seven in Paisley, five in Dundee, three in Edinburgh, and three in Aberdeen. The deaths from measles, which had risen from 17 to 24 in the three preceding weeks, declined again to 19 last week, and included 14 in Glasgow and four in Edinburgh. The fatal cases of whooping-cough, which had been 22 and nine in the two preceding weeks, rose again last week to 12, of which nine were registered in Glasgow and two in Greenock. The deaths referred to different forms of "fever," which had been 11 and six in the two preceding weeks, rose again to 11 last week and included six in Glasgow and four in Edinburgh. The fatal cases of diphtheria, which had been four, six, and one in the three preceding weeks, rose again last week to five. The deaths from small-pox, which had been two in each of the two preceding weeks, were again two last week, and were both registered in Glasgow. The deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs in these towns, which had been 80 and 67 in the two preceding weeks, increased again to 73 last week, and were 21 in excess of the number in the corresponding period of last year. The causes of 30, or nearly 6 per cent., of the deaths in these eight towns last week were not certified.

HEALTH OF DUBLIN.

The death-rate in Dublin, which had been 23.4 and 18.3 per 1000 in the two preceding weeks, rose again to 24.0 during the week ending August 4th. During the past four weeks the death-rate in the city has averaged 21.0 per 1000, the rate during the same period being 17.9 in London and 17.1 in Edinburgh. The 161 deaths belonging to Dublin registered during the week under notice were 38 in excess of the number in the preceding week, and included 14 which were referred to the principal zymotic diseases, against eight, 13, and five in the three preceding weeks; of these, nine resulted from diarrhoea, three from whooping-cough, two from "fever," and not one either from small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, or diphtheria. These 14 deaths were equal to an annual rate of 2.1 per 1000, the zymotic death-rate during the same period being 5.7 in London and 2.2 in Edinburgh. The deaths referred to diarrhoea, which had been four in each of the two preceding weeks, increased to nine last week. The 161 deaths in Dublin last week included 33 of infants under one year of age and 43 of persons aged upwards of 60 years; the deaths both of infants and of elderly persons showed a considerable excess over the numbers recorded in the preceding week. Eight inquest cases and four deaths from violence were registered; and 59, or more than a third, of the deaths occurred in public institutions. The causes of six, or nearly 4 per cent., of the deaths in the city last week were not certified.

THE SERVICES.

ROYAL NAVY MEDICAL SERVICE.

The following appointments are notified:—Surgeons: Hugh P. Turnbull to the *Duke of Wellington*; Edward T. P. Eames to assist Board of Medical Officers in examination of candidates for commissions in Royal Marines; and Malcolm Cameron to the *Northampton* for *Cleopatra*.

ROYAL HORSE GUARDS.

Surgeon-Captain Hugh Rayner to be Surgeon-Major, in succession to Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Forrester, deceased.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

The undermentioned Lieutenants to be Captains: Stevenson Lyle Cummins, Joseph McArdle, Charles Hensley Hopkins, Lewis Julius Christopher Hearn, Peter McKessack, John McDonald McCarthy, Ernest Brodribb, John Poe, Henry Lawrence Weekes Norrington, Hamilton George Frampton Stallard, Robert Dalkeith Jephson, and Arthur Winniett Nunn Bowen. Lieutenant-Colonel Abraham Walker Browne is placed on temporary half-pay on account of ill-health.

VOLUNTEER CORPS.

Royal Engineers: 2nd West Riding of Yorkshire (Leeds): Surgeon-Lieutenant H. Waite to be Surgeon-Captain. *Rifle*:

5th Volunteer Battalion the South Wales Borderers: Surgeon-Lieutenant J. R. I. Raywood to be Surgeon-Captain. 2nd Volunteer Battalion the Royal Sussex Regiment: Surgeon-Lieutenant G. Black to be Surgeon-Captain and to remain supernumerary. 3rd (Duke of Connaught's Own) Volunteer Battalion the Hampshire Regiment: Captain Charles Henry Newby resigns his commission and is appointed Surgeon-Lieutenant. 1st Volunteer Battalion Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment): Surgeon-Captain A. G. Paterson resigns his commission. 2nd London: Surgeon-Captain W. A. Bond resigns his commission. 15th Middlesex: Surgeon-Lieutenant James Godding resigns his commission and is appointed Lieutenant. 19th Middlesex: John James Rickard Macleod to be Surgeon-Lieutenant.

