and derive it chiefly from the second and third. The frequency with which painful peripheral signs in angina reach the elbow by way of the cutaneous branches of the intercosto-humeral nerve, which arises from the second dorsal segment, lends some force to the above physiological conclusion, but the mode in which anginal reflexes cover an extensive nerve area when pain is severe renders it probable that physiological preconceptions may be too narrow for the explanation of some clinical facts.

Dr. Worton accounts for the occurrence of the phenomenon in his case upon the left side by the "much more extensive nervous connexions on this side through the brachial plexus with the cardiac nerve apparatus." I think he will agree with me on reflection that it was more probably due to the situation of the cardiac disease in the left heart. I presume this was so, although Dr. Worton does not expressly state so much. The nervous connexions of the right side of the heart are anatomically quite as extensive as on the left side, and in a rare case of disease of the pulmonary and tricuspid valves associated with angina pectoris which I published in the Transactions of the Pathological Society of London in 1876 the peripheral phenomena extended down the right arm to the tip of the right little finger, just as one so frequently observes them to take that course in the left arm when the causal disease is situated in the left side of the heart.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER MORISON, M.D. Edin.

Upper Berkeley-street, W., April 18th, 1898.

"THE MIDWIVES REGISTRATION BILL."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—There is a statement in your leading article of March 12th that "their high rate of mortality has been guessed at and possibly exaggerated," thereby referring to untrained midwives, and I should like to do so more especially as Mr. Humphreys expresses regret that I still disbelieve in this high mortality. I beg therefore to submit that so far as any evidence can be produced on the score of high mortality there is strong all-round presumptive evidence that the mortality is little—taking all in all—if any at all affected. Certainly there are no statistics which will show the ratio of mortality between untrained midwives and registered practitioners and, moreover, as has been pointed out before, the mortality on the continent exceeds ours and the system of legislative control has shown marked signs of collapse and the continental public a strong tendency to revert to doctors. No doubt numerous witnesses with, I fear, preconceived ideas, but of whom I speak with marked respect, came before the Select Committee of the House of Commons and stated their general ideas on the question, but without chapter and verse, and the majority of these witnesses, if I recollect, had been accustomed to town practice, which affords no field whatever for observation in this matter. Some stated one thing and others something totally different and, as a consequence, the whole evidence resolved itself into one chaotic mass. The majority, however, were against midwives and as a consequence when a majority think one way and a minority think another the committee, having to arrive at some verdict, had no alternative but to report in favour of legislation. With regard to registration generally, if the principle is once acceded to the opponents of registration may take my cue for it that, barring one exception, it matters scarcely one brass farthing what is inside the Bill or another brass farthing what is outside of it, and the exception is this. Now Mr. Humphreys has distinctly stated on behalf of his party that the object of registration is to enable the public to distinguish between a trained midwife and one who is not trained. At the same time it is proposed to confer Parliamentary honours on thousands of Gamps, thus jumbling up the registry with the trained and the untrained. Surely this kind of coalescence cannot be tolerated. Now, Sirs, I ask if Mr. Humphreys and his party can conscientiously say that they are helping the public to distinguish the trained and the untrained by methods of this kind. Surely some distinguishing feature should be noted in the registry, say, for instance, "passed by examination" to those who have passed, which might enable the public to differentiate between the Gamps and the newly fledged.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Peckham, March 26th, 1898. CLEMENT H. SEES.

"THE WALSALL MEDICAL SOCIETY."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In your issue of April 9th you stated that you had received from a correspondent a copy of a letter which a member of the above society is said to have addressed to the secretaries of sundry friendly societies; you commented that the letter in question was not one which should have been written. At a meeting of the society held on April 15th it was resolved, "That the members of the Walsall Medical Society entirely deprecate such action on the part of any member." The society has good grounds for believing that on being appealed to by the Medical Defence Union, to whom a copy of the letter was also sent, the member in question has expressed his regret at having offended in the manner indicated.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
J. P. NIXON,
April 18th, 1898. Honorary Secretary, Walsall Medical Society.

"UNQUALIFIED ASSISTANTS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Dr. G. P. Hadley's suggestion for the institution of a special examination for men over forty years, unqualified yet with a "full curriculum," seems to me to be as totally unnecessary as it would be a retrogressive step. In the first place, what is a man with a "full curriculum"? I take this to mean "signed up" for all lectures, all hospital work, all examinations but the final passed; then why a special examination? There are many open to him, from—in point of expense—the Apothecaries' Hall, London, upwards. If it is a question of funds—and poverty is the general excuse of the unqualified—the special examination suggested hardly meets the case, as the fee would hardly be lowered; indeed, in case of special examinations it is usually considerably increased. Dr. Hadley urges that unless some such sort of examination is instituted these men will be driven into the ranks of the "unqualified and unregistered practitioners"! Indeed! Where are they, may I ask? What position do they occupy now? It is a grave scandal that so many practitioners should have been found, in face of the repeated warnings of the Council, to "cover" these unqualified men and so assist in perpetrating a fraud on the public, and on that portion of the public, too, which is least able to discriminate between the legitimate and illegitimate practitioner.

Sooner or later the unqualified and unregistered man will be dealt with, and though there may be delay, the law must be eventually altered to deal with these impostors as any other fraudulent class. To help the genuinely poverty-stricken man who is prevented from entering for his "final"—for which he *must be eligible*—for want of funds, let Dr. Hadley and the other *disinterested* practitioners neither seek to lower standards of examination nor to open a back door into a profession already filled to the overflowing with men who have spent their time, energy, and money in obtaining their qualifications, but let them put their hands in their pockets and subscribe and help to start a fund to enable the man "*sine diploma but with full curriculum*" to qualify. It need not be a large amount: there are very, very few unqualified men with a genuine "full curriculum" and there are very few unqualified assistants the admission of whom into the profession by such questionable means as suggested by Dr. Hadley would be any benefit to it, except perhaps to those large-minded practitioners, their employers, who would continue to "sweat" them.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
April 19th, 1897. M.A. C.A.M.B., M.A., M.B. DUBLIN.

NOTES FROM INDIA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

A Special Sanitary Service.—Bacteriological Laboratories.—Plague Inoculation.

THE present seems to be a particularly suitable time for establishing a special sanitary service for India. The subject has been talked about for many years, but has been postponed from financial considerations. There is hardly