

which on being taken out caused a most disagreeable stench. Worse still, dried fish for the native sailors was packed under the wards, and only discovered by the surgeon-in-chief perceiving the smell when making an inspection.

The number of sick made sanitary efforts most pressingly necessary. With this view the boards of the sick decks were daily well swept, cleaned, and sprinkled with carbolic acid and water, half a bottle of the red acid to a bucket of water; while day and night the vapour of carbolic acid was continuously produced by the following means: sand impregnated with carbolic acid dissolved in alcohol, in the proportion of eight ounces to ten pounds of sand, was sprinkled over the floor, and from this a constant exhalation of carbolic acid took place. All soiled dressings and excreta were at once disinfected and disposed of, and every attention paid to cleaning the clothes of the wounded.

For the disposal of the dead from the hospital-ship the body was wound round with 25 lb. of old iron chain, enclosed in canvas, and dropped into the sea. This was preferred to shot, as the latter sank to the bottom of the bag, which, by friction against the coral reefs, was quickly cut through; the shot then fell out, and the body floated. As it was no corpse ever came to the surface by Atcheen.

Return of Sick and Wounded.

Sick: 542 (proportion to strength, 15·8 per cent.); of these 27 died, being about 5 per cent.—Wounded: 50 killed (proportion to strength, 1·4 per cent.); 421 wounded (proportion to strength, 12·8 per cent.) Of their wounds 33 died, being less than 8 per cent.

The relative frequency of sword wounds to shot wounds was as 15 per cent. to 81 per cent.

The 421 wounded received in all 487 wounds, which, as regards the part of the body injured, were as follows:—

	Per cent.	Actual number.
Head wounded ...	12·7	62
Face ...	9·6	47
Throat and neck ...	2·6	13
Breast and back ...	7·8	38
Abdomen and loins ...	2·8	14
Pelvis ...	3·6	18
Upper extremity ...	34·4	168
Lower extremity ...	25·9	127

Of sickness superadded to wounds 6 died. 487

On the whole the treatment of the wounded was most successful, since, out of 421, only 33 (7·8 per cent.) died. Of those which proved fatal, 7 were breast wounds, 5 head, 1 abdomen, 3 knee, all of which were penetrating.

The most remarkable fact connected with this expedition was the total absence of typhus fever and pyæmia from their hospitals up to the time of their return to Batavia. "Notwithstanding the overcrowding of the hospital-ship with severely wounded, some of whom suppurated profusely, neither at Atcheen nor up to the re-arrival in Batavia had anyone died of pyæmia." The reasons for this exemption were recognised by the surgeon-in-chief in the care for ventilation, the scrupulous cleanliness of the places for the wounded on the decks, the plentiful supply of food, and the attention paid to dressings, which were changed many times a day when required. Also the three several evacuations of the wounded contributed to the happy result.

The operations performed were in all eleven:—*Disarticulations*: 1 left arm (died of exhaustion after healing of the wound; was an opium-eater); 1 right arm; 2 fingers.—*Amputations*: 2 left arm and 2 right arm (2 died); 2 right thigh (1 died of pyæmia in hospital at Batavia, 1 died of secondary hæmorrhage); 1 forearm.

By deducting the three cases which ended fatally under special circumstances a successful operative result is claimed, but the paucity of operations would testify rather to the fortunate issue of conservative treatment.

The Atchinese used their tulwars with great effect; in many cases the skull was cut through and the brain exposed. In one instance four fingers were cut off, in another a hand, and in a third both bones of the leg were severed without splintering, at one blow. The projectiles of the Atchinese were chiefly leaden, with a piece of porcelain or coral inside.

The best evidence of the sanitary success of this expedition is afforded by the detail of inward illnesses, of which only 187 cases were admitted during the whole campaign,

and but five of these died. Fevers, however, increased to a considerable extent during the return voyage to Batavia, yet were for the most part of a mild type. Diarrhoea and dysentery, which have ever previously been the certain accompaniments of such undertakings, were almost entirely absent, and the few cases that did occur were especially amenable to treatment.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

MEDICAL EXPERTS IN THE DAILY PRESS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—THE LANCET has so consistently condemned the practice of medical men rushing into the daily press, that I venture to ask your attention to an instance which appeared in *The Times* of yesterday under the sensational heading "Homicidal Lunacy":—"I have received," writes Dr. L. S. F. Winslow, "through the courtesy of one of the leading lunacy authorities in Scotland, formerly a Commissioner in Lunacy, full details of 'the Cambuslang murder' to express an opinion on, and I trust you will allow me to do so in *The Times*."

