

## INFECTIOUS PNEUMONIA IN THE VALLEY OF THE BLACKWATER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—To illustrate the insanitary condition of the Blackwater valley between Farnborough and Sandhurst, I would mention the case of the family of the tenant of Ivy Cottage, Farnborough. This cottage is situated in the valley, on the estate of the Empress Eugénie, far away from any other habitation. The family were attacked with diphtheria last year. This year the mother got an ordinary cold, which rapidly developed into epidemic pneumonia, and, being weakened by a miscarriage, she died. The husband and five of the children have been dangerously ill with the same disease, which, so far as my experience goes, is one of very rare occurrence, never appearing except in malarious damp districts. I look upon these cases as further confirmation of the necessity for cleansing the Blackwater river at Farnborough and Sandhurst.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

C. J. DENNY, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Adjacent District.  
Milestone House, Blackwater, Farnboro' Station, March 2nd, 1886.

## ARMY, NAVY, AND INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICES.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—At page 486 of your issue of Sept. 11th, in your notice of the Army, Navy, and Indian Medical Services, you state—"On its conclusion the surgeon on probation is gazetted to the Medical Staff or Indian Medical Service as Surgeon, with the relative rank of Captain; in the Navy the successful candidate is at once gazetted as a Surgeon." Surely you are aware that the surgeon who is a candidate for the Medical Staff is placed in a position junior and inferior to both the Navy and Indian, for in the Navy, as you say, men receive a commission at once, and in the Indian the commission bears date several months earlier than the commission of the men of the Medical Staff, so that the men who pass last in the competitive examination in London for the Navy and Indian Medical Services are senior in the Service, and remain so all their lives, to the man who passes first for the Medical Staff. If, Sir, you are not aware of this, I would refer you to the Army List; and if you are aware of it, would it not be advisable to correct the very wrong impression your notice must convey to the student who cannot understand "how these things can be." Possibly the appeal in Parliament to the Secretary of State for War to give up the cheese-paring policy as regards the Medical Staff may alter this before the next Students' Number appears.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

NOUS VERRONS.

September, 1886.

## MANCHESTER.

(From our own Correspondent.)

### THE SALFORD HOSPITAL.

THE extension of the Salford Hospital is rapidly approaching completion; the out-patient and accident rooms are very conveniently arranged, and exceedingly well adapted for their purposes. It is in contemplation eventually to have special departments in the institution for ophthalmic and obstetric work, &c., and accommodation is provided for the expected attendance of some of our students. Hitherto the number of beds has been below that required for recognition by the College of Surgeons, but with the extensive alterations now completing provision will be made for some 120 beds, and very probably in the near future it may become a formidable rival to the Royal Infirmary as a clinical hospital for the teaching of medical students. The whole of the additional buildings have been erected without appealing to the public for funds, these having been obtained by a bequest from the late Mr. J. Pendlebury.

### THE VOLUNTEER MEDICAL STAFF CORPS.

This corps, which was inaugurated here some few months ago, has attained a fair measure of success. The first company is advancing towards completion, one squad being quite efficient, and furnished with uniform, &c. The public are asked to supply funds for the equipment of

the whole of the company, in order that it may be handed over to the Government and share in the annual Government grant.

### SUNDAY LECTURES.

The fifth course of "Sunday afternoon lectures" to the people was commenced last Sunday in Ancoats, one of the poorest and most crowded parts of Manchester, by Mr. A. H. Acland, M.P., who selected as his subject the "Love of Liberty." Hitherto these Sunday afternoons have been a great success, and this year's series promises to be still more successful. Many eminent and well-known names are amongst the future lecturers—the Dean of Manchester, Sir Henry Roscoe, M.P., several of the professors of Owens College, Mr. William Morris, the Hon. Auberon Herbert, Mr. Councillor Southern, Mrs. Fawcett, and many others. These attempts to bring some light and learning amongst the masses of our artisan and labouring poor deserve every encouragement and support.

### COFFEE versus BEER.

At the recent City Brewster Sessions applications were made by several innkeepers in the neighbourhood of Shudehill Market for leave to open their houses at four o'clock in the morning. The Markets Committee have provided coffee stalls specially for the use of market people in the early morning, and the magistrates wisely refused all the applications, notwithstanding the arguments put forward "that hard-working men required something stronger in the morning than coffee." When will the lesson be learnt that alcoholic drinks afford neither strength nor nourishment.

Manchester, Sept. 7th.

## NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

### THE HEALTH OF TYNESIDE.

THERE has been a marked deterioration in the state of public health here during the past few weeks. There were no fewer than fifty-seven cases of infectious disease during the fortnight ending August 28th, as appears from the reports of practitioners in the borough of Newcastle to the medical officer of health. Of this large number, thirty-eight were of scarlet fever. There was also one case of small-pox, and five persons were attacked with diphtheria. Diarrhoea also has been very prevalent and fatal in the cases of infants. In the sister borough of Gateshead there has been a very serious outbreak of the latter affection, mostly occurring amongst the children of the poor in the various towns on the Tyne. Dr. Monro, medical officer of health for South Shields, pointed out in reference to the prevalence of diarrhoea, that there had not been a single death of an infant fed by the breast. At Gateshead, at the last meeting of the Town Council, a common cause of diarrhoea and other intestinal affections was said to be the custom of fruiterers and grocers sweeping their damaged fruit into the streets, and leaving it there until the scavenger's cart came round; but in the meantime the refuse was picked up and eaten by the children.

### A CURIOUS DEFENCE.

At a late sitting of the Middlesbrough County Court, Dr. M'Cuaig sued a man for one guinea for professional services. It was shown that some time since the defendant took laudanum, and the doctor was called in by defendant's housekeeper, who was also his niece. He was duly attended by Dr. M'Cuaig, and after having been walked about for five hours he recovered, but refused to pay the doctor his fee on the plea that he did not send for him. His Honour: "Did you wish to be left to die?" Defendant: "I did not want the doctor." His Honour: "You will have to pay or go to prison." Defendant: "I won't pay it at all." His Honour ordered defendant to pay 3s. per month, and the judgment does not certainly seem to be a severe one. A case like this is just the one to give a medical man a great deal of trouble. He goes at once, to the detriment of other practice, and perhaps is detained many hours in an endeavour to save life, and has to sue for his fee.

### SUNDERLAND INFIRMARY.

The new wing which it is proposed to erect to the memory of the late Mr. James Hartley, I understand, is to be devoted to children, and for this purpose some arrangement, it