

all in the tissue of the flesh." It is further stated that "such cows are therefore fit for human consumption, and in none of the cases, either on the farm or in those subsequently purchased, was a case of tubercle in the udder found, the essentially dangerous condition for contamination of the milk." Whilst congratulating Mr. Purrott on his pluck in seizing his cows by the tubercle, I venture to believe that the statements to which I refer merit the attention of those of us who are skilled bacteriologists. The facts that at least half of the cows on a particularly well managed dairy farm were found to be tuberculous, and that those cows were said to be apparently thriving and in good health, are worthy of consideration. The statements as to meat obtained from beasts infected with tubercle being fit for human consumption, and that it is only in cases of tubercle being found in the udder that the milk is infected, are statements about which I personally desire the opinion of the scientific pathologists. So far as my experience goes, very few dairy keepers would be willing to adopt the method which Mr. Purrott has adopted, and the practical question arises, Is it necessary or desirable that all dairy keepers should be compelled by law to take the same course?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Hatfield.

LOVELL DRAGE.

LIQUID VACCINE VIRUS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In the year 1870 Dr. Stephen Mackenzie, then resident medical officer at the London Hospital, used vaccine with glycerine in re-vaccinating the patients, nurses, and others, so that the process advocated by Dr. S. Monckton Copeman is not quite so new as supposed.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Flaxton, York, Jan. 26th, 1897.

ALFRED KEBBELL.

THE LEICESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS AND THE MIDWIVES QUESTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Dr. Rentoul cites the action of the Leicester board of guardians in their attempt to foist on the poor a midwife in the place of duly qualified practitioners; but this is not all the story. When the Local Government Board refused to sanction this appointment the Leicester board, after a great deal of quibbling, appointed their medical officers at half the pay promised to this L.O.S. diplomate. The uneducated woman was to receive 20s. where the qualified practitioner was to receive 10s. (it would probably have been 5s. if the law permitted it), so that it will be seen the board had not got the paltry excuse of economy. The Leicester board was loudly praised by the local press and the medical profession denounced in no measured terms. Why do the second-rate papers seek to magnify the virtues of quackery at the expense of education? Here we have leading articles almost daily on some new form of quackery.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

R. BROADBENT, M.D. Edin.,

Jan. 26th, 1897.

Member of the Leicester Board of Guardians.

"THE GLANDULAR FEVER OF CHILDHOOD."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I should like to express my appreciation of the admirable article by Dr. Dawson Williams in THE LANCET of Jan. 16th last. Until reading it I was totally unacquainted with Pfeiffer's writings on the subject, although for several years past I have been conversant with the complaint in question. On several occasions I have met with it in out-patient practice, and in at least two have known it epidemic amongst the members of the same household. With regard to fever, successive involvement of the glands beneath the sterno-mastoids, the freedom from definite pharyngitis or tonsillitis, and the subsequent retarded convalescence, all my cases tallied with the description given by Dr. Dawson Williams. In no one of my cases, however, was the abdominal pain sufficiently marked to call for any special examination of the abdomen, but after reading Dr. Williams's article I shall make a point of examining that region in every future case. With

the name "glandular fever" I confess I am not particularly enamoured, although I am free from having any better one to suggest for the complaint. The "glandular fever of childhood," at least, I am sure is misleading, as in two cases I have known the complaint contracted by young adults when it was epidemic in their households. Dr. Donkin, too, I note by THE LANCET of Jan. 23rd, has known it occur in a young married woman. That the complaint is chiefly confined to children is indisputable; but that it is not exclusively so I feel certain. In this respect—its chief incidence in childhood—it agrees with measles, whooping-cough, and many other complaints, although no one doubts the occasional occurrence of these last in adult age. Dr. Dawson Williams's article will no doubt call forth further comments which may help to settle some of the doubtful points in the disorder.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Upper Berkeley-street, Jan. 24th, 1897.

