

was engaged in the primary vaccination of a lunatic in the mental wards the patient suddenly made a violent movement, under his insane impulse, and caused the charged lancet to pierce the thumb of my left hand, with which I was holding the patient's left upper arm. Two small vesicles formed on the fifth day and healed in a fortnight.

In another case the unusual situation was deliberately chosen. A young woman, who held some position on the variety stage, came to the infirmary for her confinement. She had never been vaccinated and was anxious to be protected before she was discharged. She would on no account allow of vaccination on her arm, because she thought that the "marks" would spoil the shape of the arm, which was often exposed in her engagements. She selected the outside of her left thigh and the result was quite successful.

In my young friend's case he never had been revaccinated and he met his fate with resignation. In my own case I had been successfully revaccinated for the second time six years before the above-recorded event.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

WALTER M. DUNLOP, M.B. Glasg.,

late Medical Superintendent, St. Pancras Infirmary.

Ludgate-hill, E.C., Feb. 12th, 1906.

ON PHYSICAL TRAINING IN SCHOOLS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Dr. W. P. Herringham in THE LANCET of Feb. 17th, p. 468, prefaced his remarks well by saying that the members of the association he was addressing did not so much wish to hear about the military needs of the country as about the physical education of boys and girls. Nevertheless, he urged that it is the duty of every boy to learn such drill as will prepare him for the universal military training he and the National Service League wish to inflict on this country. Surely, Sirs, this advocacy of military notions and of the idea that the basis of our national greatness is destructive power is opposed to the true vocation of our profession, which is to save life, not to destroy it. In all the branch developments of our work is not the aim to raise the lower and inefficient types of humanity by sympathy and education rather than to crush them by violence? As to the civilised nations, you, Sirs, recently made a protest against the *Daily Mail* for publishing an unwarranted suggestion that there was jealousy between surgeons of this and another country. When we consider how that no one nation can boast to be the sole repository of all the intellect or virtue and that the interest of science lies in coöperation and mutual aid instead of antagonism we must deplore the advocacy of militarism by medical men.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

E. CLAUDE TAYLOR.

Roslyn-hill, Hampstead, N.W., Feb. 19th, 1906.

A NOTEWORTHY SEQUEL OF INFLUENZA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The notes of a very mild case of influenza and its results told by a surgeon may perhaps be of interest, not on account of the rarity of the symptoms, but because they emphasise the necessity for care even in the mildest case. I am 47 years of age and the week before Christmas had what I took to be an ordinary coryza, with sneezing and running at the nose and eyes, such as I have several times a year. Instead of the symptoms having disappeared at the end of three days, as is usual with me, I began to cough. One evening (Dec. 22nd) my temperature was 100.4° F. I felt very much as I had done on the only occasion on which I had had influenza, some six or eight years ago. That attack was also very mild, the temperature being only once over 100°. The symptoms then were general aching and a feeling of weakness which did not entirely disappear for between three and four months.

For a few days after Christmas the cough was severe and, being more inclined to order than to take medicine, I waited for some days before taking some elixir terperoin, which quickly gave relief. Finding that I could not run up a couple of flights of stairs without setting the heart going at 140 or so to the minute and feeling altogether very "cheap" I began to take virogen on Dec. 28th. Within a week all the effects of the influenza had apparently disappeared, the pulse did not run on exertion, and feeling "all right" I naturally stopped taking the medicine and the food. On Feb. 10th I had

occasion to be examined for life insurance and was rather surprised to be asked if I knew I had a murmur at the apex. The conclusion the examiner came to was that there was no dilatation but that there was mitral incompetence. This examination was sufficient for the purpose in view, but as there was no history which could possibly account for this—my heart was absolutely normal about three years ago—I consulted Dr. S. Russell Wells the next day. His examination explained to my mind the case exactly; he found the apex beat in the normal position with a not very well defined mitral murmur, but on listening over the tricuspid area a fairly loud bruit was to be heard, and it was evidently this transmitted sound which had been taken for a mitral murmur. On percussing out the heart in the usual manner he found that while on the left it was normal on the right it was fully one inch out. By auscultatory percussion this was confirmed. This method was new to me. The cause of the condition was thus evident; the influenza had weakened the heart muscle and the coughing had stretched it. Probably, had the cough mixture been taken when the cough began there would not have been any heart trouble. The moral which one may draw is that it is not always advisable to get strong too quickly after influenza, and that nature while bringing this ill upon us provides a means of safety in the accompanying debility.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

SURGEON.

Feb. 16th, 1906.

THE SALARIES OF POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Many Poor-law medical officers with myself will be grateful to THE LANCET for its temperate yet powerful advocacy for a reconsideration of the salaries and fees now allowed us by the Local Government Board. On one point I fear that I was not sufficiently clear in my letter in your issue of Feb. 3rd, p. 347. It was very far from my intention to suggest that revising barristers are overpaid or that their salaries should be reduced. My object was to emphasise the point that the probability of other people being willing to accept an appointment at a lower, or even at the same, rate was no argument that the salary was fixed at too high a standard. To illustrate my contention, I said that if the position of a revising barrister was advertised for competition at half the salary now paid the number of candidates would excite some comment. So, too, the fact that there are always more than sufficient candidates for any Poor-law medical appointment should not be taken in any way as an argument that the posts are adequately remunerated. The salaries of appointments should be fixed in accordance with the work and responsibilities intrusted to the members of a learned profession; they would then be valued for themselves and not, as is too often the case now, for the indirect advantages that may accrue to the holders of them. Perhaps the Royal Commission will afford us the opportunity of stating our case?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

M.O.

Feb. 13th, 1906.

NURSING MOTHERS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In connexion with the "Baby Show" that was held at the Fulham town-hall on Feb. 13th I find on inquiring of the mothers of the prize babies since that 41 are being nursed, five are being fed on cow's milk and barley-water (prepared according to the directions that were given to the mothers whilst we were attending them), one was fed on Nestlé's milk, and one on Davis's malted food mixed with cow's milk. Neither of the judges asked about the feeding, so that an unbiased opinion might be formed, so I think that it is a matter of congratulation that so many "nursing" mothers gained the prizes and that cow's milk and barley-water stood next. I shall be very pleased if you will publish this statement as it is of such public interest.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

E. HEATLEY,

Matron, St. Clement's Maternity Home and Fulham, S.W., Feb. 17th, 1906. Nursing Institution.

PS.—Some of the nursing mothers have to go out to work but they make arrangements that they may still nurse their infants.