

summoning of additional help to constantly change the direction of the head-light. The increased luminosity enables the surgeon to diagnose the condition more accurately, and prevents any small sessile growth or bleeding point from being overlooked. There is greater ease in finding the various structures, such as a detached ureter, there being no further need to expose the renal end of the ureter and passing a probe to expose the vesical end.

I well recollect an operation performed by Colonel Dobson in which it was necessary to remove a portion of the bladder with the vesical end of one of the ureters for a large villous growth. The ease with which he found the detached end of the ureter, and the simplicity with which he stitched up the bladder wound and fixed the end of the ureter in record time, was no doubt due to a great extent to this simple adaptation of the ordinary cystoscope.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Leeds, Dec. 4th, 1915. SAMUEL SAMUEL.

PROFESSOR C. A. EWALD.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I was glad to see in your columns the tributes of some of my colleagues to the memory of the late Professor Ewald, because at the time of his death I was retarded by many engagements. It may not be too late for me now to add my tribute to theirs, and this the more as the Professor and Frau Ewald had been old and kind friends of my wife and myself for many years; and not they only but also through other friends the professor's gifted artist sister-in-law, the portrait painter.

Of Ewald's qualities as a professorial colleague, of course, I cannot speak; what we do testify is to the unselfish and unfailing aid and kindness of the professor and his accomplished wife—to whom from a distance we offer our sincere sympathy—to all their English friends. In 1869 I happened to see on the moment of its publication Kussmaul's paper on gastric lavage, and at once instituted the method in the Leeds Infirmary; this led to our acquaintance with Ewald, to whose pioneer work in disorders of the stomach we are all indebted. The last communication I had from him was an enclosure of the professorial protest by which he gently hoped to influence English opinion on the causes of the conflagration. All that it effected for me was to realise the amazing official and venal perversion of the truth in Germany.

One of the saddest reflections of a sad time is the sense that, at any rate for the brief remnant of my life, we have lost the friendships of many German colleagues for whom we had, and have still, an affectionate regard. The names of many tremble on my lips, but it is wiser to remember in silence. Once again, in the words of Tacitus, "Pravus et callidus bonos et modestos anteibat."

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Cambridge, Dec. 11th, 1915. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT.

STOMOXYS CALCITRANS AS A CARRIER OF THE VIRUS OF POLIOMYELITIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In previous communications¹ I have referred to the fact that my personal observations when inquiring into cases of poliomyelitis occurring in Norfolk afford strong additional

evidence in support of the theory that infection is conveyed by stomoxys calcitrans. I have found this fly in numbers in the houses in which the cases occurred in every instance which I have personally investigated, and stables, cowsheds, or bullock-sheds have always been noted in the immediate neighbourhood. The most recent case I have inquired into affords additional weighty evidence, such as I have sought hitherto without success.

On receipt of a notification of poliomyelitis in the Freebridge Lynn rural district in Norfolk I asked Mr. C. S. Woodwark, the district medical officer of health, to be so good as to secure specimens of flies in the house, especially those seen at the window, and to note whether stables or cowsheds were near. Mr. Woodwark sent me several specimens which proved to be chiefly stomoxys, and in answering in the affirmative my question as to cowsheds, &c., gave the additional suggestive information that in a cowshed about 100 yards distant a beast had recently died of an obscure disease with paralytic symptoms which the veterinary surgeon called in was unable to account for. The child who was later notified as suffering from poliomyelitis had been "bitten" by flies. The beast had been disposed of, so further investigation was out of the question, but I venture to think the evidence available is strongly corroborative of the view that stomoxys is the carrier of poliomyelitis infection. I have previously stated that this might explain the high comparative incidence of the disease in rural as compared with urban areas.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
Norwich, Nov. 23rd, 1915. J. T. C. NASH.

Obituary.

GEORGE WALTER STEEVES, B.A. NEW BRUN.,
M.D. BRUX., M.R.C.S.

WE regret to announce the death of Dr. George Walter Steeves, which occurred on Dec. 11th in a nursing home. He was born at St. John, New Brunswick, and was the only surviving son of the Hon. W. H. Steeves, Senator of the Canadian province and a Father of Confederation. He was educated at the University of New Brunswick, there taking a degree in Arts. Coming to England at the age of 21, he married Agnes, the daughter of the late G. T. Soley, of Liverpool, and shortly after began the study of medicine at St. Thomas's Hospital, London. He took the diplomas of L.R.C.P. Lond. and M.R.C.S. Eng. in 1880, and started practice in Liverpool, possessing all the qualities requisite for success. Not only was he thoroughly skilled in medicine, but he had a generous disposition, a taking personality, and a love of children, and these, combined with his professional ability, won for him wide confidence and esteem. In 1885 he took his medical degree at the University of Brussels, and for many years he had a large practice of a very good class in Liverpool as well as a wide circle of friends. Moreover, he had pronounced literary tastes and loved the works of the great masters of English literature. He devoted a great deal of his spare time to the acquirement of rare first editions, of which he possessed a fine collection. Especially he had a great regard for Bacon. He had studied him well, and in 1910 published a most interesting book entitled "Francis Bacon—His Life, Works,

¹ THE LANCET, Jan. 16th (p. 152) and Feb. 27th (p. 464), 1915; Public Health, December, 1914.