back numbers and wrong volumes for what, after all, will most probably be missed. The present volume does not profess to be a full *index* to the works named, for it is both *more and less*; *more* in that it gives not merely the titles of the papers, but often twenty or thirty references to the text of a single lecture, and *less* in that it does not notice a number of articles that have no practical interest."

The preceding gives a concise view of the scope of the work, the references in which are so arranged that a glance suffices to recall known lines of treatment, or to suggest others, and also to tell whether any previous observer has noticed that which at the moment is believed to be new.

The "Digest" may really become a *vade-mecum* for all, while the giant American index is beyond the capabilities of most, and is literally a catalogue; whereas the "Digest," as its name implies, concerns itself with those details of each paper that have any practical bearing. It has been so designed that the busiest practitioner may learn, with the least expenditure of time, all that has been done or suggested in every possible emergency of practice; and it rather surprises me to find that the "warm appreciation" of the work has been expressed more by earnest students than by those for whom it appears to me to be so especially useful.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

RICHARD NEALE, M.D. Lond.

Boundary-road, S. Hampstead, N.W., June 11th, 1881.

CLINICAL TEACHING AT ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL, CAMBRIDGE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Surely it is the duty of "Undergraduate" before venturing to criticise the clinical teaching of an important hospital to make himself acquainted with facts. In his letter of June 4th, having abandoned his original charge, he urges that at Addenbrooke's Hospital it is the out-patient teaching that is neglected, and asserts that this department is chiefly relegated to the house-physician and surgeon. Had "Undergraduate" made inquiries, he would have found that the surgical out-patients were invariably seen by one of the surgeons, who was in the habit of giving exactly the same kind of instruction as is given in the out-patient departments of the London hospitals, while on two days in the week medical out-patients were seen and clinical instruction given by one of the physicians. In answer to his assertion that towards the close of his career the Cambridge medical student is too often found strangely deficient in that knowledge which will be required of him a little while hence, &c., I can only remind him that we not unfrequently find Cambridge students within a comparatively short time of their leaving the university holding important resident appointments in many of our large London hospitals, which proves conclusively that "Undergraduate's" seniors are not of his opinion.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

June 4th, 1881.

A CAMBRIDGE GRADUATE.

PHTHISIS AND HYDROPATHIC ESTABLISHMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Dr. Hunter has correctly identified the case dealt with in my letter in your issue of May 28th. The account he gives is of interest, but its value is diminished by his having lost the patient's weights and by the inexactness in his dates. Dr. Hunter speaks of June, 1880, and then goes on to July, September, and *November 20th*. Now, the patient was under my charge from *November 15th* of that year until his death, so that Dr. Hunter could not have seen him on the 20th. Nor do his dates correspond with those given in the patient's carefully written statement, which I have before me. I have no doubt, however, that Dr. Hunter's other particulars are quite accurate. They throw a little more light on the previous history, but they in no way contradict the facts related in my letter.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Ventnor, June 20th, 1881.

JAMES M. WILLIAMSON.

At Middlesborough, on the 19th inst., the Friendly Societies held their annual Hospital Sunday demonstration, in which eleven societies participated.

MANCHESTER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

I AM glad to be able to announce to your readers this week that a second school of medicine is about to be formed in this city. The situation of the new school will be near the Royal Infirmary. This will be a gain to the students; for the existing medical school being inconveniently placed as regards hospital work (it is about a mile and a half from the infirmary), much time is lost to the students in covering that distance which might be otherwise employed. I am not in possession of a complete list of the promoters and lecturers, but hope to be able to send this in a week or so. The list so far, however, is composed of names which are esteemed for their sterling worth, and which guarantee a teaching power of high order. I also understand that the promoters hope to be able to offer some exhibitions, which will take the form of a free medical education, to the sons of deceased medical men or other professional men who may happen to be in reduced circumstances. These exhibitions will only be obtainable by a special competitive examination. The new school, moreover, will be so placed as regards the large special hospitals of the city as to give students every facility for acquiring practical knowledge of the more important specialities. I understand that the promoters were afraid that they would not be able to open the school before next summer session; but I learn to-day that they have determined to inaugurate the new school in October next if the museum is in a sufficiently advanced state. In this determination they are greatly cheered by the sympathetic support of many professional and lay friends.

June 20th, 1881.

IRELAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE Society for Providing Nurses for the Sick Poor, Belfast, considering the means at its disposal, carries out its operations in a most praiseworthy manner. The nurses visit the sick in their own homes, and the poor are supplied with nourishment when required—a very important aid to medicine and nursing. I believe the various cases are attended on the recommendation of the different dispensary physicians, who personally direct the treatment; and, in addition, where cases of distress require immediate help a fund contributed specially for the purpose is expended by a committee of ladies who superintend the work of the nurses. The annual meeting of the Society was held recently in Belfast, and the report showed that several districts of the town are not yet provided with nurses—a defect which, it is hoped, will shortly be removed.

Since the Cork Maternity was opened in the latter end of 1872, 2881 women have been attended in their confinement at their own homes, the mortality among the mothers directly occurring as a result of childbirth amounting to 17. During 1880 the cases attended numbered 440, being an increase of 20 over the previous year. The expenditure last year was but trifling—some £140; but it is to be regretted that the subscriptions are equal to only half the amount required. The institution deserves to be supported not alone for the help it affords to poor women in their hour of trial, but as a training-school for midwives.

The returns for the Irish Census of 1881 show that the population on the 3rd of last April amounted to 5,159,849, being a decrease of 252,538, or 4·7 per cent., as compared with a similar return in 1871. This decrease, however, in the last ten years, though to be regretted, is not quite so great as the decade preceding, being only 4·7 per cent., whereas from 1861 to 1871 it was 6·7 per cent. Three counties exhibited an increase—viz., Antrim, in which the increase was 4·7 per cent., Dublin 3·2 per cent., and Kerry 2 per cent. Although the population of Dublin has but slightly augmented, yet taking the surrounding townships into account, the growth has been considerable; for example, Clontarf has increased 22·3 per cent. in the decennial period, Rathmines and Rathgar 17·9 per cent., Kingstown 11·3 per cent., &c. The population of Dublin city is 249,486, against 246,326 in 1871, and, including the