

perature 100.2°. I applied the medicament to the fundus and cervix as before, but did not leave any in contact with the latter. During the following two days she remained so well that I did not repeat the application, but on the third day the temperature had again risen to 103°. A cautious application to the cervix on this and the following day of only one minute's duration sufficed to check the pyrexia effectually and finally, and the patient made an excellent recovery.

Both Wood and Bartholow state that carbolic acid has been extensively used in diphtheria, scarlet fever, &c., but with disappointing results. It seems, however, to have been used only with a view to an antizymotic action, and probably in doses much too small to exercise an antipyretic influence. Both authors cite the results obtained by Emil Eris, who found that in mild putrid poisoning in animals the acid very much diminished the fever heat. After my experience of the above case, I felt a strong conviction that to produce an effective antipyretic action with the drug it was only necessary to administer it in sufficient doses. Two cases of typhoid shortly afterwards occurred in my practice, in children of one family, the first of which, however, I did not see till the case was well advanced. In the second case—a boy of fourteen years—the following notes were taken: On Aug. 3rd, several days from the commencement of the fever, the pulse was 120; respiration 28; temperature 104.6°. Ordered four grains of carbolic acid (in the form of carbolic glycerine, suitably diluted) every four hours, equal to twenty-four grains in twenty-four hours. On Aug. 5th, when the patient was next visited, and at nearly the same hour of the day as before, the temperature was 102.6°; pulse 110. On the 7th the temperature had fallen to 99.7°, and the pulse was 96. The patient had taken the acid regularly, and there was intense carboluria, the urine becoming so dark when rendered alkaline and exposed to the air that it required dilution with twice its volume of water before it became translucent in an inch test-tube. The drug was now discontinued for two days, and on the 9th the temperature had risen to 103.2°; pulse 108. He was again ordered three grains of the acid every four hours (eighteen grains in twenty-four hours), and on the 11th he felt much better, the temperature being 101.6°; pulse 94. He made a good recovery, and throughout the case he was remarkably comfortable, generally showing a tendency to somnolence after each dose of the acid, and presenting a marked contrast to his sister, who had gone through the fever before him.

Simultaneously with the above case I had under observation another boy of the same age, whose temperature, in spite of the administration of the same doses of the drug for several days, remained steadily at 103.2° and 103.4°. On examining the urine, however, there was not the slightest carboluria, and great was the surprise of patient and nurse (an indulgent sister) when I told them that the former had not taken a drop of the medicine, and that both had conspired to deceive me.

I have obtained beneficial results from the acid in other conditions attended with pyrexia, and can say that I have never seen a bad symptom from its use. In a severe case of erysipelas, with great pain and sleeplessness, it seemed to have both an anodyne and hypnotic influence, a good sleep being generally secured by a dose of five grains at bedtime. It seems to me that it would be of some importance from a scientific point of view to test more thoroughly than has yet been done the antipyretic action of carbolic acid before having recourse to the more complex substance, salol, whose efficiency in the same direction probably depends on the 38 per cent. of phenol which it contains.

I am, Sirs, yours truly.

Partick, Glasgow, Oct. 10th, 1887.

ROBERT KIRK, M.D.

VENTILATION OF THE BEDS OF THE SICK.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In the Cambridge (Mass.) Hospital there is an arrangement for the ventilation of the beds not generally known; it is so effective that I wish to describe it. Beneath each bed is a ventilating tube of about eight inches diameter, fifty square inches area, leading directly through the floor to a foul air trunk, beneath which it communicates with the main ventilating chimney. About 2000 cubic feet of air an hour is thus drawn from beneath each bed. This ventilating tube is connected with the bed above by a four-inch pipe of tinned plate, with a proper cover and joints, which passes around the side or

foot of the bed and into it beneath the clothing. This pipe is lengthened with one of the same size of pasteboard or other substance, a non-conductor of heat, reaching to any part of the bed. By this simple means foul air is removed as fast as formed, the bed kept free from odour, and the patient's body is no longer surrounded with contaminating gases. As the air presses inwards through the porous bed-clothing none escapes into the ward. Further, a two-inch flexible pipe is adjusted to that just described, and slipped over the hollow handle of the bed-pan when in use, carrying off odour from that also. In the same hospital similar means connect the beds in the private wards with the chimney of an ordinary fireplace, up which the pipe reaches about four feet to ensure a good draught with a moderate fire; the part in the chimney is of black iron. The advantages of such an arrangement in cases of sloughs, foul ulcers, cancers, and in fevers with frequent faecal dejections, are obvious. It may be supposed that the passage of air through the bed would cool it too much. Practically it does not; probably the quantity of air passing is about the same as in beds ordinarily at the same temperature of the room, but in a different direction.—I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.

MORRILL WYMAN, M.D.

VACCINATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—The correspondence which appeared a few weeks since on the subject of vaccination induces me to send you a piece of evidence, which I have not seen recorded, but which, if borne out by the experience of others, forms a further proof that the protection afforded by vaccination varies in degree according to its character—namely, that a child vaccinated by one insertion can on the eighth day be further vaccinated from its single vesicle in three or more places; whereas if an attempt be made with a child having three vesicles at the same period to produce a fourth, it will not be successful. I have verified these experiments many times, under the first conditions with universal success, but always failing under the latter. One other fact worthy of mention is that, in cases in which fresh insertions are successfully made on the eighth day, the new vesicles mature a day or two earlier than in ordinary primary vaccinations, while the progress of the first vesicle towards scabbing is somewhat retarded.

I am, Sirs, yours truly,

Old-street, E.C., Nov. 7th, 1887.

G. E. YARROW.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—My attention has this day been called to a paragraph in the letter of your Birmingham correspondent of Nov. 5th. From what he there says, it is obvious that the "halfpenny evening paper" to which he refers forms his sole reading, since the advertisement mentioned appeared according to general custom, in all the daily papers of this town, morning and evening, as also in the *British Medical Journal* and in your own advertiser. This misrepresentation coming from a special correspondent is quite inexcusable, and shows a very obvious animus against this College. I may add that the election of no candidate is "assured" until the council has confirmed it, as your correspondent ought, from past experience, very well to know. I trust that you will do me the favour of inserting this letter in your next issue, as the insinuations made against this College are both unfounded and unwarranted, and are likely to damage its reputation if not promptly contradicted.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

BERTRAM C. A. WINDLE, M.A., M.D.,
Prof. of Anat. & Hon. Sec. Queen's Coll.

Nov. 9th, 1887.

AN UNSUSPECTED DANGER.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—A few days since, a lady, the head of a first-class school, showed me a large heap of filthy rags, cloth, and rubbish which had been taken from the inside of a number of bolsters and pillows, which had been unpicked for the purpose of the periodical cleaning and remaking which all