

tion during that of apnoea, was noticed on some days or at some hours on a given day; but at other times careful and repeated examination often failed to detect any change in its rate. Indeed, I now find that this was noticed to some degree by the first observer, Dr. Reid, for, in speaking of this peculiarity of the pulse, he says that 'neither it nor the distress is to be found equally marked or intense on every day.'

With reference, however, to the relation of arterial tension to the different parts of the cycle, the case, as reported by Mr. H. R. Davies, differs from the experience of Traube and Biot.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,  
Grove Hall Asylum, London,  
June 27th, 1885.

W. JULIUS MICKLE.

### "THE TRAFFIC IN GIRLS."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—With your remarks in THE LANCET of June 27th, as to the absurdity of the statement attributed to Mr. James B. Wookey, I entirely agree; and such statements can do nothing but injury to a good object, in which everyone must sympathise. For three years it has been my duty to attend every morning at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and, in conjunction with one of my colleagues, see every surgical case applying for treatment. Our casualty department is very large, upwards of 160,000 patients attending yearly. Of this large number of patients, I cannot recollect during the whole time to have seen a single example of primary venereal disease in a child, and certainly not half a dozen cases between the ages of twelve and fourteen. If St. Bartholomew's is to be taken as a type of a London hospital, the statement that "in eight years, in three London hospitals alone, 27,000 children between the ages of eleven and sixteen had been treated for terrible diseases," is not only misleading, but absolutely false.—I am, Sir, yours truly,

HARRISON CRIPPS,  
June 29th, 1885. Assistant Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

### THE FIRST APPENDIX TO THE "MEDICAL DIGEST."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Considering that during the past four years so much has been written on medical science, it has been suggested that it would be acceptable to many if the first appendix to the "Medical Digest" were to be issued at the end of 1885, instead of at the close of 1886, as originally proposed. I wish upon this point to elicit the opinion, through your journal, of those interested in the subject. A post-card addressed to myself or to the publishers, Messrs. Ledger, Smith, and Co., St. Mary Axe, E.C., expressive of such opinions, and noting at the same time any needed corrections in the edition of 1882, will oblige,

Yours truly,

RICHARD NEALE, M.D. Lond.

60, Boundary-road, South Hampstead, N.W., June 27th, 1885.

### LIVERPOOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

#### HOSPITAL SUNDAY AND SATURDAY.

THE Hospital Sunday collections amounted this year to £6555, a falling-off from last year's of £840. The Saturday collections show an increase of £66. The Committee divided £8880 among the charities; the Royal Infirmary and Lock Hospital receiving £2220, the Royal Southern Hospital £1332, the Northern £1154, the Dispensaries and District Nursing Society each £621, Infirmary for Children £532, Eye and Ear Infirmary and Stanley Hospital each £444, the Ladies' Charity and Lying-in Hospital £355, and the remainder among smaller institutions. There is every reason to expect a considerable increase in the Hospital Saturday Fund next year, the organisation among the working men having been greatly strengthened and improved.

#### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The annual report of Dr. Stopford Taylor for 1884 has been published, and is a very elaborate document. Dr. Taylor is able to commence with the gratifying announcement that

the year 1884 will be memorable for the low death-rate of the city, which was for the whole year equal to 25.1, ranging from 23.2 for the first quarter to 27.4 for the third quarter. The number of deaths was 692 less than in 1883, and 446 below the average of the last ten years, notwithstanding the increase of population; the decrease being most marked in those from lung diseases, including phthisis, which were 569 fewer than in 1883. Dr. Taylor attributes this to the increased temperature of the year. The deaths from diarrhoea were 841, the average being 704. Small-pox prevailed extensively throughout the year, there being 74 cases reported in January, in February 59, March 60, April 63, May 154, June 189; the disease began then to decline, the number of cases in July being 108, August 47, September 17, October 10, November 15, December 36. In all 832 cases were reported, and of these 686 were taken to Mill-road Hospital, 57 to the City Hospital, and 89 were treated at home. The number of deaths from typhus, typhoid, and all forms of continued fever was 205 out of a total of 964, being the lowest number of deaths ever recorded in the city, the average for the previous ten years being 402. The report contains many other matters of interest which must be left for future notice.

