would be more ready than himself to recognise the precedence of Dr. Turner's work and had he been here it would probably have been unnecessary for me to write this letter.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

A. JOHN GREGORY,

Assistant Medical Officer of Health of the Colony.
Colonial Secretary's Office, Local Government and Health
Branch, Cape Town, Feb. 24th, 1899.

THE LIVERPOOL LOCK HOSPITAL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—As a former resident officer of the Liverpool Lock Hospital I join with you in regretting its closure from lack of pecuniary support. One cannot but express surprise at the inhabitants of Liverpool for two reasons: (1) Liverpool, as we know, is an important merchant port, and many of the patients treated are sailors, therefore one would naturally expect support from large trading firms whose employés derive such benefit; (2) Liverpudlians are justly proud of their medical school. No medical man's training is complete without an adequate knowledge of the varied forms which syphilis may assume. We may read books on syphilis and possess a theoretical knowledge of the disease which will avail us nothing at the bedside without practical work. I gratefully acknowledge that my present knowledge of this disease was derived entirely from visiting the Liverpool Lock Hospital as a student and finally daily watching the progress of cases as a resident. If we take away these opportunities from the Liverpool medical students they will not be fully equipped to deal with the cases which they will have to meet. As Mr. Lowndes has pointed out, people object to the term "lock." Yet we must surely remember that even if these cases be admitted into the wards of a general infirmary the same "stigma" must be present—a "stigma" of ignorance. No one minds helping a case of nervous disorder the result of syphilis. Yet people refuse to support an institution treating cases of syphilis *ab initio*, which treatment would have prevented the development of these nervous disorders. Prevention, we know, is better than cure—*ergo* far better than allowing these patients to drift into an incurable condition. Ignorant patients suffering from syphilis cannot possibly be treated successfully without the most careful supervision. They either neglect treatment altogether, or as soon as they perceive improvement in their condition as a result of treatment they desist from further treatment and the disease progresses to an incurable condition or even ends fatally. To such patients as these our lock hospitals, or wards, are a boon and also a safety-valve for the ignorant and immoral section of our populace. The fact that syphilis does occur and does spread is one which we must face. We must not hold up our hands in righteous horror and say "These things should not be," but must recognise that "they are," and, I fear, ever will be. We can only hope that the people of Liverpool will yet see their folly and repent, and ere long we shall see the Liverpool Lock Hospital re-established upon a sound financial basis. The subscribers will have the satisfaction of knowing that they have cared for the unfortunately afflicted ones and have also assisted in the advancement of medical science.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Bedford General Infirmary, April 17th, 1899.

S. J. ROSS.

"CERTAIN ORGANISMS ISOLATED FROM CANCER AND THEIR PATHOGENIC EFFECTS UPON ANIMALS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May I say a few words—final as far as I am concerned—with regard to Mr. Malcolm's letter in THE LANCET of April 15th? Nothing will be gained by fruitless discussions on the use of terms, so I will leave that largest part of Mr. Malcolm's letter alone. Mr. Malcolm is, of course, at liberty to reject my conclusions; the facts of my work are able to take care of themselves. What follows applies to the several paragraphs in Mr. Malcolm's letter.

Paragraph 1.—Mr. Malcolm's joy at having elicited from me, not "corrections," but that which anyone could have deduced from my paper, seems unnecessary. I did not assert anything beyond the facts of my experiments, and Mr. Malcolm has no right to say that I claim anything which I

do not claim or to suggest that I believe anything which I have not stated I believe.

Paragraphs 2 and 3.—These are discussions on terms to which I have referred above.

Paragraph 4.—Mr. Malcolm says he would expect an organism isolated from cancer, if it were the cause of the disease, to produce cancer. It cannot be unknown to Mr. Malcolm that organisms isolated from some human diseases, and generally allowed to be the causes of such diseases, do not always reproduce the same effects in animals as occur in man—e.g., typhoid, cholera, and pneumonia. If I wished to make analogies, I might urge that the reaction obtained in animals with the organisms I have isolated is nearer to the original disease than that obtained with either of those above mentioned.

Paragraph 6.—In reply to this, all the experiments enumerated, with the exception of No. 9, were made with cultures obtained from the case of breast-cancer mentioned. And, as stated in my paper, cultures have been made from the organs of the animals after death, and these have been injected into other animals with similar results.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

H. G. PLIMMER.

St. John's Wood-road, N.W., April 17th, 1899.

IMPROPER ADVERTISEMENTS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Allow me briefly to draw the attention of your readers to a common trick of the commercial advertiser of which I have recently been the victim. In the *Daily News*, *Daily Chronicle*, and *Evening News* of Thursday last an advertisement of a substance called "phosferine," of which or of whose proprietors I have never heard, commences with the words "Dr. A. E. Bridger in his book," &c., and then proceeds to quote a paragraph from my book which states merely a general physiological fact and has no bearing, direct or indirect, on any medicament whatever. The careless readers of advertisements—and they are the vast majority—seeing my name at the top credit me with the authorship of the whole column of absurd puff which follows, and this is evidently what the advertiser aims at. I have warned the proprietors of "phosferine" that unless they withdraw my name I shall commence legal proceedings and I have written to the papers in which the advertisement occurs protesting against such journalistic habits.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Portland-place, W., April 15th, 1899.

A. E. BRIDGER.

* * * The advertisement in question has been brought to our notice. Dr. Bridger has our sympathy. We do not suppose that the advertisers in question (Messrs. Ashton and Parsons, of 17, Farringdon-road, E.C.) will attempt to pursue their improper tactics after his protest, but if they do he should have no difficulty in obtaining legal redress.—ED. L.

COW'S MILK AND TUBERCULOSIS ON PILLEYS ISLAND.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—A few words about tuberculosis in this particular island may be of interest. The population is about 1500; the deaths per annum average 22. About one-third of the deaths are of children under three years; tuberculous meningitis causes most deaths of these. There are no milch cows. Goat's milk is very little used by children as during winter the goats give no milk. Goat's milk is *always* boiled here before use. Most mothers give their infants the breast till the end of the first year and often bread soaked in hot water as well. After the first year the child eats with its parents—salt pork, salt beef, bread, tea, cabbage, and salt fish, but bread and tea as a rule; a few use oatmeal. Phthisis is very prevalent. No exact statistics can be given, as no death certificates are required. I see in those lists of deaths which are published that "worm fever" figures largely, the name here generally given to tuberculous meningitis. Very little fresh meat is eaten by the people and there is no beef; there is a little mutton in the spring and autumn.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

R. F. HILEY, L.S.A. Lond., B.A. Cantab.

Pilleys Island, Newfoundland, April 2nd, 1899.