

to be divided into 12 doses, a dose to be given every two hours. For the second 24 hours I give six drachms and for the third and every succeeding 24 hours until convalescence is fairly well established I give one ounce in each mixture. On one or two occasions I have continued the latter doses for eight days and I do not remember an unsuccessful case where this treatment was carried out. When the perchloride of iron is given in these doses it does not require the aid of sulphate of magnesia, for it does not constipate and I have never known it to induce vomiting.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Beckington, Bath, Oct. 24th, 1904. W. G. EVANS.

PLAYING GROUNDS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May I be permitted to make a few comments on the leading article under the above heading which appeared in THE LANCET of Oct. 15th? My suggestion as to setting apart a portion of the Royal parks for properly organised games was, I admit, in the nature of a counsel of despair. No one can value more than I do the present attractions and amenities of our parks and I am not prepared to deny that, if my suggestion were adopted, they would lose much of their charm for many who now frequent them. I fully admit the loss in one direction but venture to think that the gain in another should be held more than to compensate for this. It is surely more important to cater for the actual necessities of one class rather than the luxuries—for they are in substance nothing more—of another. Our working-class children living in the central districts of London must have opportunities for physical recreation if they are to grow up into a national asset of any value. They must have them, moreover, within easy reach of their homes and at as low a cost as possible. The "carriage folk" and those who use the parks for rest or pedestrian exercise cannot pretend for a moment that the "wants" which the parks supply for them are so imperious or so much a matter of national concern as the vital wants of the children already instanced. Moreover, the degree of interference with the present amenities of the parks can easily be overrated. Those who are over-anxious on this score should pay a visit to Battersea or Victoria Park, both of which are under the control of the London County Council. There they will see that while a generous provision has been made for physical recreation in a variety of forms the net result has been to preserve both open spaces as things of beauty. Stretches of both parks can vie with anything in the Royal parks for sheer attractiveness and picturesque effect. Therefore, while admitting that the advent of stumps and goal-posts into Hyde Park might stir the soul of Mayfair to its bottommost depths I cannot help thinking that, if the experiment were given a fair trial for a short time, it would soon be found that Mayfair was crying out before it was really much hurt. As regards your suggestion that better use should be made of the playgrounds attached to our large elementary schools, I do not think that it is generally known that these playgrounds are now open to the children out of school hours, at least so I am assured by a manager. The difficulty about conducting physical drill classes at these schools lies in the fact that in so many cases the children are not sufficiently well fed to be in a fit state for any sustained physical effort. Moreover, it must not be forgotten that these playgrounds are not open to boys and girls who have left school—at the early age of 14 years or under, be it remembered. It is from this class that "hooligans" are apt to be bred and for which the numerous boys' and girls' clubs have been called into being. These are the little Londoners who find it so hard to get out of London and look upon the face of nature and who are growing up stunted in mind, body, and soul.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Holland-road, W., Oct. 18th, 1904. ERNEST LESSER.

THE DISCHARGE OF SEWER GASES INTO THE STREETS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In THE LANCET of Oct. 15th you call attention to a crying evil and suggest that a remedy might be effected by means of improved ventilation. I think your readers will be interested to hear that such a remedy has been devised by

the well-known sanitary engineer Mr. Isaac Shone, whose new system is now at work in Leicester and is in course of installation at St. Thomas's Hospital and several other places. Fans which may be driven by steam, gas, water, or electric power exhaust the air out of the sewers and discharge it through high shafts into the atmosphere. At the same time fresh air is drawn down soil pipes and drains into the sewers. The results of this simple operation, which would appear to completely solve the problem of sewer ventilation, are threefold:—1. The escape of sewer gas into the streets or houses is impossible. 2. The sewer gas can be rendered innocuous before being discharged into the atmosphere. 3. The air in the sewers can be kept in such a condition that workmen can enter them without danger.

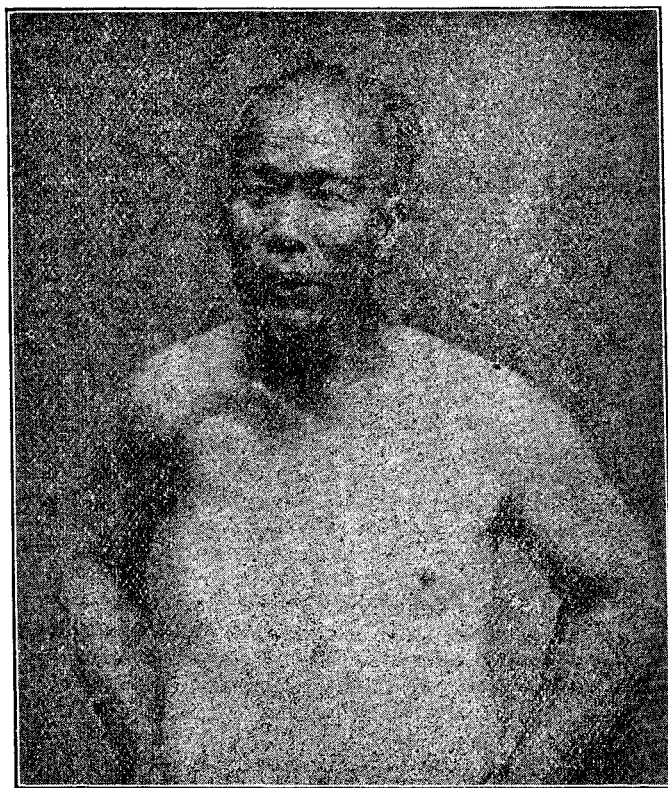
The evil you discuss is by no means limited to London. Only recently while passing along the streets of a favourite health resort at every few yards I was met by the most offensive stench. The noxious effects of breathing sewer gas need not be insisted upon in such a journal as THE LANCET. I trust that your powerful influence may tend to abolish what is at once a nuisance and a danger to health.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Oct. 22nd, 1904. THOS. GLOVER LYON, M.A., M.D. Cantab.

CONGENITAL ABSENCE OF THE BREAST.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I inclose a photograph of a case of congenital absence of the right breast and pectoralis major in a male. The patient's father presents the same defect, but his own children and his father's elder brother have both breasts normally developed. In regard to the development of the



breasts in his other relatives the patient can give no information. Reference to Gould and Pyle's "Anomalies and Curiosities of Medicine" leads me to believe that this defect is seldom met with or, at any rate, seldom described; this is my reason for reporting the case.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
G. DUNCAN WHYTE, M.B. Edin.
Swatow, China, Sept. 23rd, 1904.

THE NORTH-EASTERN HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney-road, Bethnal Green, in the midst of some of the poorest districts of London, is in danger of being compelled through lack of sufficient support to close half of its wards at the end of December. A new building, increasing the number