

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE VESTRY OF ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As a member of the much-maligned Vestry and Board of Guardians of St. George-the-Martyr, I have read with much pain the undeserved attack made on those bodies in your article in THE LANCET of the 2nd instant, founded on Mr. Rendle's recent written speech, or lecture, as it has been termed, to our Vestry.

Had the writer of that article obtained his facts from the official records, and had he known, as I know, the enormous amount of practical sanitary work—such as draining houses into sewers, abolishing cesspools, and improving generally the sanitary condition of the parish—done during the last seven years, and how much is now being done weekly in the same direction, he would, I am sure, have given credit where he now, by arguing from wrong information, attaches so much blame.

The truth is, Mr. Rendle's version is well known to be much exaggerated. He does not, and I fear never will, forget that he once held the office of medical officer of health here, and that for many reasons, which cannot be mentioned here, he did not possess the full confidence of the Vestry, and consequently they did not work harmoniously together, because he constantly wished to force the Vestry to exceed their legal powers by his indiscreet zeal. Our present medical officer of health is a most zealous sanitary officer, possessing sound judgment and excellent tact, and hence he commands the fullest confidence of our Vestry; and I venture to assert that he will bear me out in stating that, so far from offering any opposition to him in carrying out all legal sanitary requirements, that body have always been desirous of adopting any and every practical suggestion of his for the improvement of the parish.

It is well known, however, in our Vestry, that the real motive of Mr. Rendle's ceaseless and unnecessary agitation of the so-called bad sanitary state of our parish is, to indirectly impeach our present excellent officer, who, it is well known, would have long since resigned his office to have escaped these constant attacks, had he not possessed the full confidence and support of the Vestry. Whether Mr. Rendle hopes to regain his lost appointment by these means I cannot say, but it is at least an unfair mode of proceeding to his successor. I hope Dr. Bateson will address you on this subject, as your article reflects indirectly on him; and I know THE LANCET has ever been distinguished for its care for the public good, its love of fair play, and always that the truth should prevail. Should he do so, I am sure he could easily disabuse your mind of the wrongly-formed impression of the sanitary state of our parish, and of the error of the assertion in your article, that we, "*his masters*" (fellow-workers would be more appropriate), have ever attempted to "tie his hands," or in any way to run counter to his suggestions on sanitary matters; we respect him too much for that.

With regard to the article by your special Commissioner on the state of our workhouse, I cannot say that, on the whole, much fault can be found with it; and I believe it will do good. A strong point was rightly made of the "*den of horrors*"—the vagrant ward; but sufficient justice was not done, I think, to the guardians in the matter. It ought in fairness to have been clearly explained that new buildings had recently been erected for the accommodation of that class, and that at the time your article was written it had ceased to be used. For the other matters so forcibly exposed, the guardians I hardly think are responsible. From the knowledge I have of the members of that body, and having sat at the board with Mr. Rendle, who will, I think, confirm my assertion, that had the medical officer of the workhouse, as it was clearly his duty to have done, brought those matters to the attention of the board in his report, immediate orders would have been given to have had them remedied, as far as they could have been; and also that that board, as far as I have observed, have always been ready to adopt any suggestions from their medical and other officers, having for their object the well-being and comfort of the inmates of the house, without regard to expense.

In conclusion, I beg to assert my conviction that, so far as

I have observed as a member of both the Vestry and the Board of Guardians for some years, your article does not correctly represent the feelings with which those bodies are actuated in the discharge of the duties entrusted to them; but that, on the contrary, as *reasonable men*, they are at all times ready and anxious to fulfil those duties, whether sanitary or any other, under the guidance of their *professional* responsible advisers, for the benefit of the poor and the parish generally.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Southwark, Sept. 5th, 1865.

A ST. GEORGE'S VESTRYMAN.

* * We have willingly printed the above letter, on the principle *audire alteram partem*. But it is obvious that it gives no answer whatever to the specific charges made by Mr. Rendle, and corroborated in a very significant manner by the resident officer of the Fever Hospital. "A St. George's Vestryman," moreover, has no right to accuse us of reflecting on the conduct of the present medical officer of health, since we were careful to express our belief that the blame did *not* rest with that official. We blame the Vestry; and our disposition to censure that body will not be altered by vague general denials of the truth of accusations which were specific and definite. Nor will the Vestry improve their position in the estimation either of ourselves or of any disinterested persons by heaping abuse on Mr. Rendle, or suggesting improper motives for the course of action which he has taken.—ED. L.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In your article entitled "The Coming Medical Session," in the Students' Number of THE LANCET for 1865-66, there is a slight mistake with regard to University College, which I am sure you will gladly rectify.

In speaking of University College and King's College your remarks run thus:—"The officering of the hospitals attached to these two last schools is subject to an arrangement which, in our opinion, is not beneficial in any way—viz., that the principal medical officers must be professors in their respective colleges; and hence no changes take place in the staff of lecturers without corresponding ones in the medical staff."

