ness, and the excreta were immediately disinfected and buried in the field in which the cottage stood. The cottage was one of two at a distance from other habitations. It is generally admitted that no case infects except by the excreta, and not through them till they have had time to decompose. I find from the text-books that great uncertainty exists as to the length of incubation.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,
Biggleswade, May 12th, 1890. JOHN EMMERSON.

PYLORECTOMY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In your issue of May 10th is a letter by Mr. F. B. Jessett commenting on the paper read by Sir William Stokes before the Medical Society on April 28th, in which he speaks of the operation of gastro-enterostomy by means of approximation plates having been performed four times in England, with success on three occasions. I have now to add another to the number, a fortnight having elapsed since the operation, the wound having healed, and the patient having steadily improved since, being able to take food. I quite agree with the opinion expressed in the letter that in cancer of the pylorus, unsuitable for pylorectomy, gastro-enterostomy by Dr. Senn's method is a ready and effectual means of relief. I hope to report my case fully on a later occasion.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Hillary-place, Leeds, May 13th, 1890. A. W. MAYO ROBSON.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In a letter published in the last issue of THE LANCET, Mr. Jessett points out the importance of feeding gastro-enterostomy cases at an earlier date after the operation with suitable peptonised foods. I wish to support his suggestion, having, like him, lost a case several days after the operation purely from exhaustion. The patient, a male aged sixty, admitted under my colleague, Dr. Caton, was operated on by me at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary on Feb. 13th. For a week he was fed entirely by the rectum with peptonised foods. During this time he suffered greatly from thirst, and his emaciation increased. He was evidently living partly upon his own tissues, for he passed about 250 grains of urea each day. On the 20th, the day on which stomach alimentation was to be commenced, he suddenly failed. Up to this time he had not given us cause for much anxiety, and we believed that his recovery was assured. Now, however, the stimulant and food were without avail. It was too late, and he slowly died. At the post-mortem the operation appeared to have been quite satisfactory. There was good union. The bone plates had entirely disappeared, and the silk ligatures were hanging loose in the opening. The case was brought forward at the Liverpool Medical Institution, and will be published in the next volume of the *Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Journal*.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Rodney-street, Liverpool, May 13th, 1890. F. T. PAUL.

THE SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—At a Court of Assistants of the Society of Apothecaries of London recently held, it was resolved to make all past, present, and future examiners of the Society, and also the surgical examiners appointed from time to time by the Medical Council, members of the corporate body, on payment of a nominal sum; and also every year to admit a limited number of its licentiates to the same privilege on payment of a moderate sum, and subject to the Court of Assistants being previously satisfied of their fitness in all respects to become members of the Society. The Court of Assistants feels that this important departure from ancient precedent will strengthen and enlarge the basis of the Society, and afford a further proof of its desire to promote the interests of its licentiates. I may take this opportunity of stating that it is not only in their behalf, but that of the whole medical profession, the Society is now defraying, at a heavy cost to itself, the putting down of unqualified practitioners, with the greatest success.

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,
Blackfriars, E.C., May 14th, 1890. JAMES RICHARD UPTON.

ROYAL MEDICAL BENEVOLENT COLLEGE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am desired to send you a copy of a resolution passed by the Council of the College at their meeting on Wednesday—viz.:

“That the members of the Council of the Royal Medical Benevolent College desire to express their cordial thanks to the Editors of THE LANCET for having so warmly supported the best interests of the pensioners and foundation scholars of the College.”

They would especially thank the Editors for their gift of 10,000 copies of the report of the festival. They would also express their warmest appreciation of the conditional promise of £1000 in aid of the charitable side of the work of the College. No efforts will be spared to claim the fulfilment of this most generous promise in the future.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Epsom, May 9th, 1890. ROBERT FREEMAN, Sec.

BIRMINGHAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Hospital Saturday.

THERE is every reason to believe that the total amount subscribed by this praiseworthy plan will this year exceed all previous collections. To the present time upwards of £8000 have been recorded, being £90 in excess of the same time last year. The many workers who devoted themselves to the duty involved in this organisation were indefatigable in their efforts to obtain subscriptions. Ladies were diligent in urging passers-by to contribute small sums. Nurses in uniform adorned some of the standpoints for collecting, and evidently attracted considerable attention. All pursued the quest of coins with commendable zeal and energy worthy of the cause in which they were engaged.

Hospital Abuse.

The committee have issued a series of questions to the various hospitals and institutions asking for numbers of cases treated, means taken to prevent imposition, and similar inquiries. It will take some time for these to be returned. On completion of this preliminary inquiry evidence will be taken, and subsequently a report issued. The system is that of a commission, and though, possibly following precedent, no recommendations will be made, an amount of data will be obtained for forming ground for future action if such is desirable. Opinion seems to point to the conclusion that, while individual instances of abuse do occur, they are not nearly so numerous as supposed, and that they bear but a very small proportion to the vast aggregate of good distributed over so wide an area.

African Heroes.

An invitation has been given to Mr. Stanley to become the guest of the President of the British Medical Association, along with Surgeon Parke, during the forthcoming meeting in this city. Considerable interest is manifested in the expectation of their presence, and a hearty welcome promised to the distinguished member of our profession, whose unwearied devotion added so much to the success of the recent explorations on the Dark Continent.

Warwick Town Council.

At a meeting held on the 13th inst. several members of the Council took exception to the remarks made by the medical officer of health, which were reported in a recent communication to THE LANCET. The Mayor remarked that much had been done to improve the sanitary condition of the town, and that at present it was not bad as compared with other towns. The effects of the town charities in tending to pauperise and devitalise the poorer population were pointed out to have been over coloured, and not so injurious as represented. At the same time credit must be given to the medical officer for his activity and for the care he has taken to protect the interests of the community.

Birmingham, May 14th.

EVELINA HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.—The Lord Mayor has consented to take the chair at a dinner to be held at the Hôtel Métropole on Tuesday, May 20th, at 7.30 P.M., on behalf of this hospital.