

too unlikely; the albumin, too, in the urine was so small in quantity and variable that throughout the case one as often as not failed to detect any presence of it, and when demonstrable it was never more than a decided trace. There was intense anæmia, with all the usual accompaniments, as the first condition, the white swelling appearing when the anæmia was well established, and at first it was regarded by the patient as an aggravation of the cedema of the ankle to which she had become accustomed, but it rapidly assumed all the appearances of an ordinary bad white swelling of the leg, the thigh up to the groin being the principal seat of complaint, and the pain being very severe.

Both the anæmia and the phlegmasia yielded in quite the ordinary way to treatment, but the cure occupied three months, including some six weeks in bed with light bandaging. During the ensuing eighteen months she had three relapses of diminishing intensity, anæmia first showing itself and the phlegmasia regularly developing in the course of a few weeks. At first she postponed treatment until the leg compelled her to lie up; but taught by a fourfold experience, she consented on the fifth occasion to treat her anæmia on its first appearance and more thoroughly, with the result that she has had no recurrence since. I was greatly interested and puzzled by the case at the time, and made notes for offering to THE LANCET, with the usual result and the usual self-excuse that it was sure to turn out the commonest of complaints described in dozens of "Transactions" and familiar to every other of your contributors. Now Dr. Herman's article has encouraged a hope that the condition may be sufficiently unrecognised to make the record of any case of interest or even useful.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

CAMERON KIDD.

Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, Nov. 21st, 1895.

## THE DIAGNOSIS OF TONSILLITIS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I wish to inform you that we have had cases in the parish of Fulham very like diphtheria in its early stage, but most distinctly different in most important respects, for the symptoms pass off in less than a week, generally in from two to three days. It is a kind of tonsillitis arising perhaps from some condition of the air or from the sewer openings in the streets. We have reasons for knowing that, although the Klebs-Löffler microbe may be present, this disease is not diphtheria. The trouble and expense which may arise if mistakes are made by practitioners in these cases leads me to make objection to the course Mr. Wynter Blyth has taken.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

ROBERT LEE.

Nov. 27th, 1895.

## THE NEED FOR MEDICAL MISSIONARIES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Saturday (St. Andrews Day) is the day set apart for special intercession for missions. May I, as Provost of the Guild of St. Luke, draw attention to the demand that exists for medical missionaries. Of these about sixty are employed by the Church of England Missionary Societies, a third of whom are our associates. Several colonial bishops, members of the Guild, are urgently calling for helpers; the Bishop of Bloemfontein, himself a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, is now needing a medical missionary, so is the Archdeacon of Mashonaland, the Universities Mission in Central Africa, and the Chota Nagpur Mission in India. The salaries offered vary from £100 to £300 a year. The stations in which they are needed are not always unhealthy, although the demand is naturally greatest where disease is most rife. The call "to heal the sick" is as incumbent upon us as to "preach the Gospel" throughout the world, and we may vainly hope that volunteers will come forward for this work. Men possessing knowledge of medical sanitation and tropical hygiene are specially needed. If our missionary societies could secure the services of one imbued with the spirit and the knowledge of Edmund Parkes, who would see that the mission stations were freed from every removable source of danger, who would select sites for new stations and arrange hospital accommodation for sick natives and convalescent missionaries, many valuable lives unnecessarily sacrificed would be preserved. The Archbishop of Canterbury has promised to preach for the Guild next year. Every loyal Churchman

in the profession should be stirred to do what he can to promote our cause.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

E. SYMES THOMPSON, M.D., F.R.C.P. Lond.,  
Provost of the Guild of St. Luke.

Cavendish-square, W., Nov. 28th, 1895.

## A CORRECTION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I should be glad to be allowed to correct two slight errors in the report of some remarks of mine at the Leeds and West Riding Medical Society on Nov. 1st.—1. The blood from a patient with typhoid fever showed (not absence of, but) diminution in the number of leucocytes, a condition alleged to distinguish this from the other specific fevers. 2. I have looked in vain for four years—i.e., since hearing Dr. Lancaster's paper at the Clinical Society—for any distinctive uræmic rash; and I related a case in which universal pemphigus did not follow, but immediately preceded, nephritis, the latter disease appearing after recovery from the pemphigus and being attributed by the patient to chill consequent upon the removal of lint, ointment and bandages from the body generally. With the nephritis she had endocarditis and capillary bronchitis, but recovered in three or four weeks. The cure of the pemphigus, after some weeks' duration, was very rapid, as often happens; it followed saturation of the blood with carbolic acid applied in a lotion to ulcers on the legs. A recent, but less severe and earlier, case has also recovered with equal rapidity (two or three days) under the same treatment; but I have seen a sudden recovery when no carbolic acid has been (known to be) used.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Leeds.

T. CHURTON, M.D.

## BIRMINGHAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

### Breeching Straps for Horses.

A CASE of some interest to medical men who drive daily rounds was lately discussed at the coroner's court. A coachman while driving in one of the principal streets was thrown from his box and killed on the spot. The horse had shied, got beyond the driver's control, and owing to collision of the brougham with a coal cart the accident happened. The coroner at the inquest laid great stress upon the horse being driven without a breeching strap. It was stated that there was a good break upon the brougham, and that breeching straps were seldom used either here or in London when carriages were driven. The danger was pointed out by the coroner in spite of the assertion of witnesses that the custom of doing without one prevailed, and a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

### Level Crossing Accidents.

Two accidents of a preventable kind have lately occurred, in each of which a valuable life was lost, on a level railway crossing. In one at Water Orton the place is described as a death-trap. A young girl aged nineteen was run down by an express and killed instantly. The night was windy and a storm raging, but no extra provision for safety was made by the railway authorities. A previous death on the same spot occurred some years ago. In the second instance the body of a boy aged fifteen was found cut to pieces. Some precaution and protection necessary in such dangerous places; no doubt, where possible, level crossings should be done away with entirely, even though the right of way may present some difficulties, but in all cases it should be made apparent on the spot that great risk is taken by choosing a short cut.

### Ambulance Competition.

The second annual competition for the silver challenge shield in connexion with the Birmingham corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade took place at the Athletic Institute on the 18th inst. before a large assembly. It was stated that there were now 1157 members in the Ambulance Brigade, and that during the year ending June 30th 1457 cases occurred in which these members rendered valuable first aid. As the competition proceeded the skill and aptitude of the members evoked much applause. The tasks to which the competitors were submitted were an oral