very just) upon the North Surrey Schools, but especially the writer complains of each child having only 360 cubic feet of space in the dormitories. What would he have? To my humble mind such a space appears ample; indeed, much more than is requisite. I think a useful lesson may be got by a momentary glance on board ships, say an emigrant vessel from England to Australia, where the Government scale of accommodation is 90 cubic feet per adult in the 'tween decks, and this not for merely sleeping in, but for eating and drinking, washing and dressing; not for clean disciplined children, but for dirty, careless, poor people, for the most part just taken out of slums and alleys, and cooped together for 90 or 100 days; yet there has never been an instance of disease worth notice. I have myself taken out cargoes of between three and four hundred without a single death. Then consider sailors what their cubic space is: I should be afraid to state. Of course I do not wish it to be inferred that I approve of this state of things; I only wish to show what may be done. But perhaps it will be more to the purpose to refer to the accommodation at the Forest Gate District School. This school is filled by an average number of 850 children from the poor parishes of Poplar, Whitechapel, and Hackney, and the average cubic space in the dormitories for each child is 217 cubic feet. On the 10th of April the air in two of the wards was examined between four and five in the morning, the children going to bed at eight on the evening preceding, with the following results:—

Boys' ward, No. 4; slept in by 60 children.

	By weight.	By volume.
Carbonic acid ...	0.223 ...	0.146 ...
Moisture ...	0.645 ...	1.032 ...
Oxygen ...	22.734 ...	20.310 ...
Nitrogen ...	76.398 ...	78.512 ...
	100.000	100.000

Girls' ward, No. 8; slept in by 52 children.

	By weight.	By volume.
Carbonic acid ...	0.167 ...	0.109 ...
Moisture ...	0.423 ...	0.681 ...
Oxygen ...	22.874 ...	20.434 ...
Nitrogen ...	76.536 ...	78.776 ...
	100.000	100.000

I believe that these wards may be taken as a fair sample of the whole; and, according to the generally received canon, they would be set down as overcrowded, and the air in No. 4 as decidedly bad; yet, although this has been the state of things for some years past, no evil has resulted. The Forest-gate School is the most healthy of all the metropolitan district schools, and I believe the only one free from contagious ophthalmia; but ten years back it was not so. Then there were only 300 children in the school, and ophthalmia was general. Overcrowding could not be the cause; for what do we have?—in a certain building 300 children, all ophthalmic; in the same building 850 children, no ophthalmia. But what is the explanation? I think it lies in three things—efficient inspection, receiving wards, and lavatories; and ten years ago these were all deficient. By efficient inspection I mean that the medical officer himself should inspect—that he should not leave his duty to nurses or attendants; every child in the school should be seen at least once a week.

Every school should be furnished with a receiving-ward, which should be a detached building with its own staff of attendants, and on such a scale as to allow every child on admission to be retained in it for at least fourteen days before going into the school. Also, when children are discharged from the infirmary it is a good plan to keep them in this ward for a week before going into the school.

Good lavatories are before all things essential. At Forest Gate we had formerly very bad ones; slate troughs, with divisions not extending to the bottom, and a supply of water from a tap at one end, running through and making its exit at the end of a row of them. But *nous avons changés tout cela*; we have now lofty, spacious rooms, with rows of ware basins in india-rubber beds turning on pivots so that they are emptied in an instant; and every child washes by itself. The towels are hung above on ascending and descending racks.

