the managers of the White Star Line, and to this line is due all the credit of crystallising my suggestion into actual shape. Since then the Cunard, American, Dominion, Leyland, Allen, C.P.R., and Booth Lines have agreed. In London the Orient Line has followed. It would be a great help if the present and past surgeons of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company petitioned the manager of that line to agree. May I just suggest that a few surgeons are helping to ruin my proposal by objecting to submit their bills to the captain of the ship. I quite agree to the right of the companies to do so. Perhaps it would give better results if each ship's surgeon and intending surgeon bought a copy of Styrap's "Medico-Chirurgical Tariffs" (H. K. Lewis, London. 2s. 6d.) and be guided by the scale of fees under class 1 and 2 for first- and second-class fees. Otherwise the steamship companies may do so. If the above rearrangement has been and will be the means of adding a few thousands to a badly paid branch of medical practice I shall be glad.

Just one more point; although I meet, now and then, ship surgeons I am glad to say that not one of them has ever said "Thank you" for the work I have done for them. I have always contended that the person who invented the word "gratitude" in relation to medicals should have been shot!

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Liverpool, Nov. 5th, 1911.

R. R. RENTOUL.

* * Medical men probably have not recognised in Dr. Rentoul the originator of the reform movement.—ED. L.

TRANSMISSION OF DISEASE BY MEANS OF BOOKS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am preparing a paper upon "Books a Source of Disease," to be read before the next International Congress of Hygiene, and in order to obtain data respectfully request the readers of this note to send me an account of any cases the source of which has been traced to books or papers, or where the evidence seemed to make books or papers the offender. I would also further request information where illness or even death has been caused by the poisons used in book-making.

All the information possible is wanted to present as complete a paper as possible. As in the case of insects which we now know to be "carriers of disease," it is first necessary to collect the scattered evidence in order to show that there is real danger in books; and this will compel better care to be taken of libraries and books and improve the health of mankind.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

WM. R. REINICK,

Chief of the Free Library of Philadelphia.
1709, Wallace-street, Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 28th, 1911.

THE LONDON AND COUNTIES MEDICAL PROTECTION SOCIETY, THE MEDICAL DEFENCE UNION, AND THE ACTIONS OF PARTNERS OR ASSISTANTS OF THEIR MEMBERS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Owing to certain misunderstandings which have arisen from time to time as to the scope of the work of the London and Counties Medical Protection Society and of the Medical Defence Union in respect of members in actions brought, or sought to be brought, for alleged negligence, we are directed by our respective councils to state officially that membership being purely personal no action arising solely out of any act of a partner, assistant, or locum tenens can be taken up unless the partner, assistant, or locum tenens is also a member of either the Medical Defence Union or the London and Counties Medical Protection Society. It is hoped that a time will soon come when all registered practitioners, whether principals or assistants, will secure the advantages pertaining to membership of one or other of these societies as a matter of course as soon as they become qualified.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

HUGH WOODS, M.D.,

Gen. Sec. London and Counties Medical Protection Society, Ltd.

A. GEORGE BATEMAN, M.B.,

Nov. 6th, 1911.

Gen. Sec. Medical Defence Union, Ltd.

TORSION OF THE FUNIS AS A CAUSE OF DEATH OF THE FŒTUS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In reference to Mr. H. A. Lediard's article in THE LANCET of Oct. 28th on Torsion of the Funis as a Cause of Death of Twins, I might mention a case which was under me about ten months ago. It was also a case of twins, but born at full term. The first to be born was a female, weight 6½ lb., and a vertex presentation; then the second child, a male of about six months' development, was born as a breech presentation in the membranes almost immediately after; then finally the placenta of the first child came. The cord of the dead fœtus was twisted at the umbilicus and was here little larger than the lead of a pencil. It resembled very closely the twist in the cord of the smaller fœtus shown in Mr. Lediard's photograph. The fœtus did not show advanced decomposition. The skin was peeling and the scalp was loose, but there was no discolouration. I do not see how the appearance of the cord could have been consistent with the twist having occurred after the death of the fœtus, and I looked upon the former as the cause and the latter the effect. The living twin was quite healthy and weighed 8 lb. 12 oz. when a month old. The woman's next youngest child, aged 2 years, was a fat, rosy, very healthy-looking child, and there was no history of miscarriages.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

IDA C. TENGELY.

The Union Hospital, Bradford, Nov. 6th, 1911.

THE RECENT MILITARY TRAINING ON SALISBURY PLAIN.

(FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

DURING the past summer and autumn months a large number of troops—regulars, special reservists, territorials, and yeomanry—were concentrated for their annual training at the various camping grounds on Salisbury Plain. Owing to scarcity of water and other unforeseen reasons the inter-divisional and army manoeuvres had to be abandoned, but the individual training of units of all arms, as well as brigade training, was carried out in a thorough manner under very favourable conditions as regards the weather, and taken as a whole the troops benefited very considerably from the change of air under canvas. The health of all ranks during the period they spent under canvas was exceptionally good, and the military efficiency was certainly increased.

Medical and Hospital Arrangements.

Each regimental unit had a commissioned medical officer appointed to look after the sanitation of the camp and to deal with casualties and cases of sickness. These officers were also entrusted with the training of the regimental stretcher-bearers and regimental sanitary squads in the various duties that these men would have to undertake in time of war. An observation hospital was established at each encampment for the treatment of minor cases of illness that occurred, and the sick were provided with accommodation prior to their transfer to the regular military hospitals established at Bulford Camp and Tidworth Park, Salisbury Plain. Officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps were instructed on arrival to report when assuming charge of any camp to the administrative medical officer of the Tidworth District, and at the same time to state that their equipment was in accordance with the scheduled list laid down. They were also directed to report to the officer commanding each unit as it arrived in camp and to assist him in reference to carrying out the sanitary regulations as noted in standing orders for Salisbury Plain.

The treatment of serious cases, except under circumstances of emergency, was not to be undertaken in the observation hospitals, as these cases were to be transferred to the permanent hospitals at Bulford and Tidworth Park. An infectious disease isolation hospital was placed at Brimstone Bottom and telephonic communication was established with this from each of the military encampments. Ambulance wagons were stationed at each camp for the purpose of transferring the sick to the receiving hospitals, and other ambulance wagons were detailed to accompany the troops