In the early stages of the complaint benzol is not useful, and I do not give it until the acute stage is past and the lungs are free from congestion. I incline, however, to the belief that it might do good in the initial stage, before any congestive mischief is set up; but of this I have no experience.

For the first fortnight I give the usual remedies, such as ipecacuanha, hyoscyamus, and solution of acetate of ammonia, directing especial care as to temperature and diet. At the end of this period the following mixture is given every four hours:—Benzol, two to ten minims; tincture of hyoscyamus; compound tincture of chloroform; acacia mucilage; water in sufficient quantity. The benzol should be quite pure, in which state it has a peculiar "aromatic or ethereal odour," and is not at all unpleasant to the taste. When I first used benzol, it was in the impure form, which, though very unpleasant to the smell, was, when properly combined, not unpalatable, and I incline to think the effects were even better than those obtained by the pure preparation.

Of the action of benzol not much is known apparently, but its composition (C_6H_6) would lead to the conclusion that it is harmless to man, even in considerable doses. It is true Chevallier reports a case of poisoning by it, but it is very likely that the poisonous action was due to some impurity. I am not aware of any other instance of the kind, and I have not observed the least unpleasant symptom from its use.

Paraffine, which is not very dissimilar, has been taken in large quantities without injury. Dr. Alexander informs me of a case he saw recently in which a man swallowed half-a-pint, by mistake, not only without injurious effects, but with the result of curing severe rheumatism of long standing. I incline to think that the dose of benzol might be increased with advantage, especially if used in the purest form.

In a case which came under my care, not long since, a boy of ten had suffered severely from whooping-cough for three weeks, each of the paroxysms bringing on an epileptic attack; after taking the benzol mixture for a week he was quite cured. In another instance, a young lady after three weeks' treatment was apparently quite cured. She had remained free from cough for a fortnight, but on her way to Switzerland the cough returned with extreme violence, and she was so extremely ill on arriving at Interlachen as to cause great alarm. Fortunately she was able to get the prescription for the benzol mixture made up there, and after a dose or two the cough ceased entirely.

I could adduce many other equally striking instances were I not fully mindful of the capricious nature of the malady and of the full meaning of *post hoc*. I would merely therefore say that it is well worthy of a fair trial under the conditions which I have laid down.

Your obedient servant,

King's Lynn, May 6th, 1880.

JOHN LOWE, M.D.

CRUELTY TO WOMEN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I herewith forward you my pamphlet on "Counter Seats for Shopwomen," in which I called attention to the subject some eighteen months since.

I am happy to state that many leading firms have already recognised the evil complained of, not only in this metropolis, but in numerous provincial towns. There is, however, still much to be done. The Countess of Aberdeen has been working at the question for the last twelve months. Your annotation in this week's LANCET will serve to call professional attention again to the subject, and will, I trust, prove eminently useful in furthering the cause of the oppressed.

I beg to remain, yours faithfully,

Wimpole-street, W. ARTHUR W. EDIS, M.D., F.R.C.S.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

At an ordinary meeting of the Council, held on Thursday last, the Collegial Triennial Prize was presented to Mr. G. A. Woods.

A letter was read from Mr. Simon, resigning his seat as a member of the Council, and arrangements were made for the annual election of members of the Council on Thursday,

July 1st. Mr. Holmes' motion to abolish the payment of members of Council for attendance at meetings was rejected by eleven against nine.

The report of the committee appointed (see THE LANCET, Oct. 18th, and Nov. 15th, 1879) to consider the necessary arrangements to be made for the institution of examinations in Chemistry, Materia Medica, Pharmacy, and Midwifery, to be passed by all candidates for the Membership and Fellowship, was presented, and the following recommendations were made and adopted, *subject to confirmation at the next meeting*:—"That, in view of the uncertainty which prevails as to the compulsory establishment of a Conjoint Scheme in each division of the United Kingdom, and of the desirability of some combination being effected amongst the English Medical Corporations, for the purposes of a complete Examination in Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery, the Council should give notice to the several medical authorities concerned in the Conjoint Scheme of the intention of this College to withdraw from that Scheme, so that the independent action of the College may be thereby secured."