It is apparent that my old friend, Dr. W. A. F. Browne, is here indicated. I cannot for an instant believe—as this extract would imply—that he ever thought of seeking the opinion of Dr. Winslow on a difficult psychological question; still less that he sanctioned this appeal to the public through *The Times*, on a matter of life or death at the moment under the consideration of the Home Secretary. As a writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette* the same evening remarked, this letter should have formed the subject of a private representation to Mr. Cross.

But what I wish now to notice is the rashness—excusable only on the plea of youthful inexperience—which has led Dr. Winslow thus to constitute himself the judge of a difficult medico-legal case, which he has neither seen nor examined. It is really too absurd. "Sancta simplicitas," says Mephistopheles, "bezeugt nur ohne viel zu wissen." "I do not see," writes Dr. Winslow, "how there can be two opinions in the case"—my own sentiment precisely with regard to the presumption which dictated this letter in *The Times*.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

London, September 25th, 1875.

F. R. C. P.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Dr. L. S. Forbes Winslow's letter to *The Times* of the 24th instant about the Cambuslang murder opens with a statement which is—doubtless unintentionally—misleading, and which I should be glad to have an opportunity of correcting. He says that "the full details" of that murder have been received by him through "the courtesy of one of the leading lunacy authorities in Scotland, formerly a Commissioner in Lunacy, to express an opinion on." As my father, Dr. W. A. F. Browne, is the only ex-Commissioner in Lunacy in Scotland, it must be he to whom Dr. Forbes Winslow refers. I am in a position to state that he sent to Dr. Forbes Winslow a newspaper containing the report of the trial, but that he did not request any judgment thereon. He ventured to form his own opinion of the case without any extraneous assistance.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

West Riding Asylum, Wakefield,
Sept. 29th, 1875.

J. CRICHTON BROWNE.

ALBINOS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—A remarkable case of the existence of four albinos in one family has recently fallen under my observation, which, with your permission, I should like to place upon record.

They are all children, of the ages of twelve, nine, four, and two respectively, three of them being of the male sex,

and are typical specimens of their class; one description, therefore, will serve for all—viz.: The eyes present the well-known waving or restless condition of the muscles of the orbit, but are not so intolerant of light as in most cases. The pupils are of average diameter, and of a deep pink colour of great purity. The hair is of the softest texture, like the finest floss silk, and of the most exquisitely white and silvery colour, being luxuriant in its growth. The children, so far from exhibiting any of the mental deficiency noticed by some observers, appear to possess more than ordinary intelligence, and are well developed.

The parents are each thirty-seven years of age, and belong to the agricultural labourers; they are dark, swarthy people, and can offer no suggestion as to the cause of their children's peculiarity, there being no family history of the like on either side.

Other children not albinos have been born to them, and it is curious to note the order of succession. Thus, the first child was dark; second, albino; third, dark; fourth, albino; fifth, dark; sixth, dark; seventh, albino; eighth, albino; ninth, dark.

If any of your scientific readers would like to see them, they can be found at No. 96, Whitechapel-road.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

W. SEDGWICK SAUNDERS.

Queen-street, Cheapside, E.C., Sept. 29th, 1875.

AN AID TO THE OPERATION FOR STRANGULATED HERNIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Probably most surgeons who are familiar with the operation for the relief of strangulated hernia, in private practice, at night, have felt the want of skilled assistance in addition to that afforded by the practitioner whom they meet in consultation. This gentleman is fully occupied in the administration of an anæsthetic, whilst some friend of the patient is able at most to hold a candle. This need of additional help has been very frequently experienced by myself, and was also observed by Mr. Francis Toulmin, of Clapton, whom I met in consultation on the 19th ult. In discussing the subject we agreed that some kind of speculum, to hold apart the edges of the wound, would much avail. I have taken the most simple—i.e., the common eye speculum—as a pattern. This has been made for me, of stouter wire and of twice the ordinary size, by Messrs. Kröhne and Sesemann. I think some such device as this will prove very useful to the operator.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. F. MAUNDER,

Queen Anne-street, W., Sept. 21st. Surgeon to the London Hospital.

