Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE CHOLERA CASES IN LONDON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I forward a brief account of two cases of Asiatic cholera which have just come under my notice. I trust the importance of the subject will be a sufficient apology for encroaching on your valuable space.

On Monday, 28th inst., at 7 A.M., I was hastily summoned to a lodging-house in this neighbourhood to see a man who it was stated was dying. On my arrival I found the house crowded with Danish emigrants who had disembarked that very morning. I was subsequently informed they are on their way to New Zealand. The man, a labourer aged about 45, was lying on a bench seemingly in great agony. The features were pinched and the hands firmly contracted. The surface of the body was icy cold and covered with a clammy perspiration; pulse imperceptible; vomiting incessant; no abdominal tenderness; pain referred to the transverse colon. He was at once conveyed to bed. Large mustard plasters applied to stomach and hot water to feet. Chlorodyne and brandy administered. Shortly after I was enabled to examine the stools, which presented the characteristic rice-water appearance.

Whilst attending to the man I was informed that a little girl aged nine (and who till within the last few minutes had been playing with her companions) was suddenly seized with symptoms of a similar character. On going down stairs I found her lying on the floor in a state of collapse, with her legs drawn up, and evidently suffering from violent colicky pains. She was taken upstairs and the same treatment adopted.

I was then obliged to leave. On my return I found a considerable amelioration in the man. The pain had subsided with the exception of cramps in the legs, which came on every now and then. He was now principally tormented with thirst, which no amount of liquid seemed to quench. Pulse risen, and warmth in some measure restored. Temp. 94°. Bark and ammonia prescribed. Since then he has been progressing most favourably.

The girl grew rapidly worse. In a short time the body became perfectly cold; the hands contracted, the finger nails assuming a bluish tinge; temp. 93°. In this case there was no vomiting and very little diarrhoea. The colicky pains which marked the outset of the disease had apparently subsided, and with the exception of slight moaning there was no expression of suffering. The pulse gradually became imperceptible, and she finally expired at 2.30 P.M., seven and a half hours after the first seizure.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Minories, July 29, 1873.

RICHARD HOLT, M.D.

P.S.—I sent a report of the case to the medical officers of the Privy Council. These gentlemen called upon me this morning and are now engaged in investigating the case.

DR. PARKES'S MANUAL OF HYGIENE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The very kind notification in last week's LANCET of the issue of the fourth edition of my Manual of Hygiene encourages me to hope you will allow me a few lines to correct an error at page 641. The deaths from cholera in 1867 at Umballa (lines 12 to 16) are wrongly given: they should be—21st Hussars, 2; 94th Regt., 18; Battery R.H.A., none; Battery R.H.A., 1. The numbers were taken from Dr. Bryden's elaborate tables in his work entitled "Vital Statistics of the Bengal Presidency," a work alike admirable for the industry with which the statistics are collected and for the skill with which they are arranged. After much study of this large book, I can truly say I have hardly ever seen one so free from errors. Unfortunately, however, the sixteenth table of the year 1867 has in some way been wrongly folded, and two pages have been transposed. In copying the numbers I did not notice this displacement, which I ought to have done, as it is quite obvious, and

hence the mistake which I now ask you to allow me to rectify. I have cancelled the page in all the copies not yet bound, and have altered it in ink in the copies bound but not sold. A large number (unfortunately as regards this point) have been sold, and, as the error is an important one, I ask to have the advantage of your large circulation to notify the true numbers to those who have already purchased the work.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley,
July, 1873.

E. A. PARKES.

EXTRA-UTERINE FETATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, being deservedly an authority on all matters relating to ovariectomy, can scarcely say anything regarding the operation which is not likely to carry weight and to be well founded. I should be glad, therefore, if you would allow me to ask him why, in the case published by him in last Saturday's LANCET, when there were all the indications of severe inflammatory action, after tapping what he believed was an ovarian tumour, he did not make an attempt to remove that tumour immediately on the accession of the serious symptoms. To me it seems that the removal of a cyst in which suppuration has been induced, or which has excited peritonitis, is the accepted practice, and I am sure all ovariectomists would be glad to know if Mr. Hutchinson has any ground of objection to it.

In Mr. Hutchinson's case I do not think anyone could have made a more accurate diagnosis, unless the tapping had been completed and the pelvis subsequently examined, as is usually done after exploratoryappings. But I think it is much to be regretted that Mr. Hutchinson should lend his authoritative support to the do-nothing treatment of so risky a condition as extra-uterine gestation, the more so as all authors since 1860 have advocated just the opposite course, and the performance of the operation on the principles laid down by Kœberlé reduces its risks to within the ordinary mortality of simple abdominal section. All the four cases already published where Kœberlé's practice has been followed have been successful, and the statistics given by Mr. Hutchinson of recovery after discharge of the foetus by suppuration give about as accurate an idea of the number who have not so recovered as would an inspection of the Army List of 1817 tell us how many men had previously fallen in the Continental wars in which we had been engaged.

I further wish Mr. Hutchinson would tell us on what grounds he regards his case as one of tubal pregnancy which had advanced to the full time. "The uterus was pushed over to the right side and was in close connexion with the walls of the cyst; the left Fallopian tube could be traced for a short distance on the front of the cyst, where it became thinned out and lost," are facts which seem to me to show that his case was one of the ordinary kind—namely, the result of the rupture of the tube at an early stage of pregnancy, when it was really a Fallopian pregnancy, and the subsequent development of the ovum in the retro-uterine cul-de-sac. I have satisfied myself that not a single instance of the so-called Fallopian pregnancies at the full term, recorded in literature to which I have access, really deserves the name.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Birmingham, July 22, 1873.

LAWSON TAIT.

VACCINATION AWARDS OR GRANTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Your journal has of late teemed with correspondence on the above head, and no subject requires more ventilation, nor any Act more reformation, than the Vaccination Act, especially as regards the medical men, who, in this, as in most other matters, is made the stalking-horse, or only man called upon to do something for nothing, or a good deal for a little.

Perhaps in a sanitary and national point of view the Act is more efficient than heretofore, but it puts an extra strain upon the medical officer, who, *volens volens*, is con-