of the pocket-handkerchief but very little, no hard crusts form, and though the usual symptoms of gastric intestinal irritation have been present to a considerable extent, yet up to the present the local manifestation of hay fever has been absent. There has been an occasional fit of sneezing following the irritation of the nasal mucous membrane by a camel-hair brush, but the so-called functional erectile action of the turbinated tissues is far less than it used to be—in fact, it appears as if the sensitive area which produced the sneezing, itching, and watering of the eyes and nose has been destroyed, and with its destruction the distressing train of symptoms known as hay fever. If this be correct, we can now understand the benefit obtained in relieving the symptoms by deadening the sensitive area by cocaine, nitrate of silver, and such like applications, and may be induced to proceed deeper to the entire destruction of the *materies morbi*.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

July 11th, 1887.

J. PERCIVAL HUNT, M.D., F.R.C.S.I.

THE THERAPEUTICAL SOCIETY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It is with much pleasure that I have to report that the suggestion made in your columns *in re* the Therapeutical Society has met with warm approval. I have received none but letters of congratulation and the list of members is filling up rapidly. I hope that by the end of next week a strong and representative executive council will have been formed, and then a circular will be issued to members of the profession giving more details, and supported by names of well-known men, which will carry more weight with it than the one already issued with my signature alone. Arrangements have been already made to print and publish a quarterly therapeutical journal, with probably a weekly supplement, for members only. No subscriptions are due from any present joining members until the first general meeting, and of course no expense will be incurred by any beyond the annual subscription. I write this in answer to many inquiries as to when and to whom subscriptions are to be paid. I have to thank you for the courtesy with which you have allowed me to use your columns and valuable space, and trust that the Society will meet with the approbation of yourselves and numerous readers.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

A. GEORGE BATEMAN,

Acting Hon. Sec.

Longridge-road, S.W., July 11th, 1887.

EAST LONDON HOSPITAL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—My attention having been called to an article in your last number under the heading "Hospital Management," in which it is stated that my resignation of the chairmanship of the East London Hospital for Children and Dispensary for Women was owing to the irregular attendance at the meetings of the Board of Management, I beg to say that I resigned in consequence of finding myself at issue with the Board on the question of the demolition of an existing building and the erection of a new and very expensive out-patient department. It is true that I felt, and still feel, that had there been a full meeting of the committee at which the resolution to which I have adverted was passed, the result might have been different, and, in my opinion, more practical. I deprecated at the late annual meeting of the governors of the charity any and every thing that might be construed as a reflection upon my friend Mr. Norris, to whom the East London Hospital owes so much, and whose retirement from the treasurership would be all but universally regretted.

I am, Sirs, yours obedient servant,

Mayfield, Chislehurst, July 7th, 1887.

THOS. CHARRINGTON.

THE TOWN COUNCIL OF ST. PETERSBURG AND THE MEDICAL SOCIETIES.—The Town Council of St. Petersburg having been requested to grant a piece of ground in Semenoff's-place as a site for a building for the meetings of the various medical societies, as well as for a dispensary for out-patients and for a surgical hospital, has refused to make the grant. The *St. Petersburger Medicinische Wochenschrift* remarks in connexion with this subject that it is not the first time that the municipal authorities have refused a site for a projected hospital which would have been a boon to the inhabitants.

LIVERPOOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

CELLAR DWELLINGS IN LIVERPOOL.

REFERRING to the notice of the Liverpool medical officer of health's annual report in last week's LANCET, it should be stated that the difficulties in abolishing cellar dwellings are very great. These dwellings are clung to with quite as much tenacity as those of "flats" in Scotch towns (which have their sanitary drawbacks), and so long as they are not situated beneath a certain statute level they cannot be pronounced illegal. When times improve and trade revives there will be more encouragement to capitalists to build suitable and sanitary dwellings for the working classes; then the latter will be in a better position to pay increased rents for better accommodation.

INFECTIOUS HOSPITALS ACCOMMODATION.

Referring to the subject of means for isolating fever cases, the difficulties are peculiarly great. Liverpool is more densely populated than any other city, and a larger number of people are compressed into a comparatively small space than elsewhere. Moreover, the distance from any part of the city to a suburban site is considerable, even taking the nearest point, and, unfortunately, the residents in these localities are not at all inclined to welcome an infectious diseases hospital amongst them. The wonder is that the authorities have been able to make so excellent a beginning as they have.

REMOVALS TO MORTUARIES.

During the last year there were fifty-one bodies removed to the mortuaries provided by the Council under justices' orders on the certificate of the medical officer of health. It is greatly to be regretted that those of the lower classes of this city who are limited to two, or it may be even one room, do not avail themselves of the ample opportunities afforded them of removing their dead to the mortuary, instead of keeping them for days in their midst. This unwillingness to have dead bodies removed prevails extensively amongst Roman Catholics, and as speedy burial is not always practicable, it would be a great advantage if their bishops and clergy would publicly encourage such removal.

SANITARY WORK IN LIVERPOOL DURING 1886.

Some idea of the vast amount of work done by the sanitary authorities here may be judged by the following figures:—The medical officer of health had notices of 4539 cases of infectious disease, of which 234 were small-pox, 685 fever, 1747 scarlatina, 1690 measles, and 183 diphtheria. Out of a total of 1147 of the above which were removed to hospital 917 were effected by the sanitary officers. The number of houses disinfected was 2062, and that of privies certified for conversion into waterclosets was 409. As an illustration of the care with which the Adulteration Act has been put in motion, it appears that out of 952 samples submitted for analysis only 9 were found to be unadulterated. Unwholesome meat to the extent of nearly 58 tons and fish exceeding 50 tons in weight were seized and destroyed. The amount of fines and costs was £70; and this is only a small proportion of the work done.

Liverpool, July 12th.

NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

A ROYAL WEEK FOR NEWCASTLE.

THIS is to be a Royal week in Newcastle. To-day the Prince of Wales with his sons is to arrive in our city; he is to stay four days, visiting the Royal Agricultural Society's show, which is held here after a lapse of twenty-four years. The Prince is also to visit the Royal Mining and Engineering Exhibition, and the far-famed Elswick works, with which Lord Armstrong has been so long and honourably associated. On the last occasion of the Royal Society's show, the attendance was enormous (exceeding 114,000, I believe), and it is to be hoped that the present one will be at least as successful. So far, everything promises well. Up to this there has been a large arrival of visitors. The weather, too, is fine, and warm, with a rising barometer.