

as that described by Dr. F. W. Mott; nor did any of the non-fatal cases present the symptoms of dysentery. On the other hand, some of the cases were undoubtedly enteric fever.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

E. W. GOODALL.

Eastern Hospital, Homerton, N.E., Feb. 4th, 1902.

ADMINISTRATION OF ANÆSTHETICS DURING LABOUR.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—For the benefit of anyone who, like "M.D." on p. 276 of your issue of Jan. 25th, wishes for the information, I may say that I obtained the box referred to on p. 230 of the same date, which is really a tobacco-box silver-plated and gilt-lined, at Mr. E. Bishop's, 81, Briggate, Leeds, who will be glad to supply one to anyone who may apply to him. I had for some time been trying to get one of the kind made for me, but had failed. The idea of using a box for the purpose was not my own. Mr. Alfred Orchard of Ashby-de-la-Zouch having devised one some time ago; but those I have seen made according to his pattern are devoid of any spring to the lid, which is an essential in order to manipulate with one hand while the other is engaged in attending to the labour.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Leeds, Feb. 3rd, 1902.

CHAS. J. WRIGHT.

THE LIBEL UPON DR. A. J. GREGORY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The libel against Dr. A. John Gregory, published in *Greater Britain*, having been traced to Dr. William Christiaan Scholtz, the matter was brought before the Colonial Medical Council. I inclose a copy of the judgment.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Pretoria, Jan. 13th, 1902.

GEORGE TURNER.

JUDGMENT.

The Colonial Medical Council having held due inquiry on the 20th, 21st, and 27th December, 1901, under Section 13 of the Medical and Pharmacy Act Amendment Act of 1899 into the charge laid before them and brought by Dr. Alfred John Gregory against Dr. William Christiaan Scholtz, after such due inquiry the Colonial Medical Council judges Dr. William Christiaan Scholtz guilty of disgraceful conduct in professional respect, and the Council accordingly recommend to His Excellency the Governor that the name of the said Dr. William Christiaan Scholtz be erased from the Register of Medical Practitioners.

A true extract.

(Signed) WILFRED G. R. MURRAY,
Secretary, Colonial Medical Council.

THE DOSE AND LENGTH OF INCUBATION IN MEASLES AND VACCINATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—As Mr. Kingston Barton has brought the name of the Jenner Institute into his letter I think it right to answer it so far as the institute is concerned. In October the lymph sent out by this establishment undoubtedly became attenuated, but this was through no fault in the preparation or glycerination, as Mr. Barton appears to think. It was one of those "bad times" alluded to by Dr. Chaumier in his letter to the medical press to which all institutions are liable and for which no explanation is at present forthcoming. The lymph, although active on the calf, rapidly became attenuated in keeping; unfortunately, this happened at the time when the demand for revaccination had just commenced and undoubtedly caused very considerable trouble and annoyance, as owing to the fact that the most contradictory reports were received with respect to its action it was extremely difficult to trace the mischief and took some time to do so. However, the institute decided among other things to change its medical superintendent and I was asked to take over the direction. My first step was to destroy all the lymph then in stock and thoroughly to fumigate and to disinfect the stables and stalls. Meanwhile, all the best sources were drawn on for seed lymph to start new strains with, and until the lymph from these cultivations could mature lymph was obtained from a foreign source whence most of that at present sold in England is obtained. (*En passant*, we had many complaints of failures from its use.)

Since the recultivation of Jenner lymph has again been put

into circulation there has not been a single complaint, although many thousand tubes have been sent out daily. The Jenner Institute is determined that the lymph it distributes shall be without a reproach of any kind, and with that intent the whole working of the institute has been regulated by experts and approved by one of the Local Government inspectors who recently visited it. After the lymph has been passed by myself it is examined by a pathologist in one of the hospitals, so that it is issued with a formal certificate of purity and, as far as possible, activity. With the exception of the Government establishment this is the only institute in or round London that manufactures its own lymph and which openly invites any members of the profession who may be interested in the process to inspect it for themselves. To show that the lymph is successful I would refer to the letter of Mr. Albert Benthall in your issue of Jan. 18th (p. 195).

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Feb. 5th, 1902.

LEONARD C. DOBSON, M.D. Lond.

A DANGEROUS PRINCIPLE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Continuing the correspondence under the above heading, the ordinary reader of your journal would imagine that a letter such as that over my signature in your issue of Jan. 25th (p. 260) would have provoked some response from the president, vice-president, and council of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Collegiate reticence in such a matter cannot but have a grave significance, and yet when the ordinary medical practitioner realises the immense import in the question involved—the unconstitutional translation of the powers of the electorate in collegiate control through acknowledged violation of the College charters—he can the better understand the present deplorable condition of our great profession. Individual Fellows of the Irish Surgical College surely will never sanction the policy of drift. I would therefore ask the electorate body of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to recollect that its present council violated its charters (by-laws it does not possess, in any completeness) and its Fellowship regulations of examination, and that a Licentiate entering for examination under a specific contract may, so far as the majority of the present corporate body is concerned, suffer loss of time and money without the slightest regard to equity or justice. The next election for council takes place in June.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Dublin, Feb. 10th, 1902.

S. WESLEY WILSON.

THE DECAY OF AUSCULTATION AND THE USE OF THE BINAURAL STETHOSCOPE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS.—I have read with much interest the communication of Dr. H. W. Syers on the above subject. Logically, I think one ought to go much farther back than 20 years. Why make an arbitrary division at this time? 20 years ago I have heard men prefer the ear applied direct to the patient's back or chest, as giving a more certain sound than the wooden stethoscope and, indeed, this may also be true. Doubtless, when Laennec introduced the stethoscope there were men who scoffed at the new instrument. But if the education of the senses be all that is aimed at, why use any instruments of research at all? Why not rely on the careful observation of the days of Hippocrates? Personally, I confess to being a "degenerate" myself, and would use any method of research in order to be sure of a diagnosis, and Dr. Syers has not yet given us any evidence that murmurs have been missed by the binaural stethoscope that have been recognised by the wooden instrument. When we first began to use the binaural, the cry at the hospital was that "we heard murmurs which did not exist," and I am sure that any contemporary of mine could confirm that saying. Does Dr. Syers mean that the Widal test or the search for tubercle bacilli or other bacteriological examinations are merely "crazes"?

As regards the disadvantages of the binaural, such destructive criticism is possible against everything in this imperfect world. For instance, who has not seen the user of the wooden stethoscope have to twist round in most distressing attitudes to listen to a patient's back and to put a finger in his own ear to stop the noise of the piano in the next house?