

satisfactory. There is not the slightest regurgitation and the patient is able to pass a soft tube and to feed himself with great ease. The operation is simple, quickly done, and appears to answer its purpose excellently.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
WM. HY. B. BROOK, F.R.C.S. Eng., M.D. Lond.,
Surgeon to the Lincoln County Hospital.
Lincoln, July 22nd, 1904.

THE USE OF PHENYLHYDRAZIN IN THE CLINICAL EXAMINATION OF URINE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In a communication under the above heading, published in THE LANCET of July 23rd, p. 211, Dr. W. H. Willcox details certain experiments he has carried out with a modification of a portion of a method I have employed as an aid to diagnosis. To enter into a detailed criticism of his conclusions, and the experimental evidence on which they are based, is not feasible in the space afforded by a letter. I shall therefore reserve my remarks for a paper in which I hope to clear up certain misapprehensions that appear to exist and to give further details of my work. I would, however, point out that Dr. Willcox's experiments, and consequently the results he has obtained, differ materially from mine, and also that I am not aware that anyone competent to express an opinion has stated that "the production of characteristic yellow crystals in a urine after hydrolysis with hydrochloric acid" is a "specific test for any special pathological condition."

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Beaumont-street, W., July 25th, 1904. P. J. CAMMIDGE.

ONE FORM OF SUPPURATIVE APPENDICITIS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The paper by Mr. A. C. Roper in THE LANCET of July 23rd, p. 212, on One Form of Suppurative Appendicitis, is of great interest and raises points of considerable practical importance. That it is possible for caseous tuberculous mesenteric glands to set up symptoms simulating appendicitis I have no doubt. During the last few months I have made necropsies on two cases in which this occurred. One was in a young man, aged 20 years, who was apparently in good health until a few months before his death, when he had an attack of pain in the right iliac fossa with sickness and distension. It subsided in a few days and he went on well until a second attack with marked swelling in the right flank. An operation was performed but the patient died from general peritonitis. At the necropsy the abdominal mesenteric glands were found to be enlarged and caseous, especially about the cæcum. No other tuberculous lesion was discovered. The second case was in a little girl, aged three years. She had no previous illness to call attention to her condition until the symptoms which were diagnosed as "appendicitis." An operation was performed and an abscess was found in the right iliac region. She also died from general peritonitis and at the necropsy a mass of enlarged caseous mesenteric glands was found in the neighbourhood of the cæcum, one of these being merely a bag of calcareous debris. There was no evidence of tuberculosis in any other organ.

That these two cases were both tuberculous is fairly certain and from what I infer from reading the account of Mr. Roper's three cases it seems likely that they were of similar origin, especially as two of them occurred in young children.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
University College, Sheffield, July 25th, 1904. ARTHUR HALL.

BIRMINGHAM.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The New Welsh Waterworks.

THE great engineering undertaking authorised by Act of Parliament in 1892, commenced shortly afterwards, and now practically concluded at a cost of something like £6,000,000 up to date, was set in operation on July 21st, when His Majesty the King visited Rhayader and turned on the tap which admitted the first stream of water to the filter-beds and on the same occasion knighted, to the great

satisfaction of all the citizens of Birmingham, the very popular and most efficient Lord Mayor, Mr. Hallewell Rogers. This is not the place to give any account of this huge undertaking but the following figures extracted from the special account published by the *Birmingham Daily Post* will give some idea of the magnitude of the works and of the amount of water which the reservoirs are capable of storing :—

Reservoir.	Capacity.	Water area.	Height of dam.	Top water level.
	Million gallons.	Acres.	Feet.	Feet above O.D.
Caban Coch	7540	497	122	820
Pen-y-Gareg	1320	124	128	945
Craig-Goch	2000	217	120	1040
Dol-y-Mynach	1500	148	101	900
Cil Oerwynt	3100	269	109	1095
Pant-y-Beddu	1900	244	98	1175

The water is conveyed to Birmingham through an aqueduct 73½ miles in length and the fall over that distance is only 170 feet, just enough to keep the stream of water steadily flowing. It takes 48 hours over its journey. The brunt of the work in connexion with the business side of these operations has fallen on the shoulders of the chairman of the water committee, Alderman Lawley Parker, and the citizens of Birmingham and of the other districts served by this supply should always feel grateful to this gentleman for the untiring and unselfish manner in which he has devoted nearly the whole of his time, for the past ten years, to the enormous task which has been laid upon him. One can hardly help feeling a twinge of regret that some mark of recognition was not awarded to the man to whom, more than to any other, the success of the undertaking is due.

Hospital Sunday Fund.

A very important change in the method of allocating this fund has just been decided upon. In the past the funds accruing have been given on one year to the General Hospital, on the second to the Queen's Hospital, and on the third to the amalgamated charities—i.e., to the remaining hospitals and institutions of like character in the city. Each institution or group, therefore, "came into benefit," so to speak, once in three years. At the recent annual meeting of the friends and supporters of the fund it was proposed by the Lord Mayor that in future the Hospital Sunday collection should be divided annually amongst all the charities participating, it being understood that the division should be in the same proportion as the present—namely, one-third to the General Hospital, one-third to the Queen's Hospital, and one-third to the amalgamated charities. In seconding the motion, which was ultimately carried unanimously, Alderman Beale said that it must make a stronger appeal to the people of Birmingham to feel that for the whole of the charities without distinction a particular Sunday was set aside as a day of collection, and possibly as a day upon which so many of the public who had not experienced a day's illness during the year might think of those who had not been so fortunate. He was hopeful that if ministers would point out to their congregations the change which had taken place there would be an improvement in the fund which they all knew to their great regret had been practically standing still for the past 40 years. It was time some movement was made. Other funds had grown with the growth of the town ; this for some reason had stood still.

Training of Midwives.

A largely attended meeting of ladies has recently been held to discuss this matter. The Lady Mayoress, who presided, said that it was most important to secure a sufficiency of properly qualified midwives and expressed the hope that the scheme of the Lying-in Charity would be liberally supported. The management committee had purchased a site in Loveday-street for a maternity institution and a fund of £5000 was now wanted for the erection of the building. It was a lamentable fact that 60 per cent. of the births in Great Britain were not attended by medical practitioners and among the poorest classes that figure was increased to 80 per cent. It was of the utmost importance that adequate provision should be made for skilled nursing for the poor married women of the city, especially having regard to the demands of the legislature in