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL STAFF CORPS.

The Manchester Companies: Surgeon-Major W. Coates to be Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel on increase of establishment and to command under paragraph 55A Volunteer Regulations. Surgeon-Captain J. J. K. Fairclough to be Surgeon-Major.

TRANSVAAL WAR NOTES.

It has been decided to send out at once to South Africa a large reinforcement of trained men of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Major J. Meek, R.A.M.C., has been appointed Principal Medical Officer of the American hospital ship *Maine*.

Major Raymond, R.A.M.C., Captain Mason, R.A.M.C., Lieutenant-Colonel Barker, R.A.M.C., Captain Butler, R.A.M.C., Captain Stalkartt, R.A.M.C., and Civil Surgeon Parker are reported on their way home from South Africa invalided.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

A third brigade, to consist of the 4th and 20th Punjabis, the 6th Bengalies, and one regiment of Hyderabad Infantry is to proceed to China. The transport *Canning*, with the 4th Battalion of the 1st Goorkhas, the 66th Native Field Hospital, details, and supply column, and the transport *Nation*, with ordnance park, transport mules, the 39th Native Field Hospital, native general hospital, and special service details, has arrived at Hong-Kong.

VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION.

The fortieth class for the instruction of medical officers in the subjects of the proficiency examination will be held at the headquarters of the Prince of Wales's Own, 12th Middlesex (Civil Service) Volunteer Rifles, Somerset House, Strand, W.C., by permission of Lieutenant-Colonel H. B. H. Tytheridge, commanding that regiment, and will last five days, commencing on Monday, Sept. 24th, at 2.30 P.M. precisely, and concluding on Friday, Sept. 28th, at 5.30 P.M. The instruction will include all the subjects of the examination, also the duties of medical officers generally in camps, quarters, bivouacs, with brigade bearer-companies and other units, on the line of march and elsewhere. Practical instruction in bearer company drill will form an important part of the work of the class. Officers who are unable to attend this class can obtain instruction by correspondence. These classes will be under the instruction of Surgeon-Captain E. M. Callender, 40, Connaught-square, Hyde-park, London, W., to whom all officers should apply who intend to join either class or who wish for further information, at the same time stating their rank and corps.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

"PROFESSOR LUSTIG'S PLAGUE SERUM."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Your special Indian correspondent, fully appreciating the importance of the subject, made a point of reporting periodically to your readers on the progress of the experiments which were initiated with Professor Lustig's curative plague serum in 1898 by the municipality of Bombay. Evidently possessed by the conviction that he could advance best the cause of humanity and science from the comfortable standpoint of absolute negation he has from the beginning been eager to assert that the results obtained were utterly fallacious and wholly due to the selection of the cases which

was practised at first. He, moreover, for reasons religiously kept to himself did not approve of the method of the manufacture of the serum.

Such condemnatory verdict, pronounced in a leading medical journal, did not necessarily tend to lessen the already existing difficulties in carrying on the experiments, for the successful termination of which, however, the authorities and the public were equally desirous. Fortunately his arguments betrayed a lack of personal information and an overflow of imagination surprising even in a special Indian correspondent, and they failed to convince the responsible persons who were on the spot and knew the real facts. The experiments, therefore, were allowed to proceed on the lines laid down by the experimenters in spite of his scathing criticism. Thus it happened that in April last I was in the position, as one of the medical officers entrusted by the municipality for some time past with the manufacture of the serum, to lay the following statistical details based on official records before a special meeting of the Bombay Medical Union:—1. From March 13th, 1898, till May, 1899, 403 "selected" patients were treated with the serum at the Arthur-road Hospital and had a recovery-rate of 33·2 per cent., whereas the 1190 patients who were excluded from the serum treatment and treated by ordinary methods had a recovery-rate of 19·5 per cent. This rate of the excluded patients was found to be identical with the recovery-rate of the other large plague hospitals, and gives, therefore, the proof that the increase on the serum side was real and not due to the selection. That is further corroborated by the fact that the total recovery-rate at the Arthur-road Hospital was 4·5 per cent. higher than in other hospitals. 2. From April, 1899, till April, 1900, 361 patients were treated with the serum at the same hospital and had a recovery-rate of 33·8 per cent. These patients were *not* selected but taken alternately as they were admitted, an equal number remaining as controls under the ordinary treatment. The controls had a recovery-rate of 21·3 per cent., this rate being again identical with that of the other hospitals. The total recovery-rate of the Arthur-road Hospital was consequently 6 per cent. higher than that of the other hospitals. On the strength of these statistics and various other evidence I felt myself entitled to conclude: (a) that the experimental stage of the serum treatment was over; (b) that the curative properties of the serum had been established beyond reasonable doubt; (c) that they were represented at present by the improvement of 12·5 per cent. obtained in the patients taken alternatively for treatment; (d) that they were satisfactory in themselves; and (e) that they were certain to be improved upon with the increasing experience in the manufacture and application of the serum.

