occur, others may observe the action of this drug in the disease I have named. Guaiacol can be very easily dispensed as follows:—Mix twelve minims of guaiacol and half an ounce of glycerine; then add two drachms of compound tincture of gentian, two drachms of spirit of chloroform, and water to eight ounces. This is a palatable mixture.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,
Y. M. JONES-HUMPHREYS.

Cemmaes, Montgomeryshire, Dec. 14th, 1896.

SHORTHAND AND SCHOOLS: AN APPEAL TO PARENTS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The permission of the General Medical Council, that marks may be given to shorthand at the Preliminary Examination, will, it is hoped, cause it to be more frequently learned at school. Only by being acquired before medical study is begun can its subsequent service to the practitioner be practically ensured. Many members of the profession have boys at school who are destined for medicine. We would urge such parents to use their influence by expressing to the headmasters of the schools a desire that their sons should learn shorthand. It is now a subject of instruction at a much larger number of schools than is commonly thought, and such an expression of desire on the part of the parents would probably cause it to be taught at almost all. Considerable good may, we are confident, be thus done, and not least to the boys themselves.

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

W. R. GOWERS, M.D. Lond., President.

EDWARD B. GRAY, M.D. Oxon., Treasurer.

JAMES NEIL, M.D. Aberd., Secretary.

Society of Medical Phonographers.

W. THOMSON, M.D. R.U.I.,

President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

A NOTE ON LINGUAL VARIX.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It may be in the recollection of readers of THE LANCET that in the early part of this present year a somewhat lengthy correspondence took place concerning "varicose veins at the base of the tongue," and that I found myself in a considerable minority in attributing frequency and importance to this condition, although it had been recognised as of clinical significance, and pictorially illustrated by so early a worker as Lewin of Berlin and so far back as the year 1863. It will, I think, be of interest to quote the following passage from an article which appears in a recent number of the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, entitled "Age and Sex in Disease of the Upper Respiratory Tract," by Dr. Harrison Allen of Philadelphia, an authority familiar to all British specialists: "Both the sub-lingual and basi-lingual veins are enlarged in middle life and old age" (this corresponds with the age period of my own cases). "It is common to find small circular node-like swellings on the basi-lingual veins which are excessively sensitive and remind one in this respect of the urethral caruncle of females. If these node-like swellings are destroyed pharyngeal excitement and cough not infrequently shortly disappear."

Dr. Allen gives the following as a typical example of the condition mentioned:—"A gentleman seventy years of age suffered from two attacks of influenza before reporting. He complained of violent cough and distress referred in a vague way to the region of the pharynx and larynx. The voice was husky and reading aloud impracticable. Enormously enlarged varicose veins were seen at the base of the tongue and on the fold extending from the œsophagus to the sides of the pharynx; the basi-lingual glands were moderately enlarged. A series of local treatments were conducted with the object in view of destroying the varicosities of the veins and in reducing the size of the glands by the galvano-cautery. The gentleman lived at a distance and reported at irregular intervals, but in about nine months (at which time he had paid twenty-three visits) all the symptoms had disappeared. I do not offer this case as anything unusual, since the subject of irritation arising from these structures at the base of the

tongue is now familiar, but to note the fact that the condition while found in the declining years of life, yet treatment, surgical in character, directed to the base of the tongue was all that was needed apparently to restore the subject to health."

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Mansfield-street, W.

LENNOX BROWNE.

BEATTY v. CULLINGWORTH.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Will you kindly allow us to publish in your columns a further list of subscriptions towards the Cullingworth fund? The amount already received is sufficient to cover all the expenses of the recent action. A detailed balance-sheet will be published later.