The facts with regard to University College are as follows:—The Physicians are Drs. Jenner, Hare, and Reynolds, and *only one* of them, Dr. Jenner, lectures in the College. Each is a Professor of Clinical Medicine; but the teaching of Dr. Hare and Dr. Reynolds is confined to the Hospital.

The Surgeons to University College Hospital are Mr. Quain, Mr. Erichsen, Mr. Marshall, and Mr. Henry Thompson, and *only one* of these, Mr. Erichsen, lectures in the College; the three others teach Clinical Surgery, but only in the Hospital.

Again, as a matter of fact, in University College, changes *do* "take place in the staff of lecturers without corresponding ones in the medical staff" of the Hospital. Dr. Sydney Ringer was appointed Professor of *Materia Medica*; Dr. Wilson Fox of *Pathological Anatomy*; Dr. George Harley of *Medical Jurisprudence*; Mr. Oliver of *Botany*; Dr. Williamson of *Chemistry*; Mr. Ellis of *Anatomy*; Dr. Sharpey of *Physiology*; and Dr. Grant of *Comparative Anatomy*: every one of these gentlemen having been elected to his post in complete independence of any hospital appointment.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. RUSSELL REYNOLDS, M.D.

Grosvenor-street, Grosvenor-square, Sept. 20th, 1865.

HEREDITARY EPISTAXIS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following history of an hereditary tendency to epistaxis, you may, perhaps, deem sufficiently remarkable to merit insertion in THE LANCET:—

Mrs. L—, a native of Lincolnshire, was, during all her early life and up to the period of her marriage, the subject of frequent and violent epistaxis. She had four children, two of whom (a male and a female) likewise had habitual and severe epistaxis. The male, Mr. L—, died of this disease; the female, Mrs. C—, had six female children, of whom three suffered from epistaxis during all the earlier period of their lives. One of them, who is my informant, Mrs. K—, has

six children; two of them (females) have habitual and very severe epistaxis. The elder has a son now about nineteen years of age, who has had frequent and very severe epistaxis. The younger is not married, and has always been subject to violent epistaxis; her age is twenty-eight. One of Mrs. K—'s sisters, Mrs. C—, mentioned above as one of the three daughters who suffered from epistaxis, has two sons, both subject to violent epistaxis. One is married and has children; and one of them, a boy, about six years old, has epistaxis. Mrs. K—'s other sister, Mrs. B—, now dead, but not through her hereditary disease, had one daughter, who suffered from violent epistaxis, and is dead. Thus epistaxis, violent and habitual, has been observed in five consecutive generations, and for the last three generations in two branches. I have myself at different times attended Mrs. K—, her two daughters, and her grandson, and in all the hæmorrhage was on more than one occasion so violent as to necessitate the operation of plugging; and in the cases of the daughters and grandson to give rise to the apprehension of a fatal result.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,
B. G. BABINGTON, M.D.

George-street, Hanover-square, Sept. 12th, 1865.

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentleman passed his examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine and received a certificate to practise on the 31st ult:—

Fitzpatrick, James, Northampton.

The following gentlemen passed on the 7th inst.:—

Cheesman, Henry, Brighton.
Horne, Edward, Isleworth.

The following gentlemen passed on the 14th inst.:—

Compson, John Chas., Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.
Lloyd, John, Birmingham.
Major, Napoleon Bisdee, Hungerford, Berks.
Stuart, Robert, Woolwich.

The following gentleman also on the same day passed his first examination:—

Mackenzie, Frederic Morell, London Hospital.

HEALTH OF THE NAVY.—The Statistical Report of the Health of the Navy for the year 1862 has just been issued, under the superintendence of Dr. Mackay. The mortality appears to be 9.1 per 1000.

SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL.—Her Majesty has graciously signified her intention of presenting a bust of the late Prince Consort, executed by Theed, to the Surrey County Hospital, to be placed in the corridor of the building, which is now nearly ready for the reception of patients.

A HOME AND INSTITUTION FOR TRAINING NURSES, we hear, is about to be formed in Southampton for Hampshire, on the same plan as that which has been in operation for three years successfully in Bath.

THE HERBERT CONVALESCENT HOME.—On Saturday last, the foundation-stone of this institution was laid, at Bournemouth, in memory of the late Lord Herbert of Lea, by his youthful son, the Earl of Pembroke. The "Home" will be connected with the Salisbury Infirmary, in which the late Lord Herbert took a deep interest.

