and of the number and amount of fines paid by any person who has been fined more than once for the above-mentioned offence."

Small-pox Hospitals.

On the motion of Mr. H. H. Fowler, a return was ordered showing the number of hospitals, whether temporary or permanent, provided for small-pox patients, under Section 37 of "The Sanitary Act, 1866," by the vestries and district boards in the metropolis, the situation of such hospitals, the year in which they were established, the number of patients which they are capable of accommodating, and the actual number of patients therein on the 13th day of June, 1881.

The Case of Thomas Titley.

Mr. H. B. Sheridan, put down for Tuesday, July 12th, his motion with regard to this case, as follows:—"That, in the interests of public morality, and for the protection of the constitutional rights of the people of this country, it is desirable that the police constables and all who aided and abetted them in the conspiracy to induce Thomas Titley, chemist, to commit the offence for which he is now suffering imprisonment, be forthwith prosecuted by the Public Prosecutor."

On Wednesday, a batch of petitions were presented in favour of the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts. Mr. Stansfeld's Bill, however, which stood for second reading to-day, was withdrawn, pending the report of the Select Committee.

Maintenance of Irish Lunatics.

The following notice was given for Thursday, 23rd inst.:—Mr. O'Shaughnessy, to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he can hold out any hope that in allocating the cost of non-paying lunatics in Irish Lunatic Asylums the executive will, in cases where the district of the Asylum includes a county and a county of a city, so exercise the powers given it by statute as to avoid throwing on either portion of the district, exclusively of the other, the cost of non-paying lunatics who have been but a short time residing in such first-mentioned portion of the district; and whether he will consider the advisability of so exercising the aforesaid powers as to follow, between such portions of such district, the analogy of the law regulating the liability of different electoral divisions in the same union for the cost of the relief of in-door paupers.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

WHO'S RIGHT, AND WHO'S WRONG?

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The old saying that there are even educated men who live in the world and not with the world, from failing alike to perceive the tendency of the age in which they live, and to appreciate the changes occurring around them, appears to me to be admirably illustrated by a letter which appeared in your journal of to-day from Mr. John Chippendale, headed "Dr. George Harley's Cacography," in which he bitterly complains of the "great shock" I caused to his feelings by my having had my article on the "Germ Theory of Disease" printed without encumbering its words with useless duplicated consonants.

When Mr. Chippendale's letter is carefully read, however, it becomes apparent that he is unaware of the fact that Spelling Reform Associations are rapidly springing up, both at home and abroad; that bishops and archbishops countenance them; that we are already on the eve of a great national spelling reform movement; that what we were taught at school about English words being, as a rule, spelt upon etymological principles has been discovered to be contrary to fact, except in the case of technical terms, &c. In spite of the risk of giving a still greater shock to Mr. Chippendale's sensitive nature, I will venture to give him one or two glaring instances where English spelling is not consonant with, but *contrary to*, etymological principles. Let me tell him, for example, that a "Jerusalem artichoke" has nothing whatever to do with the Holy Land, but gets its name—though certainly not its spelling—

from the Italian *girasole*! That Pegwel Bay Sandfire is even not correctly etymologically spelt when written as Sampire, as it is a mere English corruption of the French noun for it—*St. Pierre*. That his friend, the old lady's wig, has no connexion whatever with the "wigings" of his school days; but has actually the marvelous audacity to be derived from "*pileus*," the Roman freeman's hairy cap. That the tawdry of his sculery maid comes directly from the dignified *St. Aubrey*; and so I might go on with endless variety of common words to disprove Mr. Chippendale's assertion, but I will merely recommend him to send 5s. to the Spelling Reform Association, 20, John-street, Adelphi, and get the last year's number of its Journal, and also procure a copy of my book on the "*Simplification of English Spelling*," published by Trübner & Co. at 2s. 6d., as well as the letter on "*National Spelling Reform*" I addressed to the late Prime Minister, which Hodgson & Co. published in the shape of a sixpenny pamphlet; for I think it is a pity that when Mr. Chippendale feels himself reluctantly forced to break his wise resolution not to rush into print every time his eyes fall upon views not in exact accordance with his own, he should be so unfortunate as to do more injury to his own literary reputation than to his opponent's. I should advise him to console himself in future with the reflection that there is sound wisdom in the old German proverb which says, "*Speech is silver; silence is gold.*"

In conclusion, although I dare not say that I feel pleased at having had the trouble forced upon me of replying to an inconsiderate letter, in order to prove that I bear no malice to its *well meaning* author, I shall give him, as a parting gift, a piece of information which will probably act as a sort of soothing plaster to his irritated feelings—namely, that the omission of duplicated consonants, while it in no wise detracts from the beauty of our language, has the immense advantage of saving much manual labour to literary men, and money to publishers. In proof of this I may tell him that it has been calculated—not by me, however—that by omitting duplicated consonants *The Times* newspaper would, in space, labor, and materials, effect a saving equal in amount to £10,000 a year!—Yours faithfully,

Harley-street, W., June, 1881.