I am, Sirs, yours, &c.,

T. D. ACLAND, } Hon.
B. PITTS. } Secs.

Dec. 15th, 1896.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Sir T. Spencer Wells,		Mr. Henry Wilson,	
Bart.	2 2 0	Cheadle	1 1 0
*Dr. Henry Humphreys,		Dr. Alfred Smith,	
Torquay	1 1 0	Dublin	2 2 0
*Mr. John W. Taylor,		Dr. Habershon	2 2 0
Birmingham	2 2 0	Four Trained Nurses ...	0 10 0
Dr. Wills	1 1 0	Mr. T. Bidulph Goss,	
Dr. C. T. Williams	3 3 0	Bath	1 1 0
Dr. W. S. Griffith	5 5 0	Mr. Charles J. Wright,	
Mr. J. Scott Battams ...	1 1 0	Leeds	1 1 0
Mr. W. J. Pilcher,		Mr. F. B. Jessett	1 1 0
Boston	1 0 0	Dr. Kingsbury, Black-	
Dr. T. Tinley, Whitby ...	1 1 0	pool	1 1 0
Dr. W. E. F. Tinley,		Dr. C. Aldridge,	
Whitby	1 1 0	Plympton	1 1 0
Dr. C. F. Hartford-Bat-		Dr. E. Arthur Saunders	1 1 0
tersby	1 1 0	*Sir Stuart Knill	5 5 0
Dr. William Bain, Rich-		Mr. J. R. Hoare, almoner	
mond	2 2 0	of St. Thomas's Hos-	
		pital	5 5 0

* Accidentally omitted from the list published last week. Mr. C. H. Carter (last week) should read Dr. Charles H. Carter.

Through Dr. Harold Low—Old Pupils at St. Thomas's Hospital, £34.

Mr. F. C. Abbott.	Dr. C. Latter.
Mr. W. H. Allen.	Mr. W. G. Laws.
Mr. P. J. Atkey.	Dr. H. Low.
Mr. John Ballance.	Dr. J. A. Marshall.
Mr. P. L. Blaber.	Mr. J. H. Sims.
Dr. A. R. Blacker.	Mr. E. Smith.
Mr. J. V. Benson.	Dr. H. E. Smith.
Mr. W. A. Bowring.	Dr. E. Solly.
Dr. C. K. Box.	Dr. Allan Swallow.
Dr. A. N. Boycott.	Dr. J. D. Swallow.
Mr. C. Brooks.	Mr. W. J. Stephens.
Dr. J. E. Carver.	Mr. A. C. Swinhoe.
Mr. R. F. Chance.	Mr. G. M. Swinhoe.
Dr. H. J. Cooper.	Mr. L. V. Tebbs.
Dr. W. H. L. Copeland.	Dr. S. G. Toller.
Dr. H. T. Crosby.	Dr. W. F. Umney.
Mr. E. J. Cross.	Mr. W. L. Wainwright.
Mr. J. H. Dukes.	Mr. C. S. Wallace.
Dr. H. Gervies.	Mr. P. T. Whitehead.
Dr. H. Greaves.	Dr. G. H. Wickham.
Dr. T. H. Haydon.	Mr. E. H. Worth.
Dr. C. S. Jaffé.	Dr. S. Yeoman.

"CHRISTIAN BURIAL v. CREMATION: A NOTE AND A QUERY."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The letter of your correspondent, Dr. Martin, in THE LANCET of Dec. 12th, is a very forcible appeal in favour of cremation of the dead, and evidently proceeds from a painful intensity of conviction in the mind of the writer. And herein lie the very defects of its qualities—it is marked by the onesidedness, the insularity of view, and the want of catholicity of spirit to which we are too well accustomed in the declamation of the teetotaler, the anti-vivisectionist, the anti-vaccinationist, and the anti-opium eater. But the world is wide and extends in many directions beyond the restricted horizon of the partisan. May I venture to point out in what respects your correspondent's view has fallen short of the realities of his subject? When Hamlet in the play proposes to trace "the noble dust of Alexander" to its final destination his companion warns him, "Twere to consider too curiously to consider so." By the spirit of the present age that plea is ruled out of court