The medical practitioners attending the meeting—foremost amongst whom was the President of the Bombay Medical Union, Sir Balchandra Krishna, whose distinguished services in combating the plague won him the knighthood—certainly the best judges of the facts placed before them, accepted the statistics and conclusions as correct, unanimously considering "that the serum was the only curative remedy against plague of some potency at present known to the scientific world, the cures effected by it being at present 12 per cent. more than cures with the ordinary treatment," and passed unanimously the following resolution to be brought before the Corporation of Bombay for favourable consideration:

1. That this meeting of the local medical profession is of opinion that the treatment of plague with Professor Lustig's curative serum has given encouraging results, even under the unfavourable circumstances of hospital treatment, and that its use should be extended for the benefit of patients allowed to be treated at their houses by private practitioners. 2. That greater facilities than those given hitherto should be afforded to private practitioners in order to encourage the use of the serum in private practice. 3. That the President be requested to communicate this resolution to the President of the Corporation and the Municipal Commissioner, and to enter into such correspondence with them on the subject as seems to him necessary.

This resolution was considered by the corporation at their meeting of May 28th last, and forwarded to the Municipal Commissioner for favour of remarks. The Commissioner thereupon took immediate steps to comply with the contents of the resolution and rules for the use of the serum in private practice were framed under the supervision of Lieutenant-Colonel J. S. Wilkins, I.M.S., D.S.O., the Special Medical Officer, Plague Operations, appointed by Government, who as the result of his observations in the plague hospitals under his charge has become a keen supporter of the serum treatment.

Considering that the views entertained by your correspon-

dent had thus been proved to be at variance with those of the responsible authorities in Bombay and with the facts, one might rightly have expected that he would have hastened to correct the wrong impression he had forced upon your readers and not have hesitated to admit the errors he had fallen into. But instead of reporting on the gratifying and promising conclusion of the experiments with Professor Lustig's serum, as would have been his duty, your correspondent reiterates *ad nauseam* his flimsy arguments in your issue of June 2nd, p. 1608, discussing the paper I read before the meeting of the Bombay Medical Union in the confused, illogical, and contradictory style quite his own—at least whenever he has occasion to write on Professor Lustig's serum treatment of plague. By an ingenious juggling once more with the bugbear of the selection of cases and by dismembering and misquoting my statements he almost succeeds in conveying the idea that the 12 per cent. claimed as improvement for the treatment have also been obtained in selected cases. And not content with this achievement he gives the last touch to the performance by doubting my figures and by deliberately insinuating that the improvement of 12 per cent. as shown by me is not real and has been arrived at by an ambiguous arrangement of figures.

I do not intend to disprove in any way your correspondent's assertions, as in doing so I would be compelled to violate the etiquette so strictly observed in controversies—viz., never to call in question the *bona fides* of arguments or statements. But what I would permit myself to say here is that anyone who has read my paper on Lustig's serum—and I trust that you, Sirs, on receipt of this will take the opportunity of reading it—and who has also read the comments of your correspondent upon it in your issue of June 2nd, must arrive at the conclusion that he either did not read my paper or did not understand it or did not want to understand it. Little flattering as the first two alternatives might be for a special correspondent and an English medical man, they are no doubt to be preferred to the third. It is much to be regretted that in a matter of great public and scientific interest which not only concerns the poor inhabitants of India, but may also at any moment concern our own families and fellow countrymen in Europe, one of the foremost medical papers of Great Britain should have to depend for its information on a correspondent who is unable to give an unbiased statement of the facts, and who, without possessing the requisite knowledge, criticises unfairly the facts and figures brought forward to show the results of the treatment of plague cases with Professor Lustig's serum.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

