are attributable to the gastro-intestinal condition to which I have referred and associated with one or more of the specific developments of the gouty and rheumatic diatheses and with the excretion of abnormal quantities of uric acid and urates. At that time no means of accurately gauging the blood pressure lay ready to hand, but for the last three years having made some 3000 to 4000 observations per annum with Hill and Barnard's larger instrument I am able to add, especially in relation to the interesting discussion which was raised by Professor T. Clifford Allbutt's paper, that, other things being equal, blood pressure rises and falls in young and old in immediate response to increase and diminution of toxicity. The exceptions are so rare that I have met with no more than three in three years, and in them an extreme degree of vascular change existed in conjunction with extensive capillary obsolescence and albuminuria. If my observations are correct it follows that arteriolar contraction plays an important part in the rise of blood pressure even in later years. I desire to add that if there be one affection in which the toxæmia under consideration plays a more important part than in others it is Graves's disease. Some two years ago you called attention in a leading article to a communication of Dr. Cronin of Chicago, in which he claimed to have effected the cure of several cases by measures of intestinal antiseptics. The first case which I treated on that principle made a good recovery in one year, and now for 25 years has led an active life in the enjoyment of good health. Although I have not found it necessary to practise the irrigation of the colon advocated by Dr. Cronin I regard the precaution against self-poisoning as essential to the successful treatment and permanent cure of Graves's disease.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

W. BEZLY THORNE.

Upper Brook-street, W., March 13th, 1903.

HORLICK'S MALTED MILK.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—My attention has been directed by Messrs. Horlick and Company to the effect that in the address on Patent Foods which I delivered before the South-West London Medical Society in February, 1902, and which you were good enough to publish, I have stated that the amount of fat in their malted milk is 3 per cent. as compared with 26.4 per cent. in dried human milk, instead of 9 per cent. as they claim for it. As my analysis was made three or four years ago I have submitted this preparation to a fresh examination and found in it 7.8 per cent. of fat by one method of analysis and 8.9 per cent. by another. I think there can therefore be no doubt that 9 per cent. may be taken as representing in round numbers the amount of fat which Horlick's malted milk contains. I am sorry if I have given an erroneous impression of its nutritive value, for, as I pointed out in the address, the presence and proportion of fat in foods of this description must be regarded as a most important factor, and I am glad to take this opportunity of correcting my previous statement, especially as it has always been my desire to deal quite fairly by the merits of the proprietary foods.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Queen Anne-street, W., April 6th, 1903. ROBERT HUTCHISON.

. Our own analysis of this preparation published in THE LANCET of April 4th, 1891, p. 781, gave the fat as 8.40 per cent.—ED. L.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN.—Mrs. Margaret Anne Neve, the senior member of a well-known family in St. Peter Port, Guernsey, died there on April 4th, having very nearly attained the age of 111 years. Her father was Colonel Harvey of the local militia and she was born on the island in the middle of May, 1792. In 1823 she married a Mr. Neve of Tenterden in Kent; they had no family and on being left a widow in 1849 she returned to Guernsey. Until she was 80 years of age Mrs. Neve spent a portion of each year on the continent, travelling in company with her sister who died many years ago at a great age. It is stated that Queen Victoria and Mrs. Neve used to exchange congratulations on their birthdays. Mrs. Neve's eyesight was so well retained that she could knit, read, and do needlework when considerably over 100.

SPECULATION IN SEWERS.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL SANITARY COMMISSIONER.)

Private Ownership of Sewers at Cheltenham.—The Building of Sewers for Profit and their Defective Condition.—Helpless Position of the Sanitary Authority.

THE town of Cheltenham is in a most extraordinary position. A portion of the sewers are private property, they were made for profit, the corporation must not interfere with them, and yet if they get out of order the owners say that it is not their business to effect the repairs. On the other hand, the owners maintain that if the corporation touches these sewers it can be prosecuted for trespass. It is true that somewhat inconsistently the owners have patched up these sewers here and there with a little cement. The public naturally imagine that as the owners of these private sewers have been paid a rent-charge for their use by the householders they must repair or rebuild the sewers when necessary. But then, even if they consented to do this, the mere rebuilding of worn-out sewers would not meet the case, for the sewers as they now stand do not fit in with the general scheme of drainage for the whole town. Further, and supposing the question of trespass was abandoned by the owners of the sewers and the corporation was to relay and to rebuild the sewers, the cost could not be recovered from the owners of the adjacent property. Some of the private sewers are not under the public road but are under the private front gardens and are close to the walls of the house. If these sewers were to burst their contents would flow into the cellars of the houses. Yet this cannot be altered. The sewers were probably placed in this awkward position so as to keep them as private property, and even if the owners could be forced to reconstruct them this could not be done on any other lines than those that actually exist. On the other hand, if the corporation were to brush aside all these considerations and to insist that proper sewers must be built, not in the private gardens but under the public street, and with a fall giving a flow in the direction that harmonised with the general scheme of drainage, the owners of the private sewers would still claim their rent-charge from the householders—that is to say, the householders might still be compelled to pay for the use of private sewers which had ceased to exist or with which their houses were no longer connected. The *Cheltenham Examiner* of Feb. 24th contains correspondence in which General H. B. Babbage informs one of the principal owners of the private sewers, Mr. J. B. Winterbotham, that "it is now over two years since the corporation wrongly and illegally extinguished my right to use your sewer by cutting off my house-drains from your sewer and joining them to a new sewer of their own without giving me warning. Of this I informed you in May, 1901, and your own position as an alderman of the council must have afforded ample opportunities of verifying it. I applied to the council for redress and compensation by relieving me of the payment of the rent-charge but without effect. The right of user of the sewer and the right to receive the rent-charges go together in my title-deeds and in your own published letter, dated Jan. 24th, 1899, to the town clerk, it is said 'the rent-charge is an agreed sum in return for the right to use the private branch roads and sewers.' I submit to you that my liability to pay the rent-charge has been extinguished with the right to use the sewer, for which I am in no way responsible, and that your remedy is against the corporation."

Though the above argument seems to be most reasonable it appears that General Babbage was mistaken and after legal consultations he has ended by paying the rent-charge in question. Thus General Babbage is now paying for a private sewer which he does not use and he has been compelled to connect his house with the public sewer, for which he also pays in the ordinary local rates. It is difficult to conceive how such a state of affairs could have arisen and could survive in these days of sanitary progress. This has been explained in reports presented to the town council and to the Local Government Board by the town clerk of Cheltenham. It is necessary to bear in mind that Cheltenham is not an ancient historic town. Before the discovery of its mineral waters it was but a mere village, then it suddenly developed into a town when the merits of its waters had been widely acknowledged. But in those days little was known