purchaser usually takes separate rooms or a house and each party pays their own rent and taxes, &c., with possibly a provision for a small payment to vendor for joint use of surgery premises. If purchaser lives in same house it is usually arranged that purchaser pays a fixed sum per week for board and lodging.

Clause 5.—The deduction for appointments not transferred is at the same rate as purchase price and not necessarily two years' value; for instance, if practice is bought at one year's purchase appointments would be allowed at same rate.

Clause 6.—Restrictive covenant. This is perhaps the most vital point of any and your contributor hardly realises its full import. First of all, a ten-mile limit in a London practice is an unheard of and utterly unreasonable one. Many a man now in Harley-street or thereabouts began his career in, perhaps, Mile End or Southwark and sold out on purpose to move West. Is he to be shut out of all practice for ten miles round? From one to three miles is ample in any London practice and is the limit agreed on in 99 cases out of 100. Secondly, the time must on no account be limited. When a vendor sells he sells for all time and cannot expect to be able to return in ten years or at any time. To quote an instance, A sells his practice to B. At the end of, say, ten years B dies or wishes to sell with a ten-years' restriction only. B or his representatives cannot possibly do so, for with the possibility of A returning or recommending someone else to do so the goodwill is valueless to anyone. It is almost an invariable custom to make the covenant a *perpetual* one and manifestly this is perfectly fair and reasonable and has, moreover, been upheld in the law courts as such.

Clause 7.—In the absence of any special agreement purchaser is *not* at liberty to collect the vendor's debts, but generally he consents to receive them on behalf of vendor and duly account for them.

Clause 8.—I presume purchaser is intended for the word "vendor" in third line, otherwise the clause is unintelligible.

Clause 10.—Drugs and fixtures are usually an extra and purchased at a valuation or an agreed sum.

I can substantiate all my statements by reference to draft assignments prepared by my solicitors for such transfers.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Sept. 11th, 1905.

PERCIVAL TURNER.

SANITATION AT ST. MORITZ.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In your issue of August 19th Dr. T. W. Parkinson has drawn attention to the "faulty drainage and consequent bad smells" that his patients have complained of. He further alleges that the local authorities display absolute indifference to these complaints. The charge is an indefinite one and Dr. Parkinson's hope that something in the nature of a reply should be sent to the medical press is rather difficult to fulfil. At the same time we must admit that, chiefly owing to the introduction of the railway to the village last winter, certain accidental defects occurred that were difficult to contend with at that moment when the ground was deeply frozen. It is true, moreover, that in certain portions there were bad smells and that the visitors complained of them.

We maintain, however, that the main drainage was sound and that the public health was in no way endangered. The sanitary council (*Sanitätsrath*) of every Swiss canton publishes its statistics periodically. We also forward you these which we would like to point out were in print long before Dr. Parkinson's letter. Perhaps it may serve as a further assurance to him and all those other physicians who send patients to this winter resort to know that the chief main drainage of the village is now carried right out into the river Inn, whence it issues from the lake of St. Moritz with torrential force. All this and much other important sanitary work was accomplished during the spring under the personal supervision of a well-known English sanitary engineer who, moreover, thoroughly opened up and relaid the defective drains referred to. Therefore, the local authorities did everything that was possible in their power.

With regard to the state of the public health during this summer we can positively assert that St. Moritz has never been in a more sanitary condition and has been free from all

those zymotic maladies that are associated with inefficient drainage.—We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

J. FRANK HOLLAND, M.D. R.U.I.,
British Consul.

PAUL GREDIG, M.D.,
President of the Society of Practising Physicians
of the Upper Engadine.

British Consulate, St. Moritz, Sept. 11th, 1905.

WEST HAM AND EAST LONDON HOSPITAL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—At the suggestion of the Duchess of Marlborough a bazaar will be held at the Stratford Town Hall on Oct. 26th, 27th, and 28th, 1905, in aid of the extension fund of the above hospital. The committee of the hospital has acquired at considerable cost the high school buildings adjoining the hospital premises and upwards of £20,000 are required for the equipment of these as an addition to the hospital and the equipment of a nurses' home. The nurses at present sleep in the hospital premises and it is considered by competent authorities most important that they should have a separate residence. It is extremely urgent that a sum of money should be raised this year in order that the committee may avail itself of the very handsome offer of the Annie Zunz trustees. These gentlemen have offered that if during the current year the committee raises £7000 towards the above-mentioned object they will augment this amount from funds at their disposal for charitable purposes by the sum of £3000, making £10,000 in all. Up to the present only a small portion of the necessary funds has been acquired and the committee is earnestly hoping to make £2000 or £3000 by the bazaar. Help in money or in kind should be sent to the honorary secretary, P. J. S. Nicoll, Esq., M.D., 2, Romford-road, Stratford, E., or to the honorary treasurer, George Hay, Esq., J.P., Stratford, E., or to the secretary at the hospital, and it should be mentioned whether it is sent for the bazaar fund or (if preferred) for the maintenance of the hospital. I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

THOS. ALEX. COOK,

Chairman of the General Committee.

Bow, London, E., Sept. 12th, 1905.

THE TECHNIQUE OF THE EXAMINATION OF THE SPUTUM FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—With reference to the correspondence in your columns upon this subject the following method will, I believe, be found both rapid and effective. Take a rather finely pointed dissecting forceps, the points of which have been anointed with vaseline, two ordinary photographer's mounted steel pins, a clean cover-slip, and a spirit lamp. With the two pins (by crossing and drawing them across each other, thus converting the X into a V) cut out three minute pieces of sputum selected from different parts of the sample; then with the pins in V formation lift the selected morsels on to the cover-slip, gently touching the sides of the glass bowl with them in transit. This manœuvre gets rid of superfluous moisture. Now gently seize the cover-slip by one of its corners between the blades of the anointed forceps and hold it over the spirit lamp at a distance. Practice soon appreciates. With one of the pins move the little masses of sputum over the heated upper surface of the cover-slip. These then leave a little trail behind them not unlike that left by a slug and very rapidly become entirely reduced to their leavings, which are deposited in an admirably thin fashion provided the temperature of the glass is right.

I believe this is the very best and quickest way of making sputum films. Fix by passing through the flame. Now allow four drops of carbol fuchsin to fall successively upon the film from a stoppered bottle (by loosening the stopper and tilting). These heap themselves up in a rather alarming fashion, but by virtue of something of the nature of capillarity do not run over. The advantage of having the points of the forceps vaselined is also appreciated at this point, as when well greased they refuse to act as conduits and the application of this fat is at the same time finger saving, temper saving, and floor saving. Heat over the lamp till steam arises, walk one yard to a gently