satisfactorily founded on Dr. Orile's theory and I would again urge that all the phenomena may be fully accounted for by my view — namely, that the small vessels become tensely contracted as a consequence of traumatism. As the injury increases or is repeated the contraction of the vessels extends from the periphery towards the heart. The superficial vessels are more affected than the deeper ones and thus, as the state of shock becomes profound, the bulk of the blood is transferred from the superficial to the central areas in which the medium-sized and larger vessels yield partly to superior force and partly because of the physiological necessity for conserving heat. As a consequence the blood pressure in the somatic areas is lowered, whilst that in the splanchnic area is raised, exactly as in the process of digestion I. A general and extending contraction of all the smaller vessels can in no way hinder a transference of the bulk of the blood from the superficial to the central areas, nor can it interfere with the relative changes in the blood pressure which necessarily follow. This interpretation removes all the difficulties which I have raised in connexion with Dr. Crile's theory and is in perfect harmony with every statement of fact made by me.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

FORTMAN STREET, W., March 5th, 1907.

JOHN D. MALCOLM.

HENRY VIII.'S BARBER.

To the Editors of The Lancet.

Sirs,—My attention has been called to a paragraph on p. 604 in your issue of March 2nd entitled "Henry VIII.'s Barber." Permit me to say that though I did quote the standing order referred to (Harl. MS., 642) as applying probably to Edward IV. or an earlier king I made no reference whatever to Henry VIII. performing "partial ablutions on occasional Saturday evenings" or of John Pen being "present at these ablutions under the care of King's Barber." The order was undoubtedly obsolete in 1533 and I do not think it just to charge Henry VIII. with the performance of ablutions which last year caused 4000 soldiers to go into hospital with injuries due to the idiotic and inefficient training they received. As Surgeon-General Evatt believes it would do, compulsory military service could not fail to make the community as a whole realise, as it has never yet done, that its military system must be based upon the life-preserving influence of the medical profession.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

March 7th, 1907.

SIDNEY YOUNG.

MEDICAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MASONIC SCHOOLS.

To the Editors of The Lancet.

Sirs,—May I once again through the medium of your widely read columns appeal to medical Freemasons for their votes and assistance on behalf of the medical candidates up for election to the Masonic schools? At the forthcoming elections there is no medical candidate for the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, but there are two candidates for the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls (election on April 11th)—namely:


ELIZABETH EDITH SMART, daughter of the late William Paclley Smart, M.R.C.S. Eng., of 270, Monument-road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

In again appealing for your votes I would point out that boys' votes are as valuable as those for the girls, because an exchange can always be effected. All votes, whether for the girls or the boys, sent to me will be gratefully received and acknowledged by me.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH EDITH SMART, daughter of the late William Paclley Smart, M.R.C.S. Eng., of 270, Monument-road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

To the Editors of The Lancet.

Sirs,—It is remarkable that Surgeon-General Evatt does not see that compulsory military service of the Swiss type is just what is needed to put an end to the evils the existence of which in our army is so justly deploring. It is obvious that the chief cause of those evils is that the general and arrangement, but the authorities concerned are not neglectful of these matters and remedial measures are to be carried out this year, and that displeasure is that some parts of your commissioner's report fail to do full justice to the condition of the building on which the local authorities have spent considerable care and money. My excuse for troubling you with this letter lies in the fact that having recently acted as health officer of Gibraltar for some months
THE ELECTIONS OF GUARDIANS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

Sirs.—In a few days there will be an election of guardians. I may impress upon your readers the importance of securing the nomination and election of candidates who are in favour of outdoor relief of deserving aged poor where practicable, and who are also in favour of outdoor medical relief. Such a reformed Poor-law adequate for relieving distress is the advice of His Majesty's Local Government Board itself issued a circular to this effect in August, 1900 (which may be bought for 2d.), and until old-age pensions can be obtained this is far better than offering to the veterans of industry a painful choice between the workhouse and starvation or at least great destitution. Also, it is most important to elect guardians who will give outdoor medical relief (in the first instance) to all poor persons unable to pay a medical man, without placing obstacles in the way. Also, it is making the medical relief a loan, or requiring the patient (or in the case of a child, a parent) to appear before the guardians. Of course, when the medical man has seen the patient he can decide whether it is to be treated in the workhouse, in the Poor-law or some other infirmary or hospital. The great point (for the public health) is to take care that cases of illness come before the medical man at a very early stage. By this means we may check infectious diseases such as measles, whooping-cough, fever, and various dangerous and phthisic. Cutting down medical relief is dangerous to the public health.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

J. THEODORE DODD,
A Guardian and Councillor of the City of Oxford.
March 12th, 1897.

MARCHANTEE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Victoria University.

The acceptance of the office of Chancellor of the Victoria University by the Duke of Devonshire in succession to Earl Spencer, who retired on account of ill-health, has been received with general satisfaction. It may not be remembered that the present Duke is a grand-nephew of the late Duke, so that the Devonshire family has taken an active interest in its progress from very early days.

