

of troops, so that on their return the registered and unregistered women were much diseased); and in Naini Tal, from 196 to 304. In only three stations, Jhansi, Muttra, and Fatehgarh, were the results better than in the previous year."

The Sanitary Commissioner in his report to the Government of the North-West Provinces characterises the results of the experiment at Allahabad as "lamentable," at Cawnpore as "very unsatisfactory," at Meerut the same remark applies, and at Chakrata as "fairly satisfactory," though the ratio of admissions at this station rose from 123 to 244 per 1000! The Lieutenant-Governor's report concludes by saying: "The results of the year give occasion for considerable concern, and already indicate a doubt (!) whether the system of cantonment lock hospitals can be relaxed or abandoned without a serious increase to service-incapacity in the troops. Further experience, however, is required to warrant the condemnation of the experiment made last year." With reference to these remarks I will again quote the Sanitary Commissioner's report, paragraph 81: "Its figures are such as have never before fallen to my lot to record, in all this series of twelve reports. As regards the garrison generally, they witness to the unprecedented ratio of 346·3 admissions to hospital per 1000 of strength, for comparison with 224·9 in 1884. As regards the garrison of the four stations of abolished management, they witness to a mean admission ratio of 468·4, for comparison with 218·8 in 1884. . . . Viewed in any possible light, the figures present proof of most unsatisfactory result."

Now for a few facts. During the year 1885, no fewer than 1950 diseased women were admitted and treated in the lock hospitals that remained open, at a total cost of 28,833 rupees, or, at the present rate of exchange, considerably less than £2000; out of which sum, however, the Government paid only 2889 rupees, or under £200, the remainder having come from the cantonment funds—the sale of grass, wood, letting of land for grazing, tillage, &c. Out of about 11,000 men 4002 were admitted for venereal disease, and, putting the average of each man at twenty days in hospital, and charging one shilling a day for his maintenance, medical attendance, &c., we have an actual money loss to the State of over £4000, to say nothing of the indirect loss caused by deaths and invaliding, the result of disease. In this garrison we may take it that, on an average, one company of men are constantly off duty, suffering from venereal disease, and when this is multiplied by the remainder of the Indian garrison, the enormous amount of inefficiency from this cause will be apparent. We hold India by the sword, and the health of every unit of the army is a matter of such extreme importance to the State that it appears simply suicidal to attempt to repeal laws that were doing so much good. It is not difficult to foretell the result of any further experiments in the same direction; but it would appear that "Quem Deus vult perdere, prius dementat" is as applicable as ever, and to none more so than the advisers of the Government of India.—I am, Sir, yours obediently,

J. B. HAMILTON, M.D.,

Station Hospital, Lucknow,
July, 1886.

Brigade-Surgeon, Med. Staff.

THE PECULIAR PEOPLE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your issue of to-day's date I notice under the above heading a criticism of the evidence given by me at an inquest on the body of a child who had died without medical attendance. At the post-mortem I found a caseous mass in the left lung, with general tuberculosis of lungs, liver, spleen, intestines, &c. There was also tubercular meningitis, which was the immediate cause of death. Under these circumstances I was certainly unable to swear that life would *positively* have been prolonged by medical treatment, and the coroner, in the absence of such evidence, most properly directed the jury not to return a verdict of manslaughter. Whether medical attendance during measles and the subsequent broncho-pneumonia would have prevented the caseation of the lung is doubtful, and if all parents of children of the lower orders are to be deemed criminals for not calling in a doctor in measles our prison accommodation will soon be insufficient. The law on these cases was distinctly laid down in *R. v. Morbey* (8, Q.B.D., 571), as follows:—"Mere neglect on the part of a parent to provide medical aid for his child of tender years, in consequence of

which his child dies, is not manslaughter, unless it is proved *affirmatively* that the death was caused or accelerated by such neglect; and medical evidence on behalf of the prosecution that the child's life *probably* might have been prolonged or saved by the parent calling in medical aid is not sufficient evidence to support a conviction" (Harris on Crimes). Such, right or wrong, is the law, and I maintain, Sir, that a verdict of manslaughter in this case was not warranted by the facts, and would have been promptly quashed by the judge at the Central Criminal Court. As I think the comment on myself rather unfair, I must ask you to insert this in your next issue.—I am, your obedient servant,

C. LLOYD JONES, M.A., M.D., Barrister-at-Law.

Blackfriars-road, S.E., July 31st, 1886.

ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you allow me, through the medium of THE LANCET, to inform Members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, that the petition prepared by the Association of Members of the College (and which has been already extensively signed) will lie upon the table of the entrance hall Pavilion, Brighton, during the time of the meeting of the British Medical Association. All Members who have not yet signed are earnestly requested to do so. If possible, a meeting of the Members of the College will be arranged for Wednesday next.—I am, Sir, yours &c.,

JOSEPH SMITH,

A Vice-President of the Association of Members of
the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Thornton-avenue, Streatham-hill, Aug. 5th, 1886.

EDINBURGH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

UNIVERSITY GRADUATION CEREMONIAL.

THE Annual Graduation Ceremonial in Medicine, Law, and Divinity took place in the United Presbyterian Synod Hall on Monday, Aug. 2nd. As is usually the case, the graduates in medicine far outnumbered those of other faculties, and reached a number never attained in former years, since 219 gentlemen were promoted to the degrees of M.B. and C.M., and 49 to that of M.D. A number of honorary degrees were at the same time conferred; amongst them that of LL.D. was bestowed upon Professor Tarnier of Paris, who met with a most enthusiastic reception upon his presentation for the degree. Lord Inglis, the Chancellor of the University, presided, and performed the ceremony of "capping" the graduates—a part of the proceedings which was this year unusually protracted. The customary graduation address was delivered by Professor John Chiene, of the chair of Systematic Surgery. His speech dealt chiefly with topics of local interests and contained suggestions of a valuable nature tending to the further development and increased prosperity of the Edinburgh school. More especially he urged the claims of post-graduate instruction and of hospital extension, and in regard to the latter he appealed with telling force to the inhabitants of Edinburgh, showing clearly how much the city owes to the existence of its great medical school, how it could be best maintained in its present prosperous condition, and the opportunity it offered for still further advances in the efficiency of its system of training by the provision of increased facilities for practical instruction. This appeal was accompanied by a short summary of the details of a plan by which the accommodation for hospital patients can be raised to a total strength of 1000 beds. The particulars of the plan do not involve any great alterations, and would seem in many respects to have been allowed for as distant possibilities when the present hospital was designed in 1869. They are rather of the nature of a completion than of a modification of original intentions; and, considering the immense boon which they would prove to patients, to teachers, and to taught, it is to be hoped that the £60,000, which Professor Chiene estimates they will cost, may be soon forthcoming. Professor Chiene reviewed also in his address the present