diphtheria where careful inquiry has been made insanitary conditions have been found to exist, and in no case could the spread of the disease be traced to personal contact.

I remain, Sir, &c.,

Blackheath, May 10th, 1875.

WILLIAM CARR, M.D.

TEMPORARY DELIGATION OF ARTERIES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In justice to the memory of Scarpa, I ask you to correct a misstatement of his method of the temporary deligation of large arteries with which I am credited in your report of the discussion upon Mr. McGill's case, read at the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society on the 27th ultimo.

What I really said was to the effect that Scarpa, in order to prevent any injury to the inner and middle coats of the artery, used a broad ligature composed of several waxed flattened threads, and he tied this upon a small roll of linen, placed between the artery and the knot, only just long enough to reach beyond the grasp of the ligature. As Scarpa thought it of great moment to avoid severance of the artery by the ligature, he untied and removed this on the second or third day, before which time he thought that ulceration of the artery would not have happened.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Old Burlington-street, May 11th, 1875.

J. W. HULKE.

SKETCHES OF CONTINENTAL HOSPITALS.

(By our Special Correspondent.)

VIII.—BERLIN.

THE capital of North Germany increases in population and in size at such a rate that it is difficult for the necessary supply of hospital accommodation to be provided by the authorities without going to the outskirts of the city for fresh sites for hospitals. The Charité, large as it is, needs extension; the University Hospital is so old and ill-constructed that it will be pulled down as soon as a suitable piece of ground can be found in the centre of the city so as to be readily accessible to the students. The newer hospitals, as the Bethanien and the Augusta Hospitals, are at opposite parts of the city, and a long way from the centre; while the newest, or Stadt Hospital, which is just about to be opened, is quite in the suburbs. The Charité and the University are the only two of the hospitals at which clinical instruction is given, and at which students are expected to attend the practice; hence there is a great crush at both of them, while the other hospitals, containing also ample material for the education of students, and ably officered by efficient physicians and surgeons, are of no value as seats of clinical teaching. There is a special hospital for Jews, endowed and supported entirely by members of that community; here also no students are admitted. Is it from this paucity of practical clinical material that Berlin has a much smaller number of students than even Leipzig or Wurzburg, while she has less than one-third of the number of the University of Vienna? Only 333 medical students entered in the winter of 1873 at Berlin, while Leipzig had 599, Wurzburg 499, and the capital of Southern Germany had about 1000. No one can account for it by the greater intellectual or scientific superiority of the professors of those universities, for none of them could adduce more brilliant names among their professorial staff than those of Du Bois-Reymond, Frerichs, Langenbeck, Virchow, and Helmholtz. Either the University Hospital should be rebuilt on a large scale near the University itself, or the medical department of the University should be shifted altogether to the neighbourhood of the Charité Hospital, and the Augusta Hospital, which is not far distant, and which might readily be extended, be made available for clinical purposes. That the latter proposition may be carried out seems not improbable, for a large building is being erected on the banks of the river Spree, not far from the Charité, which will comprise the physiological laboratories, &c., of Du Bois-Reymond, and also those devoted to physics, under the control of Helmholtz and Dove.

The medical klinik at the University Hospital is under Prof. Traube; the surgical under Prof. von Langenbeck.

A numerous class of students is daily seen here following the practice of these two eminent men. The wards are small and crowded, and therefore clinical instruction is chiefly given in the lecture theatres. The surgical theatre, which is noteworthy as being the scene of Dieffenbach's labours, and the spot where he died, is lofty and well lighted. Langenbeck lectures and operates daily from 2 to 3 p.m., but the number of special operation cases sent from all parts to this celebrated surgeon is so great that he often goes on seeing patients, teaching students, and operating for three or four hours. Resections of all joints are seen in profusion, and, as far as possible, are conducted subperiosteally. For the wrist, Langenbeck makes a single straight incision at the back of the hand, beginning at the base of the first metacarpal bone, and going downwards to the wrist-joint, he so misses the princeps pollicis artery; he then takes away the first row of metacarpal bones, afterwards the second row, and, if necessary, the heads of the metacarpal bones; through the free opening which now exists he is able to push out readily the radius and ulna, and to cut their ends off with an ordinary saw. The results, as seen in numerous cases both at this hospital and at the Jacob's Hospital, were admirable. The wounds after resections are washed out with a weak solution of chloride of lime, but Lister's plan of treatment is never adopted. Facial plastic operations are great favourites of the Professor, and in his wards may be seen cases in which almost every feature of the face has been reproduced by operation. Prof. von Langenbeck, during his twenty-five years of service at Berlin, has educated a host of surgeons of celebrity, perhaps the most celebrated being Billroth, the present Professor of Surgery at Vienna.

Traube and Langenbeck are also respectively physician and surgeon to the Jacob's Hospital, a new building with 300 beds, and with every modern convenience for the comfort and well-being of the patients. Here may be seen some of Langenbeck's more successful resections, performed as they are under better hygienic conditions than at the University Hospital.

The Augusta Hospital resembles our own hospitals in being supported mainly by voluntary contributions, one of its most liberal supporters being the Empress, after whom it is named. It is a new hospital, containing 90 beds, half medical and half surgical, and consists of a central brick building, with six pavilions built of wood on a brick basement, and arranged on the barrack principle. At one end of each ward, containing 14 beds, is a nurses' room and small kitchen, and at the other a corridor, which is glazed, and can be completely closed, in which the patients may sit or walk. In the gardens around, which are extensive, there is also one wooden building for males, and another for females, so that cases of contagious diseases may be isolated from the rest of the patients. New pavilions are about to be erected, and probably this hospital will soon be greatly increased in size. Dr. Fränkel is the physician, and Dr. Küster the surgeon to it. The latter has been remarkably successful with the operation of transfusion—of twenty-four cases not one has been fatal. In six of the cases eight ounces of blood were taken from the human subject, and in the remaining eighteen six ounces of blood, taken from lambs, were injected; in all the cases Schliep's apparatus being used. Many interesting cases resulting from the war are seen here. One man was shown who was shot through the left side of the chest in 1866, the ball passing through the lung, and making its exit near the spine. The ends of two ribs had been resected, and drainage-tubes employed to relieve the empyema and to cure the pulmonary fistula, and the patient was almost recovered. Another case of rarity was that of a woman for whom lumbar colotomy had been performed to relieve a syphilitic stricture of the rectum.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.—At a meeting of the Council, held on Tuesday, the 4th inst., the following were elected examiners for the ensuing year:—Examiners for Letters Testimonial and Fellowship: John Barker, Robert McDonnell, Benjamin W. Richardson, Edward A. Stoker, Edward S. O'Grady, William H. O'Leary, Henry Gray Croly, William Thomson. Examiners in Midwifery: William Roe, John Rutherford Kirkpatrick, Henry Croly. Examiners in General Education: Henry J. Tweedy, Stewart Woodhouse, Frank J. Davys.