

the influence of the female, if the male be not near of kin, it never interferes with the multiplying and replenishing of the earth, and the onward progress of society. While it is believed that the offspring of inbreeding do not present peculiar diseases, yet they are by an overwhelming majority the subjects of the strumous diathesis in all its forms and developments, whether of mind or body, whether compared with the same number out of families otherwise constituted, or of the same family differently matched in regard to consanguinity, without being exposed to the external or dietary debilitating causes, which tell on the most robust constitution, and then not so amenable to medical treatment.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Beaulieu, Sept. 1861. K. CORBET, M.D.

### ON THE INJURIOUS EFFECTS OF GREEN-PATTERN PAPERS ON ROOM WALLS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The deleterious influence of the above-mentioned papers, so generally admitted, is fully corroborated by the following facts:—

A lady sleeping in a room so papered became afflicted with nausea, vomiting, heat and dryness of the mouth and fauces, pains in the stomach and bowels, and considerable constriction of the chest. Various remedies were tried without success, and the diagnosis and predisposing cause remained a mystery, notwithstanding the greatest attention being paid to the case, until another lady, satisfactorily recovering from a severe illness, being put to sleep in the apartment, began to suffer in a similar manner, but, in addition, with great loss of appetite. I had her removed for change of air, and she got better; but no sooner did she return to the dormitory than all the unpleasant symptoms reappeared in their former virulence. It then for the first time struck me that the arsenical preparation in the green of the bed-room paper was the cause of the malady, and this opinion was verified by the fact that since they have slept out of that apartment they have both recovered, and that too without the aid of medicine.

The paper-hanger who was employed to remove the obnoxious article showed me the quantity of green powder, of a mineral nature, which even a small space contained, by sweeping down with his hand at one brush enough to poison the air of the room to a dangerous extent. There is, then, no cause to wonder at the serious results which breathing an atmosphere so impregnated evidently produced.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,  
Pembroke Dock, Oct. 1861. WM. THOMAS, L.R.C.P.

### INTERMITTENT FEVER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—When I was surgeon to the *Palmyra* we were stationed in the Hoogly, in India, in the autumn. Cholera had well-nigh disappeared, and we were all getting into better spirits with the thoughts of the north-east monsoon, and each forming plans for future pleasure and enjoyment after the terrible work of the cholera. But, alas! how soon are man's plans frustrated! All the banks of the river became inundated by the autumnal tide, and brought down large quantities of dead leaves and bodies, which became decomposed by the great heat and moisture. This miasma filled the surrounding atmosphere with its poisonous influence, and laid the men up with intermittent fever. As we had no hope of speedily getting away from this place, it produced great anxiety to myself and the officers, as the disease caused much prostration, and unfitted the men for active duty for some time. By the following plan of treatment I cut short the intermittent attack:—Let each patient when he complains of coldness have half a drachm of carbonate of ammonia in hot tea, to be taken immediately, as an emetic; and an embrocation consisting of chloroform (three drachms) and soap liniment (nine drachms) to be rubbed on the spine before each attack: one scruple of calomel to be taken one hour afterwards, and the patient to be well wrapped in blankets. Generally, I found the attack give way, and the calomel acted as a sedative and purgative, which gave the patient some refreshing sleep, and he would often awake the next morning as if nothing had happened. If the attack went on, I continued the liniment to the spine—in the quotidian, to be rubbed in daily, about seven or eight A.M.; in the tertian, every second day, about ten A.M.; in the quartan, about one P.M. every third day: and gave ten grains of sulphate of quinine, ten minims of sulphuric acid, one drachm of tincture

of oranges, with distilled water to an ounce and a half, every six hours; ten grains of compound ipecacuanha every night, with occasionally an aperient; two drachms of tartrate of soda, with an effervescent; and a generous diet. By this treatment I found the disease terminate quickly and favourably, with few cases of splenic disease.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
E. WILLIAMS, M.D., L.S.A.,  
Bracknell, Oct. 1861. Member of the Royal Victoria Medical Board.

### ON RENAL DROPSY SUCCEEDING SCARLATINA, AND ON THE EFFICACY OF BENZOATE OF AMMONIA IN ALBUMINURIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It frequently happens that the sequelæ to scarlatina occasion more trouble to the physician than the original disorder, more especially in cases of anasarca with albuminous urine, the process of cure being often tedious, and not unfrequently unsatisfactory both to the patient and practitioner. If, therefore, any addition or improvement can be made by means of which such morbid conditions may become more amenable to the remedies employed, society will be benefited and the physician gratified. Having had many cases of the above nature during the past and the present year, I have prescribed the following draught (for a child six years old) with more than ordinary success. The remedy, being not unpleasant, is readily taken by children:—Benzoate of ammonia, five grains; spirit of nitrous ether, fifteen minims; syrup of tolu, one drachm; camphor mixture to one ounce: to be taken three times a day. This, with a purge of the compound jalap powder, has answered admirably, the urine becoming free from albumen in a much shorter time than usual, and the patient's strength being afterwards recruited by the ammonio-citrate of iron.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
J. TAYLOR, L.R.C.P. Edin., & L.S.A.  
Surrey-place, Old Kent-road, Oct. 1861.

### PARISIAN MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

LAST Tuesday's meeting at the Academy of Medicine decidedly exceeded the average in point of practical interest, and although the promised discussion on M. Blache's report did not come off, the disappointment was amply compensated by some original observations which fell from M. Bouchardat on the occasion. M. Garnier, in September, 1858, made a communication to the Academy relative to the utility of sea air in the treatment of pulmonary phthisis, and by an appeal to the registers of the various sea-port hospitals in France, endeavoured to make out a strong case in favour of the preventive action exercised by sea air over the development of tubercle. Already, in 1855, a memoir on the same subject had been addressed to this learned body by M. Jules Rochard, and in this document conclusions were drawn, diametrically opposed to those arrived at by Laennec, and already accepted as current coin by the large majority of the profession. M. Rochard on that occasion proved to the satisfaction of the Academy, (for his essay won the prize,) that the boasted tonic virtues and vivifying properties of the marine atmosphere were an illusion, and that so far from beneficial was the inhalation of sea air to tuberculous lungs, on the contrary, the effect of saline emanations was rather to accelerate than to retard the final catastrophe. The question now proposed for solution to M. Blache was, whether or no M. Garnier's investigations had in any way invalidated the accuracy of M. Rochard's conclusions. The reporter, after an examination of the various elements of proof adduced in M. Garnier's communication, recommended the Academy to hold by its recent verdict, and stated that none of the newly-furnished evidence was of a nature to warrant the return to an old and exploded opinion.

After some observations from M. Piorry, in which were trotted out not a few of his polysyllabic hobbies, M. Bouchardat, diverging a little from the question of marine influences into that of tubercular development, and the causes which regulate