A.C. under "normal" do not pretend to represent *accurate* measurements of B.C. and A.C.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

D. MATHESON MACKAY, M.D. Edin.,
Late Senior Clinical Assistant, Hospital for Diseases
of the Throat, Golden-square, London, W.

Hull, March 22nd, 1907.

THE INCREASE OF INSANITY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I greatly regret that I should have caused annoyance to Dr. Marr by my suggestion that the difference between the increase among general paralytics in Glasgow and in Edinburgh might be the result of better clinical observation in the latter. For this suggestion I have no ground, but still it is a very difficult thing to believe that it is a fact that the disease increases more in Edinburgh than in Glasgow, and I ought to have put it that it probably was a question of difference of diagnosis. Any way I am certain that the careful examination of patients at Woodilee leaves nothing to be desired.

Yours truly,

Devonshire-place, W., April 9th, 1907.

GEO. H. SAVAGE.

A NATIONAL SCHOOL FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—My attention having been called to a letter by my friend, Dr. M. S. Paterson, of the Frimley Sanatorium, in your issue of March 23rd, *apropos* of an article by Mr. C. H. Garland and myself under the above title, may I be allowed to correct what seems to be a misconception when he infers that our views were based on our visits to Frimley? Our scheme was framed originally in 1903 and 1904 and in the inclosed copy of my interim report as chairman of the Sites and Buildings Subcommittee (p. 7, Fourthly) printed for March 11th, 1904, you will find that our advocacy of the adoption of the system of employing selected patients in sanatoriums—which, by the way, is no new thing—antedated not only our visits to the Brompton Hospital Sanatorium by a few years but also, I believe, the erection and opening and Dr. Paterson's appointment thereto.

The scheme of the National Association for Establishing and Maintaining Sanatoria, for which I have had the honour and pleasure of working continuously since its inception, has been developed almost without modification on the lines laid down in the report quoted. The other medical members referred to therein were Dr. A. P. Hillier and Mrs. Percy Alden, who were both unfortunately obliged to give up this work by other public calls upon them, but not before giving very substantial assistance. Dr. Paterson has achieved a striking piece of organisation and administration, and no one engaged on the development of similar methods on a large scale in England can afford to ignore his demonstration of the possibilities of this work. I wish to take this opportunity, in case our article did not convey our gratitude as sufficiently as it might have done, of thanking Dr. Paterson and his colleagues for enabling Mr. Garland and myself, as well as Dr. L. Crossley, the medical superintendent of our first sanatorium at Benenden, to see what was being done at Frimley.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Brook-street, W., April 2nd, 1907.

THOS. D. LISTER.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION IN PAIGNTON.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have had a copy of your editorial note under the above heading sent to me, and as a resident in Paignton for the past 18 years and recently a member of the urban district council I wish to reply to some points upon which I venture to think you have been misled by the report of the medical officer of health, who has evidently overlooked the fact that the report may come into the hands of those who have no local knowledge.

I will take the case of the supposed disregard of, the by-laws, where it is said that the council is permitting a road 600 feet long to be only 24 feet wide. The report does not state that this is a parish road leading from Paignton to Marldon and having an average width of 13 feet. All the council could compel the adjoining owners to do in the event of houses being erected would be to keep the frontages back 18 feet from the centre of the road. An owner has offered to give a strip of land which would enable

the road to be made 24 feet wide to form a footpath with curb and channel if the council will lay the sewer and ballast and form the new piece of road. The question whether this was a new road within the meaning of the Private Street Works Act was raised at the Local Government Board inquiry and disregarded by the inspector, and the sanction for the loan has been received. The new water scheme referred to by you is an auxiliary scheme for distributing the water to the higher levels of the town. The main water scheme is finished, and the water which has been brought 18 miles from the centre of the moor is now running into the home reservoirs, and the formal opening is fixed for June. The total cost of this portion of the scheme is £120,000, and both Teignmouth and Brixham will be supplied from Paignton. The dispute as to the relative values of the three schemes submitted to the council is purely an engineering question and cannot affect the health of the town in any shape or form, but the fact that the council has decided to leave it in the hands of the engineer, who is responsible for and has carried out the main scheme, would seem to be the right course to have taken.

I consider the statement of your local critic as to illness in the town over-coloured and made upon hearsay evidence. My own son is one of those who are at present suffering from scarlet fever, and the most careful research fails to show how it was contracted or any connexion with the few other cases in Paignton. The question of an additional ward at the hospital should be considered to overcome any future difficulty caused by the wards being occupied by enteric cases, but I believe the fact that the hospital is empty for months at a time could easily be proved. Your correspondent has omitted to point out that last summer a large sum was spent on the outfall of the sewer, that a break was located and mended, and the sewer was carried 250 feet farther out to sea. With regard to the water, I can only say that I have never had to boil it and my Pasteur filter shows no trace or indication of any organic matter being contained in the water.

With regard to the infantile death-rate, it should be considered that the wealthy class in Paignton are largely people who come here after retiring from the army, navy, or business, and are therefore for the most part past middle life. It follows that by far the larger number of births are among the artisans and labouring classes amongst whom the rate is always high.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Paignton, April 4th, 1907.

W. PIERPOINT ROBERTS.

EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have seen in THE LANCET of March 23rd an article on the subject of the forthcoming International Red Cross Conference. The statements it contains require correction. In regard to no official intimation of the conference having been given, an official notice was sent to you and was published in THE LANCET on Feb. 16th. It was also extensively circulated throughout the press of the country. I inclose a fresh copy of this notice which fully states who are responsible for the arrangements and where the meetings will be held. Further than this, you had on Feb. 2nd already published an article giving the same information, and in regard to the exhibition we advertised it in THE LANCET of, I believe, Feb. 9th.

I may add that all the Central Red Cross Societies who are entitled to send delegates to the Conference have been made fully acquainted with the manner in which it has to be conducted, that having been prescribed at the last conference at St. Petersburg in 1902.

In reference to your general remarks about this society perhaps you will allow me to send the inclosed pamphlet which explains its scope and origin. I shall have much pleasure at any time in providing you with the fullest information should you give me the opportunity, and I think you will find that the Conference will be conducted in every way in a manner worthy of the occasion.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

(Signed) J. DANVERS POWER,

Chairman, Conference Committee.

British Red Cross Society, 9, Victoria-street, London, S.W.,
March 27th, 1907.

* * We regret to have been misled with regard to the steps taken by the Red Cross Society for giving publicity to the Conference of 1907. We refer our readers to an editorial article in THE LANCET of Feb. 2nd, p. 311.—ED. L.