Before concluding I may perhaps be allowed to say a

few words upon the treatment of ophthalmia in schools. Of course every case detected should be at once removed to the infirmary, in which there should be a *real* dark ward, not simply a darkened room. In this should be provided a long table with ware basins (not metal ones) let into it, and a form for the children to sit upon, each one opposite its basin. These basins should be filled with cold water, and frequently changed. Each child must then be taught to occupy itself all the day long with constantly wetting and applying a bit of lint or soft old rag over its eyes. These children should not be put to bed in the daytime, and they must not be allowed to amuse themselves in any way; if indulged in the infirmary, they will never be got out of it. I am convinced that one-third of the ophthalmia in schools is produced by the children themselves. Their tricks are endless. A favourite one, much relied on by them, was that of picking up and putting in their eyes the chloride of lime used to disinfect the urinals; and they will often rub the discharge of the eyes from one that is very bad into another who is getting better. Unless there is strong special reason for it, extra diet should not be allowed. Medicine is rarely required to be taken. The temples should be painted with blistering fluid and one drop once a day of a solution of nitrate of silver, twenty grains to the ounce, let fall into each eye. In books we find recommended solutions of two grains and sometimes four or five grains of nitrate of silver to the ounce; but these are useless if we consider the amount of surface to be acted upon, the quantity of secretion to be decomposed, and the specific effect of the salt to be exerted on the vessels and nerves of the part. It is hardly credible that much can be done by the $\frac{1}{240}$ of a grain applied to a superficies of about three inches. The means should be apportioned to the end; and I know by experience how much time is wasted by the use of weak lotions. When the children are put to bed, the nurse should gently syringe each eye with tepid water, and apply a little spermaceti ointment to the lids, and syringing should be repeated in the morning. By these simple means a case ought to be cured in about fourteen days.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS J. VALLANCE, M.D., F.R.C.S. Exam.

May, 1873.

HEREDITARY IMPROVEMENT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your journal of Jan. 18th, in an article on Mr. Galton's hereditary improvements, occurs the following passage:—"Starting from the law of Nature, that like produces like, would it not be possible so to observe that law as to secure a class in the community whose original qualities of healthy physique, vigorous intellectual powers, and masculine will might be conserved, intensified, and improved? In a rough and irregular way something of the kind has been done by our aristocracy. Would it not be possible so to use the available material still left to us as, by well-assorted marriages, by mating the wise with the wise, the healthy with the healthy, and so on, to secure and keep up a class capable of government and legislation?"

I have not seen the article you allude to, but, judging from your critique upon it, Mr. Galton seems to have forgotten the experiment has been tried on a large scale and over a lengthened period of time in India. The Brahmins, eminently a governing class, have intermarried only amongst themselves for centuries, and the result is a race of men who have in a great degree secured for themselves, amongst their fellow-countrymen, the attributes, especially of governing, for which Mr. Galton contends. The result in their case is, I think, a perfect success. It may be argued, I know, that the Brahmin has succumbed to the European, and before him to the Mussulman; but that, if we look into the matter, is more apparent than real. As a warrior he has had to yield to his more daring foe from the north or from over the seas, but under both governments every detail and often its mainsprings have been worked by the intellectual and astute Brahmin. If our race were not recruited as it is by periodical immigration from Europe, we should in a generation or two succumb before this race, as did the Moguls to the Mahrattas, and in course of time, but in a quieter revolution, the world will see this people once again the masters. Even now, as I said before, in most parts of India they really govern; the

impetuous and self-willed Englishman is the ostensible head, as collector, or judge, or what not, but his principal subordinates are Brahmins, and their fathers and fathers before them were in the same place and position, and you have only to watch the common people salaaming to them to feel how thoroughly they are the masters of the situation.

Physically the same thing holds good. Any man who has been half a dozen years in India and kept his eyes open to observe can pick out from a crowd of natives a Brahmin. It is not that he is better dressed, for often he has nothing whatever on but his waist-cloth, but there is a cleanly appearance of limb and features which betoken the well-bred man. It is as distinctive as would be a racer amongst a mixed troop of ordinary hacks, hunters, and carriage-horses.

The subject is full of interest, and has interested me for years, but fearing to encroach further on your valuable space, I will conclude.

I remain, Sir, yours &c.,

M. C. FURNELL,

Surgeon Madras Army.

Madras, March, 1873.

THE SIR JAMES PAGET TESTIMONIAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In connexion with a letter on this subject in to-day's issue, allow me to state that, although I had not at that time subscribed to the testimonial, I received a circular announcing the day of presentation; so also did several men I know, both subscribers and non-subscribers. I feel sure the committee are not to blame for the "cavalier" treatment complained of; rather, I think, is it due to some error at the Post-office.—Yours &c.,

July 5th, 1873.

ANOTHER OLD BART'S MAN.

