described by Dr. Biernacki, and that in expert hands it would be safer and more efficient. Naturally under the circumstances the surgeon would require special protection. This, however, presents no insuperable difficulty. It seems that if more than the exceptional cases alluded to are to be saved by clearing the trachea, and possibly the bronchi, the bronchoscope should be used at an earlier stage.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

T. JEFFERSON FAULDER.

Harley-street, W., July 13th, 1914.

ULTRAMICROSCOPIC VIRUS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In an interesting letter by Dr. J. T. C. Nash, published in THE LANCET of July 4th, it is suggested that very minute individual micro-organisms might escape notice if lying free, but should—theoretically—be easily detected by the microscope when occurring in colonies. To the soundness of Dr. Nash's observation I can fully testify in the case of mumps and of typhus fever. For example, in the case of mumps I have in the last few days found in the fresh urine of five consecutive cases in the stage of fever minute organisms which cannot when lying free be recognised to be organisms by the ordinary 1/12th oil immersion lens. When, however, they occur in clusters an ill-defined mass can be made out, which under a 1.5 mm. apochromatic lens is readily seen to be composed of myriads of well-stained organisms varying between about 0.1μ and 0.3μ in their greatest diameter. (The etiological relationship of these organisms to mumps is now being studied in monkeys.) Similarly in typhus fever, as Dr. W. W. Ingram and I have recently reported, large clusters of minute filter-passing organisms may be seen, especially in the fresh urine and cerebro-spinal fluid, though when lying free the individual organisms are beyond the range of vision unless a specially high objective be employed.

The difficulty of recognition of individual organisms of the small size described is greatly increased if they are embedded in the highly albuminous matrix of a blood film, but is reduced to a minimum in the case of cerebro-spinal fluid and of urine.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

The Lister Institute, July 8th, 1914.

E. C. HORT.

THE CHILDREN'S COUNTRY HOLIDAY MOVEMENT AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—May I ask you to find space for a few comments on the circular on "Children's Country Holidays," issued by the Local Government Board, and referred to in THE LANCET of July 4th? The Board draws attention to the allegation that from time to time infectious disease has been introduced or spread in country areas, and that overcrowding in country cottages has also been caused by the boarding out of town children during holiday time.

The Children's Country Holidays Fund, which sent over 45,000 London children into the country for a fortnight last summer, and since its establishment by Canon Barnett 30 years ago has provided holidays for more than 1,000,000 children, has for many years given close attention to the points mentioned in the circular. As the fund draws support from such a wide circle of sympathisers,

I am sure your readers will be interested to know what regulations are laid down to avoid the dangers suggested.

1. To prevent any risk of sending children to cottages where infection or overcrowding might be possible, the Children's Country Holidays Fund allows no centre to be used unless a lady or gentleman resident in the place has undertaken supervision, and children are only sent to cottages which have been inspected by these honorary "visitors." The latter also see that the definite restrictions as to numbers accommodated in each cottage are observed, and visit the children during their stay so that no breach of the regulations may pass unnoticed.

2. The fund enjoys the coöperation of the London County Council, whose nurses inspect all the children on the score of health and cleanliness before they go away, and report three times on each child before the holiday is given.

3. Honorary assistants of the fund visit the home of every child at least once before the holidays, and in case of any suspicion of illness in the house or immediate neighbourhood a doctor's opinion is obtained. Before the children leave London their parents are required to see that they take with them a supply of clean clothes.

4. A special fund is set apart for medical assistance when required at the country centres, and this fund is drawn upon up to a specified amount in case of need for medical advice, special food, or hospital charges.

Seeing that the Children's Country Holidays Fund has been at great pains to minimise any risks attendant on its work, I should be glad if you would put this brief statement before your readers.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

F. MORRIS,

Chairman of Executive Committee.

The Children's Country Holidays Fund, 18, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C., July 13th, 1914.

THE WORKING OF THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT IN GREAT YARMOUTH.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—An article on Medical Practice under the Insurance Act in Great Yarmouth which appeared in your columns last month and was copied by the *Yarmouth Independent* has recently come to our notice.

As it may have given very erroneous impressions we beg leave to point out, first, that there is no evidence but that of hearsay (repeated for the last six or seven years at least) that the local Medical Institute was on the eve of collapse; second, that the National Insurance Act has not given it a new lease of life. Quite the contrary. It is true that it receives more for the insured persons it has retained, but many have left it. Further, as pointed out *ad nauseam* in the medical press, the pledge taken by the medical practitioners prior to the passing of the Act involved points on which the British Medical Association changed its ground radically, breaking its side of the pledge. Being thus left an isolated community after Norwich, Lowestoft, and the surrounding country had given in, the Great Yarmouth medicos held several meetings at which the desirability of all acting together was frequently insisted on and generally accepted. At the last of these meetings the question was put whether a panel should be formed or not. The majority voted "Aye" and expected the coöperation of their colleagues who voted "Nay"; they, however, left the meeting, entirely to the surprise of the majority. It is only fair to say that two opponents put their names on the panel next day and a third offered to do so if we required more names. Subsequently the members of the panel formed a committee to look after their own affairs. They knew it was not a statutory committee then,