tive success, in a case of cancer of the breast, and in another case of cancer of the rectum, an American drug, "hydrastis Canadensis"; it was preferred by both patients to any other form of lotion, for its painlessness and for its power in keeping the surface in a more healthy condition and free from offensive odour. The strength in which it was used was one drachm of tincture to eight ounces of water. Finding it unknown to many practitioners, I have thought the mention of it in the pages of THE LANCET may perhaps bring an improved temporary relief within the reach of some sufferers from this dire calamity.

I remain, Sir, yours truly,

EDWIN PAYNE, M.D., M.R.C.P. Lond.

Selhurst-road, South Norwood, June, 1872.

OBLITERATION OF THE CONJUNCTIVAL SAC.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Mr. Streatfeild has contributed to your last number an interesting paper, in which, in certain cases, he recommends us, after enucleation of an eyeball, to remove the conjunctiva by dissection and caustics, and to close the resulting cavity. May I be permitted to ask him what becomes of the tears when this practice has been pursued? I suppose the lacrymal gland would undergo atrophy in course of time; but I should expect it first to give considerable trouble.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Wimpole-street, June, 1872. ROBERT BRUDENELL CARTER.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

At the last meeting of the Town Council here, Mr. John Patterson, food analyst to the Corporation, reported that since February last he had examined forty samples of wheaten flour and twenty-eight samples of oatmeal. Of the forty samples of wheaten flour examined, twenty-three were found to be pure, and seventeen adulterated with rice flour; this substance was generally present to the extent of 5 per cent., but some samples contained $7\frac{1}{2}$ and even 10 per cent.; all the samples were carefully examined for alum and sulphate of copper, but in no case was either of these substances present. Of the twenty-eight samples of oatmeal examined, eighteen consisted of genuine oatmeal, and ten were found to be adulterated with various proportions of barley-meal; about one-fourth of the meal in many cases consisted of barley-meal, and even a larger portion than this was occasionally present. I am sorry to say that the Council treated this report in a very light manner, and so tender were some of the members of the feelings of the fraudulent mixers of food that it was decided not to publish their names until due notice of the intention had been given. The Mayor "thought it was a question whether barley-meal was not better than oat-meal, and whether rice was not better than flour." But it is a matter of very great importance to many of the poorer inhabitants of our town, to say nothing of the slur cast on the commercial morality of the place by the evidence of such practices. It might also become a question of high importance to the Mayor himself had he to purchase and subsist principally on this adulterated food.

Dr. Heath, in some able letters to the daily papers here a short time since, suggested the establishment of a training-school and home for nurses in connexion with our infirmary. The great want of such an institution here has been long apparent to all practitioners in the district, and we are much indebted to Dr. Heath for setting the project in motion. On Friday last a large and influential meeting of ladies and gentlemen favourable to the establishment of the home was held in the infirmary, under the presidency of Sir William Armstrong. Many promises of support were received from the profession and from wealthy families in the district, and a committee was appointed to draw up a scheme for the carrying out of the project, and to report to another meeting of those interested in the movement by the middle of next month.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, June 10th, 1872.

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE financial results of the grand Fancy Fair and Bazaar, held in Sefton Park, in aid of the funds of the Royal Southern Hospital, were published on Saturday last, and prove most satisfactory. A net result to the credit of the hospital of £20,050 is an announcement which has elicited from the public and the press a unanimous expression of approval; the more so because a feeling had begun to manifest itself that we were likely to find again, as in the Stanley Park Bazaar, the expenditure had been enormous. The management, however, has been very different in this case; and the close supervision which was exercised by each sub-committee over the work allotted to them prevented any extravagant outlay. The particulars may be summarised as follows:—Receipts: Entrance to park, £5967; bazaar, £12,134; amusements, £1321; flower show, £1083; music, £361; fancy dress ball, £400; sale of guinea tickets, £520; refreshments, £3243—making a total of £25,029. The expenditure was under £5000, and its largest items are in the erection of tents, a grand stand, and the flower show.

The assistance rendered by all Liverpool to promote the success of the fair was very great, and was most heartily acknowledged by the chairman of the committee at its final meeting. To mention only one department—that of refreshments: to this the contributions were simply enormous; columns of the daily papers were for many days before the bazaar filled with advertisements acknowledging them. An auction of the surplus stock was held last week, and included more than a thousand dozens of wine and spirits, most of them of the finest quality, besides casks of beer, kegs of butter, hams and cheeses innumerable. This auction alone realised £1500. The handsome presents to the various stalls of the bazaar is shown by the sum taken in this tent. There were twelve stalls, and upwards of £12,000 was taken at them.

The hospital for which all these successful efforts were made is not as yet open for the reception of patients. The reorganisation of several departments for the better working of so large an institution has been decided upon by the committee—amongst others, that of the nursing department. Until this latter is completed the transfer from the old to the new building will probably not take place.

June 19th, 1872.

THE VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICE.

A MEETING of Volunteer Medical Officers was held at the Grosvenor Hotel on Thursday last under the presidency of Mr. H. Spencer Smith, to consider the obnoxious regulation recently issued by the War Office with reference to the auxiliary force. Among those present were Mr. Edward Cock, Mr. J. C. Burrows, Dr. Mayo, Dr. Carr, Dr. Squire, Mr. W. P. Hoare, Dr. Burke Ryan, Mr. Harry Leach, Dr. Tulloch, Dr. Wood, Mr. Richard Davey, &c. Dr. John Murray officiated as secretary. About forty officers were present, and the following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

1. Proposed by Mr. Cock, and seconded by Dr. Squire—"That any one diploma sufficient for registration under the Medical Act, 1858, should admit to the Board examination."

2. Proposed by Dr. Carr, and seconded by Mr. Hoare—"That it be respectfully suggested to the authorities that Clause 43 on medical attendance ought to be expunged."

3. Proposed by Dr. Tulloch, and seconded by Dr. Wood—"That this meeting respectfully protests against any order indicating that medical examinations should be retrospective."

4. Proposed by Mr. Cordy Burrows, and seconded by Dr. Matthew Barnes—"That a deputation to the Right Hon. the Secretary for War be appointed from this meeting, consisting of the Chairman, Brigade Surgeon C. Burrows, Surgeon Cock, Surgeon Carr, and any other member and members of Parliament willing to attend, and that Dr.