would be attached to all the hospitals on the way to the base. At every large hospital or base there would be an efficient dental department sufficient to attend sick and convalescent men and to repair artificial teeth. Only the overflow and bad surgical cases would go to the ultimate base in London. The question arises as to how far this system can be adapted to existing conditions. The small number of dental officers with the army will be lost amongst one or two million soldiers. So nearly everything must go to London for treatment. There, of course, they will be distributed amongst all the hospitals, dental departments, and clinics which appoint dental surgeons in town and in the country. Many of the men are ready to pay for artificial teeth at about hospital prices, and when a man has bought his own teeth he is inclined to take great care of them.

One naturally inquires how the French soldier gets on with his food, and I am told that the French *piou-piou* is no better off than our Tommy in the matter of teeth, but his food is softer and generally consists of soup, meat, and vegetables all cooked together. Our men get "stew," but what they really like is a good bit of beef when they can eat it.

Under the recommendations that I have made we should get rid of most of the dental caries without treatment beyond inspection, but the fight to insist on dental cleanliness would be long and bitter. Unfortunately we cannot say that even the most educated and enlightened people are cleanly in the matter of their teeth. Their mouths would not stand inspection, and their tooth-brush would not always be beyond criticism in these days of oral sepsis.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

F. NEWLAND-PEDLEY, F.R.C.S. Eng.

British Red Cross Hospital No. 2, Rouen, Jan. 8th, 1915.

BRUSSELS MEDICAL GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION:

BELGIAN DOCTORS' AND PHARMACISTS' RELIEF FUND.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Might I be permitted through your columns to thank those who have so kindly contributed to the above Fund. The amount received is £112 2s. 6d., and the whole of it has been handed over to Dr. H. A. Des Vœux.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

MAJOR GREENWOOD,

243, Hackney-road, N.E., Jan. 10th, 1915.

Treasurer.

DEGLUTITION IN ACUTE TONSILLITIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A recent personal painful experience has brought to my knowledge a fact of which I was previously unaware, and which I hope may prove of comfort and service to those who suffer from acute tonsillitis and those who have the care of them. An attack of acute tonsillitis chiefly affecting the right side had rendered deglutition whether of liquids or solids a matter almost of impossibility on account of the pain it caused. Under such circumstances one naturally inclines to keep all food in the opposite side of the mouth, and so as far as possible from the affected part; and those who have suffered will remember well the pain that occurs when the bolus is delivered into the grip of the pharynx.

Quite accidentally I discovered that the pain on deglutition is very much less if the food be prepared, so to speak, and collected on the affected

side; then when the act of deglutition occurs it would seem that it is projected against the opposite side of the pharynx and so misses the acutely tender part. What the exact mechanism of this manœuvre is I do not know, but I am able to bear witness of the very great difference it makes to one's comfort when it is adopted. Fortunately the inflammatory condition in my own case did not exist long enough to enable me to carry out any number of experiments, but as far as they went they confirmed the initial one. This small fact may be known to many, but to those who are unaware of it it may, I hope, prove of service.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

THOS. H. KELLOCK.

Upper Wimpole-street, W., Jan. 6th, 1915.

THE ETIOLOGY OF POLIOMYELITIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—An interesting fact in Dr. George Jubb's paper published in THE LANCET of Jan. 9th is the occurrence of cases of poliomyelitis at West Kirby for the third year in succession in the same parish. This, I think, is an unusual experience in this country. My own experience with poliomyelitis has indicated as frequent coincidences the proximity to an infected cottage of stables or cowsheds, the presence in the house of several specimens of stomoxys calcitrans (the biting stable fly), and not infrequently direct evidence of the child having complained of the flies biting. Anderson and Frost have supplied direct experimental evidence of the conveyance of poliomyelitis infection by stomoxys from artificially infected monkeys to other monkeys.

It would therefore be of much interest to know the relative position of the infected houses in West Kirby and Hoylake to the nearest stables or cowsheds (distances should be given approximately in yards). This information would be of value; but the case for the stomoxys would not be limited to such evidence. An important fact mentioned by Dr. Jubb is that the Hoylake cases had a common milk-supply. Further information required here is whether the same horse and man carried the milk, because stomoxys having a particular liking for warm horse blood would be carried any distance on a horse, even though occasionally disturbed by tail-swishes.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. T. C. NASH,

County Medical Officer of Health.

The Shirehouse, Norwich, Jan. 9th, 1915.

THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Owing to the war the usual programme for the second half of the session will not be issued, but postcards will be sent to Fellows from time to time giving details of the arrangements made.

The meeting arranged for Jan. 11th was not held. On Jan. 25th, at 8.30 P.M., arrangements have been made to have an X ray evening, when Dr. Ironside Bruce, Sir James Mackenzie Davidson, Dr. F. H. Humphris, Dr. Harrison Orton, Dr. A. Jordan, and others, will demonstrate and exhibit items of interest connected with the war. On Feb. 8th Sir Victor Horsley, F.R.S., will open a discussion on Gunshot Wounds of the Head.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

GEORGE E. GASK,

HERBERT FRENCH,

Honorary Secretaries.

Chandos-street, Cavendish-square, W., Jan. 12th, 1915.