who may die during the performance of their duties in times of epidemic.

Small-pox is still extremely prevalent in Vienna. From the 6th to the 13th instant there were eighty-two deaths due to the disease. The epidemic does not show signs of being on the wane. The number of deaths among males far exceeds that among females.

The appointment of Don Cayetano Rosell as Director General of Public Instruction in Madrid is greeted with much pleasure by the Spanish medical journals, as they expect he will do something to alleviate "the anarchy which at present exists at the Faculty of Medicine and in various other departments of public education."

Dr. Charles Spurzheim, Director of the Lunatic Asylum of Lower Austria, has just died. He was a distinguished worker in psychiatry, and had travelled much out of his own country in order to carry out his favourite studies and researches as thoroughly as possible. In 1848 Spurzheim was elected to the Parliament of Frankfort. He was an ardent promoter of the non-restrictive system.

The Free University of Brussels has just inaugurated its new academical year. The ceremony took place among a large concourse of students, professors, and lay assistants. The Inspector of the University, M. Van Schoor, read the report on the progress of the alumni during the preceding year, and registered with regret the deaths of two of the professors—Franqui and Van Rosseghem. He was followed by the pro-rector, M. Van Bommel, who uttered the most grievous complaints against the grinding system, and the plan of working at a set programme in view of examinations. This was narrowing education in the extreme, "and," said the orator, "universities were not destined exclusively for the purpose of making doctors and barristers, but should be organised with the higher object of making men."

A new system of sanitary inspection is about to be adopted in Austria. It will mainly consist in dividing the country into a number of sanitary centres, each having a sanitary council, presided over by a medical man. It will be the business of the councils to ascertain all causes of insalubrity, point them out to the political authorities, and see that they are removed.

Drs. Puccioni and Gozzini, of Florence, have just performed removal of one-half of the tongue, in a case of epithelioma, by means of the galvano-caustic wire. The whole operation did not last seven minutes, produced scarcely any suffering, was without the slightest loss of blood, and attended by no febrile reaction. The authors employed the double-wire process which they have invented.

The opening of the Lisbon School of Medicine and Surgery took place on the 5th ult., and was a very successful meeting.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

CONDENSED MILK.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The different forms of condensed milk—Swiss and Aylesbury—have now been in very extensive use for some time, and upon all sides one hears them spoken of with unqualified approval. My object in forwarding this letter is not an endeavour to dissuade people from using the condensed milk, but to see whether other medical men have observed certain injurious effects from its continued use, or whether my observations have only been due to coincidence.

In May, 1871, I began to order infants deprived of the breast to have condensed milk, diluted in different proportions, according to the age of the infant; and I have, up to the present time, continued to advise its use. I may just briefly mention a few of its advantages, which of course are well known. First, its uniform purity; next, it can always be kept in the house ready for use, and can be fresh made each time the child requires feeding. This is a great advantage in London during the summer months. I have frequently in hot weather found that cow's milk, which had

only been milked, to my own knowledge, at six o'clock P.M., and was then kept in a cool place, with a piece of ice in, was quite sour, and therefore, of course, unfit for an infant, by five o'clock next morning. Children like the condensed milk far better than cow's milk; I suppose from its sweetness. Its general effect is that infants thrive remarkably, and get very much fatter, as a rule, on it, than even on the breast. To look at, children brought up on condensed milk are extremely healthy.

Now arises the question, which has induced me to trespass upon you with this letter—viz., are all the children really strong and well nourished, or are they only strong-looking? That they are well fattened is manifest, but is the fatness only the result of a sort of converse "Bantingism"? The continued use of the so-called Banting regimen will, no doubt, soon reduce a man's adipose tissue and weight, but it will do so at the expense of deteriorating the whole system, of dangerously lowering the vitality, and, therefore, the power of resisting disease. So likewise I have observed in a number of cases carefully watched during the past eighteen months, that while condensed milk fattens, and while children apparently thrive upon it, the vitality of the child is below par to a very dangerous degree.

I found that during the summers of 1871 and 1872 children taking condensed milk sank rapidly of diarrhoea which was not at all severe, or such as to cause alarm, and that the prostration was out of all proportion to the severity of the disease and came on almost immediately. Indeed, as far as my experience goes, it has been invariably the case that children fed on condensed milk, and attacked with diarrhoea at all severely, almost immediately get into a semi-collapsed state, and if brandy be not at once given, they die. I have observed the same with regard to other diseases, as for instance measles, whooping-cough, and bronchitis. The resisting power of the child has been bad, and those children brought up on the impure London-fed cow's milk will resist an attack of acute disease better than children fed on condensed milk. I can give no explanation of this. Whether my observations be correct or only the result of a strange series of coincidences, it is a matter well worthy of more extended investigation.

I have now before me the notes of a number of cases confirming the above views. In one child that I saw, fed entirely upon condensed milk from a month old, collapse set in from a few hours' diarrhoea, which was not at all severe, and the child only recovered by the very free use of brandy. This child was in perfect health to look at before the attack. Another child, taking the condensed milk, and who was on the brink of the grave from one day's slight diarrhoea, by my advice was afterwards fed on goat's milk, and while taking goat's milk it had another attack of diarrhoea, more severe than the first; but the alarming symptoms of exhaustion did not come on, and the child was soon well. I could relate many such cases. I have seen several children sink of slight diarrhoea in a few hours who were being brought up on the condensed milk, the children being healthy to look at, and the diarrhoea such as generally gets well. I do not wish to draw any positive conclusion from these cases; I only state what I have observed. Again, I have invariably found that children brought up on this milk are most backward in walking, no doubt due to the inferior muscular nutrition, and also that the anterior fontanelle is very late in closing, arising from the osseous system not being properly nourished. The children generally, too, have the abdomen rather large. I may mention, also, that it is most difficult to get children using condensed milk to take other kinds of food, and as they grow old enough to eat farinaceous puddings they will not touch them unless they are saturated with sugar.

Such, briefly, are some of the results from feeding with condensed milk which I have observed. No one will rejoice more than I shall if greater experience and more extended observation prove my ideas to have been erroneous; but I have felt it my duty to bring the matter at once before the medical profession, in order that it may reflect for a moment before deciding that all infants deprived of the breast are to be brought up on a long-continued course of condensed milk.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Queen's-road, Dalston,
Oct. 17th, 1872.

FREDERICK H. DALY, M.D.

* * We shall be glad to learn the experience of other medical practitioners on this question.—ED. L.