

raised from 26 to 30 degrees, at which it stands to-day. It has been usual to allow the grapes to remain longer on the vines in Australia than in European vineyards, and thus, becoming thoroughly ripe, they yield less *must* or juice, but more saccharine. So large is Australia, and its climate and soil are so varied, that every grade of wine, from the light Chablis with 21 degrees of proof spirit to Constantia of 44 degrees, can be produced; the aspect and altitude, and in no less a degree the particular kinds of the vine grown, bear a large share in the result. One well-known very free-bearing red grape yields, I believe, in some seasons as much as 800 gallons per acre. The wine from it is thin, poor, hungry stuff; it arrives at its maturity in three years and then often "goes to pieces." It has a strength of about 21 degrees of spirit, and some Australians flatter themselves it is claret, but clarets are obtained from different grapes altogether, and claret vines produce in Australia another style of wine. I have such before me now grown on a vineyard of my own in the warm district of Rutherglen. The grapes were allowed to remain on the vines till thoroughly ripe; the resulting wine has 28 degrees spirit, is somewhat sweet, and of most delicious flavour. That no spirit was added to it is beyond question; there was no still on the vineyard, and the rules of the Excise prohibit the transfer of spirit between vineyards.

In England, as elsewhere, tastes are constantly changing, and this may be affecting the claret trade now, for during the past year the imports from France have fallen off 594,570 gallons. It is evident, therefore, that however elegant the light wines from France may be the public taste at present favours wine with more substance. As Australia is able to produce these robust wines, which the public by the increasing yearly imports prove they are favouring, it is, I think, a pity that an impression should be conveyed to your readers that the generous quality which these Australian wines exhibit is the result of adventitious spirit; this, I fear, was the idea your article conveyed, based, as I have said, on exploded theories.

In France and Germany the grapes are gathered before they are dead ripe; were this not so it would be at the expense of bouquet, besides which the fermentation to complete attenuation might be frustrated, and the dry wine known as claret could not be obtained. In Australia it is natural to produce big wines; the fruit being allowed to come to maturity the aqueous particles become in a measure evaporated, and the result is such stout Burgundy as was thought impossible before Australian wines were known. As instance of the heat in the colonies and its effects on the vines, the leaves are allowed to remain on the branches so as to protect the bunches from the sun, whereas in France and Germany the leaves are thinned, and indeed the vine is sometimes trained on trellises capable of being moved at any angle, so as to obtain all the sun possible, as well as the heat radiated from the ground.

Australian wines should not be compared with those of France and Germany more than with those of Spain, Portugal, or Sicily. For, on the one hand, in the warmer climates more sugar is produced with more spirit and weight of wine; on the other, in the more temperate climates lighter wines, more elegant perhaps but colder, are the result. If, then, the English public continue the taste for light, thin, dry wines, I know no country that can supply them finer than France or Germany. But if the taste, as I am led to believe, is for the more generous product of fully ripe grapes, there is no country in the world can supply the want better than our own possessions.

It has been the endeavour of Australian wine-growers to put on the market that which Australia can best produce—viz., a natural robust wine filling the gap between the light wines of the continent and fortified wines. To quote the remark of a writer in the *Standard*: "Australian wines abound in memories of the sun that begot them and, like the wines of the ancients, will bear mixing with water."

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

P. B. BURGOYNE.

Feb. 25th, 1901.

\* \* We refer to this letter in an annotation this week.—  
ED. L.

## THE VALUE OF SALINE ENEMATA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have read with great interest the very sensible article in THE LANCET of March 9th, p. 720, on the Value of Saline Enemata in Collapse and in Uræmia

and Puerperal Eclampsia. Allow me to call your attention to another class of cases in which I have found them very useful. I refer to cases of gastric ulcer in which (not necessarily due to large hæmorrhage) there may be subsequently extreme weakness and debility, sleeplessness, &c., if not actual collapse. This is due, no doubt, largely to abstinence from food by the mouth, rectal feeding being only a poor substitute for natural alimentation. In such cases saline injections at 100° F., in quantity (say half a pint) sufficiently small to be readily retained, have been frequently given to a case of gastric ulcer, now nearly recovered, in which the return of refreshing sleep (after much restlessness, nausea, &c.) at once took place after the first injection. A like result was noticed later and the injections were repeated.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully.

Chepstow, March, 1901.

J. CROPPER, M.B. Cantab.

## HYPERTROPHY OF THE LINGUAL TONSIL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In a deservedly favourable notice of Dr. Escat's "Maladies du Pharynx" in THE LANCET of March 9th, p. 711, the reviewer writes that, "like too many observers Dr. Escat looks upon hypertrophy of the lingual tonsil from the point of view that the condition is the disease, whereas it is a local manifestation of a more general disturbance." This is not quite the view held by Dr. Escat as I read him, but if there are "too many observers" of his way of thinking does it not suggest that there are but few who think differently?

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

March 12th, 1901.

LENNOX BROWNE.

## NOTES FROM INDIA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

*Inoculation for Rinderpest.—Great Increase of Plague.—The Admission of Natives to the Indian Medical Service—The Water and Milk-supply of Indian Cities.*

A REPORT has recently been issued by Dr. A. Lingard showing the results of inoculation against rinderpest during the past year. The process has been carried out at several places with marked success. The method of protection adopted is to inject a small dose of the protective serum on one side of the body and at the same time a small dose of virulent rinderpest blood on the opposite side. Reaction follows in 90 per cent. and this gives practically permanent immunity. In about 10 per cent. no apparent reaction occurs although it is found that the cattle possess some immunity which lasts for a few months. In these latter instances a subsequent re-inoculation with from 1 to 10 cubic centimetres of virulent blood about 10 days later produces the usual reaction and confers the required lasting immunity. It is found that the hill cattle react differently to those of the plains, the former requiring much more frequently the subsequent re-inoculation with virulent blood. The use of the protective serum alone causes no reaction, but yet affords a temporary immunity. This is sufficiently lasting to afford protection during an epidemic and it is therefore particularly applicable for milch cows when it is not desirable to interfere with the milk-supply, and it is also useful in the case of pregnant animals which under the disease itself, whether artificially or naturally acquired, are liable to miscarry. An instance of an outbreak in Madras is given where 339 bullocks were inoculated. The disease was at once checked, and it is almost certain that a heavy loss among the cattle was averted. During the year no less than 464,765 cubic centimetres of protective rinderpest serum were manufactured. A large stock ready for immediate despatch is kept at the laboratory, and in addition a further large stock only requiring a fortnight's time for being tested.

Close upon 6000 deaths from plague took place in India last week. The week before there were 4377 deaths, and in the corresponding week of 1900 only 2597 deaths. The great increase is chiefly in Bengal which returns 3846 deaths—a rise of 1200 over the preceding seven days. The worst districts are Patna (with 1634 deaths), Saran (828 deaths), Monghyr (526 deaths), and Gaya (475 deaths). Calcutta returns 233 deaths—nearly double that of the week