GEORGE HARLEY.

PHTHISIS AND HYDROPATHIC ESTABLISHMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Struck by the singular heading to a letter in your issue of May 28th, I read and ultimately was able to identify the case referred to, and would now, with your permission, make a few additions from my case book to its clinical history.

W. O—came on June 19th, 1880. A commercial traveller, aged twenty-five, but looking older, well developed, but yellow and tremulous. Had slight pain at the sternum ever since a fall while skating in January last, but paid no attention to it, until two or three weeks before a swelling appeared to the right of the sternum, and was the size of a hen's egg and pointing. For some time he had been perspiring excessively and losing weight, as much as 4 lb. in one week a fortnight ago; pulse 76; tongue flabby and covered with a whitish-yellow fur, bowels costive, urine frequently loaded with lithates; appetite good, but often bilious. Beer makes him ill, but he takes wines and spirits freely and smokes to excess. Treated as Dr. Williamson relates, improvement is recorded at each weekly consultation, until on July 23rd—in five weeks, not ten—he left "cured," according to the entry in the register of cases.

On September 22nd he returned, reporting himself as very well in health, with the exception of a small fistulous opening at the lower end of the manubrium sterni, discharging a little serum. In a few days he left again, not returning for three months, when (November 20th) he came with an abscess pointing rather higher; the tongue coated as at first; bowels costive; pulse 88, and weak; and much reduced in condition. This relapse, so far from showing a too faithful adherence to dietetic restrictions, as Dr. Williamson would suggest, had followed on a return to the free living of "the road," the patient having meanwhile become strong and well enough to resume travelling. The liberal use of beer, wines, and spirits was owned to, also smoking to excess and taking late suppers. This visit was brief.

These particulars must be allowed to detract somewhat

from the typical character Dr. Williamson would attribute to the case, admitting as they do of a very different interpretation or moral from that advanced in his letter.

To keep up the strength under such circumstances is, of course, of great importance, but not less so is it to get the digestive organs right and the blood pure; and that the free exhibition of fat and oily foods was here contra-indicated, appears plainly from the improvement coincident with their restriction (not total prohibition). I regret much to find that through a mischance to the records of weight for that period, I cannot give the details of the improvement in nutrition implied in the result recorded.

Had the patient got worse during those five weeks of dieting and treatment instead of better, and had he improved on resuming a "liberal diet" later on, instead of relapsing, or had the result under Dr. Williamson's care been the opposite of that he unhappily has to record, the grounds of his conclusions would have been much better and the opposite opinion less tenable.

The case in some important particulars is unsatisfactory, and the absence of evidence of syphilis, or hereditary tuberculosis, may justly be held to lay increased responsibility on its management in the endeavour to account for the final result; but it is not unreasonable to suppose in view of its earlier history that the mode of management which answered so well at first might, if persevered in, have continued to do so, and permanent recovery secured. Errors there may have been—at Matlock or even at Ventnor, as elsewhere,—but when one undertakes to expose the shortcomings of another, he should at least be careful to ascertain all the facts, and should not let the sweep of his censure, if censure is meet, be wider than the facts warrant.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Matlock, June 6th, 1881.

W. B. HUNTER.

REMOVAL OF THE KIDNEY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your issue of June 4th I observe the interesting account of "Removal of the Kidney for Nephrolithiasis." As you observe, this is not the first operation of its kind. The object of my present communication is twofold.

1st. To modestly point out that I believe I had the honour of first bringing this subject forward in England in an original paper, based upon experiment on rabbits, and read before the Pupils' Physical Society of Guy's Hospital, and for which I was awarded the first prize in 1869. The preparation for that paper (experiments, &c.) had occupied a great deal of my time for about eighteen months previously.

2nd. To notice its bearing upon vivisection. Now, throughout all those experiments (they were many, and all successful) I always placed the animal under chloroform, and spared no trouble to avoid pain. When the evening arrived for my paper I had many of my "victims" present to prove, if necessary, the success of the operation, but in deference to the expressed wish of the great number of my fellow students, who were assembled there at the time, I killed only *one* rabbit for a post-mortem demonstration, and yet in the face of this and other humane sentiments the public is apt to look upon the medical student as a hard-hearted wretch. I never found one to be so. But "good-bye" to experiments unless you happen to be one of the few privileged and licensed operators. Had the law for vivisection been in force at the time I should not, in all probability, be commenting on my paper on "Nephrotomy and Excision of the Kidney" now.

Yours faithfully,

Trinity-square, S.E., June 7th, 1881.

