barrenness," nor follow Mr. Bernard Shaw's antics amongst the marriage-laws; nor agree that the medical profession must first attack the "lamentable state of the English marriage and divorce laws." Let Captain Berkeley-Hill explain his objections and his alternative.

Does he think that middle-class women refuse to marry because the marriage service follows general custom and expediency in prescribing that man, as breadwinner and protector, shall be the responsible head of the household? Or that they refuse to bear children because they have fallen in love with another man, while their husband remains faithful? Or is he opposed to monogamy or perhaps to any marriage tie as the essential preliminary to propagation in the eyes of the law? If so, he is against civilisation and neither he nor Mr. Shaw has proved his point.

Pending such proof, Sir, I would submit that the chief and obvious factors in the decline of the birth-rate are: (1) the knowledge of methods of prevention and the ignorance of its results; (2) competition in every detail of life and the consequent economic stress; (3) indulgence and lack of discipline; or, in other words, the rational, the economic, and the moral factors. As medical men we are concerned only with the rational factor and should insist, both in public and private, on the value of nature's own checks and methods; on the dangers of celibacy, prostitution, and abnormal married intercourse; and on the healthy influence, the gaiety, and the ultimate economic value of a well-stocked nursery. Contrary advice must only be given with a due sense of the personal and public dangers entailed. May I appeal to gynaecologists and to experts in mental diseases on the two points raised?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

F. E. FREMANTLE.

Zetland House, by Guy's Hospital, S.E., July 10th, 1911.

SUGGESTED DIAGNOSIS OF MALIGNANT SCARLATINA ANGINOSA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Surely the case reported in THE LANCET of July 15th by Mr. Ernest Stratford, of Wellington College Station, was one of malignant *scarlatina anginosa*? Unfortunately, neither is the date on which the child sickened given, nor are the initial symptoms of the attack mentioned. Again, there is only one note as to the pulse-rate. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, in attempting to arrive at a diagnosis, the confluence of the rash, intensity and persistency of the fever, "enormous" swelling and subsequent sloughing of the tonsils, the presence of hæmaturia and of oedema of the feet, all go to make up a very graphic description of scarlatina maligna.

I am sure that all published descriptions of röteln will be appealed to in vain—Mr. Stratford, in fact, admits as much—to substantiate a diagnosis of that acute infection in the terrible case reported in your columns.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Dublin, July 15th, 1911. JOHN W. MOORE, M.D. Dub.

AN UNKNOWN SAMARITAN.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I should like through the medium of your columns to express my grateful appreciation of the kindness shown me last Sunday in Wandsworth by a doctor (whose name I do not know) who not only rendered me first-aid when I was suffering from the effect of a spill from my cycle but brought me home in his own car. I trust you will allow me to take this opportunity of thanking him very sincerely.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

8, Solon-road, Brixton, S.W., July 17th, 1911. A. E. POOLEY.

INCOME-TAX RETURNS AND THE DEPRECIATION OF MOTOR-CARS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall be glad to know whether a doctor may claim for depreciation of a motor-car used in carrying on his practice in making up the return for assessment of the income-tax? My practice has just been assessed by the Special Commissioners and they have disallowed this item, stating that the depreciation of machinery is only allowed in trades and

not in professions. If this is the case surely it is time that such unjust law was rectified. The car is indispensable to the production of the income. If a car or carriage were hired the expense could be deducted.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

PUZZLED.

July 10th, 1911.

* * We understand that it is not infrequently the practice of surveyors to disallow claims for depreciation on the grounds suggested by our correspondent. Some surveyors, too, disallow the claim for the cost of a new car to replace one worn out. We have been advised by the Income-tax Repayment Agency that "a doctor may charge in his accounts for income-tax purposes all repairs to his motor-car used in his practice, and for the cost of a new car to replace the old one." It is obviously unfair to disallow the claims both for depreciation and for renewal: one or the other should stand; and if the practice to disallow both is growing medical men should combine to resist the injustice.—ED. L.

OPENING OF THE NEW MEDICAL BUILDINGS OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL.

(FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

THE week beginning June 5th was a carnival week for medicine in Montreal. The first two days of the week were devoted to celebrations in connexion with the opening of the new medical building of McGill University, and on the three following days the annual meeting of the Canadian Medical Association took place in the same building. These events, which have already been chronicled,¹ were made the occasion for a great gathering of McGill medical graduates from almost all parts of the continent, as well as from several out-of-the-way regions, and I think it likely that your readers will be interested in a brief account of the functions.

The attractive programme arranged for the opening of the new medical building was carried out without a hitch, reflecting great credit upon those responsible for the management of affairs. A *conversazione* was held in the evening of the opening day in the new medical building, and comprised many features of scientific and social interest. There were microscopical and bacteriological exhibits, Roentgen ray exhibits, exhibition of liquid air, library exhibits, lantern demonstrations and exhibits in the hygiene laboratories, and micro-projection of biological specimens, models, and experiments illustrating the physiology of the special senses. Music, concerts, and an informal dance were provided. The main interest of the evening's proceedings, however, naturally centred in the opening ceremony by the Governor-General of Canada, Earl Grey, which took place at 9.15 in the anatomical laboratory, a magnificently proportioned and large room on the third floor. Upwards of 2000 guests were present, comprising the leaders of social and professional life in Montreal. Upon the platform, among other university and city dignitaries, were Dr. Peterson, the principal of the University, Dr. Shepherd, dean of the medical faculty, and Professor J. G. Adami, professor of pathology in the University. After Dr. Peterson and Dr. Shepherd had welcomed their excellencies, Earl Grey delivered an apt and eloquent address, in the course of which he announced that Lord Strathcona had cabled from England that he would give a further sum of £20,000 in order that the new building might be equipped in a fitting manner. This makes a sum of £110,000 given by Lord Strathcona towards the cost of erecting and equipping the new building, in addition to providing the magnificent site. Indeed, without the aid of Lord Strathcona the aspirations of the medical faculty as regards building and equipment could not have been realised. The building, as will be seen from the accompanying illustrations, both in construction and arrangement, is commensurate with the great reputation of the medical school of McGill University. A striking feature of the building is the library, to which Sir William Osler and Dr. Casey Wood of Chicago

¹ THE LANCET, July 8th, 1911, p. 125.