

somewhat antagonistic to a much too generally accepted theory. It has usually been supposed that a deficiency of lime salts in the drinking water or in the food consumed, as, for example, in white bread, makes the teeth susceptible to dental caries. This I have maintained is, in an ordinary way, a quite untenable theory. Dr. Chalmers Watson's investigation seems to show that a meat diet peculiarly deficient in lime salts has little or no deleterious effect upon the teeth. Before claiming any support, however, from Dr. Chalmers Watson's investigation it would be very desirable to have from him a more extended statement of his observations and conclusions, for it would throw light on one of the most important and hotly debated questions in dental surgery and further information will, I am sure, be eagerly looked for. I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Wimpole-street, W., Dec. 31st, 1906.

J. SIM WALLACE.

### ICE ENEMATA.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In THE LANCET of Dec. 22nd, 1906, p. 1740, you have an annotation on a paper in the *Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps* by Captain M. F. Foulds, R.A.M.C., in which he draws attention to the good results following the use of ice enemata in cases of sunstroke. Captain Foulds suggests that this treatment might be beneficial in cases of pyrexia from other causes and for this I can vouch from personal experience. Some years ago I found that large cold enemata were most efficacious in cases of malarial pyrexia. Had I been able to obtain ice probably the benefit would have been even greater. I know nothing which so quickly reduces the temperature as a large cold-water enema, and the resulting free action of the bowels which often follows adds to the comfort and relief obtained. I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Harley-street, W., Dec. 28th, 1906.

R. U. MOFFAT.

### SOME PATHOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS OF EXTRA-UTERINE PREGNANCY.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—In case any of your readers found difficulty in distinguishing the relationships of the parts in Fig. 4 of my paper on extra-uterine pregnancy in your issue of Dec. 29th, I thought it wise to write and point out that the twin gestation may be more readily seen if the journal be held "upside down." The description in the text will be found to correspond to the view thus obtained, and the parts become much more distinct if a magnifying glass be used.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Glasgow, Dec. 29th, 1906.

S. CAMERON.

### THE INTRAMEATAL OPERATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—It is gratifying to find from a perusal of THE LANCET of Dec. 22nd that Mr. Macleod Yearsley is now in favour of the intrameatal operation in certain cases of middle ear disease. So much has been written and spoken by otologists against intrameatal operations that it has often been difficult to obtain a hearing for the advocacy of such measures, which my experience (500 otectomies) shows to be so successful in disinfecting the aural cavities. Mr. C. A. Ballance has said the intrameatal operation is dangerous and unsatisfactory. In none of my cases has a dangerous symptom arisen that could fairly be attributed to the operation. I have pointed out over and over again that it is most conservative of the hearing and Mr. Yearsley now admits as much.

Mr. Yearsley himself three years ago published an article in the *Medical Times* advocating the radical mastoid operation for 13 conditions of middle ear disease, and had then nothing to say in favour of the intrameatal operation. As the practical importance of the subject seemed to me so great I replied to his article and my criticism was published, in which I pointed out that many of the conditions referred to would be better dealt with by an otectomy. This term is, I think, preferable to that of ossiculectomy, for the removal of one or more ossicles is not the most important part of the operation. When, two years ago, I read a paper in Birmingham describing my method of removing the outer attic wall, some otologists present questioned its

possibility. I now see Mr. Yearsley is doing the same. It is, however, in my opinion not generally necessary, though a useful measure in some cases. I am glad that the methods I have so long advocated, in spite of a complete absence of encouragement from other otologists, should now receive distinguished endorsement, for it is by such methods that permanent relief can most easily be given to a multitude of sufferers from infected ears.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Dec. 30th, 1906.

F. FAULDER WHITE.

### FREE FEEDING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AT CANNES AND TOULON.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL SANITARY COMMISSIONER.)

Cannes.

OF all the winter stations on the Riviera none are so largely patronised by the British aristocracy as the town of Cannes. If the presence of rich people adds to the wealth of a town then the finances of the Cannes municipality should be in a prosperous condition. Nevertheless this town has shown but little concern for the feeding of its school children. Perhaps it will be urged that children are not so poor here as elsewhere but there is no evidence forthcoming to that effect. The wages paid at Cannes are not higher than in the neighbouring towns, yet the authorities are only just beginning to take the question of *cantines scolaires* into consideration. Indeed, the first endeavour to organise something of the sort was made by one of the teachers and not by the municipality. The most important schools at Cannes overlook the railway line close to the railway station. These are known as the Farrage schools, with 500 girls in one set of buildings and 400 boys in other buildings adjoining. In the Brocca and Croisette districts there are schools for 400 girls, and 300 boys have school accommodation in the Montchevallier, 150 in the Avocat, and 350 in other districts. Altogether some 2100 children frequent the primary schools of Cannes.

At the Farrage school for girls the head mistress noticed that some of the girls were suffering. They were cold and hungry. For the most part these children lived a long way from the school and what food they might bring with them was insufficient, cold, and cheerless. Thereupon the head mistress went to the municipality and asked whether she could have gas, saucepans, and a few plates. It was only a matter of a few pounds and assent was readily given. This was the beginning. A charge of 3d. per week of five days is made and for this a good bowl of hot vegetable soup is given. In this manner some 50 girls are fed every day. They all bring something with them which they eat with their soup or some pastry or chocolate to eat after the soup. All these girls come from a distance; none who live in the town are accepted, as these are sent home for their mid-day meal. Even this very small matter has given rise to complications, for it was difficult to find anyone to look after the girls while they had their mid-day meal. 50 girls require some waiting upon even though they only have a bowl of soup each and the teachers have to go to their own quarters to get their meals and their rest. In the boys' schools the masters refused to attend during meal time. There were many disputes over this matter. Finally it was resolved to pay a gendarme to be present, though it seemed absurd to bring in the strong arm of the law with sword, revolver, and cocked hat to distribute bowls of vegetable soup to children. Then the matter was further complicated by the fact that at the Farrage schools there were at least 30 children who were so absolutely poor as to be incapable of helping themselves in any way. Some clothes had to be given to these children and some books and also some food. A charitable institution known as the *Sou des Écoles* was already providing food in the infant or maternal schools for children whose parents could not pay. The municipality and this charitable organisation have both been helping in an irregular manner some of the children in the primary schools.

Evidently the whole question of the feeding of the school children is in an embryonic condition at Cannes. Nor does the existence of any widespread misery and destitution make itself felt. If it existed anywhere it would have been among the frequenters of the congregational schools—that is to say, the clerical schools established by religious orders. These schools were frequented by the children of Italian labourers