* * In relation to the above, the facts, which we have been at pains to ascertain, are these. Copies of two circular letters were sent to all the old pupils of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The first, issued in January, 1872, gave an outline of what it was proposed to do; the second, forwarded on June 2nd, 1873, informed the subscribers of the arrangements for the presentation of the portrait, as well as telling them of the position of the testimonial. In addition, a card of admission for himself and lady was sent to each subscriber. Moreover, knowing the possibility that, in a list of over 700 names, here and there a subscriber might not receive the notice sent to him, an advertisement was inserted in THE LANCET of the 14th of June, and in the principal daily papers. We fail to see that better means could have been adopted to give the subscribers due notice of the presentation, or how it can be possible that many of them should not have received a letter; but, in the face of Professor Humphry being requested to make the presentation, that any "cavalier" or wilful neglect of the provincial section of the subscribers was shown, is simply absurd.—ED. L.

THE GRANTING OF AWARDS TO PUBLIC VACCINATORS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The perusal of your article in THE LANCET of July 5th on the grant of vaccination awards recalls to my mind that I can hardly have been treated with fairness.

At the close of my first year's service as public vaccinator I was visited by the inspector, who, after examining my book and the arms of children living near that I had vaccinated, pronounced that had I been in office the required one year he should have recommended me for award.

Since, I have, with the assistance of a zealous vaccination officer, endeavoured to keep the vaccination of my district at a first-class standard.

Judge of my surprise and annoyance, on returning from a round of visits a short time since, to find that a vaccination inspector had called (without having sent me any notice), that he had looked at my vaccination book, and had merely taken down a few names of children from it who lived in a

distant parish of my district, and whose arms, he left word, he intended to inspect. I have made careful inquiry, but find that no examination of arms was made by him. It was, in fact, impossible to be done, as he had no clue as to where the children lived in the same parish, and made no attempt to discover them.

It appears to me I should have had notice of his intended visit that I might have had children ready for his inspection, but as it was the visit was a mere farce, and seemed arranged to do away with my chance of award.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

July 7th, 1873.

PUBLIC VACCINATOR.

TUNNELING THE END OF URETHRAL INSTRUMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Whatever may be the value of "tunneling the end of urethral instruments," as described by Mr. Teevan in the last number of THE LANCET, and attributed by him, as it has been by others, to Prof. Gouley of New York, the credit of the invention belongs to that eminent American surgeon, Prof. Wm. H. Van Buren, and not to his former pupil, Prof. Gouley. Prof. Van Buren had made, and was in the habit of employing, instruments constructed upon this principle many years ago, and prior to the time when Dr. Gouley first became a student of medicine in his office. This statement of the authorship of the invention was made to the writer of these lines by Prof. Van Buren himself.

I enclose my card, and remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

July 7th, 1873.

HONOUR TO WHOM HONOUR IS DUE.

THE SANITARIUM OF SOUTH AFRICA.

(From a Lay Correspondent.)

No. III.

IN my last letter I described the upper country as far as Wellington and the foot of the Drachenstein mountains. The pass over these mountains is called Bain's Kloof, from the name of the engineer who made the road, and is one of the finest pieces of scenery in the colony. On the other side of these mountains is the plain of Worcester, while Ceres is reached by going over the next mountains, through Mitchell's Pass. Mitchell's Pass is quite equal to Bain's Kloof for beauty, and, indeed, is thought by some to be the finer.

Worcester is rather more than three hundred feet above the level of the sea, and for a summer residence is one of the healthiest places in the colony; though it is very hot, the mornings and evenings are almost always cool and delightful. In winter it is visited by the rains which fall throughout the whole upper country; but at Worcester they are not so severe as in places nearer the sea, though they still are sufficient to render it unsuitable as a winter residence for consumptives. In the height of summer there is hardly any dew at night; at any rate, not till after midnight; and provided a light overcoat is worn the evening air may be enjoyed in perfect safety.

One great advantage of Worcester is, that it is within easy reach of Cape Town. The railway runs between Cape Town and Wellington, and from Wellington the post-cart runs three times a week, or a private cart may be easily obtained. The distance from Wellington to Worcester is about forty miles.

In the season Worcester is a capital place for fruit of all kinds, and in few places can milk and butter be so easily obtained. Good accommodation can be had here on very reasonable terms, and it is one of the cheapest places in the colony.

To the east of Worcester are Robertson and Montague, but I do not think an invalid would gain anything by going on to them; and, indeed, I doubt whether they are as healthy as Worcester.

Ceres is somewhat higher than Worcester, but is subject to the same rains in winter. In summer its climate is very healthy. The scenery around both Worcester and Ceres is