chance of the danger that might arise from the greed of gain on the part of the midwife.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,
Freshford, April 27th, 1896. CHAS. E. S. FLEMMING.

THE BEAVEN RAKE MEMORIAL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In response to a letter which you kindly inserted soon after the early and lamented death of Dr. Beaven Neave Rake, Superintendent of the Leper Asylum at Trinidad, a sum of £83 14s. has been collected. Of this sum 50 guineas were sent to Dr. Rake's widow, and the remainder will be presented to Mr. A. Lucchesi towards defraying the cost of a very beautiful bronze tablet which he has designed and executed, and which has been placed in the entrance hall of the Museum at Guy's Hospital. As there may still be some old Guy's Hospital men and other friends of the late Dr. Rake who may desire to add their names the subscription-list has not yet been closed. The names of those who have already subscribed are appended. The tablet allegorically represents "Medical Science" combating "Disease" and bears the following inscription:—

IN MEMORIAM

BEAVEN NEAVE RAKE, M.D. LOND.,

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE

ASYLUM FOR LEPERS, TRINIDAD, AND MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO LEPROSY IN INDIA, 1892.

REMARKABLE FOR HIS SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS.

RESPECTED FOR HIS ZEAL AND HUMANITY, AND BELOVED FOR HIS

PERSONAL CHARACTER,

HE WAS CUT OFF BY FEVER IN THE

37TH YEAR OF HIS AGE,

AUG. 24, 1894.

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

PHIN. S. ABRAHAM,

2, Henrietta-street, Cavendish-square.

GEO. R. BUCKMASTER,

Fair Lawn, Teddington.

P. H. PYE-SMITH, Treasurer,

48, Brook-street, W.

List of Subscribers to Date.

Dr. Abraham, Dr. J. P. Atkinson, Dr. Blandford, Dr. Clifford Beale, Dr. Buckmaster, Dr. W. Carter, Mr. Jno. Cock, Mr. W. Collin, Mr. N. Davies-Colley, Dr. Floyd, Mr. J. Hutchinson, Dr. Horrocks, Sir George Humphry, Mr. W. H. A. Jacobson, Dr. Kanthack, Mr. W. Arbuthnot Lane, Mr. J. E. Layley, Dr. Pavy, Dr. S. Perkins, Mr. A. Pringle, Dr. J. Pringle, Dr. Pye-Smith, Mr. H. V. Rake, Mr. Thomas Smith, Dr. Stowers, Dr. Hale White, and Dr. Wilks.

April 24th, 1896.

"THE EFFECT OF MUSCULAR WORK UPON THE ALKALINITY OF THE BLOOD."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—As Dr. Hutchison has now, no doubt, seen my reply to Mr. Fotheringham in THE LANCET of April 18th, showing that my results as regards the above heading agree with his own, I need not say anything further on that subject; but in his letter to THE LANCET of April 25th he raises one or two other points on which I should like to say a few words. With regard to the reaction of normal perspiration I know that the statements of authorities differ, and I have contented myself with quoting their statements and pointing out that a fall in the acidity of the urine always accompanies marked perspiration, whether this is due to muscular exercise or a Turkish bath, and that the converse fact that suppression of perspiration causes a rise in the acidity of the urine has been pointed out by Sir A. Garrod.¹ Dr. Hutchison's statement is also opposed to that of Heuss,² who distinctly says that normal sweat is acid at the time of its discharge from the ducts. Dr. Hutchison's suggested explanation of the early fall of urea which exercise may produce does not seem to me to meet the facts of the case, for this fall of urea, as well as the fatigue which accompanies it, can be prevented by controlling the uric acid,³ but if exercise is always accompanied by formation of ammonia to neutralise acids

then there should be a fall of urea in every case and we should be unable to control it. I would further point out that Auerbach⁴ has shown that though the carnivora have the power of forming ammonia to neutralise acids, this power is only possessed by man and frugivora to a very insignificant extent, this probably accounting, as I have said in my book with reference to my experiments on the excretion of uric acid in dogs, for the very different reactions of the urine, and probably also of the blood, in members of these different orders, and furnishing also a somewhat powerful lever for the argument that man is not by nature a carnivore. I was greatly interested in Dr. Hutchison's paper, and if there had been any real antagonism between his results and my own I should have noted it carefully for further investigation. May I point out a misprint in my letter in THE LANCET of April 18th, where in line 8 "function" should read *formation*?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Brook-street, April 27th, 1896. ALEXANDER HAIG.

