entirely gave them up? Would Germany be as formidable without her plentiful supply of beer and wine?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Exeter, South Australia, Aug. 1st, 1916. F. LUCAS BENHAM.

PS.—May I take this opportunity of referring to a totally different point suggested by Mr. H. H. Moyle's article on "The Odour of Paint as a Cause of Plumbism" (THE LANCET, May 27th, 1916, p. 1083). He does not state whether old paint had been burnt off any of the doors or woodwork previously to repainting. This is, of course, often done, and it is, as I know by experience, quite capable of producing unpleasant symptoms of lead poisoning; the wind blowing the products of combustion into the house. This accords with your statement in an accompanying annotation that lead is only capable of volatilisation at a high temperature.

THE CHOICE OF ANÆSTHETIC FOR A MILITARY HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Referring to the interesting letter of Mr. A. de Winter Baker in THE LANCET of Sept. 16th on the above subject, I beg to be allowed to make two remarks in order to prevent misconception.

Firstly, I alone am responsible for the modification of the Hewitt's chloroform mouth-prop and tube (as illustrated) to which he is good enough to call attention; that is to say, the addition of grooves containing rubber for the teeth to rest upon, so arranged as to be easily renewable (either by cutting a suitable piece from thick sheet-rubber or by buying it ready cut from the Holborn Surgical Instrument Company, who now stock it). I explained this idea to Mr. Baker, and after I had discussed the exact details with our resident dentist Mr. Baker kindly had one made for each of us.

Secondly, Mr. Baker is "senior" resident anæsthetist here only in the sense that his appointment is dated about three months prior to mine.

We have always worked harmoniously together, and I am sure Mr. Baker will not object to my making the above points quite clear.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

H. L. NOEL-COX, M.D.,

Resident Anæsthetist, County of London War Hospital.
Epsom, Sept. 15th, 1916.

STATE ECONOMY AT THE EXPENSE OF MEDICAL MEN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I see by the Parliamentary Intelligence in THE LANCET of July 8th that some heat was generated in the debate *re* the proposed abolition of the system of reports on accidents in factories and workshops made by the certifying surgeons. I was glad to see that the thermal point was raised to an appreciable temperature. Now I am not, and never have been, a factory surgeon; I have, however, acted temporarily as such for a friend who was in a big dockyard town and know a little about the work. My friend for whom I acted is at present serving his country in France. As far as I remember, much work was done for very small pay, and the nature of the work was such as could only be done by a medical man. I see that the Government has paid £12,500 in one year as the total amount divisible among 2000 surgeons; this averages the princely sum of £6 10s. each, the price of the upkeep of one wheel of the doctor's motor for one year. Why should the Government economise at the doctors' expense? Do I hear aright that since the war the fee payable for a certificate under the Infectious Diseases Act has been reduced? Has the medical man's income gone up since the war? I think not. The price of drugs has risen enormously, petrol has gone up, but has the medical man raised his fees? I have not heard so. I had to abandon my practice the day war broke out, being an officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps (Territorial Force). I am not complaining about it at all, although I have lost three quarters of my income and possibly my practice. But is the Government going to set me on my legs when I get home again? Is it possible that Cabinet Ministers are going to put by half their salaries—two of such would amount to the total annual fees payable to factory surgeons—and unite with the Members of Parliament in establishing a fund for medical men out of their combined salaries? As regards the work of a factory surgeon, I do not think it is impossible for

his brain to grasp the workings of mechanical appliances and machinery. It is as well at times to have an open mind and an unbiased opinion on these matters.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

MAJOR.

* * Many regret the action taken by the Government in respect of certifying factory surgeons, but in every department of life economies are being effected, some wise, some unwise, but all with the firm intention to husband the national resources in a time of immense trial.—ED. L.

THE NOTIFICATION OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN BELFAST.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I should like to call attention again¹ to a curious feature in the returns of the Registrar-General for Ireland, for which no explanation has yet been offered. In the July returns of infectious diseases in Dublin and Belfast, only one notification of "tuberculous phthisis" is credited to Belfast, but 73 to Dublin. If reference is made to THE LANCET of July 29th, 1916, p. 207, it will be seen that for the year ended March 31st, 1916, there were 1587 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis treated at the dispensaries founded by the city corporation, while in the sanatoria and hospitals provided by the same body 631 pulmonary cases were treated, and if to these be added those cases received into the union infirmary and the Forster Green Consumption Hospital, we get another 369; while under the head "treatment otherwise than in dispensaries and sanatoria (including domiciliary treatment)," there were, during the same 12 months, in Belfast actually 1410 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. The discrepancy between the abundance of tuberculous cases in Belfast and the fewness of notifications requires some explanation, as well as the difference in the number of notifications in Belfast and Dublin.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Sept. 14th, 1916.

HIBERNICUS.

Appointments.

Successful applicants for vacancies, Secretaries of Public Institutions, and others possessing information suitable for this column, are invited to forward to THE LANCET Office, directed to the Sub-Editor, not later than 9 o'clock on the Thursday morning of each week, such information for gratuitous publication.

BENNETT, F. J., M.R.C.S., L.D.S., has been appointed Clinical Assistant to the King George Hospital (Dental Department), Waterloo-road.
CORKER, J., M.B., B.Ch. R.U.I., Tuberculosis Officer at York.
STEPHENS, G. A., M.D. Lond., Certifying Surgeon under the Factory and Workshop Acts for the Swansea District of the county of Glamorgan.

Vacancies.

For further information regarding each vacancy reference should be made to the advertisement (see Index).

When the application of a Belgian medical man would be considered the advertisers are requested to communicate with the Editor.

BIRMINGHAM, CITY FEVER HOSPITAL, Little Bromwich.—Female Resident Medical Officer. Salary £250 per annum, with board.
BIRMINGHAM GENERAL DISPENSARY.—Resident Medical Officer, unmarried. Salary £250 per annum, with apartments, &c.
BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND EYE HOSPITAL, Church-street.—Resident Surgical Officer. Salary £300 per annum, with residence, &c.
BOLTON INFIRMARY AND DISPENSARY.—Female Second House Surgeon. Salary £200 per annum, with board, &c. Also Female Third House Surgeon. Salary £180 per annum, with board, &c.
BRIGHTON, ROYAL SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL.—Junior House Surgeon, unmarried. Salary £80 per annum, with a war bonus at rate of £100 per annum, with board, &c.
BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY.—House Physician. Salary at rate of £120 per annum, with board, &c.
CITY OF LONDON HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, Victoria Park, E.—Resident Medical Officer. Salary at rate of £250 per annum. Also Assistant Resident Medical Officer. Salary at rate of £150 per annum, with board, &c.
DUDLEY, GUEST HOSPITAL.—Assistant House Surgeon. Salary £120 per annum, with board, &c.
DUNDEE, KING'S CROSS (FEVER) HOSPITAL.—Resident. Salary £150 per annum, with board, &c.
EVELINA HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, Southwark, London, S.E.—House Physician. Salary at rate of £160 per annum, with board, &c. Also Clinical Assistants in Out-patient Departments.
GREAT YARMOUTH HOSPITAL.—House Surgeon, unmarried. Salary £200 per annum, with board, &c.
GUILDFORD, ROYAL SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL.—House Surgeon.
HUDDERSFIELD ROYAL INFIRMARY.—Two Assistant House Surgeons. Salary per annum—qualified £150, or qualified £80, with board, &c.
LEEDS PUBLIC DISPENSARY.—Female Resident Medical Officer. Salary £200 per annum, with board, &c.

¹ See THE LANCET, March 25th, 1916.