possession; it contains a population of 2525, and it lies about ninety miles north of the mouth of the Gambia, and immediately south-east of Cape Verde. The epidemic broke out early in June of the present year, and at the time of the last account the deaths amounted to 14 daily.

This is the first time that epidemic cholera is known to have prevailed in Western Africa, and we trust that in a short time we shall be able to lay before our readers an authentic detailed account of the spread of the epidemic, and of its relation to the extension of the malady in North-west Africa.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

REGARDING THE EFFECTS OF REMEDIES UPON THE FACULTY OF LANGUAGE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You were pleased a few months ago to insert a short note which I sent you containing an account of a case in which words were wrongly used by a patient whilst under the influence of opium. May I now ask you to give a place to the interesting letter from my friend Dr. Nicholls, of Chelmsford, which I now send you.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN W. OGLE, M.D.

Chelmsford, January 16th, 1869.

MY DEAR DR. OGLE,—Your cases of aphasia, published in THE LANCET, August 22nd, 1868, and a most interesting case of poisoning by stramonium in the last year's St. George's Hospital Reports, by Dr. G. Paget Blake, induce me to let you know of two cases in which I have seen aphasia produced by the use, or rather perhaps by the excessive use, of two powerful drugs—viz., stramonium and cannabis indica. The former was in the case of an elderly gentleman who had been ordered to smoke stramonium for the relief of asthma; this he did, and to the extent of many pipes-full in an evening, mixed with a small quantity of ordinary tobacco. After several pipes he would begin to call things by wrong names, and this without knowing it; and it is remarkable that he almost always miscalled the same things. He was a very small drinker, and after sound sleep the loss of the power of intelligible speech passed away, and he was not at all aware that he had miscalled places and things after smoking, and would scarcely believe it. He afterwards died of bronchitis. I may mention that he began by only smoking one pipe of an evening, and when suffering from asthma; but he increased it to many pipes per day, and used sometimes to smoke during the day. He always remembered the subjects of his conversation, but not his language.

The case of aphasia from the use of cannabis indica, is that of a young man, aged twenty-four, who has lately been under my care. In May last he had an apoplectic attack and suffered from paraplegia afterwards, and had the most excruciating pain in the front of his head. He got little or no sleep at night, and I tried morphia, opium, &c., with very little relief. He is a chemist, and took some chlorodyne, and found some relief from the pain; whereupon I gave him some of the tincture of cannabis indica, and I found it gave relief, but had to give very large doses. He took as much as two drachms of the tincture with a little hyoscyamus, and after a full dose he was free from pain; but in talking he misnamed almost everything—called his head his foot, &c. &c. And this was always the case; but he was and is now conscious that when he has taken the drug he cannot express his ideas correctly, whereas in the stramonium case the patient did not at all remember that he had miscalled things, &c. This patient is now better, and does without the narcotic. He did not always miscall the same things or even call the thing twice by the same name; whereas the stramonium smoker *always* called his boots logs of wood, his bedroom the stable, &c. &c.—that is, when under the influence of the drug.

I have inhaled chloroform some half a dozen times in my

life, and my sensations, dreams, ideas, and feelings have on each occasion been the same—that is, between the beginning of the inhalation and the stage of utter forgetfulness. I have heard the same sounds in my ears and seen the same visionary place each time: this looks as if certain drugs produced on the same brain always the same chain of symptoms. With my patient there was no stage of delirium nor even excitement after smoking stramonium, and his sleep afterwards was only slightly deeper than usual. My cannabis indica case does not sleep soundly after his dose, but lies quietly dreaming and free from pain; but he tells me he does not always have the same sensations and dreams.

I am, yours faithfully,

JAMES NICHOLLS.

John W. Ogle, Esq., M.D.

P.S.—I have recently met with an observation of a French physiologist, Dr. Leuen, in the *Archives de Physiologie*, to the effect that quinine, in addition to other symptoms, may produce aphasia.

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: HOSPITALISM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As my speech on the great "hospitalism" question is reported by you, and as you have been so kind as to allude to it in a leading article, will you allow me to state what I really did say?