JUVENILE SMOKING: THE DUTY OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Whoever is desirous of raising the status of the medical profession and of adding to its true dignity cannot do better than read the admirable address of Mr. Springthorpe, the President of the Public Health Section of the Intercolonial Medical Congress of Australasia, given in THE LANCET of April 25th. Mr. Springthorpe took a lofty view of the services which the physician can render to the State. In all matters relating to the preservation of the health of the people the nation looks to the members of our profession for light and leading. But we live by the treatment of disease; its prevention is in direct contravention of our interests. Nevertheless, medical men have not only never hesitated about sacrificing their interests for the public good, but they have been zealous and even enthusiastic in their efforts to promote the means of protecting and promoting the public health. The valuable and disinterested services thus rendered to the State have won for the profession much honour and no little dignity both at home and in the colonies. The profession has once more an opportunity of rendering a great—indeed, an invaluable—service to the State. Of late years an evil of the gravest kind has been extending in our midst, an evil which attacks not merely the physical but the mental and moral health of the nation. Juvenile smoking is spreading like an epidemic. Over twenty years ago the occurrence of sporadic cases induced the Editor of THE LANCET to speak out very plainly on the subject. He said: "Whatever opinions may be entertained as to the effects of moderate tobacco smoking on the adult, there can be none as to its deleterious influence on the boy. The molecular changes coincident with development of tissue are interfered with, slowed, if not arrested by tobacco." Facts were cited in proof of the physical injury thus caused, as were others clearly showing the mental damage inflicted. The experience of France and Germany was referred to, and the importance of hygienic instruction was urged. But since that time the evil has enormously extended. Lads are infatuated by the notion that the ability to "blow a cloud" is an indication of cleverness and it raises them considerably in the estimation of onlookers.

The advent of the cheap cigarette has, however, been the chief cause of the rapid spread of juvenile smoking of late. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in his recent speech on the Budget, referring to the large increase of revenue received from tobacco, said: "I believe it is mainly due to the great increase in the consumption of cigarettes, which are especially attractive to our youthful population." He added, "I am told of one manufacturer who makes two million cigarettes a day who hardly made any a few years ago." Thus it is not only that mere children are using tobacco, but they are using it in the worst possible form. Moreover, whilst most adults smokers are inclined to exercise some restraint over their smoking, the young are too apt to rush into extremes. It is impossible to estimate the injury which boys are thus doing to themselves. Surely something should be done, and done promptly, to put a stop to all this mischief. In some parts of Germany and in some of the United States laws have been passed prohibiting young persons under the age of

¹ Gout and Rheumatic Gout, third edition, p. 258.

² Monatsschrift für Praktische Dermatologie, No. 9, 1892.

³ THE LANCET, March 7th, 1896, p. 614.

⁴ Virchow's Archiv, vol. xeviii., p. 512.

xteen or eighteen from smoking and rendering it a punishable offence for anyone to give or sell tobacco to youths. Why should not the members of the medical profession move earnestly in this matter and urge on the managers of schools on the one hand the importance of special teaching, exposing the folly and viciousness of the practice of smoking, and, on the other hand, make such representations to Parliament and to the Government as may lead to efficient legislation? By taking the initiative the profession would do itself great credit and would serve the best interests of the country most effectively.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

R. MARTIN,
Senior Surgeon, Ancoats Hospital,
Manchester.

April 27th, 1896.

THE QUESTION OF MEDICAL DEFENCE."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Referring to Mr. Keele's letter in THE LANCET of April 25th on the above subject, I cannot think that the medical profession will regard his objections to the absorption of the Medical Defence Union by the British Medical Association as sound ones. He objects to the formation of a gigantic trades-union and of the tyranny of the few over the many. Union is what the medical profession has been striving after hopelessly for years, and if it is a good thing at all the larger it is the better. As for the tyranny, when in the same issue of THE LANCET I see that one medical man advertises his advent by the village crier and others subsidise insurance agents to advertise their clubs at a penny a week or less, and while mangles and medical attendance are curiously mixed up together at Walsall, I cannot but think that a little wholesome advice and tyranny if necessary might be useful to teach some members of the profession to practise their calling in a way that does not degrade the whole profession in the eyes of the public. After the tyranny which the profession has suffered for years from clubs and provident associations the yoke of the British Medical Association will be but a feather weight.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Warsop, Notts, April 27th, 1896.

E. S. NUTTING.

"THE BATTLE OF THE CLUBS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The Friendly Societies Medical Alliance met at Wednesbury Town-hall on Monday, April 5th. The following resolutions affecting the profession were submitted to the meeting and carried *nem. con.*:—

1. That these institutions shall be called Friendly Societies Medical Institutions, leaving out the word "Aid" existing hitherto.

2. Persons of all grades, irrespective of position, are cordially welcomed to join.

3. That no annual reports of the work of the associations be published in which is shown the total value of property acquired or in which is shown the salaries paid to medical officers, the number of prescriptions dispensed or the visits made by the medical officers, as these figures have been used against the friendly societies' medical institutions by the medical profession, whose power for evil might have been much greater had the system of publishing statistics been more universal. [This proposition of the Kidderminster Association was carried unanimously.]

