years past it has been my desire to try the effect of the oil obtained from the pilchard as a substitute for cod-liver oil and in October, 1903, I asked Mr. Peck, the dispenser of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond-street, if he could obtain a sample of such oil. When the oil was first obtained I was informed that it could not be taken internally and on inquiry as to the reason I was informed "that a mistake had been made and that it could be taken internally and, in fact, was given to children in Cornwall as a substitute for cod-liver oil." I have not verified this statement. Having procured the oil it was necessary first to find out if the oil possessed any toxic properties and for this purpose I took some of the crude oil and also an emulsion which was prepared for me by the dispenser. I cannot say that either the crude oil or the emulsion was pleasant to take, but I do not think, if my memory serves me, that the taste was worse than the older preparations of cod-liver oil. Certainly no unpleasant symptoms resulted saving the "repeat" which may, in certain individuals, occur with any form of cod-liver oil.

I then selected cases both from among the out-patients and in-patients to try the effect of the oil. I may say at once that some children, generally the younger ones, took it fairly well but it was resented by the older children who complained that "it was nasty and repeated." The sister and nurses also said that the children would not take it as readily as they would cod-liver oil. I then asked the dispenser if he could obtain a better and more refined sample of this oil and this he succeeded in doing. I tried this sample and certainly in appearance, smell, and taste it was preferable to the original sample. It made a good emulsion and I found the children took this much better. I may say that for the last six months I have had this oil in constant use, both in out-patient and in-patient practice, and have used it in all cases in which I considered cod-liver oil was indicated. The children who have taken it have, as a rule, done well and gained weight. Some children would not take it but I do not think this happened in any greater proportion of cases than occurs with cod-liver oil. Neither among the children in the wards nor among those in the out-patients have I seen any bad symptoms which could be attributed to the "detrimental qualities of fish oil" and I consider the preparation quite as beneficial as the oil obtained from the cod. It is almost unnecessary to add that the oil is not prescribed as *oleum morrhue* but as *oleum clupeæ*, the name being derived from the family of the pisces clupeidæ to which the pilchard belongs.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

FREDERICK E. BATTEN,
Assistant Physician to the Hospital for Sick
Children, Great Ormond-street.

May 9th, 1904.

THE METROPOLITAN STREET AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May I be permitted so far to correct the account of the meeting of the Metropolitan Street Ambulance Association which appears in THE LANCET of May 7th as to say that the remarks attributed to "Dr. F. W. Cock" on the subject of the New York ambulance system were really made by

Yours very faithfully,

E. MARION COX, M.D., L.S.A.

Curzon-street, W., May 9th, 1904.

REMOVAL OF THE OVARIES FOR INOPERABLE CANCER WITHOUT EFFECT.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It is of great importance that all cases of removal of the ovaries for inoperable cancer should be recorded with a view to establishing the value of this operation.

Early in June, 1903, a woman, aged 43 years, consulted me concerning a swelling in her breast which she had had for some months. It was a well-advanced scirrhus of the left breast. I admitted her into hospital on June 12th and next day removed the breast, cleared out the axilla as thoroughly as it could be done, and gave her thyroid gland for some months. She left the hospital on July 1st, 1903, in good health, though I feared that I

should have her return some day as the cancer was so far advanced before operation.

On Jan. 8th, 1904, she returned with many nodules along the cicatrix. I readmitted her into hospital, explained the state of the case to her, and with her consent on Jan. 9th removed the ovaries as her menstrual functions were perfectly regular, and again gave her thyroid gland. I also used the Roentgen rays twice a week. She left the hospital on Feb. 4th well in herself and living in hope that the operation would cure her cancer. I could never see (although she attended the hospital regularly as an out-patient and continued her thyroid gland) that the operation made any impression in even retarding the growth of the cancer and on April 21st, 1904, she died.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Rugby, May 9th, 1904.

CLEMENT DUKES.

THE ASSOCIATION OF DIPLOMATES OF THE ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May I ask you for space in THE LANCET to state that the general meeting of the above association will be held at 20, Hanover-square, London, W., on Thursday, May 19th, at 4 P.M. Circulars are being sent to diplomates in London and the provinces but as some may not receive them will they kindly accept this as an invitation to attend?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

C. ST. AUBYN-FARRER,

Westbourne Park-road, W., May 10th, 1904.

President.

SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL SURGEONS' FOURTH ANNUAL DINNER.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May I call attention in your columns to the above dinner which will take place on Tuesday, June 28th, at the Hotel Cecil at 7.30 P.M.? Mr. G. H. Makins, C.B., will take the chair. As the addresses of those who served in the war are frequently changing I take this opportunity of catching the civil surgeon's eye. Reply cards will be sent out to all whose names and addresses are at my disposal and I shall be glad to hear as soon as possible from those who intend to be present. Tickets (price 10s. 6d.) should be paid for at the dinner. There will be a plan of the table in the reception room and those dining can thereby secure seats to suit their convenience beforehand. Miniature medals and decorations should be worn and guests are welcome.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

44, Welbeck-street, W., May 11th, 1904. C. GORDON WATSON

CASE OF ECLAMPSIA WITH TWINS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Mr. A. H. Haines's case of eclampsia in THE LANCET of April 9th, p. 1017, reminds me of a case I attended some time back. The patient was a primipara, aged 21 years. On my arrival at the house I found her in convulsions which had been going on for eight hours. I prescribed bromide and chloral and sought the assistance of a friend, Mr. C. H. Thackrah of Halifax, and on our arrival at the house we found the convulsions were in no way abated by the drugs. After a short consultation we decided to empty the uterus under chloroform. The anæsthetic was taken well and when the patient was well under the os was dilated by digital means, the membranes were ruptured, and the forceps was applied to the presenting head. The child was a very small one and was easily delivered, but on placing my hand on the abdomen to follow down the uterus I found another child in the womb. My friend examined and found the presentation to be the right shoulder. A little more chloroform was used and he had no difficulty in getting hold of a leg and turning, delivery being very easy. The placenta were separate, both children were born alive and lived. There was a good deal of post-partum hæmorrhage, but with external kneading of the abdomen the uterus was kept well contracted and no further hæmorrhage occurred. The patient got on very well until about the twelfth day when she complained of pain in the left groin and calf. Her temperature was 102° F. and the leg