

amongst other things, "for the provision of medical aid and accommodation."

You rightly say that it is the "sick poor" who will mainly need assistance; it is this which regulations under the Act contemplate by the use of the words "poorer inhabitants." You properly say that early medical attendance and nursing are as essential as medicines. Cholera regulations under those sections always require the local authorities to provide a special staff of medical visitors and of nurses for the purposes of a house-to-house visitation such as you also advocate; and such intervention is only "until other provision for [the] medical attendance" of the sick is made. The letter addressed to the College had no need therefore to refer to these requirements, which are already met. But there remained "the supply of medicine" which the Act required the local authorities to provide without charge for distribution by their medical visitors and at dispensaries, to be open day and night, for such "immediate medical treatment" as the regulations specified. It was as to this supply by town councils, local boards &c., of "medicines," together with any necessary medical appliances, that the Local Government Board asked the College of Physicians to advise them, and through them the local sanitary authorities of England and Wales. And for reasons which are thus quite obvious, they asked nothing more than this.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Sept. 26th, 1892.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

### ISOLATION IN BOOTLE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Your reference to my action, at our recent council meeting, in opposing a proposition to erect a pavilion for the treatment of diphtheria, being based upon erroneous statements, I wish to give the facts of the case and to explain the cause of my opposition.

The fever hospital here was opened only six years ago, having been built under the supervision of the late Alderman Matthew Hill, M.D., consulting physician, according to plans approved of by the Local Government Board. The then chairman of the health committee, Alderman Williams, confirms the fact, which I already understood, that complete arrangements had been made in the Western Pavilion for the separate treatment of cases of diphtheria; and the medical officer of health, referring to the fever hospital in one of his annual reports, says: "Bootle need not now, as in former years, fear the outbreak of any epidemic." Feeling confident, therefore, that ample provision had already been made for diphtheria, I opposed the erection of a pavilion for those cases. There was no truth in the statement that a diphtheria patient was taken into the hospital, caught the fever and died. The chairman now admits that he made a mistake, and the resident medical officer denies that a case of diphtheria has ever been treated in the wards along with any other disease. The statement that a fever patient, while under treatment in the hospital, contracted diphtheria and died is not supported by any evidence; in fact, there is no record in the medical officer's published annual reports of any death from diphtheria having occurred in the hospital since its establishment.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Bootle, Sept. 28th, 1892.

T. M. WILLS.

### "THE STAMPING OUT OF GLANDERS."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In one of your annotations on Sept. 17th satisfaction is expressed that more enlightened and efficient regulations are about to be enforced against glanders. I should be very glad to think so, but all that the Board of Agriculture can do under the existing Act of Parliament is to issue an Order permitting local authorities to be more efficient. There has been twenty years of permissive legislation for the diseases of animals, but no success has ever attended it; only when compulsory enactments have been made has success followed. I sincerely hope that those who know something of glanders and of the working of the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act will speak out on this rumoured attempt of the Board to furbish up their old weapons—weapons their advisers have so often described as inefficient. The last paragraph of your annotation says: "So long as horses are permitted to come from infected regions we shall always be liable to its introduction." This is true, not only of foreign countries,

but of our own island. If we stamp out glanders in Edinburgh and leave it alone in Glasgow, Scotland is not likely to remain free. If we stamp it out in London and allow it to exist in Birmingham we shall have to continue the work in England *ad infinitum*. A permissive order is not what is wanted. An amendment of the Act is a *sine qua non* to stamp out the disease. There are, I believe, thirty infected counties, and unless the disease is attacked in each district at the same time and in the same manner it will disappear in one place only to arise again by the introduction of horses from infected places. London is the great centre of the disease, and if the County Council is not afraid to spend the money of the ratepayers it will undoubtedly reduce the disease in a few years to a very small bulk. It must be remembered, however, that the five surrounding counties are all infected, and that until all their diseased horses have been killed or brought into London occasional reinfection must be expected. There is, as you say, "no great difficulty in combating the disease," but that depends on general and uniform measures being adopted over the whole country—a course which can only follow an amendment of the Act. Therefore the first step should not be made until Parliament meets.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Sept. 20th, 1892.

JOHN ATKINSON, F.R.C.V.S.

\* \* We quite agree with our correspondent as to the absolute necessity for general and uniform measures being applied to the extinction of glanders, and that these should be compulsory. It will be the business of Parliament to deal with this question, and in a comprehensive and enlightened spirit. Leaving the malady to be handled by the local authorities is simply losing time, throwing away money and causing needless embarrassment to horse owners. The amendment of Acts of Parliament applicable to the contagious diseases of animals should have been undertaken by the Board of Agriculture long ago, as glanders is now, by all accounts, widely prevalent.—ED. L.

### MANCHESTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

#### Hospital Extension: Clinical Hospital, Cheetham Hill-road.

FOR many years past the work of this excellent charity has been impeded by reason of the cramped and otherwise unsuitable character of its administration. The out-patient department has hitherto been placed too close to the wards of the hospital, and as a consequence there is serious and constant danger that various kinds of infection may get transmitted from without to the surgical patients under treatment in the hospital, to the no small risk of the latter. To remedy this defect a new administrative block has just been completed, which, although conveniently situated for central administration, is nevertheless far enough removed from the hospital proper to render almost impossible the extension of infection from the out-patients to the occupants of the surgical wards. The new out-patient department forms a handsome structure facing the Cheetham Hill-road, and adjoining the Jewish synagogue. It consists of a large and commodious waiting-room, with smaller rooms for consultation and convenient offices for dispensing and for the performance of minor operations. The building has been erected at a cost of about £2000, on a site presented by the trustees of the late Mr. Daniel Proctor.

#### New Cancer Hospital.

Stanley House, a large and well-appointed residence on the Stanley Grove estates, recently presented to the Owens College by the Whitworth trustees, has now been considerably altered and adapted to the purposes of a hospital for about forty cases of malignant disease. The building stands in its own grounds, which are picturesque and very pleasantly situated, and will form a hospital which may be considered fairly accessible to the population of Manchester and the surrounding district. The Stanley House Hospital is intended to form the nucleus of a much more extensive establishment to be eventually provided on this estate for the equipment of our great school of medicine. The hospital will doubtless be utilised for teaching purposes, as well as for purposes of original research, by the medical staff of Owens College.