

of flesh and appetite, with sometimes diarrhoea, ensue. How different, as a rule, the progress of the patient who has been wisely advised to betake himself to the great inland plains, where the air is dry and warm. Living in a town, or, far better, on a sheep or cattle station so situated, he gains flesh, his appetite returns, night sweats cease, and life becomes enjoyable. My case-books afford abundant evidence of cures so brought about. Even when cure has not been effected life has been greatly prolonged. To a young and, as is so often found in the phthisical, a highly intelligent mind continuous absence from the metropolitan centres of southern civilisation is often a sore trial and has a depressing effect. Fortunately my experience enables me to say that an exception to the rule of unbroken residence on the inland plains may be made during the winter quarter. At this season the climate in Sydney is dry and bracing, the very opposite condition to that which exists during the other nine months. I have been in the habit, therefore, of permitting my consumptive patients to visit Sydney during the winter, and when the privilege has not been abused the change of scene and distraction from their own sensations have proved advantageous to them. With this exception, however, it cannot be too strongly urged that phthisical patients should reside permanently upon the inland plains, which are at an elevation of from two to three thousand feet above the sea level.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

Sydenham-hill, March 30th, 1886.

P. SYDNEY JONES.

UNUSUALLY PROLONGED PERIOD OF INCUBATION OF SMALL-POX.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The following case of exceptionally long incubation of small-pox appears worthy to be put on record. The proof that the patient was but once exposed to infection, and that only for two hours and a half, is about as strong as available proof on such a matter is likely to be, inasmuch as, until the occurrence of the case in question, there has been no small-pox in Newcastle for above half a year, the last case before this having been notified in July, 1885; neither has the patient been anywhere outside of Newcastle, or in known communication with any infected person except one, or with any other person coming from an infected place. The circumstances are:—

Mrs. A. B.—first began to feel unwell on Friday, the 26th of March. A very sparse eruption of small-pox papules appeared on the 29th (fourth day of illness). On March 6th the patient's brother, T. S—, was discharged from a small-pox hospital upwards of thirty miles distant from here, and came to Newcastle to the house of his sister on the same day. He remained with her for two hours and a half, when he went away by the north train, leaving behind him none of his clothing or other belongings. No communication between the two has taken place since. There is therefore, good reason to believe that in this case the period of incubation extended from the 6th to the 26th of March inclusive, or in all twenty-one days. The patient bears faint vaccination cicatrices from infancy, equal in area to about six ordinary vaccine vesicles. It would be interesting to know how far the incubative stage has been affected by these.—I am, Sir, yours obediently,

HENRY E. ARMSTRONG,

Medical Officer of Health, Medical Supt., Newcastle Small-pox Hospital, &c.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, April 6th, 1886.

BIRMINGHAM.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE MEDICAL INSTITUTE.

THE annual meeting of the Medical Institute was held on the 25th ult., under the presidency of Mr. J. S. Gamgee. A portrait of the late Dr. Russell was presented by Mrs. Russell, and accepted with much satisfaction as a memento of the esteem with which the high personal character and professional attainments of Dr. Russell are remembered by the members of the institute. The report shows that the library is increasing in popularity and usefulness, the circulation of books being more than 400 as compared with the

numbers of the previous year. The financial position has improved somewhat, but still shows a deficit between the annual income and expenditure of a little less than £50. To meet this and a bank overdraft of £108 the Committee show good security, but feel that the prospects of the institute would be more encouraging if there was an absolute freedom from debt.

HEALTH LECTURES.

The third series of lectures have been well attended and well delivered. The interest manifested in these discourses has been well sustained and their success assured by the reputation and ability of the lecturer. The subjects have been such as to set an intelligent public thinking for themselves on the many problems associated with the more common ailments which affect the health and constitute the enjoyment or otherwise of daily life. After such teaching no reasonable excuse can be afforded for preferring the ignorance of bliss which is frequent among those who "enjoy" bad health.

THE JAFFRAY SUBURBAN HOSPITAL.

The 15th of March was a memorable day in the history of this young and promising branch, for it witnessed the transfer of the first detachment of patients from the parent institution. They were conveyed from the general hospital in ambulances and carriages, and on their arrival were at once placed in comfortable quarters in the pure atmosphere of their temporary home. Surrounded by plants, flowers, pleasing pictures, and readable books, the bracing air and cheerful adjuncts ought to produce palpable effects upon the chronic sufferers, and materially aid in restoring them to health and vigour. The value of this auxiliary to the older hospital will be immense, as it cannot fail to add to the prestige which the latter institution has accumulated during a period of more than a century in the cause of humanity.

THE WORKHOUSE INQUIRY.

As a result of the recent inquiry by the Local Government Board concerning the difference between the guardians and their senior medical officer, I regret to say that the authority has called for the resignation of the medical officer. It is difficult for outsiders to appreciate the merits of a dispute upon matters of discipline in technical details. The senior medical officer has held his position for a number of years, and has worked with zeal; that this has not been tempered with discretion is the opinion of the higher powers, and, like many good officials, he must yield with as good a grace as possible to the force of circumstances which he cannot control.

NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

GATESHEAD DISPENSARY.

At the annual meeting of the Gateshead Dispensary held recently, the resignation of Dr. Wm. Robinson was received and accepted with regret. Dr. Robinson, who has been appointed medical officer of health for the borough, has acted on the honorary staff of the dispensary for nearly thirty years. The Committee passed a hearty vote of thanks for his long and valuable services. It was mentioned in the report presented by Dr. Hardy at the same meeting, that the work of the year had compared favourably with that done in previous years. The number of patients under treatment at the date of the last report was 221. This, with 2912 admitted during the year, makes the total number of letter-patients treated 3133, as compared with 2815 in the previous year. The letter patients consist of 2620 home patients and 513 out-patients. The number of casualties was 9841, this being made up of 290 accidents, teeth extractions, and 8898 medical cases. The casualty patients of the year before were 10,003, and notwithstanding that the twopenny system has been carried out during the whole year the number has been practically maintained. During two or three months of the year a severe epidemic of measles was experienced; this was also followed by a slight one of scarlet fever, but the dispensary patients had been entirely free from the more severe forms of zymotic disease. The Samaritan fund had been of great service, and was largely drawn upon. It may be mentioned that the charge of twopenny for the casualty patients had yielded