possession; it contains a population of 2525, and it lies about ninety miles north of the mouth of the Gambia, and immediately south-east of Cape Verde. The epidemic broke out early in June of the present year, and at the time of the last account the deaths amounted to 14 daily.

This is the first time that epidemic cholera is known to have prevailed in Western Africa, and we trust that in a short time we shall be able to lay before our readers an authentic detailed account of the spread of the epidemic, and of its relation to the extension of the malady in North-west Africa.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

REGARDING THE EFFECTS OF REMEDIES UPON THE FACULTY OF LANGUAGE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You were pleased a few months ago to insert a short note which I sent you containing an account of a case in which words were wrongly used by a patient whilst under the influence of opium. May I now ask you to give a place to the interesting letter from my friend Dr. Nicholls, of Chelmsford, which I now send you.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN W. OGLE, M.D.

Chelmsford, January 16th, 1869.

MY DEAR DR. OGLE,—Your cases of aphasia, published in THE LANCET, August 22nd, 1868, and a most interesting case of poisoning by stramonium in the last year's St. George's Hospital Reports, by Dr. G. Paget Blake, induce me to let you know of two cases in which I have seen aphasia produced by the use, or rather perhaps by the excessive use, of two powerful drugs—viz., stramonium and cannabis indica. The former was in the case of an elderly gentleman who had been ordered to smoke stramonium for the relief of asthma; this he did, and to the extent of many pipes-full in an evening, mixed with a small quantity of ordinary tobacco. After several pipes he would begin to call things by wrong names, and this without knowing it; and it is remarkable that he almost always miscalled the same things. He was a very small drinker, and after sound sleep the loss of the power of intelligible speech passed away, and he was not at all aware that he had miscalled places and things after smoking, and would scarcely believe it. He afterwards died of bronchitis. I may mention that he began by only smoking one pipe of an evening, and when suffering from asthma; but he increased it to many pipes per day, and used sometimes to smoke during the day. He always remembered the subjects of his conversation, but not his language.

The case of aphasia from the use of cannabis indica, is that of a young man, aged twenty-four, who has lately been under my care. In May last he had an apoplectic attack and suffered from paraplegia afterwards, and had the most excruciating pain in the front of his head. He got little or no sleep at night, and I tried morphia, opium, &c., with very little relief. He is a chemist, and took some chlorodyne, and found some relief from the pain; whereupon I gave him some of the tincture of cannabis indica, and I found it gave relief, but had to give very large doses. He took as much as two drachms of the tincture with a little hyoscyamus, and after a full dose he was free from pain; but in talking he misnamed almost everything—called his head his foot, &c. &c. And this was always the case; but he was and is now conscious that when he has taken the drug he cannot express his ideas correctly, whereas in the stramonium case the patient did not at all remember that he had miscalled things, &c. This patient is now better, and does without the narcotic. He did not always miscall the same things or even call the thing twice by the same name; whereas the stramonium smoker *always* called his boots logs of wood, his bedroom the stable, &c. &c.—that is, when under the influence of the drug.

I have inhaled chloroform some half a dozen times in my

life, and my sensations, dreams, ideas, and feelings have on each occasion been the same—that is, between the beginning of the inhalation and the stage of utter forgetfulness. I have heard the same sounds in my ears and seen the same visionary place each time: this looks as if certain drugs produced on the same brain always the same chain of symptoms. With my patient there was no stage of delirium nor even excitement after smoking stramonium, and his sleep afterwards was only slightly deeper than usual. My cannabis indica case does not sleep soundly after his dose, but lies quietly dreaming and free from pain; but he tells me he does not always have the same sensations and dreams.

I am, yours faithfully,

JAMES NICHOLLS.

John W. Ogle, Esq., M.D.

P.S.—I have recently met with an observation of a French physiologist, Dr. Leuen, in the *Archives de Physiologie*, to the effect that quinine, in addition to other symptoms, may produce aphasia.

THE BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: HOSPITALISM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As my speech on the great "hospitalism" question is reported by you, and as you have been so kind as to allude to it in a leading article, will you allow me to state what I really did say?

The main object I had in rising was to clear up the confusion which is too often made between the general lowering of the "vitality" of patients in a hospital, and, secondly, their liability to infection. I contended that all experience, and our recent removal, showed how valuable large, well-ventilated wards were for the former object; but I held, with Mr. Hutchinson, that no amount of ventilation would destroy infectious germs when introduced. Against them we must fight with other weapons. When, therefore, one speaker after another accused our central court of mischief, did they mean that it would make the wards stuffy and depressing, or did they mean that it favoured infectious diseases? Not till they made this distinction could they be properly answered. I further said that I believed the agents carried in water, which cause enteric fever and cholera, are material particles, and not spiritual effluences; and that it is as absurd to deny their existence on the ground of their invisibility, as to deny the existence of strychnia in a solution thereof on the same ground.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Leeds, August 14th, 1869.

T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT.

THE TREATMENT OF CHOLERA BY INJECTION OF MORPHIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I herewith transmit you a copy of a letter I have written to the medical officer of the Manchester Corporation on the treatment of Asiatic cholera.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. BATES, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

To John Leigh, Esq., the Medical Officer of the Manchester Corporation.

SIR,—I think it my duty to call your attention to a case of Asiatic cholera I was called to see on Monday last, August 5th, 1869. My patient is a Mrs. John S——, Daisy Bank, Ashton New Road, Droylsden, and within one mile of the city of Manchester. I saw the case for the first time at 11 o'clock A.M. The first symptoms had commenced seven hours previously by vomiting and purging. When I saw her she was in the *algide stage*—rice-water evacuations from the stomach and bowels, no pulse perceptible at the wrist, voice husky, and the skin had a contracted and pinched appearance throughout its whole extent; skin cold, and expired air cold; thought she must die every minute.

Whatever the poison of cholera may be, a mycoiderm or otherwise, such poison produces "tonic" spasm of the involuntary, and "clonic" spasm of the voluntary, muscular