DECREASE OF INFLAMMATORY DISEASES IN GERMANY.—In the valuable monograph on Croup by Dr. Pauli, is to be found a passage which forms an interesting appendix to Dr. Stokes's admirable address at Leamington (see THE LANCET, Aug. 12th), and we gladly transcribe it:—"I have never been carried away by the notions of Broussais or Grossi; but I am convinced that, at the outset of my professional career, now more than thirty years ago, a great many more cases of severe inflammation, especially of the chest, presented themselves than is now the case. The same decline has been noticed by several of my professional brethren; so that bleeding and cupping are much less used now than formerly. The cause of this change lies in circumstances which (if we wish to avoid all idle hypotheses) we cannot as yet accurately specify, and the best way is simply to take note of the fact."

GUY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCHOOL.—The following is a list of the medalists and prizemen for 1864-5:—Third-year's Students—Treasurer's Gold Medals:

Henry Denne, Sandwich, for Medicine; John Gill, Weston, Hawkstone, Shrewsbury, for Surgery. Prizes: Henry Denne, Sandwich, first prize, £40; John Gill, Weston, Hawkstone, Shrewsbury, second prize, £35; Henry S. Taylor, Alton, Hants, honorary certificate. Second-year's Students—Benjamin Neale Dalton, South Lambeth, first prize, £35; William Johns, Haverfordwest, second prize, £30; William Spratt, Tottenham, honorary certificate; James Rawlings, St. Pinnock's Rectory, Liskeard, honorary certificate; Arthur Bowes Elliott, Richmond, Yorkshire, honorary certificate; Samuel John Truman, Nottingham, honorary certificate. First-year's Students—William Bevan Lewis, Cardigan, first prize, £30; John F. Codrington, Newcastle, Australia, second prize, £25; Frederick William Salzman, Brighton, third prize, £10 10s. (presented by one of the Governors); James William Barry, Ramsgate, honorary certificate; Charles John Sells, Guildford, honorary certificate.

THE ROAD MURDER.—Mr. Horatio Day, of Isleworth, wishes us to state that the voluntary confession of Constance Kent having completely removed the suspicions which attached to Elizabeth Gough, the nursemaid, the sympathy of the public, especially of that portion which so strongly condemned her, is respectfully solicited to make some reparation for what she has suffered, and to offer her a token of regret for the injustice that was done her, by giving her a "congratulatory contribution" on her character being completely cleared. The following gentlemen will superintend the arrangements:—William T. Farnell, Esq., Isleworth; J. W. Stapleton, Esq., Trowbridge, Wilts; Horatio G. Day, Esq., Isleworth, Treasurer; Hickson Briggs, Esq., Isleworth, Hon. Secretary. Contributions will be received by the Treasurer or the Hon. Sec., and by Messrs. Twining, Bankers, 215, Strand, London. The object is a worthy one, and deserves the consideration of all humane persons; we heartily wish it success.

Obituary.

R. WOLLASTON, M.R.C.P.

DR. WOLLASTON was a few years ago appointed one of the Physicians to the South Staffordshire Hospital, in this town, upon the resignation of Dr. Topham. He held that appointment for about two years. Subsequently he removed to Stafford, having been elected Physician to the Staffordshire Infirmary, and Visiting Physician to the Coton Hill Asylum. After discharging the duties of those offices for some time, the state of Mrs. Wollaston's health induced Dr. Wollaston to remove to a warmer climate, and he proceeded to Italy. For some time past he had been engaged in Rome studying antiquities, especially ancient mosaics, a subject with which he was well acquainted. He afterwards went to Naples with the intention of pursuing similar studies at Pompeii, but was prevented carrying out this object by an attack of illness, which terminated in his death. Exposure to the sun's heat in the streets of Naples brought on congestion of the brain, followed by diarrhoea and inflammation of the lungs. On the 16th ult., Dr. Topham, of Rome, who was staying at Sorrento, was telegraphed to go to Naples to visit Dr. Wollaston, in consequence of his illness having become serious. Dr. Topham visited Dr. Wollaston three times, staying the night on each occasion. Notwithstanding, however, all that medical skill and human aid could afford, Dr. Wollaston expired on the 22nd ult. It is a somewhat remarkable circumstance that Dr. Topham, whose successor Dr. Wollaston was in the South Staffordshire Hospital, should have attended him at his death in Naples, and that the Rev. Pelham Maitland, formerly Vicar of St. James's, Wolverhampton, should have performed the funeral ceremony at his interment in the English burial-ground in that city, his friend Dr. Topham attending the funeral. We may add that Dr. Wollaston, who was well versed in antiquarian and archaeological subjects, was a schoolfellow of the late Lord Macaulay. He was apprenticed to a leading hospital surgeon in London, and afterwards went to Clapham, where, through the kindness and influence of Dr. Darling, a physician practising in Russell-square, London, he was introduced to a good local connexion. Amongst other patients in the higher ranks of life, he attended the late Sir J. Mackintosh. Having married, Dr. Wollaston removed to Westbourne-terrace, London, where for many years he enjoyed a large and lucrative practice. His wife, however, suddenly died, and this event so completely unnerved him that he sold his practice, and an opportunity presenting itself,