The main object I had in rising was to clear up the confusion which is too often made between the general lowering of the "vitality" of patients in a hospital, and, secondly, their liability to infection. I contended that all experience, and our recent removal, showed how valuable large, well-ventilated wards were for the former object; but I held, with Mr. Hutchinson, that no amount of ventilation would destroy infectious germs when introduced. Against them we must fight with other weapons. When, therefore, one speaker after another accused our central court of mischief, did they mean that it would make the wards stuffy and depressing, or did they mean that it favoured infectious diseases? Not till they made this distinction could they be properly answered. I further said that I believed the agents carried in water, which cause enteric fever and cholera, are material particles, and not spiritual effluences; and that it is as absurd to deny their existence on the ground of their invisibility, as to deny the existence of strychnia in a solution thereof on the same ground.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Leeds, August 14th, 1869.

T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT.

THE TREATMENT OF CHOLERA BY INJECTION OF MORPHIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I herewith transmit you a copy of a letter I have written to the medical officer of the Manchester Corporation on the treatment of Asiatic cholera.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. BATES, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

To John Leigh, Esq., the Medical Officer of the Manchester Corporation.

SIR,—I think it my duty to call your attention to a case of Asiatic cholera I was called to see on Monday last, August 5th, 1869. My patient is a Mrs. John S——, Daisy Bank, Ashton New Road, Droylsden, and within one mile of the city of Manchester. I saw the case for the first time at 11 o'clock A.M. The first symptoms had commenced seven hours previously by vomiting and purging. When I saw her she was in the *algide stage*—rice-water evacuations from the stomach and bowels, no pulse perceptible at the wrist, voice husky, and the skin had a contracted and pinched appearance throughout its whole extent; skin cold, and expired air cold; thought she must die every minute.

Whatever the poison of cholera may be, a mycderm or otherwise, such poison produces "tonic" spasm of the involuntary, and "clonic" spasm of the voluntary, muscular

tissues. For this spasmodic condition, I have employed the hypodermic administration of morphia.

In my case, on Thursday, I introduced four minims of Roberts's solution of morphia over the stomach, and returned to see the effect in an hour afterwards, when I found the abdomen warm, which had been previously cold. I then introduced four more drops, and left the case for three hours, when I found it much improved,—spasm of the involuntary muscles much less, countenance much improved, body warm, pulse quite perceptible at the wrist; vomited once only in four hours; still purged; stomach had begun to retain fluids. At 8 P.M. reaction had fully taken place, and the case has since been treated for one of ordinary diarrhoea.

I think the means used in this case, and the success which has attended it, are worth the attention of the medical profession and the public.

The origin of the poison in this case, on examination, is quite evident. The well from which they are supplied with water, the main sewer for the property, the cesspools and middens, are all in a sandy soil, within three yards of one another.

I last year employed the hypodermic method in the third stage of cholera in the same township to relieve hiccough, sickness, and want of sleep, and found it to relieve hiccough immediately, and produce sleep, with diminution of vomiting.

You can, if you feel inclined, investigate all the facts concerning my present case.

My attention has been called to the present mortality in Manchester amongst infants and children. My impression is, that if mothers were taught to give them more water in hot weather than they do, more especially infants at the breast, many lives might be preserved, and much diarrhoea avoided. Boiling water poured on spent tea-leaves would, I believe, prevent diarrhoea in children.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

WILLIAM BATES, M.D., F.R.C.S. ENG.

Stockport-road, Manchester, Aug. 7th, 1869.

VACCINATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The revival of public inquiry into the subject of Vaccination, caused by the occasional occurrence of untoward results, induces me to call attention to a simple fact of great importance in the performance of that operation—namely, that *the lymph should be taken from the vesicle before the appearance of the areola*; for the simple reason that coincident with the appearance of the areola is the beginning of the suppurative process, and our object is to vaccinate with lymph, not with pus. It is to the inoculation of lymph more or less mixed with pus that many of the disastrous effects of careless vaccination are due. In order to observe this rule strictly, it is important in a large number of cases to take the lymph before the eighth day. The conventional practice of seeing vaccinated patients once a week is faulty and pernicious. My own rule for some years past has been to take lymph on the sixth or seventh day, the earlier the better.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

D. DE BERDT HOVELL.

Five Houses, Clapton, Aug. 17th, 1869.

