

also think some of the products of combustion from the furnace get into the inner heated chamber through the gratings in the floor and the sides of the couches. This ought not to be. It strikes me, too, that the place is too public (not having private recesses) for patients with skin diseases, to give the hot-air process a fair trial in these cases. Persons with ugly-looking eruptions do not like to be stared at by everyone, nor would the healthy like to sit near them.

But to return to the fatality. On Tuesday evening, April 30th, the man before-mentioned, who is said to have laboured under some chest affection for a long time, went to the hot-air baths for the second time, having, as he thought, derived some temporary benefit or relief from his first visit. While being washed in the small compartment off the most heated chamber, he was taken with a fit of retching or coughing, and exclaimed that some lump had broken within his chest, which relieved his sense of oppression. Immediately large quantities of blood issued from his mouth; the attendants removed him speedily to the outer cool dressing-room, and laid him on a cushioned bench; he gradually sank, and died in about four or five minutes from the hæmorrhage. A medical gentleman who had been sent for found the man dead on his arrival. His opinion of the cause of death was, that an aneurism had ruptured; but no post-mortem examination having been ordered, (which is a rather constant omission in Ireland,) he of course could not be very accurate in his statements.

Hitherto Turkish baths have been cried up in Ireland as something miraculous; now, the chance is, public opinion will run into the opposite extreme, and pronounce them a *kill-all*. I, as well as other medical men, had long since warned the public to use them only medicinally under competent advice.

The city of Limerick, containing about 60,000 inhabitants, is sadly off for public water-baths and washhouses. The entire medical profession here called on the Mayor and Corporation last year to take the matter in hand and provide this sanative institution for the people, who, rich and poor, require them in both health and disease; but, alas! these worthies are fonder of oratory and mutual recrimination than of promoting works of progress and usefulness, so they turned a deaf ear to the matter. Fever and small-pox are rife; the city is badly drained; the back streets and lanes are in a filthy, unhealthy state; and there is scarcely any sewerage. The working classes live and die in wretched cellars and garrets, in dirt and poverty.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Limerick, May, 1861. THOMAS WESTROFF, M.R.C.S. Eng.

THE FEVER IN LIVERPOOL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As soon as sufficiently convalescent to read your journal of the 27th ult., I was astonished to find it stated (p. 424) that the Egyptians brought to the Southern Hospital were not suffering from fever. I think I shall be able to show, by mentioning a few facts, that they were suffering from fever on their admission; and I have now no doubt, from what has since transpired, that that fever was typhus, but which, in consequence of their dark skins preventing the characteristic mulberry rash from being seen, was not recognised as such. I may state that, owing to my colleague's absence on sick leave, I was constantly on the spot, daily going round with the interpreter, and endeavouring to gain every information also from the chief officer (an Englishman) and others.

It is also stated, that none of the men were suffering from fever on board. Who can prove this? I asked to see the surgeon of the ship, with the view of gaining something like accurate information respecting their symptoms during the voyage, but was informed that he was himself too unwell to attend to them. Taking into consideration the conditions on board, together with the fact that the pilot and the attendants at the bath took the fever, it seems the more probable, to my mind, that fever did exist in the ship.

The symptoms, in some of the more severe cases, were exactly similar to those described by Mr. Hamilton in his letter of the 13th ult.—viz., great prostration, heat of skin, rapid pulse, low muttering delirium,—in one case so noisy as to disturb the whole ward,—involuntary passing of the evacuations, black sordes on the teeth, &c.

In the hospital register, the diagnoses recorded therein will be found, in the majority of cases, to be "febris" and "febricula." This diagnosis was approved by Dr. Cameron and Mr. Higginson, under whose care the Egyptians were placed.

In a letter dated March 12th, I find I wrote, after describing

their filthy state, as follows:—"Their diseases are of the worst description, a sort of *jail fever* from overcrowding in the ship, which stank so that she had to be scuttled as the only way of cleansing her."

I regret I am unable at the present time to enter more fully into the subject; but these few facts, I hope, will suffice to show that, in the opinion of Dr. Cameron and myself, the Egyptians were labouring under fever; but that typhus was not thought of till I caught the contagion and the spots appeared on my own skin.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
C. L. H. PEMBERTON, M.R.C.S.,
Senior House-Surgeon to the Southern Hospital, Liverpool.
Martley, near Worcester, May, 1861.

SCOTLAND.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

DR. SANDERS, F.R.C.P., lecturer on Physiology, has been appointed one of the ordinary physicians to the Royal Infirmary, in room of Dr. Keiller, whose term of office has expired. An agitation has been going on for some time in this institution in connexion with the proposal to set aside one of the ordinary physician's wards for diseases peculiar to females, the only ward for this purpose, hitherto, having been that under the care of Professor Simpson, of the University. The scheme for the new ward was freely supported by the ordinary physicians of the hospital, and had the approval of the profession and the medical school. The opposition arose from the jealousy of the University professors, through one of their number at the board of governors, Professor Balfour, by whom it was obstinately, and indeed, I am informed, violently resisted. Much interest was felt in the contest in the medical school, the students having petitioned the governors in favour of the scheme. Success has crowned their efforts, a majority of the board of governors having come to the conclusion to establish this important department in connexion with the wards and clinical lectures of the ordinary physicians. Dr. Matthews Duncan, F.R.C.P., and lecturer on Midwifery, was then appointed. A vacancy is thus created in one of the physicianships to the Hospital for Diseases of Children.

The physicians would seem to be more successful in overcoming opposition to progress than their brethren the surgeons, a scheme to appoint an additional surgeon to the now greatly enlarged hospital having, I am informed, been defeated last year by a similar jealousy.

Some years ago there was a commendatory notice in THE LANCET of the founding of a Lectureship on Medical Logic at Marischal College, Aberdeen, by Dr. Henderson, of London; and also his very liberal gift of money, the interest of which he appropriated towards augmenting the lecturer's salary. Soon after this praiseworthy innovation had been completed, Dr. Ogston, then Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the College, was appointed to the Chair so founded and endowed by Dr. Henderson. Since that period Dr. Ogston has regularly delivered lectures on Medical Jurisprudence, which have been always much appreciated by the students in attendance. Now, however, important changes are about to take place with reference to this course, in consequence of the new ordinances recently issued by the Royal Commissioners not requiring Medical Logic to form any part of professional education in candidates who intend to graduate. Strong remonstrances have been urged before the Commissioners against this decision, but as yet without effect; and although the University Court may take the matter into their consideration when the Commission's term of existence has expired, for the present at least the Chair of Medical Logic may be almost said to have fallen into a state of suspended animation, whereby the eminent founder's intentions are to a certain extent rendered nugatory.

Such being the present condition of affairs with reference to the recently instituted Lectureship, it is much to be hoped that Dr. Ogston will in future dovetail the subject of Medical Logic into his lectures on Jurisprudence, which are still to be delivered at the University, as doubtless this proceeding would become both highly valued by his hearers, and also effectually lead them to cultivate their reasoning and observing faculties more than most medical and other students have been in the habit of doing. During the past session the logical portion of the learned lecturer's course was invariably well attended; and at the examinations the appearances made by the examinees were creditable, while they conclusively proved the utility of teaching young men how they might advantageously