

start than when it has passed through several generations ; and the son, grandson, great-grandson, &c., claim one-half, one-quarter, one-eighth, &c., share of the original trouble. In a family with a hereditary taint of syphilis or phthisis the danger to the offspring decreases in proportion to the distance from the accidental lesion or "origo mali." Until we have some very cogent reason for believing that epilepsy obeys a totally different law, or that it is never the result of accidental lesions of the brain, in spite of Dr. Gowers' assertion that it is so, a physician should, in my opinion, hesitate to offer any hope of immunity to the progeny of an "accidental" epileptic.

Jan. 26th, 1897.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,
WILLIAM G. THISTLE.

THE BARIUM WATER OF LLANGAMMARCH WELLS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The use of barium as a therapeutic agent has been lately brought before the profession and attention has been drawn in the columns of THE LANCET¹ to a mineral spring (containing that metal in solution) at Llangammarch Wells, Breconshire. I need only remind your readers that the above spring contains about six and a half grains of barium chloride per gallon, besides chlorides of sodium, calcium, and magnesium. It is claimed that its action is similar to that of digitalis, acting as a tonic to the cardiac muscle, steadying the pulse and increasing its volume. While staying at Llangammarch during the season of 1896 I had a number of cases of cardiac disease under my care ; from these I select the following as a type amongst others recommended by Dr. Lauder Brunton for the course of treatment there.

A young man, aged twenty-four years, was first seen by me on July 31st. His previous history was good ; he had never suffered from acute rheumatism, but had had scarlet fever when a child. He was always fond of athletics, had rowed a good deal at school, but not much since. In 1895 he was in Switzerland, and thinks he over-exerted himself in climbing. His present trouble was first noticed in February, 1896, when he complained of attacks of palpitation, which were especially marked after ascending stairs and after smoking cigarettes, of which he consumed a considerable number. He used alcohol in moderation. His digestion had not been good. On examination he was found to be a well-built, muscular man. The chest was of a good shape, the apex beat of the heart was not distinctly felt, but percussion of the area of cardiac dulness showed that it was enlarged slightly to the left. Upon auscultation no murmur was audible, but after exertion (as running round the room) a systolic murmur was heard which was conducted outwards. The pulse was sixty per minute, of good volume, but irregular, there being from four to six intermissions per minute. The urine was normal.

The treatment adopted was as follows. He was directed to keep in the fresh air as much as possible, not to climb hills or exert himself in any way. He was strictly dieted and not allowed tobacco or alcohol. He was ordered a glass of barium water thrice daily and barium baths were administered three or four times a week. The latter varied in duration from five to twenty minutes and in temperature from 95° to 85° F. He was also advised to take walks daily up a sloping path about 300 yards in length, having an incline of 1 in 6, stopping every few yards for a rest. With the exception of an attack of indigestion his progress was very steady. I found that while immersed in the bath the pulse fell from four to six beats per minute, while the volume increased. This effect was maintained for some hours afterwards. The gentle exercise on the sloping path did not increase the frequency of the pulse. He soon entirely ceased to have any palpitation, and on Aug. 24th I found that although there was no change in the area of cardiac dulness, yet the pulse was much more regular, that the intermissions had diminished considerably, and that the murmur was not audible even after running up two flights of stairs. On my return to London in October I found my patient still free from palpitation, and he informed me that he had had considerable bicycle riding without experiencing any ill effect.

The above results appear to me to be due chiefly to the rest enjoined and the administration of the barium water. Llangammarch seems to me to be especially well fitted for the treatment of such cases, for, in addition to possessing the

barium springs, it is situated in a pleasant valley, has a most invigorating air, and is quiet and free from excursionists.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

W. BLACK JONES, M.D., B.S. Lond., D.P.H.

Jan. 30th, 1897.

PROPOSED TESTIMONIAL TO PROFESSOR CAMPBELL BLACK.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—As a mark of the esteem in which Professor Campbell Black is held by practitioners who sympathise with his views on professional matters, and who are specially indebted to him for his recent candidature for the Direct Representation for Scotland upon the General Medical Council, the following committee of subscribers has been formed with a view to presenting him with a testimonial, which it is proposed should consist of his portrait in oils :—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
J. McKim, M.D. Glasg.	5	0	0	J. F. Sutherland, M.D.			
Sir Henry Littlejohn,				Edin.	0	10	0
M.D. Edin.	1	1	0	A. MacDonald, L.R.C.P.			
R. Grieve, F.F.P.S.				Edin.	1	1	0
Glasg.	1	0	0	J. F. Stevenson, L.R.C.P.			
Joseph Bell, M.D. Edin.	1	1	0	Edin.	1	1	0
J. Maxwell, M.D. Glasg.,				D. Cowie, M.B. Glasg.			
Tobermory	0	10	0	J. C. Woodburn, M.D.			
Jas. Dunlop, M.D. Edin.	1	1	0	Glasg.	1	1	0
J. Erskine, M.B. Glasg.	2	2	0	Angus Macphie, M.D.			
R. MacNab, M.D. Glasg.,				Glasg.	1	1	0
Brighton	1	1	0	W. MacDonald, L.R.C.P.			
D. Moffat, M.B. Glasg.	0	10	6	Edin.	0	10	0
G. R. Fortune, L.R.C.P.				G. Yeaman, M.D. Glasg.	1	1	0
Edin.	1	1	0	J. Provan, M.D. Glasg.	1	1	0
H. Murray, F.F.P.S.				D. R. Cameron, L.D.S.			
Glasg.	1	1	0	F.P.S. Glasg.	1	1	0

Subscriptions have also been received from a number of lay friends. We beg to bring the proposal under the notice of practitioners who may be inclined to support it and shall be glad to receive and acknowledge subscriptions.

We are, Sirs, yours faithfully,

JAMES ERSKINE, M.B. Glasg.,

351, Bath-street ;

D. MACLACHLAN, Solicitor,

33, Renfield-street,

D. FORTUNE, J.P.,

84, Wilson-street,

Honorary
Secretaries.

Honorary
Treasurer.

Glasgow, Feb. 8th, 1897.

LORD LISTER AND HIS FORMER PUPILS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In common with many others I think the elevation of our old and revered teacher, Sir Joseph Lister, Bart., to the Peerage should not be allowed to pass without his former pupils in London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow having an opportunity of showing their appreciation of the honour by giving him a complimentary banquet. No doubt the committee of the Graduates' Testimonial would act also in this matter, and in the meantime I shall be glad to receive the names of those who favour the idea.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

GEORGE ELDER.

17, Regent-street, Nottingham, Feb. 8th, 1897.

HEALTH OF TROOPS IN INDIA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Would you kindly allow me to state in THE LANCET that a lecture will be given, followed by a discussion, at the United Service Institution, on Friday, Feb. 19th, at 3 P.M., on the Result of Abolishing the Contagious Diseases Acts in India and other foreign stations? We shall be glad if gentlemen will attend, especially those of the medical profession, who may have had experience of India.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Piccadilly, W., Feb. 10th, 1897.

R. L. DASHWOOD.

"THE SANITARY STATE OF THE ARMY IN INDIA."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It is to be hoped that your leading article in THE LANCET of Jan. 30th on the spread of syphilis in the Indian

¹ THE LANCET, Nov. 24th, Dec. 1st, 1894, and June 4th, 1896.