THE LATE DR. HUGHES BENNETT.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The lamented death of this distinguished physician induces me to remind his numerous old pupils that a bust of him was presented in August last to the University of Edinburgh.

The committee are anxious to present a replica to the new infirmary at its opening, and for this purpose a sum of £60 or £70 is still needed. Subscriptions will be gladly received by Dr. A. P. Stewart, 75, Grosvenor-street; Dr. Andrew Clark, 16, Cavendish-square; Dr. McKendrick, of Edinburgh, or by myself.

I am, &c.,

Great Charles-street, Birmingham.

LAWSON TAIT.

WINCHESTER SCHOOL.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg permission to correct some inaccuracies in that part of your Commissioner's report which refers to the dormitories and meals of the Winchester scholars. In addition to the old dormitories there are four modern ones, similar to those in the Master's boarding-houses for commoners. Only thirty-two scholars sleep in the old dormitories, some of which are no longer used as sleeping apartments. All the bedsteads are iron, the boys drink out of

tumblers and eat off plates; they have, in addition, wooden trenchers for their bread. I have known Winchester forty-five years, and never even heard of a boy drinking out of a "black-jack." I believe that specimens of "jacks" and trenchers are exhibited to visitors, hence, I presume, the error of your Commissioner.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

GODFREY B. LEE.

New College, Oxford, September 26th, 1875.

IRELAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE births registered in Dublin for the week ending 11th September amounted to 140, and the deaths to 144. The average numbers in the corresponding week of the previous ten years were—births 160, and deaths 155. The mortality from diarrhœa was 19; all of the fatal cases, except one, occurred in children. But two fatal cases of small-pox were registered in Dublin since 20th March last; none since 22nd May.

A good deal of objection continues to be urged in different quarters, for various reasons, against continuing to use the so-called "Dean Swift's Cabbage Garden" for interments. W. R. W. writes to the morning journals pointing out the error of calling the place in question "by the name it derived from the class of resurrectionists of former days." He states the proper name for this very ancient ecclesiastical enclosure was *Jardin des Capuchines*—the Garden of the Capuchins,—where a community of that order had an establishment. Dean Swift had no cabbage garden there, but owned an orchard, which has been alluded to in his writings, and which existed to the rear of the present Meath Hospital, in part of the locality formerly occupied by Keefe's Nursery. Many of the tombstones appear of considerable antiquity, the inscriptions being quite effaced by age. The date on one was 1685. Adjoining this graveyard, on the north, is a smaller one belonging to the descendants of the French Huguenots. There are at least two other small burial-grounds belonging to the same class in the south part of the city of Dublin. Intramural burial should be entirely forbidden; the presence of rather a severe form of autumnal diarrhœa ought to quicken a movement in this direction.

The Factory Acts Commissioners, Sir James Fergusson, Lord Frederick Cavendish, M.P., and the O'Connor Don, M.P., are at present sitting at the Shelbourne Hotel. Several witnesses made startling statements as to the existence in Dublin of the "sweating system." We have reason to believe that the pictures drawn by the witnesses are by no means over-coloured. It is to be hoped that the result of the labours of the Commissioners will tend to provide better workrooms for the many minor factories in Dublin, and that a system of compulsory education may be provided for the young. The state of the tenement houses and of the labouring classes generally in Dublin much needs improvement, without which physical and moral degradation can but progress.

A meeting of the Senate of the Queen's University was held at Dublin Castle on Wednesday, the 15th ult., at which the following examiners were appointed:—Benjamin G. McDowel, M.D., examiner in medicine; Anthony H. Corley, M.D., examiner in surgery; William Roe, M.D., examiner in midwifery; Charles F. Moore, M.D., examiner in materia medica; Matthias O'Keefe, M.A., M.D., examiner in medical jurisprudence.

Dublin, Tuesday, Sept. 21st, 1875.

DISEASED HORSES.—At the Lambeth Police-court lately a case was brought before the magistrate under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act. The landlord of a tavern in Brixton was summoned, at the instance of the Metropolitan Board of Works, for neglecting to give notice that he had in his possession a bay mare affected with glanders or farcy. It was proved that the animal never had been affected with either disease, and that the cause of its death was non-infectious fever. There was no other course left the bench than to dismiss the case.