Medical Degrees at the Victoria University.

At a meeting of Convocation on March 6th a communica-
tion was received from the registrar relating to the proposed conditions of award of degree of Doctor of Medicine, which had been approved of by the Senate and Council. They had still to be drafted as ordinances and regulations which was provided, among other things, that—

(1) No candidate will be admitted to the degree of Doctor of Medicine unless he has previously received the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery; (2) candidates shall produce evidence of having, subsequently to having received the degrees of M.B. and Ch.B., been engaged for at least one year in attendance on the medical practice of a general hospital or on the practice of special hospital or in the case of a non-practising medical man, or in scientific work bearing directly on his profession such as an asylum, or in scientific work bearing directly on his profession such as is conducted in the medical departments of the University, or alternate- natively of his having been engaged for at least two years in practice other than practice restricted to surgery; and (3) candidates may elect either (i.) to present an original dissertation or (ii.) to undergo an examination.

This was accepted and approved.

A Descendant of Hugh Oldham.

Manchester has a strong feeling of regard for its Grammar School, founded in 1515 by Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter, and is interested in the public bequests of the late Mr. Collin Cranston, J.R.C.S., a descendant of the bishop, chiefly perhaps because he left £3000 to the Grammar School, together with half the residue of his estate, which may amount to from £7000 to £10,000. The legacy of £3000 is to be applied for the advancement of learning as the authorities may think fit." Another clause in the will suggests that he may not have been altogether free from the prejudices which we sometimes call insular. He "remonstrantly requested and desired that no person be appointed as an executor or trustee of his will who shall be either a solicitor, a Jew, or a German, although he may be a British subject, but that he desired rather that a competent business man in a responsible position, such as a bank manager, shall be appointed to such post."

Emergency Cases at Poor-law Hospitals.

At a recent inquest by the city coroner it was stated that a woman was kept waiting in a cab outside the Withington workhouse hospital for 35 minutes when suffering from severe burns from which she died. The jury suggested that the workhouse should be made a hospital for the relief of the emergency cases. The clerk to the guardians said that no one could regret more than they did that there should have been such delay, but that the workhouse hospital was under the Poor-law and was purely a pauper establishment for the admission of paupers and not an emergency hospital, such as the Manchester Infirmary and the Ancoats Hospital. In this particular case the medical officer was at the very first point possible point from the porter's lodge attending to a serious case, and if found at once he would have been some time in getting to the lodge. It must be remembered that the workhouse is a very large establishment. The board has decided to establish a special ward where emergency cases can be admitted at once. It is, no doubt, against the letter of the law that non-pauper cases can be admitted at all, but it can easily be understood that the friends of a patient would seek the nearest place where treatment could be obtained.

The New Asylum at Whalley.

The block plan of the asylum at Whalley has received the approval of the Home Secretary and of the Commissioners in Lunacy. The latter body says that the scheme generally commends itself as having advantages in concentration and economy of working. The estimate of the funds required from April, 1907, to March, 1908, amounts to £142,517, and the finance committee of the Lancashire Asylums Board, having regard to the fact that the average weekly cost of maintenance was more than the present charge to the unions, does not think it at present advisable to make any reduction.

March 12th.

LEEDS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Appointments at the General Infirmary.

Acting on the recommendation of the Faculty, the board of the infirmary has appointed Mr. J. A. Coupland surgical registrar in succession to Mr. H. Collinson who was recently elected assistant surgeon in charge of the convalescent hospitals. Mr. Coupland has during the last two years held the position of resident surgical officer at the infirmary and at a meeting of the Faculty Sir E. J. Braithwaite was elected his successor. Dr. R. Braithwaite, like Mr. Collinson and Mr. Coupland, had a distinguished career at the Leeds School of Medicine.

The University.

The written examinations for the second M.B., Ch.B. degrees will begin on Monday, March 19th, and that for the first part of the final examination on the same day. In accordance with recent regulations, which direct that Part II. of the final examination shall be held in July and December, there will be no examination in the subjects included in this part of the examination at the end of the term. In future it has been arranged that the examination in Part I. of the final shall also be held in July and December. The vivé-voce and practical examinations will follow immediately on the written examinations and the results will be announced on the evening of March 22nd. The work of the term will not end until March 27th and the summer term will begin on April 22nd.

The Association for the Prevention and Cure of Tuberculosis.

A perusal of the seventh annual report of the Association for the Prevention and Cure of Tuberculosis shows that the useful work of this charity is being carried on with continued success and that it is increasing. The total number of patients under treatment during the past year at the sanatoria and at Gateforth and at the country hospital amounted to 276, which is an increase of 113 as compared with the previous year. The results of the treatment have been encouraging in many ways. A very useful addition to the accommodation has been made by the provision at the Armitage Hospital of a new ward which provides...