

"asthmatic complaints terminating in hydropsy." Miss Anne Scott, in 1833: "brain fever," preceded by occasional fits for a year or two. Mrs. Lockhart, in 1837, "after a long illness."

Chobham, April, 1888.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,
JOHN HOPE, M.D.

ELECTRIC ILLUMINATION OF THE BLADDER.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Dr. Nitze, in your issue of May 12th, states his belief that I have given unfair prominence to Mr. Leiter in the history of electric endoscopy. Dr. Nitze is greatly mistaken. I cannot believe that he has seen an abstract of my lectures upon the subject (delivered in January and February last), which was in print prior to Dr. Nitze's first appearance in the English medical press (THE LANCET, April 21st, 1888). I have there described the method as "The Nitze Method." I have, moreover, drawn especial attention to the value of his work, and have referred to him as "the able introducer of this brilliant innovation." I endeavoured thus to give honour where honour was due. I must now decline any further correspondence with Dr. Nitze on the subject.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Old Burlington-st., May 12th, 1888. E. HURRY FENWICK.

OSTEO-PLASTIC RESECTION OF THE FOOT BY THE METHOD OF MIKULICZ.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I was very much interested in reading the paper by Sir William Mac Cormac in your issue of May 5th. The case reported reminds me of one which I published in your journal of July 10th, 1886 (vol. ii., p. 71), in which I removed os calcis, astragalus, and both malleoli by a posterior median and horseshoe incision, without attempting, however, to obtain ankylosis, and yet getting what was very much better—a perfectly movable false joint. The operation was performed in the year 1882, and I showed the case before the Leeds and West Riding Medico-Chirurgical Society in 1886. My patient at the present time, six years after the operation, can walk without a limp and is in perfect health. The operation, as far as I was concerned, was a perfectly original one, and was really brought about by the exigencies of the case. I have, however, always felt that if I again met with a similar case I should not hesitate to do the same operation. Of course I would not venture for one moment to criticise the operation reported by Sir William Mac Cormac, but I have never heard of a similar operation to my own being performed, and should be glad to know if, generally speaking, there can be any sound objection to my method of operating in cases requiring resection of the foot. I will only add that I shall be pleased to forward to yourselves or to Sir William Mac Cormac the specimen of bone which I removed.

I remain, Sirs, yours obediently,

Batley, Yorkshire, May 10th, 1888.

ALFRED SWANN, M.D.

"ANOREXIA NERVOSA."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The following case may be of interest as an example of this newly recognised condition.

The patient was a weakly, emaciated lady, capable of doing a fair amount of work when not interfered with, but the slightest interference was quite sufficient to disturb her normal equilibrium. It was then that certain curious phenomena manifested themselves. They usually commenced with intense headache and a peculiar cold feeling in the region of the heart, which ultimately extended itself throughout the body, leaving the extremities very pale in colour. This was especially so as regards the lobes of the ears, which were almost as white as chalk. These sensations were followed by a constant dribbling of urine, often sufficient to saturate two dozen napkins daily. Towards the close it became more or less limpid, and was usually accompanied by a sharp attack of diarrhoea, leaving the patient well until the next disturbance, which never occurred without some assignable cause. There was a great distaste for food, the patient going for days without taking anything beyond hot water. Amenorrhoea was also present. This lady some time ago went to live in a farmer's house

some miles away, was forced to take "plenty of milk and fresh eggs," and came home very much improved. She is now having the massage treatment, and is improving daily. Since going away there has been no return of the symptoms alluded to.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Liverpool, May 14th, 1888.

T. GERALD GARRY, M.D.

LUNACY CERTIFICATES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I think that medical men have reason to be grateful to you for the powerful manner in which you put their case in this matter. I think it is eminently desirable that they should one and all refuse to sign any more of these certificates in the existing state of the law. It is monstrous that a man should be mulcted in hundreds of pounds for signing a lunacy certificate when the Court has decided that in so doing he acted on sufficient grounds and conformably to the law. I agree with you that there is no cowardice or dereliction of duty in refusing to perform a service to the State when the State refuses to protect you in the same. If we as citizens have our duties to the State, the State has also its duties towards us, and it is the plain and manifest duty of the State, when we have legally and on sufficient grounds signed a lunacy certificate, to protect us from any pecuniary losses attending any subsequent legal proceedings. And I would suggest that before a person is permitted to institute an action of this kind he should be required to deposit securities for the payment of the defendant's costs in the event of his losing his action.

Yours faithfully,

Stroud-green-road, N., May, 1888.

R. ROBINSON, M.R.C.S.

LIVERPOOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

DEATH OF DR. ARTHUR CRESSWELL RICH.

THE death of Dr. Arthur C. Rich in his thirty-second year is an event which, though not unexpected, came as a great shock to all his numerous professional and lay friends this afternoon. The deceased was the eldest son of the well-known and highly respected postmaster of Liverpool, Mr. J. D. Rich, and after being educated at King William's College, Isle of Man, he commenced his medical education at the Liverpool School of Medicine. From the very commencement of his professional career his kindly and obliging disposition made him a general favourite, and throughout the whole of it his conduct was marked with the most exceptional zeal and enthusiasm. After having passed the College of Surgeons, he became one of the house surgeons of the Royal Infirmary, and subsequently for a short period he was attached to the Birkenhead Borough Hospital. Having spent some months as resident medical officer in a lunatic asylum, he obtained an appointment as surgeon to one of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's steamers, and afterwards to one of the steamers of the Orient line. After travelling in the United States and Canada, he returned to England and studied at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, where he was clinical assistant to the late Dr. Murchison, subsequently passing the M.B. Lond. with first class honours. Returning to Liverpool, he obtained the important appointment of medical officer to the male officers of the Liverpool Postal and Telegraphic Establishment, the duties of which he discharged till within ten days of his death. He was also assistant-surgeon to the Hospital for Cancer and Skin Diseases, and pathologist of the Royal Infirmary for four years. He was also lecturer and examiner to the St. John Ambulance Association, and his death will be deeply deplored by the Liverpool police, many members of which body he instructed. For some time he had been in failing health, and there can be no doubt that his very promising career has been cut short by his self-sacrificing zeal to his profession. He suffered from successive attacks of pyæmia while performing his duties as pathologist at the infirmary, the effects of which were probably aggravated by a malarial fever formerly contracted in South America. In his last illness he was attended with unremitting care by his friends, Drs. Carter and Macalister, and passed peacefully away without pain. He was married not very long ago, and much sympathy is felt for his widow, as well as for his father and mother.