SURGEONS AND INSTRUMENT-MAKERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I think many of the profession will agree with me that the relation of medical men and the public to instrument-makers, or "surgical mechanicians," is not at present on a perfectly satisfactory footing. Holding as I do that an instrument-maker has no more right to apply an apparatus than a druggist has to administer medicines, without the advice of a qualified practitioner, I beg to state the following circumstances, of recent occurrence, which may possibly tend to elucidate the question.

Some weeks back, Dr. Tilbury Fox recommended to my care an officer from India, who had undergone amputation

below the knee some years before, with a resulting contracted knee. Being now desirous of wearing an artificial leg, the patient desired to know whether the knee could be straightened. I gave as my opinion that it could, after division of the contracted hamstring tendons, and took the patient to Mr. Gumpel, of Leicester-square, both to know whether he would be able to fit a leg with a movable knee, and also to order a suitable extending apparatus for application after division of the tendons. When the apparatus was completed, my patient called upon me with it on, and remarked, "Oh, Mr. Gumpel tells me he thinks the knee may be straightened without division of the tendons." I replied that Mr. Gumpel had no business to express any opinion at all upon the subject (with which the patient agreed), but that as he had done so, I should prefer to try and dispense with the operation, although I believed it would ultimately be required. A fortnight perfectly convinced my patient of the uselessness of the apparatus alone, and I then divided the tendons, and the case has made satisfactory progress since.

Passing through Leicester-square some days afterwards, I called upon Mr. Gumpel to remonstrate with him, when he utterly denied having said anything of the kind, and in the rudest manner bowed me out of the door. I beg permission now to lay the whole circumstances of the case before the readers of THE LANCET, in pursuance of a message sent to Mr. Gumpel, through my patient, requiring an apology for his behaviour, of which he has taken no notice.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CHRISTOPHER HEATH, F.R.C.S.

Cavendish-place, August 3rd, 1869.

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE following correspondence has been forwarded to us for publication:—

Oxford, August 3rd, 1869.

SIR,—Some of my professional friends in this city have called my attention to remarks made by you at the meeting of the British Medical Association at Leeds, referring to the meeting last year in Oxford. They are reported in THE LANCET,—not in the *Medical Times and Gazette*, nor in the *British Medical Journal*.

"Situated as Dr. Acland was, with little assistance to prepare for such a great meeting as that of the Association was, and the extraordinary amount of labour which necessarily fell upon him in consequence of the deficiency of assistance, it was marvellous to him (Dr. Beatty), who knew something of the labour necessary to get up such a meeting, how Dr. Acland succeeded in doing what he did."

The words, we consider, imply that we did not give Dr. Acland, when president, the assistance that ought to have been rendered. If Dr. Acland had less assistance than he desired, it was not the fault of his professional brethren, the resident practitioners and members of the Association. We were invited by a letter from him to attend a meeting on the subject, and we joined him in the invitation to the Association to visit this city. We were not again consulted; and those of us who are not members of the University were not permitted to take part in the arrangements.

I am, &c.,

E. L. HUSSEY.

Dr. Beatty, M.D., Dublin.

Merrion-square North, Dublin, August 4th, 1869.

SIR,—I am sorry that any words of mine should have displeased any of my brethren in Oxford. I uttered what was commonly rumoured at the time; and I am glad to find that so many of the profession were desirous of assisting in the preparation for the memorable meeting at Oxford.

I am, &c.,

THOS. E. BEATTY.

E. L. Hussey, Esq., Oxford.

Oxford, August 7th, 1869.

SIR,—Thanking you for your ready answer to my letter, and the courtesy of your reply, I trust that you will not object to my giving equal publicity to it, and to my own letter to you, which has been given to your remarks at Leeds.

I am, &c.,

E. L. HUSSEY.

Dr. Beatty, M.D., Dublin.

Dublin, August 8th, 1869.

SIR,—I am afraid you have mistaken the intent of my last letter to you, written on the 4th inst. In it, when I