

investigate the circumstances connected with each fatal case and pronounce upon them.—I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Alexandra-square, S.W.,  
May 15th, 1893.

D. MACKINTOSH, M.D.

### “INTRAVENOUS INFUSION OF ALCOHOL.”

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Upon reading in THE LANCET of May 6th Mr. Ballance's very instructive case of “Intravenous Infusion of Alcohol,” it appears to me worth while to refer to a case reported by me in THE LANCET of Jan. 6th, 1892, which was under the care of Dr. Sturges at the Hospital for Children, Great Ormond-street. Here a child nine months old, suffering very severely from collapse due to diarrhoea and vomiting, was successfully treated by intravenous infusion of twelve ounces of normal saline containing eighty minims of brandy. In several succeeding similar cases at the Children's Hospital I injected salt solution, omitting brandy; in none, however, with ultimate success, and I think the reaction was not so rapid as in the first case. I was deterred from making further trials of brandy by the almost complete absence of authoritative statements with regard to the physiological action of alcohol thus introduced. Mr. Ballance has kindly handed me a note written a few days ago by Dr. Sherrington, who writes: “Very little is known experimentally about the effect of injecting alcohol properly diluted into the venous system. Doziel's is the only work I can find and it is very unsatisfactory. He concludes that alcohol stimulates the heart through the accelerator nerves, but says that after an interval it tends to stimulate the vagus and reduce the frequency of the heart.” I would like to add that the proportion of alcohol used in my case was rather more than 0.5 per cent., and that this is perhaps a suitable strength in the case of infants.—I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Manor-place, W., May 13th, 1893. H. STANSFIELD COLLIER.

### THE POST OFFICE, COLDBATH FIELDS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—You have been calling attention to the sickness amongst the clerks at the Money Order Office in Coldbath-fields. I have been attending one of them for ulcerated tonsils and debility such as would be caused by insanitary environments, and he informs me that the number of sick, which was formerly under 700, is now over 1500, and that nearly one-third of those employed were suffering from boils at the time when the Controller's attention was called to the unhealthiness of the place. Can the clerk whose health is injured by the neglect of his employers to keep the premises in a sanitary condition claim damages?

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

May 16th, 1893.

FIAT LUX.

### LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

#### Hospital Saturday.

LAST Saturday, the 13th inst., was observed as Hospital Saturday in Liverpool, and the gradual growth of this valuable aid to our medical charities will be seen by the following figures: Hospital Saturday began in Liverpool as an adjunct to Hospital Sunday and was observed on the Saturday succeeding the first Hospital Sunday, Jan. 8th, 1871, being thus on Jan. 14th of that year. Having been hastily organised, the result was somewhat abortive, producing only £103 13s. 10d. Still to Liverpool belongs the credit of inaugurating Hospital Saturday, though to Birmingham falls the honour of instituting Hospital Sunday and also of showing what a princely sum may be obtained by steady organisation throughout the year and in all centres of labour. The fund in Liverpool has, however, grown from the modest three figures to £2000, £3000 and £4000, last year's total being £4439. This is the twenty-third year of the movement, and whilst the Hospital Sunday Fund has realised £155,032 the Hospital Saturday Fund has added to this the substantial sum of £55,029. Birmingham has peculiar advantages in being a centre of a large number of working men and women in constant employment—more so than in Liverpool and other large cities and towns where employment is with many only occasional. Still, the principle is the same, and if all those for

whom hospitals have been established and maintained did their best the financial position of the hospitals would be much better assured and their managers would be spared much anxiety.

#### The Assizes.

Mr. Justice Wills has been presiding at the assizes which are held here in May. It has been his painful duty to pass sentence of death upon a man for the murder of his infant child by all but severing its head from its body. The prisoner lived at Horwich and was in the employ of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company. He had an unfortunate and wholly unfounded delusion that his wife was unfaithful to him, which delusion was always aggravated after he had taken drink. He had been drinking on the day he committed the crime, after perpetrating which he inflicted a wound on his own throat, which, however, was comparatively slight and soon healed. He was examined as to his state of mind by Dr. Joseph Wiglesworth, Medical Superintendent of the County Asylum, Rainhill, and by Mr. George Beamish, principal medical officer of H.M. prison, Walton; but beyond the delusion already mentioned there was nothing to indicate that he did not know right from wrong. Another man was indicted for murder, he having whilst under the influence of drink inadvertently killed a child fifteen months old by aiming a blow with a knife at his mother-in-law, which missed her and almost transfixed the child's body. The circumstances reduced the crime to that of manslaughter, and the prisoner was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, the judge warning him against intemperance in future. A third prisoner, a female, was to have been tried for the murder of her son by drowning him in the canal at Rochdale, but Mr. Beamish deposed that she was unable to appear. She was suffering physically from an acute form of kidney disease and mentally from melancholia and delusions. She was in an extremely critical condition and her appearance at court would prejudice any chance she might have of recovery. In answer to the judge Mr. Beamish expressed a fear that her condition was hopeless and that she would die. The case was sent to the next assizes.

#### Industrial Schools, Reformatories and Crippled Culprits.

In the current number of the *Law Quarterly Review* there is an article by Mr. W. J. Stewart, the Liverpool stipendiary magistrate, in which, *inter alia*, he laments that industrial schools and reformatories should shut their doors against little crippled culprits, who are more than all others in need of the help which such institutions confer. He considers, and with much justice, that the child who has lost a leg or hand or some fingers, or who is lame or crippled in one arm, and who is therefore certified as unfit for such institutions, “is peculiarly fitted for treatment in an industrial school or reformatory,” for “a course of disciplinary training in the use of such bodily or mental powers as he or she may still possess would be invaluable.” More than two years have passed since Mr. Stewart was appointed stipendiary magistrate to this large city, and it is evident that besides discharging his very onerous duties he has devoted much attention to the study of criminals, especially of juvenile offenders. He deprecates subjecting them to the unwholesome influence of the gaol and evidently prefers whipping. With regard to adults he shows how useless short sentences of imprisonment are to hardened offenders and particularly to confirmed drunkards. He instances the case of a female who has been before the magistrates more than 300 times, whilst others are running her close. He contends that incurable drunkards should be kept for much longer periods in institutions of a reformatory character. The article is well worth the perusal of all philanthropists.

May 16th.

### NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

#### The Housing of the Working Classes in Newcastle.

IN the Newcastle City Council this week precedence will be given to the consideration of the report of the Town Improvement and Sanitary Committees relative to the provisions of Part 3 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890. The scheme consists of lodging-houses for 300 males and 100 females and 50 separate tenements of one room each. The estimated cost of the proposed works is about £25,000. Similar undertakings in other towns have, it is said, paid