

loses sight of one's patient; but I fancy that if any disaster attends a particular line of treatment, one gets to hear of it through the kind remarks (sometimes clinical) of a contemporary.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Harley-street, Jan. 17th, 1876. H. ROYES BELL.

UPPINGHAM SCHOOL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—As I am receiving numerous letters from medical attendants, parents, and others, asking me to inform them whether it is safe to send scholars back to this school on the 21st inst., I should esteem it a favour if you would allow me to state, through the medium of your journal, that I have no evidence before me as to whether or not the necessary structural alterations in the different houses have been completed, and the recommendations in my report, which was read on Saturday last only, as to the final disinfection of the infected houses, have been carried out.

I certainly cannot recommend the return of the scholars until I have reason to believe that everything has been done that I consider necessary to ensure the safety of the boys.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ALFRED HAVILAND,
Medical Officer of Health to the Uppingham Rural
Sanitary Authority.
Northampton, January 17th, 1876.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I should esteem it a favour if you would give publicity to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Rawlinson's Report on the School Houses at Uppingham. The report itself may be purchased for 3d. at Mr. Hawthorn's, bookseller, Uppingham.

Mr. Rawlinson concludes with these words:—"I am of opinion that the trustees and masters have improved the sewerage, drainage, ventilation, and water-supply of the several schools in the best practicable manner, and that these establishments may be considered in all these respects as perfect as any houses can be made.—(Signed) ROBERT RAWLINSON."

The report will repay perusal to any person interested in Uppingham School, as some of the facts connected with its progress appear in it.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
EDWARD THRING, Head Master.
The School House, Uppingham, Rutland,
Jan. 15th, 1876.

* * We have great pleasure in giving publicity to Mr. Rawlinson's statement, taken from his report, that the school-houses at Uppingham are now, in respect to sewerage, drainage, ventilation, and water-supply, "as perfect as any houses can be made," and, therefore, safe for the boys to return. We understand that Mr. Haviland's (the medical officer of health for the combined Northampton districts) report on the causes of the late outbreak of enteric fever, will soon be ready. It will be interesting to contrast the two reports, the one dealing with the deficiencies which led to the outbreak, the other showing the means that have been adopted to prevent its recurrence. This we propose doing as soon as both reports are in our hands.—ED. L.

THE CATGUT LIGATURE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In speaking of the action of a catgut ligature tied on an artery in its continuity, Dr. Ebenezer Watson says, in your last number, "We know that the catgut ligature becomes softened in a few hours so as to lose its compressing power, and it is very soon thoroughly liquefied." This is certainly not always the case, as proved by a preparation which I exhibited a short time since at the Clinical Society, and which is now in the museum of St. George's Hospital. The patient died exactly seven days (to an hour) after the

ligature of the femoral artery for aneurism with carbolised catgut. The ligature still holds the walls of the artery firmly in contact, and though the rest of it is indistinguishable, being buried in the tissue of the arterial wall, the knot remains in position, so that probably the string itself is not dissolved. If it were true that the catgut ligature only compresses the vessel for a few hours, I do not believe that it would be so successful as it is in the cure of aneurism. The atgut ought to be very stout, so as to bear to be tied sharply and tightly, in which case it will divide the internal coats of the vessel like a silk string.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
January 15th, 1876. T. HOLMES.

THE LONDON COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND THE TITLE OF "DOCTOR."

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Most right-minded men will, I believe, resent the action that some of the members of the committee of the College of Physicians of London desire to take respecting the titles of the fellows, members, and licentiates of the College. A very large number of these who possess the College diploma are not a little proud that it is a *bond fide* qualification, and free from the misleading pretensions of a diploma of the Edinburgh College. I must confess that I am one of these, and should the London College seek to invest its constituents with a false glory by bestowing upon them a courtesy—that is a sham—title of "Doctor," I shall be as ready as "An Old L.R.C.P." to give up my diploma.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
L.R.C.P. LOND.

Obituary.

RICHARD HASSALL, M.D.

WE lament to have to record the death of Dr. Richard Hassall, which took place on the 13th of December, 1875, at his residence, St. George's-square, London.

Dr. Hassall was born at Chelmsford, in 1811. His father and grandfather were both medical men, in the north of England. His father, Mr. Thomas Hassall, was born in Sunderland; he was appointed a captain and surgeon to the Durham Fencibles, a regiment raised by the county of Durham, and which served in the Irish Rebellion, 1798. He was at the battle of Wicklow, under General Skerrit, where he received a wound which deprived him of the sight of one eye, and for which he received a pension. He afterwards became surgeon to the 1st Surrey Militia, an appointment he retained for thirty years, and in which he was succeeded by his son, Dr. Richard Hassall. For several years Mr. Thomas Hassall practised at Teddington, where he attended for some time the family of the Duke of Clarence, afterwards William IV., and lost, by an accident, the appointment subsequently held by Sir David Davis.

Dr. Richard Hassall was the second son of Mr. Thomas Hassall, who married Miss Sherrock, of Downpatrick. The eldest son was lost at sea; the third son is the present Dr. Arthur Hill Hassall, physician to the National Hospital for Consumption, and author of several valuable contributions to medical literature. The Hassall family seem to have had a strong predilection for the medical profession, for not only was Dr. Richard's father a medical man, but his grandfather and one uncle, Mr. Richard Hassall, were also medical men, whilst his younger brother, as we all know, has long been a distinguished member of the same profession.

Dr. Richard Hassall entered the profession somewhat late in life, and subsequent to his younger brother, studying at the Charing-cross Hospital, under Mr. Henry Hancock and Mr. Francis Hird, and others, to whom later he became greatly attached. He began practice at Richmond, secured a large connexion, and remained there until about two years before his death, having realised a handsome competence. He subsequently came to London, and took chambers in Suffolk-place, Pall-mall, where he practised with great success until a few weeks before his death.

Dr. Hassall was twice married; first to Mrs. Gibbons, of