gave ether to Gilbert Abbott, upon whom Dr. John Collins Warren performed a painless operation.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Oxford, Nov. 16th, 1914.

WILLIAM OSLER.

INTRATRACHEAL ANÆSTHESIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In relation to Dr. R. L. Jones's account of my cases of intratracheal anæsthesia in THE LANCET of Nov. 7th, there is one point which perhaps requires a further note. In one case of excision of the tongue the patient died from pneumonia, and this would seem to show that this method of anæsthesia is therefore no safeguard against this complication. But it ought to be pointed out that the mouth was very foul owing to the fact that the ulcerating growth had extended far back. The whole tongue was removed, so that the epiglottis stood up at the back of the floor of the mouth. I never saw a case in which post-operative shock was less marked, and the patient was sitting up reading the paper the day after operation. Nevertheless, he died a week later from septic pneumonia. I believe that this is accounted for by post-operative infection and not by inhalation of blood during the operation.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

ERNEST W. HEY GROVES.

Richmond Hill, Clifton, Bristol, Nov. 10th, 1914.

THE WILLIAM LANGLEY MEMORIAL FUND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A year ago you were good enough to announce that my bankers (Sir Charles R. McGrigor and Co.) would receive subscriptions from members of the West African medical staff to the above fund. I now beg to state that the sum of £47 5s. 9d. was thus collected and has been transferred, with a list of subscribers, to the Bank of British West Africa, Leadenhall-street, E.C., for the credit of the main fund, which is under the control of the committee at Lagos, Nigeria.

I understand the fund will be disposed of as follows: First, a brass tablet in the colonial church at Lagos in memory of Mr. Langley. Second, a yearly gold medal to be competed for at the schools of tropical medicine.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. P. FAGAN,

Kensington, W., Nov. 15th, 1914.

(Late P.M.O., N. Nigeria.)

ROYAL DENTAL HOSPITAL OF LONDON SCHOOL OF DENTAL SURGERY.—The prizes were distributed to the successful students on Nov. 17th by Mr. Arthur Hood, chairman of the committee of management.

THE LADY DUFFERIN FUND.—Sir Harcourt Butler presided at a meeting of the central committee of the Dufferin Fund, at Gorton Castle, Simla, on Oct. 13th. The following were present: Sir Reginald Craddock, Sir Pardey Lukis, Raja Sir Harnam Singh, Sir James Roberts, Dr. K. A. Platt (of the Women's Medical Service for India), and Mr. G. A. Hanrahan, officiating joint secretary. The central committee of the Dufferin Fund has taken over the control of the regular service of qualified medical women recently sanctioned by the Government of India. The service is now at full strength and its members are all appointed to important centres throughout India and Burma.

THE POSITION OF BELGIAN DOCTORS AND PHARMACISTS.

BY PROFESSOR C. JACOBS,
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRUSSELS.

BELGIUM, a blood-stained and ruined country in the horrors of despair, claims the help of her friends to whom her freely consented sacrifice has brought a ray of hope in the dreadful nightmare of the past three and a half months.

I raise my voice with a feeling of intense pity on behalf of thousands of our weeping brethren in their Calvary of suffering, but it is my pride to carry out this duty to my country. The first impulse of the Belgian medical world is to make an appeal to Great Britain, whose kindness has proved itself in such unbounded measure and with such tact and generosity. The German iron fist has closed upon our country; we have to witness the endless series of crimes that are committed in all our provinces, and we have to abide in silence. All the evils of war have been thrust upon us at the same time—a useless and cruel holocaust of human lives, a decimated, despairing, and starving population, ruined homes, and, far worse than all, our children, the only hope of our country, are being mown down by want and disease.

Our doctors have not been spared; they, too, are bearing a heavy share of the general suffering, And now long weeks, nay months, of trial stand before them, during which they know that they will have to bear a terrible burden. They will have to devote themselves untiringly, giving all their care and time, and even their lives, if need be, to the cause of their country; and yet many of them, victims of a barbarian foe, are homeless, deprived of their laboratories, instruments, and their medical stores. What will become of those that still remain of our people, threatened as they are by the grim havoc of war and by contagious disease, its constant follower?

In anticipation of these inevitable consequences it has become my duty, as the spokesman of my Belgian colleagues, to appeal to the medical and pharmaceutical world that an impulse of international fraternity may come to the aid of Belgian doctors and pharmacists. Is it realised what we in Belgium have suffered and are suffering? Duty, and duty only, has bound our doctors and pharmacists to their posts in the devastated localities; some of them are carrying on their profession in the ruined remains of destroyed buildings, whereas others have to improvise at haphazard any kind of shelter for their Samaritan work. Need I describe the manner in which they sustain themselves and how they manage to nourish their wives and children?

I have witnessed such misery amongst them! Some have had to work as navvies in order to have a few pence in their pockets; others have told me that they had not seen bread for a fortnight, but had lived exclusively on potatoes. Others had a meagre bunch of straw laid on the bare ground as a bedstead; the only pair of boots owned by one of them was falling to pieces in tatters. Men I