

more than probable that Dr. Hall's suggestion—a suggestion already made to me by my friend, Dr. Andrew—is correct, and that the strange symptoms of poisoning, which I attributed to the salicylic acid, were really due to the unexpected presence of carbolic acid.

It is to be hoped that my mistake may at least do good service to others by warning them against the indiscriminate use of salicylic acid as at present manufactured; and, further, that the exposure of the mistake may help to vindicate for this acid, when pure, its claim to be regarded as a very valuable addition to the list of newly-discovered medicines.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
High-street, Oxford. H. M. TUCKWELL.

### SANITARY GYMNASTICS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall be glad to be permitted to add my testimony to that of my colleague, Mr. Edmund Owen, and of "A Lover of Justice," as to the value of sanitary gymnastics. I have witnessed and submitted myself experimentally to the movements as practised by Prof. Georgii, and seen excellent results; I also saw Mr. Owen's case before and after the treatment by Dr. Kellgreen, and can corroborate his interesting account of it. The principle on which the Swedish gymnastic treatment is based is physiological, and it is calculated to be of great benefit in many cases of paralysis, and also in the early stage of lateral curvature of the spine and similar affections.

Yours faithfully,  
W. H. BROADBENT, M.D.  
Seymour-street, November 29th, 1876.

### SYMMETRICAL SHORTENING OF THE FOOT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—When showing the case of symmetrical shortening of the foot at the Pathological Society, I stated that, in my experience, the specimen was a curiosity, not "unique." I recollect to have seen previously another case somewhat similar.

I am obliged to Mr. Biggs for calling my attention to the cases he describes. In results, certainly the cases he refers to, and mine, seem similar. In my case, however, good length (not mere débris) of metatarsal bones and phalanges escaped or were removed.

As a result of rest in the horizontal position, two sores on the sole, and a third consequent on removal (before admission) of the little toe, healed. Amputation was not indicated. The man was sent out of the hospital with a well padded sole, hollowed out to receive a prominent base of metatarsal bone in the centre of the foot.

The other foot was quite normal, had a well developed arch, and was free from callosities.

Your obedient servant,  
St. Thomas's-street, Nov. 1876. SYDNEY JONES.

### INTRA-THORACIC CANCER AND LARYNGEAL PARALYSIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I hope Dr. Charteris will forgive me for not having read the report of his case of intra-thoracic cancer with laryngeal paralysis, which he published in THE LANCET of Oct. 24th, 1874. If I had had this advantage I should certainly have called attention to his case in my clinical remarks on this subject which were published in your issue of November 18th, as my object, like his, was not to "claim any particular credit" for the observation, but rather to establish an interesting clinical fact arising out of the use of the laryngoscope. Thanking Dr. Charteris for calling my attention to his case,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
I. BURNEY YEO.

Hertford-street, Mayfair, Nov. 26th, 1876.

### BIRMINGHAM.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE inaugural meeting of the Midland Medical Society took place on November 1st, and was attended by a large number of the profession of the town and neighbourhood. Dr. Robert Barnes, of London, gave an address on "Pregnancy as an Illustration of General Pathology." A prize of five guineas, given by Mr. Edwin Chesshire, for the best essay "On the Value of General and Local Bloodletting in the Treatment of Disease," was awarded to Dr. Francis Warner; and the Society's Clinical prizes (each of the value of five guineas) to the students of the Birmingham School of Medicine who had passed the best examination in Clinical Medicine and Surgery, were presented to Mr. J. H. Palmer and Mr. C. J. Devis. The examiners reported very highly of the ability displayed by the candidates, and awarded a special certificate to Mr. H. G. Lowe, who was second in both subjects. After the meeting there was a supper in the dining-hall of Queen's College, at which the health of Dr. Barnes was proposed by the President, Mr. Berry; and Dr. Barnes then proposed "Prosperity to the Midland Medical Society," and, in doing so, alluded to the value of such gatherings as this for softening the asperities of professional life, improving their knowledge, and facilitating social intercourse among those engaged in a common duty.

Mr. Alderman Chamberlain, M.P., on resigning his seat as Chairman of the School Board, alluded with satisfaction to the endeavour made by the Board to provide playgrounds adjacent to the board schools, and to their greater size and completeness when compared with those found in most towns. While this is undoubtedly true, more might yet be done in the way of affording recreation-grounds for the children whose chief playgrounds are at present the streets and alleys of the town. There are several open places, as the Park-street and other burial-grounds, which are now unused, and, whose fences being out of repair, are mere repositories for dust and rubbish, which might be utilised for this very laudable purpose. It might also be an advantage to the town if the various churchyards now closed by Act of Parliament, and many of which are both large and centrally situated, were handed over to the corporation for the purpose of being planted and laid out as ornamental gardens, in which the working men and women of Birmingham might find an agreeable resort for strolling or resting.

The fifty-ninth annual meeting of the Birmingham Orthopædic Hospital took place under the presidency of the Earl of Dartmouth, when the report showed that there had been 706 new cases treated during the year, that 378 instruments had been supplied, and 356 operations performed. The financial statement was satisfactory, and the committee proposed to open twelve extra beds during the ensuing year.

Mr. Cross, the Home Secretary, has been visiting the town, with a view of stirring up a Conservative reaction, but the occasion was seized by our Liberal Mayor to entertain him at a banquet, and as the organ of the Liberal, or, rather, Radical Town Council, to thank him for the services he has rendered to the public by his Artisans' Dwellings Act. Mr. Cross, who had paid a visit to the district which is to be dealt with by the new improvement scheme, heartily approved of the course taken by the Corporation, and took an opportunity of urging other corporate bodies to follow their good example. The workmen who will be displaced by the removal of the houses in the scheduled district are to be provided with dwellings on a block of land two acres in extent, already purchased by the Corporation. Scott's Sewage Company (Limited) have since last August been undertaking extensive experiments at the Saltley sewage outfall works, and with so much success that they propose to make an offer to the Town Council to deal with the whole of the nightsoil and sewage of the town.

Our already over-filled lunatic asylum is at last to be extended, the Asylum Committee having acquired 150 acres of freehold land for the election of a second building for the reception of pauper imbeciles and epileptics.

The medical officer of the Coseley Local Board has had to invoke the assistance of that body to declare certain houses unfit for habitation against the will of the occupants,