exported to the colonies and to South America. There are at least ten or a dozen other firms making both varieties of sheep dip for home and foreign trade, some of whom I am sure sell a larger proportion of carbolic dip.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Oban, July 18th, 1898.

ALEX. ROBERTSON.

TRANSPERITONEAL LIGATURE OF THE ILIAC ARTERIES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—A paper on this subject which may have escaped Mr. Frederick Page's notice was published by Dr. Thomas S. K. Morton, Professor of Surgery in the Philadelphia Polyclinic, on Jan. 15th, 1898, in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Dr. Morton collected 29 cases, including one operated on by me.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Liverpool, July 18th, 1898.

F. T. PAUL.

SWALLOWED COINS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In reference to Mr. Robson's cases of removal of impacted halfpennies from the œsophagus I may mention that I have quite lately had under my care a boy, aged ten years, who swallowed a penny. The x rays revealed the foreign body in the stomach some 10 days after the event. He was kept on dry food and in about 20 days the boy passed the coin *per anum*. The parents were foolish and purgatives were as usual administered. It is interesting to know that so large a coin as a penny can be swallowed by a small boy and safely pass the pyloric and ileo-cæcal valves, and points to the lesson that we should not be in too great a hurry to operate in such cases.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

July 20th, 1898.

A. MARMADUKE SHEILD.

"THE DRAINAGE OF SWANAGE."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—As medical officer of health of Swanage I must protest against your annotation headed "The Drainage of Swanage," which is calculated to give a wrong impression and lead visitors to suppose that our town is in a very insanitary condition. It is true that we are waiting for the late autumn to carry our drainage outfall further out to sea, but practically the present outfall is no nuisance to the bay or town owing to the comparatively small amount of sewage passing through it; and the distant outfall is to be constructed under the impression that Swanage will rapidly increase in size. What is of more importance is a pure supply of water. This, we are thankful to say, we have, and since I have been medical officer of health, a period of over eight years, there has not been a case of typhoid fever in the town and diphtheria is practically unknown. Unfortunately our council has not adopted the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, but my brother practitioners are always willing to let me know if they have any infectious cases under their care and I may safely say that we are now free, and have been for months past, from any infectious complaints.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

A. S. MCCAUSLAND, M.D. Brux., L.R.C.P. Lond., M.O.H.

Swanage, July 19th, 1898.

P.S.—The *Bournemouth Guardian* you quote from is the organ of a rival watering-place whose medical men and residents frequently come to Swanage for the benefit of the bracing air during the summer months.

* * Our contention is that the sanitary defects pointed out by Dr. S. W. Wheaton in his report made in 1897 still remain. We are glad to hear there is neither typhoid fever nor diphtheria, but are not the conditions in Swanage such as to favour the spread of these diseases should they arise?—ED. L.

CHURCH SANITARY ASSOCIATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Will you kindly permit me to make known to your readers the aim of the Church Sanitary Association? The

object of the society is to aid, by means of the Church's institutions in every parish, in securing for all fresh air, pure water, abundant light, proper food, improved dwellings, wholesome surroundings, and the greatest possible immunity from infectious diseases. With county councils, district councils, and parish councils ready to put into effect the judgment of sanitary officers it is all the more necessary for the preacher to drive home the lesson that man is his "brother's keeper."

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

F. LAWRENCE, Hon. Secretary.

Church House, Westminster, S.W., July 15th, 1898.

* * We print this letter with pleasure, but our previous allusions to the society must have made its scope familiar to our readers.—ED. L.

BONE-SETTERS AND THE EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I wish to ask your opinion on a class of individuals who call themselves "bone-setters." A duly qualified and registered man is called in the first instance to an accident and pronounces it a fracture of both bones just above the ankle. Afterwards a "bone-setter" is employed without in any way informing the medical attendant and tells the patient's employers that "his spiel bone is broken and his ankle put out." I had to see the patient as surgeon for the employers under the new Act and in my opinion the surgeon who first saw the case is right. It was fifteen days after the accident before I could examine and thanks, no doubt, to the interference of the quack in the interval the swelling was still so great that the parts could scarcely be made out. What I want to know is, firstly, whether any objection can be raised by employers as to the compensation to be granted when joints and limbs are mauled by an unskilled and unqualified person who takes upon himself the duties of a surgeon; and secondly, whether the General Medical Council can and will protect us, as otherwise of what avail are our long and severe curriculum, our searching examinations, and our strict registration laws? We have to contend with men who have neither science nor a spark of gentlemanly instinct on very unequal grounds. I, and no doubt many others, could give you some terrible results from the interference of these impostors.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

JOHN CRANKE, L.R.C.P. & S. Edin., &c.

Ulverston, July 19th, 1898.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING IN EDINBURGH IN 1898.—CONSTITUTION AND CONDUCT OF THE ASSOCIATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I shall be glad if you will allow me to intimate to those of your readers who are interested in the proposed alteration in the by-laws that an informal meeting will be held on Monday evening, July 25th, in the chief class-room of the new School of Medicine of the Royal Colleges, Bristol-street. The chair will be taken at 9.30 o'clock precisely, and the proposals bearing upon this and other questions will be considered with a view to facilitating discussion thereon when brought before the general meeting. I trust that as many of those members who have reached Edinburgh and are able to will make it convenient to attend. The best train from Manchester will leave Victoria on Monday at 12.50, reaching Prince's-street at 6.5, and I shall be glad if anyone wishing to go by that train will let me know by Saturday night's post so that carriages may be reserved.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Old Trafford, July 18th, 1898. JAMES BRASSEY BRIERLEY.

"THE ALLEGED DEARTH OF QUALIFIED ASSISTANTS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Your correspondents on this subject seem to be extreme, and if you will permit me to give my impressions from a long and varied experience of both sides of the question it may perhaps be of interest. I must say that the