4. That the application of the medical officer of Tonbridge Wells Friendly Society be refused, and if any further dissatisfaction on his part be shown a month's salary be given instead of a month's notice. [The application of the medical officer here was to the effect that he considered the surplus capital at the year's end after defraying all legitimate expenses should revert to himself.]

5. That the Alliance should be registered, and that the Parliamentary representatives of the constituencies in which large associations exist be interviewed with a view to effecting certain proposals submitted to the last meeting, thus giving friendly societies greater power over the profession.

6. In towns where private practitioners decide to ask for more for adults and juveniles than the lodges pay at present, these clubs should attach themselves to one of the Friendly Societies Medical Institutions, and in the event of the non-existence of such an institution the affected clubs should form one and leave their surgeons *en bloc*.

[At this stage a telegram was received from Lincoln stating that the medical officers of the institution there had resigned. A reply was sent advising the management what course to adopt under the circumstances.]

7. That a deputation be formed, consisting of Alderman Dickinson (Lincoln), Mr. Willement (Norwich), and the President, to wait on the General Medical Council and seek their opinion on the question in dispute.

Now, Sirs, this bit of intelligence will doubtless be very interesting to the whole of the profession and especially to those who have clubs and who live in a town where a friendly societies institution exists. The profession here

may now know what to expect. It will appear to all your readers that there is either a deal of Freemasonry or timidity when the Alliance resolve not to publish reports showing their numerical and financial position, what they are worth and what they pay their officers. This sort of thing will certainly not tend to a better understanding between the clubs and the profession. Let the General Medical Council not forget this when they are interviewed.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

April 27th, 1896.

SOPHOCLES.

P.S.—I may say that this Friendly Societies Medical Alliance is a conference of delegates sent from various friendly societies medical institutions, especially from those referred to by your Special Commissioner in the articles which have appeared recently.

THE ASHANTI EXPEDITION.

(BY OUR SPECIAL WAR CORRESPONDENT.)

IV.¹

The Troops in Health, their Feeding, &c.

ON arriving at the top of the Monsi Hill, which I found by barometrical reading to be about 1122 ft. above the sea level, we had hoped to obtain an extensive view of the surrounding country, but we were greatly disappointed in this expectation on account of the impenetrable character of the tangled and prolific undergrowth which clothed its summit. Previously to our advance the pathway up the side of the hill was most irregular as well as precipitous in places, with huge boulders and stony projections barring the way and causing considerable inconvenience to anyone attempting the ascent. But thanks to the activity of our engineering party, the sappers of which worked like navvies, the bush was speedily cleared away where required, the stones removed, and a nice wide zigzag road was prepared throughout. Our troops were by this act of thoughtfulness on the part of the executive ultimately enabled to perform the journey up with comparative ease and comfort. The morning on which I crossed the range was beautifully fine overhead, with a soft, balmy air from east-north-east; while a thick white mantle of fog was observed to envelop and hide from view the whole of the country beneath us. About a mile from the top there was a sound of water rushing over some stony projection on our left flank. Desirous of ascertaining its whereabouts I halted my carriers and pitched my tent for the purpose of enjoying some refreshment, as I had partaken as yet of nothing since starting from Abru Edru. While my breakfast was being prepared by my coloured servant I was enabled to make an examination of the locality. Pushing my way through some very thick undergrowth, during which attempt I suffered considerably from the "lawyers" (thin canes with long barbed thorns), I managed after a brief search to come across quite a charming little cascade, over the ledge of which some beautifully clear, bright, drinkable water was foaming and tumbling into a tortuous narrow streamlet below. Just above the cascade was evidently the spring oozing out from under a large block of granite. The streamlet, pursuing a tortuous course down the northern side of the Monsi Hill, finally reaches Kwissa, and from it our supply was obtained for the rest camp of that place.

I have borne testimony to the hard work done by our men in Ashantiland more than once, but it does not necessarily follow from what I have said that a soldier's life (even during campaigning) is one of "all work and no play." It is no more one of incessant fatigue and hardship than it is one of "all beer and skittles," as Tommy Atkins would express it. He has his time for work as well as his time for rest and recreation, and unless untoward and extreme circumstances combine to prevent it he generally manages to secure his fair share of the two latter. I am not quite sure that he thinks so. He will sometimes growl. Grumbling is a permissible qualification not alone restricted to the army or navy but observable in other departments as well, and may as a characteristic of good sound health be considered a sort of safety-valve to let off the superfluous steam when necessary. But grumble or not as he may, our red-coat—as well

¹ Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were published in THE LANCET of April 4th, 11th and 25th, 1896, respectively.