowed to flow into the river or into what will by that time probably be the ship-canal. When Manchester has thus set its own house in order, it will be in a position to call upon other offenders to cease polluting the river in its higher courses. The cost of these new works will be something like half a million of money.

ISOLATION IN INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

At the meeting of the City Council last week exception was taken by some members to the expenditure of £7500 for the isolation of patients suffering from infectious disease. The opposition was based upon two grounds: First, that with the exception of small-pox the sending patients with fever to hospital had in no way diminished the prevalence of these diseases; and, secondly, that it was wrong in principle to vote such large sums of money over the expenditure of which they had no control, as the fever hospital was under the management of a charity subject in no way to the supervision of the Corporation.

OWENS COLLEGE.

Owens College has come out very well from the recent pass examination of the College of Surgeons, and the percentage of plucks has not been large. Some few years ago it was the custom to institute a preliminary test examination (as is done in most of the London schools) before allowing men to go up for this examination, but during the late dean's (Dr. Gamgee) time this rule was abolished. The results do not appear to have been detrimental to the college successes. Owens College has lately benefited to the extent of £5000 under the will of Mr. Thomas Jones, who died at Bournemouth, but who formerly lived in this city. He has also made bequests to the Royal Infirmary, the Eye Hospital, the Southern Hospital, the Consumption Hospital, and to most of our local charities, amongst them to one that seldom receives recognition in this way—i.e., the Manchester and Salford Sanitary Association, to which he leaves £200—a most acceptable bequest, as the funds of this Society are not at all commensurate with the work it attempts to do.

THE SCARLET FEVER EPIDEMIC.

This epidemic appears to be slightly abating from the returns published weekly, but the wards of the fever hospitals are still very full of patients suffering from this disease, and measles prevails to an extent almost alarming. In the Chorlton Union alone last quarter 146 deaths were reported, and during the past month 85 deaths occurred in Gorton township. In other parts of the surrounding districts it is equally prevalent.

May 17th.

NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

NEWCASTLE JUBILEE EXHIBITION.

THIS Exhibition, which was opened here on the 11th inst. by H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, under the most favourable auspices, may be said, as is often said here, "to have never looked behind it since." The registered attendance of visitors passing the turnstiles up to yesterday for the five days was 76,296, but as it was impossible to use the turnstiles completely on the first day, and many thousands were admitted otherwise and without counting, it is quite certain that already over 80,000 persons have been admitted. The firework display on the 11th was rather marred by the damp weather, but this has been more than made up for since by the brilliant illumination of the courts and grounds every night. In the exhibits several London houses are represented. In the stand of Messrs. R. McQueen and Son, surgical instrument makers,