ventricle, is to stretch the chordæ tendinæ and pull down the auriculo-ventricular curtains, and this in spite of the shortening of the longitudinal diameter of the ventricle admitted by most writers. The muscoli papillares of the left ventricle are placed in such a way that they fit into one another and fill up the left part of the ventricular cavity. In contracting they pull the two flaps of the mitral to the left, applying them one against the other and against the wall of the ventricle. In the right ventricle the papillary muscles apply the flaps of the tricuspid to the surface of the partition. Without comment, which is unnecessary, I will ask you kindly to insert this in an early issue of your widely-read journal, and oblige,

Yours faithfully,

Inverness-gardens, W.

G. COCKBURN SMITH.

"AN UNUSUAL RESULT OF ABORTION."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Dr. Purslow's case of abortion, in which the foetus was embedded in the unruptured amnion only, is interesting from its rarity. This peculiar result (brought about by the rupture of the external membranes and of the funis at the site of its attachment to the placenta) has been observed and recorded on several occasions. A similar case will be found in the *Obstetrical Transactions*, vol. xxxiii., p. 462, recorded by the late Dr. Graily Hewitt, with an excellent drawing by Mr. Lawrence, the Curator of University College Museum; also a reference to a case by Dr. Herman and by Smellie. Dr. Winkel has also published an observation of the same kind, with a drawing, in his *Text-book of Midwifery*.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Mansfield-street, W., Feb. 12th, 1897. HERBERT R. SPENCER.

"THE GLANDULAR FEVER OF CHILDHOOD."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Having had five of my children ill with the above fever I read with interest Dr. Dawson Williams's paper on the subject in *THE LANCET* of Jan. 16th. I will not go over the ground already traversed by Dr. Williams, as I can endorse most of what he says. I do not, however, find that either the author or those who have written since the date of the paper refer to a complication which occurred in four out of five of my own cases—namely, epistaxis. The youngest child, aged three and a half years, bled from the nose one night to such an extent as to seriously imperil life, and the others bled pretty freely. I also observed that although the fever rose in two of the cases to 104° F. there was neither delirium nor vomiting. When convalescence fairly set in the appetite was voracious, and the recovery has in all cases been complete. It is worthy of note that the first case occurred during a visit to an obscure part of South Wales. A word as to treatment. The severe pain in the neck was relieved by lint smeared with extract of belladonna and glycerine. When this failed lint soaked with tincture of opium and water (1 to 4) and covered with oiled silk always eased the pain. The only drug which appeared to be of any avail was salicin in from three-grain to five-grain doses every four hours. One grain of calomel occasionally, always did good. Grapes were given freely when the pain in the neck allowed of swallowing, and, if anything, they relieved the abdominal pain.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Weymouth-street, W., Feb. 10th, 1897. CHAS. W. CHAPMAN.

ANTI-VIVISECTIONIST TACTICS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The death of the great specialist, Sir Spencer Wells, who certainly did not attain his unrivalled skill as an operator—a skill which has prolonged life and restored health in innumerable cases—without resort to vivisection, seems a fitting opportunity for calling attention to the renewal of the unscrupulous attempts of the anti-vivisectionists to blast the reputation of the medical profession and to ruin the hospitals. Twice within the past month I have

been called upon—once by a man, apparently a paid agent, and once by two young ladies, who have probably allowed sentiment to obscure reason, canvassing from house to house for signatures to a petition insidiously represented as "for securing kindness to animals," but which is only the old anti-vivisection petition accompanied by literature of exaggerated virulence. I enclose the leaflet left by the canvassers and ask whether something ought not to be done to check this wholesale slanderous vituperation?

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Feb. 9th, 1897.

A. W. BUCKLAND.

CASE OF DERMATITIS DUE TO WEARING A FUR COLLARETTE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—As some attention is being drawn to the eruption caused by fur the following case may be of interest. A young woman, who had never been subject to eczema, consulted me in November last as to a rash on her neck. The eruption was about two inches broad, extending, but for a few inches in front completely round the neck and even on to the lower part of the cheeks. There was less behind than at the sides, the eruption being particularly marked on the thin skin over and just posterior to the sterno-mastoids. It consisted of fine discrete papules, intensely irritable, scattered more closely toward the centre, and fading off toward the edge of the eruptive band. It appeared that the woman had recently purchased a fur collarette, and on this lay my suspicions. I requested her to desist from wearing it till it had been subjected to steam cleaning, as I thought then that the eruption was caused by some poisonous dressing. The fur was accordingly steamed and afterwards worn; but the eruption showing no signs of abatement I obtained a piece of the fur in order to make a minute examination of the hairs. I found that the fur was composed for the most part of short, even-lengthed hairs of extreme tenuity, but scattered among them were long, bristle-like hairs which seem absent in good young pelts. These hairs split and fracture very easily, the points of such fractured hairs being extremely sharp and almost horny. It is, therefore reasonable to presume that when pressed in contact with the thin skin of the neck the bristly hairs penetrating the cutis break off and thus give rise to the eruption. I venture to send you a specimen of the fur and a few bristles mounted for the microscope to demonstrate the fractured ends.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Kensington, W.

E. A. B.

*** We may point out that the above conclusions of our correspondent are similar to those we published in the columns of *THE LANCET* a fortnight ago—conclusions which were based on experimental results with a specimen of both an irritating and a non-irritating fur collarette. At the same time we established the absence of chemical irritants.—ED. L.

THE CANTONMENT AT QUETTA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

WHETHER the poison which causes enteric fever and other allied affections be animal, vegetable, or mineral, and whether its habitat be aquatic, aerial, or telluric, the importance of a clean wholesome site for a dwelling must be admitted by all theorists. No conscientious builder would construct a house over an unemptied cess-pit, and yet this is precisely what was done when the present cantonment at Quetta was founded.

During the last war in Southern Afghanistan a great camp grew up by degrees round a remarkable tumulus-like mound known as the "Miri," which is situated in the centre of a spacious alluvial plane at the northern outlet of the Bolan pass. From time immemorial the site had been the regular halting-place for caravans between Kandahar and India, and it is no exaggeration to say that the subsoil was everywhere saturated with noxious organic matter. That, under the circumstances, the troops and followers should suffer severely from diarrhoea, dysentery, enteric fever, and pneumonia was