

effects that doubt as to the advisability of this procedure occurs. But in these cases, although on inspection the tonsil commonly appears clean, so often in operating one empties the tonsillar fossa of foul cheesy matter, or finds on removal a septic focus deeply situated in one or many lacunæ, that entirely satisfactory results are to be attained only by performing tonsillectomy in all cases. Since this may be done by the guillotine alone under ethyl chloride anaesthesia, there is now no argument against the severity of the operation, which tonsillectomy by dissection seems to be considered.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sept. 16th, 1912. FREDERICK PYBUS.

## THE COMPLETE MASTOID OPERATION.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—In THE LANCET of August 17th, p. 429, Mr. Charles A. Ballance mentions that while in Copenhagen last year he found that I had adopted the blood-clot treatment as my ordinary method of treating cases of the complete mastoid operation. Mr. Ballance has misunderstood my words, as I never have used this treatment in any case of complete mastoid operation, but confined myself to using it only in a great number of cases of simple mastoid operation (after Schwartze's method).

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
Copenhagen, Sept. 12th, 1912. H. MYGIND.

## THE NIGHT NOISES OF THE METROPOLIS.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—I venture to appeal through your columns to the profession to assist me in moving the authorities to take some steps towards mitigating the intolerable night noises of London and suburbs. If it could be shown that in addition to their nuisance they were having, or were likely to have in time, especially if they go on increasing as they must do unless checked, a deleterious effect on the health of a considerable portion of the community, Government might be prevailed upon to appoint a committee to consider the matter. I shall be very happy to have a post-card from any member of the profession who approves my action, and I trust you will be pleased to lend the movement your support.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
CHARLES MONK,  
Lieutenant-Colonel, I.M.S. (retired).  
Burlton Lodge, Station-road, Barnes, Sept. 11th, 1912.

## TO MEDICAL FREEMASONS.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—May I again through the medium of your widely read columns appeal to medical men, and medical Freemasons in particular, for votes for the Masonic charities?

At the forthcoming elections there are several medical candidates. Votes for any of the Masonic institutions are equally acceptable, as exchanges can be effected, and will be gratefully received and acknowledged by me.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM WILSON,  
Secretary, St. Luke's Medical Lodge of Instruction.

184, Goldhawk-road, W., Sept. 17th, 1912.

## THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—Members of the medical profession who hold appointments as medical officers to Friendly Societies are being urged to resign the same forthwith. Many, I understand, have already resigned. To those who have not I would suggest that they "wait and see" what provision the Regulations, now about to be issued by the Insurance Commissioners, make for medical remuneration. Last Friday a deputation from the Imperial Medical Reform Union was received by the Commissioners, and urged the adoption, as one of the methods of remuneration, of the scheme formulated by the union which has already been published in your columns. The chief points of this scheme are free choice of

doctors and payment by fees for services rendered and medicines supplied.

Should the Commissioners for England adopt such a method of remuneration as an alternative to capitation payment (as is by no means improbable), insured persons who apply for medical aid will be attended and paid for as if they were private patients. This will be in keeping with the best traditions of medical practice and should supersede the discredited method of capitation payment.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
GEORGE BROWN,  
General Secretary, Imperial Medical Reform Union.  
Basinghall-street, E.C., Sept. 16th, 1912.

## SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNÆCOLOGY.

(BY OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.)

### *Summary of Proceedings.*

THIS Congress was held in Berlin from Sept. 9th to the 13th, under the patronage of the Empress of Germany. Professor E. BUMM, Geh. Med. Rat, of the Charité Hospital, the President, was ably assisted by Professor August Martin. On the 9th the Congress opened with a meeting of the Organising Committee, which was followed by a festival inauguration in the House of Parliament, when addresses from the representatives of the Government, the public authorities, and the delegates were given. That evening there was a reception in the garden of the House of Parliament by the German Obstetrical Society. On the following day the first and most important discussion, on the Treatment of Wounds of the Peritoneum, commenced, when the various referees delivered their reports and several papers were read. The same evening a dinner and reception to members of the Congress was given by the President. On Sept. 11th the first discussion was continued, and the second discussion, on the Surgical Treatment of Uterine Bleeding during Pregnancy, Delivery, and Childbed, was opened. On Wednesday evening a reception was given by the city of Berlin in the town hall. Thursday was devoted to individual communications, and on Friday morning various demonstrations were given by different members of the Congress at the Charité Hospital. On Thursday all the members were invited to a splendid performance at the Royal Opera House of Beethoven's only opera *Fidelio*. The afternoon of Friday was devoted to excursions, and the members were taken round the beautiful lake at Wannsee, returning by Potsdam.

The Congress has been a most brilliant success. The organisation was admirable, and this was largely due to the efforts of Privat-docent E. Martin, the general secretary. In all, 632 adherents registered in the Congress Hall. All lady friends of members were made members of the Congress, and a special ladies' committee met daily in the Herrenhaus (House of Lords) to make arrangements for their amusement. These included various excursions through Berlin.

Each morning there were operations at the various clinics—at the University Frauenklinik by Professor Bumm, at the Charité by Professor Franz, and at the other clinics by Professor Mackenrodt, Strassmann, Landau, Dürssen, Liepmann, Dützmänn, and Nagel. The scientific work of the Congress is referred to elsewhere. There were also demonstrations both at the University Frauenklinik and the Charité with exhibition of various models and preparations of gynaecological and obstetrical interest. In the Herrenhaus there was a most complete exhibition of anatomical preparations and models, as well as instruments.

Professor von Ott showed exemplifications of the "Beleuchtungsmethode" by the illumination mirror, also a phantom of the abdomen and the bladder. An interesting item of the exhibition was a new form of cystoscope for the bladder and urinator, shown by Louis and H. Loewenstein and Georg Wolf of Berlin.

The members from Great Britain included Sir Alexander Simpson, Sir John Halliday Croom, Dr. Jervois Aarons, Dr. McArdle (Dublin), Dr. Herbert Spencer (London), Dr. Thomas Wilson (Birmingham), Dr. Hellier (Leeds), and Dr. H. Macnaughton-Jones, who was reporter for the United Kingdom of the principal discussion of the Congress on the surgery of the peritoneum.