

overlooked the fact that one of the bodies thus experimented with was not a yellow fever corpse at all, and yet the symptoms produced by the injection of a little juice from this were exactly the same as those produced by the solution of a yellow fever body, the only difference being that the body which had not died of yellow fever, perhaps as it was but six months old, killed somewhat quicker than the two-year-old yellow fever body!

5. Dr Freire asks, "How was it, supposing the disease to have been septicaemia, that no bacteria were discovered in the blood?" Why, if the Doctor's theory be true, should not the question be, "How is it that, if the disease were yellow fever, no bacteria were discovered in the blood?" But surely Dr Freire is not ignorant that there are several forms of fatal septicaemia, in which, if the body be examined immediately after death, no trace of bacterial life will be found.

6. The Doctor then goes on to give accurate descriptions of the condition of the viscera of guinea-pigs after death by what he considers yellow fever; but surely these are not the appearances found in the human body after death from that disease. "Grey colour of brain," "swollen and blackish liver," "full bladder," "stomach full of food," &c., are not what one would expect to find in corpses dead of yellow fever. Albumen in the urine is certainly a constant symptom of fatal yellow fever, but it does not follow that albuminuria is yellow fever. On the whole, we are inclined to think that when Dr. Freire wrote his last letter to you he had not had our report translated correctly; at least, that seems the easiest way to account for some evident misunderstandings.

It is with regret that we find ourselves obliged to consider that Dr. Freire's experiments are still in need of verification, and this regret is deepened when we remember the difficulties that are thrown in the way of any attempt of ours to help to elucidate this most interesting question. It will scarcely be believed, but it is nevertheless a fact, that during the absence in England of the Governor-in-Chief, at whose request our inquiry was instituted, the officer temporarily administering the Government, supported by the opinion of some gentlemen of the Army Medical Department and others, which he requested, formally prohibited any further prosecution of our work on some such grounds as that such inquiry was valueless and dangerous to the public health, the work we were at the time engaged on being an examination of the toxic properties of various media cultivated at a high temperature and impregnated by exposure to the open air or by garden mould; and, further, an inquiry as to how far fresh lime might be depended on as destructive of bacterial germs in earth, no grave having been touched by us for about a twelvemonth. Obstacles have been put in our way also by other means, and when it is remembered that we undertook the inquiry only when everyone else in the West Indies had declined to have anything to do with it, and at the request of the authorities it will, we think, be admitted that we have some ground for complaint.

Before closing we would beg to remark that a healthy guinea-pig that had been inoculated with a weakened culture, and seemed proof against fresh inoculation afterwards, as mentioned in our report, succumbed some months ago to an inoculation by soup impregnated by the open air. We should wish, on our part, to ask Dr. Freire, with reference to his recent statement to the Académie des Sciences, as to his pigs dying in numbers of yellow fever on exposure to the impregnated air of his laboratory, how is it that such animals do not die *outside* his laboratory during the prevalence of an epidemic of yellow fever?

We are, Sir, your most obedient servants,

J. H. SUTTON MOXLEY, B.A., &c., &c.

J. B. HARRISON, B.A., Island Professor of Chemistry.
Barbadoes, Jan. 28th, 1885.

COCAINE IN CHRONIC CYSTITIS AND IRRITABLE BLADDER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Mr. Bellamy's note on the above in THE LANCET of the 14th inst. determines me to send you a confirmatory observation, though used in one case only.

I have been treating a gentleman, over sixty-eight years of age, for chronic cystitis, bladder sacculated, dependent on prostatic disease; latterly the symptoms have been much aggravated, micturition every few minutes, with intense pain at the neck of the bladder, thick muco-purulent discharge

when the bladder is washed out (twice daily with boroglyceride), and diarrhoea. Almost every remedy has been used—by mouth, injections, suppositories—all fruitlessly. A fortnight ago I injected into the bladder one-third of a grain of hydrochlorate of cocaine in four or five ounces of tepid water, and retained for ten minutes. Next morning I was pleased to find he had been perfectly free from pain, and the diarrhoea soon ceased. I have since used it four times, the freedom from pain lasting from twenty-four to thirty hours, but the frequency of micturition and quantity of sediment remain unaltered. The last few days he has complained of similar pain along the urethra, and I intend using the gelatine bougies medicated with cocaine as suggested by Mr. Bellamy.

