

currents he employed (10 cells) as being *stronger*, in contrast to those which I had used (3 cells) as being *weaker*. This was my only method of comparison, for I had not the advantage of a galvanometer.

Mr. Clarke takes exception, and rightly, to the expression "burning through the cicatrix." That, I honestly confessed, was the false impression I started with. I began with crude ideas and rough instruments; through the liberality, however, of the Committee of St. Peter's Hospital and the kindness of Dr. Steavenson, these points have been rectified. I would cordially endorse what Mr. Clarke asserts about the strength and the effects of the currents; but I should not like to pass an opinion as yet upon the permanent efficacy of the treatment.—I remain, Sir, faithfully yours,

George-st., Hanover-sq., June, 1886. E. HURRY FENWICK.

LEICESTER AND ITS IMMUNITY FROM  
SMALL-POX.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Omitting entirely the question of the value of the vaccination *cordon*, it seems to me that the isolation of small-pox cases pursued at Leicester is as much opposed to the anti-vaccination doctrine as is vaccination itself. A series of "Vaccination Tracts" by Dr. Garth Wilkinson and Mr. William Young, the secretary of the Anti-vaccination Society, has the following as the subject of Tract No. 12: "The imposture of the current small-pox lymph called vaccine, and the new imposture of calf-lymph. Also, the chaos of statute law, dealing with vaccine substance." The tract concludes by laying down seven "positions" which seem to form a kind of creed. The second "position" contains the following statement: "It [i.e., small-pox] is one of the least contagious of diseases ..... and its contagion is easily prevented by known means." The sixth "position" is: "Small-pox hospitals are the culminating mistake in the social treatment of the disease. They are sewers of death to their inmates. .... The true policy with small-pox, *in itself* now an insignificant disease, is to let each case lie where it falls, and to treat it there as it ought to be treated." If, therefore, the immunity of Leicester from small-pox proves anything, it proves the value of what anti-vaccinators hold to be "the culminating mistake in the social treatment of the disease."

I am, Sir, yours truly,  
JOHN C. M'VAIL, M.D.

Holmhead, Kilmarnock, N.B., June 16th, 1886.

BRITISH MEDICAL BENEVOLENT FUND  
JUBILEE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following donations have been received or promised in connexion with this celebration:—

| £                            | s.     | £                           | s.    |
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I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
34, Seymour-street, Portman-square, W. W. H. BROADBENT.

EDINBURGH.  
(From our own Correspondent.)

ROYAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

At the fortnightly meeting of the Society held last Monday, amongst many valuable papers an important contribution to the study of the physiology of the blood was presented by Dr. William Hunter. Dr. Hunter has made a long series of experiments with a view to determining the usual duration

of functional activity in the hæmocyte. To observe this with accuracy he made use of the method of transfusing the blood of one animal into the blood stream of another in which the microscopic character of the hæmocyte differed from that of the blood transfused. By this system of differential transfusion he has been led to the conclusion that the average life history of the red blood-corpuscle extends over a period of from two to three weeks.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES IN EDINBURGH.

A second meeting was held in connexion with this project in the hall of the Royal College of Physicians, on Tuesday the 22nd inst. Professor Sir Douglas MacLagan occupied the chair, and there were some thirty of the teachers in the Edinburgh School present. Considerable progress was made at this meeting towards a final settlement of the arrangements; the "clinical week" which was spoken of in the original proposal has been expanded to a course of three weeks' instruction. With the concurrence of the various boards of management, it has been arranged to throw open the various hospitals, dispensaries, and asylums, for the use of the practitioners who will attend, and courses of instruction will be carried on in each by teachers connected with the several institutions in question. After some discussion, it was decided that a fee of one guinea should be payable for a ticket giving admission to all or any of the courses of instruction. This fee is to be used in liquidating the expenses which will arise in connexion with carrying out satisfactory arrangements, and any surplus is to be divided proportionally between the public institutions in which the courses are held. The arrangements may thus be said to be already fairly under weigh, and there seems every prospect of the project having a complete realisation. During the last few days the suggestion has been largely canvassed amongst country practitioners, by whom it has been met with so warm an approbation that from their side at least the most cordial support is to be looked for. The meeting will occupy the last week in September and the first two weeks of October of the current year.

DR. WENDELL HOLMES.

Dr. Holmes has accepted an invitation from the Students' Representative Council to be present at a symposium to be held in the Oddfellows' Hall, Forest-road, on Friday night. It is expected that he will deliver a short address, and the evening will be enlivened by an enjoyable musical programme, carried out by the students themselves. In the afternoon of the same day Dr. Holmes is to receive the honorary degree of LL.D. Edin. at the hands of the Senatus and University officials at a private meeting in the Upper Library Hall.

Edinburgh, June 23rd.

IRELAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
COUNCIL.

DURING the year ended April 5th last, eleven candidates were admitted to the Fellowship, ninety-one received the Letters Testimonial, six Licentiates the diploma in Midwifery, and nine practising dentists the Dental diploma. The resolution of the College, that candidates should be classified at the examination for Letters Testimonial, was submitted to the Council at a special meeting, who confirmed the resolution, and arrangements have been made to carry it into effect. The conference with the College of Physicians in reference to a conjoint examination between the two Colleges came to an untimely end in October last, when the College of Physicians stated that they could not entertain the proposal as to the distribution of the surplus between the Colleges. I understand negotiations have recently been entered upon between the two Colleges for a conjoint examination; but the whole matter, in my opinion, depends upon whether the College of Physicians is willing to allow the Apothecaries' Hall to join the proposed scheme. If they do, all will, I believe, be amicably arranged; but if a refusal is insisted upon by the College of Physicians, the present conference will prove as abortive as its predecessors. The reason of this is, as stated in my last letter, that if the Apothecaries' Hall are prevented joining in the proposed scheme, they can