felt perfectly well. The rash disappeared gradually and was gone in two days, leaving no desquamation. Very little chloroform was given, no drugs were administered, and there was no alteration in diet.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Ramsgate, Dec. 7th, 1901. H. W. REYNOLDS, M.B., B.Sc.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In respect to your note to my communication published in THE LANCET of Nov. 30th, p. 1531, recording the occurrence of a rash after tonsillotomy, I trust that you will permit me to answer your inquiries and to explain that I omitted the details you mention because they seemed of quite negative value. No drugs whatever were being taken. The only change of diet was the usual one of placing the patient on fluid food for a short time after the operation. Chloroform was the anæsthetic employed. It is, of course, often most difficult directly to associate cause and effect, but in this case there was no obvious reason for the eruption apart from operation, and I therefore felt justified in regarding it as an instance of "tonsillotomy rash," of which Wingrave recorded 30 cases in the *Laryngoscope* of July, 1901.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
H. W. HENSHAW, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.,
Kew, Dec. 10th, 1901. D.P.H. Lond.

AN ELECTRO-THERAPEUTICAL SOCIETY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I was pleased to see in THE LANCET of Dec. 7th, p. 1611, a letter from Mr. Chisholm Williams asking for support in the formation of a society for those practising electro-therapeutics. In this country we are sadly behind many of our continental neighbours in the use of the physical forces in the treatment of disease and this is more especially the case with electricity. Hitherto it has been left to the few who have learned to appreciate the immense value of the intelligent use of electricity in medical treatment to combat as best they can the grave prejudice existing in the mass of the profession against what may be called electrical treatment. Such a society, if well supported, should do much to rescue electro-therapeutics from the lay "medical electrician" and the vendor of the so-called "electric" belts. As one who has for many years worked in this field, and who relies largely upon electricity as a therapeutic agent, I shall be pleased to give such a society every help in my power.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
RICHARD J. COWEN, L.R.C.P. Irel., &c.
Clarges-street, Mayfair, W., Dec. 9th, 1901.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Referring to Mr. Chisholm Williams's letter of last week suggesting the formation of a new society, will you allow me to say that the council of the Röntgen Society have for some time past been considering the advisability of enlarging its scope so as to include the investigation of other radiations than those immediately connected with its name. The president in the address he delivered on Nov. 7th last expressed these views somewhat fully and it has since been decided to carry them out and the question of a possible modification in the name of the society is also under consideration. The object Mr. Williams desires to effect by forming a special medical society has not been lost sight of, but it is felt that the new therapeutic agents such as high-frequency electric currents, Finsen light, &c., call for so much further investigation that it would not be wise—certainly at present—to exclude the valuable help of physicists who have leisure to undertake such inquiries, few medical men having the time at their disposal for original research. This plan has worked very well in our society in the matter of x rays, the result being that the medical profession has now in its hands better apparatus and fuller knowledge than would have been possible had there not been the coöperation of which I speak.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Dec. 9th, 1901. J. J. VEZEY,
Honorary Treasurer to the Röntgen Society.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I trust that the scheme spoken of by Mr. Chisholm Williams in THE LANCET of Dec. 7th (p. 1611) will bear

practical fruit. An electro-therapeutical society is really wanted.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Dec. 12th, 1901. M.B.

*** A society which would bring together those who are working at the subject of medical electricity might be a useful thing, although we are always a little loth to recommend the addition of a new scientific society to the already lengthy list of such bodies. But additions to the ranks of those interested in electricity have been numerous lately and it may reasonably be supposed that there are now enough to keep a special society alive. Of matters to be discussed there is no lack; what is required is a gathering of persons qualified to discuss them.—ED. L.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF CHLOROFORM.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In THE LANCET of Nov. 23rd, p. 1418, is an account of the opening meeting of the Society of Anæsthetists. The difference of opinion expressed shows the lack of clear thought that exists in the profession with regard to the safe administration of chloroform. In no one instance was *personal* experience advanced. Observation is one thing; to speak from actual personal knowledge in conjunction with observation is another. It seems to me that a multiplicity of words only fogs the subject and that the matter is in a nutshell. At any rate, I am ready at any time to prove before any number of the profession that chloroform *when properly administered* is, and ought to be, free from danger and all bad after-effects worth naming. This I am willing to demonstrate by taking it to the stage of surgical anæsthesia by a *Krohne inhaler* and then getting up and riding away on my tricycle. Surely it is time this question should be definitely settled so that the public may always have it rightly administered. The whole question is one of overdosing.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

C. J. HARRIS, M.R.C.S. Eng., &c.
Kilburn Priory, N.W., Dec. 3rd, 1901.

AN UNDESCRIBED (?) SYMPTOM IN WHOOPING-COUGH.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I should like to draw the attention of your readers to a symptom which I have both experienced and observed in whooping-cough and which, if it receives corroboration, may prove of assistance in the diagnosis of this very troublesome disease. I had the misfortune last summer to contract whooping-cough from a hospital case and subsequently to infect my two children. In my own case I had the usual preliminary catarrhal stage, followed by paroxysmal cough, the fits being so prolonged as to result on one occasion in the rupture of some fibres of one of the abdominal muscles. During the whole course of the illness—some seven or eight weeks—I whooped only twice or three times. But after every paroxysm of at all a severe nature a series of what one might perhaps call deglutition spasms set in, and I had to gulp down saliva as quickly as possible for a minute or two, the interval between the gulps gradually lengthening and the paroxysm finally passing off.

I found it quite impossible to control these gulps, though I tried hard. The sensation was a most unpleasant one as were also the consequences, for one's stomach became largely filled with air. I noticed the same symptoms in both of my children though only at such times as they did not whoop. I also observed it in two children at the Stockport Fever Hospital, again at times when they did not whoop. Apart from this symptom all the cases mentioned were quite typical. I do not find any mention of this symptom in Fagge, Goodhart, Taylor, Watson, or Carter, and none of the medical friends to whom I have spoken have ever observed it. It appears to me, however, that it is worth while bringing it to the notice of your readers in order to see whether it has been observed and recorded before or not. My own experience of it was quite sufficient to impress me with its unmistakeable character.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Stockport, Dec. 5th, 1901. MEREDITH YOUNG, M.D. Edin.