PUERPERAL MORTALITY IN WORKHOUSES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The Local Government Board are collecting statistics upon a subject of interest to obstetricians, and as I append the form with a few additions of my own, I need not explain why I do not know what may be the object of the Local Government Board, but I can see that some useful information may be gathered from the numerous workhouse in-

firmarys in England which may help in clearing up many moot points in connexion with midwifery. I think this is another score in favour of the value of workhouse infirmaries as a means of solving many of the grave problems which disease opens out (THE LANCET Commission, 1866). A careful analysis of all the facts will show the mortality, class of patients, and the rest, and a comparison may then be made with similar facts obtained from our general lying-in hospitals. Perhaps the Obstetrical Society of London might, on seeing the nature of the facts collected, deem the subject worthy of their attention.

HALIFAX UNION INFIRMARIES.

Returns showing the Number of Births in the Workhouse or Lying-in Wards of the Union, and the Number of Women Confined therein who Died in Childbirth or from causes connected therewith, during the past Ten Years, with other particulars relating thereto.

1	2			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	—
Years.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	First confinements.	Married.	Single.	Twins.	Puerperal fever.	Hæmorrhage.	Convulsions.	Puerperal peritonitis.	Other causes.	Total.	Remarks.	Version.	Craniotomy.	Forceps.	Still-born.	Mothers syphilitic.
1871	9	4	13	10	1	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
1872	11	7	18	15	2	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1873	12	2	14	11	1	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
1874	7	17	24	20	2	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
1875	12	7	19	11	2	16	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
1876	14	11	25	19	1	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	2
1877	12	10	22	17	1	20	1	1*	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...
1878	10	12	22	15	2	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
1879	15	6	21	17	3	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
1880	13	11	24	19	2	21	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	3	1
Totals...	115	87	202	154	17	183	3	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	10	9	7

* Puerperal septicæmia. Full particulars of this case were published in the Obstetrical Journal, November, 1878.

May, 1881.

I am, Sir, yours &c.,
T. M. DOLAN, L.R.C.P.E.

THE DURHAM UNIVERSITY SURGICAL DEGREE.—IS IT M.S. OR C.M. ?

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you kindly insert the following correspondence, which will speak for itself ?

The facts that the Durham University authorities give an extra paper in Surgery to, and require of candidates for their Mastership in Surgery the performance of operations on the dead subject in the presence of the examiners, and consider it an Honours degree, seemed to demand that the matter at issue should be settled by authority.

I am, Sir, very faithfully yours,
W. BARRETT ROUÉ, M.B., M.S. Durh.,
Physician to the Bristol Hospital for Sick Children.

[COPY.]

165, White Ladies-road, Bristol, March 2nd, 1881.

DEAR DR. PHILIPSON,—When I forwarded my qualifications to Messrs. Churchill for their Medical Directory, 1881, I entered M.B., M.S. On consulting the publication I was surprised to find the letters M.S. had been exchanged for C.M.

Again, when I sent notice of a recent appointment to THE LANCET, I used the letters M.B., M.S., and found that the authorities of that paper had also altered the letters M.S. to C.M.

May I ask you, therefore, to send me an official statement in your capacity as Professor of Medicine in the University of Durham as to what letters surgical graduates of the University are entitled to use.

With your permission I intend publishing this letter and your reply in the medical journals.

I am, dear Dr. Philipson, very faithfully yours,
W. BARRETT ROUÉ.
G. H. Philipson, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of
Medicine, Durham University.

[COPY.]

7, Eldon-square, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, May 24th, 1881.

DEAR DR. ROUÉ,—I have much pleasure in informing you that the Senate of the University of Durham, at their meeting this day agreed “that Masters in Surgery should be permitted to use the letters M.S. as the abbreviation of the degree.”

With very kind regards and every good wish,
I remain, yours faithfully,
(Signed) G. H. PHILIPSON.
W. B. Roué, Esq., M.B., M.S., 165, White Ladies-road,
Bristol.

GLASGOW.

(From our own Correspondent.)

LAST year a series of papers appeared in the Glasgow Medical Journal, written by Dr. F. Henderson, of Helensburgh, on a form of “endemic influenza,” which he stated was prevalent in the district in which he lived. This influenza he attributed to effluvia from the polluted water of the Clyde, and from the Glasgow sewage which is carried down the river and deposited on the foreshores of Helensburgh and the Gareloch district generally by the ebb and flow of the