quantity and but little advance in our knowledge will be gained by its use. If the vaccines can be given by this method it will be a great point gained, though one cannot but fear that under the varying conditions of alimentary absorption accuracy of dosage will be impossible to attain. But, at any rate, let us decide first of all by the simple means at our disposal whether they are absorbed or not.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Devonshire-street, W., May 27th, 1908. CLIVE RIVIERE.

CONVEYANCE OF THE INFECTION OF CHICKEN-POX BY A THIRD PERSON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The possibility that chicken-pox may be conveyed by a third person, who is not suffering from the disease, is shown by the following case. I was called in on March 12th last to see a single woman, aged 30 years, suffering from the effects of an attack of influenza, which she was said to have had about a month previously. On March 14th symptoms of jaundice presented themselves and she remained in bed, isolated from the rest of the family except for her parents. The following Monday, March 16th, acute toxæmic jaundice supervened and the patient was placed in charge of two trained nurses, her parents seeing her occasionally only. The following Saturday I saw a young girl living in the house, whom I found to be suffering from a mild attack of chicken-pox, contracted at a day school. The attack was a very mild one and I ordered frequent disinfectant baths, at the same time taking care to isolate as far as possible my other patient by cutting all communication with the sick room, except for the parents, to whom I gave directions accordingly. On April 8th the elder patient, who so far had been progressing favourably and was recovering from her original illness, became suddenly worse, being delirious, her temperature, which had been subnormal (97.2° F.), rising to 99.8° and her pulse to 130 and higher. She remained in this condition for 48 hours and on April 10th a dense chicken-pox rash appeared, covering her thickly from head to foot, many of the spots rapidly becoming pustular and then breaking down into large ulcers, some one-third of an inch across, and penetrating into the subcutaneous tissues. The patient's condition remained critical for another 48 hours and then slowly began to mend, becoming convalescent by the end of the month. No other case of chicken-pox occurred in the house.

The infection in this case was evidently conveyed by some person who did not have the disease, probably by the parents, neither of whom ever showed any trace of the disease, both having had it many years before. The two patients with chicken-pox had not been in contact since March 13th and the elder had not been outside her bedroom for four weeks previously to the rash appearing in her case.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
May 30th, 1908. ERNEST F. TRAVERS, M.D. Lond.

THE SPIROGRAPH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Two weeks ago a criticism of my book on "Diagnosis in Diseases of the Throat, Nose, and Ear" appeared in THE LANCET. In that criticism it is stated that the spiograph attributed to Wingrave was invented by Sandemann many years ago. Such is not the case. Sandemann employed a square of cardboard sprinkled over with powdered slate or similar material. It was a lamentable failure. Wingrave's device is described in my book. It is a perfect success. The first qualification for a critic, especially a critic attached to THE LANCET, is a sound knowledge of his subject. Otherwise criticism becomes presumption.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Stratford-place, W., May 21st, 1908. DAN MCKENZIE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Thank you for allowing me to see the courteous strictures of Dr. McKenzie. I take the liberty of pointing out in reply that Sandmann's method was described in a paper read in Berlin in 1893, perhaps a little too early for Dr. McKenzie to know much about it; that "powdered slate" was not used; that Sandmann's method gave a permanent record; and that the temporary method advocated

by Dr. McKenzie is precisely that first adopted by Sandmann. (The paper is published in the *Journal of Laryngology*, February, 1894.)—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
May 27th, 1908. THE REVIEWER.

"THE OLDEST INSTITUTION FOR TREATING SICK CHILDREN."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A copy of the *British Press* (price 7d.) for Monday, April 29th, 1816, has recently come into the possession of the board of governors. It contains a two-column report of the foundation meeting of the hospital held at the City of London Tavern on the previous Saturday, at which T.R.H. the Dukes of Kent and Sussex were present, with the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, and a numerous company of ladies and gentlemen. The two former were the first subscribers of £20 each and the latter £10 each. The institution thus created was named "The Royal Universal Infirmary for Children," and after several variations of name, and one change of site, but in unbroken succession, it is now known as the Royal Waterloo Hospital for Children and Women, and so has been continuously at work for more than 90 years.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
J. HOUSTON,
Organising Secretary of the Special Appeal Committee of the Royal Waterloo Hospital.

THE GRÆCO-ROMAN BRANCH OF THE EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you kindly permit me the haven of your correspondence column to advocate the claims of what is known as the "Græco-Roman Branch of the Egypt Exploration Fund." This fund is for the purpose of recovering ancient papyri from the sands of Egypt by means of excavations upon the sites of the old Greek and Roman cities there. And the number of fragments of classic medical works already discovered, including the priceless manuscript of the Hippocratic treatise, "The Iatrica of Menon," is quite considerable. The reports of municipal medical officers and particulars of taxes and imposts for medical purposes found from time to time are most interesting. Further medical manuscripts will almost certainly be procured, but the society is, unfortunately, inactive temporarily for want of funds. A subscription of 21s. or upwards entitles donors to the annual volume and will help this most deserving society.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Bedford Park, W., May 26th, 1908. JOSEPH OFFORD.

PS.—The Fund's address is 37, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, London, W.C.

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON LARYNGOLOGY AND RHINOLOGY.

(FROM OUR VIENNA CORRESPONDENT.)

(Concluded from p. 1445.)

Diagnostic and Therapeutic Applications of the X Rays.

Professor BURGER (Amsterdam) read a paper on the Value of the X Rays in Rhino-Laryngology. He said that this method had many advantages in certain branches of medicine. It enabled the ossification of the bones to be studied; it showed the mechanism of singing, speaking, and deglutition; and it clearly displayed the position of foreign bodies in the œsophagus and the bronchi. It was not possible to obtain with the x rays the same good results as with direct œsophago-bronchoscopy, but the use of the x rays was much easier and did not require so much special experience. The rays had little value for the differential diagnosis of neoplasms but the diagnosis of diseases of the accessory sinuses of the nose, especially when used in the sagittal direction, was much helped by them, for they enabled an opinion to be formed as to the condition of the maxillary, the sphenoidal, and the frontal sinuses. Instruments might be used in these sinuses under the guidance of the rays. Electric transillumination gave better results in disease of the maxillary antrum and the x rays in disease