F. G. LARKIN.

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received certificates to practise, on June 9th:—

Barton, Wm. Edwin, Shogswell Manor, Etchingham.
Bate, Henry Hele, Plymouth.
Braga, Joas Francisca, Bernard-street.
Prentice, Zacharia, Canterbury.
Smith, Gilbert Thomas Smith, Richmond-crescent.

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed the Primary Professional Examination:—

William Hamilton Hart, Guy's Hospital; Arthur Thos. Holdsworth, Queen's Hospital, Birmingham; Richard Pritchard Roberts, University College; Edward Tull Trevor, Guy's Hospital.

THE salary of Dr. Reid, Assistant Physician to the Royal Lunatic Asylum, Aberdeen, has been increased from £120 to £150 per annum.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—It has been resolved at a meeting of representatives of various educational institutions held in Birmingham, to invite the British Association to hold their annual meeting for 1883 in that town.

DR. SAMUEL CROMPTON, Consulting Physician to the Salford Royal Hospital and Dispensary, has presented a valuable collection of medical books to the committee of the Bolton Infirmary.

A MOVEMENT has been started to obtain subscriptions for the purpose of erecting a suitable memorial stone over the grave, in Allenvale Cemetery, of the late Dr. James Simpson, of Aberdeen.

THE proceeds of "Ye Old English Fayre," held last week at the Albert Hall, will, it is stated, enrich the funds of the Chelsea Hospital for Women to the extent of about £7540. The fair was revived by Mr. J. S. Wood, the secretary, under the title of "A graunde Fantesie Fayre and Olde Englysh Cheape," at Bolingbroke House, Wandsworth-common, on the 16th, 17th, and 18th inst., for the Bolingbroke House Pay Hospital.

BEQUESTS AND DONATIONS TO MEDICAL CHARITIES. Mr. H. W. Eyres, late of Grosvenor-street, bequeathed £250 to the Leeds General Infirmary. Mr. James Farrar, late of Halifax, Yorkshire, bequeathed £500 to the Halifax Infirmary and Dispensary. The National Hospital for Consumption, Ventnor, has received a legacy of £1000, free of duty, from the late Major C. S. Barron, and one of £300, less duty, from the late Miss Martha Relfe.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND.—On Whit-Monday the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—President: Samuel Chaplin. Vice-President: John Kellock Barton. Secretary: William Colles. Council: Wm. Colles, Alfred H. McClintock, George H. Porter, George H. Kidd, William A. Elliott, T. Jolliffe Tufnell, Edward Hamilton, Rawdon Macnamara, Robert McDonnell, Edward D. Mapother, Archibald H. Jacob, Edward Hallaran Bennett, Philip Crompton Smyly, John Denham, Anthony H. Corley, William Stokes, Henry R. Swanzy, W. T. Stoker, and William J. Wheeler. One hundred and six Fellows voted at the election.

IRISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—The following office-bearers have been elected for the ensuing year:—President: John T. Banks. Vice-Presidents: Parsons Berry, Bellew Kelly, William Miller, and H. O'Farrell. Council: J. Wallace Boyce, Robert Browne, J. H. Chapman, H. G. Croly, Thomas Darby, Thomas Drapes, Alexander Filson, R. Gray, J. R. Harvey, Robert Hayes, A. Jacob, David Jacob, George H. Kidd, Richard John Kinkead, James Martin, R. McDonnell, F. V. McDowell, James Maloney, G. Morrough, Andrew Nolan, C. Norman, William Perceval, James F. Pollock, George H. Porter, Thomas Purcell, J. Ridley, Edmund P. Sharkey, H. J. Smith, John Spencer, Robert Tagert, W. Thomson, and John Lennon Walshe. Auditors: Albert Croly and H. C. Tweedy. Hon. Secretary: Albert O. Speedy.

Medical Appointments.

Intimations for this column must be sent DIRECT to the Office of THE LANCET before 9 o'clock on Thursday Morning, at the latest.

BARKER, H. M., M.B., M.R.C.S.E., L.R.C.P., has been appointed Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator to the Brading District of the Isle of Wight Union, vice C. Meeres, resigned.

BIRCH, G., M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.L., has been appointed Medical Officer to the Hackney Union, vice Long, resigned.

CHESHIRE, Mr. H. F., has been appointed Public Analyst for the Borough of Rye.

COOKE, E. M., M.B., M.R.C.S.E., has been appointed Medical Superintendent of the County and City of Worcester Lunatic Asylum, Powick, vice Sherlock.

COOPER, W., M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.L., has been elected House-Surgeon to the Croydon General Hospital, vice T. T. Newman, L.R.C.P.L., M.R.C.S.E., resigned.

DEANE, E., L.F.P.S.G., L.S.A.L., has been appointed Medical Officer to the Second District of the Shepton Mallet Union.