#### MEMORIAL TO A DECEASED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.

The sum of £126 was recently subscribed for raising a memorial to the late Dr. Crichton, of Walton, and it was resolved to apply the fund towards the erection of a monument in the Walton Cemetery. A monument of polished red granite in the form of an obelisk has been placed over his remains, with the following inscription:—"In affectionate remembrance of Duncan Crichton, M.D., who died Dec. 18th, 1884, aged forty-three years. This memorial has been erected by his friends and patients, in testimony of his singular devotion to an arduous profession, his solicitude for the relief of the suffering, and his kindness of manner to all who knew him." On the right-hand side is inscribed "Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit;" and on the left-hand side, "Non ut diu vivamus curandum est, sed ut satis." It is ungracious to criticise the work of friends freely and voluntarily rendered; but it is much to be regretted that a less pretentious monument, one which would have been more in accordance with Dr. Crichton's modest and unassuming character, was not selected. The cost would have been less, and the balance might very suitably have been applied towards a "Crichton scholarship" or prize at his *alma mater*, Glasgow University.

#### SINGULAR DEATH AT SOUTHPORT.

On the 29th ult. the body of a man, who had been left in sole charge of the house of a lady in Southport, was found there by a police constable in an advanced state of decomposition. He was last seen alive on May 4th, and when found was fully dressed, in a chair near to the fireplace, and there was a paper bearing date May 9th, which was probably the date of his death. At the inquest, which was held on the 30th ult. before Mr. Brighthouse, county coroner, Dr. More deposed to making a post-mortem examination, at which the following remarkable appearances were seen:—Against the heart was a bone two inches in diameter, a most unusual occurrence, and only to be accounted for from the fact that a gland in the region of the heart had become ossified. Portions of the heart were covered with small pieces of bone. The immediate cause of death was an effusion of blood on the brain.

#### THE LOCK HOSPITAL.

A male patient, aged forty-two years, was admitted into the Lock Hospital, under the care of Mr. A. Bernard, on the 20th ult., suffering from extensive sloughing phagedæna of the prepuce, complicated with phimosis. Nearly the whole circumference of the prepuce, from the free margin to a little behind the level of the corona glandis, was involved. He was in a very debilitated condition owing to his irregular life; the foreskin was swollen and painful for more than a month previous to admission. A free incision was at once made through the slough and a little beyond it, when it was found that the glans was also seriously involved. The parts were well cleaned and dusted over with finely-powdered iodoform, a grain of opium was given every four hours with beef tea at frequent intervals, but no stimulants of any kind. On the following day, as the odour continued to be very offensive, Mr. Lowndes suggested charcoal poultices, which completely corrected this. The patient is now making a good recovery; the sloughs have all come away, leaving

the prepuce in appearance as if a neat circumcision had been performed; posteriorly a small portion of the inferior and anterior part which escaped the destructive inflammation alone remains to mar the symmetry of the parts. Fully three-fourths of the glans have been destroyed, but when cicatrisation is fully established the appearance will not be unsightly. The patient has now been twelve days in hospital, and his condition is highly satisfactory, thus showing that stimulants are not necessarily required in these cases. Mr. Lowndes has had under his care two married women suffering severely from tertiary syphilis, in one of whom a considerable portion of the palate has been destroyed. The importance of this lock hospital is well illustrated by these cases, as well as by the fact that within a fortnight after the reopening of the hospital subsequent to the annual cleaning all the beds were fully occupied.

July 1st, 1885.

## EDINBURGH.

(From our own Correspondent.)

### EDINBURGH FEVER HOSPITAL.

THIS hospital has now been acquired by the Town Council from the managers of the Royal Infirmary for a sum of £4,000. The general management of the institution will probably be placed in the hands of a special committee of the Council, who will forthwith make permanent arrangements for the hospital administration. In the meantime, all the members of the present staff have been requested to retain office, and it is anticipated there will be no difficulty in connexion with the transference of authority from the one governing body to the other. There will probably be a considerable addition to the numerical strength of the staff, as the buildings have been greatly extended, and the average number of patients is likely to be largely augmented by the admission of those fever cases which have till now been accommodated in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

### INCREASED HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The managers of the Royal Infirmary having thus got rid of the onus of maintaining the Fever Hospital, have decided to fit up and open immediately an additional ward. This will be a great boon to the Medical School as a teaching institution, as well as a gain to the public at large, for the steady and rapid increase in the number of students which has been going on for years has made it increasingly important that the basis of clinical instruction should be greatly widened, and that the ground covered by the student in his practical study of disease should be increased. Another great gain in connexion with this matter is the closing of the fever wards in the Sick Children's Hospital. These wards, which contain about 40 beds, will be re-opened for general cases after an interval, in which they will be thoroughly disinfected and refitted; and this provision along with the two University lectureships on the Diseases of Children recently established at this hospital, will greatly enhance its value as a teaching institution, and will provide great additional scope for clinical work.

