

October 12 cases; and from 5th to 12th of October 16 cases—in all 30 cases. Yet up to that time the school was still carried on, and no orders issued that scholars should not visit the infected houses, nor is there any evidence to show that any active measures were being employed to prevent the extension of the disease. On the 13th of October it was reported at one of the ordinary weekly meetings of the Uppingham Sanitary Authority that there were some cases of fever in the school. Mr. Haviland was telegraphed for. Mr. Thring and the Rev. G. H. Mullins at the same time wrote to that gentleman requesting him to inspect the school. In both these letters are paragraphs which help us to explain the strange apathy which had hitherto characterised the proceedings of the school authorities. Mr. Thring writes, date Oct. 11th, twenty days after the occurrence of the first case, and when there were thirty cases of fever: "This last week there has been an outbreak of fever, called by some low fever, by others typhoid, and by the most eminent man, I believe, who has delivered an opinion on it—Dr. Hastings, a London physician, whose son is here,—gastritis"! The Rev. G. H. Mullins writes: "To investigate into the true nature and cause of an outbreak of typhoid fever (so called by Mr. Bell, the medical officer.) In saying typhoid fever (so called by Mr. Bell) I do not mean to impugn his opinion, but to justify my using words, as other authorities deny that illness is typhoid fever." Of course, so long as the school authorities shut their eyes to the real nature of the outbreak, it would be impossible to enforce any active measures for preventing the spread of the disease. It is much to be regretted that Mr. Bell, finding his opinion distrusted, did not insist on having it confirmed by a competent authority. We hope the trustees of the school will in future direct him to do so, if any difference of opinion should arise between him and the masters as to the diagnosis of possibly infectious disorders. Mr. Haviland commenced his inspection Oct. 15th by visiting Mr. Hodgkinson's house, in which the first case had occurred. This house is a large and handsome mansion, and was erected some seven or eight years ago, at a cost of about £10,000; the sewage was received in three cesspits. No. 1, which was situated at the north-west angle of the house, received the sewage of the boys through closets by means of an elastic six-inch india-rubber tube; it was in this pit the explosion occurred. It was well constructed, about 24 feet in circumference, 8½ feet deep, and 8 feet in diameter, and when uncovered it was full to the very top with solid sewage. It had received the excreta of forty boys for five years without being emptied. As above stated, it was unventilated, and the sewer gases must have passed into the house by means of the india-rubber pipe into the study passage, the studies, lavatories, dining hall, class room, and the house generally. The water-supply of the house was derived from a well, below the wine cellar, 43 feet from No. 1 cesspit and 15 feet from another; the springs, which approached the well from the north-west in a line from the sanatorium, passed under the connecting drain of these two cesspits. The Rev. Mr. Mullins' house was in close proximity to Mr. Hodgkinson's; the water of the house, the particular well not mentioned, was analysed, November 15th, by Professor Wanklyn. He reported it contaminated water, containing 104 grains of solids per gallon, and 0.13 parts of albuminoid ammonia. This house drains into the town south sewer. Owing to a defect in the trapping, regurgitation of sewer gases took place from the drains of a neighbouring house. At Rev. Mr. Campbell's house a 3-inch rain-water pipe in the yard was found broken off about three feet from the ground, and the matron had complained of a bad smell, which was attributed to the sewer in High-street. Professor Wanklyn examined the water-supply of this house, and pronounced it not contaminated; three boys, two children, and the matron were attacked in this house. On the 2nd of November the school was broken up, and the boys sent home. It is interesting to notice that up to Oct. 21st there were very few cases of fever in the town generally, direct evidence of only three cases being attainable. It was resolved that Mr. Haviland and Mr. Rogers Field, C.E., on behalf of the town, and Mr. Tarbottom, C.E., on behalf of the several masters and trustees of the school, should decide what was necessary to be done towards improving the school-houses, and the condition of the town generally; and, at the request of the masters, a Government inspector, Mr. Rawlinson, C.E.,

was deputed to make the necessary inquiries, and report to the Local Government Board. That gentleman has now reported on the engineer's report, and states that he is satisfied that each school will be in as complete and satisfactory a state as the best modern sanitary science can put them. Cesspools have been abolished, drains have been relaid and ventilated, closets, sinks, and gulleys have also been improved, renewed, and fully ventilated. With regard to the town, he states that Mr. Field has devised a system of sewers, in which ventilation is fully provided for. Mr. Rawlinson concludes his report by stating the trustees and masters have improved the sewerage, drainage, ventilation, and water-supply of the several schools in the best practicable manner.

On reading these two reports we cannot help seeing that all the conditions for the successful spread of enteric fever were present at Uppingham last autumn—a porous soil, a water-supply drawn from shallow wells, with contiguous cesspits. A case of undoubted typhoid occurs in one of the masters' houses at the end of the Midsummer term; and in the Michaelmas term, after an explosion of sewer-gas in the unventilated cesspit of the same house, there is a development of a fever of the same nature in that house, 27 persons out of 60 being affected. The gases of the cesspit had free access to the studies, &c., and the well from which the water was supplied was not 50 feet distant from this cesspit, and only 15 from another, whilst the stream supplying the house flowed under a drain connecting two cesspools of the house. Two other houses also suffered, but not to the same extent; but the house nearest to the one first infected suffered most. A few other cases occurred in some of the other school-houses; but these cases can, we think, be accounted for by the free intercourse permitted the scholars of these houses with those infected. It is much to be regretted the school authorities allowed any doubt to be thrown on the opinion of the school medical attendant as to the nature of this disease; in consequence of this error much valuable time was lost at the outset, when prompt measures alone could check the onward progress of the disease. Mr. Bell's diagnosis was perfectly correct, and ought to have been received as conclusive. If the masters were in doubt they ought to have appealed to the sanitary authority of the district, who would have at once assumed the responsibility of deciding the question, and taking the necessary steps to prevent the extension of the disease. By delaying to do so till the last moment, and not till thirty cases had been attacked, the school authorities assumed a grave responsibility. It is not assuring to find that an infectious fever may arise and extend in one of our large public schools, and yet the true facts, if not withheld, certainly not communicated to the parents, and also to find little or nothing attempted in the way of preventive measures. Sad as the lesson taught by this outbreak at Uppingham is, it will not be without value if it teaches school authorities the necessity of trusting less to their own omniscience and more to the guidance of those who, by special training, are best qualified to give advice and act in such emergencies.

EXTRACTION OF A LARGE CALCULUS PER URETHRAM IN A GIRL AGED NINE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Thinking the following may be of some practical use, I ask for a small space in your columns.

A. B., a diminutive girl, had been suffering from symptoms of stone for the last four years. On sounding on the 7th of December, 1875, a stone was detected, and on the 9th it was extracted per urethram. The urethra was dilated with bougies under chloroform until a Weiss bivalve dilator could be introduced; it was then quickly dilated, and on withdrawing the instrument the finger could be introduced into the bladder, the stone was seized with a pair of straight, long, narrow stone forceps, and, after a little trouble, extracted by some rotatory movement. It weighed 285 grains, somewhat oval, and was of the following dimensions; length 1½ inch; breadth 1¼ inch; thickness, at the thickest part, about ½ inch. Nucleus, oxalate of lime, with alternate layers of phosphates and lithates. The child is now quite well, and has perfect command of the bladder during the day. At night there is incontinence.—Yours truly,

King's Lynn, January 18th, 1876.

G. B. SWEETING.