J. A. COUTTS.

"THE ASSOCIATION OF GALL-STONES WITH DERANGEMENTS OF THE PANCREAS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The case recorded by Dr. Morton of Pancreatic Cyst associated with Gall-stones in THE LANCET of Jan. 23rd interests me very much. In the *British Medical Journal* of Nov. 14th I recorded a case which I judged to be one of acute pancreatitis in which the pancreatic disease was associated with gall-stone. One gall-stone was found post mortem projecting into the duodenum. I ventured to suggest that possibly the gall-stone may have furnished the necessary abrasion of surface for the entrance of micro-organisms to the adjacent pancreas. Since recording that case I noticed in the description of the Pathology of the Pancreas by Ziegler (translated by Dr. MacAlister) a case is referred to, recorded by Chiari, of suppurative pancreatitis associated with gall-stones. The relation between the acute and chronic diseases of the pancreas has yet to be determined.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

R. H. KENNAN.

City Hospital, Park-hill, Dingle, Liverpool, Jan. 23rd, 1897.

THE MOSQUITO AS A VEHICLE OF INFECTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Professor Bignami's hypothesis of mosquitoes carrying malarial infection from one person to another is surely not intended to be taken seriously. If it were true every European in India would be attacked sooner or later, and yet how very few European women ever suffer from malaria. For more than the past year I have been taking very careful notes of all malarial cases admitted into the Royapettah Hospital, and in no instance has an intern patient developed malarial fever in the hospital. My hospital contains fifty beds, and all sorts of cases, medical and surgical (excepting obstetrical), are admitted. The hospital is only an old dwelling house, the sanitary surroundings are execrable, and it is for a hospital about as badly constructed as could be imagined. The neighbourhood abounds in mosquitoes, chiefly the grey or brown variety, and I have counted as many as 102 on the outside of a patient's mosquito net in the morning.

Next to a case of summer-autumn or winter-spring fever may be found a case of fractured femur: the latter will certainly remain in the hospital more or less helpless for a month, and if mosquitoes have the power of inoculating malarial fever, surely a case of protracted residence in the hospital would sooner or later contract the disease. I have had and kept mosquitoes, after a good feed, over nine days in captivity, and under less artificial restrictions they would probably live longer. As mosquitoes are not given to travel much, one which had sucked the blood of a malarial patient would have ample opportunity of inoculating other patients; but, as I have said before, I can recall no case. New-comers to India, whose blood is much sought after by mosquitoes, do not appear to suffer more from malaria than old residents. That malaria can be imported into a district seems proved by the history of the islands of Réunion and Mauritius. Recently the inhabitants of some villages to

the north of Madras petitioned the Government on account of a very bad type of malarial fever which was decimating their dwellings. They said that fever was unknown until about two years ago, when a family suffering from malaria came from Cuddapah—a most malarious place—and since then fever had been rife. Several of the villagers have come to my hospital for treatment, and in all crescents were found in their blood.

Professor Bignami would contend that these people had been inoculated by mosquitoes, but I think that most medical officers in India would maintain that the drinking water had been contaminated in some way. Dr. Manson's theory is a very plausible one, and, judging from the analogy of filaria, it ought to be the correct explanation. I much prefer to believe in the mosquito infecting the water-supply than in its inoculating individuals.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

A. J. STURMER, Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel.

Madras, Jan. 7th, 1897.

A CONFERENCE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Surely the time has come when some united action should be taken by the whole body of general practitioners of the United Kingdom with a view of checking the present downward tendencies of our profession, and with this object in contemplation I would suggest that this year should mark a fresh epoch in the corporate life of the medical profession, not only in reference to ourselves, but to the public. In short, we might with advantage follow the example of other bodies of men (trades unions and others) in combining together in order to protect our own interests, and I take it that in order to accomplish this such a conference as I propose should be convened in London at some suitable time and place. And the same might be held under the presidency of our three newly-elected representatives on the General Medical Council. There should be no difficulty in obtaining delegates to attend such conference, and I think none of us will deny there is any lack of subjects now ripe for discussion, &c. Should this suggestion meet with approval, I shall be glad to hear from any brother practitioner willing to assist in this forward movement, stating at the same time in writing the particular subjects which in his opinion, and having regard to his own particular district, should form the basis of discussion by such conference.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

T. HOWARD BROCKLEHURST, M.R.C.S. Eng., &c.

Weymouth, Jan. 25th, 1897.

