

been seen alive by them about 5.30 P.M.; half an hour after both were dead, lying on their sides, faces not covered up, some distance apart. Post-mortem examinations showed a similar state of broncho-pneumonia; there were no injuries and no suspicion of foul play.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

W. W. WESTCOTT,
Coroner.

Dec. 28th, 1907.

LONDON'S MILK-SUPPLY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I notice in THE LANCET of Dec. 21st, 1907, p. 1778, that a reference is made to the adoption of new regulations by the Hailsham rural district council under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders 1885, 1886, and 1899. In the same article you imply that the Hailsham council has had no Dairy, Cowshed, and Milkshop Regulations for the past 20 years. You have evidently been misinformed. As a fact the Hailsham rural district council was one of the first councils to make regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders 1885, 1886, and the old regulations were more strict than the new regulations. The Hailsham council, acting on the advice of its medical officer of health, has recently brought the above regulations up to date and these remodelled regulations will come into force on Jan. 1st, 1908. It is no doubt these revised regulations that your correspondent has mistaken for the Order. I would point out that the *Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order* is not adoptive as described in your article under London's Milk-supply.

I would also draw your attention to the fact that the Order does not compel local authorities to make regulations, but, unfortunately, merely empowers them to do so, and the Legislature should doubtless have made the making regulations under the Order compulsory instead of permissive. It is a matter for deep regret that your usually accurate journal should be blemished by a contribution the author of which shows want of knowledge, both as to his legal principles and facts.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HUGH STOTT,

Medical Officer of Health, East Sussex Combined
Sanitary District.

Dec. 26th, 1907.

* * We are sorry to find that our correspondent has made a mistake.—ED. L.

MEDICAL PRACTICE IN TURKEY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Perhaps it may interest a few of your readers to know how the licence to practise medicine in the Turkish Empire is to be obtained. Perhaps this licence is not absolutely necessary for an English practitioner whose work lies solely in an English institution, yet it is strongly recommended to be obtained as without it one has no *legal* right to practise.

First from the Consulate (fee 10s.), or from some friend who can write a formal Turkish letter, a "petition" is obtained stating that X, a British subject, graduate of such a University, desires the licence of the Ottoman Government. This letter addressed to the Director-General of Medical Affairs (Nâzir Mekteb-i Tibbiyâ-i Şahâ-î) you take to the Haidar Pasha new military medical school near Skutari, to a room called *evraq odası*. There a clerk gives you a form bearing a number (fee 20 paras = 1d.), and you are probably told to call in a week's time. Meanwhile, the petition goes before some authority and on your next visit you pay in an adjoining office (*Bureau de Comptabilité*) £T.20 + 20 paras; no receipt is given yet. Five days later, probably, on visiting the original office and displaying the number, the clerk, turning up his register, writes "council" on your form, and after waiting an hour or so you enter to see the council which examines your university diploma and *medical registration certificate*. The former it retains, *all things being satisfactory*, and you enter an adjoining room for a *viva-voce* examination by the professor of anatomy, of surgery, and of medicine. This examination is a perfectly fair gentlemanly one. If you display a reasonable knowledge of your profession you are immediately afterwards invited to the council-room where the chairman declares your acceptance.

The examination must be taken in French or Turkish. An interpreter is allowable. Then comes a wait of some ten

days during which your diploma and the result of the test, &c., pass to the Director-General and are finally returned to the school. It is necessary in the meantime to pay a visit to the Sublime Porte to have your passport legalised (fee half Turkish pound + 2 piastres). The return of your papers is announced in Turkish on a notice board in the hall in which you do so much waiting. Your university diploma is now returned to you and also a receipt for the fee, and after a period varying according to whether there are others ready with you or not, you are led before the Director-General to swear the oath not to procure abortion, not to treat hardly the poor, to call your professional brethren in consultation when necessary, &c., and after paying 21 piastres (3s. 6d.) for a stamp, your licence is handed to you. The examination and council, &c., are held three times weekly—Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and it is advisable to call regularly on each of these days when waiting, as the clerk's instruction to come in a week's time is but a way of speaking. In the first office and the fee-paying office there is no one who speaks French. The whole affair takes three weeks if very fortunate, five weeks usually, and seven weeks if unfortunate. In Egypt the same affair takes from four to five days and there is no examination and a nominal fee of 3s. 6d. or so to pay.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Baghdad.

P. A. H. RADCLIFFE, M.B. Vict., D.T.M.

THE TREATMENT OF PUERPERAL SEPSIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In a letter in THE LANCET of Dec. 21st, 1907, p. 1785, Dr. Amand Routh says, "I cannot recall any acute septic condition of the endometrium where curettage with a sharp curette has done good." I should like to bring forward some statistical evidence on this point. In the *Journal of Obstetrics* for January, 1907, in a paper dealing with the treatment of puerperal sepsis, I wrote: "Out of 79 cases (of my own) treated by general means, with or without intra-uterine douches, 37 died—a mortality of 46 per cent. In 86 cases where the method I have described was employed the mortality was 23 per cent. only." I can now add to the latter series 43 more cases with 11 deaths. The method referred to consists in the removal of the endometrium as completely as possible with a large sharp curette followed by swabbing of the resulting raw surface with undiluted iodoform. I should add that all the patients were intensely ill when I first saw them and that the large majority had been treated previously by intra-uterine and vaginal douches for several days, the average day of admission to hospital being, in fact, the fifth of the pyrexial period or, in other words, the stage which is certainly not the most favourable for the use of the sharp curette. I do not see mild or early cases at all.

I am well aware of the fallacies which attend the use of the statistical method in such a complex disease as puerperal sepsis, but I think it is evident that these figures do not justify the inference that the use of the sharp curette is *per se* either dangerous or inadvisable and that the number of cases, 208 in all, is sufficiently great to be worth quoting in this connexion.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

A. KNYVETT GORDON.

Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester, Dec. 22nd, 1907.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The town council here has adopted the above Act and I shall be compelled under a penalty to notify all my confinement cases without receiving any compensation therefor, which is not quite just. However, the spirit of the Act is a step in the right direction and one must not complain. It seems a pity that the scope of the Act did not enable the local authorities to take an interest in both the mother and the child at parturition. Obstetricians who have the true spirit of their office must have felt unhappy and uncomfortable after refusing to get out of bed to attend a woman in labour who had been so improvident as not to have engaged anyone to attend her, knowing well from past experience that the only recompense that these improvident people afford is the approving conscience of having done your duty, which is very satisfying at the time, but of no avail in paying the bills of the butcher,