into deep water, but they are important to pathology. I hope that Mr. Mansell Moullin will suggest any line of experiment, and I agree with him that negative evidence, such as that which shows that certain cells will not divide without an auxetic, is difficult to prove outright. But I hesitate to believe that it is impossible, and every effort is being made, and I think should be made, to prove the point one way or the other. It seems improbable that a function like reproduction should have more than one immediate exciting cause.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

The John Howard McFadden Research Fund,
London, S.W., April 17th, 1914.

H. C. ROSS.

INTERNATIONAL ANATOMICAL TERMINOLOGY: A CORRECTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I should be obliged if you could find space to allow me to rectify an unfortunate *lapsus calami* in the "Plea for an International Anatomical Terminology Based upon the B.N.A.," which appeared in the second column of page 1132 of your issue of April 18th. I quote the offending words in italics. "How many of the 'nervi cerebrales' of the B.N.A. are in any sense cerebral? *These nerves are attached to the brain and spinal cord, and they pass to and fro through foramina on the one hand in the cranium, on the other in the spinal column.*" The error must have crept in at the last moment, for a recent manuscript, the only one on which I can now lay hands, reads: "The nerves attached to the brain and spinal cord pass," and so on. This wording was adopted in order to avoid clashing with either the British nomenclature or the B.N.A., for in the former the "cerebro-spinal" nervous system gives off the "cranial" and the "spinal" nerves, whereas in the latter the "cerebral" and the "spinal" nerves are attached to the "central" nervous system. In truth it is not easy to steer a safe course through these terminologies. They are almost as dangerous as the dark rocks of olden time, between which if a man should venture to sail they would crash together and crush his bark to atoms.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

WM. CUTHBERT MORTON.

The University, Leeds, April 18th, 1914.

A GAS INJECTING APPARATUS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In THE LANCET of April 18th there is illustrated under this heading "a new form of apparatus now in use at the Pinewood Sanatorium for injecting nitrogen or oxygen gas into the pleural cavity," and described as a "modification of the Kornmann, simplified."

I should like to warn intending users against the risk to which they will expose their patients. The illustration shows, and the description confirms, that "a large bottle reservoir is placed on a shelf behind, above the level of the top of the gas cylinders, and connected," &c. Measurements show that to displace all the water or fluid by nitrogen or oxygen gas will require a pressure equal to a column of 80 cm. of the fluid used. Thus the gas in the cylinder must be under this pressure, and on turning on the tap to connect with the needle a jet of gas at this pressure is forced through the point of the needle into the cavity or tissues where it may chance to be, and continuing until the pressure equalises, when the bottom tap is turned on and again this pressure is caused, the possible minimum pressure

being the height of the gas cylinders, about 60 cm.—a too dangerous and totally unnecessary pressure for any contingency.

By the use of a cylinder of 29 cm. circumference and 36 cm. in depth holding 2000 c.c. attached to the back of a Kornmann apparatus at a level slightly below that of the gas cylinders in front, and connected to them by a three-way tap, I have an apparatus in use here in which it is impossible to produce a pressure greater than that of a column of 30 cm. of fluid, and with the gas cylinders filled to zero registering a pressure of 20 cm., which is more than sufficient for any purpose, and by the use of a small hand bellows attached to the large cylinder the upper portions of the cylinders are easily emptied of gas at any required pressure.

Murphy has laid great stress on the dangers of gas under pressure, and advises that it should be allowed to pass in only under the negative pressure produced in the chest. I have, however, found it necessary in some cases to produce a positive pressure up to 12 cm., but this is invariably towards the end of the operation, when it would be almost impossible to obtain it with the apparatus shown without refilling, or raising the reservoir as against the simpler use of the hand bellows.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

ALFRED ADAMS, M.D. Liverp., D.P.H.

The Sanatorium, Delamere Forest, April 20th, 1914.

THE WATER-SUPPLY OF TUTICORIN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The inhabitants of Tuticorin, in any event, owe you a deep debt of gratitude for your able and interesting leading article on "Leisurely Tactics at Tuticorin" that appeared in THE LANCET of Feb. 1st, 1913. We were confident that it would certainly awaken the conscience of the local government and that immediate steps would be taken by the latter to redress the long-felt grievance of the inhabitants of this flourishing seaport. But in this we have been disappointed.

The rapid progress made in that branch of sanitary science which deals with the investigations of the causes of diseases enables us to assert authoritatively that the nature and quality of the water used by any community is a matter of vital importance. Is it to be wondered, then, that this unfortunate city should be visited periodically with cholera and other diseases when no provision has been made to give the people a sufficient supply of good drinking water?

The present water-supply of Tuticorin is tapped from the Tampravarni river, the reservoir being at Korampallam, a village about five miles south-west of Tuticorin. This and the tank half a mile away, which directly feeds the several wells of the town, are open, so that the supply is invariably contaminated, and it is not unusual to find all kinds of animal and vegetable filth washed into them. No attempt at purification has ever been made, and, so far as I know, no serious measures have been adopted to prevent the contamination of the wells from which the people draw their water by means of buckets and other similar appliances.

Tuticorin has been recently favoured with a visit from Lord Pentland, the Governor of Madras, to whom we offered a right loyal welcome. We sincerely hoped that his Government was going to grant us a boon by the gift of a good and unfailing water-supply. But his reply to the address presented by the Tuticorin municipality is very