* * We do not think that the profession would gain much from such a conference if instituted. As an expression of wide dissatisfaction it would be behind the times, for no one denies that the medical profession has many and various grievances; but as a method of relieving them a conference would lead to but little. Who is to decide which are local, petty, and personal grievances, and which are the questions that seriously affect the profession?—ED. L.

"ARMY EXAMINATIONS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Your correspondent "Physician"¹ is apparently anxious to support the crammers, and yet his letter contains ample confirmation of everything that was stated in the annotation which he qualifies as "open to much criticism." To begin with, he says, "The fact is that in our large public schools the special education required interferes greatly with the general school studies." Precisely so; that is exactly what the correspondents whose letters you alluded to, complain of. But surely "Physician" would not have us believe that the system of education obtaining in our public schools is a bad one. That Waterloo was won in the playing fields of Eton and Harrow is a saying which may or may not have been uttered by Wellington, but in my humble opinion there is a great deal of truth in it. I firmly maintain, in common with most Englishmen, that our public schools are the best in the world and that in no other educational establishments can young fellows be turned out so well fitted in every respect for positions of

responsibility in the army or any other walk of life. An examination that favours the withdrawal of boys from school before the usual time must be radically wrong, and therefore the sooner the present portal of entrance to Her Majesty's service is made less crooked the better it will be for all concerned. Your correspondent next tells us that "the duller, and lazier, and ill-prepared ones [schoolboys] are taken in hand by special instructors, whom it is a gross injustice to stigmatise as 'crammers.'" Surely he must now see that this is in direct accordance with the spirit of your remarks. Thirdly, "Physician" asserts that crammers are men who "by force of character and experience, by careful study of each individual, and with the assistance of a staff of highly-trained assistants, succeed by genuine solid work in many instances where schoolmasters have failed." Does he mean to imply that the head masters of our great schools are deficient in all these respects? If so, I can only wonder at his adoption of such a singular line of argument. Incidentally "Physician" observes that Lord Wolseley and Lord Roberts would have been eliminated if physique had been a leading feature, but there also I am quite unable to agree with him. Both of these distinguished officers are men of exceptionally good physique, on a small scale it may be, but essentially sound and capable of enduring the trials and vicissitudes of a soldier's life. It would be easy to still further dissect your correspondent's letter, but the foregoing will suffice. Truly in this case the crammers have a right to pray for deliverance from their friends!

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Jan. 16th, 1897.

UNCRAMMED.

"POST-PARTUM HÆMORRHAGE AND ITS TREATMENT."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In reply to Mr. Stanmore Bishop's comments on my query as to the use of Davy's lever, may I be allowed to say I think it would be impossible to make effectual manual compression of the aorta in very stout women, even disregarding the obstacle presented by the state of the uterus? Absence of an instrument does not preclude the use of the hand.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Jan. 23th, 1897.

RINALDO.

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Liverpool Northern Hospital.

THE annual meeting of the subscribers to this hospital was held on the 20th inst. at the town hall, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. The committee in their report stated that during 1896 there had been 1573 in-patients and 5630 out-patients. The ordinary expenditure had been £6519, against £6643 in 1895. The adverse balance of £4019 at the end of 1895 had been wiped out by a transfer from the special fund of £4000 raised in response to the committee's appeal. Independently of contributions to that fund the receipts for 1896 had been £5715 15s. 7d. The adverse balance of last year incurred in working the ambulance had been generously paid off by Mr. Walter Holland. Thanks were expressed to Mr. L. S. Cohen, who had presented the new horse ambulance carriage, a description of which appeared in THE LANCET. The report added that the convalescent fund continued to be of great assistance in hastening the recovery of patients; that the nursing institution in Paisley-street had proved of increasing value to the hospital and to the general public; and that the committee gratefully acknowledged the donation of £1430 from the Hospital Sunday and Saturday Funds. In concluding they thanked the public for their response to the appeal for funds for the furnishing and maintenance of the New David Lewis Hospital; £31,400 had been contributed for this purpose, and it was hoped that the remaining £8600 would be obtained as soon as possible. A pleasing feature of the report was the statement that the David Lewis trustees had increased their contribution towards re-building the hospital from £60,000 to £80,000.

Birkenhead Borough Hospital.

The committee's annual report stated that the improved

¹ THE LANCET, Jan. 16th, 1897. p. 209.