

## THE NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—In the account of my paper read before the Epidemiological Society on the Prevention of Tuberculosis given in your issue of April 3rd one or two misapprehensions have occurred.

I did not say that congenital tuberculosis rarely, if ever, occurred. The words "if ever" should be omitted. I did not admit that notification of phthisis had been tried in Manchester and had failed. Notification in any proper sense has not been tried in Manchester. Less than thirty cases were, I understand, submitted to the Health Office for purposes of disinfection, which was then taken to mean chiefly fumigation. This is not intended to minimise the excellent work of education done by Dr. Ransome, but to prevent an unjust aspersion being put on notification, its objects and its uses.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,  
Manchester, April 9th, 1897. JAMES NIVEN.

## DEBT-COLLECTING ASSOCIATIONS.

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—Several complaints having reached my society concerning the methods adopted by certain so-called associations professing to have been formed for the purpose of collecting medical debts, my society will be glad to hear from any of your readers who have had dealings with any of such associations and who are dissatisfied with their procedure. An association of the kind referred to, which has especially been brought under the notice of my society, has changed its name and address so frequently that it is difficult to suppose that inconvenience has not been caused to members of the medical profession.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,  
HUGH WOODS,  
Hon. General Secretary.  
The London and Counties Medical Protection Society, Limited,  
12, New-court, Lincoln's-inn, April 12th, 1897.

## THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND AND THE PREVALENCE OF VENEREAL DISEASE AMONGST THE BRITISH TROOPS IN INDIA.

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—I am directed to inform you that at their last meeting the President, Vice-president and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland passed the following resolution: "We, the President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, being deeply impressed by recently ascertained facts concerning the development and alarmingly increased prevalence of venereal disease amongst British troops in India, and also the apparently exceptional virulence of the malady there, are strongly of opinion that the time has arrived when some active steps should be taken by the Government to check the disease, not alone in the interests of those primarily affected, but of their immediate descendants and of the community at large in India and the United Kingdom. The facts recently elicited by the Departmental Committee presided over by Lord Onslow the President and Council of this College consider as nothing short of appalling, and such as to imperatively require that an effort should be made at once to check and mitigate the evil, as otherwise the public health in these countries, not merely in the present, but in the future, will be seriously imperilled."

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,  
ROBT. H. WOODS, F.R.C.S. Irel.,  
Dublin, April 7th, 1897. Secretary of Council.

## THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MEDICINE, MOSCOW, 1897: A GOOD ARRANGEMENT.

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—It is probable that many London and provincial medical men will attend the Congress at Moscow, from Aug. 19th to 26th. There is always a certain amount of

trouble and inconvenience in arranging isolated parties of twos and threes, and it occurred to me that it might be a pleasant arrangement if those of us who are going from this country were to form a party and go together. I have been in communication with Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son, who have been most obliging, and they have prepared a programme at an inclusive fare of 45 guineas each person, providing for first-class travel tickets from London, *via* Berlin and Warsaw, to Moscow, returning *via* St. Petersburg, Helsingfors, Stockholm, Copenhagen, and Hamburg, Flushing, London, with hotel accommodation consisting of breakfast, luncheon, dinner, and bedroom, lights and service, restaurant and sleeping-car accommodation, free conveyance of 56 lb. of luggage, fees to hotel and railway servants, and the services of a competent conductor, who will superintend the travelling arrangements throughout. Messrs. Cook and Son's terms are so reasonable that I hope many will be prepared to join the party. Messrs. Cook and Son will send a detailed programme to anyone applying, and will be pleased to answer all questions.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,  
ARTHUR G. BLOMFIELD, M.D. Aberd.  
Exeter, April 12th, 1897.

## "THE ESSENTIALS OF CHEMICAL PHYSIOLOGY."

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—In the review of the above book, published in THE LANCET of April 10th, I notice that your reviewer blames me for introducing no mention of the application of Lovibond's tintometer to the estimation of the corpuscles and the colouring matter of blood. May I be allowed to point out that the book in question was published in the early part of last year, prior to the publication of Dr. George Oliver's work on this question? I was perfectly well acquainted with the principles of Dr. Oliver's new hæmoglobinometer at the time, but it was obviously impossible for me to publish prematurely what Dr. Oliver had been doing. Your reviewer is in error when he speaks of the applications of the tintometer to the enumeration of the corpuscles. Dr. Oliver's hæmocytometer is sold by the Tintometer Company, but it has no further relation to the tintometer of Lovibond.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,  
April 10th, 1897. W. D. HALLIBURTON.

## "TINNED SALMON."

*To the Editors of THE LANCET.*

SIRS,—Will you permit me to call your attention to the enclosed notices from the *Manchester Courier* and the *Manchester Guardian* of what took place in the police-court of that city on the 26th ult. The Charles Wood therein referred to is the person who wrote a letter to the *Globe*, from which you quoted and upon which you commented in your issue of the 20th ult., under the heading of "Tinned Salmon." Having regard to the motives which actuated the writer of the letter in question we feel that we are justified in asking you to explain to the readers of your much valued journal that the source from which the damaging reports emanated is, to say the least, an entirely unreliable one. We need hardly point out that a reproduction of a false report by a publication of the authority and influence of THE LANCET is in the highest degree damaging to the interests of those engaged in the trade.

The tinned fish trade has developed enormously, and it is computed that not less than 20,000 tons is annually consumed in this country. The packing of the canned salmon is carefully watched by the Canadian Government, and the out-turn on this side is very critically and thoroughly inspected in the ordinary course of trade by experts before a single tin is offered for sale. In fact, the trade have recognised that it must, in their own interest, be their first duty to protect the consumer, and it would under present conditions be quite impossible for such fish as described by the *Globe* correspondent to reach the public. We notice your article has been reproduced and quoted in other publications, which, although of comparatively little importance in themselves, yet when mentioned in connexion with the name of your paper cannot fail to be seriously regarded. We very sincerely hope that you will see your