tion during that of apnoea, was noticed on some days or at some hours on a given day; but at other times careful and repeated examination often failed to detect any change in its rate. Indeed, I now find that this was noticed to some degree by the first observer, Dr. Reid, for, in speaking of this peculiarity of the pulse, he says that 'neither it nor the distress is to be found equally marked or intense on every day.'

With reference, however, to the relation of arterial tension to the different parts of the cycle, the case, as reported by Mr. H. R. Davies, differs from the experience of Traube and Biot.

Grove Hall Asylum, London,
June 27th, 1885.

W. JULIUS MICKLE.

"THE TRAFFIC IN GIRLS."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With your remarks in THE LANCET of June 27th, as to the absurdity of the statement attributed to Mr. James B. Wookey, I entirely agree; and such statements can do nothing but injury to a good object, in which everyone must sympathise. For three years it has been my duty to attend every morning at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and, in conjunction with one of my colleagues, see every surgical case applying for treatment. Our casualty department is very large, upwards of 160,000 patients attending yearly. Of this large number of patients, I cannot recollect during the whole time to have seen a single example of primary venereal disease in a child, and certainly not half a dozen cases between the ages of twelve and fourteen. If St. Bartholomew's is to be taken as a type of a London hospital, the statement that "in eight years, in three London hospitals alone, 27,000 children between the ages of eleven and sixteen had been treated for terrible diseases," is not only misleading, but absolutely false.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

HARRISON CRIPPS,

June 29th, 1885. Assistant Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

THE FIRST APPENDIX TO THE "MEDICAL DIGEST."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Considering that during the past four years so much has been written on medical science, it has been suggested that it would be acceptable to many if the first appendix to the "Medical Digest" were to be issued at the end of 1885, instead of at the close of 1886, as originally proposed. I wish upon this point to elicit the opinion, through your journal, of those interested in the subject. A post-card addressed to myself or to the publishers, Messrs. Ledger, Smith, and Co., St. Mary Axe, E.C., expressive of such opinions, and noting at the same time any needed corrections in the edition of 1882, will oblige,

Yours truly,

RICHARD NEALE, M.D. Lond.

60, Boundary-road, South Hampstead, N.W., June 27th, 1885.

LIVERPOOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

HOSPITAL SUNDAY AND SATURDAY.

THE Hospital Sunday collections amounted this year to £6555, a falling-off from last year's of £840. The Saturday collections show an increase of £66. The Committee divided £8880 among the charities; the Royal Infirmary and Lock Hospital receiving £2220, the Royal Southern Hospital £1332, the Northern £1154, the Dispensaries and District Nursing Society each £621, Infirmary for Children £532, Eye and Ear Infirmary and Stanley Hospital each £444, the Ladies' Charity and Lying-in Hospital £355, and the remainder among smaller institutions. There is every reason to expect a considerable increase in the Hospital Saturday Fund next year, the organisation among the working men having been greatly strengthened and improved.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report of Dr. Stopford Taylor for 1884 has been published, and is a very elaborate document. Dr. Taylor is able to commence with the gratifying announcement that

the year 1884 will be memorable for the low death-rate of the city, which was for the whole year equal to 25.1, ranging from 23.2 for the first quarter to 27.4 for the third quarter. The number of deaths was 692 less than in 1883, and 446 below the average of the last ten years, notwithstanding the increase of population; the decrease being most marked in those from lung diseases, including phthisis, which were 569 fewer than in 1883. Dr. Taylor attributes this to the increased temperature of the year. The deaths from diarrhoea were 841, the average being 704. Small-pox prevailed extensively throughout the year, there being 74 cases reported in January, in February 59, March 60, April 63, May 154, June 189; the disease began then to decline, the number of cases in July being 108, August 47, September 17, October 10, November 15, December 36. In all 832 cases were reported, and of these 686 were taken to Mill-road Hospital, 57 to the City Hospital, and 89 were treated at home. The number of deaths from typhus, typhoid, and all forms of continued fever was 205 out of a total of 964, being the lowest number of deaths ever recorded in the city, the average for the previous ten years being 402. The report contains many other matters of interest which must be left for future notice.

MEMORIAL TO A DECEASED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

The sum of £126 was recently subscribed for raising a memorial to the late Dr. Crichton, of Walton, and it was resolved to apply the fund towards the erection of a monument in the Walton Cemetery. A monument of polished red granite in the form of an obelisk has been placed over his remains, with the following inscription:—"In affectionate remembrance of Duncan Crichton, M.D., who died Dec. 18th, 1884, aged forty-three years. This memorial has been erected by his friends and patients, in testimony of his singular devotion to an arduous profession, his solicitude for the relief of the suffering, and his kindness of manner to all who knew him." On the right-hand side is inscribed "Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit;" and on the left-hand side, "Non ut diu vivamus curandum est, sed ut satis." It is ungracious to criticise the work of friends freely and voluntarily rendered; but it is much to be regretted that a less pretentious monument, one which would have been more in accordance with Dr. Crichton's modest and unassuming character, was not selected. The cost would have been less, and the balance might very suitably have been applied towards a "Crichton scholarship" or prize at his *alma mater*, Glasgow University.

SINGULAR DEATH AT SOUTHPORT.

On the 29th ult. the body of a man, who had been left in sole charge of the house of a lady in Southport, was found there by a police constable in an advanced state of decomposition. He was last seen alive on May 4th, and when found was fully dressed, in a chair near to the fireplace, and there was a paper bearing date May 9th, which was probably the date of his death. At the inquest, which was held on the 30th ult. before Mr. Brighouse, county coroner, Dr. More deposed to making a post-mortem examination, at which the following remarkable appearances were seen:—Against the heart was a bone two inches in diameter, a most unusual occurrence, and only to be accounted for from the fact that a gland in the region of the heart had become ossified. Portions of the heart were covered with small pieces of bone. The immediate cause of death was an effusion of blood on the brain.

THE LOCK HOSPITAL.

A male patient, aged forty-two years, was admitted into the Lock Hospital, under the care of Mr. A. Bernard, on the 20th ult., suffering from extensive sloughing phagedæna of the prepuce, complicated with phimosis. Nearly the whole circumference of the prepuce, from the free margin to a little behind the level of the corona glandis, was involved. He was in a very debilitated condition owing to his irregular life; the foreskin was swollen and painful for more than a month previous to admission. A free incision was at once made through the slough and a little beyond it, when it was found that the glans was also seriously involved. The parts were well cleaned and dusted over with finely-powdered iodoform, a grain of opium was given every four hours with beef tea at frequent intervals, but no stimulants of any kind. On the following day, as the odour continued to be very offensive, Mr. Lowndes suggested charcoal poultices, which completely corrected this. The patient is now making a good recovery; the sloughs have all come away, leaving