

since the Crimean war the physique and morale of the recruit have deteriorated; that, consequently—and to a marked extent of late years—the men are incapable of resisting in the same measure the various prejudicial influences to which they are subjected either by military duty or by evil propensities.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

FRED. ROBINSON, M.D.,
Scots Fusilier Guards.

Claverton-terrace, St. George's-road, S.W.

THE UTERUS OF HARRIET LANE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me to correct one mistake in your report of the "Note on the Post-mortem Diagnosis of a Nulliparous Uterus" which I read at the last meeting of the Obstetrical Society. The measurement of this uterus at the fundus was not one inch and three-quarters in width, but one inch and a third.

Again: It was not from the special character of this particular uterus that I thought it impossible to form a positive opinion with regard to the existence of a previous pregnancy, but because I hold that to be a general rule. My contention at the late trial was that there was no *proof* of a previous pregnancy; but that, on the contrary, so far as appearances went, the uterus indicated rather the opposite. I am generally credited by the newspapers with having given a positive opinion that this uterus had not borne a child; whereas, the only positive opinion I gave was that no one could tell whether it had or not; but I inclined to the opinion that this had not, and I gave reasons which, in the present state of our knowledge on the subject, I believe are fairly warranted, especially in a doubtful case where issues of life and death are involved.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

George-st., Hanover-sq., Dec. 1875.

ALFRED MEADOWS.

SANITARY CONDITION OF UPPINGHAM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I am desired by the Sanitary Authority of the Uppingham district to forward you the subjoined report of their medical officer and engineer for publication.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM H. BROWN,

Uppingham, 8th December, 1875.

Clerk to the said Authority.

REPORT

"To the Chairman and Members of the Rural Sanitary Authority of Uppingham.

"GENTLEMEN,—Hearing that the masters of the Uppingham School will probably meet on Friday next, when we presume they will take into consideration the re-opening of the school, we deem it our duty, as the reports we are preparing are not finished, to present an interim statement.

"We find that the condition of several of the school-houses is such as to necessitate material alterations in their sanitary arrangements. With a view to facilitate such alterations Mr. Rogers Field, your engineer, has, in accordance with your resolution, placed himself in communication with Mr. Tarbotton, engineer to the schoolmasters, and he has every reason to believe that means are being taken by the school authorities to expedite the necessary works. Until, however, these are completely carried out, so as to enable us to report to you that each individual house in connexion with the school is in a perfect sanitary condition, we think it desirable that you should not in any way countenance a premature return of the scholars.

"We are, gentlemen, your obedient servants,

"ALFRED HAVILAND,

Medical Officer of Health to the Rural Sanitary Authority of Uppingham;

"ROGERS FIELD,

Civil Engineer.

"4th December, 1875."

THE WHITECHAPEL MURDER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I see by your leading article in reference to the above case that you say "the witnesses relied entirely upon the evidence afforded by the wisdom teeth" to determine

the age. In justice to myself I think it right to say that I specially examined the ossification of the several parts of the sternum, as well as the *dentes sapientie*, in order to assist me in arriving at the probable age, which I gave as *about* twenty-five years.

Again you say—"It is certainly surprising that neither side made any attempt to demonstrate the presence or absence of *lineæ albicantes* upon the abdomen." This, too, is a mistake; and I am quite sure you will be amused by the observation from the Lord Chief Justice in reference to my evidence on this point, that he did "not see what that had to do with it!" It is not my fault that other very important evidence was not given, which would go very far to establish, beyond any reasonable doubt, the fact of pregnancy. I tried to confine my observations closely to the exact questions put to me. Suffice it to say, that I had taken care to give my reasons fully in my reports to the prosecution, and in reply to my observation thereon, Sir John Holker said, "there was ample evidence," or something to that effect—as proved by the result of the trial. I have been requested by several persons to report my evidence as to pregnancy *in extenso*, which I will do. I believe my colleague in this case, Mr. Bond, has promised to send you a report.

Yours truly,

F. G. LARKIN.

Trinity-square, Southwark, S.E., December, 4th, 1875.

BIRMINGHAM.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE scheme propounded for the sanitary improvement of the town by the adoption of the Labourers and Artisans' Dwellings Act, to which attention was called in a previous article, is about to be increased in magnitude and importance. At their last meeting, the Town Council decided, on the recommendation of Dr. Hill, the medical officer of health, to deal with a large district contiguous to that already scheduled, and comprising not less than fifty acres of land. Narrow streets, close courts, houses built back to back, insufficient space, dilapidation, and bad drainage, combine to make this part of the town very unhealthy. While the average death-rate of the borough last year was 26.78, the death-rate in some of the streets in the proscribed area was 54, and in one street reached the frightfully high ratio of 73 per 1000. The proposal to extend the scheme originally suggested will involve a great outlay, but I believe that in the long run it will prove, as at Glasgow, to be a financial success, while the benefits it will confer on the town as a sanitary reform are simply incalculable. Dirt, drunkenness, disease, and death are costly companions, and they will not be banished from the town until the working classes have healthy homes, better education, and more rational sources of enjoyment and pleasure than the public-house and the liquor vault now afford them. Schools established under the Education Act are already raising the intellectual standard of the rising generation, but these will fail in their aim if the children are brought up in dirty houses and in squalid streets and alleys, and have not their physical condition also considered in the establishment of more numerous and extensive play and recreation grounds, at which the sports and pastimes that encourage the growth of healthy muscle and bone can be indulged in.

The Committee of the Midland Medical Institute have arranged with the authorities of Queen's College to occupy some of their rooms at a rental of £200 a year. It is far better that the medical reference library should be located here than at any place at a distance from the medical school. Students as well as teachers will alike benefit by the proposed arrangement.

The periodical collections for the Queen's Hospital in the various churches and chapels of Birmingham have this year realised over £5700, a larger sum than has ever before been collected on Hospital Sunday, and a sufficient answer to those who urged that the adoption of the "free system" would diminish the number of friends and supporters of the charity.

The late Mr. George Allarton, whose obituary you gave last week, was much respected in this town by many of the