

therapeutic effects. Chlor-albumin is prepared by largely diluting white of egg with water, faintly acidified with acetic acid, filtering from precipitated globulin, &c., and then passing through the solution a stream of chlorine gas until an excess is present. The precipitate is filtered off, washed, and dialysed till as free as possible from uncombined chlorine, and then contains the halogen in definite combination.¹ To determine the amount of chlorine in the chlor-albumin this compound is heated in a sealed tube with nitric acid and nitrate of silver to 250° C. 0.2410 gramme treated in this manner gave 0.0625 AgCl = 6.41 per cent. Cl.² Such a process is hardly consistent with the view that the proposed remedy "readily yields up" its chlorine. If, however, it does so (and the potassium iodide and starch test would settle the matter) we have a valuable addition to our resources. If, on the other hand, the chlorine only exists in "definite combination" in the chlor-albumin I should fear that the compound is not more useful either as a bactericidal or therapeutic agent than NaCl or common salt, in which compound the chlorine also exists in "definite combination."

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Cambridge, Nov. 26th, 1904. P. W. LATHAM.

THE FUTURE SUPPLY OF MIDWIVES.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In urging the necessity for a sufficient supply of midwives under the new Act the danger of the excessive supply should be borne in mind. I learn from Italian colleagues that in this country the supply of legally qualified midwives exceeds greatly the demand and that in consequence the old adage that Satan finds occupation for idle hands is illustrated painfully. It is quite common for batches of midwives to be brought up for trial charged separately with the procuring of abortion. It will be well if care be taken in England to avoid this undesirable condition of affairs not only by limiting the supply of midwives but also by a careful selection of women suitable for the training.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
Florence, Nov. 28th, 1904. LAING GORDON, M.D. Edin.

PROLONGED UTERO-GESTATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I have been much interested in reading the letters in THE LANCET of cases where pregnancy has been prolonged over the normal period. I send the following case from my notes of 1902. On May 21st I was called to see Mrs. A. who believing herself pregnant for the fifth time wanted me to attend her. She informed me that menstruation ceased on Jan. 6th. I examined her and found her about four months pregnant and informed her that about Oct. 15th would be the date of delivery. She quickened on May 30th. She had an attempt at labour that month—October—and in November but the pains were slight and passed off. They commenced again on Dec. 9th, going on fitfully till Thursday night, when they became stronger, and the baby, a male, was born, at 2 o'clock on Friday morning, Dec. 13th. The child was a quaint, monkey-like creature with thick eyebrows, looking like a miniature old man. If we take the cessation of her last period as a guide this gives a total of 340 days' gestation.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
JAMES DUNBAR-BRUNTON, M.B., C.M. Edin.
Leatherhead, Nov. 28th, 1904.

AMBULANCE DOGS IN WARFARE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In view of the scepticism of one of your annotators as to the use of ambulance dogs I think the following disproves his remarks (see *Daily Mirror*, Oct. 7th, 1904, *U.S. Gazette*, and other papers). Captain Persidsky of the late Count Keller's staff writes: "In finding the wounded men with which the millet fields are strewn nothing has succeeded like our seven dogs. Their intelligence, especially the English bred ones, is extraordinary. During the last fight 23 men lying in unsuspected spots were found in this way," &c. The chief duty of the ambulance dog is to find the missing and wounded. What they carry is of minor

importance. Anybody who knows anything about dogs knows how invaluable a dog is in tracking a poacher, or looking for a dead body or lost person, as we use collies for tracking wounded deer in the forests.

A really reliable retriever is cheap at £25, as all shooting men know, as he soon saves his cost in the game he recovers, and perhaps a soldier values his life at a little more than £25. My dogs were thoroughly tested by Sir Charles Tucker, K.C.B., Commanding Forces in Scotland, at Stobs camp this year, who recommended their adoption by the War Office. I see the *Field* of this week endorses his opinion.

In conclusion, I may add that in Germany not only the regular troops have ambulance dogs but the volunteer medical staff corps, Sanitäts-Kolonnen, and Sanitäts-Abtheilungen, and I am quite content to submit to the opinion of the Kaiser as regards dogs for military purposes, as he is a thorough sportsman and soldier.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
E. HAUTDEVILLE RICHARDSON, F.Z.S.
Nov. 29th, 1904. (Major, late 45th Regiment.)

THE LATE PROFESSOR FINSSEN OF COPENHAGEN: INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Lupus is a terrible disease. For centuries it has scourged humanity and defied medical science. Suddenly a remedy was discovered—by a dying man. He knew perfectly well that he was dying but with unflinching courage he devoted every available hour of his life to the researches which ended almost simultaneously in his triumph and his grave. The efforts of this remarkable man—the late Professor Finsen of Copenhagen—were not only national, they were directed to ameliorate the sufferings of all mankind. In this country his methods were sustained and encouraged by the direct support of Her Majesty the Queen who herself presented to the London Hospital a complete set of lamps, &c. In the last year of his life he was granted the Nobel prize, but he, a poor man, refused more than quite a small amount and devoted the rest to his institute.

A movement has been initiated in Denmark for the erection of a monument to the late Professor Finsen by national subscription and a committee has been appointed to carry that proposal into effect. It has been thought that many members of the medical profession and of the public—including patients—outside Denmark would be anxious to join in doing honour to the memory of a man who has worked so splendidly and unselfishly for his fellow men.

At the request of the Danish committee a British committee has been formed for the furtherance of the scheme. The British committee has been graciously permitted to announce that donations of £50 from His Majesty the King and of £100 from Her Majesty the Queen have been received.

Subscriptions may be paid to the Finsen Memorial Fund at the National Provincial Bank, 112, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.

We are, Sirs, your obedient servants,

SYDNEY HOLLAND.
FRANCIS LAKING.
FREDERICK TREVES.
MALCOLM MORRIS.

Nov. 31st, 1904.

CHLOROFORM ANÆSTHESIA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—You published last week an abstract of a paper communicated by me to the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society. I should feel obliged if you would kindly amplify it by the following note upon the chloroform inhaler. The instrument is designed to maintain a constant percentage of chloroform vapour despite fluctuations in the strength of the respirations. Up to a 2 per cent. vapour value this principle is effected automatically by reason of the disposition of the long connecting tube between the chloroform and the air apertures and the consequent introduction of viscosity effects. Over 2 per cent. this automatic compensation fails, and the same result is attained by the occasional adjustment of the compensating slit, the adjustment being regulated according to the force of the inspiration, which is indicated on the valve scale. Furthermore, the chloroform container is so constructed as to be rigidly fixed to a

¹ Journal of Physiology, vol. xxii., pp. 191 and 185.

² Loc. cit., pp. 187 and 192.