### FINAL M.B. EXAMINATION.

The first list of successful competitors in the final M.B. examination has been posted. Out of sixty candidates forty have passed the examination, and four of these have been awarded distinction. The commissioners appointed by the General Medical Council have been present at all the oral examinations, and have taken careful notes of the procedure. Their presence has neither tended to make the ordeal less awe-inspiring for the competitors, nor has it lightened the task of the examiners in eliciting knowledge from the candidates; but the result of their observations will be keenly looked for by all interested in the University, whether as rivals or as supporters.

### FAITH-HEALING.

Faith-healing has broken out in Edinburgh. Mr. Boardman, of London, with the Rev. Mr. Simpson, of New York, and a number of ladies, have been holding "conferences" during the week in Edinburgh. Reports of the first meeting state that the proceedings were of the usual description, but that no "testimonies" were given at the close of any one having been healed during the afternoon's conference. Is Edinburgh going to prove too faithless for the production of "testimonies"?

## GLASGOW.

(From our own Correspondent.)

### VITAL STATISTICS: SMALL-POX FROM LONDON.

THE report on the health of the city of Glasgow for the fortnight ending 20th June shows that during that time there were 467 deaths registered, representing a death-rate of 23.4 per 1000 living, as compared with 500 deaths (a rate of 25 per 1000) for the previous fortnight. With regard to zymotic diseases, the most interesting point noted is that there were two cases of small-pox registered, both removed from the same house, situated in one of the western districts. The first case occurred in the person of a fireman on board a steamship sailing from Calcutta to London; at the latter port the man was discharged on 22nd May, remained there till the 29th, came down to Glasgow, and on 8th June was removed to hospital with confluent small-pox. He was unvaccinated, and died. In January last, Dr. Russell reported a precisely similar case of small-pox, brought from London by a seaman, and every year several cases of importation have been for some years back brought under notice. From observation of like outbreaks in various parts of the country, traced to the metropolis, it is obvious that the continuous prevalence of small-pox there is a standing menace to the whole country, and a matter of serious national interest.

### OBSTETRICAL AND GYNÆCOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The profession in Glasgow is to be congratulated on the increasing interest shown by its members in the scientific aspects of medical work. This is seen markedly in the prosperity and number of its medical associations. The Medico-Chirurgical, the Pathological and Clinical, and the Southern Medical Societies were never more active than at present; the Philosophical Society (to a very considerable extent a medical society) is flourishing; and now we have founded, under most promising auspices, an Obstetrical and Gynæcological Society. I understand that this is intended to be a really working society, and that its membership is to be limited to fifty, a number already made up. The immediate discussion of fresh specimens is to be regarded as a principal part of the Society's work. Its members are to be termed "Fellows," as in the case of the Edinburgh and London Societies. The list of office-bearers for 1885-6 was published in THE LANCET a week ago.

### GLASGOW SOUTHERN HOSPITAL.

The scheme for the erection of a hospital on the south side of Glasgow is again before the public. Two or three years ago the matter was taken up by a large and influential committee, and seemed to be about to come to a successful issue, when it was announced that a wealthy Glasgow merchant had died and left a very large sum to be devoted to the building of a hospital and convalescent home on the south side of the city. This put an end to the public agitation of the question, which was then left entirely in the hands of the trustees on the estate referred to. Recently, however, it became known that the sum to be obtained in this way was much over-estimated, and moreover would probably not be available for a very considerable time. A committee have therefore taken up the proposal again, and have already made encouraging progress in the way of getting subscriptions. A sum of about £7000 has already been secured, with which it is intended to begin at once the building of a part of the hospital, containing three wards, with accommodation for over 50 patients. The site bought is a most suitable one, in the spare ground attached to the Queen's Park, and on the spot on which was fought the famous battle of Langside; the ground was granted by the Corporation of Glasgow on most favourable terms. Very few have any doubt as to the need there is for such an institution, providing hospital accommodation for the southern districts of Glasgow; the main difficulty, keenly felt in "dull times," will be in raising funds; but, as already stated, this is in a fair way of being satisfactorily solved. The public of Glasgow may be trusted to see that so beneficent a scheme shall not fall to the ground.

### THE SPIRIT DUTIES AND THE INFIRMARIES.

One of the many singular results of the recent political crisis is that our infirmaries have a prospect of benefiting to some extent by the rejection of the proposed addition to