In this epidemic, as also in that of 1856, post-mortem examinations were made, every treatment known was tried, with some good results it is true, and every theory was studied; and as regards the electricity and ozone theory, the quantity in the atmosphere was registered daily by myself, and handed in to the Army Medical Department. I need hardly say that the invariable premonitory diarrhoea of Dr. MacLoughlin has been proved in India and Mauritius to be a fallacy. He may still persist in his declaration to the contrary, like the Federals in their victories; but when army surgeons declare that they have seen men suddenly roll up in a ball, get cold and blue, and die within two hours, without diarrhoea, and have seen the vomiting commence first, or be present without diarrhoea, the opinion of Dr. MacLoughlin will very likely carry but little weight with the profession. The diarrhoea he dwells on is too often the true cholera, and frequently nothing will arrest it; whereas many men suffer from simple diarrhoea throughout a cholera epidemic, without any ill effects, it not arising from the same cause. Is it likely that such men as Professors Longmore and Maclean have not studied scientifically the disease in the Crimea and India?

Dr. MacLoughlin will find many of us able and willing to prove that he is not ahead of us in the study of the disease, and also to bear testimony that Dr. Gibson has wished to assist us all in studying this and other diseases, as far as lies in his power.

I have the honour to be, Sir, yours obediently,

H. B. FRANKLYN,

The Curragh Camp, August, 1863.

Surgeon, 1st Batt. 10th Foot.

ON THE SMALL SIZE OF THE SPLEEN IN LUNATICS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In a paper by Mr. P. W. Jones, published in last week's LANCET, the very small size of the spleen (two drachms) in a lunatic patient is noted amongst the post-mortem appearances. An interesting paper on this subject by Dr. John Wilson, F.R.S., has been recorded; and you did me the favour to publish a note of mine on the same subject in 1854. I think the condition of the spleen is worthy of the attention of those who are specially engaged in investigating the etiology and pathology of lunacy, although, in the present state of our knowledge, it might be rash to affirm that the fact alluded to can have any practical bearing on psychological medicine.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Kidderminster, August, 1863.

JOHN ROSE, M.D., Surg. R.N.

"THE LANCET" MEDICAL FUND FOR LANCASHIRE DISTRESS.

THE Committee, having regard to the actual mitigation of the distress in the cotton districts owing to the season, and to the probable extension and aggravation of suffering in the approaching winter, have resolved to postpone the issue of further grants. The balance in hand amounts to £128. The Committee, in the mean time, desire these gentlemen who have heartily aided them by undertaking the duties of almoners to receive their best thanks. The Committee trust, when the season for renewed exertion shall return, again to have the advantage of their assistance.

MEDICAL TRIALS.

FORFAR SHERIFF COURT.

POOR CUTHILL v. HERD.

JUDGMENT in the following case was given by Sheriff Robertson on Thursday, the 30th ult. :—

This was an action for filiation and aliment against a medical practitioner in Forfar, who, it will be seen, has been assoilzied.

The Sheriff-Substitute, having heard parties' procurators, and advised the whole case, for the reasons contained in the subjoined note, finds that the pursuer has failed to prove that the defender is father of her child libelled: Therefore sustains the defence, and assoilzies the defender from the conclusions of the summons: Finds the pursuer liable in expenses and decerns.

(Signed)

ALEX. ROBERTSON.

Note.—The defender is a medical practitioner in Forfar, and the pursuer is a poor woman residing there. The defender was ordered to visit the poor by the parochial board, being at that time a medical officer to the board. The pursuer admits that one of the complaints under which she was suffering, and for which she was treated by the defender, was of a private nature. The defender, in the discharge of his duty, was bound to regard it as such, and private interviews between the parties were then necessary.

Under these circumstances, the Sheriff-Substitute is of opinion that an unusually strong case must be brought out by the pursuer in order to fix the paternity of her child upon the defender. The Sheriff-Substitute has no hesitation in saying that the evidence, as led by the pursuer, is not such as to warrant a decision in her favour.

Her story is unusually disgusting and improbable. The first act of connexion deposed to took place in her own house, without the defender ever having attempted liberties with her; and this act is entirely without corroboration of any sort or kind.

The next act spoken to is said to have been in defender's own house, in a room off the defender's sitting-room, where a friend of the pursuer's was waiting for her. The pursuer and her friend had gone to consult the doctor, who admits that he took the pursuer into a room apart, because the question he wished to put to her regarding her health was unfit for her friend's ear. A bed was in this room, and it was the only other room the defender had to take pursuer to. The friend (Lakie) says that no question of a private nature was asked in her presence. The pursuer says the same, but on cross-examination she says the doctor asked her about her private complaint when Lakie was present. Independently of the obvious reason for the defender taking pursuer aside on this occasion, it is most unlikely that he would have connexion with the pursuer under the circumstances. The door between the rooms was not bolted, and the defender knew quite well that the pursuer's friend was waiting, and would at once suspect anything improper between them. The Sheriff-Substitute cannot believe that, if the defender is the designing man the pursuer attempts to make him out to be, he ever would have taken this opportunity for having connexion.

Lakie and pursuer both say that a quarter of an hour elapsed before this private interview was concluded. The defender denies this. This is the only part of the pursuer's case where she meets with anything like an important corroboration. But the Sheriff-Substitute can never bring himself to believe that the time spoken to by these girls was as long as they say it was.

Then the horrible attempt at abortion is not in any way corroborated, and is most improbable. The pain the pursuer suffered she swears to have been greater than child-bed; and yet, though three women lived on the same floor as the pursuer, no cries of distress were heard by any of them. This alleged attempt at abortion took place on a Tuesday, and yet by Saturday no one is told of it. Even on Saturday the pursuer did not allude to it.

Then the pursuer denies ever having stated to Mr. Dargie that the defender was not the real father. Mr. Dargie directly contradicts this.

In short, the whole case proved against the defender is that some irregularity is shown in entering his visits to pursuer in his medical reports and diaries—that he was often alone with the pursuer—and that a discrepancy exists between his evidence as to the time he and pursuer were alone together in his house, and between the evidence of pursuer and her friend on this point. If a medical man is to have his reputation blasted upon such evidence as this, the result will be that no practitioner can ever with safety be alone with a female patient for a moment; and that, if a female patient has any complaint of a private nature, a third party ought invariably to be present at any necessary operation, as a witness to the decorum of the medical gentleman who performs it.

If the pursuer's story is true, her case is a hard one; but not more so than the defender's would be if her story be false.

(Intld.) A. R.

Montrose Standard, August 7th.

* * The facts of this case are so closely similar to those which have recently occupied public attention at Chester, that they assume a value which removes it from the category of vulgar crimes. It affords a further illustration of the difficulty medical men have to encounter in the discharge of their professional duties, and also of the necessity, as we have already indicated, of using every precaution to prevent such gross charges having