skinning a dead sheep. She died within twelve hours from the period of incubation in the middle of summer. The third patient was a man, aged fifty years, a herdsman, who had received inoculation on the neck under the lobe of the ear through handling a dead bullock—turning the carcass over in order to examine the brand. The matter at first was treated with contempt by the patient, but it proved fatal within fourteen hours from the time of inoculation during the excessive heat of summer. These were the only three cases which proved fatal; all the others made a successful recovery under tonic treatment, a liberal diet, black wash application, and free scarification of the sore. In the three deaths which occurred, from inoculation on the face and neck especially, the swelling and discolouration were something enormous, so much so that after death it was impossible to recognise the features, which more resembled a large block of charcoal than those of a human being. It is just as well that the history of these cases should appear side by side in your valuable journal with those which came under the observation of Mr. Robinson at St. Thomas's Hospital, if for no other reason than as a warning that the earlier the treatment the greater the probability of a satisfactory and successful recovery in such serious and most malignant cases.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
ANDREW ROSS, M.D., M.P.

Molong, New South Wales, March 1st, 1898.

"COLLAPSE FOLLOWING LAPAROTOMY."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Would you kindly permit me to correct a misprint in my letter published in THE LANCET on April 23rd? I wrote that I injected "3 ii. brandy" into the vein, not "3 oz." as printed.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
CHARLES BOLTON, B.Sc., M.D. B.S. Lond.,
Senior Resident Medical Officer.

Evelina Hospital for Sick Children, Southwark
Bridge-road, S.E., April 23rd, 1898.

* * We regret the error.—ED. L.

AN OBSERVATION REGARDING REVACCINATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Having read with interest the annotation entitled "The Need for Revaccination" in your last issue I should like to publish the following observation regarding revaccination. During the epidemic of small-pox at Gloucester, being called upon to revaccinate 60 young women the inmates of an "Anglican Home" at Malvern, I revaccinated 30 on the scars left by previous vaccination and the remainder on the normal skin, and found that the cases revaccinated on the old scars took more perfectly than those done on the normal skin. I also observed that in some of the latter cases, in addition to the reaction arising at the seat of the new abrasions, there was in several cases a sympathetic inflammatory action in one or more of the old scars. Calf lymph was used and there was not a failure in the 60 cases.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
J. HOGGAN EWART, M.D. Edin.

Folkestone, April 25th, 1898.

"WHY CORONERS' INQUESTS ARE HELD."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Your annotation on "Why Coroners' Inquests are Held" leads me to call attention to the fact that the Registrar-General in his suggestions as to the filling up of certificates of the finding of the jury which are sent to the Registrar lays down the following principle: "The purposes to which inquests are intended to be subservient are partly legal, partly scientific and medical, and verdicts should therefore be such as to answer these several requirements." The question which arises is whether gentlemen who are Her Majesty's coroners are justified in neglecting the instructions of one of Her Majesty's departments of State. It appears to me that they are not.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
HATFIELD, April 23rd, 1898. LOVELL DRAGE.

"AN UNKNOWN LARVAL PARASITE."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The following extract from the Medical Appendix by Dr. K. Ker Cross in Sir Harry Johnston's book on British Central Africa may interest your recent correspondents:—"Ifwinjire, not mentioned in any book; it is from the word *injira*, to enter. It is due to maggots in the tissues; native children suffer greatly; I have seen the whole side of a child riddled with holes. These maggots are common in dogs and antelopes."

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
F. HYDE MABERLY, M.D. Dub.
Bardley-crescent, Earl's-court, S.W., April 24th, 1898.

THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—On looking through the list of candidates of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Widows of Freemasons I find that there are four belonging to our profession. I would throw out a suggestion to your readers who are Freemasons that in the future all medical votes should be given to candidates who are connected with the profession, thus ensuring their election and saving the wasting of votes by giving them away indiscriminately.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Woking, April 23rd, 1898. T. CAWLEY EAGER.

"NEW DRUGS AND PREPARATIONS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS—May I be allowed to supplement Dr. Hooper's letter in THE LANCET of April 16th? While recognising that a chemist has no right to dictate to medical men what preparations they should use he must necessarily take a deep interest in making the knowledge of drugs as scientific and exact as possible and must therefore look with regret on the growing tendency to prescribe preparations of a more or less secret character. But if it really is necessary for the benefit of the public that such remedies should be prescribed it is surely not too much to ask that the maker's name and address should invariably be given. For example, Jones's liq. ergotæ or Robinson's syrupus sennæ may be well known in some provincial town, but it does not follow that their fame has reached the metropolis; or, again, elixir cascariæ "A. & H." may be clearly understood by every London chemist to refer to Allen and Hanburys' preparation, but it is quite probable that many a chemist in, say, Dublin or Glasgow might be considerably puzzled by such a prescription. As a matter of fact I have frequently, after sending for some such article to every likely wholesale house and well-known firm, found it necessary to write the prescriber for information as to maker's name and address; meanwhile, the patient has been kept waiting quite unnecessarily for two or three days and unjustly blames the unfortunate chemist, who is not only out of pocket by the transaction, but is blamed undeservedly for not keeping a better stock of drugs.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Denmark-hill, S.E., April 19th, 1898. T. H. POWELL.

THE USE OF GLYCERINATED CALF LYMPH.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I thought that a quarter of a century ago the controlling power of a concurrent vaccination had been established beyond cavil. A late experience confirmed my acceptance of that teaching. I had to attend a little girl suffering from confluent small-pox and learned from her mother that both this and her other child, aged ten months, had been vaccinated unsuccessfully in early infancy—twice and once respectively. The family attendant had not insisted on more, for the mother had previously had small-pox and he too readily concluded that the children had inherited immunity. I vaccinated the infant, expressing my fear that it might already have caught the infection. This vaccination proved successful and the vesicles ran a perfectly normal course, though accompanied by a copious and exactly