A. MAYR, M.D.

Municipal Laboratory, Parel, Bombay, July 6th, 1900.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—My attention has been drawn to an article on Professor Lustig's serum which appeared in THE LANCET of June 2nd, written by your Special Correspondent in India. As one other amongst the advocates of this serum than Dr. Mayr I must call your attention to the inaccuracies which this article contains. Dr. Mayr himself is answering the various errors of your correspondent and I fully concur in what he states. As far as I am concerned in the matter I may say that as special medical officer in charge of all the plague hospitals in Bombay I have had full opportunity of seeing for myself the value of the experiments carried on at the Arthur-road Hospital with this serum and cannot understand how your correspondent could mislead you and your readers in the way he has done. As Dr. Mayr has gone into the subject fully I need not occupy any more of your space except to say that the first experiments up to May, 1899, were carried on with selected cases; since May, 1899, and up to the present time we have had every alternate case of plague admitted to this hospital treated with the serum and have nearly reached 500 on either side. On a visit of Professor Schottelius of Freiburg University last cold weather to study the plague in Bombay he was so much interested in the results of the serum treatment that on his return to Europe he very kindly obtained for us some curative serum from the Pasteur Institute. When this arrives I propose to use it on every alternate case with Lustig's serum—i.e., one case treated with Roux's and one with Lustig's serum.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

JAMES S. WILKINS, Lieut.-Col., I.M.S.,
Special Medical Officer, Plague Hospitals, Bombay.

Lausdowne House, Bombay, July 6th.

"THE MEDICAL STAFF AND THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR THE PARALYSED AND EPILEPTIC, QUEEN-SQUARE."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—We have seen with much surprise that the special general meeting of governors and subscribers "to consider and determine the following questions—that is to say (1) whether the demand of the medical and surgical staff for direct representation upon the board should be granted; and (2) whether it is desirable to hold a further inquiry into the condition of the hospital" has been fixed by the board of management for Saturday, August 11th. That date has been selected, according to the secretary-director, as representing "the earliest day permitted by the rules." Unfortunately, it falls in the very heart of the holiday season, when it will be impossible for any large proportion of the governors to attend the meeting. The great majority of the medical staff will also be away from town. Under these circumstances, feeling that a full and fair consideration of the questions is impossible at this time, we have requested the board of management to postpone the meeting till the end of October when an adequate attendance of governors can be secured, and have intimated to him that it is not possible for the medical staff to be represented at the meeting on August 11th, or to take any part in it. We would point out that any decision arrived at on Saturday next cannot be regarded as final and that we shall be ready, at a meeting summoned at an appropriate time, to place fully before the governors our view of the questions at issue.

We cannot venture to trespass on your space to the extent which would be necessary to point out all the statements in the letter of the secretary-manager in the *Times* of August 3rd which are calculated to mislead; but it appears to us distinctly necessary to object to what is represented as the "clear issue," and also to the apparent intention to limit the scope of the inquiry to the present condition of the hospital. What is needed is as described by us in our letter of July 27th,¹ "a full and searching inquiry into the constitution and management of the hospital, to be carried out by an independent and, at the same time, competent body."

We are, Sirs, your obedient servants,

J. HUGHLINGS JACKSON, M.D. St. And., F.R.C.P. Lond., F.R.S.,

THOMAS BUZZARD, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lond., Consulting Physicians to the Hospital.

R. BRUDENELL CARTER, F.R.C.S. Eng., Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon.

H. CHARLTON BASTIAN, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lond., F.R.S.,

W. R. GOWERS, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lond., F.R.S., DAVID FERRIER, M.D. Edin., F.R.C.P. Lond., F.R.S.,

J. A. ORMEROD, M.D. Oxon, F.R.C.P. Lond., Physicians to In-patients.

CHARLES E. BEEVOR, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lond., HOWARD H. TOOTH, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lond.,

JAMES TAYLOR, M.D. Edin., F.R.C.P. Lond., J. S. RISIEN RUSSELL, M.D. Edin., F.R.C.P. Lond., Physicians to Out-patients.