Seaforth, Liverpool, Feb. 1885.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

F. F. GERMAN.

THE TREATMENT OF GONORRHOEA, ETC., BY A NEW DRUG.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I wish to draw the notice of the profession to the therapeutic action of the *Jacaranda lancifoliata*. This plant is indigenous to Columbia, South America, and was brought over to this country by an acquaintance, who, whilst travelling in the above State, found that the drug was used by the natives as a remedy in venereal diseases. Some of it was placed in the hands of my partner, Dr. Murray Smith, and myself to see what effect it had; and we were very much gratified by its influence in gonorrhoea, acute and chronic, and in vesical affections attended with purulent and muco-purulent urine. The drug acts specially on the genito-urinary mucous membrane, and appears to have no deleterious effect in any way; whilst it is taken without nausea, contrasting very favourably with most drugs given internally for these affections. As a remedy for gonorrhoea, I believe it will, when known, take the place of all other drugs used internally for this disease. In my hands, it has proved most efficacious in diminishing pain and stopping discharge in acute cases; and in cases of gleet I have found it most valuable, having succeeded in effecting a speedy cure by its use in several cases which had resisted previous treatment, both local and general. A liquid extract is made from the leaf, and may be given in doses of twenty minims or half a drachm three or four times daily. The introducer of the drug is prepared to send a small supply free of charge, prior to its being placed in the market, to any medical man who will try it and report his opinion to him. It is to be obtained of Mr. E. H. Lawton, 38, Trinity-square, Tower-hill, E.C.

Romford, Feb. 10th, 1885.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
ALFRED WRIGHT.

REVACCINATION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I herewith send you a copy of a memorial praying for further encouragement and facilities for the revaccination of adults, which I have this day forwarded to the President of the Local Government Board.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

FRANCIS VACHER, Hon. Sec.

Office of North-Western Association of Medical Officers
of Health, Feb. 25th, 1885.

MEMORIAL PRAYING FOR FURTHER ENCOURAGEMENT AND FACILITIES FOR THE REVACCINATION OF ADULTS.

*To the Right Hon. Charles Wentworth Dilke, Bart., M.P.,
President of the Local Government Board.*

The memorial of the North-Western Association of Medical Officers of Health respectfully sheweth,—

1. That your memorialists are a body of medical officers of health practising in the counties of Lancaster, Chester, and Derby, and the West Riding of the county of York.
2. That there is still a considerable annual mortality from small-pox in some of the districts served by your memorialists and in many districts throughout the kingdom.
3. That efficient vaccination of infants and revaccination of adults would prevent this mortality.
4. That while fairly satisfactory regulations obtain for securing the efficient vaccination of infants, no adequate steps have yet been taken to secure the revaccination of adults.

5. That the usefulness and expediency of the revaccination of adults is already recognised by many Government departments, inasmuch as military and naval recruits, post-office employés, &c., are required to submit to the operation.

6. That the principle thus admitted is capable of legitimate extension, by making proof of vaccination a qualification for all Government employment, and by making revaccination compulsory on all adults residing in premises which may become infected with the contagion of small-pox, and on all adult applicants for poor-law relief.

7. That the fee at present allowed for successful revaccination is not sufficient to excite any interest in the performance of the duty on the part of the public vaccinator, and does not fairly repay him for his expenditure of time and trouble.

8. That efficient revaccination would be promoted and encouraged by furnishing to all legally qualified medical practitioners, on request, an ample supply of calf and humanised lymph.

9. That your memorialists trust your honourable Board will consider the slight encouragement at present given for the promotion of revaccination and the propositions respectfully submitted by your memorialists, and will take such steps as your honourable Board may deem desirable for increasing and furthering the practice of revaccination.

And your memorialists will ever pray.

(Signed on behalf of the North-Western Association of Medical Officers of Health),

EDWIN RAYNER, M.D., F.R.C.S., President,
FRANCIS VACHER, Hon. Sec.

100 King-street, Manchester, Feb. 23rd, 1885.

EXAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I should be glad to have an opinion of the value of Horsley's pyrogallic acid test in the determination of the presence of nitrates and nitrites in water. Wanklyn's method is no doubt the best, but takes too much money and time in rural districts, where every other house has its own well, and sanitary pay is small. If there are any grave objections to Horsley's process, I should be thankful to be informed where I can get a description of any other simple process of water examination which will supplement the silver test and the microscope.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Feb. 21st, 1885.

RURAL HEALTH OFFICER.

* * We have never used the method above referred to, and doubt its trustworthiness. Of satisfactory processes, the simplest is the brucine process, described in *The Analyst*, vol. vi. It must be remembered that the presence of nitrates and chlorine is a very fallacious guide. The determination of albuminoid ammonia cannot be dispensed with unless the much more difficult combustion process is used. It is a good plan to keep the water in a warm place, loosely covered, for several days. If bacteria and bacilli increase greatly, there must be some suitable pabulum for them in the water.—ED. L.

LIVERPOOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE LIVERPOOL MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

THE members of the profession in this city are fortunate in the possession of their medical institution. Formed in 1837 by the amalgamation of the Medical Society and the Medical Library, it now numbers 185 members, 24 associates, and 4 honorary members. It has its own buildings, erected in 1873 on a central and very convenient site granted by the Corporation, who also gave £1000 towards the building, the remainder being provided by the donations of members and their friends. The meetings are held on alternate Thursdays during the winter months, and are well attended. So large a city as this, with its numerous hospitals and dispensaries, furnishes an unlimited amount of material for interesting papers, cases, and discussions, while the numerous pathological specimens shown by members form an additional

feature of interest. The microscopical section of the institution, which was formed some years ago, meets on alternate Fridays, and has proved a most valuable adjunct to it. At the annual meeting held last month it was resolved to admit at a reduced subscription members of the profession residing beyond a radius of ten miles. It is believed that this will enhance greatly the benefits of the institution, and its members present and prospective. The library contains nine thousand volumes.

HYDROPHOBIA.

Recently there have been several cases of persons having been bitten by dogs, apparently mad, in the streets. One case, that of a boy, terminated fatally with all the symptoms of hydrophobia. There would in all probability have been more fatal cases had it not been for the bravery of a police constable, who pursued and killed the savage animal, and was warmly commended for his courageous conduct by the county coroner and jury at the inquest. In the course of a year several cases of police officers bitten by dogs came under the notice of the police surgeons. The danger is a very real one, and it is very important that means should be taken to prevent it.

DEATHS OF CHILDREN FROM OVERLAYING.

This city has an unenviable notoriety for the large number of children who are annually suffocated while in bed with their parents, one or both of whom have gone to sleep in a more or less drunken condition. The majority of these cases occur on Saturday and Sunday nights, days which are still devoted to drinking by too many of the lower orders, notwithstanding the advance of temperance among all classes. Many efforts have been made to prevent this wholesale slaughter of children, but without avail. Fifteen years ago a jury, acting under the guidance of the borough coroner (Mr. Clarke Aspinall), returned a verdict of manslaughter against the parents of a child who was found dead in bed with them. The case was a very aggravated one, it being proved that the parents, who were both intoxicated, went to bed in the afternoon, and, though remonstrated with, insisted upon having the child with them. They were committed for trial upon the coroner's warrant, but the grand jury threw out the bill. More recently, in a case little if any less shocking, the parents were committed for trial by both the coroner and the stipendiary magistrate. A true bill was found, but the case ended in an acquittal. It is clearly impossible to draw the line between crime and accident in these cases in the present state of the law.

THE LOCK HOSPITAL.

The clinical lectures delivered by Dr. Bernard during the first part of the winter session were resumed by Mr. F. W. Lowndes after the Christmas recess. They have now been replaced by clinical demonstrations in the male wards, which are given every Saturday at 12.15 P.M., and are greatly appreciated by the students. The wards have been very full lately, and both surgeons have excellent opportunities of pointing out to the clinical class all the various appearances in primary and secondary syphilis. Cases of tertiary syphilis are much more rare than they were in this hospital twenty years ago, when it was not uncommon to see several cases at a time in a very severe form, both in the male and female wards. A case of sloughing ulcer, involving the whole of the prepuce, was recently admitted under Dr. Bernard, and has done remarkably well. Iodoform in fine powder was found very useful in this as in previous cases, partly to promote healing and also as a deodoriser.

THE EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.

The retirement of Mr. Stradford Walker from the acting to the consulting staff, and the resignation of Mr. Stone, the senior assistant surgeon, have made great changes in the surgical staff of this important charity. Mr. Edgar Browne, well and favourably known as a successful oculist, as well as for his work on the ophthalmoscope, becomes senior surgeon. His colleagues are Mr. Richard Williams, who has for some years done very useful work, first as assistant-surgeon, and subsequently as surgeon; and Mr. Charles George Lee, who has for seven years worked as assistant-surgeon. Mr. Shears, the late house-surgeon, now becomes senior assistant-surgeon, and the committee are inviting candidates to apply for the vacant office of assistant-surgeon. It is much to be regretted that the infirmary has lost the services of Mr. Stone, who has served it faithfully for some years as assistant-surgeon. The ophthalmoscopic demonstrations,