

whole two eruptions of the two fevers occurred together—viz., (1) rose-coloured, elevated papulæ—that of typhoid; (2) a subcutaneous purple mottling of the skin, forming a basis plus petechiæ, ill-defined, non-elevated, of mulberry-juice hue: the two together forming that of typhus.

The rash of typhus is petechial; that of typhoid, papular. Fresh spots appear during the course of typhoid, each lasting two or three days. Not so in typhus: after the rash is "out" no fresh crop appears. The greater the amount of rash in typhoid the better the prognosis; it is the reverse in typhus.

Two—in fact, the—great sources of fallacy in regard to the rashes into which I cannot but think Dr. Bakewell must have sometimes fallen are—first, the error of diagnosing typhus by the purple petechiæ alone, without the mottling; and, secondly, the liability of confounding flea-bites with "purple spots" (typhus). I know most men are offended if you suggest the latter source of error, but it is often by no means an easy matter to know the distinction. Flea-bites are usually well-defined, and exhibit the bite in the centre. This is one of the most common sources of error, amongst students especially. The cases Dr. Bakewell saw at Stafford and Scutari (the former coming as they did from the workhouse) were most likely to present such a condition, especially as he was thrown off his guard or "embarrassed by the anomalous character of the cases." Dr. Bakewell does not regard gurgling in the right iliac fossa as of any value. If it be coarse, abundant, and large, it is of no use; but if it be very fine and delicate, assuredly it is an aid to diagnosis.

Dr. Chambers appeals to Dr. Watson's old opinion, as strengthening his own view, and seems to tacitly imply that Dr. Watson still clings to his old opinion, and commits to writing that which he does not believe, merely to oblige others. I am sure that Dr. Watson fully holds with the views promulgated by Dr. Jenner, or he would not have succumbed to and adopted them. I do not agree with Dr. Chambers, that Dr. Watson's old opinion was adopted under more propitious auspices than his recent one.

The characters of the two fevers are different, though many symptoms are alike in each, because in both pyrexial. Typhoid, the acute ulcerating disease, contrasts with typhus, the congestive and adynamic. Differences are seen in the age attacked, the duration, mortality, degree of infection, locality, cause, station of life attacked, secondary lesions, &c. &c.

As to the treatment, with the exception of the proper administration of wine, beef-tea, &c., it is generally otherwise *nil*. The two fevers are acute specific diseases, having a definite duration and course, and all we aim at, or can do, is to support the powers till Nature has got rid of the poison: we have no specific for fever. If Dr. Bakewell has never lost a case, I would mildly suggest that he has seen either very little fever, or few bad cases; for his treatment has nothing special in it, and to the wine, beef-tea, &c., must be credited all the good done.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Broughton, March, 1858. WM. TILBURY FOX, M.B. Lond.

## MR. MACNEILL AND LAIRD'S "BABY'S FOOD."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—My attention has been called to an article in the columns of THE LANCET of last week, in which you have commented most unjustifiably on my conduct. I feel astonished that a journalist of your reputation, of your years, and of your experience, should have so far forgotten himself as to be guilty of misrepresenting an unoffending man, and of holding him up to the contempt of the world in language the most severe that could have been used, without having previously inquired into the circumstances of the case, and without having ascertained that the information upon which he acted was correct.

However, as we are perfect strangers to each other, and as I cannot believe that you were actuated by any evil *animus* towards me, save that of professional zeal in upholding, as you call it, the dignity of a learned profession, I beg to detail the whole circumstances of the case, in order to show that I am innocent of the charge imputed to me, and, having done so, to demand from your justice, not from your sympathy, a full retraction of all you have said about me, and to call upon you to make the *amende honorable* by publishing this letter in a prominent part of your next issue, and by making such comments upon it as the circumstances may require.

The facts are these:—I am a chemist and druggist, living at 28, Princes-terrace, Caledonian-road. I carry on a respectable business, such an one as might be acceptable even to the mem-

ber of "a learned profession," your late correspondent, and in this capacity I presume I am allowed to sell articles of diet, which may be recommended for infants or invalids, whether they be Laird's or any one else's. Such being the case, Mr. Laird called upon me, and asked me to become one of his agents for the sale of his "baby's food." I consented, gave him my name and address thus, "A. Macneill, Dispensing Chemist, 28, Princes-terrace, Caledonian road, Islington," and in the following week my name was advertised amongst his other agents, and by mistake "Surgeon and Accoucheur" substituted for "Dispensing Chemist." That was Mr. Laird's mistake, not mine; for I can assure you, Sir, I have no ambition to be called surgeon, and now much less than ever.

On reading the objectionable advertisement in the *Islington Gazette*, I immediately wrote to Mr. Laird that I did not belong to the "profession," and requested him, at once, to have the advertisement corrected, which was accordingly done from that period, now five or six weeks back. To prove the correctness of my statement, I beg to enclose Messrs. Laird's letter, also the corrected advertisement, and will now leave the matter in your hands, expecting from your sense of justice that, as you have been instrumental in giving publicity to false reports, you will do everything in your power to remove any injurious impression that might be made in consequence on the public mind.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Princes-terrace, Caledonian-road, April, 1858.

A. MACNEILL.

"15, Wharton-street, W.C., April 19th, 1858.

"SIR,—We are very sorry indeed to find that the advertisement we inserted in the *Islington Gazette* of March 13th, 1858, describing you as 'Surgeon and Accoucheur,' should have subjected you to any annoyance, especially as the mistake was entirely ours, and corrected at your instance in the following and all succeeding issues of the *Gazette*.

"Expressing our regret for the mistake, in which we wish it to be clearly understood you had not the smallest share,

"We remain, Sir, your obedient servants,

"Mr. A. Macneill."

"LAIRD BROTHERS.

"\* In willingly inserting the above letter, we must yet observe that we simply commented upon an advertisement that appeared in the *Islington Gazette*. If that advertisement was incorrect, we were not to blame. It described Mr. Macneill as a surgeon; and we expressed our opinion that, if he was a surgeon, his selling canisters of baby's food was not the business of a member of a learned profession. If Mr. Macneill be not a surgeon, we have no right, of course, to interfere, except to recommend him to be cautious how he allows other persons to advertise his name for the future.—ED. L.

## THE ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—One of the few surviving Peninsular veterans of the Army Medical Department, departed this life on the 2nd inst., and no less a personage than its late respected chief, Sir James M'Grigor, Bart. A long life and long services closed his eventful career, with honour to himself and family. Those, like me, who have had the pleasure of serving under the late Director-General cannot but say that he showed no favour to any; but if a medical officer did his duty, in whatever part of the world stationed, Sir James M'Grigor was well aware of it, and did not forget him.

The object of my remarks is not to pass any eulogium, for this is not required, but merely to observe what Sir James did for the Department, in establishing the valuable museum at Chatham for the advancement of medical science, and that his benevolent mind was ever thoughtful in founding the societies for the benefit of the widows and children of deceased officers. This, I trust, will induce the present chief, Dr. Smith, and medical officers generally, to give some consideration to my proposals.

The Medical Department of late has been greatly augmented, and at the same time a more definite and creditable position in army rank and pay assigned, especially to the assistant surgeons. I do not stop here; I think the Medical Department should, at any rate, stand upon equality of rank and position with the Royal Engineers. In civil life, as a learned profession, it invariably precedes the latter.

"Now what can the officers of the Medical Department of the army do for their own benefit?" They have much within themselves. No body of scientific men have such opportunities of advancing science generally; they visit all parts of the world,