exceptions. Nothing is commoner than for a continuous drinker to become in the course of time more or less periodic; and conversely. Many of the Norwood Sanatorium patients, periodic drinkers on admission, had suffered from delirium tremens in the past. At the time, however, they had all without exception been continuous drinkers. I have yet to find one instance in which a single short outburst of drunkenness following on a period of total abstinence resulted in delirium tremens.

Both Mr. Hogg and myself now admit that delirium tremens may result from sudden withdrawal of alcohol. But Mr. Hogg finds—contrary to my experience—that the onset of the complication can be prevented by the substitution of other narcotics. In these circumstances exact details of the nature, dosage, and times of administration of the substitutive narcotics would be of great interest and utility.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

May 2nd, 1909.

FRANCIS HARE.

THE DEATHS REGISTRATION AND BURIALS BILL, 1909.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It is earnestly to be hoped that this long required measure will be allowed to pass the present session of Parliament and that the medical profession will do all it can to secure that end. I have carefully perused the Bill, which I think is excellent, although there are two or three points on which it appears to me to be hardly complete or definite enough, viz.:—

1. In Section 3, in return for the fee to be paid to the medical practitioner, which I heartily approve, he should be required to give a complete and accurate certification of the cause of death, whether that cause be acute or chronic alcoholism, venereal disease, or whatever it may be. At present the certification and statistics of such causes of death as the last mentioned are most incomplete, because medical practitioners do not like to divulge such confidential secrets to the relatives of the deceased; hence the great desirability also of another amendment, viz.:—

2. In Section 11 it should be compulsory that the medical practitioner's certificate of the cause of death should be sent under sealed cover direct to the sub-registrar. There should also be one compulsory form of medical certificate for the purposes of registration, and one only.

3. Burials should take place only in public cemeteries or churchyards; otherwise there is nothing to prevent still-births being secretly buried in private gardens.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

EDMUND M. SMITH, M.D. Edin., D.P.H.,
Guildhall, York, May 4th, 1909. Medical Officer of Health.

PERFORATIVE APPENDICITIS IN AN INFANT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In THE LANCET of April 17th, p. 1110, Dr. T. Wilson Parry recorded an interesting case of perforative appendicitis in an infant, aged 16 months. As the condition seems to be extremely rare in infants I think it may be worth mentioning that during the last month Mr. Joseph Cunning operated with complete success on a child just 11 months of age who was admitted to this hospital suffering from a similar condition.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

A. C. D. FIRTH,
Resident Medical Officer, Victoria Hospital
for Children.

May 3rd, 1909.

THE COST OF A MOTOR-CAR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following particulars of the cost of running a motor-car may be of use to many readers who are interested in the subject either as owners or prospective purchasers of cars.

My car, which I drive myself, is a 12-h.p. "Star," late 1907 pattern, with dual ignition, each totally independent of the other, four speeds forward, with direct drive on the third, and White and Poppe carburettor. I can endorse all the remarks made by your contributor, Mr. Hirsch, about the "Star" cars in "Motoring Notes" in your issue of Feb. 20th

last. I have had absolutely no trouble with the car and have run 6800 miles during the last 15 months. The first year's cost of upkeep has been as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Petrol	18	19	8
Tyres	9	17	1
Minor repairs	3	3	3
Oil, grease, and sundries (including spare plugs, &c.)	2	12	7
Insurance and licence	14	5	0
	£48	17	7

The mileage for the 12 months was 6045 miles.

The above speaks for itself and is very satisfactory in every way.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Liverpool, April 27th, 1909.

J. SAFFLEY, M.B. Edin.

MEDICAL PRACTICE IN PERU.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In an editorial article in THE LANCET of Jan. 23rd you say, "In Peru also unqualified practice does not appear to be penalised." Quite correct in one way, but it is strictly prohibited, the delegates of the Medical Faculty having power to call in the action of the civil powers to exact fines, and even, I believe, to put in prison in case of contumely.

During about 50 years I have never seen the law really put in practice in a serious manner, consequently unqualified practice and mendacious "medical" advertisements abound.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. DICKSON HUNTER, M.D. Edin., &c.

Arequipa, Peru, April 2nd, 1909.

FAVUS AND RINGWORM AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the report on the medical treatment of school children presented at the last meeting of the London County Council the Council's Education Committee recommend the x ray treatment for ringworm, and further that the "present special treatment" of cases of favus should be continued. It is stated that the loss in grants through ringworm amounts to over £5000 per annum, in view of which fact it is obvious that special steps are necessary with a view to the reduction of the excessive prevalence of the disease. At the same time it is pointed out that the x ray treatment costs from 5s. to 7s. per head, and each installation of the apparatus about £100. The treatment given in the favus school is regarded as satisfactory, and this being so it would be interesting to know why that or some similar treatment cannot be given in cases of ringworm.

Perhaps one of your readers could enlighten me through the medium of your columns as to the nature of the treatment at the favus school, and how it compares as regards cost with the proposed x ray treatment.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

May 6th, 1909.

M.D.

THE IRISH UNIVERSITIES COMMISSIONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your issue of April 24th, 1909, on p. 1214, under the above heading, it is stated: "The two commissions are working hard, so that if possible both new universities may be able to begin work next October, when, if they are both ready, the Royal University will be dissolved." As a graduate in medicine of the late Queen's and now Royal University I am anxious to emerge from the state of Egyptian darkness in which I am at present as to the effect of the dissolution of the Royal University on the graduates of that body; in what form will they survive this second death? and where may they expect to find authentic (official) information on the subject?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

May 1st, 1909.

MORIBUND.

* * We have the fullest sympathy with our correspondent. We believe when the Royal University is dissolved he may enrol himself either as a graduate of the National University of Dublin or of the Queen's University of Belfast, or he may