Gentlemen of England who are husbands, fathers, and brothers—who had wives and children of your own. One woman—ah! poor creature, how painfully is she figured in my mind at this moment—having a husband and six children had taken from her her two brothers, her husband, and her eldest son all at ‘one fell swoop’; and this my lord (addressing Lord John Russell) is your boasted England! This is your country of equal laws and justice. I do appeal to your lordship .....” (The Speaker: Order, order!) I am aware that I am out of order in addressing the noble lord personally, yet I trust he will receive the appeal personally, for personal it is intended to be.” The cause of the sufferers, continued Wakley, came not within the limits of any ordinary rules, and the pain which it excited was calculated to lead to a divergence from ordinary arrangements. He called upon the noble lord to extend justice—mercy—to those individuals, and if they were allowed to return home he would himself give personal or pecuniary security for the good behaviour of the two Lovelesses. He implored the House, he entreated the noble lord, to take this fitting opportunity of extending mercy to the men, thereby gratifying thousands of the labouring classes who had appeared before the House as petitioners. Enough had already been done to deter others from following their example, and there was no longer reason why mercy should not be extended to these poor men. He lamented that the labouring classes had no representatives in the House. He had no desire to press the motion to a division; he hoped the noble lord would see the propriety of bringing the men back to their country. As to remaining in the colony, the hand of persecution had reached the poor men even there. Would the House believe that the two brothers had been separated, that George Loveless was in a hut 250 miles from the seashore, and James was in a part of the country in which the men were actually dying of famine and in want of work? As long as George and James Loveless were in New South Wales and were confined there against their will they would be neither more nor less than transported men, suffering all the miseries concomitant to a forced separation from the persons whom they dearly loved and whose happiness constituted a part of their existence. The noble lord shall judge whether George and James Loveless would feel their continuance in New South Wales under any circumstances to be less than a forced transportation by an extract which he would read from a letter that within the last fortnight had been received from George Loveless: “From what I can observe,” he says, “of this country, it is not such a paradise as is generally supposed by the people of England. Bread is uncommonly dear, more than double the price of bread in England, and other provisions in proportion. Clothing is dearer than provisions; thousands of persons are actually starving in this country, as many cannot get employment and many are too idle to work. As yet I see nothing to attract my attention, to make me stop in the country one day after I obtain my liberty and have the means to return; in fact at present I despair of ever getting money to go to England, and yet nothing would yield me so much satisfaction—nay, nothing in this world will satisfy me until I return to you and the children.”

What mitigation of punishment would that be which was attended with such reservation as a five years’ domiciliation in such a country under such afflicting circumstances? His prayer to the House was for the restoration of all the prisoners to their families. He beseeched them to concede the favour, to gratify the humane wishes of the working people of England, who had implored the House for mercy to their fellow labourers. The people of England, he could assure the House, felt deeply on the subject. To the working classes especially it was a constant subject of agitation, and unless the men were restored that agitation would continually increase. The society was legal with the single exception of the oath; and when the object was legal the oath alone could not make the society illegal. He hoped the House would interpose its authority. It was nothing to say there was no precedent; let them make one as soon as they could, for it was well said yesterday night they did not need one to do right. He had no object in bringing forward the motion but the interests of the working classes. He trusted there would be no misinterpretation of his motives; he had entered the motion two months ago, in hopes that the men would be restored without his bringing it forward—that the entering the motion on the books would lead to investigation and that investigation would lead to a conviction that the men had committed no offence whatever in

a moral point of view. The laws had been vindicated by the transportation, the power of law had been displayed, it had been made evident that the unions would be repudiated and condemned, and he was convinced that no evil would arise from the restoration of those individuals to their native country.

(To be continued.)

ALUMINIUM INSTRUMENTS: A WARNING.

BY PERCY A. E. RICHARDS, F.I.C.,

DEMONSTRATOR OF CHEMISTRY AND PUBLIC HEALTH, CHARING-CROSS HOSPITAL.

AS aluminium is now so extensively used in the manufacture of various instruments I think the following facts will interest the readers of THE LANCET.

I was using an aluminium spatula the other day for transferring small portions of different powders to test-tubes, and having wiped it clean had laid it down. In a few minutes’ time I noticed it had become covered with what closely resembled a white growth, and although I removed this it formed once more. When carefully examined this white deposit was seen to consist of a brush-like mass of filaments radiating in all directions, not unlike hyphæ of a vegetable growth, standing erect on the flat surface of the blade. This continued to grow quite visibly, but at length over-balanced and crumbled to a bulky white powder, which qualitative analysis proved to consist of alumina. A few experiments soon indicated that mercuric iodide had been the initial cause of this, as this substance at once produced a similar result with another piece of aluminium. I next tried various salts of mercury, including the two chlorides, the nitrate, sulphate, and oxide, and found that they all had more or less the same effect. Indeed, a minute globule of the metal was sufficient to start the “growth.” The reason of this curious action would seem to be that mercury is deposited in the metallic condition on the aluminium forming an amalgam, which at once acts on the moisture present in the air or on the surface of the metal to form alumina and liberate hydrogen. The mercury being again set free by this reaction once more attacks the aluminium, thereby prolonging and increasing the action indefinitely. A small strip of this metal, weighing half a gramme, was left in contact with powdered mercuric chloride for about a couple of minutes, then well washed and dried with a cloth. Action at once proceeded, and after an hour the aluminium was again thoroughly washed, dried, and then weighed. The loss in this interval of time amounted to a little over 8 per cent. of the total weight; in fact, the strip had been perforated in several places. The action is so curious as to be well worth repeating by any of those interested.

SANITARY ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the Executive and Honorary Councils of the Sanitary Assurance Association was held at 5, Argyll-place, W., on Monday, July 13th, the President, Dr. Kenneth Macleod, in the chair, when the chief medical officer of the association, Dr. E. F. Willoughby, read a paper on Disinfection: Real and Illusory.

MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.—The following list of papers and demonstrations has been arranged for the annual meeting of the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland:—Dr. Mercier: To Examine the Alleged Exceptions to the Rule of Secrecy, and to move a resolution. Dr. G. R. Wilson: Weismannism and Insanity. Mr. Briscoe: Heredity in Mental Disease. Dr. Havelock: Clinical Observations on the Choice of a Sedative. Dr. W. F. Robertson: Microscopical Demonstration on the Morbid Changes in the Intracranial Bloodvessels in Insanity. Dr. Turnbull: Notes on Female Nursing in an Asylum Male Sick-room. Dr. Andriezen: On some further Aspects of the Pathology of Insanity, accompanied by microscopical demonstration. Dr. R. S. Stewart: The Increase in General Paralysis in England and Wales: its Causation and Significance. The following are some of the nominations made by the council:—President-elect: T. W. McDowall, M.D.; Treasurer: Hayes Newington, M.R.C.P. Edin.; General Secretary: R. Percy Smith, M.D.