W. ALDREN TURNER, M.D. Edin., F.R.C.P. Lond., FREDERICK E. BATTEN, M.D. Cantab., M.R.C.P. Lond.,

Assistant Physicians. FELIX SEMON, M.D. Berlin, F.R.C.P. Lond., Physician for Diseases of the Throat.

VICTOR HORSLEY, F.R.C.S. Eng., F.R.S., CHARLES A. BALLANCE, F.R.C.S. Eng.,

Surgeons. R. MARCUS GUNN, F.R.C.S. Eng., Ophthalmic Surgeon.

A. E. CUMBERBATCH, F.R.C.S. Eng., Aural Surgeon.

(The names of absent members have been added by authority.)

August 6th, 1900.

"ADDISON'S DISEASE AND LEUCODERMA."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—With reference to the interesting and valuable remarks of Sir Samuel Wilks on Addison's Disease and

Leucoderma, together with Sir W. T. Gairdner's letter thereon, may I be permitted to refer to a case bearing on the point under discussion, mentioned by Heller in his recent paper on *Morbus Addisonii*.¹ This writer states he has seen one case of Addison's disease with symmetrical leucodermic areas, but he gives no details.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

GEORGE PERNET.

Upper Gloucester-place, Dorset-square, N.W., August 6th, 1900.

THE COVENTRY PROVIDENT DISPENSARY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—At the general meeting of the British Medical Association no doubt many of the members present were surprised at the attitude of Dr. Saundby in supporting the medical men holding appointments in the Coventry Provident Dispensary and condemning any attack upon that institution. It is plain that an ex-president of Council in supporting such an institution has not made himself conversant with the facts of the case, seeing that it has been condemned by the ethical branch of the British Medical Association, *THE LANCET*, the *British Medical Journal*, and the *General Practitioner*, and was condemned also at the annual meetings at Edinburgh and Portsmouth, and that the institution is entirely without a wage-limit, and accepts members without any regard to their social position. This dispensary is one of glaring abuse and has been severely criticised by various committees of the Association; in addition, it has been closely investigated by a Special Commissioner of *THE LANCET*, who represented it as being one of the most abused institutions in the kingdom. Under these circumstances the Association will stultify itself if it takes no action in the matter, after the strong expression of opinion at the annual meetings. The profession in Coventry would suggest that the Council should appoint a special delegate (not a Birmingham consultant) to visit Coventry and report upon the whole question in dispute.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

EDWARD PHILLIPS.

Coventry, August 7th, 1900.

MANCHESTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Small-pox and Raw Cotton.

AN outbreak of small-pox in the urban district of Littleborough is giving some anxiety. It seems that all the persons who were attacked were employed in the card-room of one of the mills. Dr. G. C. Pitcairn, the medical officer of health of Littleborough, suggested that the manipulation of infected raw cotton started the four first cases. Precautionary measures were strictly enforced and isolated cottages secured as soon as possible for the convalescent cases until thorough disinfection could be carried out. The matter was discussed at the last meeting of the Lancashire County Council when some members considered that the suggestion as to its origin was based on surmise, and that the matter should have been more fully investigated before being printed in an important report, as it was "a most serious thing for Lancashire." Of course it is, and hence it is all the more necessary that it should be thoroughly investigated. That small-pox should occasionally be conveyed in cotton bales does not seem improbable, but it must occur so rarely that no great scare need arise. On the face of it the history of the cases certainly points to a common source of infection.

The Port Sanitary Authority.

At the meeting of the Manchester City Council on August 1st it was agreed to request the Local Government Board "to make an order constituting a permanent port sanitary authority out of all the councils abutting on the port, giving them adequate representation and desiring them to contribute proportionately to the expenses of the authority." So far the expenses have been borne by Manchester, Salford, and Stretford, but other towns,

¹ *THE LANCET*, August 4th, 1900, p. 351.

¹ *Encyklopädie der Haut- und Geschlechts-Krankheiten*, p. 11. Edited by Lesser. Leipzig, 1900.