

work of Dr. Park and Dr. Williams. The method used in New York has been generally followed in the United States and high-grade preparations are everywhere to be obtained. Within the last two months another preparation, No. 7, has been added to the list furnished by the New York Health Department. This contains 500 units in each cubic centimetre.

It seems unnecessary to refer to the great advantages derived from the use of preparations of antitoxin in which the dose is only three or five cubic centimetres instead of ten, twenty, or thirty cubic centimetres.

I have the honour to remain, Sirs, very respectfully yours,

HERMANN M. BIGGS, M.D.,

Director of the Bacteriological Laboratories of the New York City Health Department.
Aug. 13th, 1896.

"THE RELATIVE EFFICIENCY AND COST OF PLUMBERS' WORK."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I am instructed by the Council for Devon and Cornwall of the National Registration of Plumbers (in connexion with the Worshipful Company of Plumbers, London) to thank the Editors of THE LANCET for the article on the Efficiency of Plumbers' Work, and to add that they consider the Commission to have accomplished a step in the right direction on behalf of the public health.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Plymouth, Aug. 14th, 1896. W. J. ADDISCOTT, Hon. Sec.

ON THE DOSAGE OF SOME OF THE VASOMOTOR DILATORS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—May I seek, from the pages of THE LANCET, to gather experience as to the dosology of some of the vasomotor dilators which have of late obtained much attention at the hands of our profession? I had always been very chary in prescribing them in cases in which I could not watch and control their administration; and now I read in the paper on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Cardiac Failure, brought before the recent meeting at Carlisle by Sir T. Grainger Stewart, and its discussion that the dose of nitro-glycerine should range from $\frac{1}{160}$ gr. to $\frac{1}{32}$ gr., the same dose being given in our British Pharmacopœia as one or two tablets of $\frac{1}{160}$ gr. of the remedy. But in the Extra Pharmacopœia of Mr. Martindale, in many ways a highly useful and dependable guide, I find, in reference to nitro-glycerine, the following passage respecting the tabellæ nitro-glycerini, originally introduced by the writer in 1878, and now recognised as official: "The tablets appear to be non-poisonous even to children; a surgeon informed the writer that on one occasion two children, one three and the other six years of age, ate between them, straight away, two dozen, $\frac{1}{160}$ gr. in each, without any injurious effects." The dose of the drug in the book is given as being $\frac{1}{320}$ gr. to $\frac{1}{32}$ gr. or more.

How are we, I would ask, to reconcile this alleged fact of the inertness of these tabellæ in cases of children with the views entertained generally as to the potency of the drug? It might be asked, in the first place, whether some mistake had not existed as to the fact of the children having consumed the number stated of the tabellæ, or whether children respond less to the drug than adults, or, in the last place, whether the tabellæ swallowed were genuine and pure or not?

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,

JOHN W. OGLE, M.D. Oxon.

Gloucester-place, Aug. 17th, 1896.

"THE BRITISH MEDICAL BENEVOLENT SOCIETY."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—At this distance I am unable to communicate with my colleagues on the council of the Royal Medical Benevolent College. I feel persuaded they would agree with me that we should not put forward any claim to the legacy of £50 bequeathed to the "British Medical Benevolent Society" referred to in a letter from a "Country Solicitor" in THE LANCET of Aug. 15th.

The similarity of the term "British Medical Benevolent

Society" and that of the "British Medical Benevolent Fund," of which Sir William Broadbent is treasurer, leads me to conclude that this Fund, and not the "Royal Medical Benevolent College," is included in this will.

The committee administering the affairs of the Fund meet at the residence of Sir William Broadbent, 84, Brook-street, W.

I am, Sirs, your faithful servant,

C. HOLMAN,

Treasurer to the Royal Medical Benevolent College.
Homburg v. d. Höhe, Aug. 17th, 1896.

THE REMUNERATION OF LOCUM-TENENTS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Now that the "locum" season is in full swing may I ask if you will be good enough to invite discussion on the above question? I have always understood that three guineas a week, with living in, second-class return fare, and expenses was the recognised minimum fee, and have myself always refused to go out at a lower rate. Surely three guineas is a small enough return for the great expenditure of time and money which a man must incur before he can obtain his qualifications! Yet every week in THE LANCET and other medical papers there appear advertisements for locum-tenents at two guineas a week and even less, and frequently offering third-class fare one way only. Some advertisers go even further in their meanness by asking for a "temporary assistant" for a few weeks and offering remuneration at the rate usual for an ordinary assistant. Their motives are obvious, and one can only wonder whether there are qualified men foolish enough to take these places when at this time of the year there is plenty of work to be had at the proper rate. Can one be surprised that so many locum-tenents turn out unsatisfactorily, the principal finding on his return home that the practice has been neglected and damaged? No reliable and self-respecting man will go out under the proper rate, and a man who does go for less is usually one who cannot get respectable employment for some such reason as drunkenness. A man who is paid an inferior salary will always do inferior work, as is natural and to be expected. A friend of mine complained to me recently of the harm done to his practice by a locum-tenant engaged by him who was almost the whole time in a state of intoxication. My only reply was, "What did you pay him?" "Two guineas a week," was the reply. I told him that he had only himself to thank for getting the worst of the bargain and that I did not sympathise with him in the least. Hoping that other readers will give their opinions on this question,

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Aug. 11th, 1896.

LOCUM TENENS.

NORTHERN COUNTIES NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Hospital Vacancies in Newcastle owing to the Death of Mr. W. G. Black.

By the sudden and unexpected death of Mr. W. G. Black vacancies occur at the Children's Hospital for a surgeon and at the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle, for an assistant surgeon, and for these posts there are already several applicants in the field. For the latter Mr. Vickery, F.R.C.S. Eng., a Middlesex Hospital man, at present holding the post of surgical registrar; Mr. Richardson, F.R.C.S. Eng., a Newcastle student, and formerly surgical registrar at the infirmary; Mr. Ouston, F.R.C.S. Eng., a Leeds student lately settled in the town; and Mr. H. B. Angus, M.B., B.S. Durh., a Newcastle student at present holding the office of resident medical officer at the Newcastle Dispensary, are in the field, and the contest is likely to be a keen one. At the Children's Hospital Mr. Vickery, who is at present doing the late Mr. Black's work and has been for some time his assistant surgeon, and Mr. Martin, M.B., B.S. Durh., the other assistant surgeon, are both applicants for the post of surgeon, and here also the contest is likely to be keen.

Extension of the Newcastle Dispensary.

Two branches of this most valuable charity have just been declared opened by the mayor, one in the western and the other in the eastern quarter of the town. Last year the dispensary relieved 27,000 patients, and its usefulness will be