On the motion of Mr. Marshall, the Council resolved to adopt the principle of instituting an examination in Elementary Anatomy and Physiology to be passed by candidates for the membership at, or after, the expiration of their first year of study, and it was referred to the "Committee on Examinations in Anatomy and Physiology," to prepare and submit to the Council for approval the necessary regulations for defining and conducting such examinations.

Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—

The following gentlemen passed the Primary Examination in Anatomy and Physiology at Meetings of the Board of Examiners during the week:—

Arthur W. Wheatley, W. C. G. Collins, Charles E. F. Biggs, Charles F. Rumbold, Alfred J. Weakley, David John, Nicholas P. Marsh, Arthur S. Nance, Alfred P. Trinder, Rupert W. Newton, Roger D. de la H. Williams, and Herbert C. Simmons, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Arthur J. Dilton, William E. Audland, Walter T. Harris, John G. Milnes, Daniel T. Edmunds, George H. Kinck, James H. Targett, Edgar R. S. Lipscomb, John H. Cox, Reginald J. Ryle, Frank N. Shillingford, Benjamin M. Moorhouse, William J. C. Tomalin, Henry A. B. Davies, George R. Green, and Michael A. Muirhead, Guy's Hospital; Frank L. Phillips, Sidney C. Lawrence, Birmingham; Herbert W. Knowles, Liverpool; Henry T. Rudge, Bristol; Harry I. Smith, Herbert W. White, and John Humphreys, Glasgow University; Benjamin Poulton, Melbourne, Australia; Robert P. Jefferson, Leeds School of Medicine; William A. Foxwell, Cambridge and St. Thomas's Hospital; Michael H. Feeney, Cork; Basset C. E. F. Gunn, University College; Hugh Robinson and John R. Rygate, London Hospital; William F. Majoribanks, St. Mary's Hospital; Robert W. Sheikey, Charing-cross Hospital; A. Barber, St. Thomas's Hospital.

The course of lectures for the present year will be resumed on Wednesday, the 2nd of June next, by Professor Henry Trentham Butlin, F.R.C.S., of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who will deliver three lectures on "The Relations of Sarcoma to Carcinoma."

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on May 6th:—

Edward Cocks Johnston, Easy-row, Birmingham.
William Clay Jones, Llysawen, Breconshire.
Arman Jules McConnel Routh, Montague-square.
Thomas Dixon Savill, St. Thomas's Hospital.

The following gentleman on the same day passed the Primary Professional Examination:—

John Lloyd Thomas, Queen's College, Birmingham.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.—Preliminary Examinations in General Education were held on April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, when 332 candidates appeared. For the Professional Examinations 190 candidates entered, and the following passed:—

First Professional Examination (New Regulations) in CHEMISTRY, BOTANY, and ZOOLOGY.—Thos. G. Alexander, Robt. Berth, Andrew Lees Bell, Benjamin Blaine, John G. Burns, William Campbell, Joseph Carroll, Fergus Carswell, Norman McLeod Clerk, Robert Davidson, Thomas Spence Dunn, Alex. Galbraith, James Gardner, John M. H. Gell, James F. Gemmell, William Gibb, Thos. J. Grime, Francis Johnstone, Isaac C. Hogson, Alex. Jarvie Howel, Robert Horn, Robert R. Hunter, Creighton Hutchinson, Matthew Killick, William Little, James D. McDonald, Neil C. McDonald, Thomas F. MacDonald, John Francis McGregor, H. Malcolm McIntosh, John McIntyre, Peter MacLean, James M. Nish, Matthew Martin, James Maxwell, Henry Mason, William C. Muir, William Patullo, William G. Pretsell, Richard A. D. Robb, William J. G. Robinson, Andrew Semple, Dugald Sinclair, John Sinclair, Alexander J. F. Skottow.