eserine distilled, the eye is dressed with an ointment containing 1 per cent. of benzoate of mercury spread on linen, over which pads of wadding are placed, the whole being kept in place by a bandage in the usual way. The first change of dressing is made in twenty-four hours, cure being effected in about seven days.

I remain, Sir, yours truly,
CHARLES H. PIESSE, M.R.C.S.

January, 1886.

THE TREATMENT OF PERTUSSIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Mr. F. W. Cory has done good service in adding his testimony to the use of carbolic acid in whooping-cough; but, from the tone of his communication which appeared in your issue of last week, he seems to have overlooked all previous evidence, as well as the fact of carbolic acid having been in general use in that complaint for several years. In the year 1875, Dr. R. J. Lee, speaking at a meeting of the British Medical Association held in Edinburgh, advocated the use of carbolic acid vapour in whooping-cough. In the same year, Dr. Burchardt, lecturer at the University of Berlin, and Dr. Rugg, of Clapham-road, wrote to the *British Medical Journal* advocating the use of carbolic acid vapour. In THE LANCET of July 13th, 1878, I recorded several cases which resisted every remedy but carbolic acid given internally and deposited about the house, under which the malady rapidly subsided. Whether this was the first public announcement of the internal use of carbolic acid in whooping-cough I am not in a position to state. The above methods of treatment are quoted in Dr. W. H. Day's work on "Diseases of Children," published in 1881; also in Squire's "Companion to the British Pharmacopoeia."

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Aberystwith, Jan. 11th, 1886.

T. D. HARRIES, F.R.C.S.

LADY PROBATIONERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As lady probationers are now to be found in most of our general and children's hospitals, I very much wish to learn, through your columns, how their hours of day and night duty are arranged, as I know of an instance in a provincial hospital where they are at the earliest period of their training placed upon night duty continuously for seven and eight weeks at a time, possibly as a trial of their strength and powers of endurance, and undoubtedly prejudicial to their health, as it is more than any trained sick nurse is allowed to do when employed in private houses. If the intention be to disgust these young ladies at an early period, no better means could be suggested; and should they fall sick or fail in their duties during such a term of trial, neither matron nor staff can be surprised at it. Having once been a hospital surgeon myself, I was always most careful that my nurses' strength should not be overtaxed in order that my patients, equally with themselves, should not suffer.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

January, 1886.

AN OLD HOSPITAL SURGEON.

* * Our correspondent's inquiry is very important, and will, we trust, receive satisfactory replies. It is to be hoped that the practice he cites as obtaining in a provincial hospital is exceptional. It certainly is most culpable.—ED. L.

THE BLACKWATER VALLEY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reference to your annotation in THE LANCET of Jan. 2nd, concerning the Blackwater Valley, I can inform you that the Hartley Wintney Sanitary Authority, in whose district much of the southern side of the river lies, have long been making efforts to have the river cleansed. More than a year ago we tried to have the work done at the expense of the riparian owners on either side of the river. In the Hartley Wintney Union, as well as in the Farnham Union, which contains Aldershot, the consent of all the riparian owners had been obtained, but the scheme fell through by the difficulties raised by owners in the Finchampstead Union. Attempts are now being made to force the three authorities to combine in this most necessary work. At the

same time, I think this is a subject of far more than local interest, and ought to be taken up as an Imperial work, affecting as it does the Camp at Aldershot, the Military Colleges, and the Broadmoor Asylum.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
AN EX-OFFICIO GUARDIAN OF THE HARTLEY
WINTNEY UNION.

Blackwater, Jan. 13th, 1886.

LIVERPOOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

HOSPITAL SUNDAY.

LAST Sunday, being the second Sunday in the new year, was, as usual, observed as Hospital Sunday, being its sixteenth anniversary in Liverpool. A more unfavourable day, so far as the weather was concerned, could hardly have been imagined, and yet it is a most gratifying circumstance that the collections show in many cases an increase over those of last year. It is probable that the total sum raised will be greater than that of last year, the Hospital Saturday Fund showing an increasing tendency, while there is a general impression that the long depression in trade is giving way to a more hopeful state of things, of which the hospitals will, it is believed, reap the benefit.

WAKES AND THE SPREAD OF SMALL-POX.

Liverpool contains, as is well known, a very large proportion of Irish poor, and, in spite of all the efforts of the Roman Catholic clergy, the disgusting and drunken revels, falsely called "wakes," still continue to be a scandal to the city and a fruitful source, in many instances, of contagion being spread. Last week a man and his wife were summoned before the stipendiary magistrate, under Section 126 of the Public Health Act, for exposing a child suffering from infectious disease. It appeared that Dr. Hope, the assistant medical officer of health, visited the defendant's house, and there saw the body of a child who had died from small-pox. In the house at the same time was another child, four years of age, who was also suffering from the same disease. Dr. Hope informed the mother and other relatives of the nature of the disease, and recommended the removal of the child to the hospital; instead of which, the child was taken away to some other house, and could not be found for some time, when it was sent to the small-pox hospital. Dr. Hope stated that ten cases of small-pox had occurred among the relatives of the family, which had been traced to the house of the defendants, and round the body of the dead child a crowd of persons were indulging in a "wake." Neither of the children had been vaccinated, and it was in order to avoid a prosecution that the child had been removed. The deceased child had no medical attendance, and was in a frightful state, and the parents tried to persuade the coroner that it had died of measles. The magistrate expressed his wonder that people who ought to know better, and even members of Parliament, could be found to support the system of non-vaccination. The mother was fined 40s. and costs, and, being unable to pay, was sent to gaol for fourteen days; the summons against her husband was dismissed. It is hoped that this case will act as a warning, as wakes on the victims of small-pox are now illegal.

Liverpool, Jan. 13th.

NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE LATE ELECTION FOR CORONER.

THE late election for coroner by the Newcastle Council did not turn on the question of eligibility of a medical candidate for the office; but Mr. Newton found out before he retired that the feeling of the Council was very strong as to the office being given to Mr. Hoyle, son of the late coroner, who had acted as his father's deputy for many years. The question of medical or legal candidate was discussed very fully in our local newspapers, and of course with varied views. The *Newcastle Chronicle*, however, one of our