

able alteration and addition, reconstructed the prison so as to enable the separate cell system to be efficiently carried out. For these alterations prison labour (always under the supervision of officers) has been employed in addition to skilled outside labour in the demolition of old buildings, removal of bricks, stones, &c., and in the construction of new roads. The number of prisoners has been diminishing for the last ten years, and the number of prison offences has diminished in a greater proportion. I cordially endorse the remarks of Dr. Barr in your issue of to-day with regard to the association of prisoners in hospital. I too cannot but regret that your influential journal should have published such severe condemnation of the present management of the prison system without further inquiry into the truth thereof.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. HOAR, M.D.,

Nov. 15th, 1890.

Medical Officer to H.M. Prison, Maidstone.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Allow me to say, in reference to the question of prison management, that the secretary of the Howard Association does not necessarily agree with each member of the executive committee as to the details of each annual report. Mr. Tallack and myself sometimes differ in our views on prison matters. The fact that individual members of the executive committee may have views of their own as to certain questions and principles does not in any way involve or shake the utility of the work done, and now in course of action, by the Howard Association, London.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

GEORGE RAYLEIGH VICARS.

Boston, Lines., Nov. 17th, 1890.

"THE TEES-SIDE EPIDEMIC AND THE PUBLIC WATER SERVICE."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In THE LANCET of Nov. 8th, in your leading article under the above heading, you state that "I have reported on water to which filtrates of enteric fever stools have been added without ascertaining that any risk was involved." Will you kindly tell me when and under what circumstances I did so?—Your obedient servant,

Mandeville-place, W., Nov. 10th, 1890. C. MEYMOTT TIDY.

* * In writing the article referred to we were under the firm impression that when the medical officer of the Local Government Board in 1881 submitted certain samples of water to which filtrates of enteric fever stools had been added to a number of distinguished chemists, Dr. Tidy was one of the chemists consulted, and that his results, amongst others, were in question when it was reported "that to the customary methods of chemical examination there is nothing to distinguish this pollution from any other excremental pollution." We now find that Dr. Tidy's name does not appear amongst the chemists who are quoted in the official report issued on the subject, and we must express our regret that he was referred to in the place of another chemist whose results we had in view.—ED. L.

THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL AND THE DENTAL PROFESSION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—That the appointment of a dental member to the Medical Council, so judiciously advocated by Messrs. Smale and Smith-Turner, would confer a benefit upon the entire medical profession not less than upon the dental branch seems to me obvious. It must be borne in mind that by the action of the great medical corporations, confirmed by the Legislature, dentistry has now become a recognised and sanctioned branch of the medical profession. The Dentists Act is steadily, and even rapidly, raising the specialty from the position of an unorganised trade. Dentistry now includes in its ranks a large proportion of educated men, fit associates and colleagues of their medical brethren. The improving status of dentistry cannot fail to make it more and more attractive to students, particularly those with a mechanical gift or a turn for operating ;

and it will become more and more common for such men to adopt the specialty rather than enter the overcrowded ranks of general practice. Although there seems a danger that the supply of dental practitioners at home may in a few years more than equal the demand, there will still remain for many a day a vast field in India and the colonies, where at present the number of qualified dentists is altogether inadequate. Measures necessary to promote the further advance of dentistry and to make it a still more eligible calling can hardly be so well understood and appreciated by one who is not himself a dentist ; and as it is evident from the names already cited that it will not be difficult to choose a delegate who, while giving particular attention to dental business, may be trusted not to neglect the general interests of medicine. The suggestion when understood must surely commend itself to the favourable consideration of the profession.—I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

Wimpole-street, W., Nov. 15th, 1890.

HENRY SEWILL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The suggestion of Mr. Morton Smale that dental surgeons should be directly represented upon the General Medical Council is worthy of consideration. In your leading article upon the subject you say : "If dentists are to be conceded a special representative, why not ophthalmic surgeons? If a Midwives' Bill should pass, are we to be told then that the midwives must have a seat in the Council?" In my opinion the cases are not parallel, and for the following reasons, *inter alia*: 1. Dentists must possess a special registrable diploma (L.D.S.) and must be enrolled upon a Register entirely distinct from that containing the names of medical practitioners. 2. The Dentists Act is administered solely by the Council, notwithstanding the fact that the Dental Register contains some 4000 or 5000 names, including many with additional surgical and medical qualifications. 3. There are at least two gentlemen at present on the Council—viz., the members for the Apothecaries' Society of London and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland—who are specialists, and whose specialties are, at all events indirectly, represented. I will not venture to give an opinion as to whether the medical profession should be deprived of a member, or whether the Privy Council should appoint a dental representative ; but *prima facie* it would appear for the above reasons that dentists have some claim for more direct recognition on the General Medical Council.

I am, Sirs, your obedient servant,

Hanover-square, Nov. 4th, 1890.

WM. A. MAGGS.

"THE CHOLERA AT ALEPPO."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Last week I was unable to forward to you the cholera statistics from the north. I now beg to enclose them, bringing them up to date. Hama or Hamath, with a population of 49,069 (according to the census of 1889), is now attacked, and the mortality is relatively and actually higher than in Aleppo, which has a population of about 120,000. This may be explained by the situation and unhealthy condition of the former place. Homs, Tripoli, and all the regions south of Hamath are so far free, while in Aleppo the disease seems to be dying out. You will

Date.	Aleppo, pop. about 120,000.		Hamath, pop. 49,069.	
	Attacks.	Deaths.	Attacks.	Deaths.
Oct. 13	23	29	5	3
" 14	27	33	3	2
" 15	30	32	17	5
" 16	—	15	9	6
" 17	33	32	8	7
" 18	—	25	9	7
" 19	33	38	19	16
" 20	22	20	9	15
" 21	16	20	29	37
" 22	10	15	22	27
" 23	11	10	15	38
" 24	6	6	52	36
" 25	17	15	32	42
" 26	—	15	52	57
" 27	—	6	27	72

* Telegram states : "No new cases these two days ; six deaths among those convalescent."

observe that the number of deaths, according to the tele-