currents of cold wintry air? As for our private patients, of this class we know very well what an *émeute* there would be if we attempted more than the most moderate ventilation under such circumstances as we are considering. If these things be so, do not our hospitals greatly need remodeling? Should not the medical cases be separated into two groups, according as they are likely to be benefited or the reverse by exposure to cold air? I am quite aware that this would involve an increase in the number of nurses, besides changes in the construction of the wards, and so would occasion considerable expense; but if it be true that cold air is to many patients so injurious, as I believe it is, there is nothing for it but to use adequate means to fence them from it. In a perfect system, of course, an abundant supply of artificially-warmed air would be provided, and then the large wards might be retained; but if this be impracticable, as I fear must often be the case, the size of the wards will have to be much reduced, and each provided with a fireplace and Arnott's ventilator, or other contrivance for carrying off the foul air.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
October 28th, 1871. A HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AS JURYMEN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—There is a general impression in our profession that its members are, *virtute officii*, exempt from the annoyance of serving on juries. A paragraph in last week's *Malvern Advertiser* records:—"A question arose as to whether the names of certain medical gentlemen practising in the district, who had not sent in the required claim for exemption, should not be included in the [jury] list, and Sir Henry Lambert [chairman and a barrister] allowed it to be understood that another year that would be done."

In the interests of the medical profession, and as a member of it jealous of its rights, I solicit your opinion, with any references in support of it, in THE LANCET, whether, 1st, Medici are legally liable to be summoned as jurymen; and, if so, whether they are obliged to claim exemption previous to the preparation of jury lists (which should be advertised in the papers in place of being affixed to church doors, where very few observe the lists); or, 2nd, whether the statement in the paragraph is founded on erroneous data. It cannot be held to be the duty of practitioners to serve as jurymen, when the lives, health, and well-being of our patients are imperilled.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
Malvern Link, October 11th, 1871. STANLEY HAYNES, M.D.

* * * The 35th clause of the Medical Act exempts registered practitioners, as previous Acts, and a later one, the Juries Act of 1870, exempt them, from serving on juries. The following is the 35th clause:—"Every person who shall be registered under the provisions of this Act shall be exempt, if he shall so desire, from serving on all juries and inquests whatsoever, and from serving on corporate, parochial, ward, hundred, and township offices, and from serving in the militia; and the name of such person shall not be returned in any list of persons liable to serve in the militia, or in any such office as aforesaid." According to this clause it is illegal to put the names of medical men into the list of jurymen. The law does not contemplate giving them the trouble of claiming exemption. It protects them from the duty in virtue of their calling. In our opinion, Sir Henry Lambert will act without authority if he calls medical men to act as jurymen.—ED. L.

BIRMINGHAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE town of Birmingham has been in a state of anxious suspense as to the result of the deliberations of the Town Council on the important question of the disposal of the sewage. The debate on the report of the Sewage Inquiry Committee, whose recommendations were published in THE

LANCET of the 14th instant, was opened with singular ability by Alderman Avery, the Chairman of that Committee, in a speech of two hours' duration. The discussion was adjourned till the 24th, and the Council sat *de die in diem* until this question was settled. An amendment was moved, recommending the purchase of 2500 acres of land for the disposal, purification, and utilisation of the sewage—a proceeding which means *sewage-farming* on an enormous scale, and at a cost of probably a million of money, instead of the tentative and comparatively inexpensive proposition of the Sewage Inquiry Committee of *sewage purification over a limited area*. The discussion, which was creditable to the judgment and legislative ability of the corporation of Birmingham, ended in the adoption of the Sewage Inquiry Committee's Report.

It is stated that Lord Leigh will lay the foundation stone of the new Out-patient Department of the Queen's Hospital some time during the ensuing month.

The Midland Medical Society held its annual meeting at the Midland Institute on the 11th inst. The secretary's report showed that the Society now numbers eighty-nine fellows and twenty-two members, and the treasurer's showed a balance, after payment of all expenses, of £42. After the usual votes of thanks to the retiring president, Dr. Keyworth, and to the treasurer and secretaries, Mr. James F. West, senior surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, was unanimously elected president for the ensuing year. An interesting discussion may be expected on the 8th of November, when Dr. Lionel Beale, F.R.S., will read a paper "On Contagious Disease-Germs, their Nature and Origin." It has been the custom of the Midland Medical Society to invite to their annual *conversazione* some eminent member of the profession for the purpose of discussing some new question of high scientific interest, and the Society has, during the last two years, had the advantage of hearing papers of great value by Dr. B. W. Richardson, of London, and Professor Norris, of Birmingham. At the present moment, when the germ theory is being so warmly discussed, there is peculiar fitness in the selection of Dr. Beale by the Council, and no subject he could have chosen would probably have greater interest to the profession than that of the nature and origin of contagious disease germs.

Numerous operations have been performed at the hospitals since the opening of the session, it being customary here, as in London, to reserve some for the special instruction and edification of the new alumni. At the General Hospital Mr. Jolly ligatured the superficial femoral for popliteal aneurism, occurring in a young man aged twenty-seven, for whom both digital and mechanical compression had been tried without success. Mr. Jolly performed the operation under the carbolic spray, used a carbolised catgut ligature, and treated the wound according to Prof. Lister's plan. No suppuration has taken place, and, at the end of ten days, the wound is healed, and the tumour, which has become firmly consolidated, is reduced three inches in size. Mr. Bartleet amputated a leg at the knee-joint by Carden's method for an encephaloid growth involving the foot and lower part of the leg in a man aged forty-one. At the Queen's Hospital, Mr. West performed lateral lithotomy in a child aged three, removing a lithic-acid calculus of forty-nine grains. Mr. Gamgee removed a large fatty tumour from the back; and Mr. Furneaux Jordan operated for strabismus and for fistula in ano.

The annual meeting of the Governors of Queen's College has taken place. The report, although mentioning the number of students of the Theological Faculty, is not instructive as to the number of medical students. It contents itself with saying that the entry of students at the beginning of the session 1870-71 was not nearly so large as in October 1869, and that the entry of students for the session now commencing is satisfactory. Precise information on this point, and also on the financial position of the College, would be more generally acceptable. The new students, are said to number 33, of whom 20 have entered for their hospital instruction at the Queen's and 13 at the General Hospital.

The week before last witnessed the opening of the new infirmary at Kidderminster, and last week was notable for the formal throwing open of the "Guest Hospital" at Dudley. The Kidderminster Infirmary, which has been erected from the designs of Mr. Bland, of Birmingham, will accommodate thirty-two patients, and will cost about £10,000, of which