information which, if supplied, would, I venture to think, be of general interest. We should all, I am sure, be glad to learn how many of these small-pox cases had been subject to vaccination and also to what extent that operation had been carried out. So much unreasoning scepticism exists as to the value of vaccination that these outbreaks may be regarded, although ignorantly, as a proof of its inutilty. Surely, therefore, it would be well if, during the outbreak itself, it could be shown, as there is little doubt it could, that numbers of the patients had never been vaccinated at all and that many others had only been very imperfectly protected, or, in other words, that only one or two vaccine marks were present. It may be said that this question has already been settled beyond dispute; but, in view of the circumstance that fresh attacks on vaccination are being made continually, it is surely advisable that fresh and indisputable facts should also be brought forward continually in order to show the fallacy, the ignorance, or the prejudice which underlies all such attacks. These outbreaks seem to offer excellent opportunities for doing so, as, for obvious reasons, it is better that evidence should be adduced from public and official rather than from private sources.

Oct. 31st, 1893.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

I. W. AGNEW.

CHLOROBROM IN PERSISTENT VOMITING NOT ARISING FROM SEA-SICKNESS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The following case is of interest as demonstrating the value of chlorobrom as a remedy in conditions of vomiting arising from causes other than sea-sickness. A woman who was suffering from mental worries had taken little or no solid food for a fortnight and had been drinking wines and spirits freely. At the end of this time persistent vomiting set in, the stomach rejecting everything taken almost immediately it was swallowed. A medical man who then saw her (according to the patient's statement) gave her a sedative draught and told her to abstain from all solid food and simply drink stout freely. These directions she followed, with the result that the vomiting continued unabated, and she became so excited, with a tendency to delirium, that two trained nurses were procured to attend upon her. She had had an attack of delirium tremens about three months previously. At my first visit (forty-eight hours after the commencement of the vomiting) I found the patient in bed, tossing about and talking excitedly, retching violently every few minutes, and each time bringing up a little watery mucus slightly tinged green. The expression of her countenance was anxious, the skin was pale and clammy, and the tongue was pale and indented by the teeth at the edges, as well as being furred brown in the centre. The temperature was 100° F. and the pulse 100, very weak and thready. She complained of great thirst and of acute pain in the left ovarian region, which I found on examination was tense and very tender on pressure. The menses had appeared a few days before the proper date, and the loss was very free. The bowels had acted several times freely, the evacuations being loose and dark. The urine was large in quantity and high-coloured, with deposit of lithates. I ordered warm water to be drunk freely to relieve the retching, and a sinapism to be applied over the left ovarian region and followed by an application of belladonna extract rubbed up with glycerine. On seeing her again a few hours later I found her to be freer from pain, but the vomiting continued, though less violent; she had taken some milk and also some meat extract, but they were immediately returned. As the condition reminded me very much of the later stage of sea-sickness, and the ovarian irritation was also a possible additional cause of the vomiting through reflex action, I determined to try the effect of chlorobrom and gave her a small dose of it (twenty minims) in water, instructing the nurse to repeat the dose in an hour's time. On visiting the patient the next morning I found her to be altogether better; the vomiting became less frequent after the second dose of the chlorobrom, after the third dose she went nearly four hours without retching, and in the meantime had taken and kept down several spoonfuls of meat extract and of milk. A fourth dose was given, and from that time the vomiting entirely ceased; with careful feeding the patient was practically well in three days' time and partaking freely of light and easily digested foods.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

J. ALFRED MASTERS, M.D. Durh., M.R.C.P. Lond.
Kensington, W., Oct. 31st, 1893.

ETIOLOGY OF ALOPECIA AREATA PARASITICA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—When shall we arrive at the true etiology of alopecia areata parasitica? A new theory is being promulgated that the disease is due to "an attenuated form of parasite after true ringworm." Is this possible? Those dermatologists who have studied the disease for years microscopically and have and are devoting their attention to the cultivation of the "bacillus trichophyton" cannot possibly accept this theory. No doubt alopecia areata parasitica—and I say parasitica as there are other forms of alopecia areata due to innervation and topical nerve disturbances—is of the same class, but it is not of the same variety, as cultivation researches will readily show. How is it that we so often see alopecia areata parasitica in the adult and so comparatively seldom in the child, and *vice versa*? How often we see tinea trichophyton in the child and so seldom in the adult. The objective symptoms are certainly almost distinctive and diagnostic to those of us who have seen much of this affection.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Harley-street, W., Nov. 7th, 1893.

JAMES STARTIN.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I shall be glad if you will permit me to correct a slight error in your report of what I said at the Royal College of Surgeons, by stating that the paper by Mr. Holmes in the *Medical Magazine* on a Teaching University for London, to which I referred, was published, not twelve years ago, as your report has it, but less than twelve months ago—namely, in the number of that magazine for last December.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Dulwich-grove, S.E., Nov. 7th, 1893.

H. NELSON HARDY.

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Hospital Sunday and Saturday Annual Meeting.

THE annual meeting of the supporters of the Hospital Sunday and Saturday Fund was held at the Town-hall on the 6th inst. The report of the committee showed that there was a slight falling-off in the total amount of the Sunday collections this year. The weather last Hospital Sunday (Jan. 8th) was of the most wintry and inclement description, having a very marked effect upon the attendance at church and chapel; but it shows the hold which Hospital Sunday has on the public that the collections, even on that very inclement Sunday, amounted to £6211. On only three occasions within the last twenty-three years has it been less, and it may be safely asserted that for no other objects except hospitals and medical charities would such a sum be raised annually. The Hospital Saturday Fund showed an increase, the total being £4470.

Exhumation of Dead Bodies at Kirkdale Gaol.

It was not until 1835 that Liverpool became an assize town. From that year until very recently all executions took place at Kirkdale, outside or inside the building first known as the House of Correction, next as the Gaol, and lastly as Her Majesty's Prison, Kirkdale. It having been disestablished, and the buildings now being in process of demolition, it became necessary to deal with the portion of ground in which were buried the remains of all those who had been executed within the period of between fifty and sixty years during which the gaol was used for this purpose. As is well known, the mode of burial adopted with the bodies of executed criminals is the most perfect of any. A thin shell is used which is partly filled with quicklime. This latter is also mixed with the earth around the coffin, and the burial takes place within a few hours after death. Consequently the remains were few and were reduced to skeletons even in the case of those executed within recent years. But it was manifestly proper to remove the earth in which all these remains rested to some burial ground for decency's sake and to avoid the scandal and alarm of any future discovery. They